

The Brutal Battle Between r/OnePiece and r/Undertale in r/Place

Described as “many communities together in a setting of anarchy” (@Lydae_guy)¹, r/place is widely regarded as a unique platform for community interaction. While it occasionally fosters collaboration, it more often sparks conflict as groups compete for space. There were many spots of contention, but the most popular spots were (0, 0); (359, 564); and (349, 564). While (0, 0) would be an expected hotspot of paint locations, as it’s the most canonical place for a new user to start plotting, the latter points are quite interesting, considering that they were so close to each other as well being exactly 10 pixels apart. It turns out, these two coordinates were a battlefield for two subreddits, one fighting for their morals and the other fighting to provoke morals.

One piece is an extremely popular anime that centers around a group of pirates known as the Strawhats venturing the world in search of a treasure known as the “one piece.” This anime has a massive following on reddit, with over 5.1 million users following the dedicated subreddit as of 2/3/2025. When r/place was announced to be brought back in 2022, r/OnePiece decided that to leave their mark on the territory, they wanted to create an emblem of One Piece, that consists of their subreddit name, the Strawhats’ pirate flag, and devil fruits, which are a core part of One Piece’s combat system:



¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dea-vQavf3c&t=8m06s>

Turns out that the commonly used skull emblem for pirates would be heavily contested by another subreddit, r/Undertale, that were notorious for trolling other emblems and logos on r/place. Undertale is an indie RPG released in 2015 that has somewhat of a cult following on reddit as well, with over 500k followers as of 2/3/2025. Despite the following being only a fraction of r/OnePiece's, the characters in the game are extremely iconic and memorable, with one of these characters being Sans, a skeleton with a signature light blue eye:

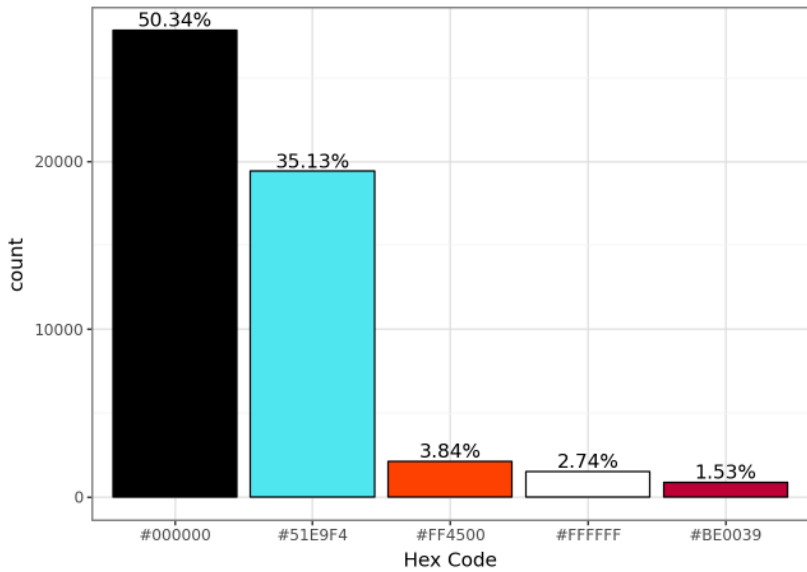


Since the Strawhat's emblem was also a skeleton, this would naturally cause r/Undertale users to try and target this skeleton to give it Sans' iconic eye color on either one or both of its eyes:

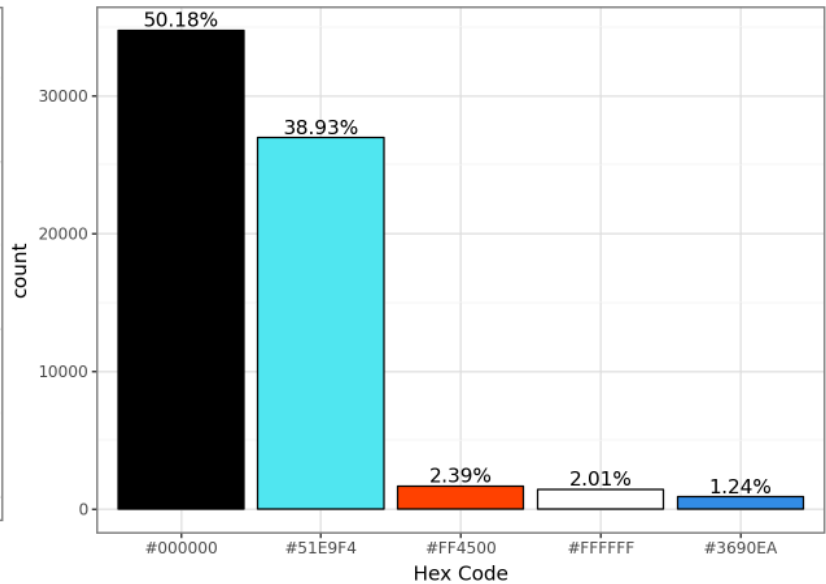


And it turns out, those two middle pupil spots are the second and third most popular pixel locations. The data support this as well, with black and light blue taking the vast majority of the color choices for the left and right pixels, with >85% and >89% of the paints respectively.

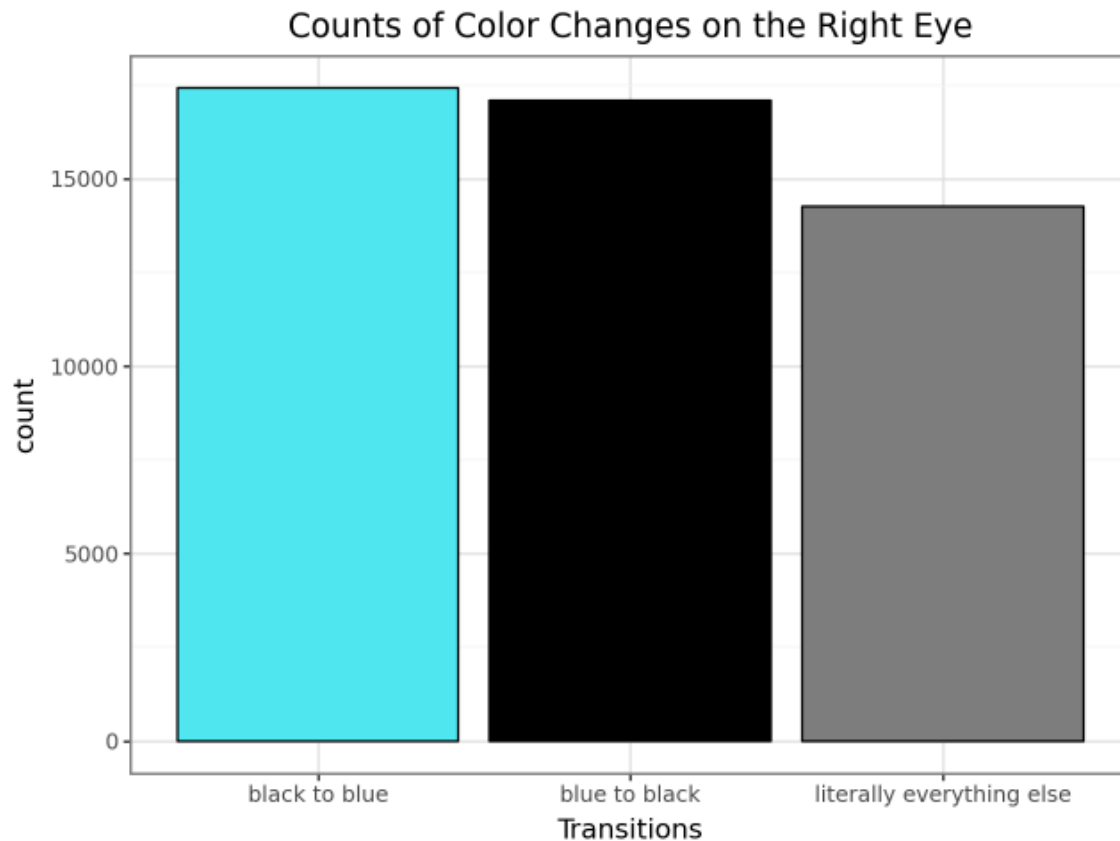
Top 5 Left Eye Pupil Colors (349, 564)



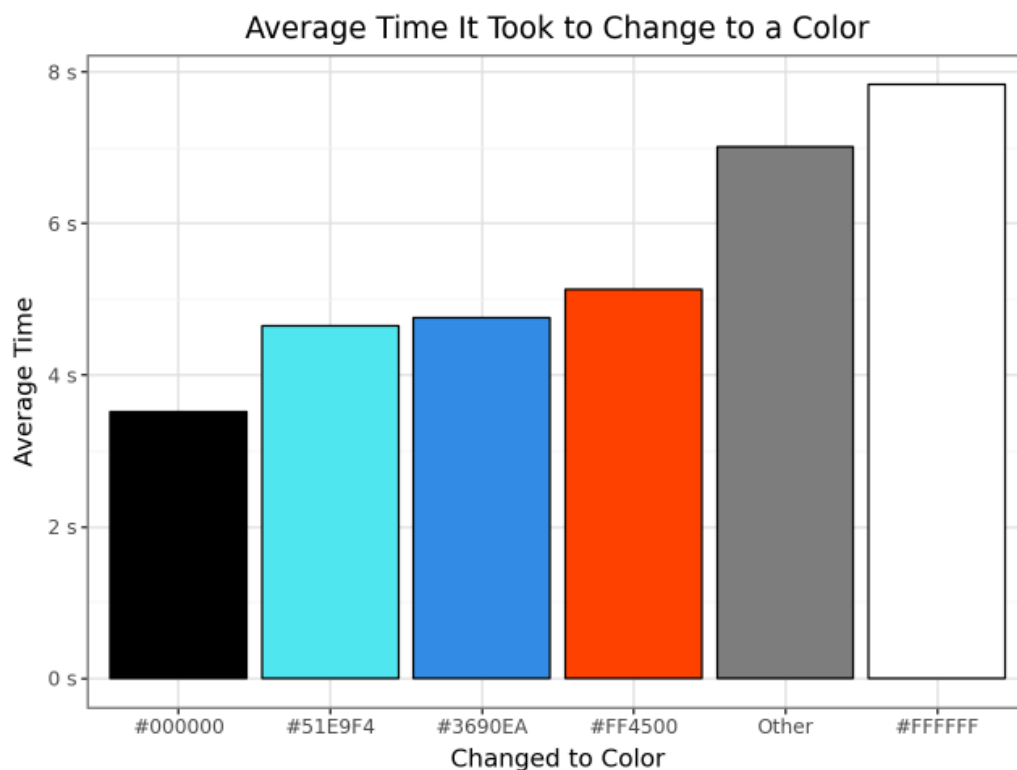
Top 5 Right Eye Pupil Colors (359, 564)



The really interesting part was the right pupil, as canonically that's the pupil that is blue, so that area had noticeably more action. For instance, it was interesting to note that the pupil changed from blue to black more than it did with any other color transition, other than black to blue:



Additionally, these changes happened extremely quickly. As shown below, the eyes transformed to black or to blue the quickest out of any color.



After the events of r/place in 2022, r/OnePiece moderator u/semizero made a statement on how fun it was “...defending the jolly roger’s eyes from r/Undertale”² so it all seemed like it was all for good fun.

² https://www.reddit.com/r/OnePiece/comments/twjst3/ronepiece_in_rplace_wrapup/