

Adding a wholly custom new arena fight - from A to Z

by Iugia19

Things you will need to do:

1. ArenaParam editing and Text editing (to add the fight itself)
 - 1.1) Editing ArenaParam, to add the new entry
 - 1.2) Adding the tab text for the new tab
 - 1.3) Adding a description for the fight
2. Character changes:
 - 2.1) Adding a new AccountParam entry and text, to set the AC/pilot name, and decal/emblem.
 - 2.2) Adding a new NpcParam
 - 2.3) Adding a new NpcThinkParam (To change which AI it uses, even to a custom one)
 - 2.4) Adding a new CharalnitParam (To reference a new design file)
 - 2.5) Editing/repacking param/asmparam/asmparam.designbnd.dcx (to add the new .design file)

Everything after this step is technically optional - you can just add a fight with steps 1 and 2. You'll be able to have a custom build with a new design file, and you'll just have to re-use one of the existing AIs.

3. Adding images (except for the rank icon):
 - 3.1) Editing/repacking menu/hi/01_common.tpf.dcx and menu/hi/01_common.sblytbnd.dcx (to add a new decal to SB_DecalThumbnails, used for the icon next to the HP bar)
 - 3.2) Editing/repacking menu/hi/00_solo.tpfbd (to add the Preview image and the Emblem)
4. Creating and adding a custom AI script for the fight:
 - 4.1) Copying an existing script and modifying the witchybnd xml
 - 4.2) Decompiling and modifying the LUA script to change the logicID
5. Adding new rank icons:
 - 5.1) Creating an image containing all the icons
 - 5.2) Generating a .layout file for your image
 - 5.3) Adding your rank icons to the game

Let's break it down and go step by step.

Step 1 - ArenaParam and text editing

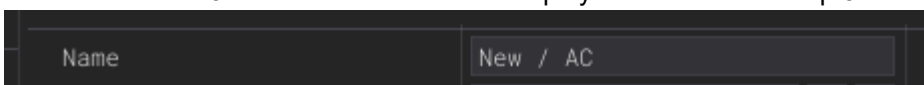
ALTERNATIVE: If you need to add MANY entries, you might want to check out [this script](#) I made.

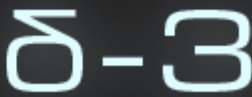
If you export all params as CSVs and all the text entries from Smithbox, you can use it to add however many entries you want. Be sure to modify the parameters at the top of the file to make sure they match up with, say, your icons etc, but the defaults should work.

1.1) Add a new entry in ArenaParam, by duplicating an existing one.

The values I've changed here are:

- ID: The existing convention is that each new page starts at a different set of hundred (page 0 starts at 100, page 1 starts at 200) so since we're adding a third page, we start at 300. Following entries would be 301, 302, etc.
- Menu category: This determines the tab. Setting it to 20 means we're creating a 3rd tab.
- MissionParam: Just determines the map.
- Rank Texture ID: Just determines the rank displayed. You'll see in step 5 how to add new ones.



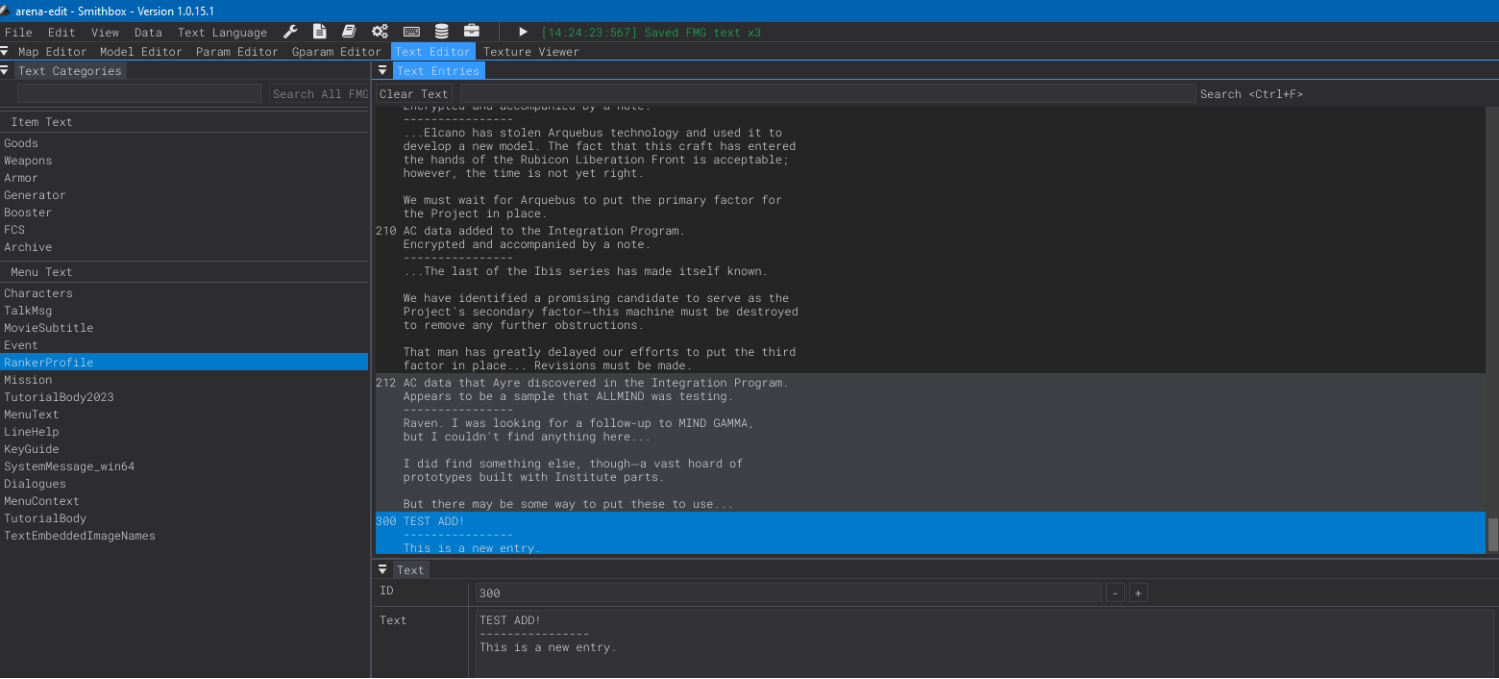


The way the tab names are fetched is that the game looks for an entry with ID [258010+menuCategory] in MenuText.

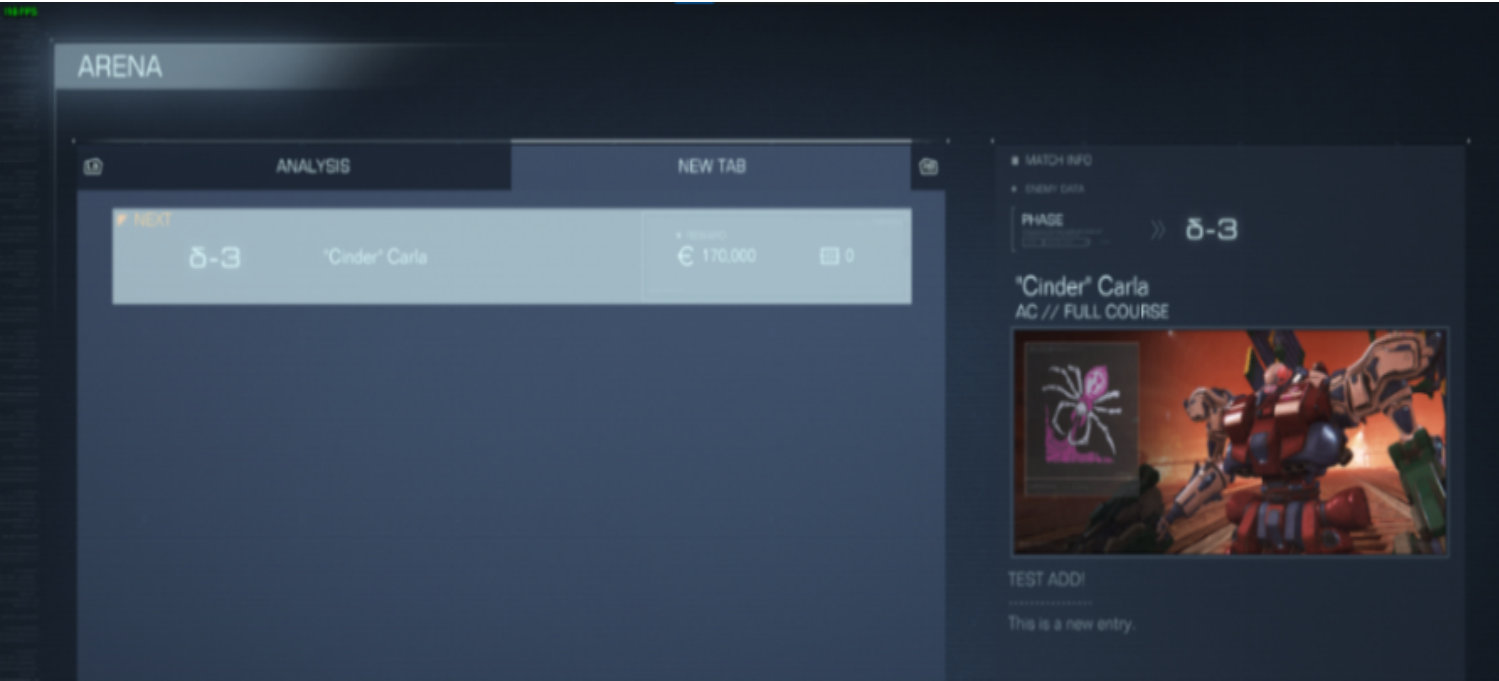
The screenshot shows the 'arena-editor - Smashbox - Version 1.0.15.1' interface. The 'Text Editor' is open, displaying a list of text categories on the left and a search results table. The 'MenuText' category is selected, and the search results show 'MenuText' with ID '258059' and value 'NEW TAB'. The 'Text Editor' toolbar is visible at the top right, and the 'Text Editor' configuration panel is open on the right side.

1.3) Giving the new entry a description

Very simple - in the text editor, under RankerProfile, the entries are stored with their ID. So we just make a new entry with ID 300.



Our work so far - a copy of an existing fight, in a new tab, with a new description (but as you can see, the name is still the same as the original):



Step 2 - All the character stuff

In the new ArenaParam entry, we now have four entries we will be focusing on. These are:

- **AccountParamID:** Determines the AC/Pilot name, as well as the Decal image next to their health bar and the Emblem that

appears during the intro.

- **CharalnitParamID:** Determines the actual AC's build, by referencing a design file.
- **NpcParamID:** Determines... No idea. But it also references an AccountParamID, so we'll have to change it accordingly here too.
- **NpcThinkParamID:** Determines which logic file/AI is used for this AC.

2.1) Giving our AC a new name by adding an AccountParam entry.

We duplicate an existing AccountParam entry. We can give it any unused ID we like. In this case, I'll do 9900. I'll use that number for most things. We will also assign it a menuDecalId of 9900, even if it doesn't exist yet. It'll be added in a later step, for now it'll just display as empty.

Fields

Search <Ctrl+N>

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----|
| Name | New / AC | |
| ID | 9900 | - + |
| ? FMG ID (fmgId) | 9900 | - + |
| [TitleCharacters | %null% | |
| TitleCharacters] | %null% | |
| ? Menu Decal ID (menuDecalId) | 9900 | |
| [Image] | View Source Image | |

Now that we've done that, we need to actually add the AC and pilot name with the text editor. The way they're looked up is simple - the lookup starts at the fmgId indicated in the AccountParam, and it expects to see, in order (yes, they're repeated twice for some reason):

- AC Name
- Pilot Name
- AC Name
- Pilot Name

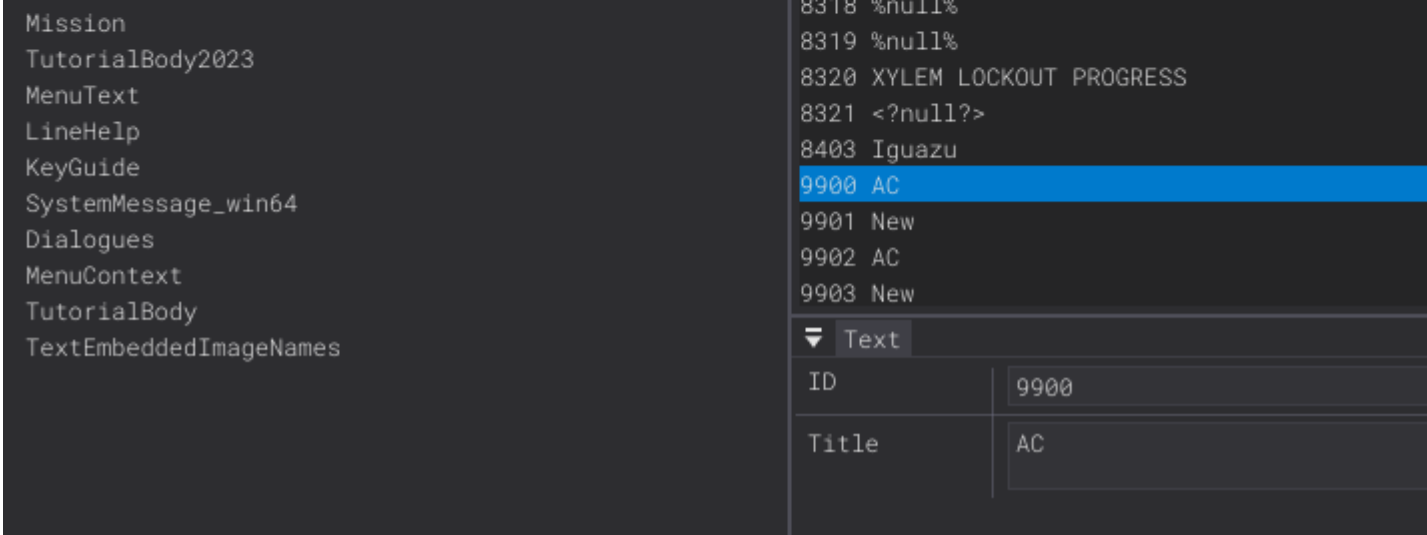
So in our case, we'll add new entries starting at ID 9900.

Map Editor Model Editor Param Editor Gparam Editor Text Editor Texture Viewer

Text Categories

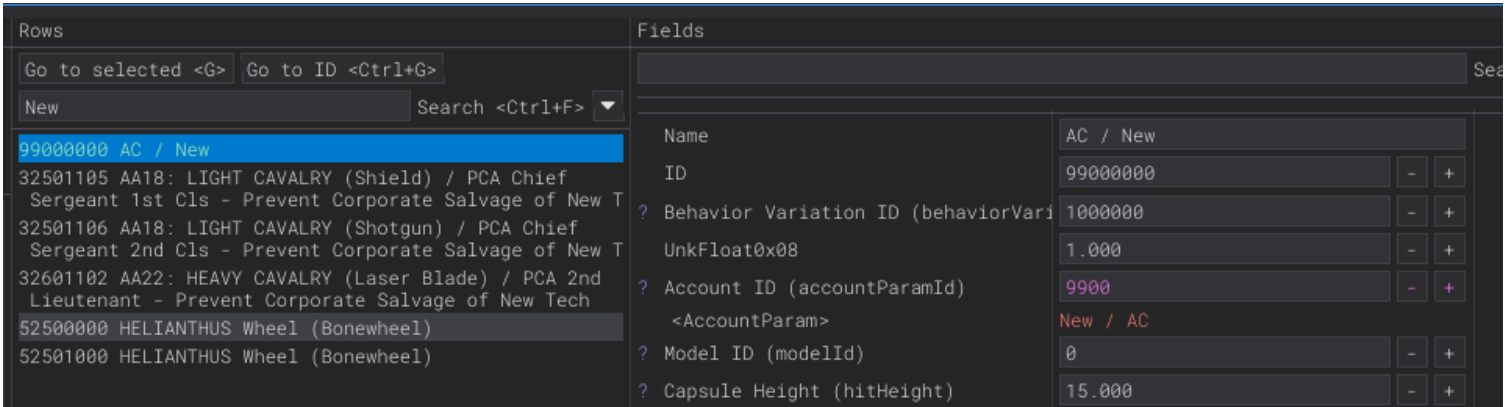
Search All FMG

| | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Item Text | |
| Goods | 8303 %null% |
| Weapons | 8304 %null% |
| Armor | 8305 %null% |
| Generator | 8306 %null% |
| Booster | 8307 %null% |
| FCS | 8308 %null% |
| Archive | 8309 %null% |
| | 8310 XYLEM SHIELD |
| | 8311 <?null?> |
| Menu Text | 8312 %null% |
| Characters | 8313 %null% |
| TalkMsg | 8314 %null% |
| MovieSubtitle | 8315 %null% |
| Event | 8316 %null% |
| RankerProfile | 8317 %null% |
| | 8318 %null% |



2.2) Creating a new NpcParam.

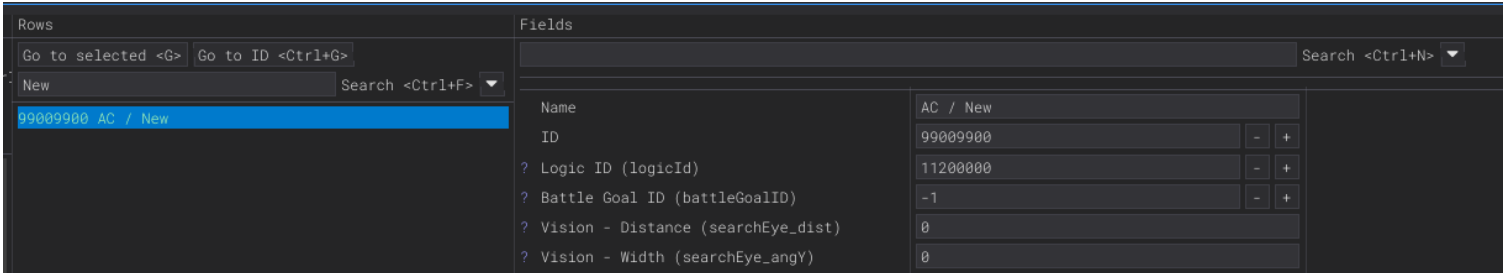
We're doing NpcParam next since this one is extremely simple, and we just need to create a new one and assign it the new AccountParam ID we made (so 9900). Of course, remember to change the AccountParamID in the ArenaParam itself as well. I made it ID 99009900 just to keep with the scheme. (Why not 9900000? Because it was taken.)



We have now changed the name, both on the Arena and in-game.

2.3) Creating a new NpcThinkParam.

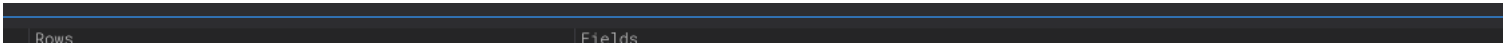
Very simple - we copy an existing one, and assign it a new ID. To be consistent, we'll use 99000000 again, same as the new NpcParam. This is where you would change the logicID to give it a different AI. I'll cover how to add custom ones later.



2.4) Creating a new CharalnitParam

This step is also very simple - we copy an existing one, give it the usual ID. This is where we start making more changes, though. This ID is what is used to reference the "Preview" image in the Arena, so it will disappear, since we haven't added one yet.

We will also set the only entry that actually matters, which is the acDesignId. This is what is used to reference a specific AC design file. I will set this to 99009900, as usual, and we'll create and add the new file in the next step.



Go to selected <G> Go to ID <Ctrl+G>

Search <Ctrl+N>

Search <Ctrl+F>

49000001 Test AC Loader

49000002 Test AC Loader

10000000 NIGHTFALL (Raven)

10001010 NIGHTFALL (Raven)

10009000 NIGHTFALL (Raven)

10100000 DEADSFLED (Coldcall)

10200000 ENTANGLE (Sulla)

10300000 MIND BETA (51-002 K/Kate Markson)

10310000 MIND GAMMA (51-003 K/ALLMIND)

10400000 SHINOBI (Rokumonsen)

10500000 STEEL HAZE (V.IV Rusty)

10501000 STEEL HAZE (V.IV Rusty)

10501100 STEEL HAZE (V.IV Rusty)

10509000 STEEL HAZE (V.IV Rusty)

10600000 STEEL HAZE ORTUS (V.IV Rusty)

10609000 STEEL HAZE ORTUS (V.IV Rusty)

10700000 OPEN FAITH (V.II Snail)

10710000 OPEN FAITH (V.II Snail - Ice Worm)

10800000 RECONFIG (V.V Hawkins)

10900000 DUAL NATURE (V.VIII Pater)

11000000 MILK TOOTH ("Honest" Brute)

11100000 INSTITUTE (51-015 GA)/EPHEMERA (Enforcement System)

11200000 FULL COURSE ("Cinder" Carla)

99009900 AC (New)

11300000 IB-C03: HAL 826 (51-201 W/Handler Walter)

11301000 IB-C03: HAL 826 (51-201 W/Handler Walter)

| Name | AC (New) | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---|---|
| UnkInt0x7C | -1 | - | + |
| Repair Kit Item ID (equippedItemId) | 94 | - | + |
| <EquipParamGoods> | Repair Kit (Upgrade 3) | | |
| UnkInt0x84 | -1 | - | + |
| UnkInt0x88 | -1 | - | + |
| UnkInt0x8C | -1 | - | + |
| UnkInt0x90 | -1 | - | + |
| UnkInt0x94 | -1 | - | + |
| UnkInt0x98 | -1 | - | + |
| UnkInt0x9C | -1 | - | + |
| UnkInt0xA0 | -1 | - | + |
| UnkInt0xA4 | -1 | - | + |
| acDesignId | 99009900 | - | + |
| Unk0xAC | 0 | - | + |
| Unk0xB0 | 0 | - | + |
| Unk0xB4 | 0 | - | + |
| Unk0xB8 | 0 | - | + |
| Unk0xBC | 0 | - | + |
| Unk0xC0 | 0 | - | + |
| UnkShort0xC4 | 0 | - | + |

2.5) Adding a new .design file

We will first create, in your mod folder (aka wherever you created the smithbox project) an "asmparam" subfolder in param.

There, we will put (and unpack with WitchyBND) asmparam.designbnd.dcx, which is the bnd containing all the design files.

To create a new AC build, I would highly recommend using [my .design editor](#). I'll open up a base AC (I'll pick Carla's, which is 11200000.design) and, I'll say, give her the moonlight. I will then save it as 99009900.design.

You *can* change DataName to match the new ID, but it's not necessary, and neither is changing AcName, but it does look nicer.

Design Editor

Design File: rams/AC6_tools/ModEngine-2.1.0.0-win64/arena-edit/param/asmparam/asmparam-designbnd-dcx/11200000.design
Browse
Load

AC Data

UgcID:

DataName: 11200000_Master

AcName: FULL COURSE

Parts

Head

50000100 HEAD - HS-5000 APPETIZER

Core

51000100 CORE - CS-5000 MAIN DISH

Arms

52000100 ARMS - AS-5000 SALAD

Legs

53000100 LEGS - 2S-5000 DESSERT

Booster

60070200 AB-J-137 KIKAKU

Generator

65040200 AG-T-005 HOKUSHI

FCS

70010100 FCS-G2/P10SLT

Weapons

Left Hand

Moo

20000200 LIGHT WAVE BLADE - IA-C01W2: MOONLIGHT

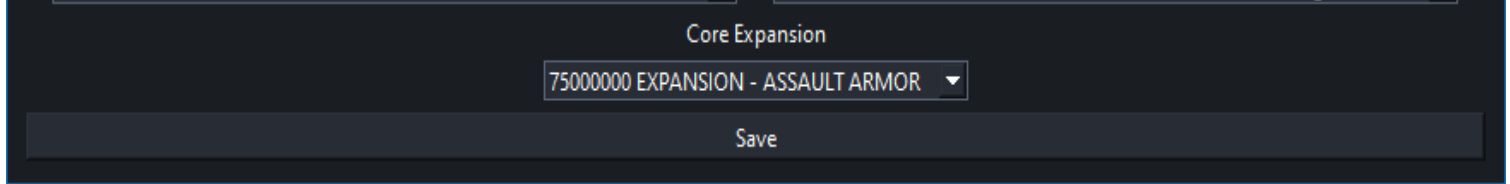
35070000 SCATTER MISSILE LAUNCHER - WS-5001 SOUP (Left)

Right Hand

10190000 SIEGE MISSILE LAUNCHER - WS-5000 APERITIF (Right)

Right Shoulder

30070000 SCATTER MISSILE LAUNCHER - WS-5001 SOUP (Right)



Now that we've done that, we just save it as 99009900.design. Next, we need to edit the _witchy-bnd4.xml file present in this folder, so that when it's repacked, it will include the new design file.

Open it up in a text editor (I use vscode), go to the bottom, and add a new file entry with the ID being 1 higher of whatever the last ID in the list is, with the filename being the new design file.



This is an operation that will be done again later on to add the preview and emblem images, and I won't bother explaining it again.

Now we repack the asmparam.designbnd.dcx file. We now have an entirely new fight (since we can change both its AI and its AC design). We just don't have the preview image and emblems (unless we just re-use existing ones).



Step 3 - Image fixes

Okay. We've gotten all the functional bits working, but what good is a fight if you can't even make it pretty? So let's fix all the missing stuff.

Just like we did for asmparam, we need to copy a few files to the mod folder (and create the folder structure). Namely, menu/hi/00_solo.tpfbd, menu/hi/01_common.sblytbnd.dcx and menu/hi/01_common.tpf.dcx

3.1) Adding a new decal thumbnail (Included next to the HP bar)

This one is kind of annoying. You need to unpack both 01_common.tpf and 01_common.sblytbnd.

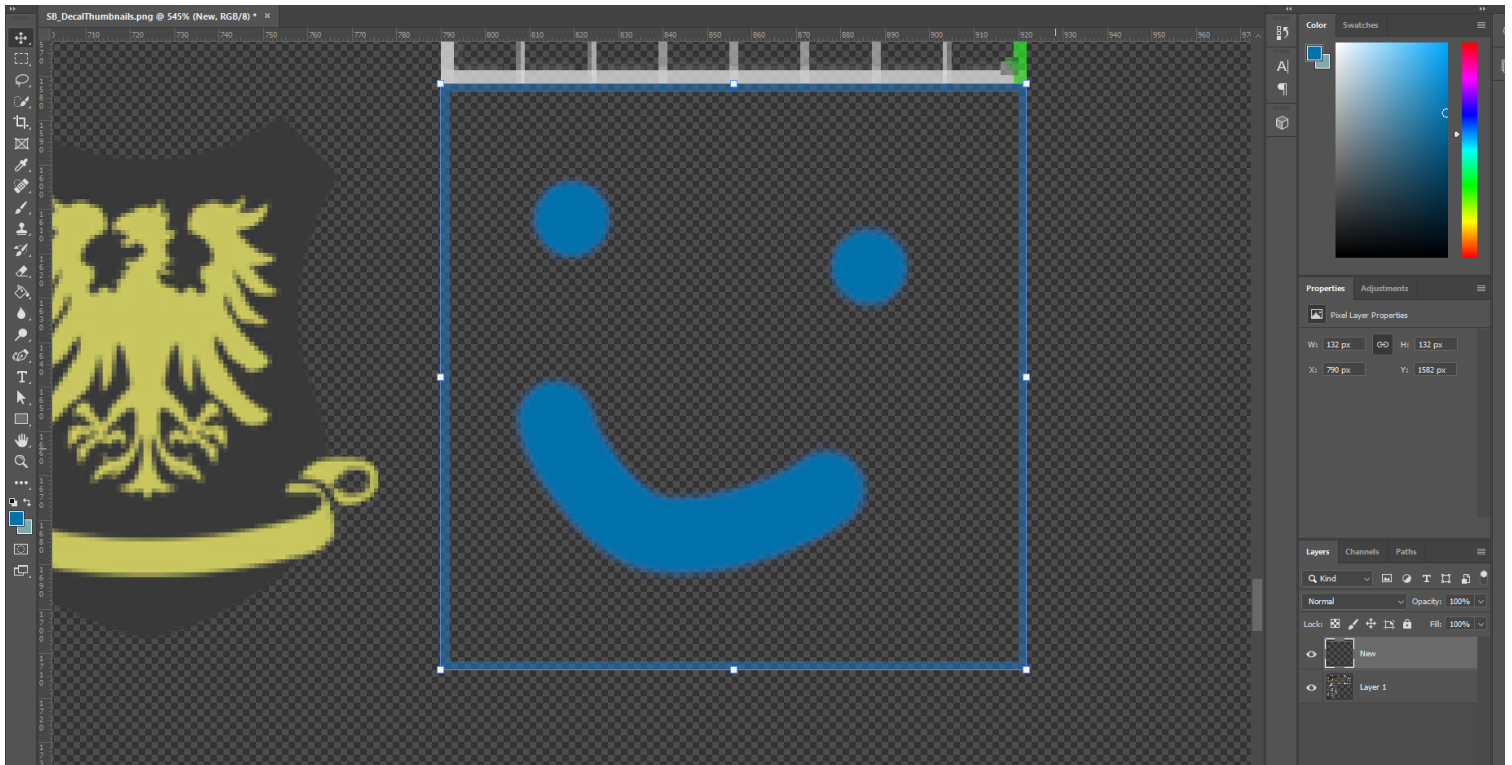
In 01_common.tpf, you'll find the SB_DecalThumbnails.dds file. Personally, I use paint.net to convert it to PNG to open it in photoshop, and to then convert it back.

The file is split up into a grid of 132x132 squares. This includes a 2 pixel border on all sides, so in reality, the emblems are 128x128.

What you want to do is add your new decal thumbnail in an empty spot. For example, you can copy the one that's a test pattern grid, and move it 132 pixels down, then erase everything but the 2 pixel wide border. And you'll have a good reference of where to place your pattern.

Once you've done this, take note of the X and Y pixel position of the top left corner of your new pattern. By that I mean the 128x128 square.

So for example, I know that the border of the new pattern (so the 132x132 square) is located at X = 790 px and Y = 1582 px. I then add 2 to each value (to account for the 2 pixel border) and I get X = 792 and Y = 1584.



Now, just save it as png (then reconvert it to DDS) and repack 01_common-tpf-dcx. We're done with it.

Next, we need to unpack and look at 01_common.sblytbnd.dcx.

This file basically contains a bunch of .design files, which indicate the positions of subtextures within larger textures. In the case of SB_DecalThumbnails, we need to open up the SB_DecalThumbnails file in 01_common.sblytbnd.dcx with a text editor, and we'll see that it lists all the individual decals.

What we need to do is add a new entry to the TextureAtlas list. The name entry has to be name="Decal_tmb_0000[THE DESIGN ID].png", and the X and Y values are what we found earlier. Height and width are always 128.

So in our case, since we picked menuDecalId as 9900, we add this line:

```
147 <SubTexture name="Decal_tmb_00003044.png" x="792" width="128" y="924" height="128" half="0"/>
148 <SubTexture name="Decal_tmb_00003045.png" x="792" width="128" y="1056" height="128" half="0"/>
149 <SubTexture name="Decal_tmb_00003046.png" x="792" width="128" y="1188" height="128" half="0"/>
150 <SubTexture name="Decal_tmb_00009900.png" x="792" width="128" y="1584" height="128" half="0"/>
151 <SubTexture name="Decal_tmb_00009998.png" x="792" width="128" y="1320" height="128" half="0"/>
152 <SubTexture name="Decal_tmb_00009999.png" x="792" width="128" y="1452" height="128" half="0"/>
```

3.2) Adding a new Decal/Emblem, and a new Preview image

3.2) Adding a new Decal/Emblem, and a new Preview Image.

This is much simpler. Unpack 00_solo.tpfbdtd.

Additionally, move 00_solo.tpfbdh to the folder as well. We don't need to unpack and edit it manually, witchy will do so for us when we repack 00_solo.tpfbdtd.

You'll see there are a BUNCH of files. What we're interested in are the files labeled:

- MENU_Archetype_10009000.tpf.dcx (These are the previews, the number is determined by CharaInitParamID)
- MENU_Decal_00000041.tpf.dcx (These are the emblems, the number is determined by DecalID)

So in our case, we'll want to create:

- MENU_Archetype_99009900.tpf.dcx
- MENU_Decal_00009900.tpf.dcx

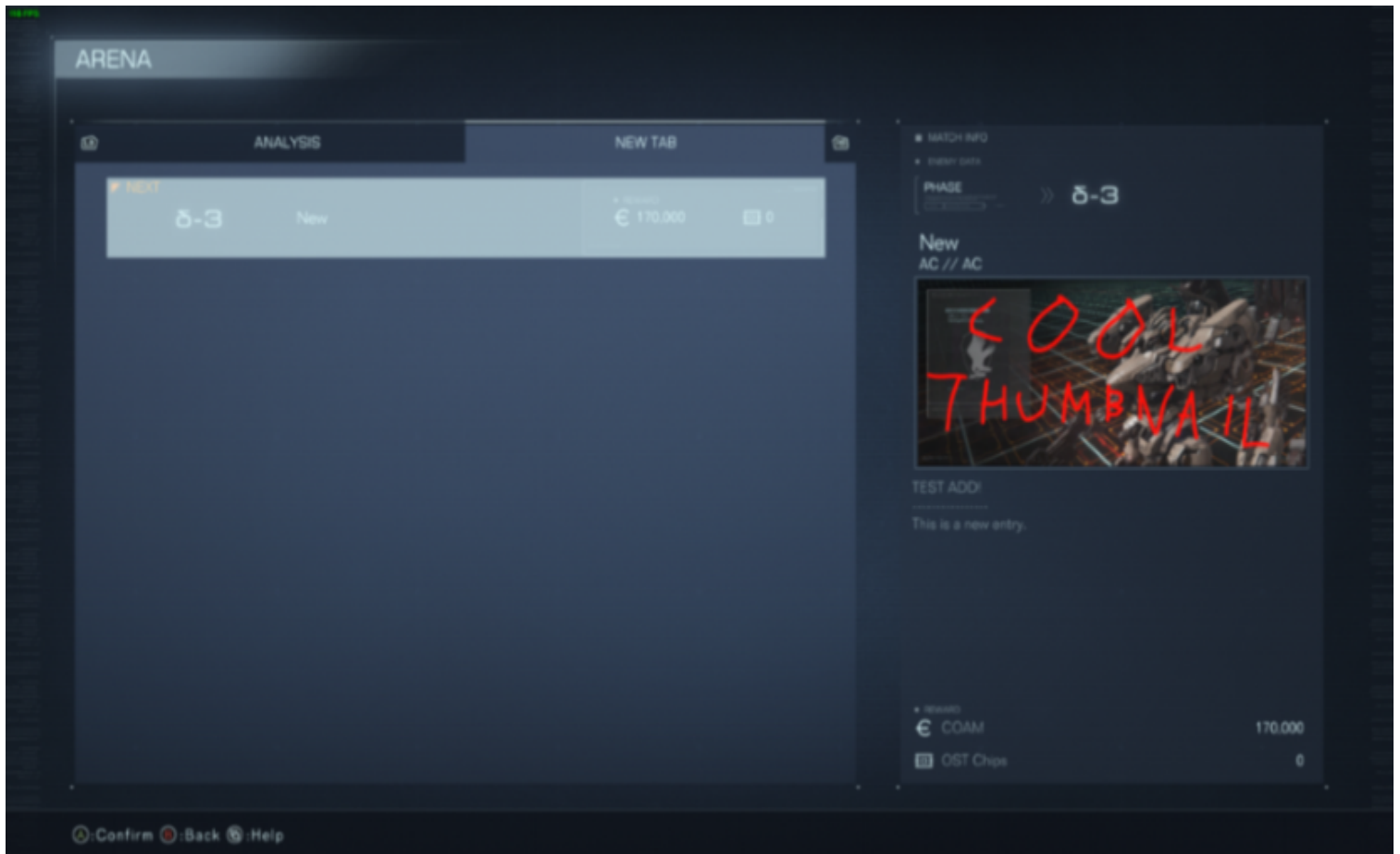
We want to first unpack any existing Archetype/Decal file.

I suggest at this point renaming the folders to match the IDs we want - it's not strictly necessary, but it makes things more organized.

Next, we can edit the images inside them. First, we need to change their names so the IDs are the new ones, and then we can just make whatever edits we like.

Once that's done, we need to once again edit the _witchy-tpf.xml file for both of them. Namely, we need to change the IDs both in the resulting BND's filename, and the filename of the image itself.

Next you just repack them, and remember to add these new DCXs as new entries in 00_solo's _witchy-bxf4.xml file, just like we did before for the design file. And then repack 00_solo.tpfbdtd as well.



Step 4 - Adding a custom lua think file (aka, a custom AI)

4.1) Copying an existing script file

Create a "script" subfolder in your mod folder. Then, find a think file, and copy it over.

It'll be called something like 11200000_logic.luabnd.dcx, which is the one for Carla. You can find the logicID in the NpcThinkParam.

4.2) Unpacking and editing the witchy XML

Unpack it with witchy. You'll see a file called 11200000_logic.lua - this is a *compiled* LUA script.

Grab a copy of DSLuaDecompiler (I like [this fork by ElaDiDu](#), since it names some variables automatically) and run it on the script. It'll produce a file called 11200000_logic.dec.lua in the folder where the decompiler exe is located. Just copy it over to the dcx folder.

Rename it to match the new logicID you want to give this AI. To be consistent, I'll use 99009900, so now it's called 99009900_logic.lua - you can delete the original file. Make sure to rename the .luagnl file in the same way.

Next, edit the _witchy-bnd4.xml in the same way you did for the preview and decal images, changing the IDs in the files and the output file. But we're not done quite yet.

4.3) Editing the LUA file

The LUA file itself also contains the ThinkID, so we'll need to modify it.

Just open it up in a text editor and replace all occurrences of the original ThinkID with the new one - in my case, 11200000 becomes 99009900. Save it, repack the DCX, and you're done. Remember to assign this new thinkID to the NpcThinkParam in Smithbox.

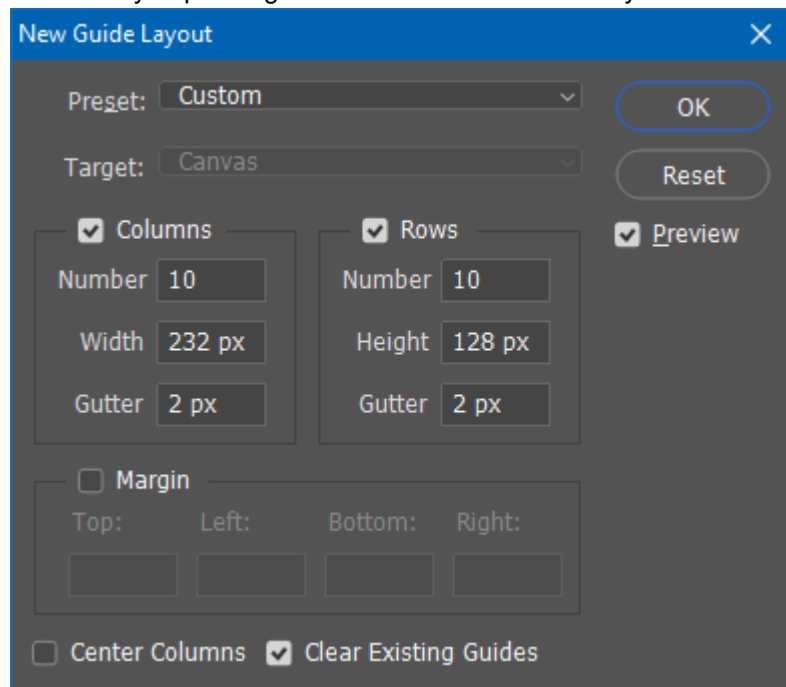
Step 5 - Adding Rank icons

Welcome to hell.

5.1) Creating the image containing all the rank icons.

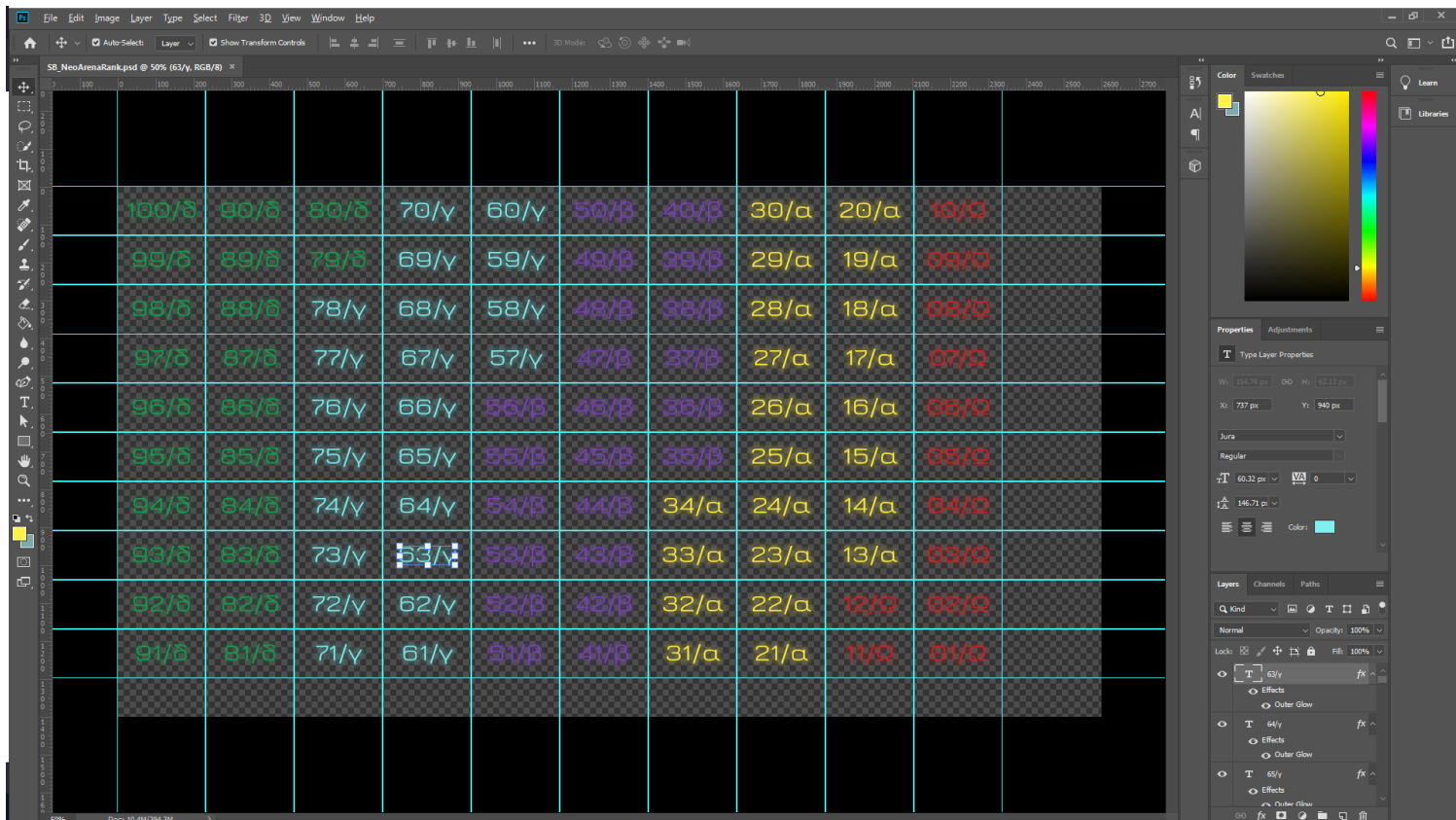
Pretty much what it says on the tin. Each rank icon is 232x128 with a 2px border.

I recommend using photoshop, as you can set up guides with the following settings (obviously the number of columns/rows should vary depending on the number of rank icons you want to add, this is for a 10x10 grid, so 100 images):



Take care to not leave empty cells at the bottom (as in, there must be less than 128 pixels empty) - it's fine if there's more than 232px empty on the right side, though.

Here's an example image, with guides enabled:



5.2) Generating the .layout file

You'll want to download the [generate_layout_file.py](#) script from the github repo, and run it.

It'll ask for a few things, like a path to the image (I would recommend giving it the .png version, then converting it to .dds afterwards using paint.net - use BC7 Linear DX 11+).

It will generate a layout file for you. For both the rank image and the .layout file, you'll need to add them to the _witchy-tpf.xml file of the respective common file - that being 01_common.tpf.dcx and 01_common.sblytbn.dcx

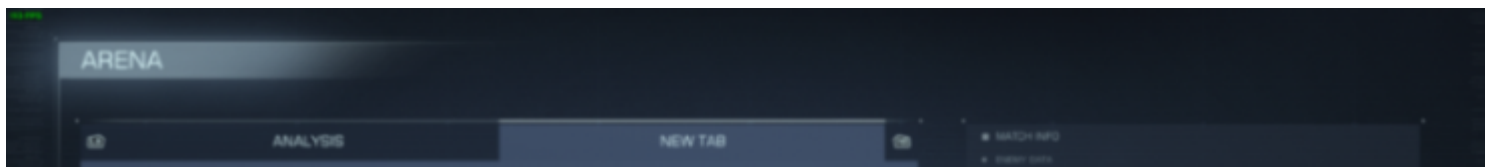
5.3) Adding your rank icons to the UI

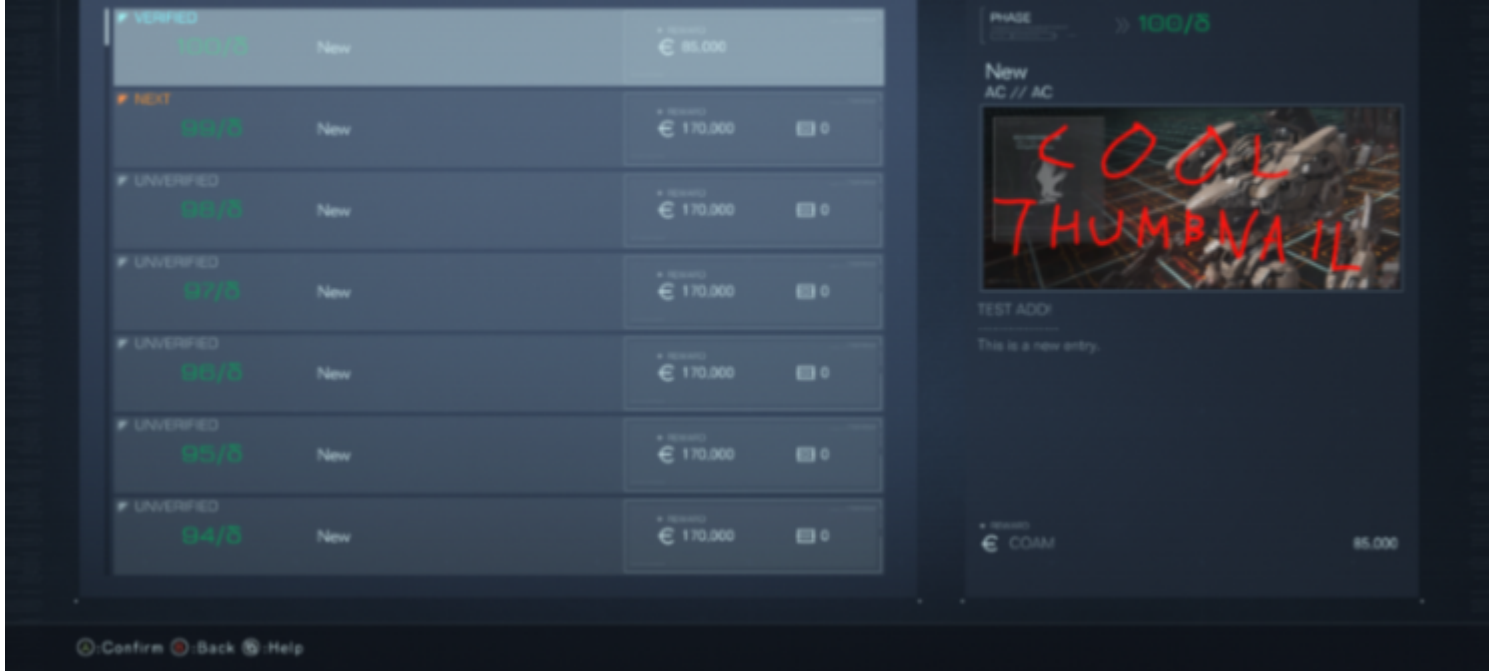
This is another step that will leverage a script I made, this time [add_icons_to_gfx.py](#) - it requires you to have [JPEXS Flash Decompiler](#) installed.

To prepare for it, you'll want to add these four gfx files in the "menu" folder:

| Programs > AC6_tools > ModEngine-2.1.0.0-win64 > arena-edit > menu > | | | | |
|--|------------------|---------------------|--------|--|
| Name | Date modified | Type | Size | |
| hi | 22/07/2024 00:21 | File folder | | |
| 01_texteffect_hi | 22/07/2024 14:31 | Shockwave Flash ... | 184 KB | |
| 02_acarena_preparing | 22/07/2024 14:31 | Shockwave Flash ... | 39 KB | |
| 02_acarena_select | 22/07/2024 14:31 | Shockwave Flash ... | 44 KB | |
| 02_npcarenareult | 22/07/2024 14:31 | Shockwave Flash ... | 31 KB | |

Afterwards, you'll just need to run it, provide it the path to the layout file, then to all four of the GFX files, and it will edit the files for you.





Voilà - you're done!