

Mastering Maximum Weapon Upgrades in The Last of Us Part II Remastered

There is a moment in every run of The Last of Us Part II Remastered where the scarcity of Upgrade Parts really hits home. You have just cleared a room full of infected, looted every drawer, and checked every toolbox, and you come face to face with a Weapon Upgrade Bench. The menu glows with possibilities: a better rate of fire for the Semiautomatic Pistol, a stun upgrade for the Hunting Pistol, or a new scope for the Tactical Shotgun. But you only have enough parts for one. That choice, repeated across dozens of benches, defines how your arsenal performs in the fights that matter most.

For players attempting a No Damage Run on Grounded+ difficulty, every upgrade decision carries extra weight. One wrong bullet sponge encounter can end a run that took hours to build. This is where understanding the system of maximum weapon upgrades becomes critical. It is not simply about collecting every part you find. It is about knowing which upgrades deliver the most value for your specific playstyle, and how to sequence your visits to the bench so that you never waste a single component.

The Economics of Upgrade Parts

Upgrade Parts are a finite resource in The Last of Us Part II Remastered. You cannot craft them, buy them, or farm them. Every part you pick up is one you must find in the world, and the world does not give you enough to max out every weapon on a single playthrough without careful planning. This scarcity forces a strategic layer onto what might otherwise be a straightforward progression system.

There are roughly seventy Upgrade Parts scattered across Seattle, the aquarium, the stadium, and the forest. A few are hidden in optional paths or require a keen eye for environmental storytelling. Others are locked behind puzzles or tough enemy encounters. If you are running an All Collectibles run, you will naturally find most of them, but even then, you will likely fall short of fully upgrading everything unless you prioritize your spending. The game expects you to make trade-offs. Do you want a maxed out weapon for Ellie and another for Abby, or do you concentrate everything on one character to create a single devastating loadout?

Prioritizing the Right Weapons

Not all weapons benefit equally from upgrades. The Semiautomatic Pistol, for example, starts as a reliable sidearm, but with a full set of upgrades it becomes a precision tool that can drop human enemies with a single headshot. The rate of fire upgrade alone turns it from a slow plinker into a weapon that can double-tap before an enemy registers the first hit. For a No

Damage Run, where every second you spend in the open is a risk, that speed matters enormously.

The Hunting Pistol, on the other hand, is a niche weapon. Its high damage per shot makes it excellent for stealth kills, but its low ammo capacity and slow reload limit its use in open combat. The stun upgrade can turn it into a crowd-control tool, buying you a moment to reposition or escape. But if you are the kind of player who favors aggressive play, you might skip the Hunting Pistol entirely and funnel those parts into the Tactical Shotgun instead. The Tactical Shotgun with a maxed out magazine and improved handling becomes a room-clearing monster, capable of staggering multiple enemies in tight corridors.

The Role of the Skill Tree

Weapon upgrades do not exist in a vacuum. The Skill Tree in *The Last of Us Part II Remastered* interacts with your arsenal in subtle but important ways. For instance, the skill that reduces weapon sway pairs beautifully with a fully upgraded long gun. The precision skills that increase critical hit damage multiply the value of any weapon that already has high damage per shot. If you are aiming for [maximum weapon upgrades](#), you should also plan your skill point allocation to complement those upgrades.

One practical tip: before you invest heavily in a weapon, check which skills you plan to unlock in the next few hours. If you are about to unlock the skill that doubles your ammo capacity for pistols, then upgrading the Semiautomatic Pistol becomes even more attractive. If you are leaning into stealth skills, the suppressed upgrades for the Hunting Pistol or the bow will serve you better than raw firepower.

Chronological Mode and Your Upgrade Path

Chronological Mode, a feature of this particular 4K Ultra gameplay walkthrough, rearranges the story segments into strict chronological order. This changes the pacing of when you encounter each Weapon Upgrade Bench. In the standard game, you might see a bench early in Ellie's section and then not again until much later. In Chronological Mode, the benches appear in a sequence that matches the timeline, which can disrupt the normal upgrade rhythm if you are not prepared.



For example, you might find a bench early in Abby's timeline that offers upgrades for weapons you have not yet acquired in Ellie's timeline. The parts you spend there are gone when you switch back to Ellie. This is a trap for the unwary. To achieve maximum weapon upgrades across both characters, you need to know exactly which benches appear in which order and plan your spending accordingly. It is the kind of meta-knowledge that separates a casual playthrough from a curated run.

Practical Tips for a No Damage Run

A No Damage Run on Grounded+ difficulty is the ultimate test of the upgrade system. You cannot afford to take a single hit, which means your weapons must perform flawlessly every time. Here are a few concrete strategies that have worked for experienced runners:

- Prioritize the Semiautomatic Pistol and the Tactical Shotgun first. These two cover the majority of combat scenarios you will face. The pistol handles precise shots at range; the shotgun dominates close quarters.
- Save Upgrade Parts for the bench that appears right before a major encounter. Do not spend everything the moment you see a bench. Sometimes the next bench is only minutes away, and the upgrade you need most is waiting there.
- Do not ignore the stun upgrade for the Hunting Pistol if you plan to use it at all. In a No Damage Run, a stunned enemy is a safe enemy. The stun gives you a window to reposition or line up a perfect shot without retaliation.

- Check every toolbox and desk drawer. Upgrade Parts are easy to miss, especially in areas that look like they have already been looted. A thorough sweep can mean the difference between a maxed out weapon and one that is two parts short.
- Consider skipping upgrades for weapons you will not use. It is tempting to upgrade everything you find, but parts are too scarce. Focus on the weapons that fit your preferred approach, whether that is stealth, aggression, or a balanced style.

The Experience of a Maxed Out Weapon

There is a distinct feeling when you finally hold a maxed out weapon in *The Last of Us Part II Remastered*. The recoil is tighter, the reload is faster, the damage is consistent. It stops being a tool you are learning and becomes an extension of your intent. For players who have spent dozens of hours chasing maximum weapon upgrades, that moment is the reward. It is not just about the numbers on the screen. It is about knowing that you have extracted every bit of potential from Naughty Dog's design, that your arsenal is as lethal as it can possibly be.

On a 4K Ultra display, the visual feedback of a fully upgraded weapon is also satisfying. The polished metal, the custom grip, the subtle changes to the model that tell the story of your journey across Seattle. Every upgrade is a memory of a fight survived, a puzzle solved, or a toolbox found. The weapon becomes a diary of your run.

Final Thoughts on the Upgrade System

The system of maximum weapon upgrades in *The Last of Us Part II Remastered* is one of the best examples of resource management in modern action games. It respects your time by making every upgrade feel meaningful, and it respects your skill by forcing you to make hard choices. Whether you are playing through the story for the first time or grinding a No Damage Run on Grounded+, the upgrade bench is a moment of calm reflection in a world full of violence.

Take your time with it. Think about what you need next, not just what looks shiny. And remember that the best upgrade path is the one that gets you through the next encounter alive. Everything else is just chrome.