

Drag-and-drop Icons to GameMaker Language Reference

For users with previous experience of using GameMaker's drag-and-drop interface, making the leap to pure coding can be quite stressful. Trying to understand what each icon is doing can be confusing, as it is often more than a single function. In order to help users undergo the transition successfully, we have provided a thorough reference of the code equivalent to all the drag-and-drop icons.

Understanding the reference

The purpose of this reference is to help readers who have familiarity with drag-and-drop coding, and want to be able to convert their knowledge into using the GameMaker Language. This reference is not intended to explain how to use the functions, explain all the parameters, or demonstrate how it could be used in a game. GameMaker: Studio comes with thorough help documentation for this purpose.

The reference is set up with three columns, the first with the Drag-and-Drop **Icon**, the second contains the **Options** available, and the third has the **Code Equivalent**. When looking at the Options, we have declared the type of data it is expecting to be input, such as a number. If the Code Equivalent is a variable we set it to the data type. For example, as you can see in the following table, in the Icon column we have **Speed Horizontal**. The only Option for this Action is **Hor speed** which requires a number. The GML Code Equivalent for this is to set a number value for the variable `hspeed`:

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
	Hor speed: number	<code>hspeed = number;</code>

If the Code Equivalent is a function we use the name of the Option as the parameter. For example, as you can see in the following table, we have **Create Instance**, which has Options for the **object**, and the **X** and **Y** positions. In the Code Equivalent for this is the `instance_create` function that has three parameters, for which we use the same name as the options: the `x` and `y` positions, and the `object`.

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
	object: Object X: number Y: number	<code>instance_create(</code> <code>x, y, object);</code>

If you see other parameters in the function that are not associated with the name of an Option, it means the drag-and-drop icon does not make this adjustable and the parameter is set to its default value. For example, as seen in the following table, **Replace Sprite** has three Options, while the code equivalent has five parameters. The final two parameters are actually for the origin of the sprite, but the default value for these is 0.

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
	sprite: Sprite filename: filename. ext images: number	<code>sprite_</code> <code>replace(sprite,</code> <code>filename, images,</code> <code>0, 0);</code>

Common attributes

Many, though not all, of the drag-and-drop actions have three common attributes: **Applies To**, **Relative**, and **NOT**.

Applies To allows us to assign the executed code to a specific instance. The first option is **Self**, which is the default and does not need any special code to run. The second option is for **Other**, a special built-in variable which is only meaningful for collision events. In a collision event, the **Other** variable is assigned the unique ID of the "other" instance. If not used in a collision event, other will be returned as **no one**, a built-in constant indicating no object. The final option is for **Object**, which will apply to every instance of an object type in existence. If you select a parent object, all children will be affected as well.

The Code Equivalent for all of these is to use a `with` statement as follows:

- Applies to Other:

```
with ( other ) { //GML code goes here }
```

- Applies to Object

```
with ( object name ) { //GML code goes here }
```

Relative allows us to apply a new value to an existing value as opposed to being overwritten by the new value. For example, when scoring points we would want it to be relative to the previous score. For variables, this can be denoted by using `+=` when setting the value. In a function you would want to use the existing parameter and add the new value.

- Relative variable

```
score += 10;
```

- Relative function

```
instance_create(x+8, y+8, object0);
```

NOT is used for questions that require a negative answer, such as if the score is not equal to 100. This is denoted by the use of an exclamation mark.

- NOT variable

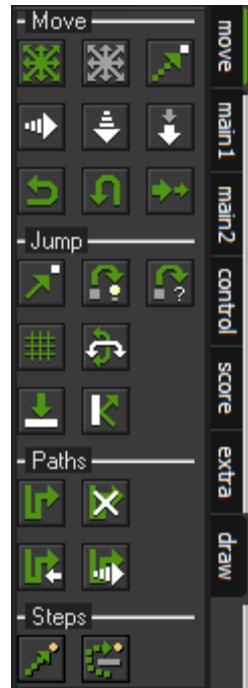
```
if (score != 100)
```

- NOT function

```
if (!place_free(x, y))
```

The move tab

The **move** tab contains all the functionalities for moving an instance around the world. This is broken into four subsections: **Move**, **Jump**, **Paths**, and **Steps**.



The Move subsection

The **Move** subsection contains the actions for applying velocity, gravity, and friction to an instance.

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
 Move Fixed	Direction: selectable arrows Speed: number	Starting from the right arrow going counterclockwise: arrow1 = 0; arrow2 = 45; arrow3 = 90; arrow4 = 135; arrow5 = 180; arrow6 = 225; arrow7 = 270; arrow8 = 315; Use the selected arrows only: direction = choose(arrow1, arrow2, ...); speed = number;
 Move Free	Direction: number Speed: number	direction = number; speed = number;
 Move Towards	X: number Y: number Speed: number	move_towards_point(x, y, speed);
 Speed Horizontal	Hor speed: number	hspeed = number;
 Speed Vertical	Vert speed: number	vspeed = number;

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
	None	hspeed = -hspeed;
Reverse Horizontal		
	None	vspeed = -vspeed;
Reverse Vertical		
	Direction: number Gravity: number	gravity_direction = number; gravity = number;
Set Gravity		
	Friction: number	friction = number;
Set Friction		

The Jump subsection

The **Jump** subsection has the actions for relocating and redirecting the movement of an instance.

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
	X: number Y: number	x = number; y = number;
Jump to Position		
	None	x = xstart; y = ystart;
Jump to Start		
	Snap hor: number Snap vert: number	move_random(snap hor, snap vert);
Jump to Random		

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
 Align to Grid	Snap hor: number Snap vert: number	<code>move_snap(snap hor, snap vert);</code>
 Wrap Screen	Direction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horizontal • Vertical • In both directions 	Horizontal: <code>move_wrap(true, false, sprite_width / 2);</code> Vertical: <code>move_wrap(false, true, sprite_height / 2);</code> In both directions: <code>move_wrap(true, false, sprite_width / 2); move_wrap(false, true, sprite_height / 2);</code>
 Move to Contact	Direction: number Maximum: number Against: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid objects • All objects 	Solid objects: <code>move_contact_solid(direction, maximum);</code> All objects: <code>move_contact_all(direction, maximum);</code> against solid objects: <code>move_bounce_solid(precise);</code> against all objects: <code>move_bounce_all(precise);</code>
 Bounce	Precise: (Boolean) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not precisely • Precisely Against: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid objects • All objects 	

The Path subsection

The **Path** subsection contains the actions related to using the built-in GameMaker paths.

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
 Set Path	path: Path speed: number at end: (0-3) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• stop• continue from start• continue from here• reverse relative: (Boolean) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• relative• absolute	<code>path_start(path, speed, at end, relative);</code>
 End Path	None	<code>path_end();</code>
 Path Position	position: number between 0-1	<code>path_position = number between 0-1;</code>
 Path Speed	speed: number	<code>path_speed = number;</code>

The Step subsection

The **Step** subsection has the actions for advanced path finding.

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
 Step Towards	x: number y: number speed: number stop at: (Boolean) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• solid only• all instances	<code>mp_linear_step(x, y, speed, stop at);</code>
 Step Avoiding	x: number y: number speed: number avoid: (Boolean) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• solid only• all instances	<code>mp_potential_step(x, y, speed, avoid);</code>

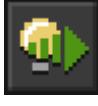
The main1 tab

The **main1** tab contains the most common functionality related to the various game assets. There are four subsections: **Objects**, **Sprite**, **Sounds**, and **Rooms**.



The Objects subsection

The Objects subsection contains the actions for creating and destroying instances.

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
 Create Instance	object: Object x: number y: number	<code>instance_create(x, y, object);</code>
 Create Moving	object: Object x: number y: number speed: number direction: number	<code>obj = instance_create(x , y, object); obj.speed = number; obj.direction = number;</code>
 Create Random	object 1: Object object 2: Object object 3: Object object 4: Object x: number y: number	<code>obj = choose(object1, object2, object3, object4); instance_create(x, y, obj);</code>
 Change Instance	change into: Object perform events: (Boolean) not yes None	<code>instance_change(change into, perform events);</code> <code>instance_destroy();</code>
 Destroy Instance		
 Destroy at Position	x: number y: number	<code>position_destroy(x, y);</code>

The Sprite subsection

The **Sprite** subsection has the actions for altering the sprite of an instance.

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
 Change Sprite	sprite: Sprite subimage: number speed: number	<code>sprite_index = Sprite;</code> <code>image_index = number;</code> <code>image_speed = number;</code>
 Transform Sprite	xscale: number yscale: number angle: number mirror: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no mirroring • mirror horizontal • flip vertical • mirror and flip 	<code>image_xscale = number;</code> <code>image_yscale = number;</code> <code>image_angle = number;</code> Mirror Horizontal: <code>image_xscale *= -1;</code> Flip Vertical: <code>image_yscale *= -1;</code> Mirror and Flip: <code>image_xscale *= -1;</code> <code>image_yscale *= -1;</code> <code>image_blend = color;</code> <code>image_alpha = number;</code>
 Color Sprite	color: Color alpha: number	

The Sounds subsection

The **Sounds** subsection has the actions related to audio.

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
 Play Sound	sound: Sound loop: (Boolean) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • false • true 	Legacy Mode: <code>sound_play(sound);</code> loop: <code>true</code> <code>sound_loop(sound);</code> New Audio Engine: Normal Sound: <code>audio_play_sound(sound, 0, loop);</code> Background Music: <code>audio_play_music(sound, loop);</code>

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
	sound: Sound	Legacy Mode: <code>sound_stop(sound);</code> New Audio Engine: Normal Sound: <code>audio_stop_sound(sound);</code> Background Music: <code>audio_stop_music(sound);</code>
	sound: Sound	Legacy Mode: <code>if soundisplaying(sound);</code> New Audio Engine: <code>audio_is_playing(sound);</code>

The Rooms subsection

The **Rooms** subsection contains the actions for switching rooms.

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
	None	<code>room_goto_previous();</code>
Previous Room		
	None	<code>room_goto_next();</code>
Next Room		
	None	<code>room_restart();</code>
Restart Room		
	room: Room	<code>room_goto(room);</code>
Different Room		

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
	None	<code>if (room_previous(room) != -1)</code>
Check Previous		
	None	<code>if (room_next(room) != -1)</code>
Check Next		

The main2 tab

The **main2** tab contains the common functionality for dealing with time, showing messages, game, and resource controls. There are four subsections: **Timing**, **Info**, **Game**, and **Resources**.



The Timing subsection

The **Timing** subsection contains the actions for using alarms and timelines.

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
	number of steps: number in alarm no: 0-11	<code>alarm[0 - 11] = number;</code>
Set Alarm		
	time line: Time Line position: Number start: (Boolean) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Start Immediately• Don't Start loop: (Boolean) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don't Loop• Loop position: number	<code>timeline_index = Time Line;</code> <code>timeline_running = Boolean;</code> <code>timeline_loop = Boolean;</code> <code>timeline_position = number;</code>
Set Time Line		
		
Time Line Position		
	speed: number	<code>timeline_speed = number;</code>
Time Line Speed		
	None	<code>timeline_running = true;</code>
Start Time Line		
	None	<code>timeline_running = false;</code>
Pause Time Line		

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
	None	<code>timeline_running = false;</code> <code>timeline_position = 0;</code>

Stop Time Line

The Info subsection

The **Info** subsection has the actions for displaying messages and opening websites.

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
	<code>message: string</code>	<code>show_message(string);</code>
Display Message		
	<code>URL: URL</code>	<code>url_open(URL);</code>
Open URL		

The Game subsection

The **Game** subsection has the actions for restarting and ending games. It also has two obsolete functions that will be removed from the tab in a future version of GameMaker: Studio.

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
	None	<code>game_restart();</code>
Restart Game		
	None	<code>game_end();</code>
End Game		

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
 Save Game	Obsolete	Obsolete
 Load Game	Obsolete	Obsolete

The Resources subsection

The Resources subsection has the actions for replacing game assets.

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
 Replace Sprite	sprite: Sprite filename: filename.ext images: number	<code>sprite_replace(sprite, filename, images, 0, 0);</code>
 Replace Sound	sound: Sound filename: filename.ext	<code>sound_replace(sound, filename, 0, 0);</code>
 Replace Background	background: Background filename: filename.ext	<code>background_ replace(background, filename);</code>

The control tab

The **control** tab contains the most common functions related to basic code structure. This is broken into four subsections: **Questions**, **Other**, **Code**, and **Variables**.



The Questions subsection

The **Questions** subsection has the most common conditional statements related to instances in a game.

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
 Check Empty	x: number y: number objects: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only Solid• All	Only Solid: <code>if (place_free(x, y))</code> All: <code>if (place_empty(x, y))</code>

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Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
	x: number y: number objects: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only Solid• All	Only Solid: <code>if (place_free(x, y))</code> All: <code>if (place_empty(x, y))</code>
Check Collision		
	object: Object x: number y: number	<code>if (place_meeting(x, y, object))</code>
Check Object		
	object: Object number: number operation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• equal to• smaller than• larger than	equal to: <code>if (instance_number(object) == number)</code> smaller than: <code>if (instance_number(object) < number)</code> larger than: <code>if (instance_number(object) > number)</code> <code>if (floor(random(sides)) == 0)</code>
Test Instance Count		
	sides: number	
Test Chance		
	question: string	<code>if (show_question(question))</code>
Check Question		
	expression: expression	<code>if (expression)</code>
Test Expression		
	button: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• no• left• middle• right	<code>if (mouse_check_button(button))</code>
Check Mouse		

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
 Check Grid	Snap Hor: number Snap Vert: number	if (place_snapped(snap hor, snap vert))

The Other subsection

The Other subsection has the actions for writing blocks of code.

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
 Start Block	None	{
 End Block	None	}
 Else	None	else
 Exit Event	None	exit;
 Repeat	times: number	repeat (times)
 Call Parent Event	None	event_inherited();

The Code subsection

The **Code** subsection has the actions for executing GameMaker Language code.

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
	None (opens script editor)	No code alternative as it is a script local to the object
Execute Code		
	script: Script argument0: value argument1: value argument2: value argument3: value argument4: value comment: String	Any script in the Resource tree can be called by name with () at the end. Up to 16 arguments can be passed as parameters.
Execute Script		
		to remove a single line of code: // starts a block of comments: /* ends a block of comments: */
Comment		

The Variables subsection

The **Variables** subsection has actions for using variables.

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
	variable: string value: value	<code>variable = value;</code>
Set Variable		

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
 Test Variable	variable: string value: value operation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • equal to • less than • greater than • less than or equal to • greater than or equal to 	equal to: <code>if (variable == value)</code> less than: <code>if (variable < value)</code> greater than: <code>if (variable > value)</code> less than or equal to: <code>if (variable <= value)</code> greater than or equal to: <code>if (variable >= value)</code> <code>draw_text(x, y, variable);</code>
 Draw Variable	variable: string x: number y: number	

The score tab

The **score** tab contains the functionality for setting and drawing of the global game scoring. This is broken into three subsections: **Score**, **Health**, and **Lives**.



The Score subsection

The **Score** subsection has the actions for dealing with the score of the game.

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
 Set Score	new score: number	<code>score = number;</code>
 Test Score	value: number operation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• equal to• smaller than• larger than	equal to: <code>if (score == value)</code> smaller than: <code>if (score < value)</code> larger than: <code>if (score > value)</code> <code>draw_text(x ,y, "caption" + score);</code>
 Draw Score	x: number y: number caption: string	
 Clear Highscore	None	<code>highscore_clear();</code>

The Lives subsection

The **Lives** subsection has the actions for dealing with the player's lives.

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
 Set Lives	new lives: number	<code>lives = number;</code>

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
	value: number operation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• equal to• smaller than• larger than	equal to: if (lives == value) smaller than: if (lives < value) larger than: if (lives > value)
Test Lives		draw_text(x ,y, "caption" + lives);
	x: number y: number caption: string	
Draw Lives		
	x: number y: number image: Sprite	for (i = 0; i < lives; i++) { slot = i * sprite_get_width(image); draw_sprite(image, 0, x + slot, y); }
Draw Life Images		

The Health subsection

The **Health** subsection has the actions for dealing with the health of the player.

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
	value (0-100): number	health = value;
Set Health		
	value: number operation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• equal to• smaller than• larger than	equal to: if (health == value) smaller than: if (health < value) larger than: if (health > value)
Test Health		

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
 Draw Health	x1: number y1: number x2: number y2: number back color: Color bar color: Color Obsolete	draw_healthbar(x1, y1, x2, y2, health, back color, bar color, bar color, 0, true, true); Obsolete
 Score Caption		

The extra tab

The **extra** tab contains the functionality for particles and changing the appearance of the cursor. It has only two subsections: **Particles** and **Other**.



The Particles subsection

The **Particles** subsection has all the actions for creating and using particle systems, emitters, and particles.

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
 Create Part System	Depth: number	system = part_system_create(); part_system_depth(system, depth);
 Destroy Part System	None	part_system_destroy(system);
 Clear Part System	None	part_clear_system(system);
 Create Particle	type id: Particle shape: Shape sprite: Sprite min size: number max size: number size increment: number	Particle: particle = part_type_create(); Shape: part_type_shape(particle, shape); Sprite: part_type_sprite(particle, sprite, true, false, false); Size: part_type_size(particle, min size, max size, size increment, 0);

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
 Particle Color	type id: Particle Color Mix: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mixed • changing color1: Color color2: Color start alpha: number end alpha: number	Mixed color: <pre>part_type_color_mix(type id, color1, color2);</pre> Changing color: <pre>part_type_color2(type id, color1, color2);</pre> Start alpha and end alpha: <pre>part_type_alpha2(type id, start alpha, end alpha);</pre>
 Particle Life	type id: Particle min life: number max life: number	<pre>part_type_life(type id, min life, max life);</pre>
 Particle Speed	type id: Particle min speed: number max speed: number min dir: number max dir: number friction: number	<pre>part_type_speed(type id, min speed, max speed, -friction, 0);</pre> <pre>part_type_direction(type id, min dir, max dir, 0, 0);</pre>
 Particle Gravity	type id: Particle amount: number direction: number	<pre>part_type_gravity(type id, amount, direction);</pre>
 Particle Secondary	type id: Particle step type: Particle step count: number death type: Particle death count: number	<pre>part_type_step(type id, step count step type);</pre> <pre>part_type_death(type id, death count, death type);</pre>

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
 Create Emitter	emitter id: Emitter shape: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> rectangle ellipse diamond line xmin: number xmax: number ymin: number ymax: number	<pre>emitter = part_emitter_ create(system); part_emitter_region(system, emitter, xmin, xmax, ymin, ymax, shape, ps_distr_ linear);</pre>
 Destroy Emitter	emitter id: Emitter	<pre>part_emitter_destroy(system, emitter id);</pre>
 Burst from Emitter	emitter id: Emitter particle type: Particle	<pre>part_emitter_burst(system, emitter id, particle type, number);</pre>
 Stream from Emitter	emitter id: Emitter particle type: Particle	<pre>part_emitter_stream(system, emitter id, particle type, number);</pre>

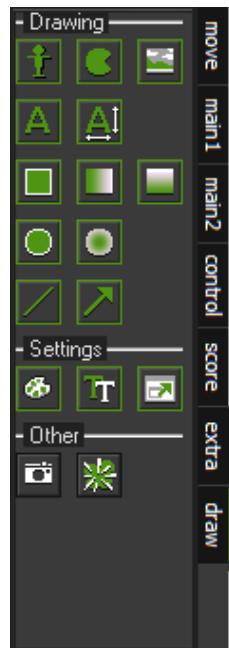
The Other subsection

The **Other** subsection has only a single action that sets the cursor to a different Sprite.

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
 Set Cursor	sprite: Sprite cursor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> don't show show 	<pre>cursor_sprite = Sprite; don't show: windows_set_cursor(cr_none); show: windows_set_cursor(cr_ default);</pre>

The draw tab

The **draw** tab contains the functionality for drawing graphics, sprites, and text on the screen, as well as the related settings. There are three subsections: **Drawing**, **Settings**, and **Other**.



The Drawing subsection

The Drawing subsection has the actions for drawing sprites, text, and shapes, including using gradients.

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
Draw Self	None	<code>draw_self();</code>
Draw Sprite	sprite: Sprite x: number y: number subimage: number	<code>draw_sprite(sprite, subimage, x, y);</code>

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
	background: Background x: number y: number tiled: (Boolean) • false • true	<code>tiled = false draw_background(background, x, y); tiled = true draw_background_tiled(background, x, y);</code>
Draw Background		
	text: string x: number y: number	<code>draw_text(x, y, text);</code>
Draw Text		
	text: string x: number y: number xscale: number yscale: number angle: number	<code>draw_text_transformed(x, y, text, xscale, yscale, angle);</code>
Draw Scaled Text		
	x1: number y1: number x2: number y2: number filled: (Boolean) • filled • outline	<code>draw_rectangle(x1, y1, x2, y2, filled);</code>
Draw Rectangle		
	x1: number y1: number x2: number y2: number color1: Color color2: Color	<code>draw_rectangle_color(x1, y1, x2, y2, color1, color2, color2, color1, false);</code>
Horizontal Gradient		

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
 Vertical Gradient	x1: number y1: number x2: number y2: number color1: Color color2: Color	<code>draw_rectangle_color(x1, y1, x2, y2, color1, color1, color2, color2, false);</code>
 Draw Ellipse	x1: number y1: number x2: number y2: number filled: (Boolean) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• filled• outline	<code>draw_ellipse(x1, y1, x2, y2, filled);</code>
 Gradient Ellipse	x1: number y1: number x2: number y2: number color1: Color color2: Color	<code>draw_ellipse_color(x1, y1, x2, y2, color1, color2, false);</code>
 Draw Line	x1: number y1: number x2: number y2: number	<code>draw_line(x1, y1, x2, y2);</code>
 Draw Arrow	x1: number y1: number x2: number y2: number tip size: number	<code>draw_arrow(x1, y1, x2, y2, tip_size);</code>

The Settings subsection

The **Settings** subsection has the actions for setting the color and fonts to be used, and for switching to full screen.

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
 Set Color	color: Color	<code>draw_set_color(color);</code>
 Set Font	font: Font align: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• left• center• right action: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• switch• window• fullscreen	<code>draw_set_font(font);</code> <code>draw_set_halign(align);</code> <code>switch:</code> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• switch <code>if (window_get_fullscreen())</code> <code>{</code> <code>window_set_fullscreen(false);</code> <code>}else{</code> <code>window_set_fullscreen(true);</code> <code>}</code>• window: <code>window_set_fullscreen(false);</code>• fullscreen: <code>window_set_fullscreen(true);</code>
 Set Full Screen		

The Other subsection

The **Other** subsection has the actions for taking a screen grab and creating a pre-built particle effect.

Icon and icon name	Options	Code Equivalent
 Take Snapshot	filename: filename.ext	<code>screen_save(filename);</code>
 Create Effect	type: Effect x: number y: number size: (0, 1, 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• small• medium• large color: Color where: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• below objects• above objects	below objects: <code>effect_create_below(type, x, y, size, color);</code> above objects: <code>effect_create_above(type, x, y, size, color);</code>