

dfUTFTFork By Philip Vallone



This document provides information on the dfUTFTFork library. The dfUTFTFork is a fork of the [UTFT Library](#) by Henning Karlsen. The original UTFT library is well written and works with a number of TFT drivers. The UTFT library has a number of limitations when creating fonts. For example, with the original UTFT library, all fonts **MUST** have a character width that is dividable by 8 (i.e. 8, 16, and 24 etc...). You have 2 choices to create fonts; 1, by hand or 2 with the online Font Maker, which converts an image into a font array. Both, are not easy to do and are time consuming.

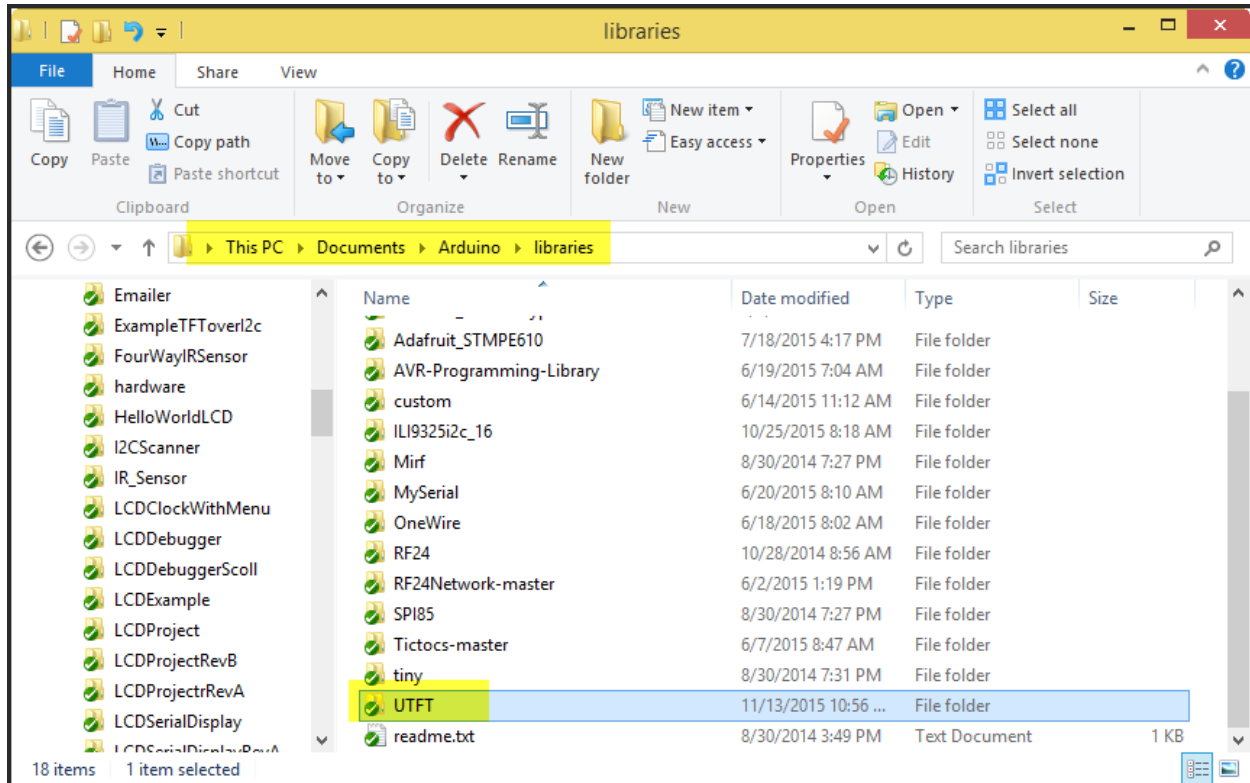
So I set out to modify the UTFT library with work with [The Dot Factory](#). "The Dot Factory is a small, GPL, open source tool intended to generate the required C language information to store many fonts and images, as efficiently as possible, on a microcontroller". Basicly, if you have the font installed on your window PC, you can create a Font to use with the UTFT library.

Important Notes

- The dfTFTFork library can co-exist with existing UTFT fonts. You just call different functions.
- I have tested the library with a number of fonts generated by The Dot Factory. This doc provides instructions on how to create the fonts. You must follow these directions. Don't worry, its easy
- The Library was tested on the Sain Smart 2.8 TFT W/ ILI9325 driver running in 16 bit mode. I have not tested on other TFTs
- The smallest font I have tested with was Aerial 8pt, which is very small. The width of the characters should be no smaller than 16 bits wide (2 bytes). That's really small.
- The largest font I tested with was 5 bytes wide (48pt font).
- Rotating font is not supported

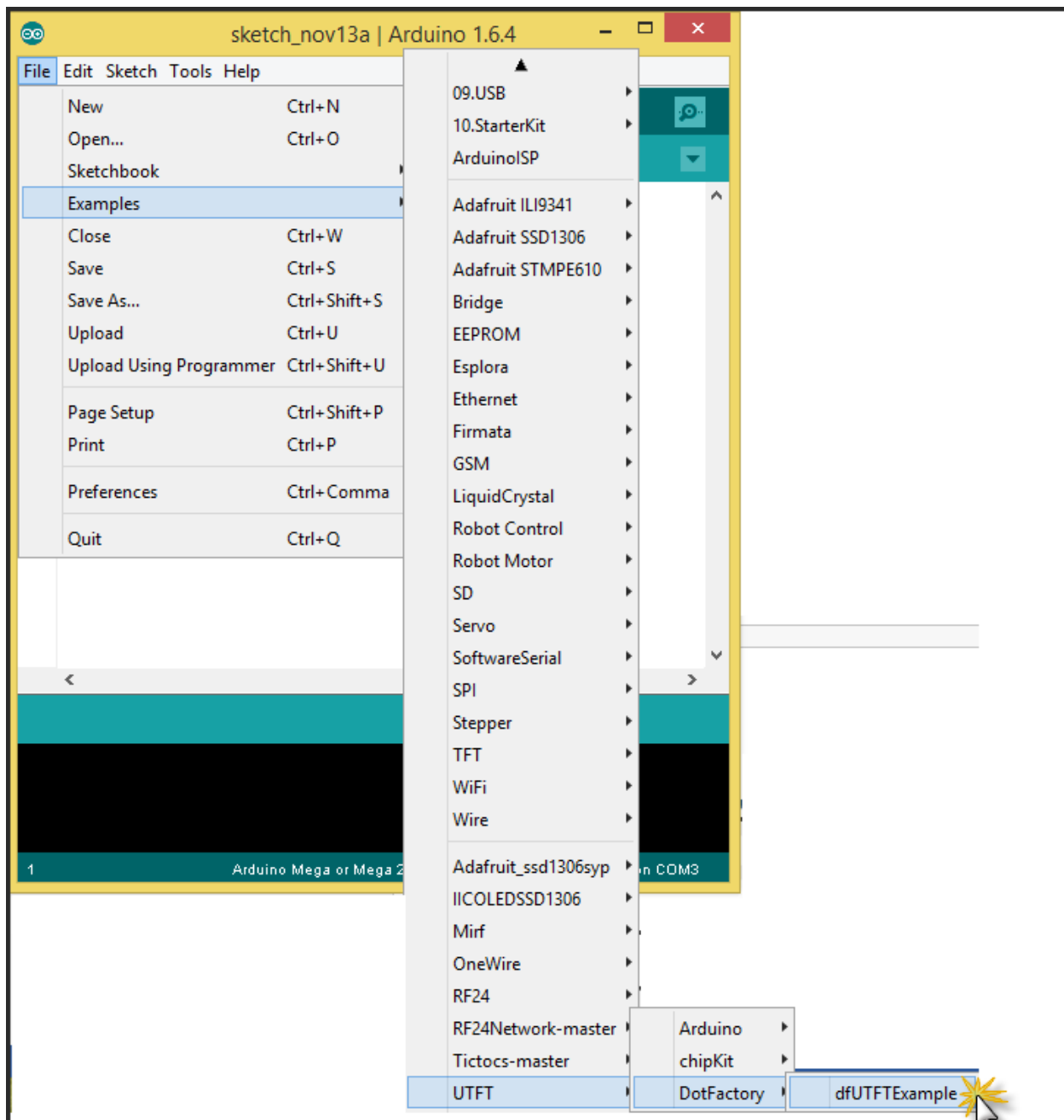
Get the Fork

Head over to [xx](#) and download the dfUTFTFork. Unzip the file and place the UTFT folder in the libraries directory. For example, my libraries folder is located in C:\Users\Philip\Documents\Arduino



Example Sketch:

The dfUTFTFork comes with a sample sketch with a few fonts. Click File>Examples>UTFT>Dot Factory>dfUTFTExample



This library was tested with the ILI9325 Driver on the Sain Smart 2.8 TFT (16 bit mode). You will have to adjust the UTFT constructor to match your TFT/Driver. See your TFT's documentation for your driver and pins:

```
UTFT myGLCD(ILI9325D_16, RS, WR, CS, RST);
```

The example sketch was tested on the Arduino Mega. You can use a Uno, but there is not a lot of memory on the Uno. The fonts consume a lot of space.

How it works

In order to display fonts, we need to know all about the character we are displaying. To do this, we need 3 arrays:

1. Character Map
2. Font Bit Map
3. Font Descriptor

Character Map

Maps the ASCII character to the Font Bit Map and Font Descriptor arrays.

Bit Map

Bit Map array generated by the Dot Factory.

Font Descriptor

Provides needed font information, character width in bits, character height in bits and character offset. The descriptor is generated by the Dot Factory.

Methods

1. include your font and character map

Example:

```
#include "arcena_22pt.h"
#include "character_map.h"
```

2. Define the font. The setFont functions takes 3 arguments

```
setFont([Bit Map Array],[Font Descriptor], [Number of Characters in Character Map]);
```

Example:

```
myGLCD.setFont(arcena_22ptBitmaps, arcena_22ptDescriptors, 95);
```

3. define the character map

```
myGLCD.setCharMap(charMap);
```

Create Fonts

Creating fonts with [The Dot Factory](#) is easy. Download the exe and open the program.

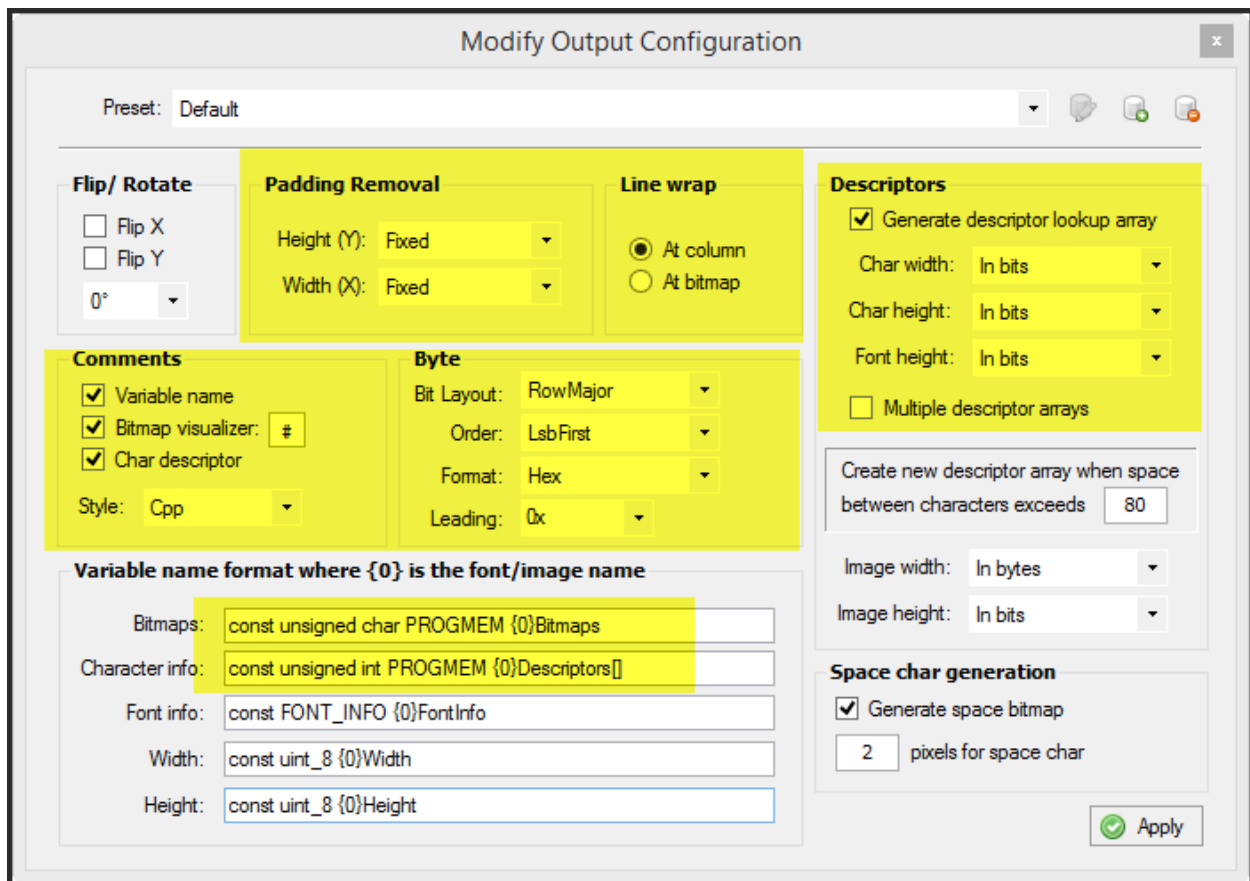
Modify Output Configuration

First thing we need to do is modify the Output Configuration. **If you don't set the configuration as documented below, your fonts will now display.**

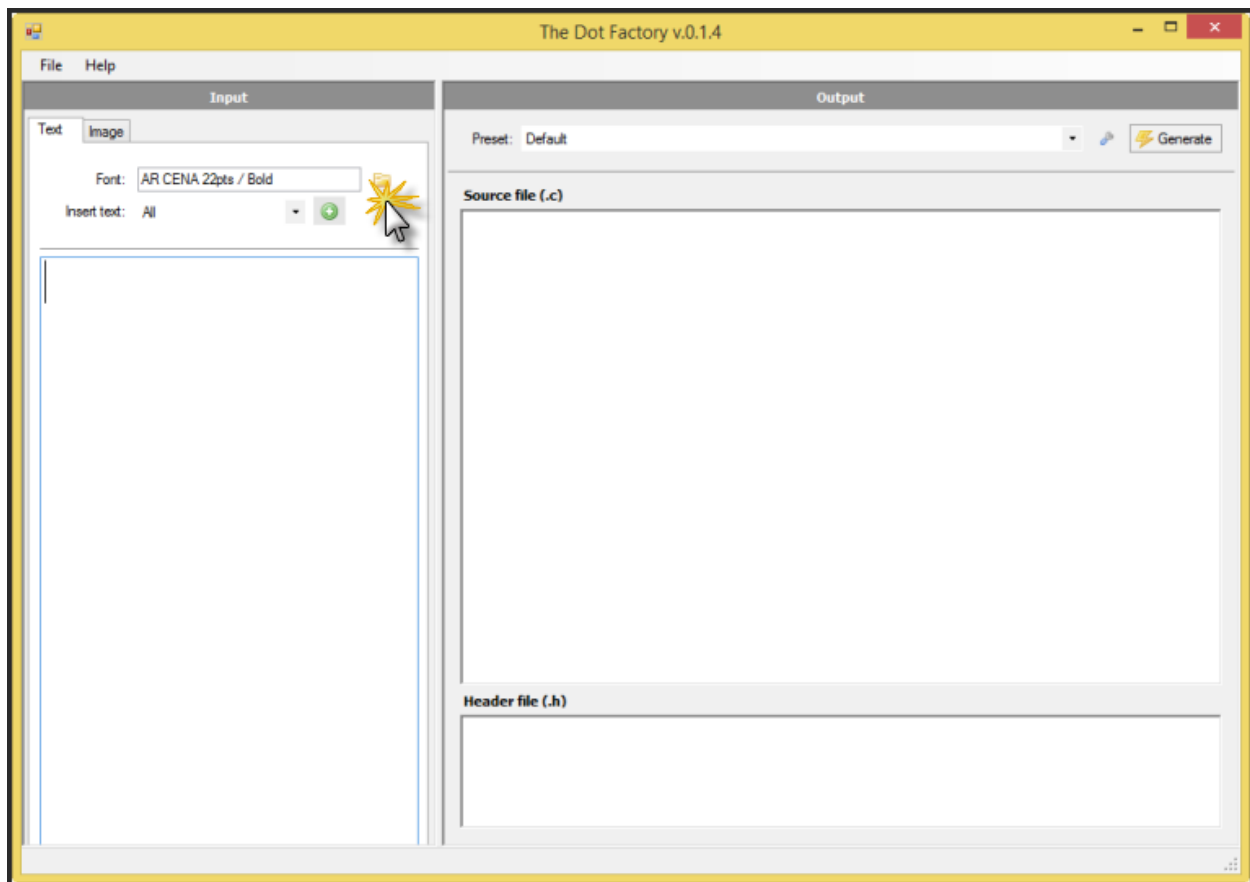
1. Click the configuration button



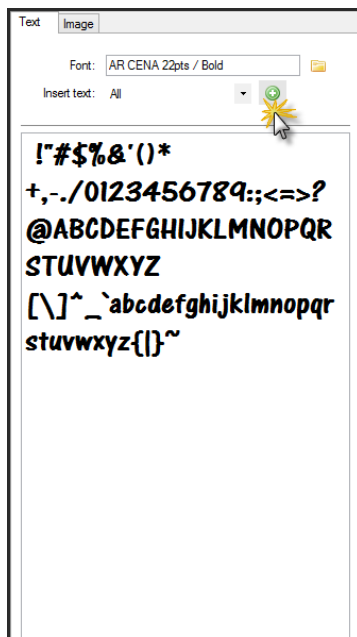
2. Set your configuration as highlighted below. Click Apply



3. Click the folder icon to choose your font



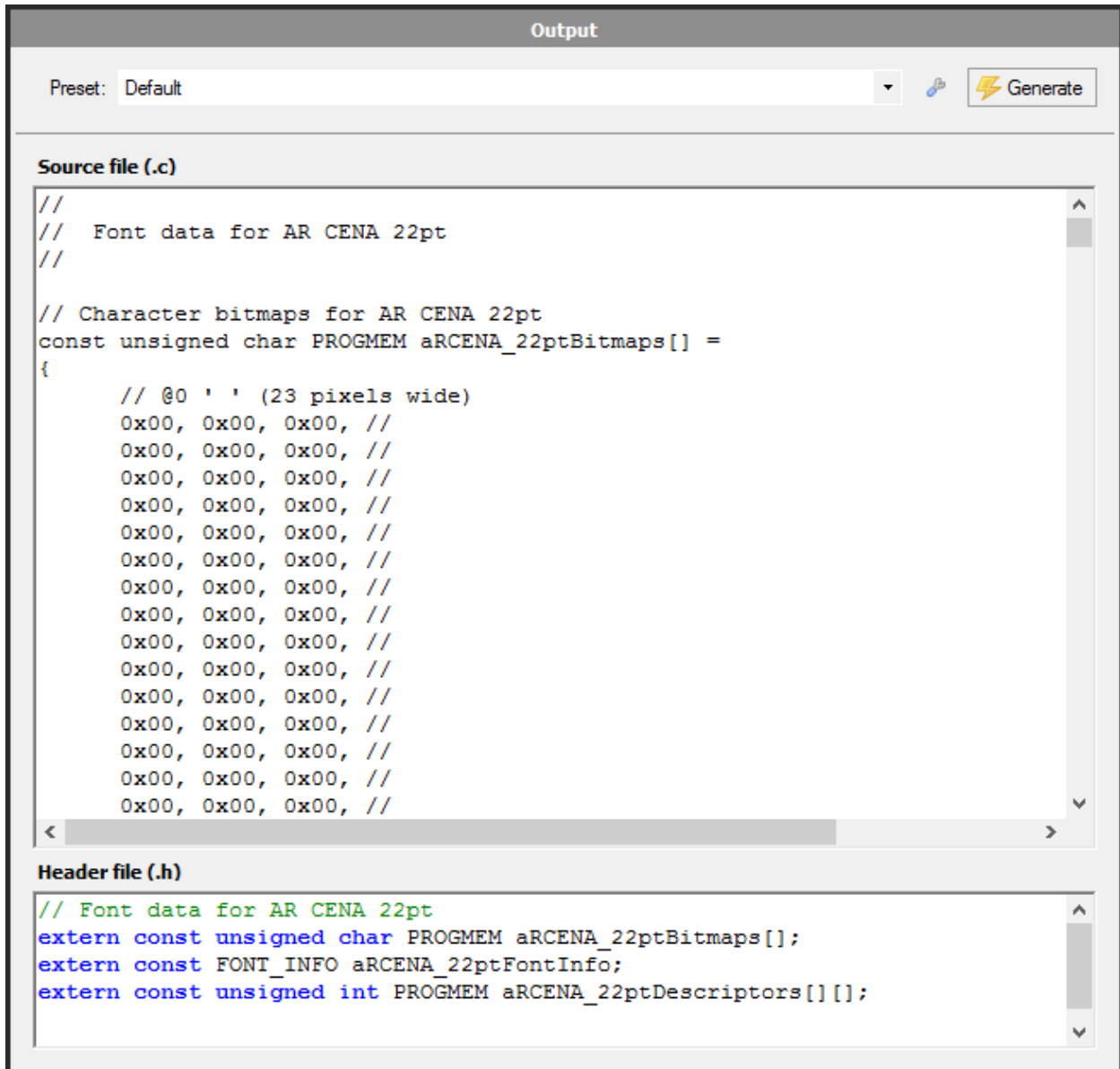
4. Click the + icon to load some default text



5. Click the Generate button



6. Your Font Preview should display



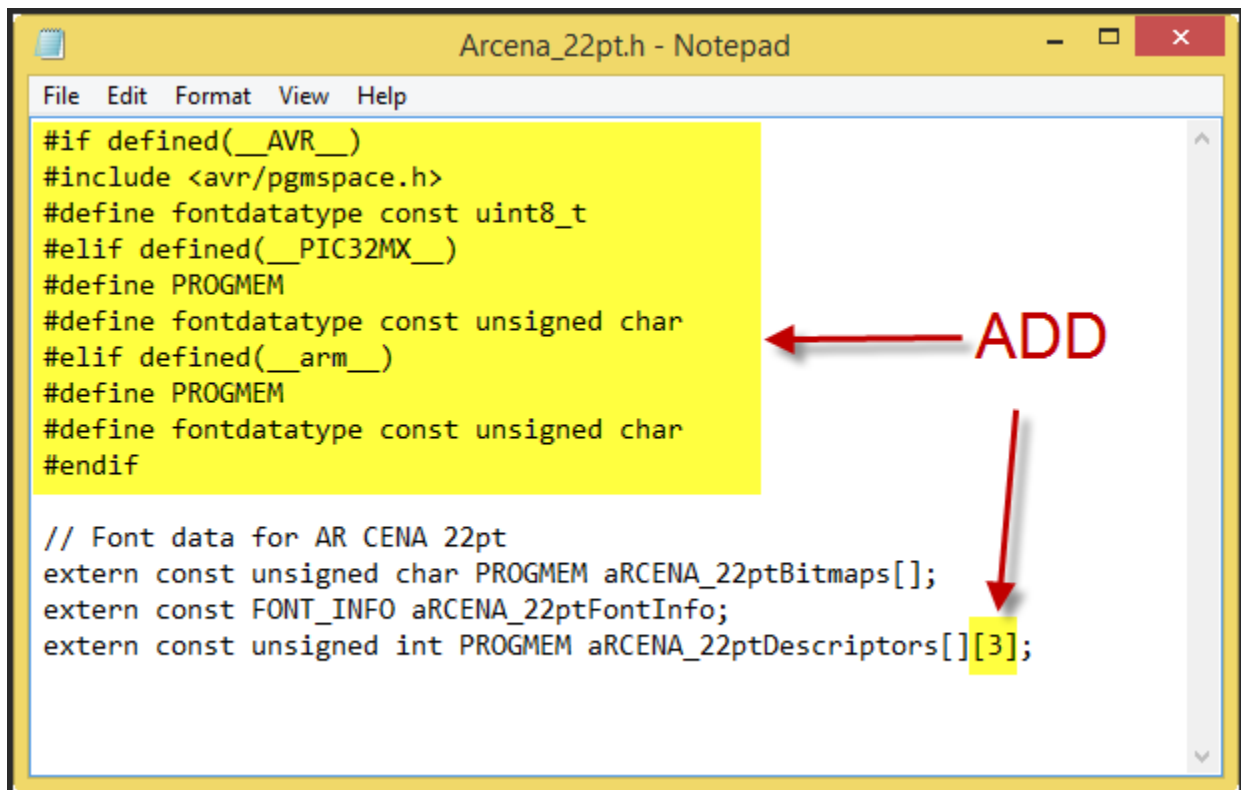
7. Save the files. Click File>Save as files...

Modify the files

Once the files are saved, we need to modify the .h and .c files so they compile. Copy the following:

```
#if defined(__AVR__)
#include <avr/pgmspace.h>
#define fontdatatype const uint8_t
#elif defined(__PIC32MX__)
#define PROGMEM
#define fontdatatype const unsigned char
#elif defined(__arm__)
#define PROGMEM
#define fontdatatype const unsigned char
#endif
```

Open the .h file and the defines as shown. Also add a 3 to the descriptor to indicate the array size

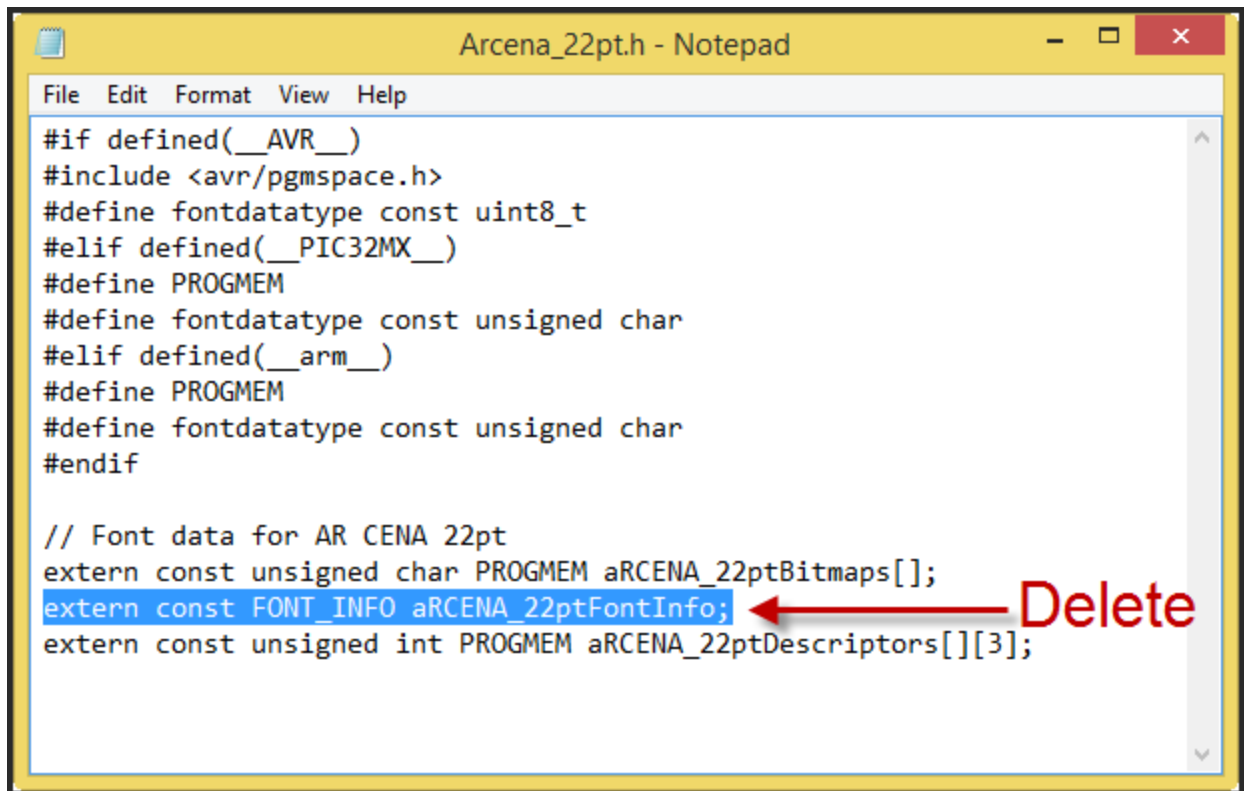


```
File Edit Format View Help

#if defined(__AVR__)
#include <avr/pgmspace.h>
#define fontdatatype const uint8_t
#elif defined(__PIC32MX__)
#define PROGMEM
#define fontdatatype const unsigned char
#elif defined(__arm__)
#define PROGMEM
#define fontdatatype const unsigned char
#endif

// Font data for AR CENA 22pt
extern const unsigned char PROGMEM aRCENA_22ptBitmaps[];
extern const FONT_INFO aRCENA_22ptFontInfo;
extern const unsigned int PROGMEM aRCENA_22ptDescriptors[][3];
```

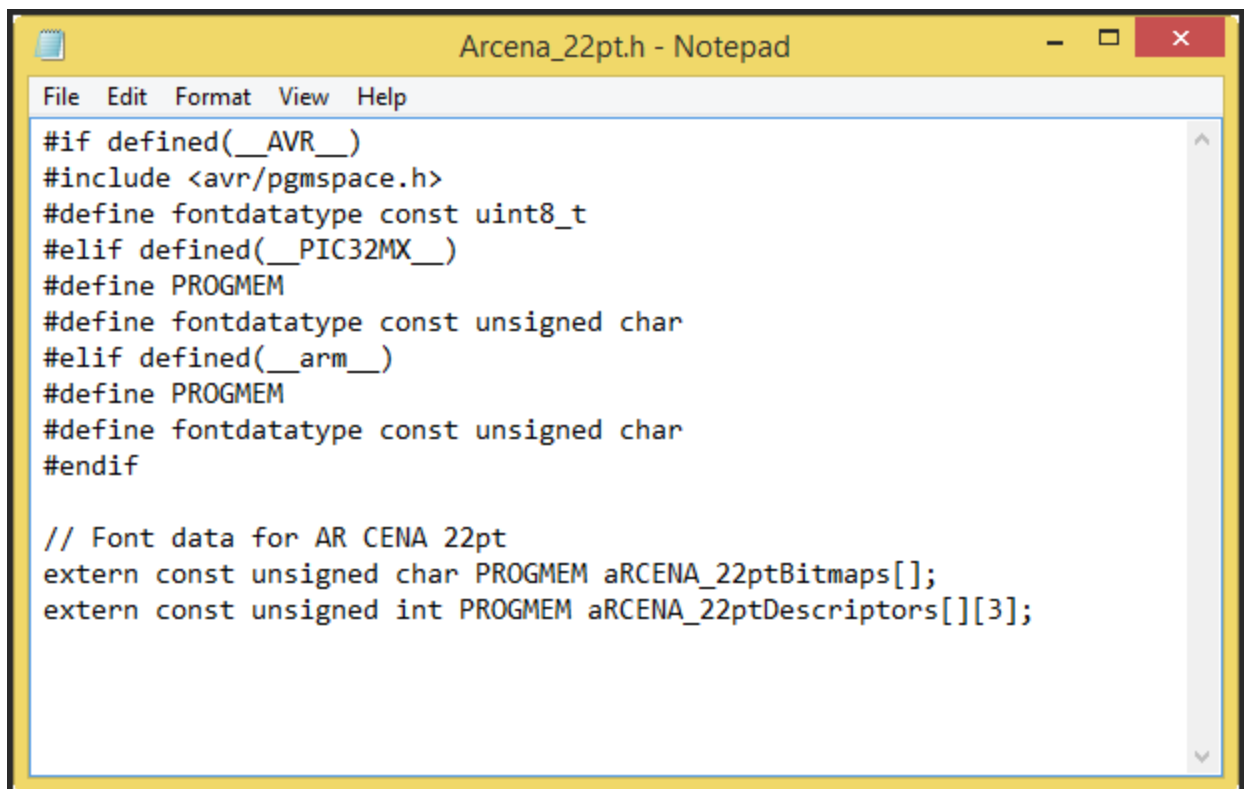
Now delete the FONT_INFO function.



```
File Edit Format View Help
#if defined(__AVR__)
#include <avr/pgmspace.h>
#define fontdatatype const uint8_t
#elif defined(__PIC32MX__)
#define PROGMEM
#define fontdatatype const unsigned char
#elif defined(__arm__)
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// Font data for AR CENA 22pt
extern const unsigned char PROGMEM aRCENA_22ptBitmaps[];
extern const FONT_INFO aRCENA_22ptFontInfo;
extern const unsigned int PROGMEM aRCENA_22ptDescriptors[][3];
```

Your file should look like this. When you are done, click Save.



```
File Edit Format View Help
#if defined(__AVR__)
#include <avr/pgmspace.h>
#define fontdatatype const uint8_t
#elif defined(__PIC32MX__)
#define PROGMEM
#define fontdatatype const unsigned char
#elif defined(__arm__)
#define PROGMEM
#define fontdatatype const unsigned char
#endif

// Font data for AR CENA 22pt
extern const unsigned char PROGMEM aRCENA_22ptBitmaps[];
extern const unsigned int PROGMEM aRCENA_22ptDescriptors[][3];
```

Now open the .c file and add the define code as shown below.

[illegible]

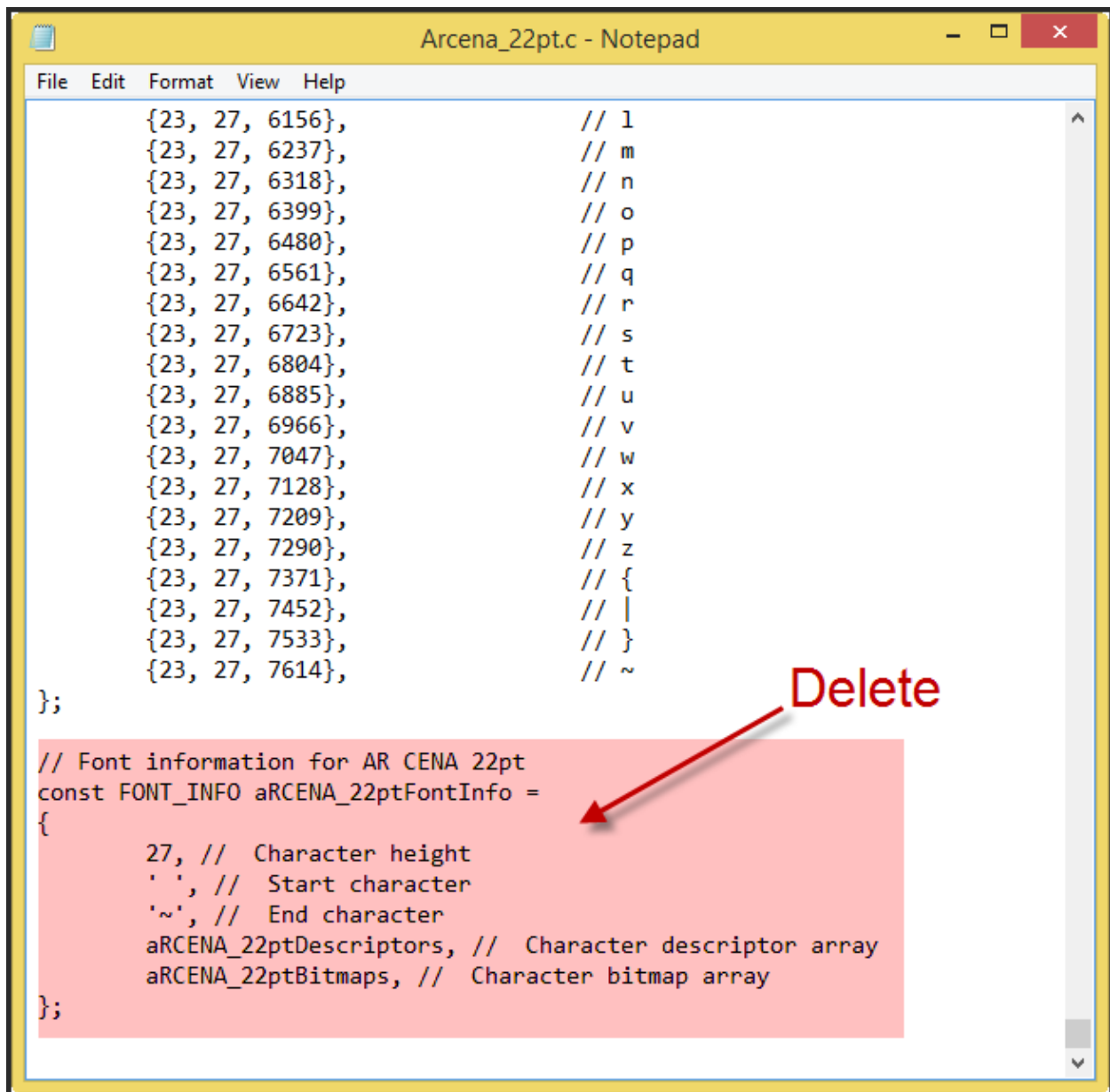
Now, scroll down to the descriptor and add the 3 to the array.

```
Arcena_22pt.c - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
    0x00, 0x00, 0x00, //
    0x00, 0x00, 0x00, //
    0x00, 0x00, 0x00, //
};

// Character descriptors for AR CENA 22pt
// { [Char width in bits], [Char height in bits], [Offset
into aRCENA_22ptCharBitmaps in bytes] }
const unsigned int PROGMEM aRCENA_22ptDescriptors[][3] =
{
    {23, 27, 0},           //
    {23, 27, 81},          // !
    {23, 27, 162},         // "
    {23, 27, 243},         // #
    {23, 27, 324},         // $
    {23, 27, 405},         // %
    {23, 27, 486},         // &
    {23, 27, 567},         // '
    {23, 27, 648},         // (
    {23, 27, 729},         // )
    {23, 27, 810},         // *
    {23, 27, 891},         // +
    {23, 27, 972},         // ,
    {23, 27, 1053},        // -
    {23, 27, 1134},        // .
    {23, 27, 1215},        // /
    {23, 27, 1296},        // 0
    {23, 27, 1377},        // 1
    {23, 27, 1458},        // 2
    {23, 27, 1539},        // 3
    {23, 27, 1620},        // 4

```

Scroll down and delete the FONT_INFO function.



```
File Edit Format View Help
{23, 27, 6156}, // l
{23, 27, 6237}, // m
{23, 27, 6318}, // n
{23, 27, 6399}, // o
{23, 27, 6480}, // p
{23, 27, 6561}, // q
{23, 27, 6642}, // r
{23, 27, 6723}, // s
{23, 27, 6804}, // t
{23, 27, 6885}, // u
{23, 27, 6966}, // v
{23, 27, 7047}, // w
{23, 27, 7128}, // x
{23, 27, 7209}, // y
{23, 27, 7290}, // z
{23, 27, 7371}, // {
{23, 27, 7452}, // |
{23, 27, 7533}, // }
{23, 27, 7614}, // ~
};

// Font information for AR CENA 22pt
const FONT_INFO aRCENA_22ptFontInfo =
{
    27, // Character height
    ' ', // Start character
    '~', // End character
    aRCENA_22ptDescriptors, // Character descriptor array
    aRCENA_22ptBitmaps, // Character bitmap array
};
```

Copy the .h and .c files to Arduino/libraries director or your sketch folder