



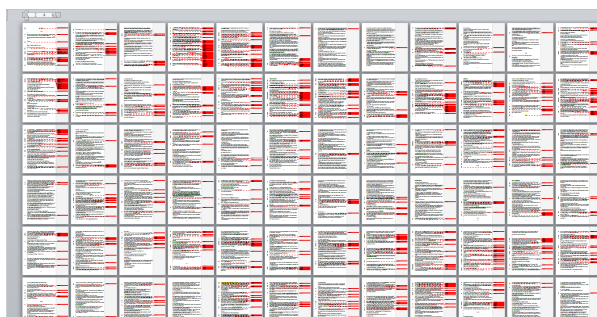
STELLAR JOCKEYS JULY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Stellar Jockeys newsletter for July. This month's edition is a trip down memory lane, along with your usual collection of community submissions.

Benjamin, Stellar Jockeys

How The Audiobook Was Made

To celebrate the addition of the [Brigador ebook to our merch store](#), we thought we'd look back at how it all came about. Sitting in my computer's D:\Brigador\Books folder are about 140 files. I'm only going to talk about three of them. This is what part of the first one looks like, zoomed out.



What you're looking at are some of the corrections and annotations to the ~75,000-word Brigador novelization from spring 2016. The majority of these are simple orthographic fixes. Frankly, very little had to be changed when it came to editing the written novel.

The other two files, however, are another matter. Before that, we need to note that the Brigador novel and its audiobook adaptation was a confluence of multiple people, in multiple places, namely:

- **Brad Buckmaster** for writing it from the south of England
- The **Monahan brothers** for their feedback, foreword and cover art from the US
- **Ryan Cooper** for their VA from the north of England
- **Benjamin** (the one typing this out) for editing Brad's words and directing Ryan while in Moscow, Russia

- **Makeup And Vanity Set** for their music from their Nashville-based studio
- **David** for their skills with Final Cut, also in Moscow

So how do you get from all those people to an audiobook? Well to start, you need to audition people for the role. So, here's a test read from early 2016 from Ryan.



Secondly, some stats on the audiobook itself:

- In its *final* state it is 18 chapters plus an epilogue, with a runtime of almost eight hours.
- In its *initial* state those eight hours were made up of 193 short audio clips.

Now, once you've found your VAs, and done your recordings, the *other* two files are needed. In more official circles you would probably call these production notes; I called them chapter notes. To what end? Let's take a glimpse.

Text highlighted in yellow is for the attention of voice actor.

Text in bold should be considered important.

Original audio files (including rushes) along with these notes and the full text (in the rushes folder) can be found on

CHAPTER	File number / Timestamp	Comment	Resolved y/n
1	1 / 0:00	Insert chapter title	
	1 / 1:22	After "pitted hull" rough edit needs cleaned.	
	2 / 1:01	After "with no exceptions" rough edit needs cleaned.	
	2 / 1:35	After "hazy cam feed" intake of breath, needs cleaned.	
	2 / 2:04-2:10	Remove "He looked at his watch, then brought the scout to a halt." Keep "He looked at his watch, then brought the hunter to a halt."	
	3a / 0:18	Between "cable" and "out" it sounds like there's a hitch/jump in the recording, making both words run together. Re-read required.	Y
	3a / 1:15	After "lack of discipline" intake of breath, needs cleaned	
	3a / 1:24	After "bar patrons" intake of breath, needs cleaned.	
	3a / 2:28	After "preparation phase" small pause needed after between "cannibalizing".	
	4a / 0:34	Before "She hadn't seen him" intake of breath needs cleaned.	
	4a / 0:40	After "fame go to his head" breath needs cleaned.	
	4a / 0:48	After "troops first" breath needs cleaned.	
	4a / 1:15	After "troops to relax" breath needs cleaned.	
	4a / 1:19	Between "sigh of relief" and "and Edwina's" breath needs cleaned.	
	4a / 1:25	Slight odd noise after "easy banter"	
	4a / 1:57	After "easy back and forth" breath needs cleaned.	
	4a / 2:10-2:15	In the line "Blake had often wondered if she would've reacted differently if she was present during the riots" between "wondered if" and "she" there's a hitch/jump in recording. Re-read required.	Y
	5 / 0:59	Before "It was a conversation" breath needs cleaned.	

The two files of chapter notes were used by three people – myself, Ryan

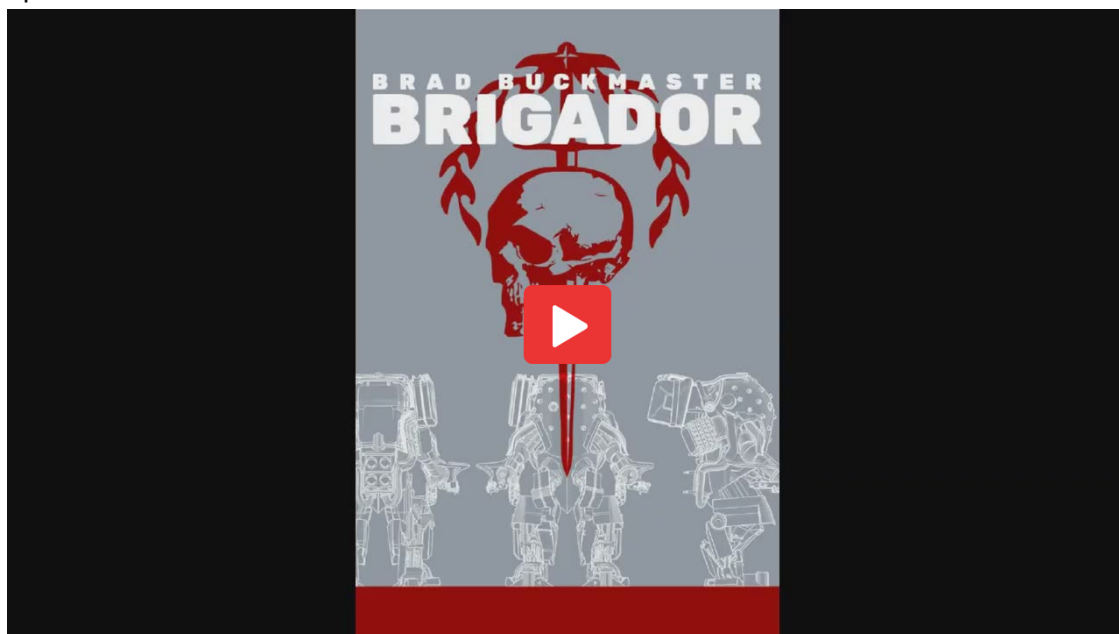
and David. I would write the document after downloading and listening to the reads (numbered numerically) from Ryan via cloud upload. Ryan would follow the direction from my comments. Once satisfactory, David came in to do post production, and take all 193 files and stitch them together into the chapters. Lastly, I would listen through to the assembled chapters after David exported them.

In an ideal scenario, this should all be done in a studio environment with an audio engineer present. Instead, this was done remotely, so in order for things to not go *completely* off the rails, you need a document that at a glance whoever is looking at it can understand what they need to do and where they need to do it.

Finally, for those that haven't read or listened to it, the book is in two parts. This was because we wanted the audiobook to coincide with the 1.0 release, but we only had enough audio up to chapter eleven, so Part II wasn't immediately available when it was released back in 2016.

In 2019, the original AIF files from 2016 were cleaned up further and a few changes made to make it available on Audible. One of those changes altered the epilogue slightly, though I still prefer how the 2016 version closed out. Spoilers ahead, if you have not read or listened to the book.

At the novel's conclusion, newly-promoted Col. Blake, Sgt. Maj. Mirante and Cpl. Collins are recovering in hospital. At the six-minute mark in the epilogue chapter, part of the MAVS track that is now known as "The Rules Have Changed" (but originally titled "March") swells in as Blake gives her speech. Here is how that final section used to sound.

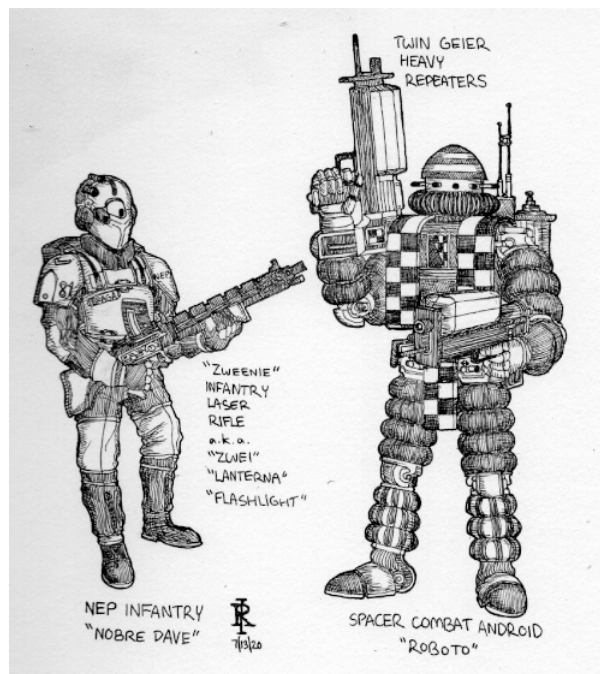


Hope you have enjoyed this brief trip down the memory hole.

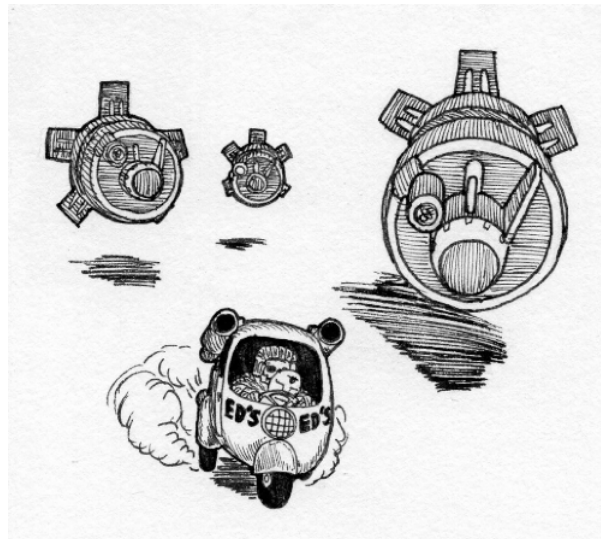
Community Spotlight

We've only got space for a couple of entries this month, so here's two from Discord newcomer RifleInfantry. First, their take on the infantry of

Solo Nobre...



And their vision of Precursor James in a Varlet being chased by Bombuchas...



These images and other contributions by our community can be seen in the #becks_best channel on our Discord.

[Join Our Discord Server](#)

Next Month

In August's newsletter we'll discuss our current plans, as well as check in on what our exemplary community members have created.



Stellar Jockeys

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