

THE Z ORDER BAR

View online: <https://www.construct.net/en/make-games/manuals/construct-3/interface/bars/z-order-bar>

Paid plans only The **Z Order Bar** allows precise control over which objects appear in front of others. Although Construct is a 2D engine, the term *Z order* is used to refer to the display order of each individual object.



To open the Z Order Bar, either right click in the [Layout View](#) and select Z Order ► Open Z Order bar..., or tick the check at Menu ► View ► Bars ► Z Order.

The Z Order list

Instances are listed in the Z Order bar in front-to-back order, i.e. instances at the **top** of the list appear at the **front**, and instances at the **bottom** of the list appear at the **back**. Instances are grouped by the [layer](#) they belong to.

If no objects are selected, the Z Order Bar displays all instances in the layout. If some instances are selected in the [Layout View](#), the list is filtered down to only those instances *and* any other instances overlapping them. This makes it convenient to see the relative Z order of a small area without having to take in to account the rest of the layout.

Identifying instances

With lots of the same instances in the list, it can sometimes be difficult to tell precisely where a particular instance occurs in the list. To help identify each instance, its UID (unique identifier) appears after its name, e.g. *Player 41* (meaning a Player instance with UID 41).

Instances in the list which were selected in the Layout View are also selected in the Z Order bar. Selecting instances from the Z Order Bar itself will also select objects in the Layout View and show their properties, but will not affect the filtering of the list.

Sprite objects which have a different initial image set by changing the *Initial frame* or *Initial animation* properties also display an icon for that initial image in the Z Order list.

Instances can be **double-clicked** to make them flash briefly in the Layout View. Alternatively an instance can be right-clicked and then Flash this instance selected. This helps visually identify the instance in the layout.

The context menu also has the option Scroll selection into view, which will make the Layout View change its scrolling to show all the selected instances.

Editing the Z Order

To move an object in the Z Order - adjusting which other objects it appears in front or behind - **drag and drop it in the list**. You can also move objects to other layers this way. You can also select multiple objects by holding **Control** or **Shift** and drag them all as a block to another layer or location in the Z Order. When doing this, the relative order of the selection is also preserved.

If you want to add, remove or reorder layers themselves, use the [Layers Bar](#) instead.

View options

You can right-click the Z Order Bar and select Show active layer only. This further filters down the list to only display objects on the current active layer (the selected layer in the [Layers Bar](#)), which can be useful when working with a single layer.