

Game Design Spec

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High concept

A push-your-luck guessing game. Each turn the player chooses between two face-down cards. Most of the time both are treasure early in a run, but as the streak grows a bomb is more likely to appear. Treasure flips award a loot draw (numbers 1–7 or jokers). Collect unique numbers in the current run to increase a convex bank payout. Duplicates bust the run. Bombs cost lives. Banking converts run progress to permanent score. Trophy tiers unlock by total banked score.

Core variables

Persistent (carry-over)

- `totalScore` (int) — accumulated banked points.
- `trophyTier` ∈ {None, Bronze, Silver, Gold}
- `bestTotalScore` (optional)

Run-scoped (cleared on run reset)

- `lives` (int) — starts at 3 each new game.
- `streak` (int) — consecutive **Treasure flips** in current run.
- `runUniques` (set) — unique numbers collected this run (1..7).
- `runHasShield` (bool) — max 1 shield active.
- `scramblerCharges` (int) — number of “anti-duplicate rerolls” remaining.
- `jammerTurns` (int) — turns remaining where bomb appearance chance is reduced.

Turn structure (moment-to-moment)

Turn start: generate the two hidden cards

1. Compute bomb appearance probability:

- Base curve:
`pBomb = clamp(0.20 + 0.06 * streak, 0.20, 0.56)`
- Apply Jammer (if active):
`pBomb = max(0, pBomb - 0.15) while jammerTurns > 0`

1. Sample whether a bomb is present:

- With probability `pBomb`: slots = `{Bomb, Treasure}`
- Otherwise: slots = `{Treasure, Treasure}`

1. Randomly assign these to Left/Right.

2. Show shuffle animation, then wait for input.

Player options

- Flip Left
 - Flip Right
 - Bank (enabled only if `runUniques.size > 0`)
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Resolution rules

If player flips Bomb

- If `runHasShield == true`:
 - Consume shield: `runHasShield = false`
 - **Survive** without losing a life
 - **Balance rule:** reset `streak = 0` (run continues, uniques remain)
- Else:
 - `lives -= 1`
 - Run reset (see below)

If player flips Treasure

1. Increment streak:

- `streak += 1`

1. Loot draw (always occurs)

- With probability 0.15 draw a Joker, else draw a Number.

Loot system

Number draw

- Draw number `n` uniformly from 1..7 (simple and readable).
- If `n` is already in `runUniques` → duplicate event:
 - If `runHasShield == true`:
 - Consume shield; ignore bust (duplicate does not add)
 - Else if `scramblerCharges > 0`:
 - Spend 1 charge and reroll (up to 1 reroll per charge).
 - If reroll is still duplicate and no more scramblerCharges: bust.
 - Else:
 - Run reset (duplicate bust, no life loss)
- If `n` not in `runUniques`:
 - Add: `runUniques.add(n)`

Joker draw (3 jokers)

All jokers are “loot” cards drawn after Treasure.

Joker A — Shield

- Effect: `runHasShield = true` (if already true, convert to +5 bonus points on next bank or ignore; choose one behavior. Recommended: convert to **+5 “bonusBank”** to avoid wasted draw.)

Joker B — Scrambler

- Effect: `scramblerCharges += 2` (max 4).
- Meaning: On a duplicate number draw, you may automatically reroll, spending a charge.

Joker C — Jammer

- Effect: `jammerTurns = 3`
- Meaning: For the next 3 turns, reduce bomb appearance probability by 0.15 (min 0).

Banking

When allowed

- Enabled if `runUniques.size >= 1`

Bank action

1. Compute bank payout from unique count `u = runUniques.size`:

BankPoints(u):

- $u=1 \rightarrow 4$
- $u=2 \rightarrow 10$
- $u=3 \rightarrow 18$
- $u=4 \rightarrow 28$
- $u=5 \rightarrow 40$
- $u=6 \rightarrow 54$
- $u=7 \rightarrow 70 + \text{Full Set Bonus (+30)} = 100$

1. Apply any “bonusBank” (if you implement shield overflow).

2. Add to total: `totalScore += payout`

3. Update trophy tier based on `totalScore`:

- Bronze: $\text{totalScore} \geq 100$
- Silver: $\text{totalScore} \geq 200$
- Gold: $\text{totalScore} \geq 300$

1. Run reset (safe reset): clears run state but keeps lives and totalScore.
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Run reset rules

Run reset (from duplicate bust or bomb hit)

Clear:

- `streak = 0`
- `runUniques = {}`
- `runHasShield = false`
- `scramblerCharges = 0`
- `jammerTurns = 0`

(Keep `lives` unless bomb without shield consumed it, and keep `totalScore` always.)

Game over

- When `lives == 0`: end run, show summary, allow restart.
- On restart: set `lives = 3`, `totalScore = 0`, clear run state. Optionally persist best score.

Risk / reward model (why pushing matters)

- Bomb risk per flip: $0.5 * p_{\text{Bomb}}(\text{streak})$ (rises as streak grows)
 - Duplicate risk per treasure (without scrambler/shield): $u/7$ (rises as uniques grow)
 - Bank payout is convex: marginal gains from $u=3 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 5$ are large, so “bank at 1” is slow.
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Example script (playthrough narrative)

Assume new game: `lives=3`, `totalScore=0`, run empty.

Turn 1

- `streak=0` \Rightarrow `pBomb=0.20` \Rightarrow no bomb this time \Rightarrow {T, T}
- Player flips Left \Rightarrow Treasure
- Loot: Number 3 (new) \Rightarrow `runUniques={3}`, `streak=1`
- Bank now would give 4 points, but player pushes.

Turn 2

- `streak=1` \Rightarrow `pBomb=0.26` \Rightarrow bomb not present \Rightarrow {T, T}
- Flip Right \Rightarrow Treasure
- Loot: Joker Scrambler \Rightarrow `scramblerCharges=2`
- `runUniques` still {3}, `streak=2`

Turn 3

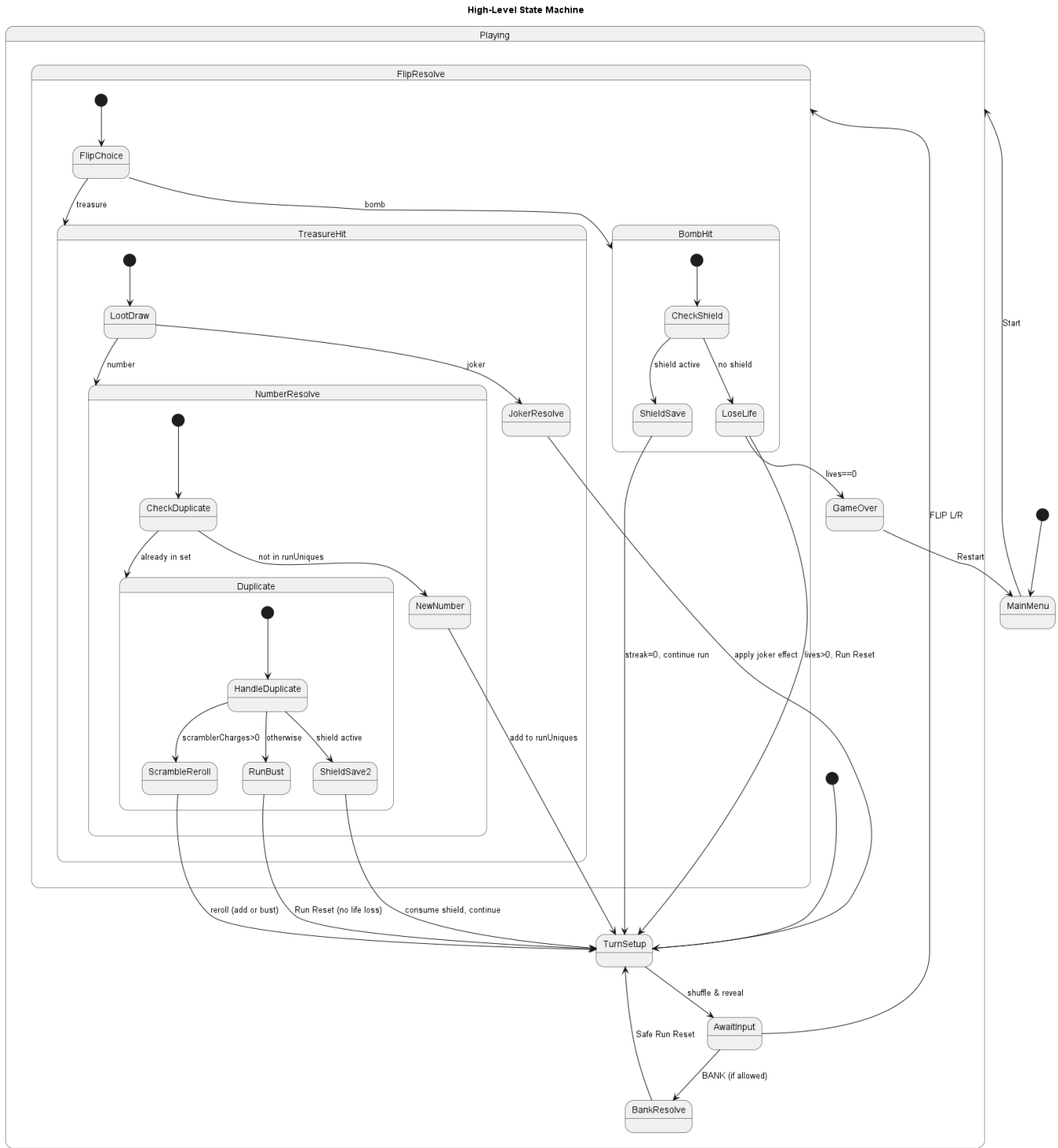
- `streak=2` \Rightarrow `pBomb=0.32` \Rightarrow bomb present \Rightarrow {B, T}
- Flip Left \Rightarrow Treasure (lucky)
- Loot: Number 3 (duplicate) \Rightarrow scrambler triggers (charge 1) reroll \Rightarrow Number 6 (new)
- `runUniques={3,6}`, `streak=3`, `scramblerCharges=1`

Turn 4

- `streak=3` \Rightarrow `pBomb=0.38` \Rightarrow bomb present \Rightarrow {B,T}
- Player chooses BANK instead of flipping.
- `u=2` \Rightarrow payout 10 \Rightarrow `totalScore=10`
- Run resets: `streak=0`, `runUniques` cleared, scrambler cleared.

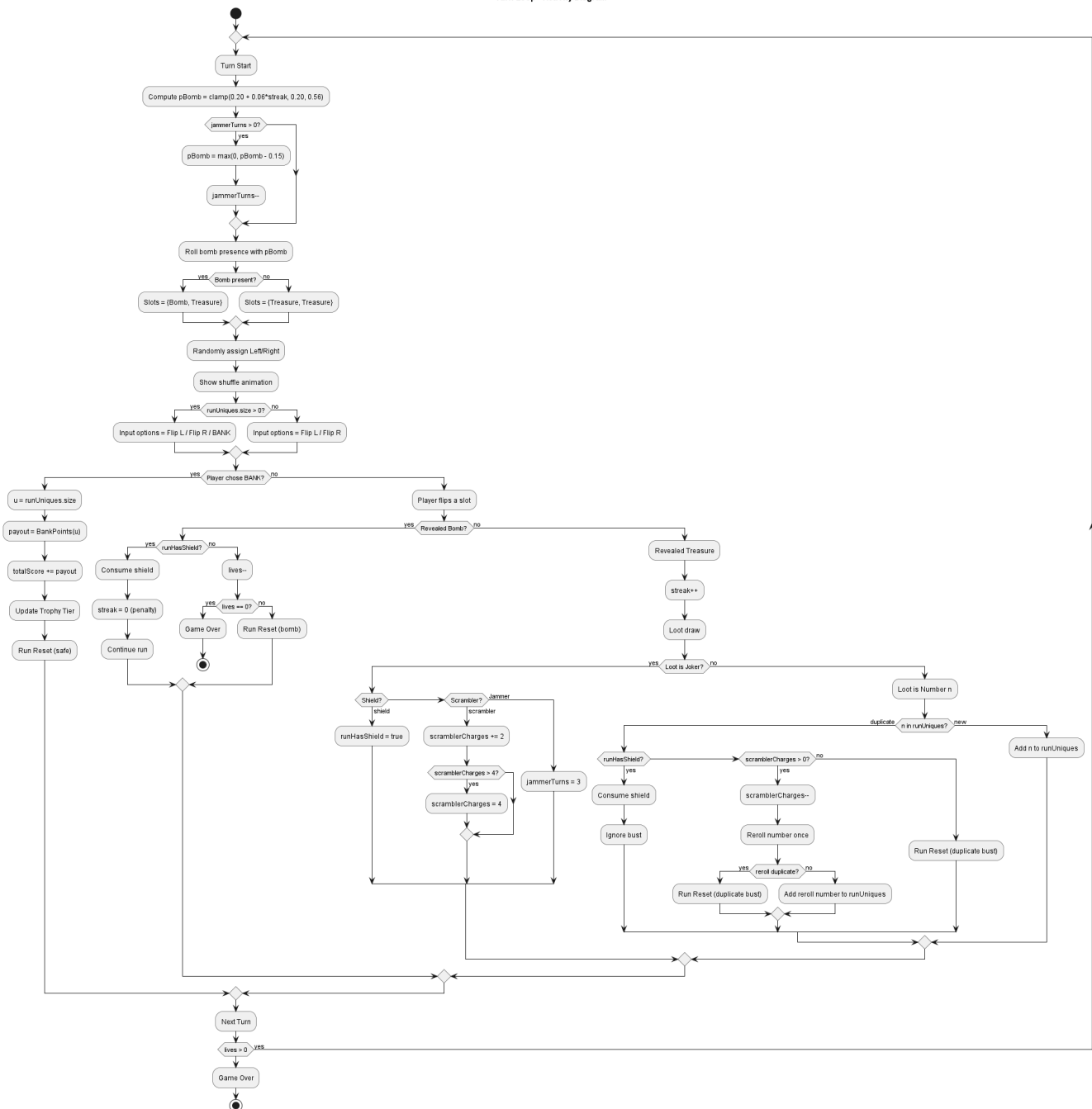
Repeat runs; a skilled player aims to bank `u=4-5` often. Gold at 300 total typically takes ~7-10 decent banks or a couple big `u=6/u=7` banks.

State Machine Diagram



Turn Loop Diagram

Turn Loop - Activity Diagram



BankPoints table (ready to paste)

- 1 → 4
- 2 → 10
- 3 → 18
- 4 → 28
- 5 → 40
- 6 → 54
- 7 → 100

Trophy thresholds

- Bronze: 100
- Silver: 200
- Gold: 300