

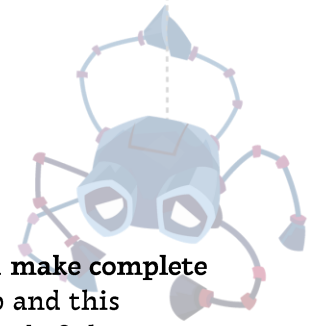


# SPYDER

## INTRODUCTION TO GAME DEVELOPMENT PART 2 : SKY-HIGH SPY

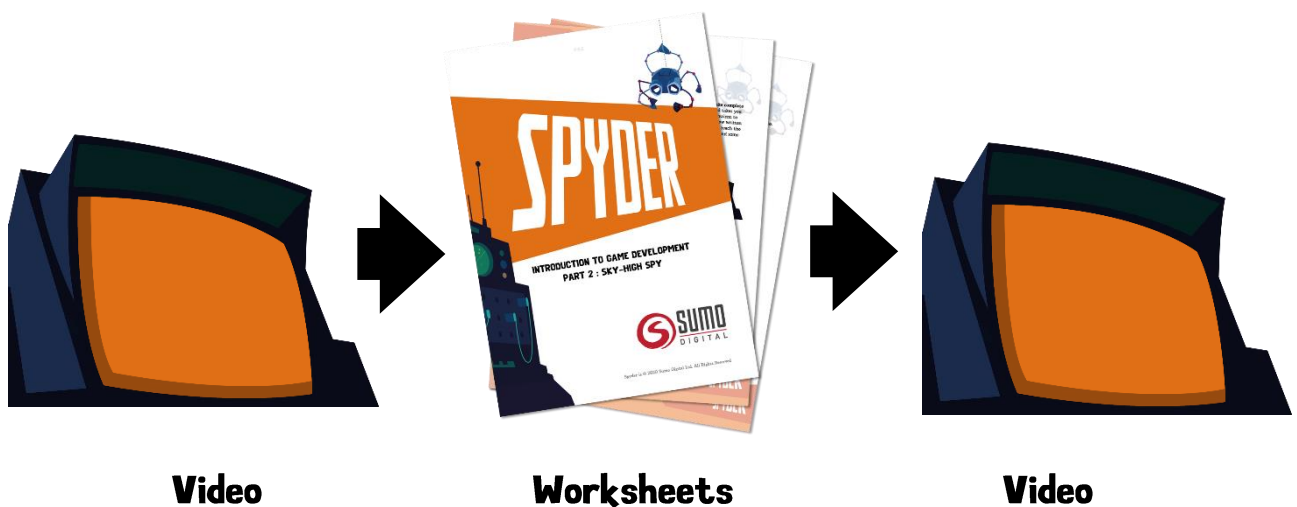


# INTRODUCTION



## Important Note

These worksheets complement the accompanying video tutorial, and **neither will make complete sense without the other**. The video introduces the concepts behind the workshop and this document takes you step-by-step through making the game. Once you reach the end of the worksheets you can return to the video for a summary of the key concepts and some suggestions of how to extend and improve your game. Good luck!



## Resources

You will also need to obtain the archive of images and sound effects that are used to make the game in this tutorial. You should find a download link for this archive in the text description of the video. Download this file and unzip the archive's contents into a directory on your computer before beginning (usually this involves right-clicking on the .zip file and selecting "Extract Here"). The files and folders this creates are referred to in the tutorial, so keep a note of where you have put them for future reference.

## Legal Notices

This course has been created and taught by Dr. Jacob Habgood, who would like to kindly acknowledge Dr. Mark Overmars and APress for the use of example materials derived from The Game Maker's Apprentice (Habgood and Overmars, 2006).

The tutorial assets are derived from the original Spyder™ game by Sumo Digital Ltd (© 2020 Sumo Digital). Permission is granted to use these resources for educational use only.

# STILL HAS SIX LEGS



## Setting up the sprite resources for a new project:

1. Create a new “Drag and Drop” project in GameMaker Studio 2.
2. Right-click on the **Sprites** section of the Resources window and choose **Create Sprite from Image(s)**.
2. Choose the file `agent8_left_strip7.png` (you’ll find it in the **Resources** folder of the downloaded archive) and name the Sprite `spr_agent8_left`.
3. Set the **Origin** to `-10 x 64`. Placing the **Origin** below the sprite in this way will make it rotate around the centre of the moons that Agent 8 will walk on in this game.

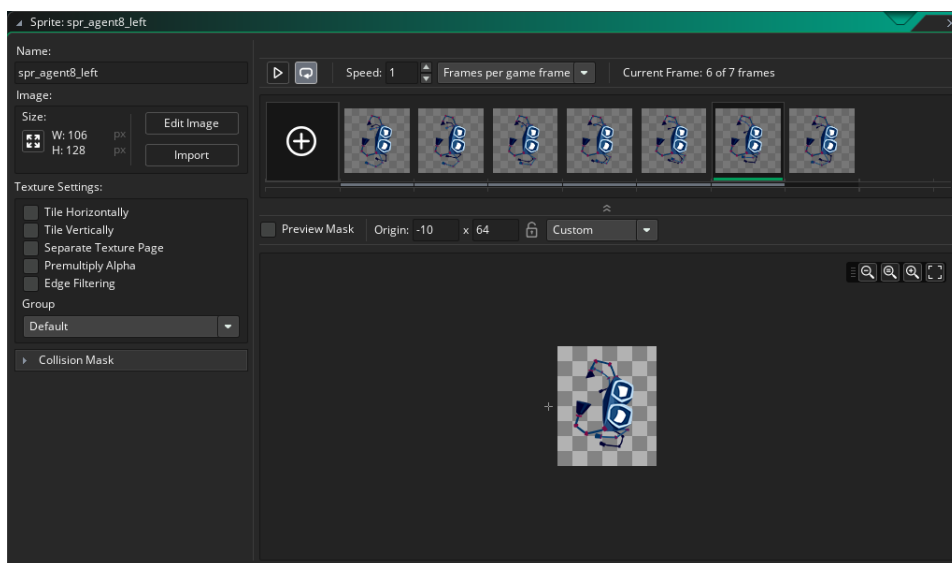


Figure 2-1: The Sprite Properties form after making the left facing Agent 8 sprite

4. Click on the small lock icon to prevent you from accidentally changing the origin with a stray mouse click (you can press it again to make the origin editable again).
5. Finally set the sprites’ running speed to **1** Frames per game frame. Your Sprite Properties form should now look like Figure 2-1. Close the form.
6. Create a new Sprite called `spr_agent8_right` using the file `agent8_left_right7.png`. Like the left sprite, it should also have an **Origin** of `-10 x 64`.
7. Create a new Sprite called `spr_agent8_fly` using the file `agent8_fly.png`. This sprite needs the same **Origin** settings, but you should also open the **Collision Mask** settings and set **Mode** to **Manual**. Notice how 4 black “handles” appear on the sprite image which allow you to change the size of the collision area (you can also type values into the **Left**, **Right**, **Top** and **Bottom** values). Reduce the size of the rectangle down so that it is similar to that shown in Figure 2.2 (right). This makes the collision tests more “forgiving” for this sprite and will make the game feel “fairer” to the player.

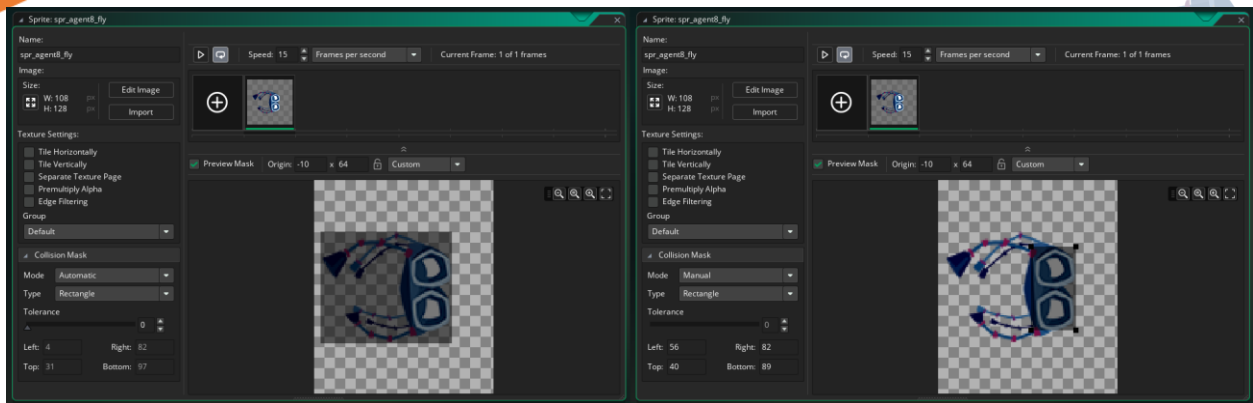


Figure 2-2: Reduce the size of the automatic collision mask (left) to make it smaller (right)

### Creating the remaining game sprites:

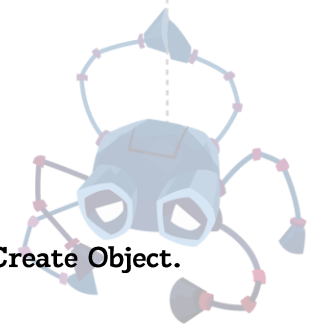
1. To create the remaining sprites for the game load the appropriate file and set the **Origins** and **Speed** as indicated below.
2. `spr_agent8_dead` has an **Origin** of **94 x 64** (to match the distance of the **Origin** below Agent 8's feet on `spr_agent9_fly`). Set the **Speed** to **0.2** Frames per game frame.
3. `spr_asteroid` has an **Origin** of **105 x 75** (to place it at the centre of the moon). Set the **Speed** to **0.2** Frames per game frame.
4. `spr_asteroid_pieces` need to have their **Origin** set to Middle Centre and their **Speed** set to **0** Frames per game frame (i.e. no animation).
5. `spr_meteor` has an **Origin** of **162 x 64** (at the centre of the meteorite). Set the **Speed** to **0.2** Frames per game frame.
6. `spr_gem` has its **Origin** set to Middle Centre and its **Speed** can be left as the default (there is only a single frame so it makes no difference).
7. `spr_background` has its **Origin** and **Speed** left as the default.

## SOUND PLANNING

### Creating the game's Sound resources:

1. Right click on **Sounds** in the **Resources** window and select **Create Sound**. Name it `snd_music`.
2. In the properties form that appears, click on the ellipsis and select the `snd_music.wav` file from the **Resources** folder.
3. Close the Sound Properties form.
4. Repeat the process to create sound resources for `snd_explode`, `snd_combust`, and `snd_reward`.

# SHOWER OF SPACE ROCKS



## Creating an asteroid object:

1. Right-click on the **Objects** section of the **Resources** window and choose **Create Object**. An Object Properties form will appear.
2. In the **Name** field, give the object a name. You should call this one **obj\_asteroid**.
3. Click the ellipsis icon at the end of the sprite field (three dots) and a list of all the available sprites will appear. Select the **spr\_asteroid** sprite.
4. Add a **Create** event to the list of events for the asteroid.
5. Include a **Set Direction Variable** action (from the Movement section of the Toolbox). Where it says **Direction**, type **irandom(360)**. This will randomly select a whole number between 0 and 359.
6. Include a **Set Speed** action (Movement section). Leave the **Type** set to **Direction** and set the **Speed** to **5**.
7. Include the **Set Instance Rotation** action (Instances section) and set **Angle** to **direction**. This just makes sure that the direction of movement set in the first action is also the direction in which the sprite is rotated when it is drawn.
8. Include the **Choose** action (Random section) and click on the + icon three times so that four options are displayed in total (see Figure 2.3). Type **c\_orange** in the first **Option**, **c\_yellow** in the second, **c\_aqua** in the third and **c\_white** in the fourth **Option**. Set **Target** to **image\_blend** to randomly assign a different colour to each asteroid.

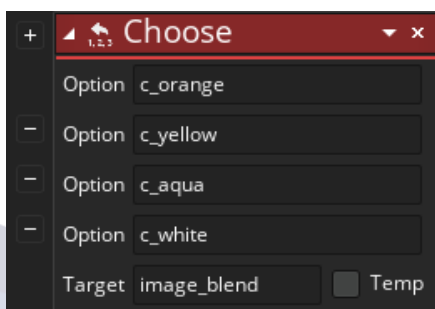





Figure 2-3. The **Choose** action allows you to randomly assign different values to a variable. Clicking on the + icon in the top left corner adds additional options.

9. Add a **Step, Step** event to the asteroid object and include a **Wrap Around Room** action. Set **Margin** to **128** and select both the **Horizontal** and **Vertical** options. This makes the asteroid reappear back on the opposite side of the room when it goes outside of the room's boundaries.

### Creating an 'attached' asteroid object from the asteroid:

1. Right-click on `obj_asteroid` in the Resources and select **Duplicate**. Name the new object `obj_asteroid_attached`. This object represents the asteroid that Agent 8 is currently attached to. There can be many instances of `obj_asteroid`, but only one instance of `obj_asteroid_attached` at any point in time.
2. Right-click on the **Create** event and select **Change Event**. Change it to an **Other, Room Start** event instead. This is necessary because instances of `obj_asteroid` are going to change into instances of `obj_asteroid_attached` when Agent 8 lands on them. However, using the **Change Instance** action causes the new object's **Create** event to be called, which here would assign a new colour and direction to an existing asteroid. Putting these actions in a **Room Start** event makes sure that colour and direction are only assigned once at the very start of the level.
-  3. Include an **If Audio Is Playing** action (Audio section), set **Sound** to `snd_music` and select the **Not** option (so we're testing whether the music is not already playing).
-  4. Include a **Play Audio** action (Audio section) and make it depend on the previous action (drag it to the red word **Empty**). Set **Sound** to `snd_music` and select the **Loop** option.
-  5. Now add a **Create** event (one that we DO want to be called when the instance changes), but just include an **Assign Variable** action with **Name** set to `depth` and **Value** set to `-1` (Common section). This brings the attached (most important) asteroid in front of the other asteroids, so it is drawn over the top.

### Creating a meteor object from the asteroid:

1. Right-click on `obj_asteroid` in the Resources and select **Duplicate**. Name the new object `obj_meteor` and assign it the `spr_meteor` sprite.
2. Edit the **Create** event and delete the **Choose** action (click on the x button in the top, right corner of the action). Change the **Speed** of the meteor to `12`. Otherwise the object is the same as the asteroid so you can close the object, as we are done with it.

## SPACEOUS ROOM

### Editing the game room:

1. Open up the list of Rooms in the Resource window (click on the little triangle) and double click on `roomO`. The Room Editor windows will appear.
2. Select the **Background** layer in the Room Editor window. This should reveal the Background Layer Properties in the pane below, with a familiar-looking Sprite selection tool. Click on the ellipsis icon and select the background sprite (see Figure 2-4). Also select the **Stretch** option in case you decide to make your room bigger later.



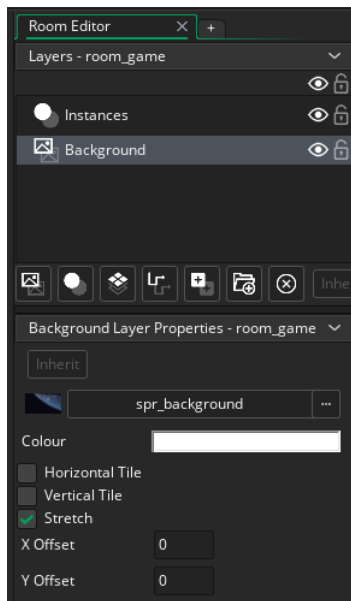


Figure 2-4. The Background Layer Properties allows you to assign background sprites.

3. In the bottom left, under Room Settings set the **Width** of the room to **1280** pixels wide and the **Height** to be **720** pixels.
4. Click the **Instances** layer in the top left of the Room Editor window.
5. Click and drag a few instances of **obj\_asteroid** and **obj\_meteor** into the room grid from the Resources. The room should now look something like Figure 2-5.

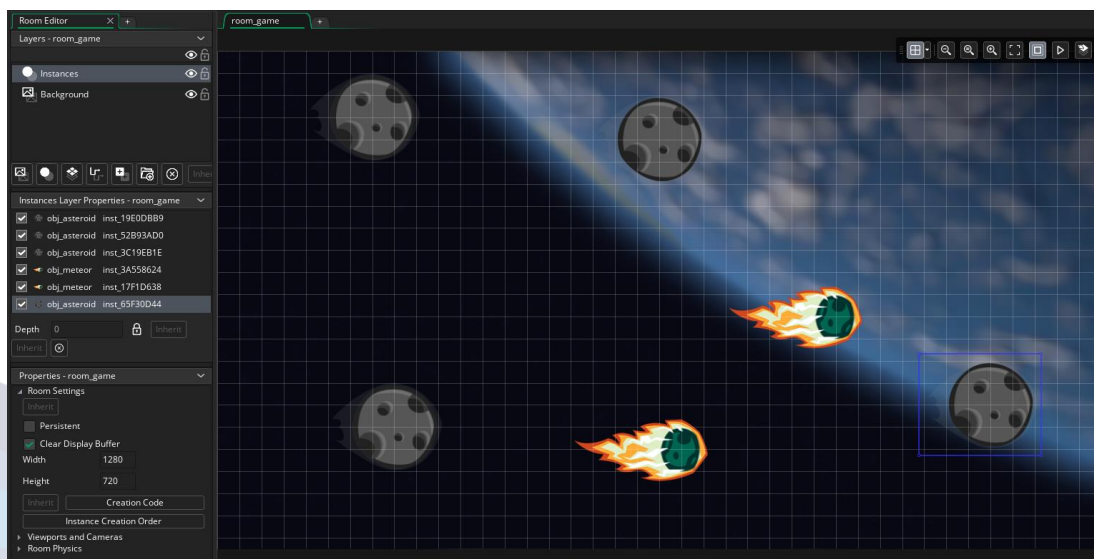


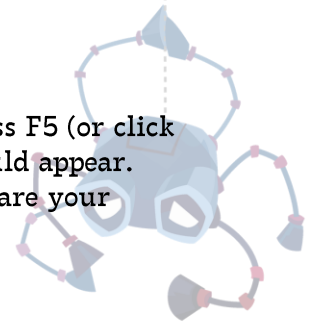
Figure 2-5. The Room Editor with asteroids and meteors.

#### Note

Although we have based all the tutorial games around a room size of 1280 x 720 pixels (standard definition), this game works particularly well at 1920 x 1080 pixels (high definition). If your monitor can cope, then ramp up the size of the room to 1920 x 1080 and you'll get better gameplay as a result of the extra space to maneuver.



### Saving your work and running the game:

1. Choose **Save Project** from the **File** menu (or click the disk icon) and press **F5** (or click the play icon) to run the game. After a brief pause, a game window should appear. Check that everything works as it should, but if not then you can compare your version to [SkyHighSpy1.yyz](#) in the [Projects](#) directory of the archive.



## TAKING AGENT 8 FOR A SPIN






### Creating an Agent 8 object:

1. Right-click on **Objects** in the **Resources** window and choose **Create Object**.
2. Give the object a name by entering [obj\\_agent8\\_walk](#) in the **Name** field.
3. Select the [spr\\_agent8\\_left](#) sprite from the sprite selection menu.
4. Add a **Key Down** event and select **No Key** from the pop-up menu.
-  5. Include a **Set Animation Speed** action (Instances section) and set the **Speed** to **0**. This stops the walk animations from playing when Agent 8 is standing still.
6. Add a **Key Down** event and select **Left** from the pop-up menu.
-  7. Include the **Set Direction Variable** action in the **Actions** list and set **Direction** to [image\\_index\\*3](#) with the **Relative** option selected. This changes the speed of rotation based on the current frame of animation (slow at the beginning, fast at the end). This gives Agent 8 a scampering kind of movement which fits well for a spider.

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*Note*      The star character (\*) is used as the multiplication symbol and can be found on the 8 key on most keyboards (press shift and 8).

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-  8. Include a **Set Sprite** action (Instances section). Set **Sprite** to [spr\\_agent8\\_left](#), **Frame** to **0**, and select the **Relative** option (i.e. don't change the current animation frame).
-  9. Include a **Set Animation Speed** action (Instances section) and set the **Speed** to **1**.
-  10. Add a **Key Down, Right** event and include the **Set Direction Variable** action in the **Actions** list and set **Direction** to [-image\\_index\\*3](#) (note the minus sign at the start) with the **Relative** option selected.
-  11. Include a **Set Sprite** action (Instances section). Set **Sprite** to [spr\\_agent8\\_right](#), **Frame** to **0**, and select the **Relative** option.
-  12. Include a **Set Animation Speed** action (Instances section) and set the **Speed** to **1**.





11. Add a **Step, End Step** action and include a **Jump to Point** action (Movement section). Set **X** to `obj_asteroid_attached.x` and **Y** to `obj_asteroid_attached.y`. This will move the origin of the Agent 8 object to the origin of the (moving) asteroid so that the player does indeed appear to be 'attached' to that asteroid in the game.



12. Include a **Set Instance Rotation** action (Instances section) and set the **Angle** to `direction`. This makes sure that the direction of movement set in the keyboard events is also the direction in which the sprite is rotated when it is drawn.

The Agent 8 Walk object should now look like Figure 2-6. Try dragging a single instance of both `obj_agent8_walk` and `obj_asteroid_attached` into your room. Check that you follow the attached asteroid and can walk around it okay before continuing. You can also compare your version to `SkyHighSpy2.yyz` in the `Projects` directory of the archive.

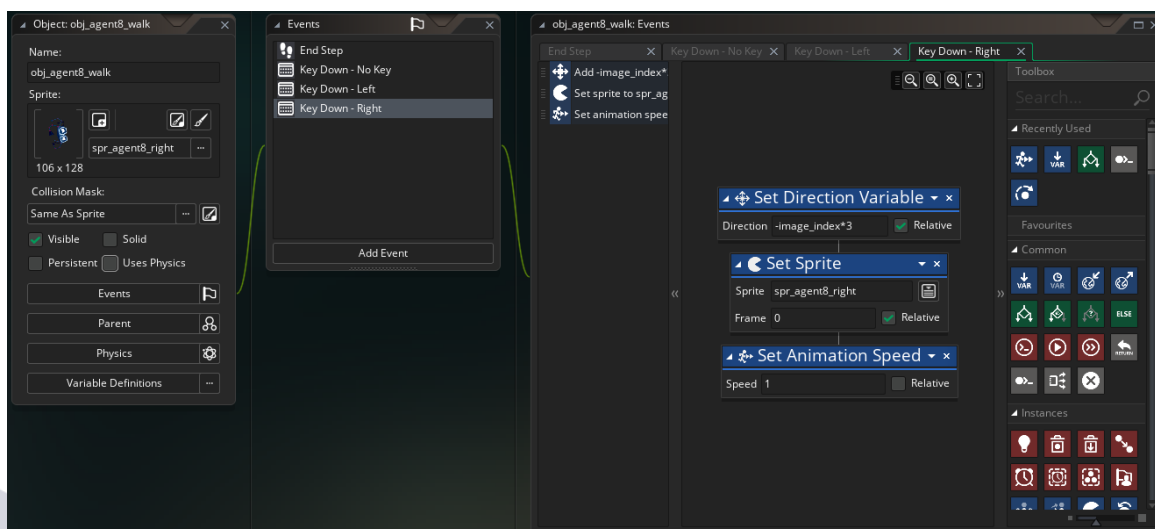


Figure 2-6. The basic Agent 8 object with keyboard events.

## YOU'RE FIRED!

### Creating the dead Agent 8 object:



1. Create a new object called `obj_agent8_dead` and assign it the `spr_agent8_dead` sprite.
2. Add a **Create** event and include a **Set Animation Speed** action (Instances section). Set **Speed** to **1**. Note that this just plays the sprite animation at its normal full speed (i.e. 0.2 Frames per game frame as previously set in the sprite settings).



3. Include a **Play Audio** action (Audio section) and set **Sound** to `snd_combust`.



4. Add an **Other, Outside Room** event and include a **Restart Room** action (Rooms section).

## Creating the flying Agent 8 object:

1. Create a new object called `obj_agent8_fly` and assign it the `spr_agent8_fly` sprite.
2. Add a **Key Down, Left** event and include a **Set Direction Variable** action (Movement section). Set Direction to `1` and select the **Relative** option. The player will only be able to turn very slowly when flying through the air.
3. Add a **Key Down, Right** event and include another **Set Direction Variable** action. Set Direction to `-1` and select the **Relative** option.
4. Add a **Step, Step** event and include a **Set Speed** action (Movement section). Set **Type** to `Direction` (which is changing as Agent 8 turns) and **Speed** to `12` (like the meteor).
5. Include a **Set Instance Rotation** (Instances section) and set **Angle** to `direction`.

*Note* GameMaker's UI often uses uppercase letters (e.g. for the 'D' at the start of `Direction` in the **Set Direction Variable** dropdown menu), but all of GameMaker's built-in variables use lowercase letters when they have to be typed in using the keyboard (e.g. the `direction` variable). If you use uppercase, then it will not recognise it as the correct variable.

6. Include a **Wrap Around Room** action (Movement section). Set **Margin** to `128` and select both the **Horizontal** and **Vertical** options. This will make Agent 8 jump to the opposite side of the room when he flies outside its boundaries. The margin is set to wider than the size of the largest wrapping sprite to prevent instances appearing to pop into existence in their new location.
7. Add a **Collision** event with `obj_meteor`. Include a **Change Instance** action (Instances section) and set **Object** to `obj_agent8_dead`.
8. Add a **Collision** event with `obj_asteroid`. Include a **Change Instance** action which **Applies To** the Other object (the asteroid) and set **Object** to `obj_asteroid_attached`.
9. Include a second **Change Instance** action and set **Object** to `obj_agent8_walk`. There's no need to change **Applies To** as it will default to Self (the `obj_agent8_fly` instance). The `obj_agent8_fly` properties form should now look like Figure 2-7.

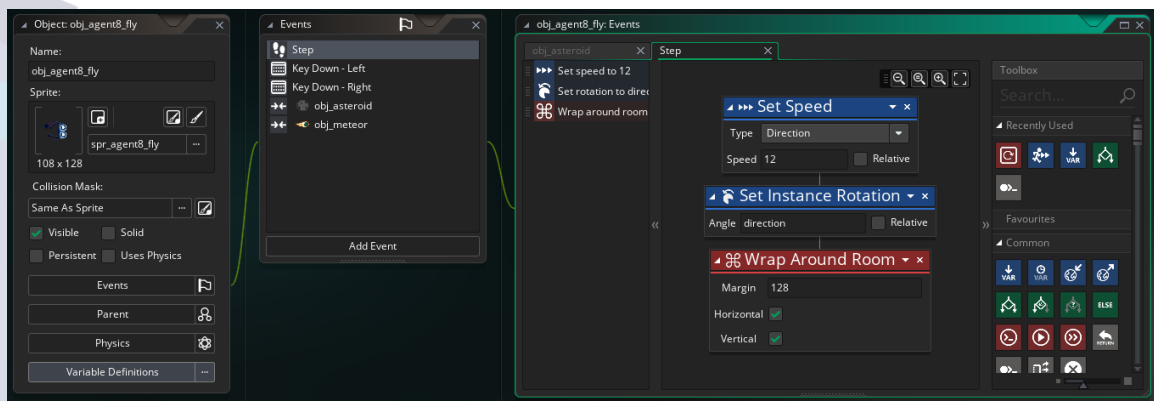
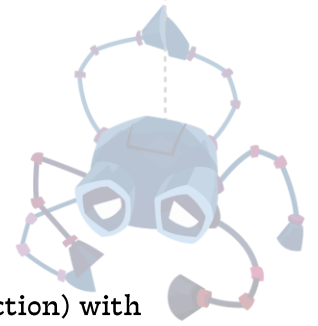


Figure 2-7. The flying Agent 9 object should look like this.

# DIAMOND MINING



## Creating the gem object:

1. Create a new object called **obj\_gem** and give it the gem sprite.



2. Add a **Create** event and include an **Assign Variable** action (Common section) with **Name** set to **depth** and **Value** set to **10**. This puts the gem behind all the asteroids.



3. Add an **Other, Outside Room** event and include an **Jump to Point** action (Movement section) with **X** set to **irandom(room\_width)** and **Y** set to **irandom(room\_height)**. This makes sure the gem can't get left outside of the room where it can't be seen, as it will randomly teleport inside again if this should happen.

## Creating the asteroid piece object:

1. Create a new object called **obj\_asteroid\_piece** and give it the **spr\_asteroid\_pieces** sprite.



2. Add a **Create** event and include an **Assign Variable** action (Common section) with **Name** set to **image\_blend** and **Value** set to **obj\_asteroid\_attached.image\_blend**. This copies the colour settings from the asteroid Agent 8 is currently walking on.



3. Include a **Set Sprite** action with **Sprite** set to **spr\_asteroid\_pieces** and **Frame** set to **instance\_number(obj\_asteroid\_piece)**. This will make sure that each of the three asteroid pieces are assigned a different sequential image from the sprite.



4. Include a **Set Direction Variable** action with **Direction** set to **image\_index\*120**. Note that **image\_index** is the name of the variable that GameMaker uses to store the animation frame (the same one set using **Frame** in a **Set Sprite** action). This will align the object's direction of movement with the orientation implied by the images.



5. Finally include a **Set Speed** action (Movement section). Leave the **Type** set to **Direction** and set the **Speed** to **24**. The properties form should now look like Figure 2-8.



6. Now add an **Other, Outside Room** event and include a **Destroy Instance** action.

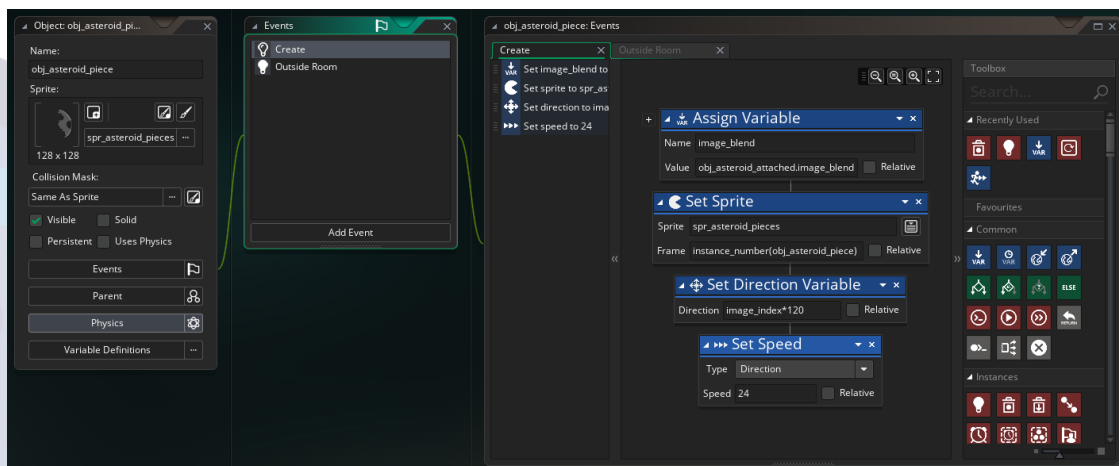


Figure 2-8. The Asteroid Pieces object.

## Editing the walking agent8 object:

1. Reopen the `obj_agent8_walk` object (not the sprite) in the resource list.
2. Add a **Key Pressed, Space** event and include a **Change Instance** action (Instances section) and set **Object** to `obj_agent8_fly`.
3. Include a **Repeat** event and set **Times** to 3 (there are three asteroid pieces).
4. Now attach a **Create Instance** action to the **Repeat** action by dragging the new action onto the red word **Empty**. Set **Object** to `obj_asteroid_piece` and select both **Relative** options, so that the three pieces are all created relative to the asteroid's position.
5. Include another **Create Instance** action which doesn't depend on the **Repeat** action (i.e. not connected to the previous **Create Instance** action). Set **Object** to `obj_gem` and select both **Relative** options again.
6. Include a **Do Effect** action with **Type** set to Ring, **Where** set to Below Objects, **Size** set to Large and both **Relative** options selected.
7. Include a **Play Audio** action with **Sound** set to `snd_explode`.
8. Include a **Destroy Instance** action which **Applies To** `obj_asteroid_attached`. The actions for this event should now look like Figure 2-9.

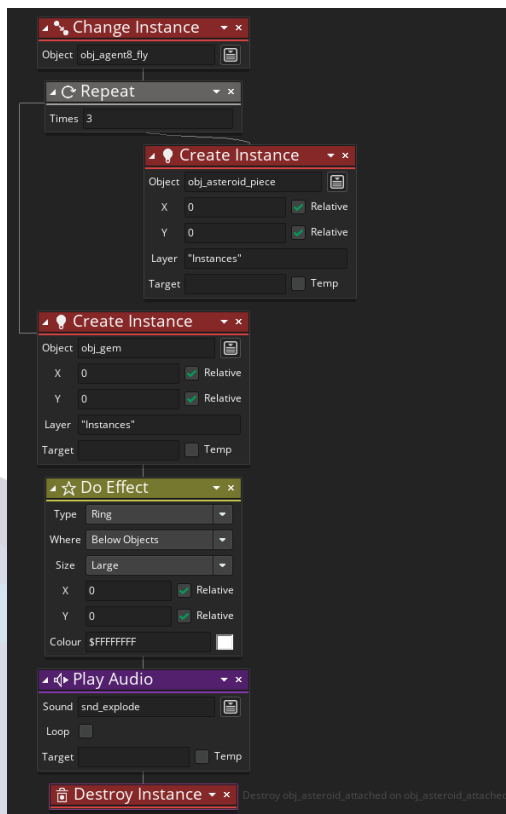
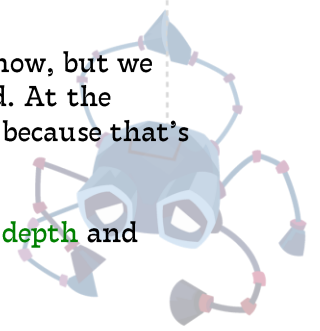


Figure 2-9. The actions for the Key Press, Space event of the walking Agent 8 object. Note that only the first Create Instance action is dependant on the Repeat action.

9. Now add a **Create** event. Note that this object hasn't needed one up to now, but we want to influence Agent 8's behaviour when he collides with an asteroid. At the moment he often appears to teleport to the opposite side of the asteroid because that's the direction he was travelling in. We can fix that as follows.



10. Include an **Assign Variable** action (Common section) with **Name** set to `depth` and **Value** set to `-2`. This moves Agent 8 in front of the asteroid.



11. Include a **Set Point Direction** action (Movement section) with **X** set to `obj_asteroid_attached.x` and **Y** set to `obj_asteroid_attached.y`. This sets Agent 8's direction to point him at the centre of the asteroid, as he won't always collide head-on.



12. Include a **Set Direction Variable** action with **Direction** set to `180` and select the **Relative** option. This will rotate him 180 degrees so that he lands on his feet with his underside facing the asteroid.

## PARENTAL INFLUENCE

### Creating an Agent 8 parent object:

1. Create a new object called `obj_agent8` and assign it any of the agent8 sprites (it doesn't really matter which as it is never used – we'll explain why in the video).
2. Add a **Collision** event with `obj_gem` and include a **Set Score** action with **Score** set to `100` and the **Relative** option selected.
3. Include the **Destroy Instance** action with **Appies To** set to **Other** (the gem).
4. Include a **Play Audio** action with **Sound** set to `snd_reward`.
5. Add a **Draw, Draw** event and include a **Draw Instance Score** action (Drawing section) with **Caption** set to `"Score:"`, **X** set to `room_width/2` and **Y** set to `50`.
6. Include a **Draw Self** action (Drawing section).
7. Add a **Step, Begin Step** event and include a **Get Instance Count** action (Instances section) with **Object** set to `obj_asteroid` and **Target** set to `asteroids`. This counts the number of remaining asteroids and puts the answer in a new variable called `asteroids`.
8. Include a second **Get Instance Count** action (Instances section) with **Object** set to `obj_asteroid_attached` and **Target** set to `attached`.
9. Include a third **Get Instance Count** action (Instances section) with **Object** set to `obj_gem` and **Target** set to `gems`.
10. Include an **If Variable** action (Common section) with **Variable** set to `asteroids+attached+gems`, **Is** set to **Equal** and **Value** set to `0`. This now checks to see if all the asteroids and gems have been collected or destroyed.





11. Attach a **Destroy Instance** action to the **If Variable** action by dragging the new action onto the red word **Empty**. Set **Applies To** to **obj\_meteor** to destroy all the remaining meteors and provide the player with some time to gloat over their score.



12. Add a **Key Press, R** event and include a **Restart Room** action (Rooms section) so that the player can reset the game when they get board of gloating.

13. Finally a little bit of magic. Reopen **obj\_agent8\_walk** and set its parent to be **obj\_agent8** (click on the icon with three circles, next to where it says Parent). Note how the events and actions from **obj\_agent8** are added to the existing object, but appear greyed-out. The greyed-out events are the ones which have been “inherited” from the parent object (see Figure 2-10). We’ll learn more about this in the next tutorial.

14. Reopen **obj\_agent8\_fly** and set its parent to be **obj\_agent8**.

15. Reopen **obj\_agent8\_dead** and set its parent to be **obj\_agent8**. Consider how we’ve added multiple behaviours to three objects using just one set of actions in **obj\_agent8**. Feels good doesn’t it? Best of all if we want to change the behaviour (for example increasing the number of points for a gem) then we only need to change it in one place.

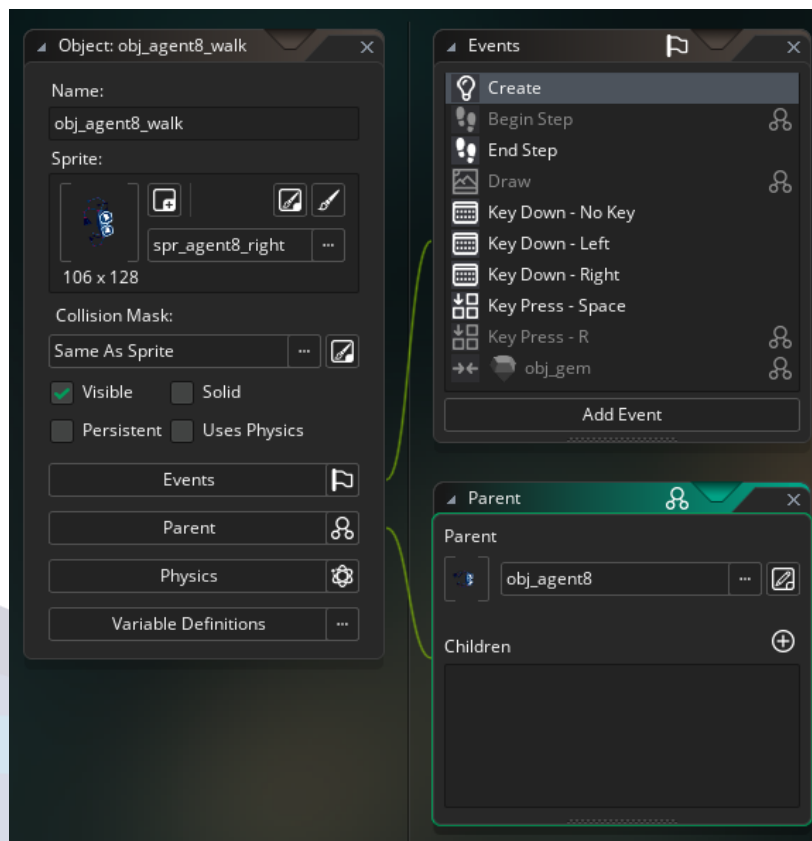


Figure 2-10. The Agent8 walk object showing its own events and those inherited from its parents (in grey).



# CONGRATULATIONS

## Fantastic Work!

You'll find a finished version of this tutorial in the project file `Projects/SkyHighSpy3.yyz` in the archive. As before, you can now return to the video to celebrate what you've achieved and check out a few features which you might want to add to the game. You're learning fast, so stick with it and you'll have earned your game development stripes in no time!



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the whole Spyder™ team for allowing us to use assets from their amazing game in this tutorial. This tutorial would be approximately 15 years less exciting without piggy-backing on all their hard work. If you'd like to see what Spyder's real game developers did with their game then head on over to the Apple Arcade and check it out!



[www.spyderthegame.com](http://www.spyderthegame.com)