

Open Testing Guide

Welcome to the Steel Aces Open Test! This document will guide you through installation to playing your first game! It includes how to set up the game settings and what to do in order to troubleshoot. Please carefully review all of the 9 pages.

NOTE: You are participating in the testing of software – it should be fully expected that bugs or unintended behaviour occurs. Many features of the final game are not yet implemented.

In order to communicate the developer team, testers must be present on **the Official Steel Aces Discord Server** in order to submit problems, report errors and ask questions.

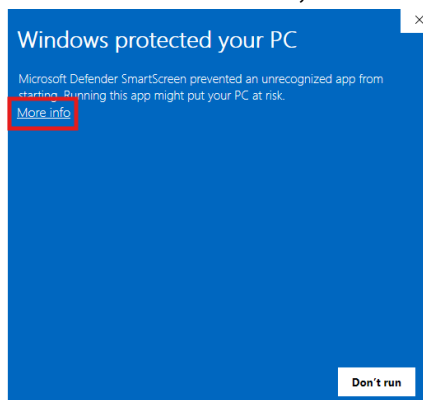
Before you proceed, please join the testing Discord: [CLICK HERE](#)

The testing schedule will be announced weekly. Outside of the announced blocks of test time, the servers will not be available and testers will not be able to log in.

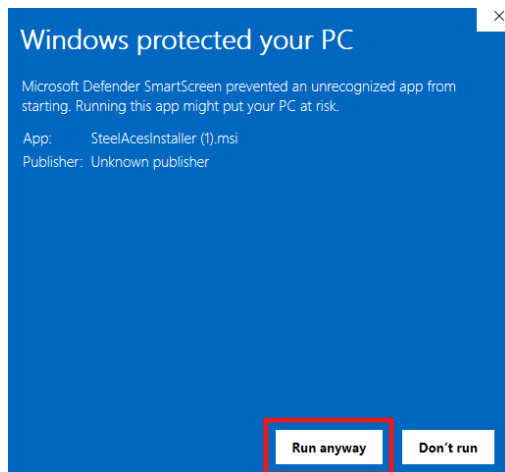
Installation

If you have previously participated in tests and have the launcher installed, start with step 3.

1. Download the installer file.
 - a. [Installer.msi \(CLICK HERE\)](#)
2. Open the SteelAcesInstaller.msi
 - a. Please make sure that you have about 30 GB of free disk space on your C drive.
 - b. Windows may block the installer from running. This is normal and intended behaviour for new software or developers that are not yet recognised by Microsoft SmartScreen, so nothing to worry about. Click on 'More Info'.



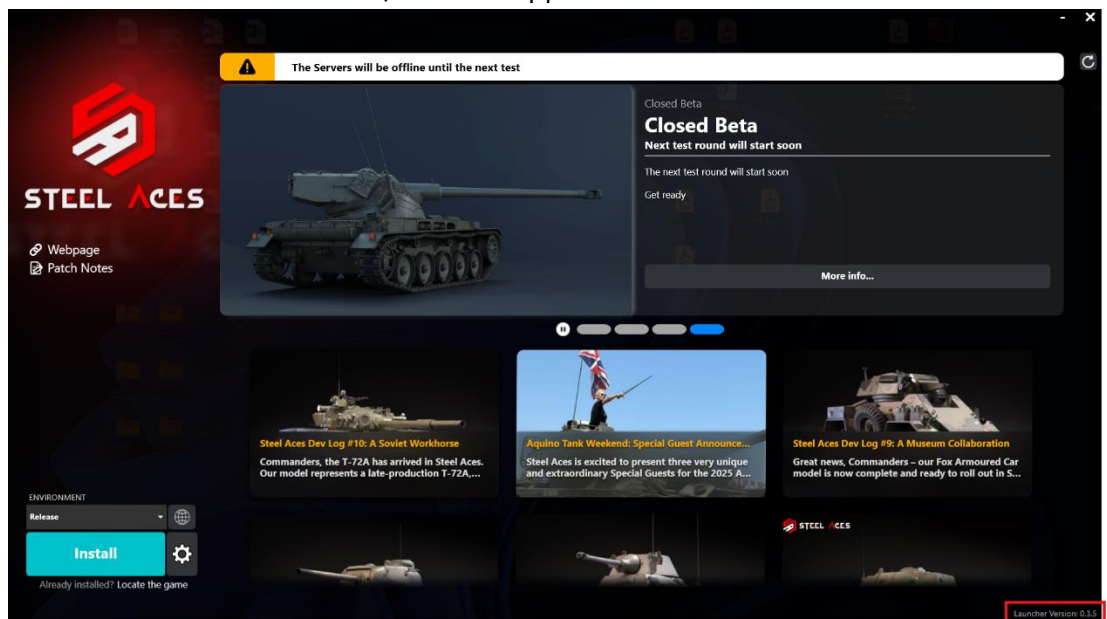
- c. Now click on 'Run Anyway'.



- d. Follow the installation instructions.
- e. The game will be installed at the default path:

C:\Users\"UserName"\AppData\Roaming\Armative Studios GmbH\Steel Aces

- f. The files can be moved manually afterwards if needed.
 - g. A shortcut for the launcher will be created on your Desktop.
3. Start the SteelAcesLauncher.exe either via the shortcut or from the install location.
 - a. Please make sure that your anti-virus software does not block the network connection, otherwise the launcher cannot download the game!
 - b. After the launcher has started, it should appear as below:



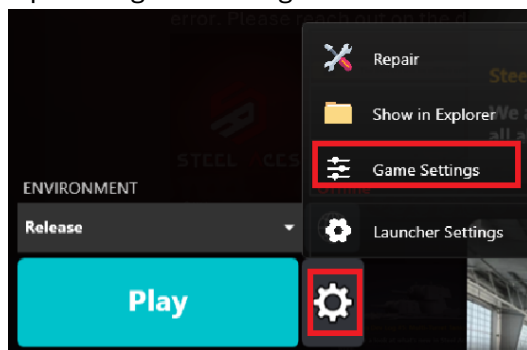
- c. Note: The current launcher version is 0.3.5 (Lower right corner). If it says 1.x.x it is an old version and will not update automatically. If it says 1.0.0, you have an install error - please reach out via Discord then.
- d. If the Launcher won't start, most likely your antivirus has blocked the execution automatically. Try the following to resolve:
 - i. Start the launcher as admin (Right-Click -> Run as Administrator)
 - ii. If that does not work the install path is probably invalid. Open the SteelAcesInstaller.msi and uninstall the game. After that restart at 2 and select another install path.
 - iii. If that also doesn't work, ask for help on our Discord server.

4. If the game is not installing automatically (Bright Blue download button), click on the red install button and wait for the download.
 - a. The initial download will be around 20GB.
 - b. Immediately after you downloaded the game, a few patches will be applied. Just let it run until you can click start.
5. If the download was successful, you can launch the game.
 - a. A new patch will most often drop a few hours before the test. Be sure to check for this ahead of time and download it before the test.
6. Please make sure that you have the newest game version before you start, or else you will be unable to login and will see the following error (current version will be announced)

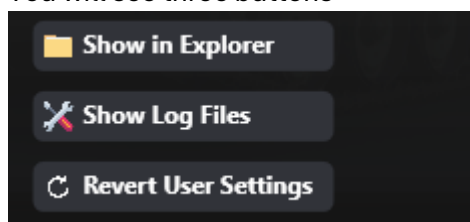


Note: If your game crashes or if you encounter other problems, please perform the following steps.

- a. Open the game settings



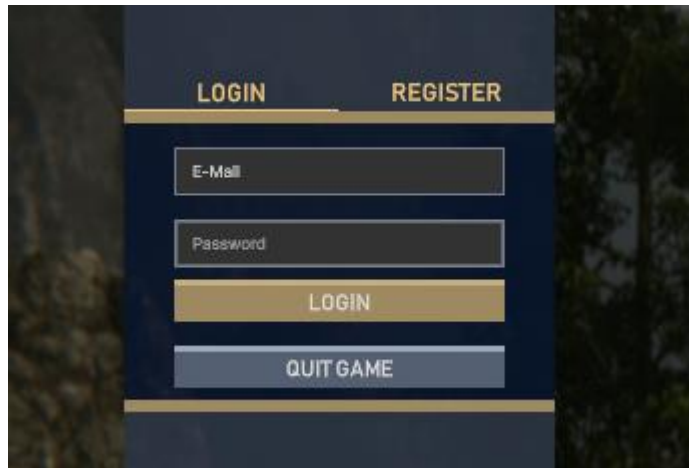
- b. You will see three buttons



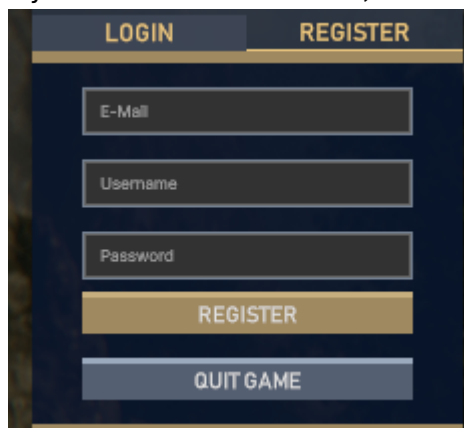
- c. "Show log files" will open the folder with all the log files. If you have a problem, you can send it to the developers so that they can have a look.
- d. "Revert User Settings" will reset your user settings. This can be useful if you accidentally put your graphics too high and the game crashes because of it.

Startup

1. Launch your game
 - a. After the splash screen is finished the game will stay at the black screen for a few seconds. It can take a bit longer on lower end hardware so don't worry.
 - b. Its precompiling a few shaders at that stage to prevent stutters later in the game. It's currently a test feature
 - c. This is only on the first start of the game or if we have updated/added something regarding visuals
2. Login with your credentials



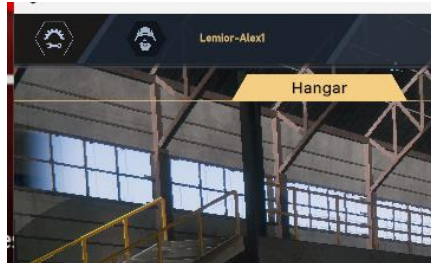
- a. If you have credentials already you can stay at login and put in the email and password (NOTE: Sometimes the data will be wiped so you have to register again)
- b. If you don't have credentials, click on the register tab



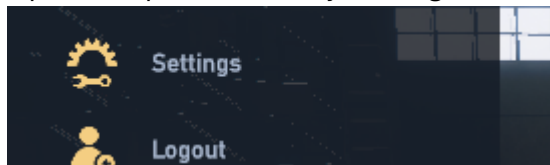
- c. Now you can enter any email and username
- d. The password must fulfill a few conditions:
 - i. At least 8 characters long
 - ii. Upper and lower case
 - iii. One special character
- e. After you have registered an account, you can later use it on the login page

Hangar

1. Adjusting user settings



- a. Open the options menu by clicking on the upper left corner button



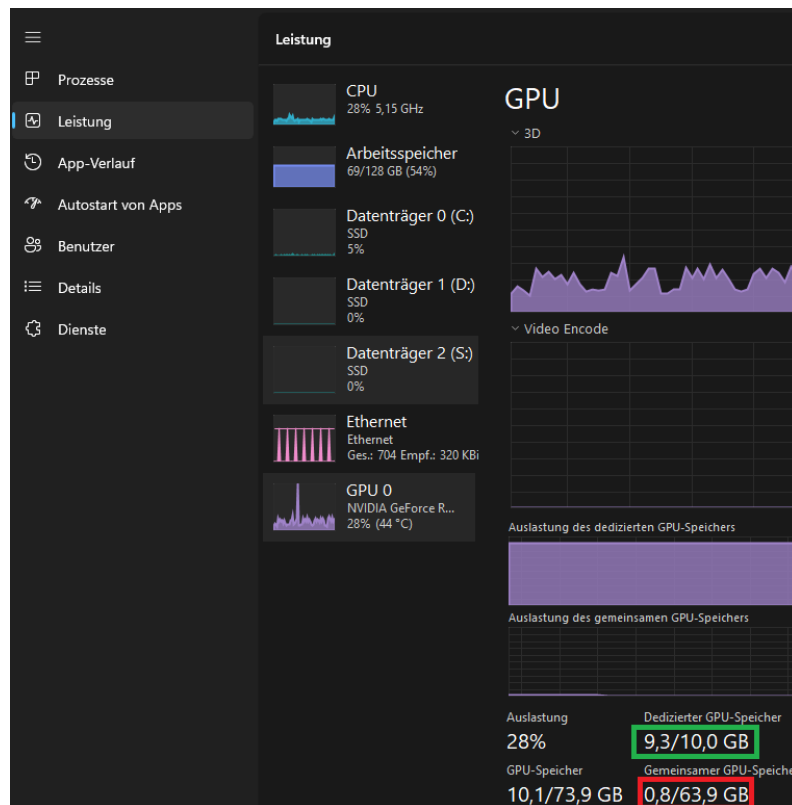
- b. Open the settings



- c. Go to video and check your graphics settings (please make sure you select a valid base quality level based on your setup)
- i. At first start the game tries to find appropriate settings for your system. If you think that they are off, please let us know so we can have a look at it.

	TOASTER	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	ULTRA
GRAPHICS CARD	Others	GTX 1060 RX 6600	GTX 2070 RX 6800 XT	RTX 3080 TI+ RX 6950 XT	RTX 3090 RX 7900XT
VRAM	4GB	6GB	8 GB	12 GB	12GB
RAM	8GB	8GB	16GB	16GB	16GB

- d. Note: Ray tracing is really performance intensive, so only turn it on if your computer can handle it
- e. Note: If you have not enough VRAM you will notice a big performance hit and your game might crash. You can check your usage in the windows task manager.
(Press CTRL + SHIFT + ESC)



- f. The upper number (green box) displays your actual VRAM usage of your graphics card. The lower value (red box) your shared VRAM. If the shared value starts to increase >1GB you ran out of VRAM and your performance will drop significantly (for me around 70%)
- g. If you have an RTX graphics card you can turn on DLSS under dynamic resolution for a fps increase
- h. For all other cards you can turn on FSR (more cpu heavy) for more fps. Please note that this feature is experimental

IMPORTANT: PLEASE MAKE SURE TO CHECK WHAT YOUR BOTTLENECK IS

If you decrease visual quality but your bottleneck is your CPU, your fps will stay the same or it can even get worse.

Match Setup

1. Click the red Start button
2. This window will open



3. Press 'Join Queue' to join the queue
 - a. It displays your own selected class and rank so you know what you queued for
4. Please select a rank according to the others in the queue
 - a. If 20 players are in queue at rank 7 and you choose rank 2 while no one is queuing for 2 you will wait longer
 - b. The matchmaking is +-1 or +-0 depending on the test
5. Wait for the game to load and the countdown to finish. Then, you can begin playing.

In Game

1. No respawns are active
 - a. If your vehicle gets destroyed, you can fly around the map and spectate the game
 - b. The enemy base can be captured after 8 minutes or when less than 40% of players of one team are alive.
 - c. The max game time is 20 minutes. After that the game will end and depending on the max alive players a winner will be decided (Only if more than 50% of players were eliminated else it will be a draw)
 - d. After the game finishes you will return to hangar after 10 seconds
2. After the game is finished, you can return to the garage/hangar

After/During Test

We appreciate your participation! Please leave feedback on the Discord server (Threads). Your review will help us a lot to improve and build the game.