

Breakout tutorial (intermediate)

Files

In the Games folder:

- Create a new folder called `Breakout`.
 - In the same folder, add the files:
 - `Breakout.ino` (main loop)
 - `Pins.h` (all pins, sizes, constants)
 - `Input.h/.cpp` (debounce + joystick repeat + "serve pressed")
 - `Game.h/.cpp` (all state + physics + brick logic)
 - `Render.h/.cpp` (all drawing + score digits)
-

Pins.h pseudocode

- Define all pins and fixed numbers:
 - LED data pin, button pins, joystick pins
 - grid dimensions 10x20
 - paddle width, brick zone rows
 - time step constants (frame ms, ball ms, brick drop ms)
 - joystick repeat constants
-

Input pseudocode

Data

- A `Btn` that tracks: stable pressed state, previous stable state, debounce timer
- Global instances for 4 buttons and 4 joystick directions
- Repeat timers/state for left and right

Functions

- `Input_begin()`:
 - set all pins to `INPUT_PULLUP`
 - reset repeat timers
- `Input_update()`:
 - debounce each input once per frame
- `Input_servePressedEdge()`:
 - return true if ANY serve button had a press edge this frame

- `Input_paddleStepFromJoystickRepeat(now):`
 - if left held: return -1 on initial press, then -1 again at repeat intervals
 - if right held: return +1 similarly
 - else return 0
 - `Input_latch():`
 - copy stable -> previous stable so edges work next frame
-

Game pseudocode

State

- `bricksGrid[y][x]` colour or empty
- paddle position `paddleX`
- ball position `ballX`, `ballY`
- ball velocity `ballVX`, `ballVY`
- `ballStuck` boolean
- timers: `tBall`, `tBrickDrop`
- score + speed-up counters
- `wheelPos` for row colours

Reset

- clear score and `gameOver`
- fill bricks rows 0..7 with coloured rows
- set ball on paddle center, `stuck = true`
- reset timers and speeds

Paddle move

- add dx then clamp to `[0..W-PADDLE_W]`
- if ball stuck, move ball with paddle

Serve

- if stuck, unstuck and start ball timer

Brick drop tick (every 15s)

- if bricks already on bottom brick row -> game over
- shift rows down by one
- create new row at top with wheel colour (uniform per row)

Ball step

- compute next position from velocity
- bounce off left/right edges

- bounce off top edge
 - if next cell contains brick:
 - remove brick
 - score += 10
 - maybe speed up ball
 - invert vertical direction (simple)
 - check paddle collision:
 - if ball enters paddle row and overlaps paddle columns, bounce upward
 - adjust horizontal direction based on hit position
 - if ball goes below paddle row -> game over
 - commit position
-

Render pseudocode

- clear background
 - draw bricks from bricksGrid
 - draw paddle
 - draw ball (unless game over)
 - if game over: fill screen red
 - update score digits when score changes (called by game)
 - push pixels: `lcdPanel->render()`, `pixelGrid->render()`, `strip.show()`
-

.ino pseudocode

- `setup`:
 - init serial, seed RNG
 - init renderer (strip, pixelGrid, lcdPanel)
 - init input
 - `Game_reset()`
- `loop`:
 - enforce fixed frame time (FRAME_MS)
 - `Input_update()`
 - if button press edge:
 - if game over -> reset
 - else -> serve
 - if brick drop timer expired -> `Game_brickDropTick()`
 - step = joystick repeat; if step != 0 -> `Game_movePaddle(step)`

- if ball moving and timer expired -> `Game_stepBallOnce()`
- render frame
- latch inputs