

Custom Buttons and Backgrounds

Custom buttons and backgrounds often come to mind, as an area for improvement. You can find all sorts of custom backgrounds and buttons on RemoteCentral.com in the Pronto and Pronto NG Files area, in the form of user's configurations. You can browse through hundreds of configurations that have been contributed to the site by users like yourself. You can view sample pages and when you find designs that interest you, you can download these configurations and look at them in PENG or view them in the Pronto Simulator, to further evaluate.

However, you can not do much with the backgrounds or the buttons until you “unzip” them from the .pcf file. (See the Chapter on “Unzipping configurations into a Bitmap Folder” in this track.)

Once they are unzipped you can import them into the Gallery, to be added to your configuration. Or, you can leave them out of the Gallery and simply import them, via the Appearance screen, with Button Properties in PENG. One note: Keeping too many buttons and backgrounds in the Gallery will make it open quite slowly, which can be frustrating.

However, most custom buttons also are “custom-labeled”. The button name or logo is part of the button and was created when the button was created. These kinds of buttons cannot be changed unless you are willing to open them in a Drawing or Paint application and modify the label. Often times, buttons are created in “layers” where the button label can be separated from the button. Other times they cannot be separated and you have to paint over the original label and then add your own label.

This is the beginning of a lengthy process; however it can make your configuration look fabulous. The standard buttons available with PENG are usually good enough for most configurations. However, if your intent is to build a slick configuration, then this section is for you.

Within PENG, you can easily add buttons, label and modify them quickly. If you decide to create custom buttons, you should understand the process is very time consuming, versus using the stock buttons available within PENG. Keep in mind there are really two levels to custom buttons: The actual body of the button and the label. Within PENG, you can use any of the buttons in the Gallery and label them very quickly using the built-in labeling function within PENG. However, you are limited to one standard font in a few sizes. Not real slick.