Terrace Card Game for Windows

Help is available on the following topics

Introduction

Menu commands
Playing the game
Rules
Variants
Options
Creating your own Card Deck

Registration

Copyright © 1992-94 Philip B. Cook

Menu Commands

The menu contains the following command structure

    Game
        <u>New</u>
        <u>Undo</u>
        <u>Select Deck</u>
        <u>Options</u>
        <u>Exit</u>

    Help
        <u>Help</u>
        <u>About Terrace</u>

You may select a main menu by clicking on its title with a mouse or typing <ALT> plus the underlined letter of the topics title. Then select the required sub menu command by mouse clicking or using the underlined letter key.

New command

Restarts the game by gathering all the cards from the table, shuffling the deck and re-dealing a new game.

Undo command

Reverses the last move made by the player.

Options command

Calls up a dialog box to select

    Variants
    Card Displacement
    Outline Drag
    Visual Hints
    Save as defaults

Exit command

Ends the program.

The same result is created by selecting Close from the System Menu.

Help command

Executes the Windows Help Engine and loads the help file TERRACE.HLP

About Terrace command

Displays a dialog box containing

      Copyright information
      Version data
      Registration status

Variants

The Terrace program provides a total of five patience games, each with similar layout and rules of play. The Variants are called

    Terrace
    Generals Patience
    Falling Stars
    Blondes and Brunettes
    Wood

Select the Variant you wish to have described.

For general information common to each game see Rules

Card Displacement option

By default the columns of cards in <u>tableau</u> are displaced by 15 pixels vertically from one another to allow the player to see all the cards easily. If a pile of cards becomes too long to be visible using this displacement then the program will automatically adjust the card displacement to keep the whole of the uppermost card visible.

You may adjust the standard spacing using this option.

The current value of the displacement is shown and may be modified by clicking on the **Change ...** button. You are prompted with a dialog showing two cards using the current displacement.   The displacement may be modified by dragging the top card to the required position or directly typing the displacement in the displacement box.

Users with other display adaptors may wish to change the default displacement to something more comfortable in which case set the <u>Save as Default</u> option before leaving the main options dialog. The setting is recorded in the <u>TERRACE.INI</u> file.

Outline Drag option

When moving the cards around the playing area you may select to either draw the full stack of cards or an outline only.

Drawing Outlines is much faster.

When using outline drawing if the stack of cards being dragged passes over another stack on which they may be played then the stack will invert to provide a visual cue.

Visual Hints option

The rules of the game may be new to you so you may select two levels of Visual Hints using this option.

Level 0   Option checkbox empty.
           No hints.

Level 1   Option checkbox marked with an x.
           You may click on a card with the right mouse button to determine if it will play. If you can make a valid move then both the card and its destination will invert.

Level 2   Option checkbox blocked out.
           In addition to Level 1 cues the program will automatically check cards on the Deck and Terrace and will prompt you by inverting both the card and its destination if they will play.

Warning   The visual cues will tell you when a move is possible. The move may however not be desirable, that is for you to decide. The program will only prompt you with the first possible move, so check there are not others yourself.

Save as Defaults option

When checked, this option causes your selections to be recorded in the <u>TERRACE.INI</u> file for future use. The next time you start the game it will use these recorded settings.

Without this option all changes to the options remain in force only until you close the program.

Rules

The game of Terrace is a two pack patience game.

It is laid out in four areas

1. The deck and discard pile at the top left.
2. The Terrace, a reserve of cards laid out face up at the top of the playing area.
3. Eight Building Piles in the centre of the playing area.
4. A tableau of eight or nine columns of cards at the bottom of the area.

The object of the game is to found all eight base cards as and when they appear and to build them upward in sequence, turning from King to Ace until each pile contains 13 cards.

The tableau may be used to pack cards ready for transfer to the base piles. The tableau is packed in descending sequence and alternating colour.

All the cards in the Terrace are visible but only the topmost card may be played.

Cards from the Terrace may only be played onto the Build Piles.

Cards may only be moved singly.

A space in the tableau must be filled either by the top card of the discard pile or the next card turned over from the deck.

There are five different Variants of the game all included in the one program, each has slightly differing rules.

see also

 Terrace
 Generals Patience
 Falling Stars
 Blondes and Brunettes
 Wood

Playing the Game

The mechanics of playing Terrace is designed to be as alike to Solitaire (supplied with Windows) as possible. The following mouse actions are valid.

Click the mouse on the deck to turn the next card.

Click and drag any single upturned card from its location. Release the mouse button to drop the card on its destination. If the move is not valid then the card will return to its start location.

You may double click the mouse on a card to transfer it to the Build Piles.

Click with the right mouse button on a card to see if it will play (see Visual Hints option)

see also

Rules

Shareware

A marketing/distribution concept which permits the user to try a piece of software before making a purchase. The software may be used for a limited period of time for evaluation.

Use after the evaluation period requires <u>Registration</u> with the Author.

Registration rewards the author for his efforts and encourages further work.

Registration

This product is distributed as <u>Shareware</u>. You may try the software for a period of 30 days. If you wish to continue to use it after this period then you must register with the author.

To register send Five Pounds Sterling (or <u>equivalent payment</u> in readily convertible currency or money order) to the address below. <u>Registration Payments</u> should be payable to **P.B Cook**, written in pounds sterling and drawable on a United Kingdom bank.

Mr. Philip B. Cook,
(TERRACE),
7 Deaf Hill Terrace,
Trimdon Station,
County Durham,
ENGLAND TS29 6BZ

I may also be contacted via telephone on

International   **+44 429 880319 / +44 642 485395**
UK   **0429 880319 / 0642 485395**

see also
<u>Order Form</u>
<u>Entering Registration Information</u>
<u>US Registrations</u>
<u>Commonwealth Registrations</u>

Registration Payment

The following are the forms of payment acceptable in declining order of desirability

United Kingdom Bank Cheque
Eurocheques
Postal Money Order (written in UK Pounds Sterling)
International Money Order (written in UK Pounds Sterling)
UK Pounds Sterling Currency
US$ Currency

Payment in currency is not desirable since it is not secure from theft in the post.   I am unable to handle currency other than the above (it costs too much to convert in small quantities).

I am not able to accept payment by credit card.

Terrace Order Form

Registration

[   ]   I wish to register my copy of Terrace.
       I enclose the registration fee of FIVE Pounds Sterling (UK £5.00)

Updates

[   ]   Please supply a   3.5 inch 720k disk for latest version of Terrace (and other Shareware software on
       a trial basis).   I enclose an extra £1.50 (£3.00 for non UK locations) to cover costs of disk,
       duplication, postage and packing.

       else

[   ]   I enclose a blank formatted disk plus return packaging and postage for my location to receive the
       latest version of Terrace (and other Shareware software on a trial basis).

Name   _____

Address   _____

                        _____

                        _____

Tel Number   _____

Terrace Version Number
as reported by Help/About   _____ and

TERRACE.EXE date/time stamp   _____

Signed   _____

Please help my investigation into distribution channels by also supplying the following information.

I got my Shareware copy of Terrace from (please delete as appropriate)

       Vendor / Friend / Bulletin Board / Magazine Cover Disk / Me / Other (please specify)

       Name of Source   _____

Entering Registration Information

You may enter your registration information by selecting the **Register** button from the dialog box which is displayed when the **Help, About** command is selected.

Your registration is recorded in the TERRACE.INI file. Please do not interfere with the registration information in the INI file. Should the file become corrupted you should delete the file and re-enter the information provided on your Registration Certificate.

Terrace variant

The terrace comprises 11 cards.
There are nine columns in the <u>tableau</u>.
Cards are built in ascending sequence and alternate colour.

The initial deal shows you the contents of the Terrace and deals four cards to the <u>tableau</u>. Having regard to the position of cards in the Terrace select from the tableau a card to form the base of the first base pile. Move your selected card to a build pile as normal. The remaining cards are then dealt to the tableau.

The deck may not be turned.

see also

<u>Rules</u>

Generals Patience variant

The terrace comprises 13 cards.
There are nine columns in the tableau.
Cards are built in ascending sequence and in suit.

The initial deal shows you the contents of the Terrace and deals four cards to the tableau. Having regard to the position of cards in the Terrace select from the tableau a card to form the base of the first base pile. Move your selected card to a build pile as normal. The remaining cards are then dealt to the tableau.

The deck may be turned but each card must then play as no further cards are allowed to be discarded.

This is HARD !

see also

   Rules

Falling Stars variant

The terrace comprises 11 cards.
There are nine columns in the tableau.
Cards are built in ascending sequence and alternate colour.
The deck may not be turned.

The deal fills the Terrace and Tableau and determines the first card on the Build Piles.

The Terrace is considered to be the Stars in the Firmament which must 'fall' if the game is to succeed.

see also

Rules

Blondes and Brunettes variant

The terrace comprises 10 cards.
There are eight columns in the tableau.
Cards are built in ascending sequence and alternate colour.
The deck may not be turned.

The deal fills the Terrace and Tableau and determines the first card on the Build Piles.

see also

Rules

Wood variant

The terrace comprises 10 cards.
There are nine columns in the tableau.
Cards are built in ascending sequence and alternate colour.
The deck may not be turned.

The deal fills the Terrace and Tableau and determines the first card on the Build Piles.

see also

Rules

INI file settings

The Terrace program stores all its default settings in the file TERRACE.INI in the WINDOWS directory.
The following settings are documented.

[Terrace]
Variant=n   specifies the default variant game to be played (0-4)
DragMode=n   specifies the drawing mode for cards when being dragged
         0 = draw full card.
         1 = draw outline only
Hints=2   specifies the level of visual hints selected
         0 = none
         1 = activates right mouse clicks
         2 = full automatic hints
UserName=   the name of the user (when registered)
Reg.ID=   an encrypted code to confirm registration
DeckOffset=n   sets the vertical displacement of cards on the tableau.
         The default value is 15.
Background= $bbggrr where
         bb is a hex number (00-FF) indicating Blue Intensity
         gg is a hex number (00-FF) indicating Green Intensity
         rr is a hex number (00-FF) indicating Red Intensity
         don't forget the $ on the front. This sets the desired background colour of the
         playing area. The program will select the nearest colour supported on your display.
         The default colour is green ($008000) on colour displays and White ($FFFFFF) on
         B&W displays.
CardDeckFileName= fully qualified filename of the Card Deck image file.
         eg **C:\GAMES\TERRACE\CARDDECK.BMP**
EditorName=   fully qualified filename of the Bitmap Editing program to be used.
         (if none supplied then **PBRUSH.EXE** is assumed).
         eg **C:\TPW\UTILS\WORKSHOP.EXE**

Background Colour

The background colour of the display area may be adjusted by including a command in the TERRACE.INI file. Any change of colour will only come into effect after restarting the game.

You should use the Notepad accessory program or other simple text editor to insert the necessary commands.

Introduction

The Terrace Card Game is a two pack patience game described by David Parlett in his book 'The Penguin Book of Patience'. It has numerous names used around the world and may more prosaically be called 'Queen of Italy' or 'Signora'. The game 'Terrace' is one of a family of related games with slightly varying rules and layouts. The principle variants described in the book have all been implemented in this program.

The program is written using Turbo Pascal for Windows from Borland (an excellent language product which I can thoroughly recommend).

see also

Requirements

Requirements

An IBM PC AT or compatible.
Microsoft Windows V3.0 or above
A mouse.

The program has been tested running under Microsoft Windows V3.0 and V3.1 using hardware varying from an 8Mhz Tandon AT to an IBM 386DX Portable on a range of display adaptors.

The program will run in Real, Standard or 386 Enhanced modes.

The program is designed around a VGA screen resolution or better and is not as easy to play on adaptors with a vertical resolution lower than around 400. The columns of cards in the tableau will automatically adjust themselves to fit the available space but this may result in overlapping cards being difficult to see.

Reserve

A group of cards dealt to the layout at the start of play, distinguished from the tableau by the fact that no packing takes place on it.

Tableau

An arrangement of cards on the playing area, usually consisting of several columns of overlapping cards, whose distinguishing feature is the fact that packing takes place on the exposed cards of the columns.

Packing

To place cards on top of one another (overlapping) in a temporary part of the layout called the <u>tableau</u>, in accordance with the rules specifying a sequence which is usually the reverse of that required for <u>building</u> the suites.

Building

The object of most patiences is to build piles of cards in sequence.

Building is the act of adding cards to such a sequence.

Build Piles

The piles of cards on which building takes place.

US Registrations

If you would like to register Terrace, please do the following:

Go to your local Post Office and ask for an Authorization to issue an International Money Order in the amount of $10-00.(This is the nearest you are going to get to 5 pounds sterling). You must put your own name and address on the front of the form. On the back of the form, put my name and address (including the program name) in the Payee's box as follows

Mr. Philip B. Cook,
(TERRACE),
7 Deaf Hill Terrace,
Trimdon Station,
County Durham,
ENGLAND TS29 6BZ

The completed form must be mailed to:

International Money Orders,
Box 14964,
St. Louis, MO 63182-9421

In St. Louis, the money is converted into British pounds and mailed to me.   When I get it, I will send your registration code and certificate by return.   This may sound complicated but it works and it avoids the ridiculous over-the-top bank commission fees that I would have to pay over here.   My heartfelt thanks to Carolyn Z. Gillay of California for pioneering the system and Dave Jewel (author of TimeFrame) for telling me about it.

A card deck in this application is 67 pixels wide by 86 pixels high.

Commonwealth Registrations

Most parts of the Commonwealth have reciprocal arrangements with the UK for handling Postal Money Orders.   Please ensure the Money order is written in UK Pounds Sterling.

Most Banks in the Commonwealth have branches in London, they can often issue a cheque for you in UK Pounds Sterling drawable on the UK Branch.

Both of these arrangements are acceptable for payment of the registration and disk fees.

Select Deck command

This command prompts the user to select from a set of possible card decks.

The dialog displays a scrolling listbox of Card Deck images (these are stored in **.bmp** files).

To select a new deck you may

> Click with the left mouse button on the desired deck and press the OK button.
> Double click with the left mouse button on the desired deck.

The Card Deck Filename is displayed above the Card Deck listbox.

Pressing the Cancel button returns you to the game without activating any change in deck you may have made.

You may also select from Card Decks stored on other drives or in other directories by using the Drives and Directories list boxes.

Pressing the Edit button opens a predefined Bitmap editing program with the selected card deck to allow you to modify the appearance of the Deck.   The default editor is the Windows supplied Paintbrush program.   If you wish to substitute some other editor then modify the EditorName= line in the application INI file

The chosen Card Deck is stored for future games in the CardDeckFilename= line in the application INI file

Note - these functions are not available when using Windows 3.0 Real mode.   To change the Card Deck when you must use Real mode it is necessary to directly modify the application INI file by using a text editor (eg Notepad).

see also   Creating your own Card Deck

Creating your own Card Deck

The program is supplied with a number of Card Decks.   You may select the Deck in use by using the Game/Select Deck ... command from the Main Menu.   Unusually, these decks are supplied as external files using the Windows Bitmap format, rather than inbuilt, unchangeable resources.

You may modify or add to the set of Card Decks by using any Windows Bitmap painting program (eg Windows Paintbrush).   A deck is defined as a 16 color bitmap stored in the Windows RGB encoded BMP format with standard dimensions.

You may launch your Card Deck editor program by selecting the Deck you wish to modify in the Select Deck dialog and pressing the Edit Card Deck button.   This will open the editor and load the Card Deck design ready for editing.   If, after editing, you wish to keep the changes then save the image (remembering to give the file a new name if this is to be an extra Card Deck).

The default editor is the Windows supplied Paintbrush program.   If you wish to substitute some other editor then add a line

EditorName=

in the application INI file

You may also use any Screen Grabber or Scanner software to create an image to use as a Card Deck design provided it can create files using the Standard 16 color Windows RGB format.

see also   Select Deck command

Edit Card Deck button

Pressing this button, launches a user defined Bitmap Editing program, loading the currently selected Card Deck image for editing.

The default editing program is Paintbrush, supplied with Microsoft Windows.