Joe Zbiciak's 4-Tris A "Falling Tetrominoes" Game for Intellivision

Emulator Notes _____

The Numeric Keypad is reversed. Intellivision keypads put [1], [2], and [3] in the top row of the keypad, much like a telephone. The emulator retains this spatial relationship, despite the fact that PC's put [7], [8] and [9] in the top row. So, you will need to remember this little tidbit when starting the game or using the sound-test screen.

On INTVPC, the [0] key on the keypad is mapped to the Intellivision's [0] and the [.] key is mapped to the Intellivision's [C]. On jzIntv, it's the other way around.

The "Action Buttons" are mapped to Ctrl, Shift, and Alt.

The "Disc" is mapped to the arrow keys (the Inverted-T, NOT the ones on the number-pad)!

Game Instructions

At the title screen, press a number from [1]-[9] or [C] on the keypad to select a starting level. (Buttons [1] through [9] start you at levels 1 through 9, and [C] starts you at Level 10.) If you press [0] at the title screen, you will be taken to a "Sound Test" screen. (See "Sound Test" below for more details.) Any other input on the controller starts you at Level 4. (Level 4 seemed like a good midway default level.)

In the game, the controllers are set up like so:

DISC:

Moves piece left, right or down Rotates piece. Top button rotates counter-clockwise, Action Buttons:

bottom buttons rotate clockwise.

[4], [6], or [C] [7] or [9] Toggles "Next Piece" display Mutes/un-mutes background music.

Pieces fall until they hit an obstruction which keeps them from falling. When a piece can't fall any further, it is "placed", and a score is assessed for that piece's placement.

First, the player is awarded a small number of points for each downward move that the player made with the piece. The player is awarded 5 pts/move if the next piece was displayed at while this piece was falling, 10 pts/move otherwise. This rewards fast play. Next, any completed lines are cleared away, and a cleared-line bonus is awarded. The table below illustrates the line clear bonuses. Notice that it's worth your while to clear more lines at a time.

Line Clear Bonuses:

Number of Lines Cleared	Level N	Number 2		4	 	n
1	1000	1500	2000	2500		500 * (n + 1)
2	3000	4500	6000	7500		1500 * (n + 1)
3	6000	9000	12000	15000		3000 * (n + 1)
4	12000	18000	24000	30000		6000 * (n + 1)

4-Tris.txt

As lines are cleared, the player is moved up in level. Each level has a maximum number of lines associated with it, which is "10 * level". When that maximum is reached, the player is moved to the next level. For example, when a player reaches 40 lines, the player moves from Level 4 to Level 5 (if the player didn't start at a higher level number).

Sound Test

The Sound Test screen allows the player to just play around with the sound effects that are embedded in the 4-Tris ROM image. Press buttons on the keypad to trigger sound effects and music. Use the action buttons to toggle the music playback speed. Press Disc to exit.

Source Code

See the file "SOURCE.txt" for information on 4-Tris' source code.

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