

**Tetris**

**COLLABORATORS**

	<i>TITLE :</i> Tetris		
<i>ACTION</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>SIGNATURE</i>
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**REVISION HISTORY**

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# Chapter 1

## Tetris

### 1.1 main

Vanilla Tetris v1.02 (C)1997 by Iain King

This is

Shareware

Why another version of Tetris? Who knows. I just wanted to see ←  
if I could

make one, and also because I couldn't find a standard Tetris game. I've got Tetris Pro, but it has silly power ups (though the music is cool). So this is my attempt.

This Tetris is programmed in Blitz Basic 2, which was made by those cool dudes at Acid software. Wahey!

This program was tested on an A1200, because surprisingly enough, thats what I've got. It should run on any Amiga at full speed. It might not on a 500/500+/600, but I can't test it so tough. It should run fine, just maybe slower.

N.B. I haven't implemented any music, mainly because music in games is usually really annoying, and if you want to listen to music, you stick your Hi-Fi on. If you want you can switch the sound fx off as well. I've integrated Tetris' sound control with your Television/Speakers. Simply turn the volume control on your respective device to 0 and the sound will stop itself until you turn the volume back up.

Feel free to send me your palette's/block designs - if they're any good (lets face it - they'll be better then mine) I'll put them in the next release.

=====  
Contents

First, a note on controls.

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How to play the thing

The game of Tetris

The game of BiTetris

The BlockDesign program

The Grabber program

The palette (changing it)  
    Lastly some other stuff

This is Shareware

Files

Credits

Bugs

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## 1.2 controls

Controls.  
-----

A joystick in port 1 (the joystick port) or the cursor keys may be used to control Tetris.

In the menus <Fire> and <Return> activates.

In game, <Fire>, <Up-Arrow> and <Right Shift> rotate the shape around  
Left/Right move shape left/right  
Down drops shape

## 1.3 play

How to play?  
-----

After double clicking on tetris, a screen should open up at a menu, showing you four options:

Start  
-----

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Simple - starts the game

Normal

-----

This is showing that the difficulty is set at 'normal'.  
Hitting it will cycle it through 'normal' 'hard' and 'very hard'  
difficulty settings.

The difficulties work like this:

'normal'	Go up a level every 20 lines
'hard'	Go up a level every 10 lines
'very hard'	Go up a level every 05 lines
'impossible'	Go up a level every 01 line

Level ranges from 1 to 50, where fifty is ludicrously fast (block goes down a row every 1/50th of a second)

There is a separate score table for each level.

Colour

-----

Hitting this toggles it between 'colour' and 'black'.  
Switches the backdrop colour. 'colour' generally looks nicer, but  
'black' offers higher contrast (and maybe a smaller headache from watching  
the screen to long).

Quit

----

Saves high score table to current directory then quits

N.B.

    BiTetris  
    has a couple other menus

## 1.4 tetris

The game of Tetris

-----

Once you hit start you're into Tetris properly. I'll briefly sum up what it's about for both of you who don't know.

A randomly determined block appears at the top of the screen ( you can see what the next block is in the view window to the top-left). It will start moving downward, and you will be able to guide it left and right and rotate it. When the block reaches the bottom, or lands on top of another block, it will sit there and another block will appear at the top of the

screen for you to control. This goes on until the screen is filled at which point its game over. BUT WAIT! The whole point is, that if you manage to lay the blocks so that an entire row is filled (i.e. a horizontal row with no gaps), it will disappear, and all the blocks above it will fall down into the space. So all you have to do is keep making lines to stay alive for as long as possible. Sounds simple don't it? :)

A couple of hints:

- 1) If your block won't rotate, it's probably because there is something next to it stopping it : move it away from any obstacles
- 2) A block doesn't land the second it touches something below it - you can still slide it for a couple of moments.
- 3) because of 2, if you've left an overhang, you can slide a block under it to fill the gap.
- 4) The more lines you get at once, the more points you get for doing it, and there is a special bonus for completely clearing the screen.

## 1.5 bitetris

The game of BiTetris

-----

BiTetris is the two-player equivalent of Tetris. Both players play at once on two separate boards (one uses keys, other joystick), and no scores are recorded. Instead, the winner is simply the person who does not die, i.e. the one who lasts longest. As soon as one person dies, the game stops. Of course, this isn't just about survival, oh no! If you get more than a single line (i.e. a double, triple or a tetris) then your opponent receives that many lines minus one. i.e. if you get

a double	he gets 1 line
a triple	he gets 2 lines
a tetris	he gets 3 lines

He receives these lines next time he puts down his block, and they appear at the bottom of his board, forcing the blocks on the board upwards. If any block goes off the top of the board then the player dies.

N.B. If you were to get, say, two Tetris' before he put his block down, then they \*would\* add up. i.e. next time he put the block down he would get six lines. If you were lucky enough and quick enough you could kill him \*very\* quickly (if you got something like 3 or 4 Tetris' in a row)

Menus

-----

There are a few extra menus :

```
get n
-----
```

This is basically how full the lines are that your opponent gets when you get doubles/triples/tetris'. The number of blocks filled in in the line will average out to this number. ex:

if set to 5 and you scored a tetris' then it might come out like this:

```
|           |
|#  #  ## # |
| ### #     |
| # # ###   |
\-----/
```

whereas set to 9 it would be more likely to come out as this:

```
|           |
|#### ## ##|
|##### ###|
| ########|
\-----/
```

```
passover/no passover
-----
```

Toggles the restriction that stops lines you give your opponent being full. if 'no passover' is selected then the max number of blocks in a line you give your opponent will be 9. If 'passover' is selected then 10 blocks in the line will be possible (i.e. the line could be full). The reason this is called passover is that if its on (i.e. 'passover' selected) and you got, say, a tetris', and it filled up 2 of the lines your opponent recieved, then you would get one back! (because he just got a double). The lines passed back over to you.

With this on it's perfectly possible to kill yourself, especially if 'get' is set at 9 (which will fill lines approximately 35% of the time).

```
swap scores
-----
```

Swaps the number of wins per player around. Handy if you want to switch controls after a while (cramp or some system of 'fairness'). Both players have to hit fire on this one.

## 1.6 block



### The BlockDesign program

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Not everyone's tastes are the same (mine vary according to what day it is), so Tetris has an option that allows you to use a different set of blocks. The different sets of blocks are stored in the 'blocks/' sub directory, which should be in the same dir as the Tetris program. BlockDesign should also be in the same dir as the Tetris program. When you click on it it will pop up a file requester (in the blocks dir) asking you to select a blocks file. It should contain (to start with) something like:

```
checked
plain
colour-square
square
torn
marble
stone
gold
```

These are the blocks supplied with Tetris

Double clicking on one of these will copy it into the tetris.shapes file in the Tetris program directory, selecting the block set.\*

If, in the blocks dir there is also a relevant palette file for the block file you selected, this will also be copied to the Tetris program dir. I.E. if you select 'torn' and 'torn.pal' exists, then this will also be copied

\*. If you want to have a smaller installation, simply delete the blocks directory and the BlockDesign program, making sure you have a valid tetris.shapes file in the tetris program directory (run Tetris - if it works, you've got the file).

The BlockDesign program is not a necessary file for tetris to work (see bottom bit for a list of necessary files)

## 1.7 grabber

### The Grabber program

-----

You may be thinking: Having the BlockDesign thingy is all very nice, but all his blocks are shit, and you'd basically be right (I am \*not\* a very good artist), but cheer up - you can draw your own blocks to use.

In the Tetris program directory there should be a 'gfx' dir containing a tetris.iff picture file.

This is a template, and what you should use to draw your own blocks. (It is actually the picture file that the 'plain' block set was grabbed off of).

To create your own blocks, simply do this:

- 1) Load up DPaint (or whatever you use), with a screen format of

320x256x16 colours.

The colours work like this:

0	Background
1	Block Shadows
2	Block Middle colour dark
3	Block Middle colour light
4	Block Highlight
6	Menu Text
7	Menu Shadow
8	Menu Highlight
10-14	Use as you want

N.B. colours 2 & 3 can really be used for anything, but note that it is these colours that are dithered together in BiTetris to make the sent over lines.

The palette on the tetris.iff file should give you an idea.

More info on changing the palette

2) Load up the tetris.iff file. You should see collection of ←  
3d blocks.

3) Draw your designs. You should keep the same shape as the ones given, and its a good idea to keep the shapes with the 3d edges, as Tetris has some in built 3d stuff, and will act like the blocks are 3d even if they are not. If you dont want 3d, then the only solution is to set the palette for colours 1 & 4 to the same RGB, and use one of them as a 2d border round the blocks.

\*DO NOT MOVE THE BLOCKS ABOUT\*

Grabber needs the blocks to be in the correct position.

DO NOT MOVE THE BLOCKS - draw inside them.

The easiest way to do this is to draw your design on the first block of each set, then using brush and rotate functions, paste it over the rest. It is possible to use the same brush for all the L shapes, ditto for the S shapes, by using the mirror function.

Once you've done that, switch to a reserve screen and load up the gfx/borders.iff file. This is all the outlines of the shapes. Grab it as a brush, switch back to your picture, and paste it over your shapes - instant 3D!

N.B. Blitz can't handle iff's that have been saved with a stencil, so don't.

4) Save your picture in the 'gfx' dir, as something like  
'myblocks.iff'

5) Run the Grabber program

6) The first requester should open out into the 'gfx' dir.  
In it select your picture file 'myblocks.iff'

- 7) In the second requester, it should automatically have opened into your 'blocks' directory. If not then find your blocks dir, then type in a filename at the prompt : this will be what your block set is called.
- 8) Grabber should load your picture, scan for the blocks, then save them. Once you hit the mouse, it will clear the screen, then reload them. If they all appear OK on the screen it should have worked. Hit the mouse again to exit.  
  
N.B. grabber will also save your pictures palette to the relevant palette file in the blocks dir.
- 9) Run BlockDesigner, and double click on you block set
- 10) Run Tetris and start a game - you should have your own little set off blocks. Aren't they nice?
- 11) If your blocks are nicer than mine (it wouldn't be hard would it?) then you can  
    send  
    me your blocks.

## 1.8 palette

Changing the palette  
-----

The colour info for Tetris is kept in the 'tetris.pal' file in the Tetris program dir. it looks like this:

```
0    Background
1    Block Shadows
2    Block Middle colour dark
3    Block Middle colour light
4    Block Highlight
5    White
6    Menu Text
7    Menu Shadow
8    Menu Highlight
9    Menu Text Highlight
10   Null
11   Null
12   Null
13   Null
14   Null
15   Menu Background Highlight
```

You cannot set colours 5,9,15 as they are reset by the program. You can edit all the rest.

You can do this easily enough - just load the palette file into DPaint (or whatever) and change the values, then save.

There is a file: 'gfx/palette.iff' that displays a menu and a block - handy

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for designing your palette.

NOTE

----

Some (all) of the blocks in the blocks dir have .pal palette files. BlockDesign will copy these over onto tetris.pal as well as the actual shape file. Either delete the block.pal files, or change them instead of the tetris.pal file, or keep a backup of your palette in the defaults directory.

The recommended method is to edit the block.pal files, as each block set works best with a palette designed for it (if you used the 'plain' palette with the 'marble' blocks it would look \*so\* crap)

If you manage to loose your blocks/palette, the default ones are in the defaults directory - simply copy them across.

## 1.9 shareware

Vanilla Tetris is Shareware. If you play it a lot (which ←  
hopefully  
lots of you will), you should send  
me  
some money. 5 pounds sterling (8  
dollars I think) sounds about right to me for the phase reversal that  
resulted from writing this (I ended up awake/asleep in the wrong 12-hour  
cycle, with the Flu). You can send the money to the address below.  
Please support Shareware, as some authors will stop writing cool stuff  
if you don't.  
(I won't, but thats no reason not to send me money)

Do note that if I don't get very much money out of this, I won't release the  
bug fixes and/or upgrades.

## 1.10 files

The files you have should be:

Vanilla  
Vanilla.info  
BiTetris  
BiTetris.info  
Vanilla.doc  
Vanilla.doc.info  
BlockDesign  
BlockDesign.info  
Grabber  
Grabber.info  
tetris.shapes  
chars.shapes

```
tetris.pal
sfx/
  BassDrum2
  Ohman
  FallingPiano
  thunder
defaults/
  tetris.shapes
  tetris.pal
gfx/
  tetris.iff
  palette.iff
  borders.iff
blocks/
  checks
  checks.pal
  plain
  plain.pal
  squares
  squares.pal
  colour-squares
  colour-squares.pal
  torn
  torn.pal
  marble
  marble.pal
  stone
  stone.pal
  gold
  gold.pal
```

If they aren't there then they SHOULD BE!

Here is a list of the files that Tetris *\*needs\** to run

```
Vanilla
BiTetris
tetris.pal
tetris.shapes
char.shapes
sfx/
  BassDrum2
  Ohman
  FallingPiano
  thunder
```

Of course, I wouldn't recommend deleting the docs or the icons for Vanilla & BiTetris.

## 1.11 credits

A list of credits here:

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Programming and graphics were all done by me: Iain King

Playtesting thanks to : Charles Snell

The 'Torn' block design was based on the blocks in Tetris Pro, done by: Art

The marbling texture for the 'marble' blocks was off: the A on the AF  
Photogenics coverdisk  
(so thanks to Amiga  
Format)

Ohman taken from MotherLode, which was written by: Some cool bloke (I can't  
find the disk - sorry)

Thunder taken from 'The Dark', a totally excelent mod by Nico Arianoutsos

General hello's to: Stephan, Graham, Fraser, Kevin (for giving me Flu the git),  
Adrian, and everybody else I know (which is not a large  
number of people)

## 1.12 bugs

Bugs

----

There is a bug with the keyboard - it occasionally locks up. I'm 99%  
sure that this is Blitz's fault and not mine, so don't bother telling me  
about this one. If it severely annoys you then

- a) pretend its a random difficulty enhancer
- b) use the (eurch) joystick , or (in BiTetris)
- c) a leveller because the other player has to put up with the joystick

I get really happy if people report bugs to me, so please do.

## 1.13 address

My address

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I can be reached through lots of places (2 at least):

Stuff I want you to send would be money, blocks/palettes you've made and  
bug reports. Note however that unless you register any blocks/palettes you  
send will \*NOT\* be put in the next release. (you can still send them -  
I wouldn't mind having more block sets)

If your sending stuff, then this is the address:

Blairs Croft

---

Creetown  
Newton Stewart  
Scotland  
DG8 7DF

Bugs reports can go there too, but more preferable is my email address, which is:

`iking@cs.strath.ac.uk`

And if you want you can check out my web site (it's got some other Amiga stuff I made on it) at:

`http://www.strath.ac.uk/~aeu95140/`

Have fun!

## 1.14 version

There haven't been many versions of Vanilla Tetris, but here's the list:

v1.00		First release.
v1.01		Added BiTetris two player version, rewrote Grabber from scratch (so now it actually works), and converted these docs to AmigaGuide format. Also, shapes now rotate around their centres
v1.02		Fixed bug where when shapes first appear you cannot immediately rotate the lines or 1 of the L's. Also, in BiTetris, both players now get the same blocks.