

Spine Sorter v5.70

The Animator's Survival Guide

No more manual sorting. No more missing files.

This tool ensures your Spine projects are optimal for the game engine.

It thinks like an engineer so you can work like an artist.

WHAT'S NEW IN THIS EDITION (v5.70):

- **Beta Version Fix:** 'Fetch All' now correctly handles versions with '-beta' suffix (e.g. 4.2.xx-beta).
- **Fetch All Versions:** New button to grab the complete list of historical Spine patches from the web.
- **Mac Support:** Fixed Spine version detection for macOS users.
- **Active Version Switcher:** Dropdown to select and lock the Spine version used for processing.
- **Quick Launch:** 'LAUNCH SPINE' button to open the specific selected version immediately.

- **Smart Open:** 'Open after export' now uses the specific version you selected.
- **Duplicate-image detection:** SHA1-based grouping and RECOMMENDATIONS to dedupe identical attachments.
- **Naming-convention checks:** Per-skeleton animation/skeleton checks plus summarized slot/bone/constraint examples.

What Does This Thing Do?

1. **Smart Sorting:** Automatically separates JPEGs (opaque) from PNGs (transparent).
2. **Safety Checks:** Finds files you forgot to export.
3. **Broken Link Detector:** Finds images that are missing from your computer.
4. **Animation Guardian:** Counts your animations to make sure none were left behind.
5. **Visibility Police:** Finds invisible or hidden slots that shouldn't be there.

How To Use It (In 4 Steps)

1. **Browse:** Select the folder with your **.spine** files.
2. **Select:** Choose the character file from the list.
3. **Run:** Click the big '**Run Selected File**' button.
4. **Review:** A popup report appears with the results. You can save it if you want.

Understanding the Colors

- The report uses a simple Traffic Light system:

GREEN messages = All good! Relax.

BLUE messages = **Recommendation**. Non-critical suggestions to improve naming, reduce disk usage, or follow conventions.

ORANGE messages = **Warning**. Something might be wrong (check export settings), but it won't crash the game.

RED messages = **CRITICAL**. Something is definitely broken (missing file, invisible animations).

Common Warnings: Checkboxes

Message: 'Unchecked for Export'

The Problem: You are using an image, attachment, or an entire skeleton that has the **Export** checkbox UNCHECKED in Spine.

The Result: It looks fine in Spine, but it will be invisible in the game.

The Fix: Go to Spine Tree view, find the item, and check the 'Export' dot.

New Checks: Hidden & Invisible Items

Message: 'Slot is HIDDEN in Setup Pose'

Problem: You turned off the visibility dot in Setup Mode. It might never show up in game.

Message: 'Slot is INVISIBLE (Alpha=0)'

Problem: The slot color has 0 alpha in Setup Mode. It is technically there, but invisible.

The Fix: Ensure all slots meant to be seen are visible and opaque in the Setup Pose.

New Features: Workflow & Reporting

Validate Only Mode:

- Check the box 'Check for Errors Only' to skip image processing. Use this for a super-fast health check of your spine file.

Popup Reports:

- Reports now open in a clean popup window. You can hit 'Save As' to keep a copy, preventing your folder from filling up with junk text files.

Interactive Help:

- Hover your mouse over any button or text box to see a tooltip explanation. Click the '?' button to verify this manual.

The 'Red' Errors: Hidden Transparency

Message: 'Forced to PNG (Detected Transparency)'

The Problem: You put a file in a JPEG folder (expecting it to be opaque), but we found invisible see-through pixels.

The Result: If we forced it to be a JPEG, it would have ugly white halos in-game.

The Fix: We automatically saved it as a PNG for you. To use JPEG, flattened the alpha channel in Photoshop.

New Protection: The Animation Guard

The Nightmare: You finish a complex animation, but accidentally uncheck 'Export' on the clip itself.

The Reality: Front end developers cannot find your animation.

The Solution: This tool compares your Spine project file against the output.

If it sees: **WARNING: 1 animations are checked off...**

It means: One of your animations is NOT in the game data. Check your export settings!

New: Version Management

Active Version Dropdown:

- Located on the main screen. Allows you to choose exactly which installed Spine version to use (e.g., 4.1.24 vs 4.2.35).

LAUNCH SPINE Button:

- Instantly opens the Spine Editor with the selected version. Useful for quick fixes.

Consistency:

- The tool now forces the 'Open after export' features to use the exact version you selected, preventing accidental version upgrades.

Changelog

v5.69:

- • **New:** 'Fetch All' button to retrieve all historical versions from Esoteric Software.

v5.68:

- • **Fix:** Resolved Spine version detection issues on macOS.
- • **Platform:** Improved cross-platform compatibility for version launcher.

v5.67:

- • **Feature:** Active Version Switcher (Dropdown) & Quick Launcher.
- • **fix:** 'Open after export' now respects the selected version.
- • **Improvement:** Automatic version detection sync between launcher mode and processing.
- • **UI:** Added dedicated version controls and status labels.
- • **Docs:** Updated manual and PDF guide with version management instructions.

v5.54: Added duplicate-image recommendations, fuzzy naming checks, skeleton/animation name warnings, validate-only temp-cleanup, and misc fixes.

v5.52: Unchecked Animations detection. Multiple skeletons support.

v5.51: 'Validate Only' mode (Dev). JPEG/PNG edge detection improvements.

v5.0: Smart Image Sorting. Source of Truth verification. JSON Minification.

All Features By Version

v5.68 (current):

- • Mac Support fix for version launcher

v5.67:

- • Active Spine Version Switcher & Launcher
- • Version-aware 'Open after export'
- • Duplicate-image deduplication recommendations
- • Fuzzy naming checks

v5.54:

- • Naming-convention checks (skeleton, animations)
- • Skeleton & animation name issues shown as WARNINGS
- • Validate-only runs clean up temporary JSON/export folders

v5.53:

- • Hidden/Invisible slot checks in Setup Pose
- • Popup report dialog with Save As
- • Validate Only moved to main UI

v5.52:

- • Unchecked Animations detection
- • Multiple skeletons support

v5.51:

- • Initial 'Validate Only' dev option
- • Improved JPEG/PNG soft-edge handling

v5.0:

- • Smart Image Sorting (auto-detect transparency)
- • Source-of-truth verification via Spine CLI
- • JSON minification option for output files