

ASTEROID MINER

GAME PROGRAM INSTRUCTIONS



An Atari 2600 Game
by Artisan Retro Games 2025

It's a dangerous job...

...But it has rich rewards

Are you willing to take the risk?



Your ship arrived at a field of Asteroids, but these are not just a barren pile of rocks. They contain the rare volatile element: **nihonium-286**, the key to Cold-Fusion. And thus it is priceless.

You've been hired to collect enough of this stuff to power the ship back home and pay off the Boss. Do it well and become rich beyond your wildest dreams...maybe even own your own ship someday.

...As long as you survive the grueling task.

Your spacesuit is an amazing technological marvel, but even it cannot protect you against the strong radiation forever. And make sure to get back to the ship before your oxygen runs out.

You have a vast field to cover. You can jump from rock to rock and drift...OR use your grappling hook to pull you to the Asteroid.

When you find Nihonium, pull out your hammer and start collecting...but watch out for dangerous space debris, meteors, unstable surfaces and pirates!

Are the rewards worth the risks?

Only you can decide that...



OBJECTS OF THE GAME



Miner and His Tools



Grappling Hook



Rock Hammer/Drill

Oxygen Level

Points

Radiation Level



The Dangers...



Robot Pirate



Gas Jet



Space Ghost



Laser Tower

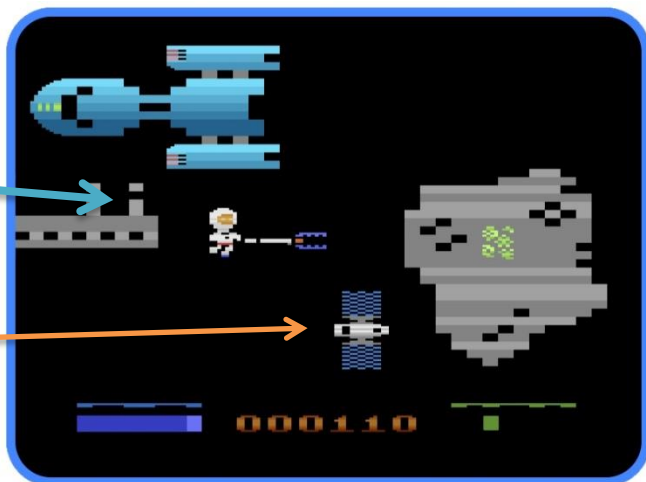


Space Junk

A Mineral Deposit...



Nihonium-286



There are 5 Asteroid fields. Each is 3 screens wide and 3 screens deep. You will need to mine each field twice before moving onto the next field.

For each field, the Boss will require his share. You must collect at least that amount and return to the ship loading dock to keep employed.

Each field has different dangers and mineral deposits. As you go further in the game, there are more minerals to be mined and, unfortunately, increasing dangers.

Dodge the space junk that randomly flies by.

Beware the Robotic Pirate that comes to steal portions of each deposit.

Your footsteps can disturb the Asteroid's surface and release subterranean radioactive gas jets.

These minerals are so precious that they are often protected, sometimes by a man-made object, and at other times, by something very strange.

The blue status bar is your oxygen level. Don't run out. Sometimes there is a spare Oxygen canister you can collect.

The green status bar is the Radiation Meter. It beats back and forth. The faster it goes, the more radiation you've sustained. Do not linger around this dangerous stuff. Once it starts flashing, time is running out.

Its game over if you are not back to the ship by the time your Oxygen runs out or your suit is irradiated.



In the Title Screen, you can select 4 different play modes by moving left/right on the joystick or by pressing the console select switch.

EASY mode: Normal full game play with lower goals

HARD mode: Normal full game play with higher goals

TRIAL mode: Practice waves 1-5. No points, you cannot die.

EXAM mode: Practice only wave 8, but with everything active. Master this before attempting the HARD mode

MINER CONTROLS

Plug the joystick into the Left Joystick port to control the Miner.

Select the difficulty from the start screen or Select switch.
Difficulty switches are not used

The B/W switch will pause the game play

Press fire + Up/down/left/right to launch your Grappling hook. If it reaches solid rock, the grapple will pull you over.

On a rock, press fire to activate your Space Hammer/drill. Your drill must touch the minerals in order for it to be mined.

ASTEROID FIELDS

There are 5 asteroid fields and up to 10 mineral deposits

Easy / Hard

Field 1: 4 Mineral Deposits

Goal: 1000/1200 points

Field 2: 5 Mineral Deposits

Goal: 1500/2000 points

Field 3: 7 Mineral Deposits

Goal: 2000/2500 points

Field 4: 9 Mineral Deposits

Goal: 2500/3000 points

Field 5: 10 Mineral Deposits

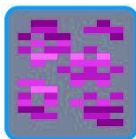
Goal: 3000/3500 points

Remember, you will visit each field twice.

Each field starts with 4 or 5 mineral deposits and once a deposit is mined, if there are more deposits listed for that level, it will appear somewhere.

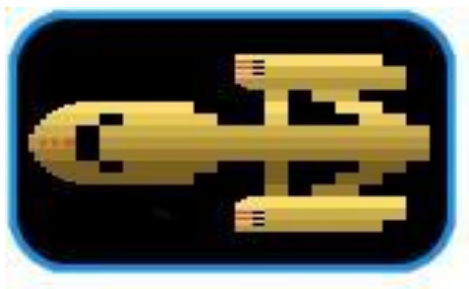
Maybe even in a place you saw nothing before.

There are rare more powerful mineral deposits. They are harder to mine, but worth more points. Beware of their strong radiation!



Here at [Artisan Retro Games](#), we think exploring and finding "little secrets" is all part of the fun...but if you want some head start or spoilers, read on...

1. You get a little jet boost when you first jump off an asteroid.
2. You can use the Grappler to scoot along while on an asteroid.
3. Leave the joystick in the center while hammering.
4. There are beacons at each of the 4 corners of the asteroid field.
5. The Robot Pirate will track from one mineral deposit to the next. It can help point out where they are.
6. But you may not want to follow the Robot, maybe get a further mineral deposit before it does.
7. When you see the jet forming, step aside or below it.
8. The Space Ghost is after your oxygen. It will hunt you as long as it can see you. Don't spring a leak.
9. After being stunned, you can start moving before it's all over. Be ready, you may need that little extra time.
10. You can return to the loading dock, even if you don't have enough to pay the boss, but at least you survived! And you collect your points!
11. You fly a different ship to each of the five asteroid fields
12. Beat all 10 levels and you might just have enough for your own ship!



ASTEROID MINER



EASY

PRESS
FIRE

