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**Envmaps Tutorial**

Started by Rhino, December 29, 2005

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1 2 [NEXT](#) >> Page 1 of 2 ▾**Rhino**

Expert



Members

● 0

1,107 posts

Gender: Male

Location: UK

Posted December 29, 2005 (edited) · [Report post](#)

First before you start this Tutorial you should have crated a basic map and have generated you Lightmaps.

I've made this Tutorial by reading and trying to understand a few posts but by putting a load together i have finally got id and then thought i would make a detailed tutorial seeing that i could not find any 😊

By Generating your Envmaps you will get water that will look like normal BF2 water which will reflect from any angle and reflections off objects in your map like Sniper Scopes, Car mirrios, water puddles, ect. It also shows the reflection of hills and the terrain around where u generate the envmap in the water 8)

1. Open your map in the Level Editor in the BF2 Editor.

Here is my map i made for this:

<http://img92.imageshack.us/img92/5474/untitled2ck7.jpg>

Notice the Hotel in the left sunk in the water, there is a reason for that which we will go into later 😊

2. In the Resources box expand

bf2>content>object>common>



In the "common" folder you should see **DefaultEnvMap**

Note. If you are making a map in a mod the "content" folder will be under your mod name.

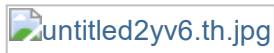
4. Now lets drag and drop the first **DefaultEnvMap** into your map like you would to any other object. It looks rather much like a white cube, with 1 side which is very white and the other sides a light gray. You **MUST** make sure its **ABOVE** the water / terrain or its going to look really horribal! The first ENVmap I always use as the ENVmap for the water reflections. So you will want to place this ENVmap somewhere in the middle of your sea / river so that you will get the terrain around your sea/river reflecting off it. So place it wisely. As my map has a big island in the middle, i can only really place it on 1 side of the island to get the reflections of it.



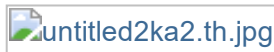
Now after you have placed your first ENVmap, you will want to maybe, but you do not have to, place more ENVmaps around so that when ppl walk around with the M24, they will see the reflection of the ENVmap they are closest too. So if you are in a city, and u have a ENVmap in that city, they will see a reflection of the city around them in their scope, if they move out into the desert, and you have a ENV map in the desert as well, when they get close to that desert ENVmap, they will see the desert in their scope. If you do not put a desert ENVmap out there, and you still have the 1 inside the city, they will still see the city in their sniper scope even though they are way out in the desert. This is not a huge detail but every small detail counts so you choose, ENVmap files are not that big 😊

So now lets place our other ENVmaps around, to show you what i mean about the sniper scope reflections, im going to put 1 ENVmap on top of my island, and another on the hotel way out in the sea 😊

ENVmap on the island:



ENVmap on the Hotel:



5. Now that we have the **DefaultEnvnMap** in your map you can now generate them.

Go to the *Compile>Envmaps>Generate Envmaps*



After u have clicked on *Generate Envmaps* you should see this bit of code in your output window which tells you it has compiled them.



6. Now Save your map and quit the editor

7. Now go to your Levels Folder in *EA GAMESBattlefield 2modsbf2Levels*YOUR MAP**

In there crate a folder called "**water**"

Now go into your "**Envmaps**" Folder and copy the file called "**EnvMap0.dds**" (which is the ENVmap you did for your water refelctions)

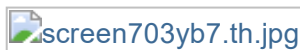
Paste that file in your water folder which you just crated.

Now Rename "**EnvMap0.dds**" TO "**EnvMap.dds**"

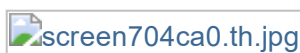
8. Your done, now you should have ENVmaps in your map now 🧐

Here is what your map should look like:

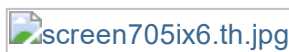
what the water looks like **before**



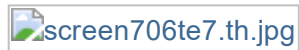
and what the water looks like **After**



Also now i can show you what im on about with the sniper scope reflections in areas. The first pics is of the refelction i got when on the island:



And the 2nd is of the pic i got when on the hotel roof.



The pics aint grate as i didnt have fog and the outside terrain enabled which i would need to do to get my ENVmaps looking just right so bear thous things in mind when doing yours. Enable things like over and under growth and make sure its on detail texture mode and things like that to make them look as good as possibal 🤔

Hope this helps 😊

(Last Updated: 18-7-06)

Edited July 18, 2006 by Rhino

ArYeS

Newbie



Members

● 0

39 posts

Posted December 29, 2005 · [Report post](#)



Cool, this will help us a lot.. great job, Thanks!

Flubber

Member



Members

● 0

151 posts

Posted December 30, 2005 · [Report post](#)



TY 😊

Bdbodger

Member



Posted December 30, 2005 · [Report post](#)



One thing if you drag it to your water it will snap to the terrain and be underwater so drag it up so that the cube is above



Members
● 0
306 posts
Location:canada
Interests:modding

the water

CheetahShrk

Advanced Member



Members
● 0
546 posts
Gender:Male

Posted December 30, 2005 · [Report post](#)



Also env maps are needed for puddle effect on the terrian.

[RoK]LexLuther

Member



Members
● 0
257 posts
Interests:Modding

Posted December 30, 2005 · [Report post](#)



BF2 supports more than one envmap, place as many as you'd like with in reason. If you have a city area make one there, one for forest, ect...

✓ [dice said:

o2car]This is how you do it:

1. Place a DefaultEnvMap box in your level.

[contentobjectscommon]

2. Run Compile>Envmaps>Generate Envmaps

3. Copy

...modsbf2LevelsYour_LevelEnvmapsEnvMap0.dds to

...modsbf2LevelsYour_LevelWaterEnvMap.dds

(Note: You must rename it for it to work)

They are separated so you can tweak the envmap for the water without changing the look of the cockpitglass.

If you place several DefaultEnvMap boxes in your level, it will use the closest one when you move around. For

example one placed in the desert and one in the city -> when you drive into the city, houses will be reflected in the glass and rearview mirrors instead of a desolated landscape.

PanCake404

Member



Members



84 posts

Posted December 30, 2005 · [Report post](#)



Thanks Bra...Both ur tuts Worked for me.

GJ

Guest

Posted December 31, 2005 · [Report post](#)



Guests

niice i guess thats all I need to know about lighting.
Wondering if its possible to make bridge reflections look correct? mine drift off into the distance as i get closer under the bridge :>

a2k

Member



Members



156 posts

Posted March 6, 2006 · [Report post](#)



Hmmm... I'm assuming you also need to set up your static/bundle geometry to reflect the environment map.

I couldn't get reflections to work on my bundledmesh that i'm using for my alpha transparent windows for my static model.

I appreciate the tutorial regardless, but I hope someone has some clue as to how to set up bundle geometry to reflect the environment map.

I have seen some flags that can be used for 3ds max, but the alpha|alphaenvmap flags do not directly translate into something that I can put into Maya.

EDIT: I've tried alphaenvmap_<texture name> in Maya, and it "sorta" works. I don't see any real reflections, but it's behaving to the light correctly, at least

[BF:A] Croupier

Expert



Moderators



1,530 posts

Location: Melbourne, Australia

Interests: Modding, Game Development.

Posted March 6, 2006 · [Report post](#)

Hey a2k you can use rexmans bf2Materials.exe to change the technique.

Shader: BundledMesh.fx

Technique: AlphaEnvMap

Type: 1

Texture:

objects/vehicles/xpak_vehicles/xpak_common/glass_cracked_c.dds

Texture: CommonTexturesSpecularLUT_pow36.dds

a2k

Member



Members



156 posts

Posted March 6, 2006 · [Report post](#)

hmm, I'm using Maya.

(would rexman's tool work with maya as well?)

Why is it that DICE used Maya to create the assets for this game, yet the support for max seems to be much better?

mschoeldgen[Xw w2]

God-like



Moderators



8,876 posts

Gender: Male

Interests: Simulators, FP Games, Bass playing

Posted March 7, 2006 · [Report post](#)

Although Rexman's material tool comes with the 3DS tools, its a CLI program and works standalone.

And Rexman is also the reason for the good 3DS support



His tools and tutorials are really a great achievement...

uberduck13

Member



Members



167 posts

Posted April 2, 2006 · [Report post](#)

when i put in like 9 different envmaps and i was wondering in my envmaps folder there is EnvMap0.dds all the way through EnvMap8.dds

do i only copy the envmap0.dds

or what do i name all the others? 😄

thanks

Rhino

Expert



Members



1,107 posts

Gender: Male

Location: UK

Posted April 3, 2006 · [Report post](#)

just copy 1 of them (the best 1 possible that would represent reflections in the water) and rename that 1 in the water folder.

uberduck13

Member



Members



167 posts

Posted April 3, 2006 · [Report post](#)

k thank you 🙏!

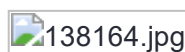
uberduck13

Member

Posted April 3, 2006 · [Report post](#)

ive narrowed it down to two of them

which looks better to you guys?! 😄

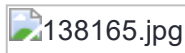




Members

● 0

167 posts



also is there a way to get the editor to load straight into bf2 mod?

uberduck13

Member

● ●



Members

● 0

167 posts

Posted April 3, 2006 · [Report post](#)

hmmm i just generated again and now the trees arent showing up and their really poor quality

i accidently clicked

create default envmaps....

does this have anythign to do with it>?

mschoeldgen[Xw w2]

God-like

● ● ● ● ●



Moderators

● 0

8,876 posts

Gender:Male

Interests:Simulators, FP

Games, Bass playing

Posted April 3, 2006 · [Report post](#)

▼ **uberduck13 said:**

also is there a way to get the editor to load straight into bf2 mod?

Yes 😊

Change your shortcut to the editor to read :

```
"C:\gamesBattlefield 2BF2Editor.exe" +loadMod XWw
```

Adjust path and Mod, cause i don't think you have XWW2 running 😊

Its even possible to launch directly into a map:

```
"C:\gamesBattlefield 2BF2Editor.exe" +loadMod XWw
```

Rhino

Posted April 3, 2006 · [Report post](#)

Expert



Members

● 0

1,107 posts

Gender:Male

Location:UK

mschoeldgen[Xww2 said:

]

uberduck13 said:

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"C:\gamesBattlefield 2BF2Editor.exe" +loadMor
```

Adjust path and Mod, cause i don't think you have XWW2 running 😊

Its even possible to launch directly into a map:

```
"C:\gamesBattlefield 2BF2Editor.exe" +loadMor
```

ahh cool didnt know that 8)

uberduck13

Member



Members

● 0

167 posts

Posted April 3, 2006 · [Report post](#)



wait hmm i dont know what i did wrong with the envmaps im gonna try and make them again cuz they are poor quality :?

uberduck13

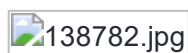
Member



Posted April 3, 2006 · [Report post](#)



see here is what they look liek now i have no clue what i did :evil:





Members

● 0

167 posts

[RoK]LexLuther

Member

● ●



Members

● 0

257 posts

Interests:Modding

Posted April 4, 2006 · [Report post](#)✓ **uberduck13 said:**

k thank you 🙏!

Make sure to take an envmap over your water. Best to guess what the flow of players will be and get an envmap that will best match that path, it will look off in some places, but look great for players major path across your water.

[BF:A] Croupier

Expert

● ● ● ●

**Moderators**

● 0

1,530 posts

Location:Melbourne, Australia

Interests:Modding, Game Development.

Posted April 4, 2006 · [Report post](#)

Hey Lex you can make several envmaps for the one map, say you have a map with ocean, city/town and rural/farmland.

You can drag say 3 envmap cubes into your map, position 1 over the water, 1 over the city/town and one over the farmland, generate the maps and test it out.

Whatever envmap is closest to you in game will be the one that is reflected, that way the vehicles in the city will reflect buildings rather than tree's ect.....

I dont know if there is a limit on the amount of envmaps but I have seen some Dice maps with at least 3.

EDIT: I just read on page one that you said you can place more than 1, lol.....

[RoK]LexLuther

Member

● ●

Posted April 4, 2006 · [Report post](#)

Yeah, I haven't tried, but in theory maybe water could have more than one. It's not important for me right now as I have



Members
● 0
257 posts
Interests:Modding

a lot on the plate, but the theory is if you see how the envmaps are read in game, namely the EnvironmentMapInfo.emi file and copied how it's read but while over water it maybe possible to have you water better reflect the terrain. Again, just a therory.

Rhino

Expert
●●●●



Members
● 0
1,107 posts
Gender:Male
Location:UK

Posted April 4, 2006 · [Report post](#)



from all my testing, it looks like water can only have 1 env map....

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