

General thoughts on the project

I'm really divided about font sizes and just want it known. As an example when overlaying E-F's video, a Note style size of 22.5 fits almost pixel perfect but on playback and viewing on the 1080p video, 23 seems like it fits slightly better. However, in episode 2 a font size of 22.5 does seem to look fine so for that reason I kept 22.5 as the global style size. This may need to be set at 23 but this is the great thing about styles, it's a rather easy change. I know I'm talking about a 0.5 font difference but that's what I was doing.

I'm pretty certain that the default Verdana 25 font is correct. For the special, AonE did actually do a 24 Verdana but that was easy to spot because if you did do 25, some lines wouldn't fit like they did for AonE.

The same goes for NoteArial_Igo which I based from Episode 75 as it was the first Igo I did. Something that caught me out is that for later Notes and Igo sections, they actually changed from Century Gothic to Arial (hence the style change). I honestly can't tell if they used 18.5 or 19 font for the names (Yuuki, Mai etc). I decided on 19 because when overlaying the "for your continued support" in 75 that it lined up better than 18.5. Again talking about a 0.5 font difference but just wanted to mention it.

The outlines and shadows need to be looked at if this ever does get near release. I mostly kept what gabest11 had for outline and shadow values but thinking more, maybe it makes sense to do 2 outline and 1 shadow. That's what looked good for the special anyway.

One thing I realized the more I understood basic subtitling is that exactly matching the placement from E-F/R-F was a bad idea (unless there was no other easy option). I will try to explain why and hopefully everyone agrees with the approach I took. It might get a little technical. At the start, I was literally trying to manually place everything like the logos to match but it soon became obvious not to do that.

The source video is from Moozzi2 and after asking llbx many questions (again thanks for everything) about placement problems, they confirmed to me that it's slightly stretched. It was chosen for the video source as it's what gabest11 had. They stated it's the best source and even now I probably have to agree. I looked around for other releases to be the source and the most popular by far was by Judas but it had a really strange resolution. I thought "ok whatever I can work with that" but the files are 29.97 fps. I don't know much about all this stuff but even I know anime should be 23.976 fps. I think this means they didn't even apply IVTC so straight away that was not an option.

I maybe should have considered some 720p release but one thing I was weary about. I realise it's 2026 now and most people are probably watching on a 4k TV. From the light reading I did, it seems like most TV handle upscaling 1080p way better than 720p just based on pixels alone. Not only that but if you took out the special, the Moozzi2 release is just over 50 GB for great quality 1440x1080 and FLAC.

I know I got off track a little there but basically what I'm trying to get at is instead of basing the whole subs around one video source for placements, it makes more sense to generally make subs for "any" Hikaru no Go video source for now and the future. The best example I can give is actually the E-F intro text.

So I'm sitting there manually aligning this text and then I just think to myself... "huh? What if I just \an5 this?". Sure enough, after I just apply the an5 tag, stuff seems to slot in place. If you also think about it, it's so likely that when E-F was subbing this, they just did an an5 tag when stuff should generally be in the center rather than arbitrarily moving it.

This is the thing. It's now not a match if you put that over Moozzi2 video and side by side compare with E-F (due to the slight stretching) but... it's basically a perfect match for E-F's video when overlayed. Another thing that makes positioning hard is even if you look at the background where the E-F logo is, there's slightly more stuff you can see on the TV broadcast

compared to the Blu-Ray. That is also why just doing the an5 tag is not an exact match with Blu-Ray.

What I ended up doing is manually positioning the E-F and Igo logo on episode 1 to show the difference and every episode after (that I did) just had an5 applied.

It also makes more sense to do this approach because if this anime ever does get a good 4k release, maybe they actually give you a frame much closer to what the TV broadcast had which then in turn makes alignment tags more accurate than the manual positioning to fit the old video source.

Hopefully that all made sense but it is the great thing about having subs like this. You can tailor them to any video source if you want. I would like to point out that when I talk about differences in positioning, I am literally talking about say 2-3 pixels on the horizontal and like 5 pixels on the vertical.

Main things needing done

The openings and endings done by gabest11 all need the Kanji and Romaji swapped around to match E-F/R-F. Possibly also look at alignment and timing of the karaoke. In Op1, gabest11 did some lines as one but E-F did them as two. There is a big difference in the translation. I also noticed in the first/second line E-F did “sasagete” but gabest11 and online had “sasaete”. There is maybe more like that.

Ending 1 (1-30) needs to be put forward by 1 frame on each of the episodes gabest11 did. I did this for 1-6 so likely the others need it also. One thing that really surprised me is that the Blu-Ray is very sync friendly for intros and endings. For example when I was putting in the music is my thing ending, the frames synced perfectly for 64 to 74.

31-39: Needs “Elite-Fansubs presents” intro.

Fortunately the 1-30 intro is all the same and very basic. Will have to put them in for each episode as they get timed/styled though.

40-60: Same intro as 31-39 but replace text with “Real-Fansubbers” since that is the switch over episode.

61-75: Lots to do in the FANTASY opening.

As said above, Op3Kanji and Op3Romaji needs to be swapped around to match R-F. Karaoke needs to be done. Lots of stuff I don’t know how to do like the fade stuff of “My Heart” and slow moving text of the romaji and kanji.

Ending Igo sections need to be redone as not close to E-F/R-F. A completely different translation.

About credits: R-F only started doing staff intro and ending credits in 61 onwards (Original creator, Technical Director etc). Maybe do these?

If looking for total completeness, consider adding E-F/R-F group credits to intros but these change a lot.

Not checked every episode (was for 3-5) but gabest11 mistimed the ending too early by 1 frame so that likely needs to get shifted forward a frame on anything I didn’t time/style.

Ending Igo title from Yukari Umezawa’s start episode 36.

Consider adding chapter markings: Intro, Episode name, Ending, Igo

Signs/extra stuff throughout episodes needing done

5: 15:25 Joseki book.

61: 4:59 Room of Deep Contemplation and ending info. 5:10 Japanese Go Institute. 10:59 Note should end with: "This week is called" maybe change Note styling to fit this properly? 12:18 Shuusaku sign (HillWilliam font).
12:46 Grave of the Honinbou. 14:44 Grave then upclose second later.
18:31 Okonomiyaki. 19:00 Go Igo Club. 20:12 Go Igo Club.

62: Shuusaku plaque then next scene the banner (HillWilliam font). Fix Go Igo club from Note to properly styled. Didn't sub ending Igo as the TV broadcast (R-F) was completely different to the Blu-Ray. If anyone wants to properly translate it, shouldn't be too hard to do an R-F style version.

64: 20:35 Teacup

65: At 8:37 the 'Zhong Guo Go Institute' and again at 11:08.

66: Hagino incorporated at 5:49 then Company President's Office 5 seconds later.

66: At 9:31 weekdays and saturdays and IGO SALON.

67: 9:34 Japanese Go Institute.

68: 9:43 Japanese Go Institute scrolling and 15:39 Kaiou Private Junior High School then 16:46 Igo Tournament hall.

69: 4:22 McDonalds Hamburgers.

71: 3:39 Japanese Go Institute scrolling and 8:43 Chemistry Lab. 20:20 names on board and again 20:28 names on board.

72: 6:53 Lot of black board text and then scene change. Also 15:46 Japanese Go Institute and consider looking at fade values for text before this. Also 18:01 China Go Institute.

73: 11:50 Japanese Go Institute.

74: 7:59 Newspaper. A new star appears in Korea! Hong Su-Young etc then 16:14 Japanese Go Institute. There is actually a difference between the TV broadcast and Blu-Ray in this episode. At about 4:32, Shindou talks about doing a Suberi and "If I want to win.". Those lines are not in the TV broadcast at all and that line of Suberi actually plays as he puts the stone down on R-F about 8 seconds later but it makes more sense for that to be "There you go!". The default subs had this so I kept it. If that's wrong then someone can let me know and can get it fixed easily.