

The KBreakout Handbook

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The KBreakout Handbook

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Abstract

KBreakout, a Breakout-like game.

Chapter 1

Introduction

KBreakout is a Breakout-like game.

The object of the game is to destroy as many bricks as possible without losing the ball.

Chapter 2

How to Play

The player is presented with a game field containing a number of bricks. A ball travels across the screen, bouncing off the top and side walls. When a brick is hit, the ball bounces away and the brick is destroyed. The player loses a life when the ball touches the bottom of the field. To prevent this from happening, the player has to use a movable bar to bounce the ball upward, situated at the bottom of the window. The purpose of the game is to progress through the levels destroying all bricks present in each, and trying to get a highscore.

Some bricks have a special behavior, or may let a gift fall down when hit. The gifts can be caught with the bar, their behavior can be either positive or negative. For further information on the different types of bricks and gifts see the next chapter.

To fire the ball press the spacebar, to move the bar use the mouse or the arrow keys. The ball will bounce in the direction of the side of the bar it bounced on hit, the more it bounces near the left end of the bar the more it will bounce toward the left, the same applies for the right side; if it bounces in the middle of the bar it will bounce straight toward the top.

Chapter 3

Game Rules, Strategies and Tips

3.1 Rules

- Passing a level awards 300 points to the player. A level is passed when all breakable and visible bricks are destroyed, or alternatively if the next level gift is caught. In the latter case an additional score for each remaining brick is awarded.
- A score is awarded for every brick destroyed, the smaller the interval between one hit and the following the higher this score.
- This gifts hidden in a given level are fixed, their position however is random.
- 30 points are awarded for every gift caught.
- The player loses a life when the ball touches the bottom of the field and there are no other balls left in the game, or when he catches a lose life gift. When losing a life 1000 points are detracted from his score.
- Additional lives can be gained by catching the add life gift.
- The game ends when the player loses the ball while not having any additional lives left, or when all levels have been won.

3.2 Brick Types

Plain Bricks Simple bricks, while their appearance may vary they all behave the same way, they get destroyed when hit by the ball and may contain a gift.

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Unbreakable Brick Never gets destroyed unless hit by a burning or unstoppable ball, or an exploding brick next to it gets hit. These bricks do not need to be destroyed to win the level.

Hidden Brick This brick is not initially shown to the player. When hit for the first time it becomes visible, and becomes a plain brick. If hit by a burning ball, or an exploding brick next to it gets hit it gets destroyed as soon as it appears. As long as it remains hidden it does not need to be destroyed to get to the next level.

Multiple Brick Needs to be hit three times before getting destroyed, unless hit by a burning or unstoppable ball, or an exploding brick next to it gets destroyed.

Exploding Brick When this brick gets hit also the bricks to the top, bottom, left and right of it will get destroyed, regardless of their type.

3.3 Gifts

Score Gifts If caught they award the player the number of points written on the gift.

Add Life Gift Gives the player an additional life.

Lose Life Gift Makes the player lose all balls and resets the bar.

Enlarge Bar Gift Enlarges the bar.

Shrink Bar Gift Shrinks the bar.

Split Balls Gift Doubles the balls.

Add Balls Gift Gives the player an extra ball attached to the bar, which can be fired whenever the player wants.

Sticky Bar Gift After catching this gift, every time a ball touches the bar it remains attached to it, allowing the player to fire again.

More Exploding Bricks Gift Makes all bricks to the top, bottom, right, and left of exploding bricks exploding bricks themselves. This also applies to hidden and unbreakable bricks.

Burning Ball Gift Transforms all the balls in burning balls. When a burning ball hits a brick also the bricks to the top, bottom, left and right of it get destroyed. A burning ball destroys all types of bricks regardless of their types.

Unstoppable Ball Gift Transforms all the balls into unstoppable balls. An unstoppable ball destroys all bricks it encounters on its path, regardless of their type, and never bouncing against them.

Magic Eye Gift Shows all hidden bricks.

Magic Wand Gift Transforms all multiple and unbreakable bricks into simple bricks.

3.4 Strategies and Tips

- If possible, it is usually a good idea to send the ball above the bricks, doing so you will have a smaller chance of losing the ball. Sometimes you need to first make a small hole in the layer of brick to accomplish this. The smaller the hole, the smaller the chance the balls comes back down.
- When catching the add ball gift it is wise to not fire it right away but to keep in instead, in case the other balls are lost. It is also advisable to not catch a sticky bar gift in such a case, as doing so would force you to fire all balls.
- When receiving a next level gift you may not want to catch it if you know that there are add life gifts in the level.
- In levels where there are a lot of hidden bricks there may be a way to win the level without having to destroy most of them.

Chapter 4

Interface Overview

4.1 Game Menu

Game → **New (Ctrl+N)** Starts a new game.

Game → **Show High Scores (Ctrl+H)** Shows a dialog containing the High Scores.

Game → **Quit (Ctrl+Q)** Quits the program.

4.2 Settings Menu

Settings → **Configure Shortcuts...** Opens a dialog which lets you redefine all the keyboard shortcuts.

Settings → **Configure KBreakout...** Opens a dialog which lets you choose a graphical theme for the game.

4.3 Help Menu

Help → **KBreakout Handbook (F1)** Invokes the KDE Help system starting at the KBreakout help pages. (this document).

Help → **What's This? (Shift+F1)** Changes the mouse cursor to a combination arrow and question mark. Clicking on items within KBreakout will open a help window (if one exists for the particular item) explaining the item's function.

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Help → **Report Bug...** Opens the Bug report dialog where you can report a bug or request a 'wishlist' feature.

Help → **Switch Application Language...** Opens a dialog where you can edit the Primary language and Fallback language for this application.

Help → **About KBreakout** This will display version and author information.

Help → **About KDE** This displays the KDE version and other basic information.

4.4 Shortcuts

The default shortcuts are:

Fire	Space
Pause/Resume	P
Start a new game	Ctrl+N
Show High Scores	Ctrl+H
Quit	Ctrl+Q
Help	F1
What's this?	Shift+F1

Table 4.2: Shortcuts

Chapter 5

Credits and License

KBreakout

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Appendix A

Installation

A.1 How to obtain KBreakout

KBreakout is part of the KDE project <http://www.kde.org/> .

KBreakout can be found in the kdegames package on <ftp://ftp.kde.org/pub/kde/> , the main FTP site of the KDE project.

A.2 Compilation and Installation

For detailed information on how to compile and install KDE applications see [Building KDE4 From Source](#)

Since KDE uses **cmake** you should have no trouble compiling it. Should you run into problems please report them to the KDE mailing lists.