

# Lesson 10

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Bit fields

project

## Sources and Solutions

- we publish all code written in this course at [https://github.com/jkrbs/c\\_lessons](https://github.com/jkrbs/c_lessons)
- we will publish example solutions of the tasks on same site
- send us questions or your solutions to [c-lessons@deutschland.gmbh](mailto:c-lessons@deutschland.gmbh)

## Bit fields

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repetition of the bit operations

Symbol	Operation	Example
	logical or	0110   0101 == 0111
&	logical and	0110 & 0101 == 0100
^	logical xor	0110 ^ 0101 == 0011
~	logical negation	~0110 == 1001
<<	shift to the left	0110 << 2 == 011000
>>	shift to the right	0110 >> 2 == 0001

# bit fields

We want to use our memory as efficient as possible, so we can have smaller datatypes, when we need them.

```
1 struct Box
2 {
3     unsigned int    opaque        : 1;
4     unsigned int    fill_color    : 3;
5     unsigned int    : 4; // fill to 8 bits
6     unsigned int    show_border   : 1;
7 };
8
9
10 sizeof(Box) = 2
```

## bit fields

Now we can address the variables like every other member of a struct.

The behavior of c struct is implementation defined, therefore it is undefined behavior, what happens, when you assign bigger values.

If you want to avoid the risk of making mistakes (which you might not notice with your compiler), you can just use a normal `int` and use it to emulate a bit field (by shifting and assigning single bits with `|=` and `&=`)

## example

```
1
2 /* Sets the gameControllerStatus using OR */
3 void KeyPressed( int key ) { gameControllerStatus |= key; }
4
5 /* Turns the key in gameControllerStatus off
6 using AND and ~ (binary NOT)*/
7 void KeyReleased( int key ) { gameControllerStatus &= ~key; }
8
9 /* Tests whether a bit is set using AND */
10 int IsPressed( int key ) { return gameControllerStatus & key; }
```



**project**

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