

Main features

Simple Procedural Asset Creator allows you to create simple asset generators procedurally, using a universal node-based system, keeping all the workflow in-editor.

Main features:

- Possibility to create various types of simple asset generators
- 20 example asset generators included (+ Example how-to maps)
- Intuitive node-based system
- Easy spline shape based mesh generation nodes
- Large set of exposed parameters for mesh generation rules
- Custom parameter system with formulas, bool conditions and more
- Procedural mesh decals
- Angle-based mesh smoothing (+ All Smooth & All Flat options)
- HDRI lighting setup with many customization options
- Vertex Color control for easy material colorization
- Node instancing & 'variations' system
- Assets can be saved as a regular Static Meshes & exported as .FBX or .OBJ
- Full Blueprint project, clean & easy to extend
- ... More, all described in this documentation.

Quick start guide

Simple P.A.C. comes as a standalone project and has most of important things already prepared for you (viewport layout, colors and other useful project settings).

How to quickly check the included content and see it working:

- 1. Open any generator map, e.g. the /Maps/BookGenerator/BookGenerator1_FlatShaded map
- 2. Click Perspective → ASSET in the upper left pane
- 3. Select the cogwheel icon and click Randomize to see it in action.



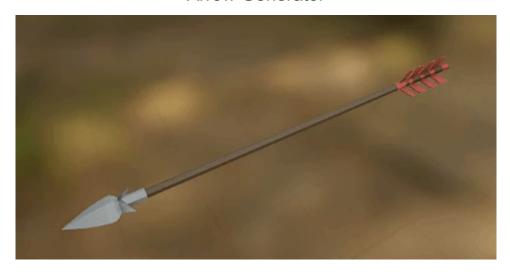
It might be possible to avoid the **ASSET** view setting step, if <u>this bug</u> is fixed. It's already reported, but no issue tracker is available yet.

... You can check any included generator or example map this way.

A next good step would be to look at this documentation further or play with the examples.

Included example generators

Arrow Generator



How it's built:



(Click on the image for full sized version)

Shaft: Spline Shaped Mesh (SSM) with simple straight Path and circle Shape.

Head Socket: Same as Shaft, but with Path Depth Start at 0.95 and smaller Shape Scale Offset.

Head: SSM with non-planar **Shape** to make the head arrow-like. It shows the possibility of having non-planar Shapes. It has simple straight **Path** and it's placed on **Head Socket**'s **Placement Spline**, at 1.0 time. It also uses a **Profile** to define its shape and make it sharp.

Sinew: SSM with Path Depth End at 0.22 and a Profile to make it look like it's segmented.

Fletching: Contour Shaped Mesh, placed on Shaft's Placement Spline at 0.02 time. It uses one of the Fletching Shapes and instantiates itself 3 times, using Instance Rotation X with values -40, 90, 220 to make it properly angled.

Arrow Length: Controls X location of second point of main Path.

Fletching Rotations: Uses value pool with values: -40, 90, 220. It's assigned to Fletching's Instance

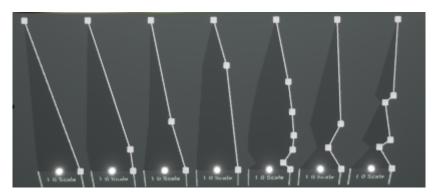
Rotation X value, so the Fletching can instantiate itself on these rotation angles.

Fletching Placement: 0.07 value, assigned to Placement Spline Time of Fletching.

Fletching Shape: Random pool of 5 different shapes for Fletching.

Head Profile: Random pool of 7 different **Profiles** for **Head**. **Sinew Profile**: Random pool of 3 different **Profiles** for **Sinew**.

Shaft/Head/Sinew Color: Random pool of different Colors for Shaft, Head & Sinew.



Example: Arrow's Head Profiles

Map: /Maps/ArrowGenerator/ArrowGenerator1_FlatShaded

Axe Generator



How it's built:



(Click on the image for full sized version)

Handle: Spline Shaped Mesh (SSM) with handle-shaped Path and Profile.

Handle Grip: Same as Handle, but with less **Shape Scale Offset** value and **Path Depth Start** at **0.2**, Path Depth End at **0.5**.

Reinforcement: Same as **Handle**, but with custom **Profile** to make it appear like it's segmented, with **Path Depth Start** at **0.8** and **Path Depth End** at **0.9**.

Head Core: SSM placed on **Handle**'s **Placement Spline** at **0.98** time. It's profiled to make it fit the handle and it has **Shape** that can seamlessly integrate with Head's (**Head Select**) Shape - more info in the comments.

Head Select: <u>Select</u> node with different axe heads to pick. Heads are <u>Contour Shaped</u> <u>Meshes</u>, where <u>Edge Shape</u> fits the <u>Shape</u> of <u>Head Core</u>. More info in the comments.

Head Core YZ Scale: Controls Y and Z scale of Head Core.

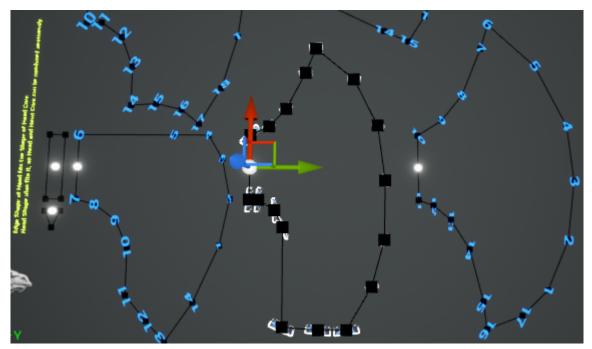
Head XZ Scale: Controls X and Z scale of axe heads. Uses a Formula with "(C * 0.2)", where C is Head Core YZ Scale. This way it always fits current Head Core, no matter what scale it has.

Head Y Scale: Controls Y scale of axe heads. Uses a Formula with "(X*Length)", where X is Head XZ Scale and Length is Head Length. This makes it always proportional and allows to control head length with separate Head Length parameter.

Head Length: Set to random value between 0.8 and 1.4, used in the **Head Y Scale** parameter. **Head Select Index**: Random value between 0 and 6, used in the **Head Select** node to pick random Heads from it.

Grip ON/OFF: It uses **IF Conditions** to turn the grip on/off when needed. More info in comment.

Reinforcement ON/OFF: Random bool value, to make the **Reinforcement** appear randomly. ... There are also the **Color**, **Material** & **Shape** parameters with random value pools.



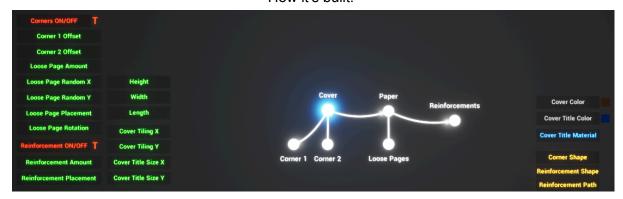
Example: Axe Head Shapes

Map: /Maps/AxeGenerator/AxeGenerator1_FlatShaded

Book Generator



How it's built:



(Click on the image for full sized version)

Cover: Spline Shaped Mesh (SSM) with simple rectangle Shape and cover-shaped Path.

Paper: SSM with Shape that fits Cover's Path and simple straight Path.

Reinforcements: Instanced on Paper's Placement Spline, SSM with custom Shape & Path.

Loose Pages: Adds loose pages to the book, it's an SSM with custom **Shape** and the same **Path** as **Paper**'s **Path**. Instanced on **Paper**'s **Placement Spline**.

Corner 1, Corner 2: <u>Contour Shaped Meshes</u> with custom contour Shapes, placed on Cover's Placement Spline at 1.0 time. Y location offset based on current book Length.

Height: Controls book height, by default set to random range 0.3 - 0.6.

Width: Controls book width, by default set to random range 0.47 - 0.53.

Length: Controls book length, by default set to random range 0.45 - 0.55.

Cover Tiling X/Y: UV tiling for Cover, set to random range 1.0 - 1.5.

Cover Title Size X/Y: Size of title symbol on Cover, set to random range 8 - 15.

Corner Offset X/Y: Y location offset for **Corner 1 & 2**, to make them fit current book length. Uses a <u>Formula</u> with "(L* 48)", where L is the <u>Length</u> parameter.

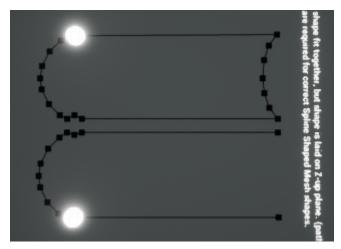
Loose Page Amount: Amount of Loose Pages node instances, set to random range 0 - 10.

Loose Page Random X/Y/Placement/Rotation: Random location & rotation offsets for **Loose Pages** node instances, to make the loose pages appear more natural.

Reinforcement Amount: Amount of **Reinforcements** node instances, set to random range 2 - 15. **Reinforcement Placement**: Controls **Reinforcements** node instance placement along spline.

... There are also the ON/OFF parameters for **Corners** and **Reinforcements** (so they appear randomly) and random Color, Shape & Material pools for different asset parts.

Book generator also uses Global Mesh Decal for the title symbol.



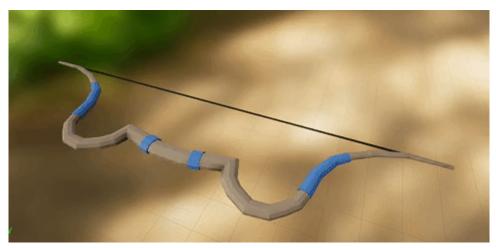
Example: Book Paper Shape & Cover Path

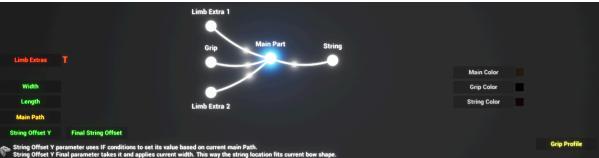
Map: /Maps/BookGenerator/BookGenerator1_FlatShaded

... Rest of the generators work similarly, all based on the parent-placement methods or shape-fitting. More information available in the Main Concepts.

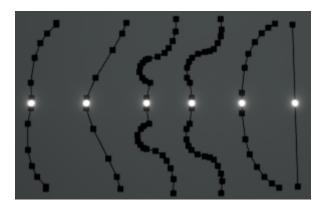
See the included generator maps to have access to all details, to see how it's made. In case of any questions, feel free to ask on the support email.

Bow Generator





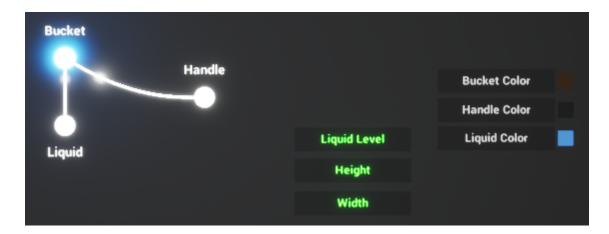
(Click on the image for full sized version)

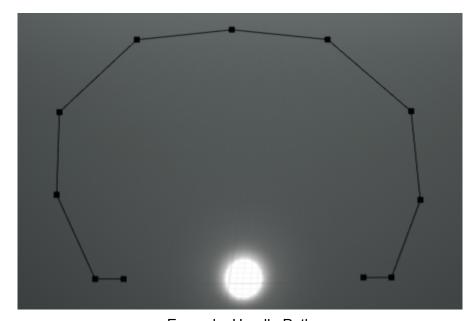


Map: /Maps/BowGenerator/BowGenerator1_FlatShaded

Bucket Generator





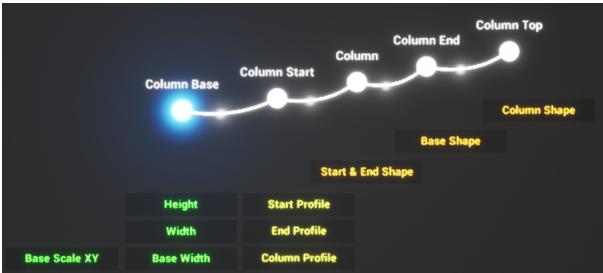


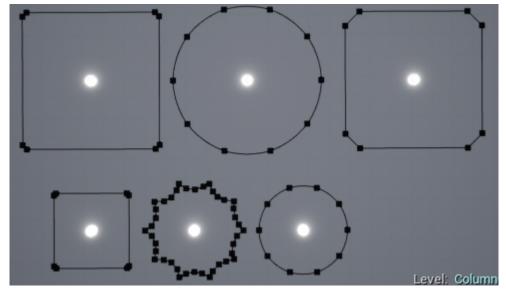
Example: Handle Path

 ${\tt Map:/Maps/BucketGenerator/LowPolyBucketGenerator}$

Column Generator







Example: Column Shapes for main <u>Spline Shaped Mesh</u>. Map: /Maps/ColumnGenerator/ColumnGenerator1_FlatShaded

Fence Generator





(Click on the image for full sized version)



Example: Fence Picket Shapes.

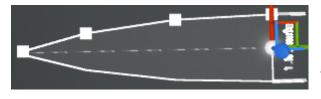
 ${\tt Map:/Maps/FenceGenerator/FenceGenerator1_FlatShaded}$

Grass Generator





(Click on the image for full sized version)



Example: Profile for grass blades.

Мар:

/Maps/GrassGenerator/GrassGenerator_FlatShaded

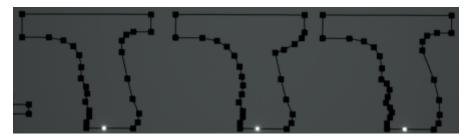
This generator serves as an example of the <u>Variations</u> feature, where each blade is different.

Gun Generator





(Click on the image for full sized version)



Example: Gun grip Shapes.

Map: /Maps/GunGenerator/GunGenerator1_FlatShaded

Gun generator is an example where all nodes are connected to the root node and there is no parent-based placement happening. Part placement is done in an 'absolute' way, by specifying XYZ locations in root space for each asset part.

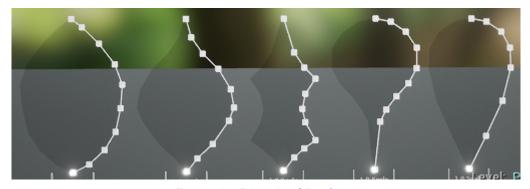
Extras: Adding silencer to the Gun Generator.

Plant Generator





(Click on the image for full sized version)



Example: Plant leaf <u>Profiles</u>.

Map: /Maps/PlantGenerator/PlantGenerator1_FlatShaded

Leaves and petals on the plant are a good <u>instancing</u> example.

Scroll Generator





(Click on the image for full sized version)

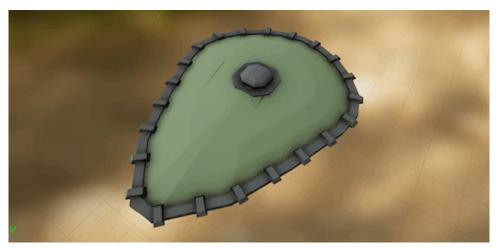


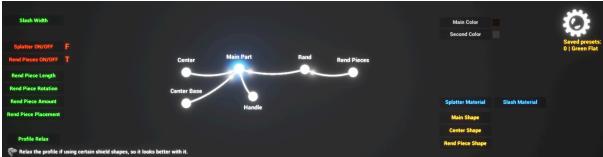
Example: Scroll Path shapes.

Map: /Maps/ScrollGenerator/ScrollGenerator1_FlatShaded

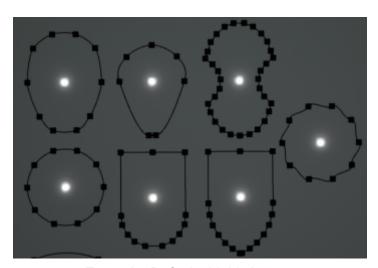
Scroll generator uses Mesh Decal for the wax seal imprint.

Shield Generator





(Click on the image for full sized version)



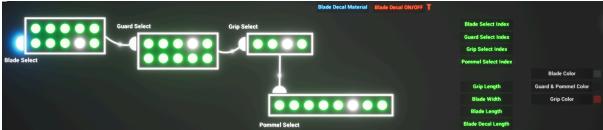
Example: Default shield shapes.

Map: /Maps/ShieldGenerator/ShieldGenerator1_FlatShaded

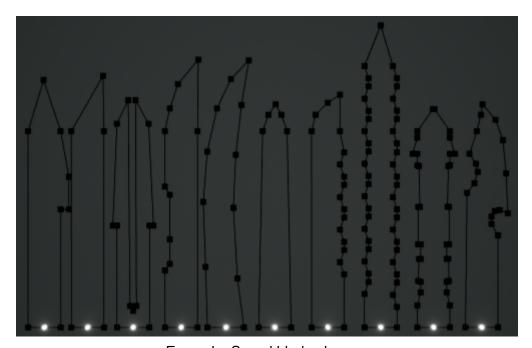
Optional damage & blood decals are generated using the global Mesh Decals.

Sword Generator





(Click on the image for full sized version)



Example: Sword blade shapes.

Map: /Maps/SwordGenerator/SwordGenerator1_FlatShaded

Sword generator uses <u>Select</u> nodes for all the asset parts.

This is preferred when node placement rely on geometry-assigned placement points, e.g. <u>Weld Points</u> or <u>Placement Splines</u>. In this case all the node Shape parameters don't change per node. It generates once, saves all its placement points and stays this way. Then, Select node just picks specified assigned node...

... In other cases it's more convenient to parameterize these Shape values e.g. with <u>Shape Parameters</u>. But then the node geometry will drastically change due to its Shape value change, so all saved placement points can be misplaced, since they are assigned to closest geometry triangles, via triangle indexes.

It should work fine anyway (in most cases), because when geometry changes, node tries to re-assign relative triangle indexes to retain their true placement - but using Select nodes is just a 100% safe option, it's also a bit more performant.

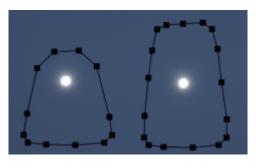
Optional damage & engraving decals are generated using the global Mesh Decals.

Well Generator





(Click on the image for full sized version)



Example: Stone shapes for well top & bottom part.

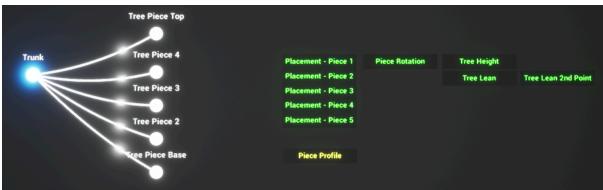
Map: /Maps/WellGenerator/WellGenerator_FlatShaded

Well generator uses <u>Instancing</u> for stones (placed on <u>Placement Spline</u>) and the <u>Deform</u> modifier for stones & wood planks (+ optionally for the well base).

<u>Formulas</u> are utilized to e.g. fit the bottom & top stones nicely by altering their width based on current stone amount.

Simple Tree Generator



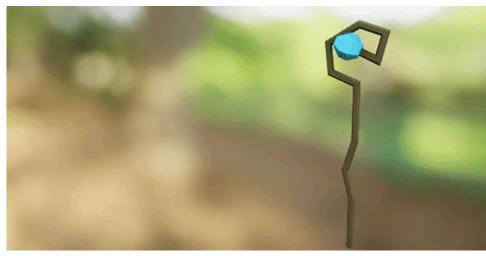


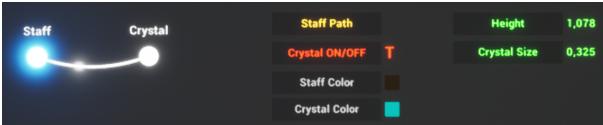
Simple Spyglass Generator





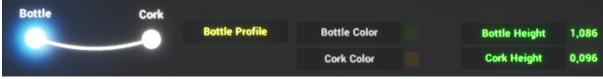
Simple Staff Generator





Simple Bottle Generator





Simple Ladder Generator





... The simple generators are available in the: /Maps/SimpleGenerators/ folder.



Bonus: WIP House, included in the project.

Main concepts

Geometry placement

Asset generation in P.A.C. is based on a parent-placement concept. Basically, each node represents one part of an asset and it's placed on its parent node, using specified parameters & placement settings.

Both location and rotation can be set this way, via the **Placement on Parent** section in the **Details** panel of every node.

These are the default placement methods:

On Weld Point



Weld Points can be used to specify locations & rotations relative to current node geometry.

Every node can have multiple Weld Points.

When node geometry changes, it tries to update its Weld Points, so they always stay in correct location. This is possible because Weld Points detect closest triangle and calculate their location based on that, always relatively to the triangle.

Weld Points can be added by drag&dropping a Weld Point from /Blueprints/Misc/ folder into Part Inspector geometry and clicking Save Weld Points.



Saved points are locked and marked with different color.

To edit saved points, use the Edit Weld Point button after specifying Weld Point Index.

To remove saved point, click Remove Weld Point after specifying Weld Point Index.

Use the node's **Placement Point Index** to specify which Weld Point on parent node you want to use. Weld Points are indexed from 0.

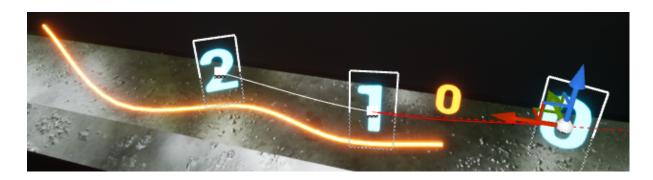
On Placement Spline



Placement Splines, similarly to Weld Points, can be assigned to node geometry, but instead of single location & rotation, they allow to specify a custom spline. This spline can be used for geometry placement, using spline-specific parameters. Every node can have multiple Placement Splines.

Similarly to Weld Points, when node geometry changes, it tries to update its Placement Spline points, so they always stay in correct location.

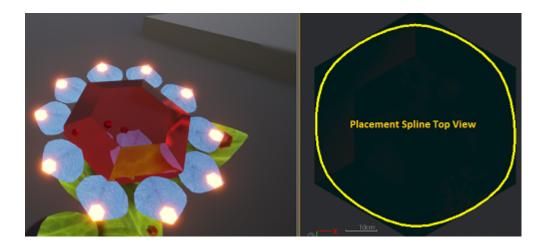
Placement Splines can be added by drag&dropping a Placement Spline from /Blueprints/Misc/folder into Part Inspector geometry and clicking Save Placement Splines.

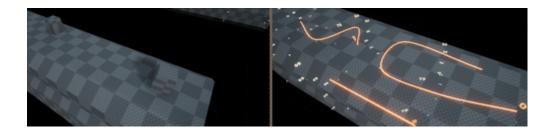


Saved splines are locked and marked with different color.

To edit saved splines, use the Edit Placement Spline button after specifying Spline Index. To remove saved spline, click Remove Placement Spline after specifying Spline Index.

Use the node's Placement Point Index (it's under <u>Placement on Parent</u>) to specify which Placement Spline on parent node you want to use. Placement Splines are indexed from 0. You can specify spline time (0-1 progress along spline) at which it will sample location & rotation from it, using the Placement Spline Time parameter.





On Vertex

Placement on vertex causes child node to be placed on specified parent vertex. Use the **Placement Point Index** to specify vertex index.

To see vertex indexes, use the Part Inspector.

On Triangle

Placement on triangle causes child node to be placed on specified parent triangle. Use the **Placement Point Index** to specify triangle index.

To see triangle indexes, use the **Part Inspector**.

Between Verts

This placement method places child node between specified parent vertices. Use the Between Verts array to specify vertex indexes.

To see vertex indexes, use the **Part Inspector**.

Vert Path

Vert Path can be defined in the Vert Path \rightarrow Path Verts array and the Time Along Path parameters. In general, it works like a placement path created by specified vertices, placing node contents at specified path time (0.0 - 1.0 progress).

Pivot Point

Each node can "sit" on a parent placement point using its local (0,0,0) location or a custom pivot point.

Pivot Point can be specified using node's <u>Weld Point</u>, vertex, triangle or other methods, under the <u>Placement Pivot section</u>.

Part Inspector

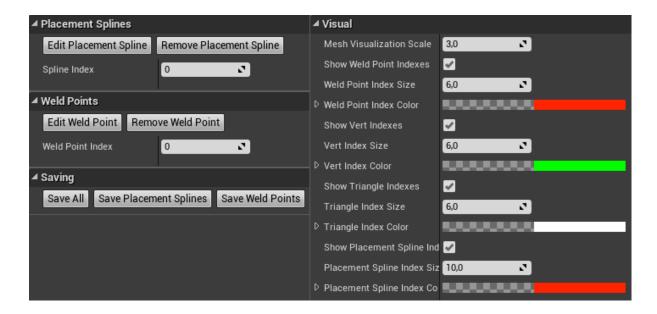
Part Inspector allows to inspect current node geometry and add Weld Points & Placement Splines to it.

In the node Details panel \rightarrow General section, click Send to Inspector. Node contents will be displayed in the designated Part Inspector area, you can quickly access it by choosing the Part Inspector camera from the Perspective viewport menu.

Weld Points & Placement Splines can be placed on node geometry by using the Part Inspector:

- 1. In the node Details panel \rightarrow General section, click Send to Inspector
- 2. Node geometry will show in the Inspector view: To see it, select Perspective \rightarrow Part Inspector e.g. in the upper right viewport pane.
- 3. Drag & drop Weld Point or Placement Spline from /Blueprints/Misc/ into desired location.
- 4. Select the Part Inspector geometry and click e.g. Save Weld Points.

Part Inspector can also be used to see all the current geometry info like vert & triangle indexes and more. You can toggle it by selecting the Part Inspector geometry, in the **Details** panel:

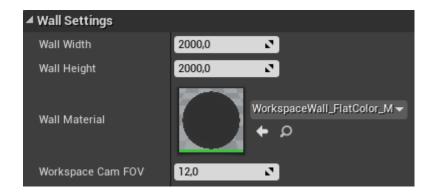


Workspace & node hierarchy

Workspace is a wall where you can drop nodes, parameters & comments to create a generator.

Bottom viewport pane is recommended for the Workspace view, but you can customize it to your liking, e.g. by putting a whole separate viewport to your second screen (if you have one) for even more space.

You can also click anywhere on the Workspace to display its Details panel - and change the wall size (if you need more space), camera FOV (practically zoom) or wall material:



By changing the Wall Material you can customize the Workspace look.

For example, using the Translucent1_M material will result in this, where background represents HDRI map (blurred by DoF) currently used in your scene:



Hold middle mouse button to pan around the Workspace view

There is also a rotating cogwheel icon - it's the Global Settings, where you can randomize your asset, add global decals, set presets and more:



When node is dropped into Workspace, it will get closest node and set it as its parent. If there are no nodes on the Workspace yet, the first drag&dropped node will become a root node. Root nodes have different color.

There's always one root node (top node in hierarchy) and child nodes, where every node can have multiple child nodes.

You can reparent nodes using the Parent field under the General section.



Workflow & asset saving

The recommended workflow for creating custom asset generators:

- In 3-pane viewport layout have following views: Workspace in bottom one, Asset preview in upper left one and Shape Room or Part Inspector in upper right one
- Drag & drop nodes/parameters into the Workspace, tweak them and see the realtime asset preview in another pane
- In the Shape Room, create or modify shapes if needed, seeing realtime asset preview in another pane
- Test your generator by clicking Randomize in Global Options.
 - Always change parameter values by click \rightarrow enter new value \rightarrow Enter. Using sliders can cause lag with more complex generators.

Sometimes UE resets piloted cameras in other viewport panes (UE bug). To avoid that, un-pilot the camera after setting the ASSET, Shape Room or Part Inspector views:



Saving assets

Generated assets can be saved as regular Static Meshes:

- 1. Select generated asset
- 2. In the Components panel, select Procedural Mesh and click Convert to Static Mesh
- 3. **[UE bug workaround]** After saving the mesh into a specified folder, right click it and click **Save**.

... Saved meshes can be exported or migrated to other projects.

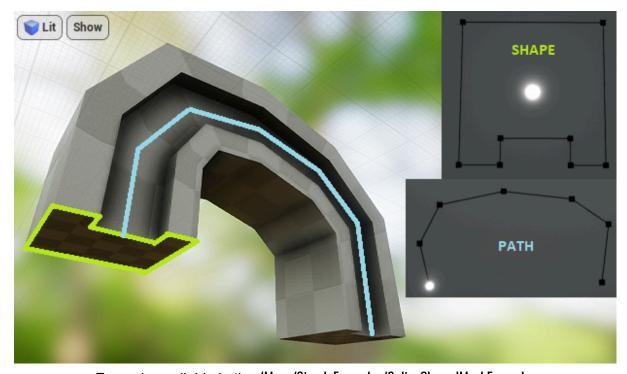
Creating a new generator

- 1. Create a new folder for your generator.
- 2. Open the Empty Starter Map. It can be found in the main /Maps/ folder.
- 3. Click File \rightarrow Save Current As... and save it with desired name.
- 4. Now you can start creating by dragging nodes & parameters from the /Blueprints/Nodes/ and /Parameters/ folders into the workspace. For more info, check the tutorials and the included example generators in the /Maps/ folder.

Nodes

Spline Shaped Mesh Node

Spline Shaped Mesh is based on 2 shapes: Shape & Path. It works by 'traversing' the Shape along the Path. Both Path & Shape shapes can be closed or not.



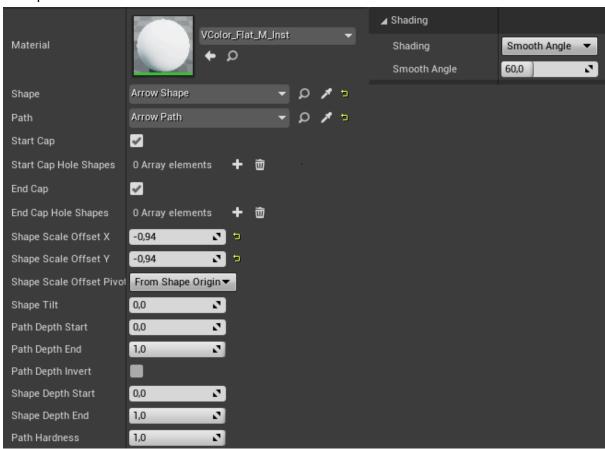
Example available in the /Maps/SimpleExamples/SplineShapedMeshExample

Generating a shape along path spline uses a custom along-path plane orientation system. It fixes the infamous gimbal lock problem that is present in e.g. the default UE Spline Mesh Component or other rotator-based solutions, when not using quaternions. This solution also improves the final look, allowing for more control & things like precisely oriented corners, without 'skewing' the geometry, maintaining true shape width all the way along the path spline.

Shape must have Z-up orientation to work properly along Path!

SSM provides automatic vert shading methods: Flat, Smooth and Angle Smoothing with controllable value to set edge smoothing based on angle.

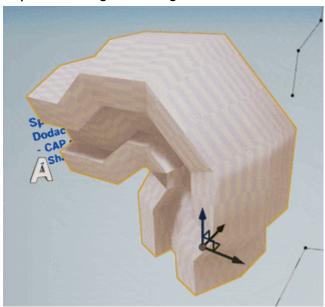
Main parameters:



All the parameters have tooltips with explanation, just hover over any parameter:

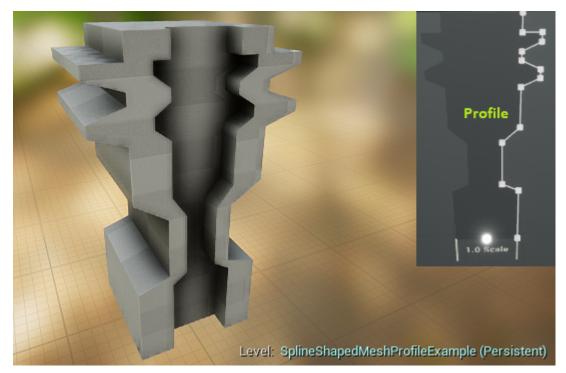


Shape Tilt and Angle Smoothing in action:



SSM Profiles

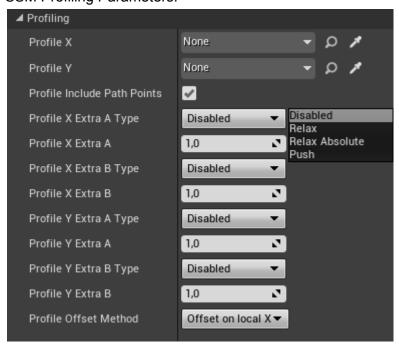
Profiles allow to define additional shape on X and Y axis, working with any Shape and Path.



Example available in the /Maps/SimpleExamples/SplineShapedMeshProfileExample

Profile shapes can be symmetrical (default) or not, it's defined by the Symmetry parameter. You can assign different profiles for both X & Y under the Profiling section. It's also possible to add extra profiling modifiers there.

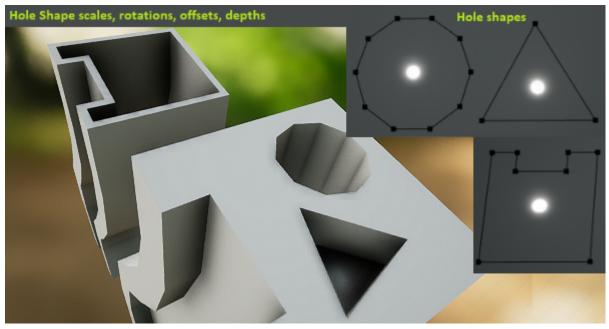
SSM Profiling Parameters:



Hole Shapes

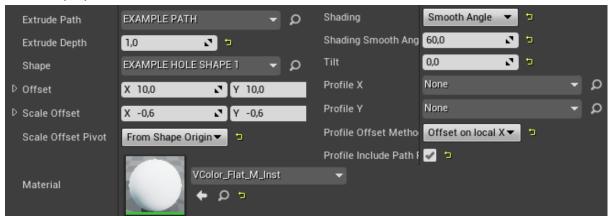
You can define Hole Shapes that will go from specified mesh end (start or end cap) all the way through the path or for specified depth along path.

They can have different shapes, scales, rotations, offsets, depths and more. Holes can start from both ends ('caps') of the Spline Shaped Mesh.



Example available in the /Maps/SimpleExamples/SplineShapedMeshHolesExample

Hole Shape parameters:



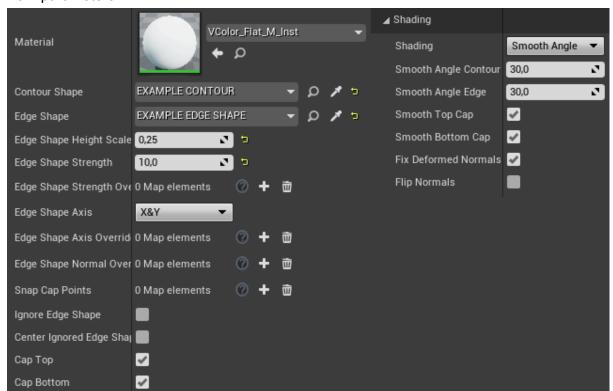
Contour Shaped Mesh Node

Contour Shaped Mesh is based on two shapes: **Contour** and **Edge** shape. In general, it acts like a contour-defined extruded polygon with custom shaped edge. Example: Contour for sword blade shape, Edge to make it sharp on sides.



Example available in the /Maps/SimpleExamples/ContourShapedMeshExample

Main parameters:

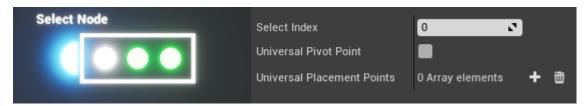


Select Node

Select Node can be used to assign many nodes and select which one should be active, using the **Select Index** parameter.

It's used to e.g. pick random asset parts during procedural generation.

It's also a useful optimization tool, because all the assigned nodes are already calculated, the Select Node only picks mesh data from them and passes it further.



Example available in the /Maps/SimpleExamples/SelectNodeExample

Currently selected node is always visually marked as a white pulsating node, you can change it under the Editor Visuals to customize it to your liking.

To assign a node to Select node, just drag it inside the rectangle - it works both from content browser and from the Workspace view, when node is already placed there.

You can easily duplicate assigned nodes via Ctrl+C → Ctrl+V when one of them is selected. New copies will be automatically assigned and the Select node expanded.

Universal Node Parameters

All the parameters have tooltips with explanation, just hover over any parameter:

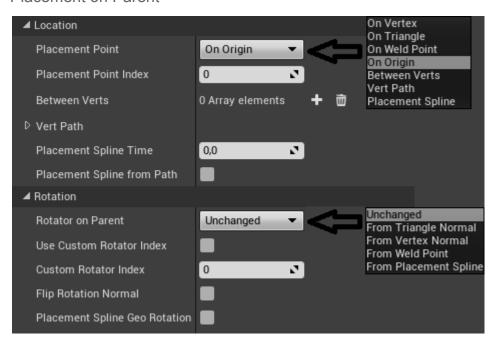


All nodes have a common set of universal parameters. More info available in the tooltips.

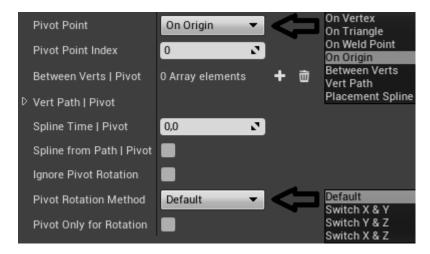
General



Placement on Parent



Placement Pivot

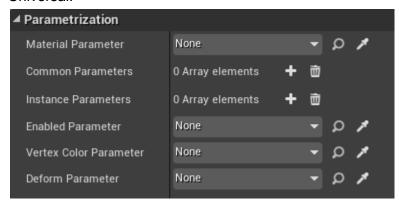


Parameterization

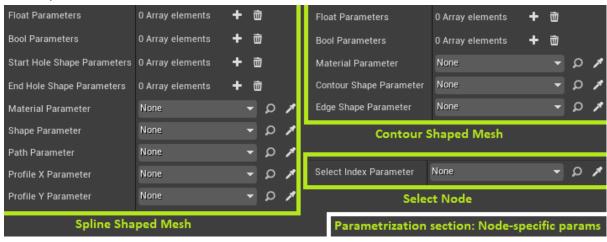
This section allows to assign Parameter Actors.

It has both universal (common to all nodes) and unique (node-specific) parameters.

Universal:

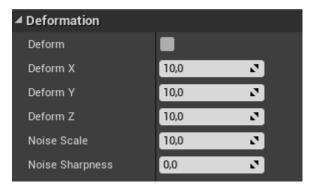


Node-specific:



... The Float Parameters & Bool Parameters can contain almost all node-specific values that can be parameterized with external Parameter actor.

Deformation



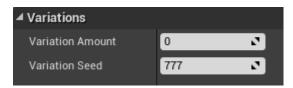
This modifier allows to deform node's mesh with specified values, using noise.

Instancing



Instancing section. More info on instancing available here.

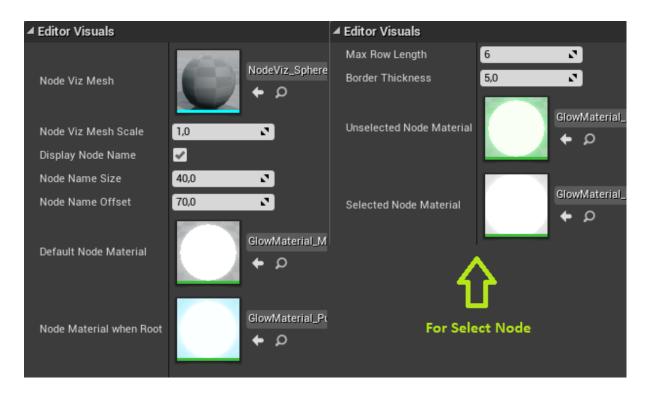
Variations



Variations section. More info on variations available here.

Editor Visuals

Here you can change all the visual aspects of selected node:

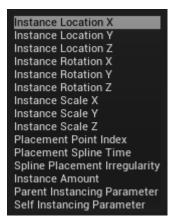


Instances & Variations

Every node can be instanced with specified instance amount & placement settings. It allows to easily place node contents in larger amounts, e.g. place many leaves along stem or many pickets for a fence.

Node geometry is calculated only once, then it is copied for each instance transform, saving CPU time during asset generation.

There are many instancing examples included in the project.



To add instances, set <u>Instance Amount</u> and select instance <u>placement method.</u>

Then <u>parameterize</u> one of the Instance parameters. They can be set in the Parametrization \rightarrow Instance Parameters.

For example, the included <u>Plant Generator</u> adds leaf instances along stem, using stem spline as placement method, with parameterized <u>Placement Spline Time</u>.

Example map: /Maps/SimpleExamples/InstancingExample

<u>Variations</u> feature works similarly, but it recalculates node mesh for every variation. This can be used to generate X amount of different node variations, by parameterizing their generation rules.

Example usage: <u>Grass Generator</u>, where every grass blade is a Spline Shaped Mesh node variation with slightly altered spline.

When using SSM (Spline Shaped Mesh) Variations on parent SSM, don't use same Path shape for both variations and parent node, to avoid bad placement.

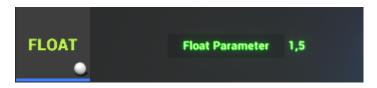
Parameters

You can parameterize node variables in the node Details panel \rightarrow Parametrization section, by assigning a custom Parameter actor that can be dropped into Workspace. This allows to easily control desired node variables, straight from the Workspace view.

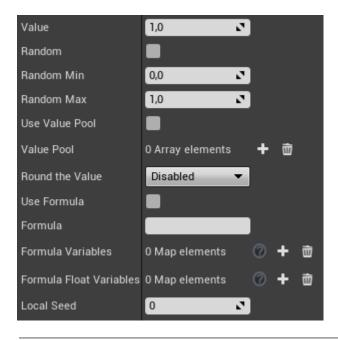
Parameters can also be used to specify random value ranges (or pools), set values based on current asset state (using the IF Conditions) or use the Formulas for Float parameters.

Example map: /Maps/SimpleExamples/ParameterizationExample

Float Parameter



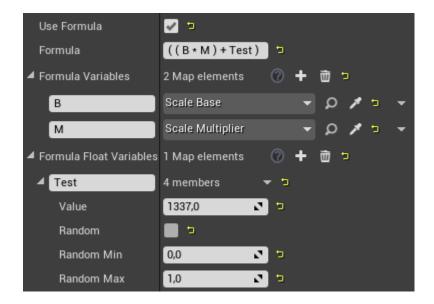
Float Parameters can set value of any node Float variable, e.g. location/rotation/scale XYZ values and all the other exposed variables.



Formulas

Formulas allow to set Float Parameter value from custom math expression, with possibility to create local variables (e.g. from other Float Parameter values, which allows to create parameter value dependencies).

Formulas can evaluate fully parenthesized arithmetic expressions, with spaces between every operand & operator.



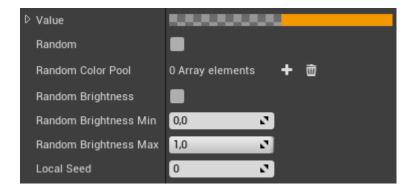
See the tooltips for more info.

Various example formula usages are available in the included generator maps. Example map: /Maps/SimpleExamples/ParameterFormulaExample

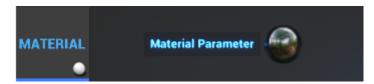
Color Parameter



Color Parameters can set value of any node color variable, e.g. the **Vertex Color**. It's possible to specify random Color pool, with optional brightness values.



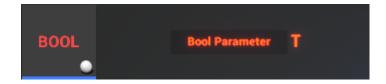
Material Parameter



Material Parameters can set value of specified node & decal Material variables. It's possible to specify random Material pool.



Bool Parameter



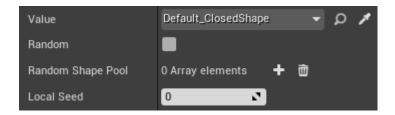
Bool Parameters can set value of any node Bool variable, e.g. the **Enabled** (ON/OFF) variable. It's possible to make the bool value random, with specified weight.



Shape Parameter



Shape Parameters can set value of any node shape variable, e.g. the Contour Shape in Contour Shape in Spline Shaped Mesh node, etc. It's possible to specify random Shape pool.

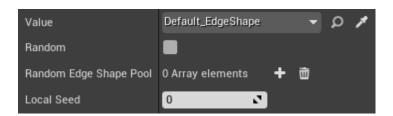


Edge Shape Parameter



Edge Shape Parameters can set value of the **Contour Edge Shape** variable in any <u>Contour Shaped Mesh</u> node.

It's possible to specify random Edge Shape pool.

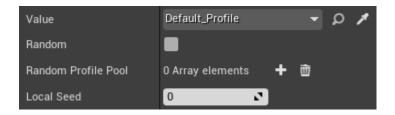


Profile Parameter



Profile Parameters can set value of the Profile X & Profile Y variables in any <u>Spline Shaped Mesh</u> node.

It's possible to specify random Profile pool.

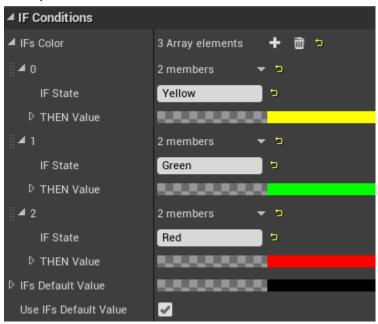


IF Conditions

IF Conditions allow to specify custom-named asset states, based on current parameter values. These states can be checked to set parameter values, depending on current true/false state of specified state.

For example, you can turn plant leaves off if current stem height is lower than a specified value, set asset part scale based on currently selected Shape parameter, etc.

Example IF section:

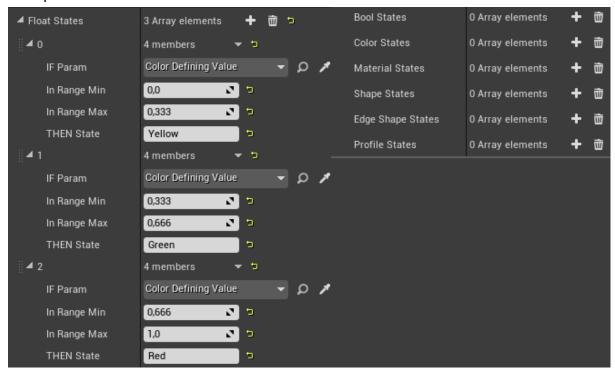


Basically, it works like an 'if / else if' stack, setting specified value based on current state. More info available in the tooltips.

💡 All the parameters have tooltips with explanation, just hover over any parameter:



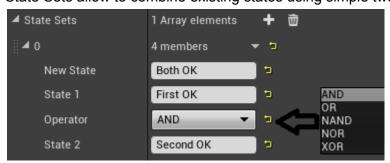
Example State section:



In this example, it sets Yellow, Green or Red state depending on current float value. States can be defined using all parameter types, not only Float Parameters.

You can use exclamation mark in front of any state name to negate it.

State Sets allow to combine existing states using simple two-element boolean expression:



Example map: /Maps/SimpleExamples/IFConditionsExample

Another example is available in the included <u>Bow Generator</u>, where 'String Offset Y' parameter uses IF conditions to set its value based on current main Path. 'String Offset Y Final' parameter takes it and applies current width. This way the string location fits current bow shape.

Editor Visuals

This section allows to set custom parameter color, width and other visual things:



To set parameter name, just rename the actor - the name display text will match it.

Value Preview allows to preview current parameter value straight from workspace view.

The **Notes** field can be used to store some info that is important for this parameter. It's just an additional option, you can also use workspace Comments for that.

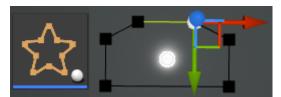


Shapes

Shapes are used to define mesh geometry when assigned to nodes like <u>Spline Shaped</u> Mesh or Contour Shaped Mesh.

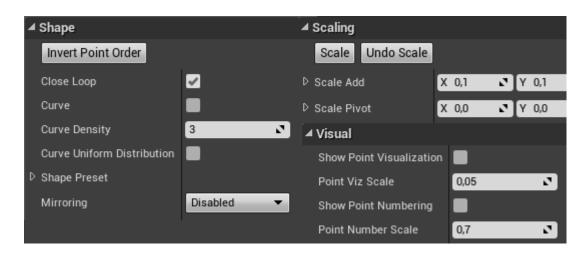
There is a designated space for shapes in the default level, you can go there quickly by clicking Perspective \rightarrow ShapeRoom in viewport.

Shape

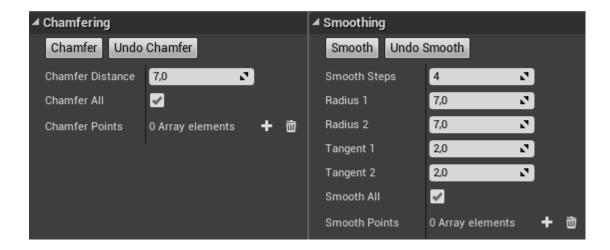


Spline-based shape. You can add points by holding left Alt & dragging out a point or use one of the other methods - more info available here.

White point visualizes the (0,0,0) relative shape location, default pivot point.



Besides scaling, shapes can also be chamfered or smoothed:



Edge Shape



Child of the Shape class.
Used to define Edge Shape in Contour Shaped Mesh.

Profile



Child of the Shape class.

Used to define optional profile in Spline Shaped Mesh.

Shape generators

Shape generators are designed to generate different shapes based on specified parameters. Included shape generators: Circle, Equilateral Triangle, Helix, Rectangle.

Included example generators can be found in /Maps/ShapePresetMakingMap The generator blueprints are available in the /Blueprints/Internal/ShapeGen/ folder.

Shape presets

Any Shape can be saved as a preset which then can be easily loaded into any other Shape. To save it, under the Generated Data to Copy section right click the Spline Data and click Copy. Then you can paste it into the /Blueprints/Internal/ShapeGen/SplineShapePresets data table by creating a new row, right clicking the Spline Data and clicking Paste.

To load a preset, under the $Shape \rightarrow Shape$ Preset section just pick a Row Name with desired preset.

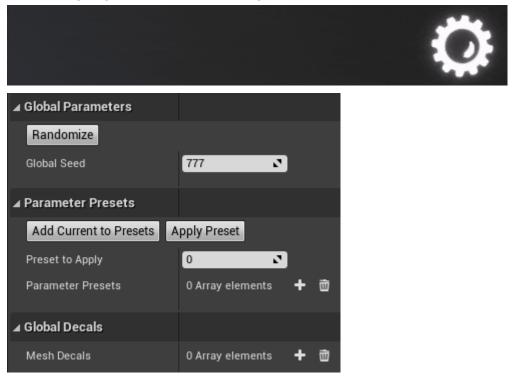
Shape parameterization

Shape points can be parameterized - basically, you can control any shape point using <u>Float</u> Parameters.

To parameterize a shape point, add an element to the Point Parameters array under the Parametrization section and assign a Float Parameter to X,Y,Z location values.

Global Options

The rotating cogwheel contains all the global options:



More info is available in the tooltips.

The **Randomize** button randomizes all <u>parameters</u> that are set to random value range. Basically, each click generates new version of your asset.

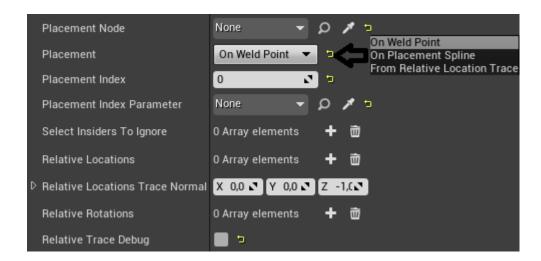
Parameter Presets allow to save current parameter values as a preset. Presets can be renamed, altered and loaded at any time, using the Apply Preset button.



Global Mesh Decals

Global Decals can be used to add mesh decals to your asset.

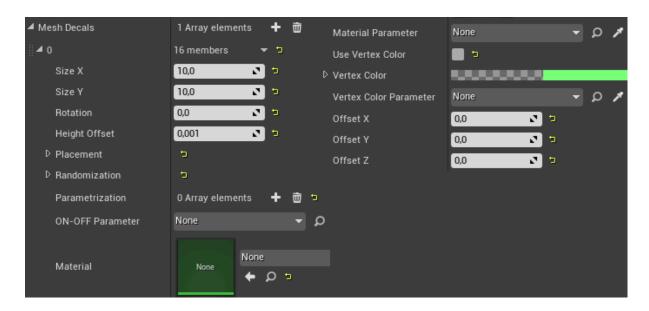
Decal placement is calculated from location relative to specified node <u>Weld Point</u>, <u>Placement Spline</u> or from node-relative line traces:



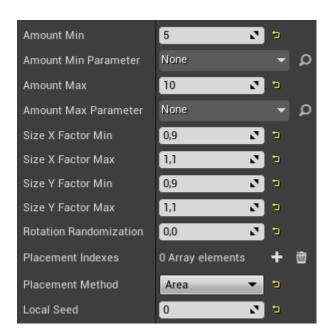
Example usage: The included **Gun Generator**.

Mesh Decals

Single plane mesh decals placed at specified point.



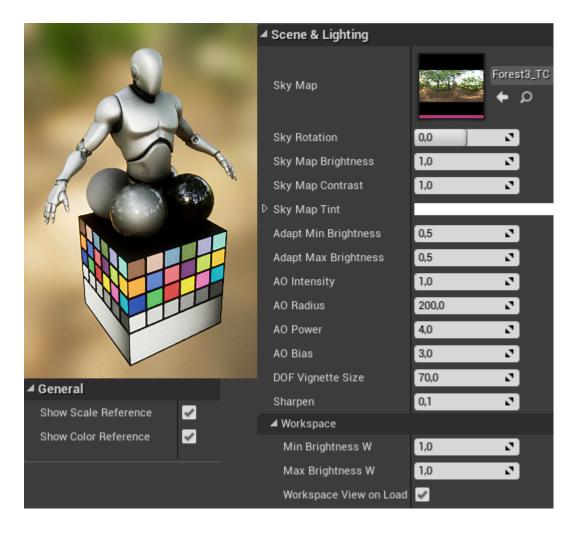
Randomization options:



Scene Settings

Scene Settings actor serves as a human scale reference (using the standard UE Mannequin) and a color reference, both toggleable.

It also provides HDRI lighting for your scene and it's customizable:



By default it's located near final asset mesh, but you can move it freely.

Changing Sky Rotation will affect whole scene lighting, not only the skybox.

Tutorials

Creating the Simple Bottle Generator

Step 1: Create new map for the generator & set the viewports.

Step 2: Please follow the video:



(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ycu9CYdmDiM)

This video shows an example simple asset creation process, in this case creating the <u>Simple Bottle Generator</u> that is included in the project.

The result is available in the /Maps/SimpleGenerators/SimpleBottleGenerator1 map.

Adding height control to the Fence Generator

This example shows how you can use <u>Float Parameters</u> and <u>Formulas</u> to add more control to your generators.

Open the included /Maps/FenceGenerator/FenceGenerator1_FlatShaded_PreTutorial map and set the workspace view like it's shown in the Quick Start guide.

- 1. Drag one /Blueprints/Parameters/FloatParameter into the workspace and name it e.g. 'Fence Height', set its Value to 0.5.
- 2. In the Pickets node, add Scale X to the Parametrization \rightarrow Common Parameters list and assign previously added Fence Height parameter there.

Now you can control fence height by changing the Fence Height parameter value...

- ... But when changing it to e.g. 0.3, you can see that the horizontal planks don't reflect this change. Here we can use the float parameter Formula:
 - 1. Select the **Plank 2 Height** parameter and add one element to the **Formula Variables** list. Name it e.g. "H" and assign the **Fence Height** parameter to it. This way we can access values from other parameters.
 - 2. In the Formula field type in "(140 * H)" and check Use Formula.

Now the horizontal plank should be correctly aligned and when you change the Fence Height, it will react accordingly.

Of course you can change the "140" value to your liking, or even make it a separate parameter if you wish.

The final result of these steps is available in the /Maps/FenceGenerator/FenceGenerator1_FlatShaded map.

Creating Hourglass Generator

This tutorial was created in the <u>extended PAC version</u>, but it's still useful here, as you can replicate most of this in the SimplePAC - just ignore all the material/UV steps and use vertex colors instead.

Step 1: Create new map for the generator & set the viewports.





Part 2, click the image or this link: https://youtu.be/k806gXruURM



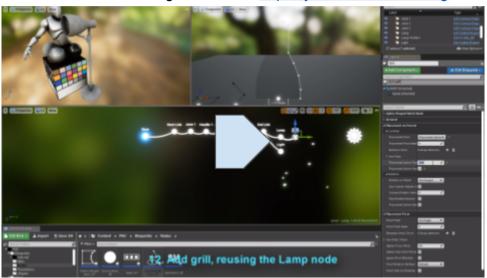
Demonstrated features: <u>Spline Shaped Mesh</u>, <u>Part Inspector</u>, <u>Weld Point placement</u>, <u>Placement Spline placement</u>, <u>Instancing</u>, <u>Parameters</u> and more.

Creating Lamp Generator

This tutorial was created in the <u>extended PAC version</u>, but it's still useful here, as you can replicate most of this in the SimplePAC - just ignore all the material/UV steps and use vertex colors instead.

Step 1: Create new map for the generator & set the viewports.





Part 2, click the image or this link: https://youtu.be/4aTr-kz1iaM



Demonstrated features: <u>Select Node</u>, <u>Spline Shaped Mesh</u>, <u>Holes</u>, <u>Contour Shaped Mesh</u>, <u>Shape Scaling</u>, <u>Workspace appearance</u>, <u>Placement Spline placement</u>, <u>Parameters</u> and more.

Adding silencer to the Gun Generator

This tutorial was created in the <u>extended PAC version</u>, but it's still useful here, as you can replicate most of this in the SimplePAC - just ignore all the material/UV steps and use vertex colors instead.

Step 1: Save the Gun Generator as a new map & set the viewports.

Click the image or this link: https://youtu.be/SGyNeAAnvng



Demonstrated features: Modifying the existing <u>example generators</u>, <u>Spline Shaped Mesh</u>, Holes, Placement Spline placement, Parameters and more.

Advanced: Creating custom node

You can create custom nodes by deriving from the base Node_BP class. This allows to create your own nodes, with custom geometry generators inside.

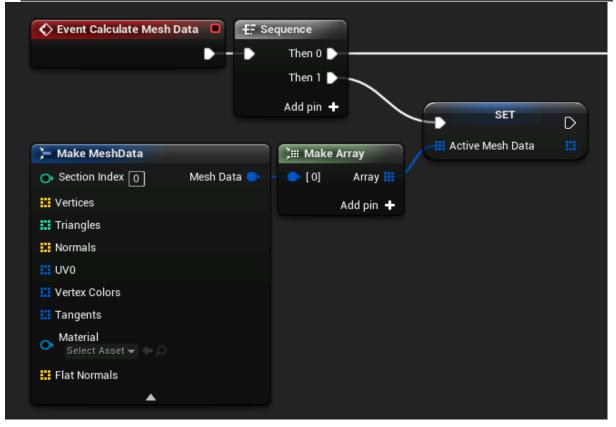
Here's a simple Box node example that shows where to return the geometry data:

- 1. Create new Blueprint Class, pick the Node_BP in the Pick Parent Class window (search for it in the All Classes tab)
- 2. In the blueprint, click Add New \rightarrow Override Function \rightarrow Calculate Mesh Data
- 3. Add a Sequence node and this logic:



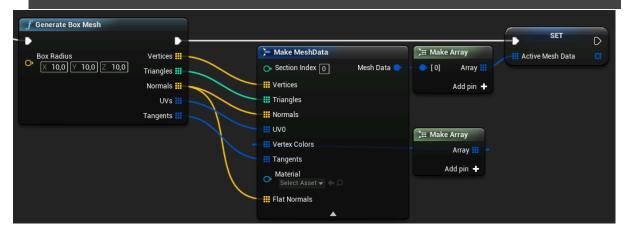
Available to copy from here.

4. In the next step, set **Active Mesh Data** variable like that, here you can pass any mesh geometry data that you've calculated:



Available to copy from here.

5. As an example, let's add Box geometry, using the Generate Box Mesh node:



Available to copy from here.

... The node is ready to use.

After compiling, it can be dragged into the Workspace just like the included nodes.

Now you can e.g. expose the **Box Radius** and the **Material** values as public variables, so they can be accessed from Workspace view, when your node is selected.

To make these variables parameterizable, see how it's implemented in the included nodes (Blueprints/Nodes/ folder). The logic can be node specific, so it all depends on what kind of geometry your node generates and what other features it has.

Simple Examples

Most of the main features have simple usage examples (besides the <u>included generators</u>) available in the /Maps/SimpleExamples/ folder, all with explanations/comments.

Ending

In case of any questions or issues, please contact me on the support email that is listed on my Marketplace profile.

Marketplace profile: https://www.unrealengine.com/marketplace/profile/S.+Krezel

Forum thread:

https://forums.unrealengine.com/unreal-engine/marketplace/1584105-procedural-asset-creator

Thank you, S. Krezel

Table of contents

For better online navigation, please use the Document Outline. If you don't see it on the left, enable it by clicking $View \to Show document outline$.

Main features	1
Quick start guide	2
Included example generators	3
Arrow Generator	3
Axe Generator	5
Book Generator	7
Bow Generator	9
Bucket Generator	10
Column Generator	11
Fence Generator	12
Grass Generator	13
Gun Generator	14
Plant Generator	15
Scroll Generator	16
Shield Generator	17
Sword Generator	18
Well Generator	20
Simple Tree Generator	21
Simple Spyglass Generator	21
Simple Staff Generator	22
Simple Bottle Generator	22
Simple Ladder Generator	23
Main concepts	24
Geometry placement	24
On Weld Point	24
On Placement Spline	25
On Vertex	26
On Triangle	26
Between Verts	26
Vert Path	26
Pivot Point	26
Part Inspector	27
Workspace & node hierarchy	28
Workflow & asset saving	30
Saving assets	30

Creating a new generator	30
Nodes	31
Spline Shaped Mesh Node	31
SSM Profiles	33
Hole Shapes	34
Contour Shaped Mesh Node	35
Select Node	36
Universal Node Parameters	37
General	37
Placement on Parent	37
Placement Pivot	38
Parameterization	38
Deformation	39
Instancing	39
Variations	39
Editor Visuals	40
Instances & Variations	41
Parameters	42
Float Parameter	42
Formulas	42
Color Parameter	43
Material Parameter	44
Bool Parameter	44
Shape Parameter	45
Edge Shape Parameter	45
Profile Parameter	46
IF Conditions	47
Editor Visuals	49
Shapes	50
Shape	50
Edge Shape	51
Profile	51
Shape generators	51
Shape presets	51
Shape parameterization	51
Global Options	52
Global Mesh Decals	53
Mesh Decals	54
Scene Settings	55

Tutorials	56
Creating Hourglass Generator	56
Creating Lamp Generator	57
Adding silencer to the Gun Generator	58
Adding height control to the Fence Generator	59
Advanced: Creating custom node	60
Simple Examples	62
Ending	63
Table of contents	64