

Intro

I love arcade games. Back in the days when games were only worth buying if you owned a public place, bad games didn't reach the masses. Games had to be simple and intuitive. They had to fit every kind of person. If there was a bad arcade game, few would play it because of its inability to turn up quarters.

In the cartridge days, there was no such standard – people would have to take games for granted. The industry was so flooded with half-assed games, it collapsed.

Then Nintendo came, and they started to create proprietary consoles that required a license. It took care of the quality issues of the original consoles, but in all the wrong ways. First there was region lockout. Then there was complete game lockout. Then DRM became popular for such consoles. It's still going on today, despite the dawn of the Internet and reviews, like what I'm doing.

Even though consoles are attempting to take away our freedom, the PC is a popular gaming device and arcade games still thrive. Let's look at TecnoBallZ, an arcade game inspired by Atari Breakout.

Gameplay

There's really nothing to say about the graphics. What you see is what you get.

This game is the best Breakout clone in existence. Other than standard features of Breakout, it has slots in the corners. If your ball lands in the slots, the ball is caught and is automatically re-thrown from that position. There are bosses in the game with almost entirely new mechanics: the ball does damage to the boss, and the paddle dodges. There are lots of powerups and de-buffs.

The game is controlled entirely with the mouse. Some powerups allow you to fire projectiles at the bricks: fire is left click, releasing the ball is right click. It makes sense.

The only bad thing is that there's no save. 5 lives, no continues, and no save. The passwords aren't given to you, even though the game has password functionality.

8 out of 10. Good controls, good mechanics, but no save.

Conclusion

And that's TecnoBallZ! It may seem too simple to you, but that is its charm. It is something anyone can play. 9 out of 10, hands down. You should definitely play it.