### Designing the Game: Tank War

- · Homing rockets: Always move in the direction of your opponent
- Bouncing bombs: Bounce against walls, and can be used to fire around corners
- Shields: Are activated to provide a temporary protective shield
- Toolbox: Repairs part of the tank's damage

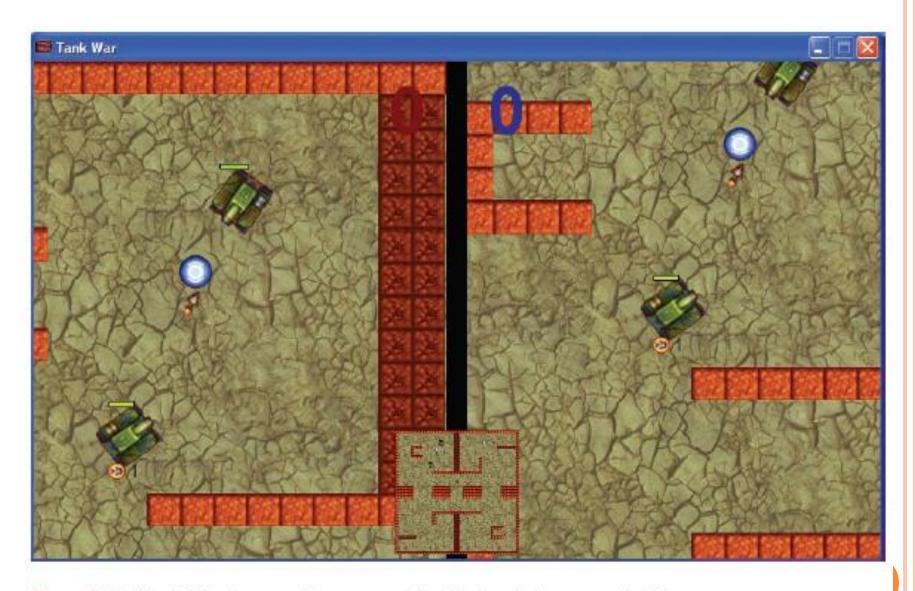


Figure 10-1. Tank War has a split-screen with a little mini-map at the bottom.

# Playing with Tanks

### Creating the arena background and walls:

- Launch Game Maker and start a new empty game.
- Create a background resource called background using Background.bmp from the Resources/Chapter10 folder on the CD.
- Create two sprites called spr\_wall1 and spr\_wall2 using Wall1.gif and Wall2.gif.Disable the Transparent property for both sprites.
- Create a new object called obj\_wall1 and give it the first wall sprite. Enable the Solid
  property and close the object properties. No further behavior is needed.
- Create a new object called obj\_wall2 and give it the second wall sprite. Enable the Solid property and set Parent to obj\_wall1.

### Creating the controller object and the room:

 Create a sound resource called snd\_music using Music.mp3 from the Resources/Chapter10 folder on the CD.



- Create a new object called obj\_controller, with no sprite. Set Depth to -100 to make sure that the drawing actions we will give it later on are drawn in front of other objects. Add an Other, Game Start event and include the Play Sound action. Set Sound to snd music and set Loop to true.
- Create a new room and switch to the settings tab. Call the room room\_main and give it an appropriate caption.
- 4. Switch to the backgrounds tab and select the background you created earlier.
- Switch to the objects tab. In the toolbar, set Snap X and Snap Y to 32, as this is the size of the wall objects.
- Create a continuous wall of obj\_wall1 objects around the edge of the room. Also add walls of both types to the interior so that they create obstacles for the tanks (remember that you can hold the Shift key to add multiple instances of an object).
- Add one instance of the controller object into the room.

### Creating the parent tank object:

Create a new object called obj\_tank\_parent, with no sprite.



Add a Create event and include a Set Friction action with Friction set to 0.5. This will cause the tanks to naturally slow down and come to rest when the player is not pressing the acceleration key.



Add a Collision event with obj\_wall1 and include a Set Variable action. Set Variable to speed and Value to -speed. This will reverse the tank's movement direction when it collides with a wall.



4. Likewise, add a Collision event with obj\_tank\_parent and include a Set Variable action. Set Variable to speed and Value to -speed (you could also right-click on the previous collision event and select Duplicate Event to achieve this).

### Creating the two players' tank objects:

- Create two sprites called spr\_tank1 and spr\_tank2 using Tank1.gif and Tank2.gif. Set the Origin of both sprites to Center. Note that these sprites have 60 subimages corresponding to different facing directions for the tanks.
- Create a new object called obj\_tank1 and give it the first tank sprite. Set Parent to obj\_tank\_parent and enable the Solid option. Set Depth to -5 to make sure it appears in front of other objects, such as shells, later on.
- UAR
- Add a Keyboard, Letters, A event and include a Set Variable action. Set Variable to direction and Value to 6, and enable the Relative option. This will rotate the tank anticlockwise.
- VAR
- Add a Keyboard, Letters, D event and include a Set Variable action. Set Variable to direction and Value to -6, and enable the Relative option. This will rotate the tank clockwise.
- VAR VAR
- 5. Add a Keyboard, Letters, W event and include a Test Variable action. Set Variable to speed, Value to 8, and Operation to smaller than. Include a Set Variable action, setting Variable to speed and Value to 1 and enabling the Relative option. This will then only increase the speed if it is smaller than 8.
- UAR UAR
- 6. Add a Keyboard, Letters, S event and include a Test Variable action. Set Variable to speed, Value to -8, and Operation to larger than. Include a Set Variable action, setting Variable to speed and Value to -1 and enabling the Relative option. This will only reduce the speed (reverse) if the speed is greater than -8 (full speed backward).



7. Add a Step, End Step event. In this event we must set the subimage of the sprite that corresponds to the direction the tank is facing. Include the Change Sprite action, setting Sprite to spr\_tank1, Subimage to direction/6 and Speed to 0. As in Galactic Mail, direction/6 converts the angle the object is facing (between 0 and 360) to the range of images in the sprite (between 0 and 60).



- 8. We will draw the tank ourselves because later we want to draw more than just the sprite. Add a Draw event. Include the Draw Sprite action, setting Sprite to spr\_tank1 and Subimage to -1 and enabling the Relative option.
- Repeat steps 2–8 (or duplicate obj\_tank1 and edit it) to create obj\_tank2. This time you should use the arrow key events to control its movement (Keyboard, Left, etc.)
- 10. Reopen the room and put one instance of each tank into it.

## Firing Shells

### Recording the player's score in the controller object:

- Create a font called fnt\_score and select a font like Arial with a Size of 48 and the Bold
  option enabled. We only need to use the numerical digits for the score, so you can click
  the Digits button to leave out the other characters in the font. This will save storage
  space and reduce the size of your .gm6 and executable game files.
- VAR VAR
- 2. Reopen the controller object and select the Game Start event. Include a Set Variable action with Variable set to global.score1 and Value set to 0. Include another Set Variable action with Variable set to global.score2 and Value also set to 0. This creates and initializes the global score variables that will store the player's score.



Add a Draw event and include a Set Font action. Set Font to fnt\_score and Align to right. Include a Set Color action and choose a dark red color.



Include a Draw Variable action from the control tab. Set Variable to global. score1, X
to 300, and Y to 10.



Include another Set Font action with Font set to fnt\_score, but this time set Align to left. Include a Set Color action and choose a dark blue color.



Include a Draw Variable action with Variable set to global. score2, X set to 340, and Y set to 10.

#### Creating the large explosion object:

- Create a sprite called spr\_explosion\_large using Explosion\_large.gif and Center the Origin.
- Create a sound called snd\_explosion\_large using Explosion\_large.wav.



Create a new object called obj\_explosion\_large. Give it the large explosion sprite and set Depth to -10. Add a Create event and include a Play Sound action, with Sound set to snd explosion large and Loop set to false.



4. Add an Other, Animation End event and include the Restart Room action.

### Creating the small explosion object:

- Create a sprite called spr\_explosion\_small using Explosion\_small.gif and Center the Origin.
- Create a sound called snd\_explosion\_small using the file Explosion\_small.wav.



 Create an object called obj\_explosion\_small. Give it the small explosion sprite and set Depth to -10. Add a Create event and include the Play Sound action, with Sound set to snd explosion small and Loop set to false.



4. Add the Other, Animation End event and include the Destroy Instance action.

### Adding a damage mechanism to the parent tank object:



Reopen obj\_tank\_parent and select the Create event. Include a Set Variable action
with Variable set to damage and Value set to 0.



Add a Step, Step event and include a Test Variable action. Set Variable to damage, Value to 100, and Operation to smaller than. Include an Exit Event action so that no further actions are executed if the damage is smaller than 100.



3. Now we need to find out what type of tank we are dealing with. Include a Test Variable action with Variable set to object\_index, Value set to obj\_tank1, and Operation set to equal to. Include a Set Variable action with Variable set to global.score2, Value set to 1, and the Relative option enabled. This will then increase player two's score if this instance is player one's tank.



4. Include an Else action followed by a Set Variable action. Set Variable to global.score1 and Value to 1, and enable the Relative option. This will increase player one's score if this instance is player two's tank.



Include a Create Instance action with Object set to obj\_explosion\_large and the Relative option enabled.



Finally, include a Destroy Instance action.

### Adding a draw event to the parent tank object to draw the health bars:

Add a Draw event for the parent tank object.

CALL EVENT

CALL

- Include a Set Health action (score tab) and set Value to 100-damage. Damage is the opposite concept to health, so subtracting it from 100 makes this conversion (e.g., 80 percent damage converts to 100 80 = 20 percent health).
  - 3. Add a Draw Health action. Set X1 to -20, Y1 to -35, X2 to 20, and Y2 to -30. Enable the Relative option, but leave the other parameters as they are. This will draw a small health bar above the tank. It may seem strange to be using the health functions here as they only work with one health value and we have two players. However, this technique works because we set the health in step 2 using the instance's own damage variable, just before we draw the health bar.
  - 4. Reopen obj\_tank1 and select the Draw event. Include the Call Parent Event action (control tab) at the end of the list of actions for this event. This will make sure that the Draw event of the parent tank object is also executed.
  - Reopen obj\_tank2 and select the Draw event. Include the Call Parent Event action (control tab) at the end of the list of actions for this event.

### Creating the parent shell object:

- 1. Create a sprite called spr\_shell using Shell.gif and Center the Origin. Note that like the tank sprite, this contains 60 images showing the shell pointing in different directions.
- Create a new object called obj shell parent and leave it without a sprite (you can set it, but it isn't necessary for the parent as it never appears in the game).
- 3. Add a Create event and include the Set Alarm action. Set the Number of Steps to 30 and select Alarm 0.
  - Add an Alarm, Alarm 0 event and include the Destroy Instance action.
  - 5. Add a Step, End Step event and include the Change Sprite action. Set Sprite to spr shell, Subimage to direction/6, and Speed to 0 (to stop it from animating).
  - 6. Add a Collision event with obj wall1 and include a Create Instance action. Set Object to obj explosion small and enable the Relative option. Also include a Destroy Instance action to destroy the shell.
    - Add a Collision event with obj\_wall2. This object must be temporarily removed. Include a Create Instance action with Object set to obj explosion small and the Relative option enabled. Include a Jump to Position action with X and Y set to 100000. Also select the Other object for Applies to so that the wall is moved rather than the shell.













 Include a Set Alarm action and select the Other object for Applies to so that it sets an alarm for the wall. Select Alarm 0 and set Number of Steps to 300. Finally, include a Destroy Instance action to destroy the shell.



Add a Collision event with obj\_shell\_parent and include a Create Instance action. Set
 Object to obj\_explosion\_small and enable the Relative option. Also include a Destroy
 Instance action to destroy the shell.

### Editing the destructible wall object to make it reappear:



 Reopen the obj\_wall2 object and add an Alarm, Alarm 0 event. Include a Check Empty action with X set to xstart, Y set to ystart, and Objects set to All. Include a Jump to Start action.



Next include an Else action followed by a Set Alarm action. Select Alarm 0 and set Number of Steps to 5. That way, when the position is not empty it will wait five more steps and then try again.

### Creating the players' shell objects:

- Create a new object called obj\_shell1. Give it the shell sprite and set its Parent to obj\_shell\_parent.
- VAR
- Add a Collision event with obj\_tank2 and include a Set Variable action. Set Variable to damage and Value to 10, and enable the Relative option. Also select the Other object for Applies to so that the tank's damage variable is changed.



- Include a Create Instance action with Object set to obj\_explosion\_small and enable the Relative option. Also include a Destroy Instance action to destroy the shell.
- Repeat steps 1–3 to create obj\_shell2 using a Collision event with obj\_tank1 rather than obj\_tank2.

### Adding events to make the tank objects fire shells:



Reopen the parent tank object and select the Create event. Include a Set Variable
action with Variable set to can shoot and Value set to 0.



Select the Step event and include a Set Variable action at the beginning of the list of actions. Set Variable to can\_shoot and Value to 1, and enable the Relative option.



- 8
- 3. Reopen obj\_tank1 and add a Key Press, <Space> event. Include the Test Variable action, with Variable set to can\_shoot, Value set to 0, and Operation set to smaller than. Next include the Exit Event action so that the remaining actions are only executed when can\_shoot is larger or equal to 0.



- 4. Include a Create Moving action. Set Object to obj\_shell1, Speed to 16, and Direction to direction, and enable the Relative option. Also include a Set Variable action with Variable set to can\_shoot and Value set to -10.
- Repeat steps 3-4 for the obj\_tank2, this time using a Key Press, <Enter> event for the key and obj\_shell2 for the Create Moving action.

### **Secondary Weapons**

### Creating the pickup object:

- Create a sprite called spr\_pickup using Pickup. gif. Note that it consists of four completely different subimages, representing each different kind of pickup.
- Create a new object called obj\_pickup and give it the pickup sprite.



 Add a Create event and include the Set Variable action. Set Variable to kind and Value to choose(0,1,2,3). This will choose randomly between the numbers in brackets that are separated by commas.



4. Include the Set Alarm action for Alarm 0 and set Number of Steps to 100+random(500). This will give a random time between 100 and 600 steps or about 3 and 20 seconds. Finally, include a Jump to Random action with the default parameters. This will move the instance to a random empty position.



 Add an Alarm, Alarm 0 event and include the Set Variable action. Set Variable to kind and Value to choose (0, 1, 2, 3).



Include the Set Alarm action for Alarm 0 with Number of Steps set to 100+random(500). Finally, include a Jump to Random action.



7. Add a Collision event with obj\_tank\_parent and include a Jump to Random action.



Add a Draw event and include the Draw Sprite action. Set Sprite to spr\_pickup, Subimage to kind and enable the Relative option.

### Editing the parent tank object to record pickups:

Reopen obj\_tank\_parent and select the Create event.



Include a Set Variable action with Variable set to weapon and Value set to -1. Include a second Set Variable action with Variable set to ammunition and Value set to 0.



3. Add a Collision event with obj\_pickup and include a Test Variable action. Set Variable to other.kind, Value to 3, and Operation to equal to. A value of 3 corresponds to the toolbox. This needs to repair the tank's damage, so include a Start Block action to begin the block of actions that do this.



4. Include a Set Variable action with Variable set to weapon and Value set to -1. Include a second Set Variable action with Variable set to damage and Value set to max (0, damage-50). The function max decides which is the largest of the two values you give it (more about functions in Chapter 12). Therefore, this sets the new damage to the largest out of damage-50 and 0. In effect, this subtracts 50 from damage but makes sure it does not become smaller than 0. Include an End Block action.



Include an Else action, followed by a Start Block action to group the actions that are used if this is not a toolbox pickup.



Include a Set Variable action with Variable set to weapon and Value set to other.kind.
 Include another Set Variable action with Variable set to ammunition and Value set to 10.



7. Finally, include an End Block action.

### Displaying the secondary weapon in the parent tank object:

- Create a new sprite called spr\_weapon using Weapon.gif. Note that it consists of three subimages (no image is required for the toolbox).
- Create a font called fnt\_ammunition and keep the default settings for it.



3. Select the Draw event in obj\_tank\_parent and include a Test Variable action. Set Variable to weapon, Value to -1, and Operation to larger than. This will ensure that we only draw something when there is a secondary weapon. Include a Start Block action to group the drawing actions.



 Include the Draw Sprite action and select spr\_weapon. Set X to -20, Y to 25, and Subimage to weapon. Also enable the Relative option.



Include a Set Color action and choose black. Then include a Set Font action, selecting fnt\_ammunition and setting Align to left.



Next include a Draw Variable action with Variable set to ammunition, X set to 0, Y set to 24, and the Relative option enabled.



Finally, include an End Block action to conclude the actions that draw the weapon information.

### Creating the parent rocket object:

- Create a sprite called spr\_rocket using Rocket.gif and Center the Origin.
- Create a new object called obj\_rocket\_parent and set Parent to obj\_shell\_parent.



Add a Create event and include the Set Alarm action. Set Number of Steps to 60 and select Alarm 0.



 Add a Step, End Step event and include a Change Sprite action. Select the rocket sprite, then set Subimage to direction/6 and Speed to 0.

Next we create the two actual rocket objects.

### Creating the actual rocket objects:

- Create a new object called it obj\_rocket1 and give it the rocket sprite. Set Parent to obj\_rocket\_parent.
- **\***
- Add a Create event and include the Move Towards action. Set X to obj\_tank2.x, Y to obj\_tank2.y, and Speed to 8.
- VAR
- Add a Collision event with obj\_tank2 and include a Set Variable action. Select Other from Applies to (the tank), set Variable to damage and Value to 10, and enable the Relative option.



- Include a Create Instance action, selecting obj\_explosion\_small and enabling the Relative option. Also include a Destroy Instance action.
- Create obj\_rocket2 in the same way, but move toward obj\_tank1 in the Create event, and add a Collision event with obj\_tank1 for the actions in steps 3 and 4.

### Adding events to shoot rockets for the tank object:





 Reopen the first tank object and add a Key Press, <Ctrl> event. Include a Test Variable action, with Variable set to can shoot, Value set to 0, and Operation set to smaller than. Next include the Exit Event action so that the remaining actions are only executed when can shoot is larger than or equal to 0.







2. Include the Test Variable action, with Variable set to weapon, Value set to 0, and Operation set to equal to. Next include a Test Instance Count action with Object set to obj tank2, Number set to 0 and Operation set to larger than. Follow this with a Create Instance action for obj\_rocket1, and enable the Relative option. This creates a rocket only when it is the current secondary weapon and the other tank exists (this avoids a rare error when the other tank has just been destroyed).





- 3. Next we need to decrease the ammunition. Include a Set Variable action with Variable set to ammunition, Value set to -1, and the Relative option enabled. Include a Test Variable action with Variable set to ammunition, Value set to 1, and Operation set to smaller than. Follow this with a Set Variable action with Variable set to weapon and Value set to -1.



- 4. Finally, include a Set Variable action with Variable set to can shoot and Value set to -10.
- Repeat steps 1-4 for obj\_tank2, using a Key Press, Others, < Delete> event and creating obj rocket2.

### Creating the bouncing bomb objects:

- Create a sprite called spr\_bouncing using Bouncing.gif and Center the Origin.
- Create a new object called obj\_bouncing\_parent and set its Parent to obj\_shell\_parent.



Add a Collision event with obj\_wall1 and include the Bounce action. Select precisely
and set Against to solid objects.



Add a similar Collision event with obj\_wall2.



- Add a Step, End Step event and include a Change Sprite action. Select spr\_bouncing, set Subimage to direction/6, and set Speed to 0.
- Create a new object called obj\_bouncing1 and give it the bouncing bomb sprite. Set its Parent to obj bouncing parent.



7. Add a Collision event with obj\_tank2 and include a Set Variable action. Select Other from Applies to, set Variable to damage, set Value to 10, and enable the Relative option. Include a Create Instance action for obj\_explosion\_small and enable the Relative option.



- 8. Include a Destroy Instance action.
- Repeat steps 6 and 7 to create obj\_bouncing2 using a Collision event with obj\_tank1.

### Editing the parent tank object to support shields:

Create sprites called spr\_shield1 and spr\_shield2 using Shield1.gif and Shield2.gif
and Center their Origins.



Reopen the parent tank object and select the Create event. Include a Set Variable action with Variable set to shield and Value set to 0.



 Select the Step event and include a Set Variable action at the start of the list. Set Variable to shield, set Value to -1, and enable the Relative option.



- 4. Reopen obj\_shell1 and select the Collision event with obj\_tank2. Include a Test Variable action directly above the Set Variable that increases the damage. Select Other from Applies to, then set Variable to shield, Value to 0, and Operation to smaller than. Now the damage will only be increased when the tank has no shield.
- Repeat step 4 for objects obj\_shell2, obj\_rocket1, obj\_rocket2, obj\_bouncing1, and obj\_bounding2.





- 6. Reopen obj\_tank1 and select the Draw event. Include a Test Variable action at the start of the action list. Set Variable to shield, Value to 0, and Operation to larger than. Follow this with a Draw Sprite action for spr\_shield1 with the Relative option enabled.
- Repeat step 6 for obj\_tank2, this time drawing spr\_shield2.

### Editing tank objects to shoot bombs and use shields:

Reopen obj\_tank1 and select the Key Press, <Ctrl> event.



2. Include a Test Variable action below the Create Instance action that creates obj\_rocket1. Set Variable to weapon, Value to 1, and Operation to equal to. Follow this with a Create Moving action for obj\_bouncing1, setting Speed to 16 and Direction to direction, and enabling the Relative option.



- Include another Test Variable action below this, with Variable set to weapon, Value set to 2, and Operation set to equal to. Follow this with by a Set Variable action with Variable set to shield and Value set to 40.
- Repeat steps 1–3 for obj\_tank2, adapting the Key Press, < Delete> event and creating obj\_bouncing2.

### **Views**

- View in room: This is an area of the room that needs to be displayed in the view. The X
  and Y positions define the top-left corner of this area and W and H specify the width
  and height of it.
- Port on screen: This is the position on the window where the view should be shown.
   The X and Y positions define the top-left corner of this area and W and H specify the width and height of it. If the width and height are different from the size of the view area, then the view will be automatically scaled to fit. Game Maker will also automatically adapt the size of the window so that all ports fit into it.
- Object following: Specifying an object here will make the view track that object as it
  moves around the room. Hbor and Vbor specify the size of the horizontal and vertical
  borders that you want to keep around the object. The view will not move until the edge
  of the screen is closer than this distance from the object. Setting Hbor to half the width
  of the view and Vbor to half the height of the view will therefore maintain the object in
  the center. Finally, Hsp and Vsp allow you to limit the speed with which the view moves
  (-1 means no limit).

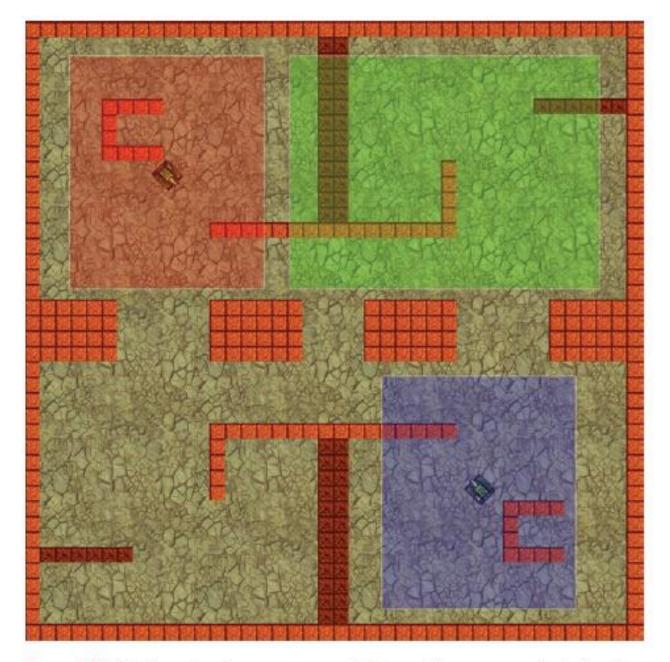


Figure 10-2. We'll create a large room, much bigger than a normal window (green rectangle), and provide views into it for each of the tanks (red and blue squares).

### Editing the room resource to provide two views:

- Reopen the main room and switch to the settings tab.
- 2. Set both the Width and Height of the room to 1280, to create a much larger room.
- Switch to the objects tab and add wall instances to incorporate the extra playing area. Start the tanks close to two opposite corners and add six pickup instances. Also don't forget that the room needs exactly one instance of the controller object.
- Switch to the views tab and select the Enable the use of Views option. This activates
  the use of views in this room.
- Make sure that View 0 is selected in the list and enable the Visible when room starts option. We will use this view for player one.
- 6. Under View in room set X to 0, Y to 0, W to 400, and H to 480. The X and Y positions of the views don't really matter in this case as we will make them follow the tanks. Nonetheless, notice that lines appear in the room to indicate the size and position of the view.
- Under Port on screen set X to 0, Y to 0, W to 400, and H to 480. This port will show player one's view on the left side of the screen.
- Under Object following select obj\_tank1, then set Hbor to 200 and Vbor to 240. The form should now look like Figure 10-3.

- Now select View 1 in the list and enable the Visible when room starts option. We will use this view for player two.
- 10. Under View in room set X to 0, Y to 0, W to 400, and H to 480.
- 11. Under Port on screen set X to 420, Y to 0, W to 400, and H to 480. This places the second view to the right of the first view with a little space between them.
- Under Object following select obj tank2, and set Hbor to 200 and Vbor to 240.

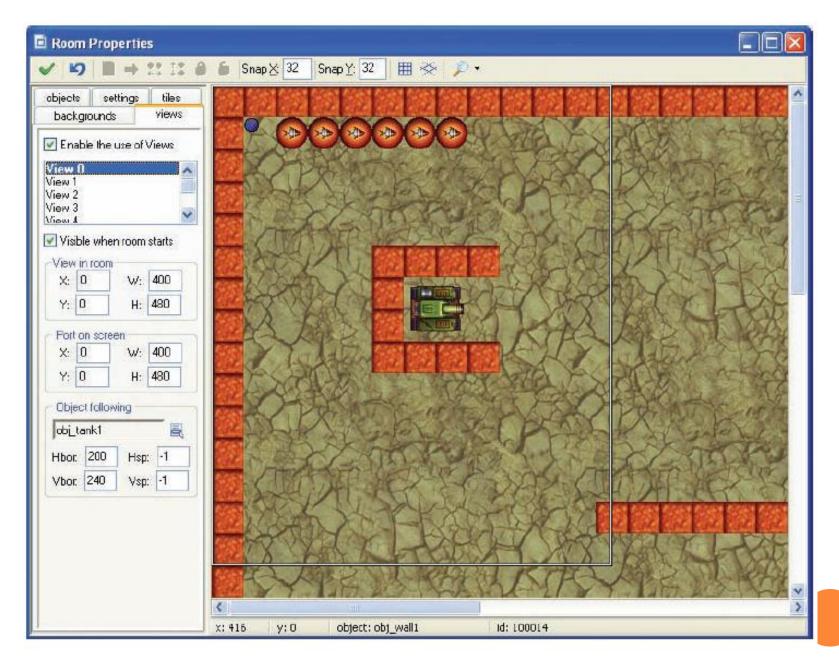


Figure 10-3. This is how the form should look when the values for View 0 have been set.

	in the <b>Globa</b>
	tween the views defaults to the color black. You can change this i phics tab under <b>Color outside the room region</b> .

### Editing the controller object to draw the score relative to the view position:

Reopen the controller object and select the Draw event.



- Include a Test Variable action before the Draw Variable action that draws the score for player one. Set Variable to view\_current, Value to 0, and Operation to equal to.
- Edit the Draw Variable action that draws player one's score. Change X to view\_xview[0]+380 and Y to view\_yview[0]+10.



- Include a Test Variable action before the Draw Variable action that draws the score for player two. Set Variable to view\_current, Value to 1, and Operation to equal to.
- Edit the Draw Variable action for player two. Change X to view\_xview[1]+20 and Y to view\_yview[1]+10. The action list should now look like Figure 10-4.



Figure 10-4. These actions draw the scores correctly for each view.

### Adding a view to create a mini-map:

- Reopen the main room and switch to the views tab.
- Select View 2 in the list and enable the Visible when room starts option.
- 3. Under View in room set X to 0, Y to 0, W to 1280, and H to 1280 (the entire room).
- Under Port on screen set X to 350, Y to 355, W to 120, and H to 120. No object needs to be followed.

Tip To improve the mini-map and make it more "iconic," you could make the different objects draw something different when the variable view\_current is equal to 2. For example, the pickup object could simply display a red disk and the walls could draw black squares.