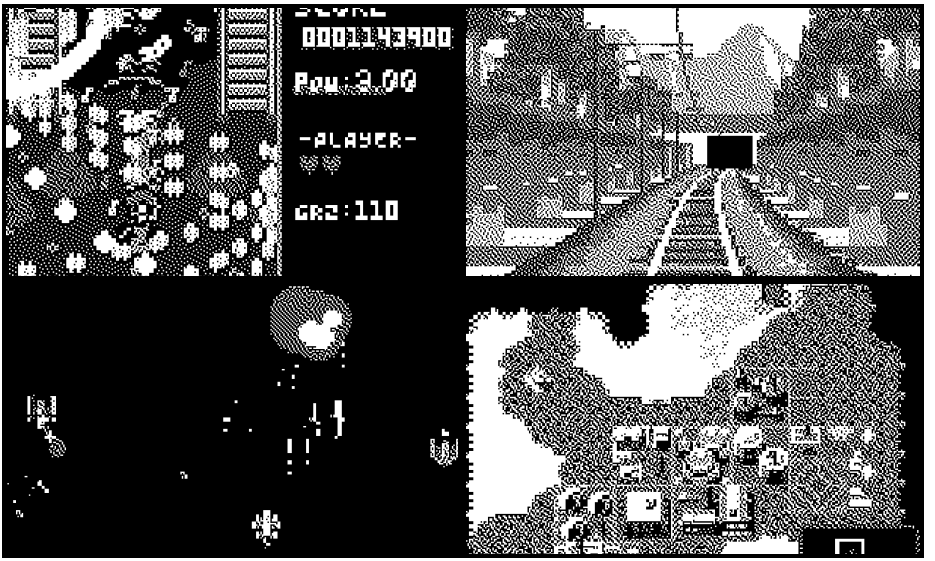
BOMBOM

Giga Groovy Games: Pico-8 Free



PICO-8

Fantera: Alternative Oblivion

By Pastel

Cab Ride

By Powersaurus

Shipknickers

By Iron Chest Games

Giga Groovy Games

Giga Groovy Games was HOUDINI's arcade. We played indie games and wrote up the ones worth your time. Games coverage lives on HOUDINI Magazine now, and this zine collects the 20 Pico-8 games from the arcade.

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Point your phone's camera at the square code on any page to open the game. Each game has a number in a black box 1, and its code carries the same number.

Fantera: Alternative Oblivion 1

By Pastel

Shmup



This one's got style. Menus pop, music slaps, and the whole thing just flows. Movement, dodging, shooting—look, I'm not about to pretend I can break down shmup mechanics like a pro, but this feels right. Smooth, tight, satisfying.

Touhou fans, get in here.

Feels like it's begging for a full release—seriously, the demo alone is a killer experience for the PICO-8. Excited to see where the dev takes this.

Play Fantera: Alternative Oblivion 1

Scan the code to find it on itch.io.

Cab Ride 2

By Powersaurus

Endless Runner



Pure vibes. Cab Ride isn't so much a game as it is a feeling—a playable screensaver, a slow-motion daydream wrapped in pixels. It's just you, the train, and an endless shuffle of procedural tracks—thousands of routes, each one its own little pocket universe. Super chilled out experience. This with some barberbeats? Goes crazy.

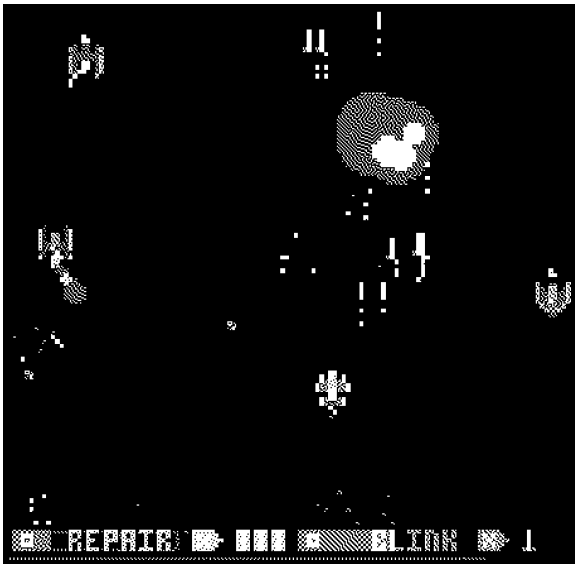
Play Cab Ride 2

Scan the code to find it on itch.io.

Shipknickers 3

By Iron Chest Games

Shmup



Shipnickers. You ain't just stealing ships—you're beating them down first. 100 ships to capture, 100 levels to conquer. But it ain't just about the big prize—the boss ship—you got goons swarming too, keeping you from locking in. Can’t just tunnel vision the boss, gotta clear the field, gotta survive.

Engaging. Solid concept. Good chunk of content to chew through. Sequel needs gacha elements.

Extremely British name, though.

Play Shipknickers 3

Scan the code to find it on itch.io.

Undune II 4

By Liquid Dream

Strategy



A "demake" of one of the first RTS games, but this is really more of a port. Set in the Dune universe, it's one of the largest and most polished Pico-8 games out there.

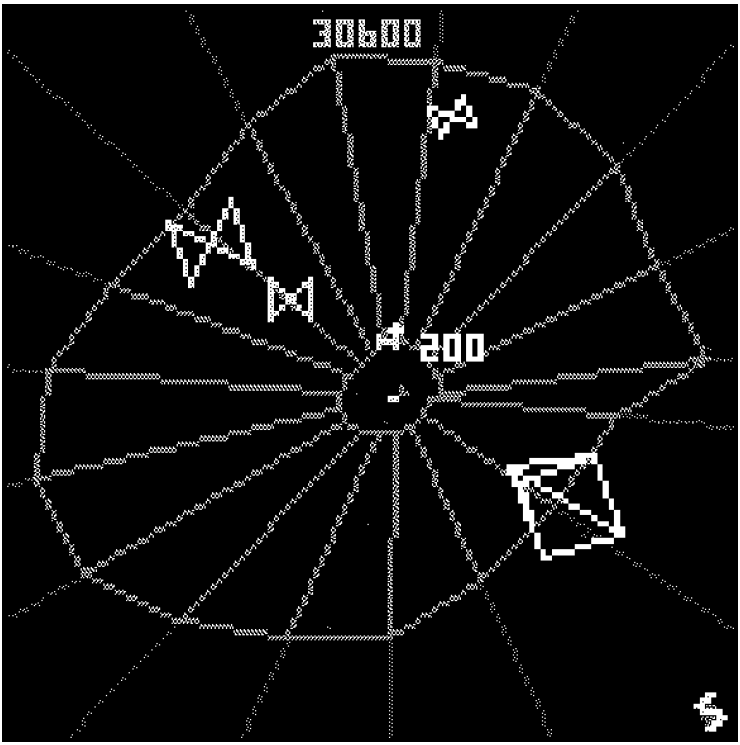
Play Undune II 4

Scan the code to find it on itch.io.

Web Pilot 5

By Tesselode

Shmup



Tempest 2000 on Pico-8? Don't mind if I do! Big fan of tunnel shmups, and while this one's a bit basic, it still brings the fun of Jeff Minter's classic.

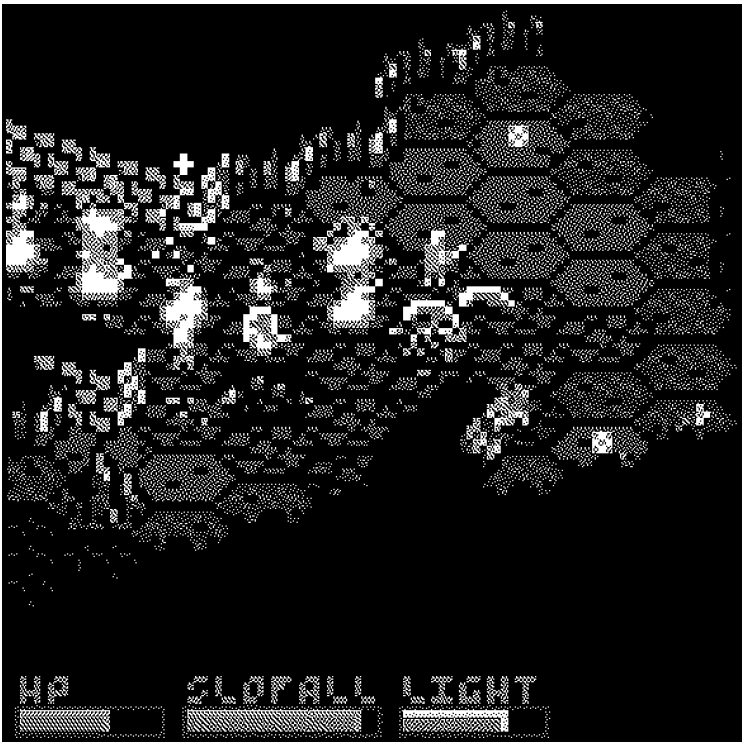
Play Web Pilot 5

Scan the code to find it on itch.io.

Into the Ruins 6

By Sparse Game Dev

RPG



Highly stylish with a great use of art, but the hex-based movement takes some getting used to. It's a comfy little dungeon crawler—throw on some dungeon synth and enjoy your descent into the ruins.

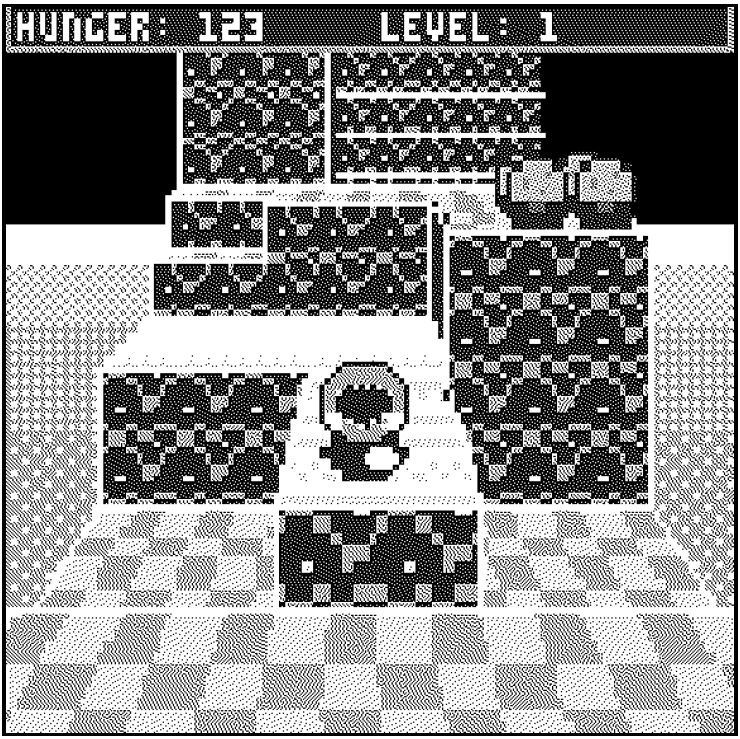
Play Into the Ruins 6

Scan the code to find it on itch.io.

Hungry Harry 3D 7

By Palo Blanco Games

Platformer



A neat little 3D platformer—one of, if not the only, 3D platformer on Pico-8. The dev even made the source code available, but the gameplay stands on its own as a fun, unique experience.

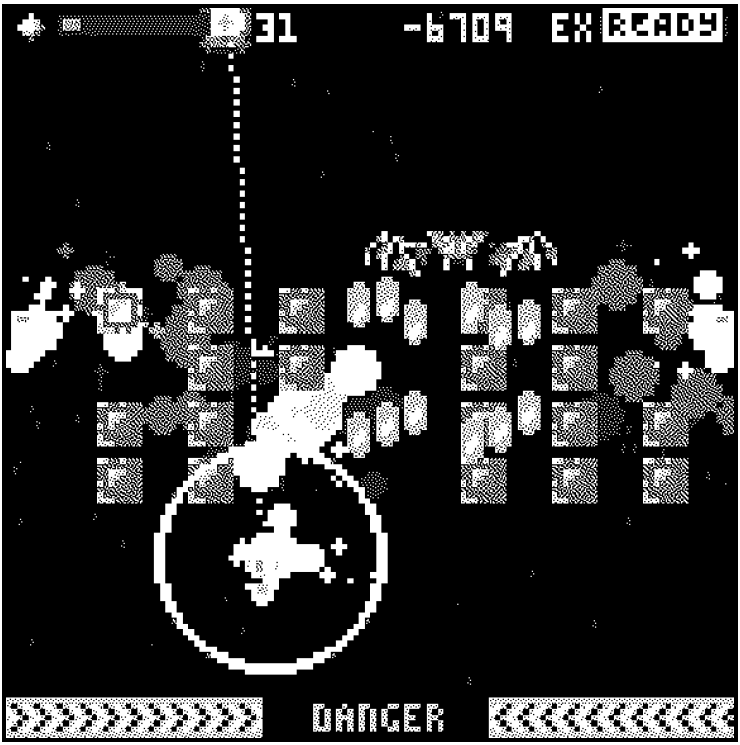
Play Hungry Harry 3D 7

Scan the code to find it on itch.io.

Crossgunner D+ 8

By Aktane

Shmup



A more traditional 2D "caravan" style shmup from Atkane. Chase those scores, and if you're looking for more shmup score-chasing action, head over to the Shmup Junkies Discord!

Play Crossgunner D+ 8

Scan the code to find it on itch.io.

Whiplast Taxi Co 9

By Tom Mulgrew

Racing



Crazy Taxi gameplay? Racing mode? 3D on the Pico-8?! Oh, and there's a comfy little free roam mode if you just want to cruise with some lofi in the background? If you can roll with some of Pico-8's limitations, this is a super fun arcade racer that'll keep you in the groove!

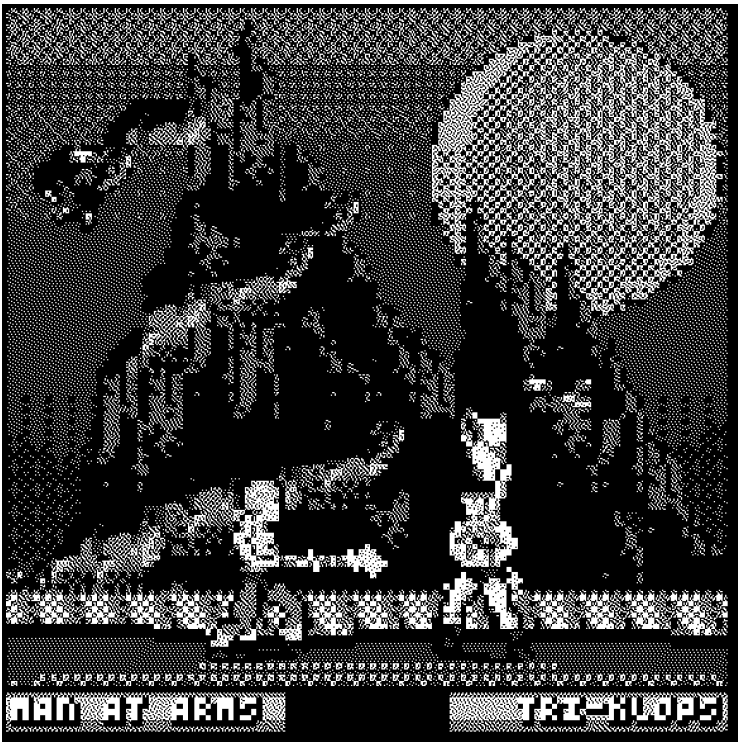
Play Whiplast Taxi Co 9

Scan the code to find it on itch.io.

Masters of the Universe 10

By TheRoboz

Fighting



One of the highest quality games on Pico-8, a full-fledged fighting game based on the He-Man franchise. Surprisingly polished and fully realized, the fan-game treatment feels natural here—well worth your time!

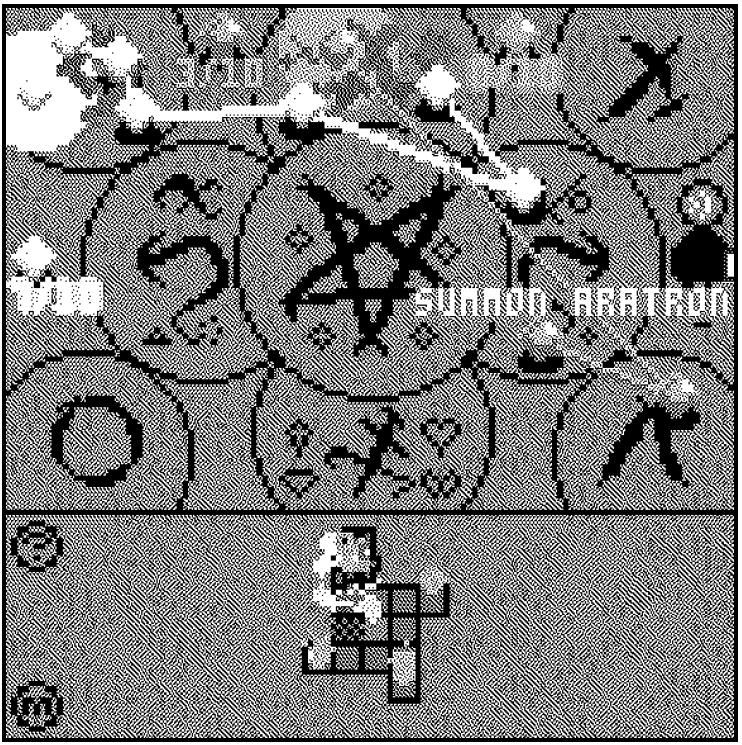
Play Masters of the Universe 10

Scan the code to find it on itch.io.

Path of Aratron II

By NuSan

Puzzle



A demonic little puzzler where you play as a sleep demon manipulating sigils to solve tricky puzzles. Sound out there? It is—and it's exactly the kind of experimental design that makes Pico-8 such a fun platform for wild ideas.

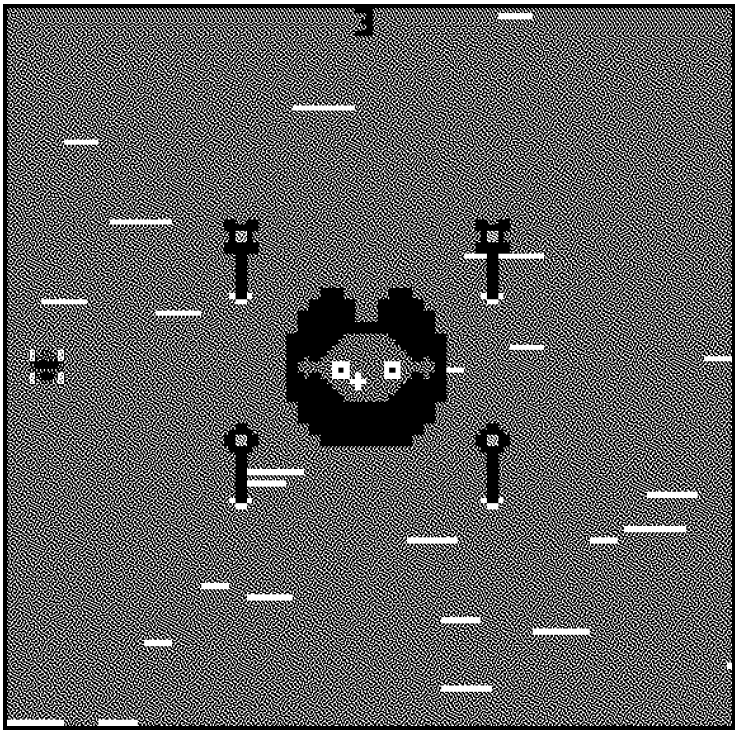
Play Path of Aratron II

Scan the code to find it on itch.io.

Frog! 12

By Brendan Keogh

Arcade



200-point DSiWare title? Lost Atari arcade classic? Sling your tongue, catch the flies, and protect your flowers—this dead simple, old-school (real old-school) arcade game is easy to pick up, and we keep coming back for more!

Play Frog! 12

Scan the code to find it on itch.io.

Don't Dig Up The Dead 13

By Morning Toast

Horror



Roam n Shoot? Horror Shmup? Vamp-em-up? Whatever genre you decide to call this, it's an interesting blend of genres wrapped up in a horror atmosphere.

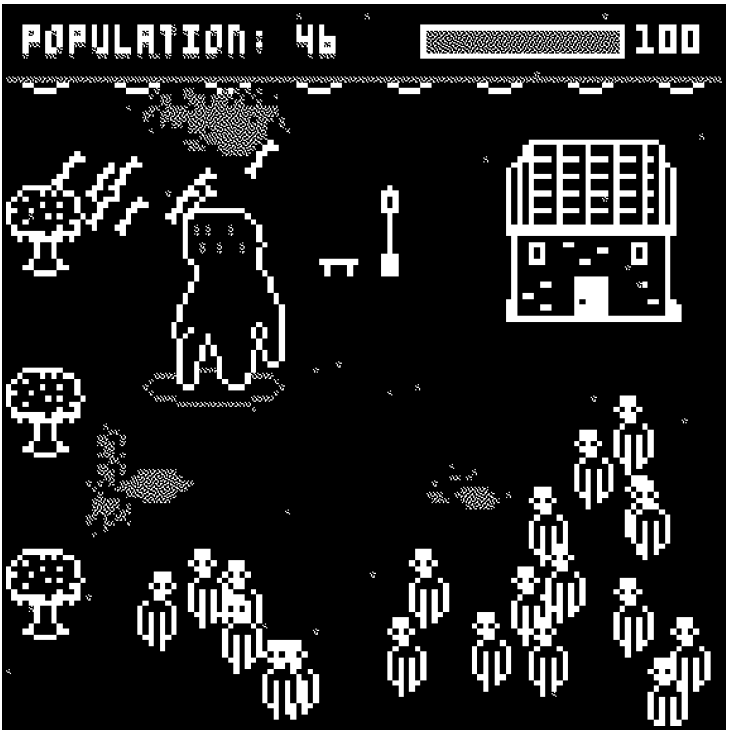
Play Don't Dig Up The Dead 13

Scan the code to find it on itch.io.

WrongKynd 14

By Atygeek

Action Adventure



YOU MUST FEED! Wrongkynd is a horror themed Pico-8 arcade game where you play as an eldritch horror with one purpose: EAT PEOPLE!

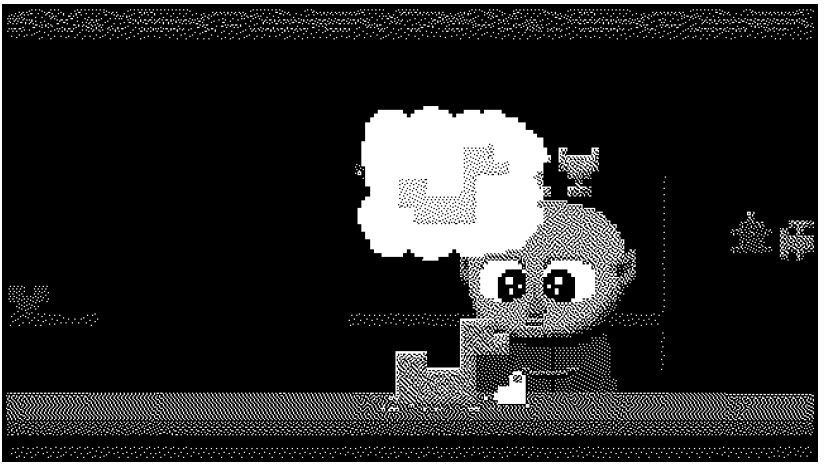
Play WrongKynd 14

Scan the code to find it on itch.io.

Wood Worm 15

By Spratt

Puzzle



A unique puzzle game that sort of reminds me of Pushmo meets Picross. 17 levels means the game is approachable, beatable in an afternoon or over a week or two. Hoping we get more like this one!

Play Wood Worm 15

Scan the code to find it on itch.io.

Crazy Tank! 16

By Musically Declined

Clicker



A Pico-8 reimagining of the Pop Cap classic Insanaquarium. Feed your fish, fight off the aliens and grow your guppies.

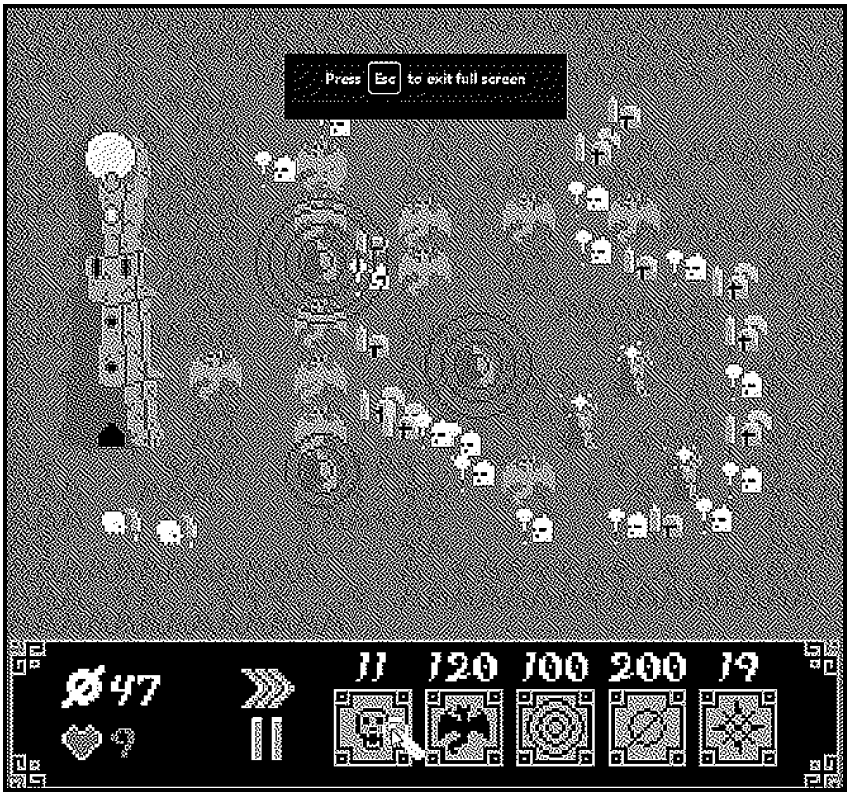
Play Crazy Tank! 16

Scan the code to find it on the Lexaloffle forums.

Scarbog's Tower 17

By Sojioto

Tower Defense



A retro style tower defense that still feels fresh. The shmup inspired levels make for a nice break in the traditional tower defense gameplay. It's a game that's not hurt by the Pico-8's lower graphics capablities.

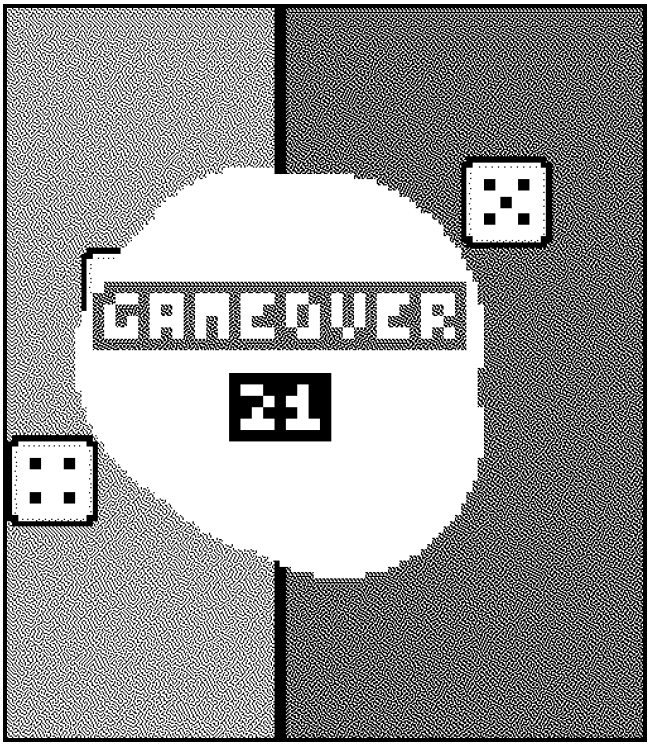
Play Scarbog's Tower 17

Scan the code to find it on itch.io.

DIESORT 18

By Noh

Puzzle



A fast paced pick up and play dice sorting game. 3 game modes -- a simple premise puzzler with a brain busting pace. The good kind of math game.

Play DIESORT 18

Scan the code to find it on itch.io.

Eyevasion 19

By Historymaker118

Shmup



If you didn't know, we're a big fans of Galaga at HOUDINI. This fixed position arcade shooter feels like a new, modern twist that's well worth a look. The roguelike upgrade system might sell you on it, or push you away however.

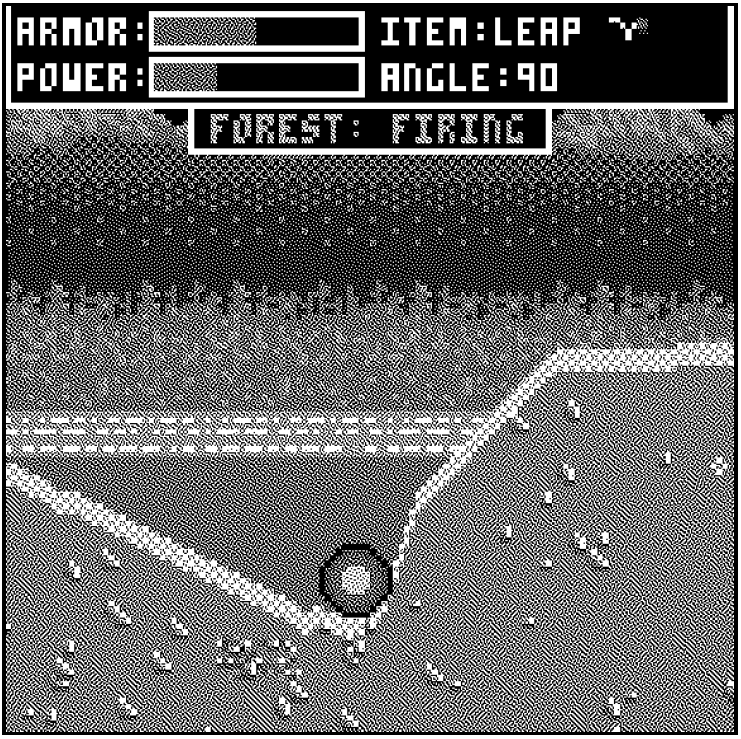
Play Eyevasion 19

Scan the code to find it on itch.io.

Lob! Lob! Lob! 20

By Brightmoth Games

Turn-Based Action



There's been a lot of games over the years in this style, but the 2D tank combat remains fun, especially if playing locally with a friend. A great fit for the Pico-8 and our collection.

Play Lob! Lob! Lob! 20

Scan the code to find it on itch.io.

KEEP HOUDINI FREE

Readers pay for it. Nobody else does.

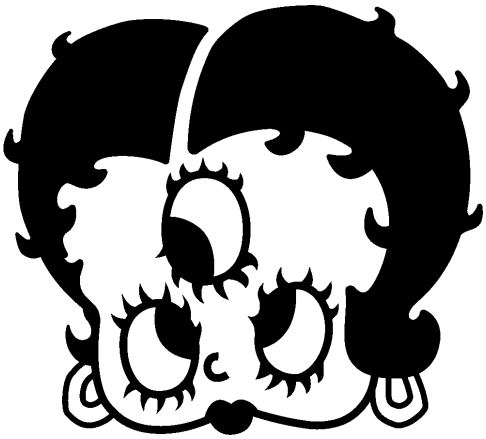
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