

# Manually Insert a Song Available on the Forum

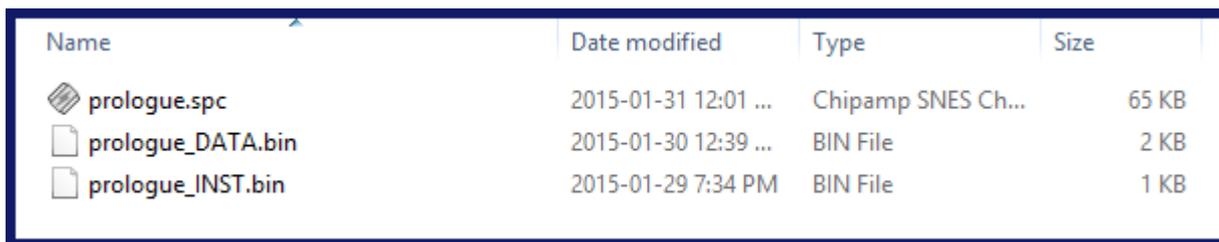
In this tutorial, we'll be using FF3us to import a song that is already in the FF6 music format. You do not need musical knowledge to complete the following steps. The only thing that will help is being familiar with the hexadecimal system, offsets, the difference between an absolute and HiROM offset, and hex editors.

## 1. Getting the file and tool

We'll be using the FFIV song "[The Prologue](#)" from our [Song Database](#). The other thing you will need is a hex editor. There are many you can choose from, but I'd suggest one that has copy selection, paste-write, and paste-insert functionalities. One good all purpose hex editor is [HxD](#), and this is what has been used to take the screenshots below.

## 2. Files we will be importing

Extract the files from **FF4\_prologue.7z**, and you will see the following files:



Name	Date modified	Type	Size
 prologue.spc	2015-01-31 12:01 ...	Chipamp SNES Ch...	65 KB
 prologue_DATA.bin	2015-01-30 12:39 ...	BIN File	2 KB
 prologue_INST.bin	2015-01-29 7:34 PM	BIN File	1 KB

**prologue.spc** is the song in SNES format. These files can be played with an SPC player or by using winamp and a plug-in. For more info on SPC files and how to play them, use Google or check out the great [extracted music tutorial](#) at FantasyAnime.com. The DATA and INST files are both binary files; the former contains the music data in FF6 format, and the latter contains the instruments used in the song. The DATA and INST files do not contain instrument samples, as those are in the game already.

We provide the same three files for every song in our song database. Some songs (most were made by tsushiy and have a "p" next to their title) require the instrument patch, which is available in the same thread. This patch installs new BRR samples in the game, giving access to a wider range of instruments to use in songs. Some song instrument (INST) files use those added instruments. This is not the case with our prologue song, so we do not need to apply the patch in this tutorial.

## 3. Choosing the right spot

The first thing that you have to ask yourself is *"do I want to replace an existing song or expand the number of existing songs?"* If you only want to replace a existing song you can skip to section 4. To expand the number of songs there are few thing to do. First you have to move the \$C53E96-\$C53F94 song pointers block because there is no room to add an extra one. To find a spot in non-expanded ROM, you can look [here](#). The offsets in this list take in account the ROM header though while my whole tutorial assume you have a headerless ROM, so substract 0x200 from the offset you choose. You can also expand your ROM and put the pointers in the \$FX banks.

I decided for the example to take the \$EEAF01 spot, which has 767 free bytes, which is more than enough. As shown in the image below, I select with the mouse the pointer block, I do *Ctrl+C*, *Ctrl+G* to enter my destination (you can scroll a long time for the same result) and then *Right-Click→Paste write*. Now let's say I would put my song at \$F30540 in expanded ROM, I would type **40 05 F3** at \$EEB0000 (see right picture). You would use song ID \$56 for your new song in game events as an example. As you have guessed pointers are always inverted whether they are two or three bytes long. As for the old pointer data copied, you can blank with 00 or FF all the data since you moved it, giving you room for other things if needed.

```

Offset(h) 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 0A 0B 0C 0D 0E 0F
00053E80 FF E0 FF E0
00053E90 FF E0 FF EC FF E0 7A 5C C8 A0 5C C8 DB 83 C9 9D
00053EA0 B4 C8 82 C8 C8 1E 64 C8 33 67 C8 69 6D C8 C5 70
00053EB0 C8 BF 74 C8 F8 78 C8 AF 7C C8 28 80 C8 38 84 C8
00053EC0 9A 88 C8 ED 8B C8 56 8F C8 6F 95 C8 29 98 C8 62
00053ED0 9B C8 D4 A5 C8 36 AD C8 B8 B7 C8 E8 BF C8 4C C2
00053EE0 C8 C1 CE C8 30 D3 C8 56 DA C8 BF DD C8 6B E1 C8
00053EF0 57 E3 C8 E2 E3 C8 48 EA C8 A6 EF C8 72 F4 C8 15
00053F00 FA C8 43 FE C8 4B 05 C9 E9 05 C9 66 0A C9 B6 90
00053F10 C9 A2 93 C9 9C 14 C9 14 8E C9 5F 97 C9 4C 1A C9
00053F20 DD 1E C9 8F 26 C9 97 29 C9 0B 2E C9 58 32 C9 FF
00053F30 37 C9 AE 3F C9 65 44 C9 B3 4A C9 6F 4D C9 16 53
00053F40 C9 DB 53 C9 C5 54 C9 57 55 C9 C9 62 C9 CD 63 C9
00053F50 03 69 C9 6E 6A C9 19 6B C9 C2 6B C9 DA 70 C9 C9
00053F60 71 C9 06 7A C9 EB 7C C9 7C 7F C9 42 88 C9 99 8C
00053F70 C9 E8 8C C9 85 8D C9 DF 97 C9 BF 9D C9 4F A2 C9
00053F80 D8 A3 C9 51 AC C9 9F AE C9 7A 5C C8 B9 B9 C9 F9
00053F90 BA C9 3F DF C9 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00053FA0 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00

Offset(h) 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 0A 0B 0C 0D 0E 0F
002EAEF0 A9 D0 50 8F 5C B8 7E A9 90 E0 8F 5E B8 7E E2 20
002EAF00 60 7A 5C C8 A0 5C C8 DB 83 C9 9D B4 C8 82 C8 C8
002EAF10 1E 64 C8 33 67 C8 69 6D C8 C5 70 C8 BF 74 C8 F8
002EAF20 78 C8 AF 7C C8 28 80 C8 38 84 C8 9A 88 C8 ED 8B
002EAF30 C8 56 8F C8 6F 95 C8 29 98 C8 62 9B C8 D4 A5 C8
002EAF40 36 AD C8 B8 B7 C8 E8 BF C8 4C C2 C8 C1 CE C8 30
002EAF50 D3 C8 56 DA C8 BF DD C8 6B E1 C8 57 E3 C8 E2 E3
002EAF60 C8 48 EA C8 A6 EF C8 72 F4 C8 15 FA C8 43 FE C8
002EAF70 4B 05 C9 E9 05 C9 66 0A C9 B6 90 C9 A2 93 C9 9C
002EAF80 14 C9 14 8E C9 5F 97 C9 4C 1A C9 DD 1E C9 8F 26
002EAF90 C9 97 29 C9 0B 2E C9 58 32 C9 FF 37 C9 AE 3F C9
002EAF00 65 44 C9 B3 4A C9 6F 4D C9 16 53 C9 DB 53 C9 C5
002EAFB0 54 C9 57 55 C9 C9 62 C9 CD 63 C9 03 69 C9 6E 6A
002EAF00 C9 19 6B C9 C2 6B C9 DA 70 C9 C9 71 C9 06 7A C9
002EAFD0 EB 7C C9 7C 7F C9 42 88 C9 99 8C C9 E8 8C C9 85
002EAFE0 8D C9 DF 97 C9 BF 9D C9 4F A2 C9 D8 A3 C9 51 AC
002EAF00 C9 9F AE C9 7A 5C C8 B9 B9 C9 F9 BA C9 3F DF C9
002EB000 FF FF
  
```

The next thing to do is to change the following code. It's the only place pointers are read and you have to modify each LDA instruction so new base offset, new base offset + 1, new base offset + 2. This is not an ASM course so I'm not explaining further except only mentioning you have a total of 9 bytes to change.

### Original code

```

C5/0538: BF963EC5   LDA $C53E96,X (SPC pointer low byte)
C5/053C: 8510      STA $10
C5/053E: BF973EC5   LDA $C53E97,X (SPC pointer middle byte)
C5/0542: 8511      STA $11
C5/0544: BF983EC5   LDA $C53E98,X (SPC pointer high byte)
C5/0548: 8512      STA $12

```

### Modified code

```

C5/0538: BF01AFEE   LDA $EEAF01,X (SPC pointer low byte)
C5/053C: 8510      STA $10
C5/053E: BF02AFEE   LDA $EEAF02,X (SPC pointer middle byte)
C5/0542: 8511      STA $11
C5/0544: BF03AFEE   LDA $EEAF03,X (SPC pointer high byte)
C5/0548: 8512      STA $12

```

Last thing to do is changing the total number of songs. The offset is \$C53C5E. It's a single byte that should be \$55. Increase it of one each time you add a new song (replacing an existing one does not count). So congratulation you have not expanded pointer and can add as much songs as you want up to a limit of 255!

## 4. Verifying the song length

The next thing to do is verifying if your song fit in the spot you have chosen. If you expanded the song pointers and put your song in expanded ROM, you'll likely won't have to consider the following but some info is still important. Open the DATA file with HxD. The first two bytes (inverted) are the amount of bytes the song take. In our case it is 0x044C bytes, as seen below.

```

Offset (h) 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 0A 0B 0C 0D 0E 0F
00000000 4C 04 26 00 4C 04 26 00 E6 00 63 01 02 02 8B 02

```

You have to verify the song will not "hit" the next song or the data after. If you locate your song in regular non-expanded ROM but outside the songs block, refer to the [ROM map](#) to verify. All you have to do is add to your song offset the song length and verify it is lower than next data. If you only replace a song by *The Prelude*, check the [song list](#). Song are in order that they appear in the ROM. You need to consider the song following yours. I decided we are replacing "Another World of Beast".

\$21	\$C8EFA6	Another World of Beasts
\$22	\$C8F472	Grand Finale #2

$$\text{\$C8F472} - \text{\$C8EFA6} = \text{0x04CC}$$

We are below the limit with our 0x044C bytes for *The Prelude* so we are ready to insert the song!

## 5. Copying the song data

Copy all the content of *prelude\_DATA.bin* (Ctrl+C) go to your ROM do Ctrl+G and enter "08EFA6". You'll land on the offset you need to paste the song data (Right-click→Paste-write). The below two screenshots are the beginning and ed of the song pasted.

Offset (h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F
0008EF60	53	53	C4	32	4C	B3	C4	1E	53	53	C4	32	4E	4E	4E	4C
0008EF70	B3	C4	1E	53	53	C4	32	47	E3	E2	01	C4	0A	C5	60	46
0008EF80	E2	1F	53	E3	C5	60	0A	E2	1F	53	E3	C4	32	4C	B3	C4
0008EF90	1E	53	53	C4	32	4C	B3	C4	1E	53	53	C4	32	47	E3	B6
0008EFA0	B6	B6	B6	F6	18	EF	4C	04	26	00	4C	04	26	00	E6	00
0008EFB0	63	01	02	02	8B	02	48	03	B9	03	E8	03	26	00	E6	00
0008EFC0	63	01	02	02	8B	02	48	03	B9	03	E8	03	F2	32	D4	D9
0008EFD0	01	F0	78	C4	3C	C6	1E	DC	20	D6	05	47	AC	4F	B3	4F
0008EFE0	4F	B3	4A	4A	4A	4A	71	AC	79	B3	79	79	B3	74	74	74
0008EFF0	74	D7	01	AC	09	B3	09	09	B3	04	04	04	04	01	AC	09

Offset (h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F
0008F3B0	A9	51	4F	51	51	4F	51	4A	B6	A8	A8	A8	A8	A8	A8	A9
0008F3C0	51	4F	51	51	4F	51	74	B7	4A	74	B7	51	4F	51	51	4F
0008F3D0	51	74	BA	4A	BA	74	B7	51	4F	51	51	4F	51	74	B7	4A
0008F3E0	74	B7	4A	74	BA	74	BA	82	B7	51	4F	51	51	4F	51	F6
0008F3F0	02	04	B9	B7												
0008F400	B9	B7	B9	D6	05	2B										
0008F410	AB	A9	AB	A9	AB	A9	AB	2B	AB	A9	AB	A9	AB	A9	AB	F6
0008F420	E5	F3	C4	50	DC	24	C6	40	D4	C9	30	12	EF	DD	0A	E0
0008F430	08	B7	B9	B7	B9	D6	04	2B	AB	A9	AB	2B	AB	A9	AB	2B
0008F440	AB	A9	AB	39	AB	A9	AB	2B	AB	A9	AB	2B	AB	A9	AB	2B

You can optionally put 00 or FF at the place of the rest of the old song. This way you can easily see where there is unused space.

Offset (h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F
0008F3E0	74	B7	4A	74	BA	74	BA	82	B7	51	4F	51	51	4F	51	F6
0008F3F0	02	04	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
0008F400	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
0008F410	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
0008F420	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
0008F430	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
0008F440	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
0008F450	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
0008F460	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
0008F470	00	00	A1	05	98	F4	15	FA	98	F4	A9	F5	8B	F6	71	F7

## 6. Changing the song pointer

If you have to put your song elsewhere in the ROM, you need to modify the pointer and you can

calculate its position will the below formula. It's simply pointers base offset + (song ID multiplied by 3). The other method is doing a hex search in HxD with the old offset of the song. In the case of as an example \$C8EFA6, search for A6EFC8.

$$\text{\$C53E96} + (\text{0x21} * \text{0x03}) = \text{\$C53EF9}$$

Offset (h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F
00053EE0	C8	C1	CE	C8	30	D3	C8	56	DA	C8	BF	DD	C8	6B	E1	C8
00053EF0	57	E3	C8	E2	E3	C8	48	EA	C8	A6	EF	C8	72	F4	C8	15
00053F00	FA	C8	43	FE	C8	4B	05	C9	E9	05	C9	66	0A	C9	B6	90

### 7. Changing the instruments

Now the other part of the job is changing the song channels instruments. It's the same logic to calculate the beginning of a song instruments, except you multiply your song ID by 32 (0x20). The instruments file is 32 bytes in size (16 channels times 2 bytes per instruments). First byte is instrument ID, second byte is always 00.

$$\text{\$C53F95} + (\text{0x21} * \text{0x20}) = \text{\$C543B5}$$

Once the instruments data is pasted, save your ROM. Note that you can save (Ctrl+S) anytime during the tutorial, it does not matter.

Offset (h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F
000543A0	00	07	00	14	00	0F	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
000543B0	00	00	00	00	00	0D	00	0E	00	0C	00	12	00	16	00	07
000543C0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
000543D0	00	00	00	00	00	08	00	0E	00	0D	00	2C	00	12	00	14
000543E0	00	16	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
000543F0	00	00	00	00	00	0D	00	08	00	0B	00	1B	00	1E	00	02
00054400	00	17	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
00054410	00	00	00	00	00	0D	00	0E	00	1E	00	02	00	0F	00	11
00054420	00	12	00	22	00	14	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00

You'll notice *The Prelude* has 6 instruments. As mentioned previously some songs downloaded from the forum (not a majority) might have incorrect instruments. In such an event, you'll need to assign the correct instruments. There is a complete list of original instruments [here](#). You'll need to identify each channel instrument and replace what you think are the wrong ones. A bit trial and error but you'll develop your music skills. If you have instruments IDs in your file from \$40 and above it mean your song require the instrument patch available in the same thread as the songs. The songs requiring will have a "P" next to their name. The wrong assigned instruments are often those, because the author added more instruments in his hack without noticing the admins, resulting in instrument indexes above the limit of the patch.

Offset (h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F
000543A0	00	07	00	14	00	0F	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
000543B0	00	00	00	00	00	0D	00	0E	00	0C	00	12	00	16	00	07
000543C0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
000543D0	00	00	00	00	00	08	00	0E	00	0D	00	2C	00	12	00	14
000543E0	00	16	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
000543F0	00	00	00	00	00	0D	00	08	00	0B	00	1B	00	1E	00	02
00054400	00	17	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00

## 8. Details on song channels

A thing that differs between songs available on the forum and original songs are the channel pointers in the song. Below is a channel of *The Prelude* and the song at the end loop toward the beginning of the blue section. The last command is *F6 02 04* which mean continue by going back to 0x0402 byte after the start of the song. Every song in the original game have these command relative to their offset in the ROM meaning this F6 command would look like as *F6 8E F3* (\$C8F38E). It would not be exactly this because a song don't redo the first channel commands twice but I talk about this because such a tutorial would not have been possible with an unmodified original song, because when you move it you need to change all the song loop commands and channel pointers at beginning of song data. By having the custom song channel pointers start at 00 00 and not the song offset last two bytes, we easy the process a lot.

Offset (h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F
0008F380	A8	A8	A8	7E	B6	7E	B6	7E	7E	7E	B6	F6	CD	03	D4	D9
0008F390	01	C4	50	C6	40	DC	24	B6	A8	A8	A8	A8	A8	A8	A9	AC
0008F3A0	D6	03	51	4F	51	51	4F	51	4A	B6	A8	A8	A8	A8	A8	A8
0008F3B0	A9	51	4F	51	51	4F	51	4A	B6	A8	A8	A8	A8	A8	A8	A9
0008F3C0	51	4F	51	51	4F	51	74	B7	4A	74	B7	51	4F	51	51	4F
0008F3D0	51	74	BA	4A	BA	74	B7	51	4F	51	51	4F	51	74	B7	4A
0008F3E0	74	B7	4A	74	BA	74	BA	82	B7	51	4F	51	51	4F	51	F6
0008F3F0	02	04	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
0008F400	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00

Below, a loop command of an original song pointing at \$C8F9B9. In the case of a custom song, we would see more or less *F6 0X XX*, likely a number below 0x0A00.

Offset (h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F
0008F9E0	9E	D7	3C	D8	9E	4A	B7	4A	58	B9	58	5B	E2	07	74	D7
0008F9F0	2E	D8	E3	E3	BA	9E	BA	9E	BA	9E	BA	9E	7E	9A	D7	0E
0008FA00	D8	7E	BA	9E	BA	9E	BA	9E	BA	9E	D7	00	D8	8C	62	D7
0008FA10	00	D8	F6	B9	F9	2C	04	3B	FA	43	FE	3B	FA	BC	FA	35
0008FA20	FB	CD	FB	62	FC	C3	FC	28	FD	99	FD	3B	FA	BC	FA	35
0008FA30	FB	CD	FB	62	FC	C3	FC	28	FD	99	FD	F0	49	F4	F8	F7

## 9. Conclusion

This tutorial was aimed at beginners. The rest of music hacking is harder and require some practice.

However it is in the range of anyone having the time and patience to learn. As a conclusion I've made a small video showing the import and at the same time did a little tribute to those who contributed to the song database.

## 10. Result in-game

[sd-result.mp4](#)

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