SysPic

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COLLABORATORS			
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SysPic

1.1 SysPic v4.00

```
=============================================================================


                    »»» SysPic v4.00 «««
                 "Make your boot look cute!"

            Shareware © 1995-1996 The Beet Research

                 written by Grzegorz Calkowski

=============================================================================

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1.2 Disclaimer

Disclaimer

1.3 Copying

                   Copying

    SysPic 4.00, unlike previous versions, is relased under the concept of

                   SHAREWARE
                   . It can be freely distributed under following conditions:

    1. Everything in this distribution must be kept together and
       unaltered.

    2. Copyright notices are not removed from executable and
       documentation.

    3. No more than a nominal fee is charged to cover cost of magnetic
       media.

    4. Magazines are allowed to include the SysPic on a coverdisk
       but have to send a free copy of the issue to the author.

SysPic is Copyright (C) 1995-1996 The Beet Research.
                        All rights reserved.

1.4 Shareware

                   SHAREWARE

    The SysPic is SHAREWARE. This does not mean it is free. If you want to
use it on regular basis you have to register, after one month of evaluation
period.   The program is not crippled in any way, but displays a shareware
reminder when quits. The registration fee is only

                      US$10 or 15 DEM

which I consider very reasonable. Read
                   how to register
                   .

    After registration I send you back a disk with the latest SysPic release
along with the personalized keyfile which will remove the annoying shareware
reminder.   Alternatively I can send the keyfile via E-mail. Once you have
the keyfile, you will be "set for life" where updates are concearned. This
means you will not have pay more even for SysPic 9.00 :) You cannot give the
keyfile to anybody else!

    Using the program after the evaluation period without registering is
both illegal and immoral. Even more illegal is using SysPic with a cracked
keyfile. In case you have got an illegal keyfile, send it to me. If you're
the first who sent me that one, you will get a FREE one for yourself as a
reward.   The piracy is mostly responsible for killing the Amiga. Please,
help fighting it!

IMPORTANT NOTE: all people who registered previous versions of SysPic
by sending me a postcard will get the keyfile FOR FREE. You are listed

                  here
                  . If you want to get the keyfile via Snail send me a disk. Well, ←
                     this
is a lesson for those, who ignored cardware or were just too lazy. Think
twice next time.

    Well, why to pay the fee? Not because I spend much time on the
programming. I'm really devoted Amiga programmer and it's pleasure for me
to support our beloved computer. If I would be in a good financial
situation, the SysPic would have remain freeware. But I'm not. Well, I
don't think I'll get rich because of making SysPic shareware. I am a poor
Polish student. My mother, who is a teacher... gets about $200 a month.
Yeah, it's the goverment attitude to the education. And believe me, prices
in Poland doesn't differ much from those in West European countries, some
are even higher (like computer equipment's).

    I really hope you won't hesitate to register. Thank you in advance!

1.5 How To Register

             How To Register

    You can get keyfile via E-mail or via regular mail on disk containing
the last release of SysPic. The former is faster (you will get the keyfile
in few days) and cheaper. The figure below should be self-explainable:

```
+------------------+------------+--------------+----------------+
| Place / Shipment |  E-mail    | Regular mail | Payment methods |
+------------------+------------+--------------+----------------+
|Outside Europe    |  US$ 10    |   US$ 15     | 1, 2, 3        |
|Europe            |  15 DEM    |   20 DEM     | 1, 2, 3        |
|Poland            |  10 PLN    |   13 PLN     | 1, 2           |
+------------------+------------+--------------+----------------+
```

Payment methods:

    1. Money enclosed in your (snail)mail. Put the notes (no coins,
       please) between two paper pieces to avoid them being detected
       on the way.

    2. Postal money order to my address.

    3. Transfer the money to my Mum's bank account:

       Name: Barbara Calkowska
       Bank: Powrzechna Kasa Oszczednosci
                Bank Panstwowy o/Lubliniec
       Account: 15626-88314-152-1795

The first method is preffered. Sorry, no (euro)cheques.

Send this order form to my

                    address
                    .

    Thank you !

1.6 Author

Contacting the author

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                 calkowsk@usctoux1.cto.us.edu.pl

                 NOTE: I will soon get a new e-mail
                 address (which will be the primary one).
                 However, all the above should stay valid
                 (as mail forwards, at least).
                 If you don't get reply from me, try another
                 (in the order above).

    IRC: UncleMat at #amigapl and #amiga

    My other programs on Aminet:

        util/boot/SysPic302.lha   (the pre-4 release)
        pix/boot/SysPic301.lha   (the anti-windoze bootpics,
                                      a few more than in this archive)
        util/wb/AutoAssign.lha   (neat assigns and mounts tool)
        util/wb/SmartWB105.lha   (the well-known Workbench booster)
        gfx/aga/MonSync101.lha   (can do what MonEd cannot)
        mus/play/JustPlay.lha   (old but usable cli-only module player)
        util/wb/iconspy1.lha   (ancient icon tooltypes snooper)

1.7 Introduction

                 Introduction

    If you think that black screen during boot time is boring and you want
to make the boot process look more professional (or even fancy) it is
definitely program for you. I know there are other similar programs – but
SysPic's features make it absolutely the BEST! Just take a look at the
features list :)

SysPic is a small but powerful viewer-like program meant to show a picture during the boot time. The picture can be removed at any time using an separate command (

ClosePic

) which can be placed for example in your WBStartup drawer.

Features - SysPic 4.00   * - a star feature :-)

    o is small & VERY fast! (picture decompression routines written
      in optimized assembly)

    o shows IFF-ILBM pictures of any size and resolution,
      supports AGA modes (also HAM8)

    * has a flexible script-like language which allows you to display
      configurable text with hard/soft info, also with typewritter and
      shadow effects

    * can display a realtime digital clock on the displayed picture

    * can fade-in picture and fade-out it to Workbench (with selectable
      rate) - this works in asynchronous manner (i.e no delays) -
      mouse pointer is also faded

    * can play IFF-8SVX samples or Protracker modules with volume slide
      synchronized to fade-out

    o centers picture both horizontally & *vertically*

    o centers the mouse pointer when exits

    * has a very powerful random selector - an option assures that
      a picture won't show twice until all pictures are shown

    o forces Workbench to open behind the displayed picture so it can be
      closed after whole Workbench initialization, also works with
      the Directory Opus 5, the Workbench replacement

    o has no problems with MCP 'PubModes' feature

    * is iprefs-jump proof - sets overscan prefs before IPrefs will do it!

    o picture can be displayed in a desired mode or just promoted to
      specific monitor

    o optionally blanks the pointer sprite so you won't see it when the
      Workbench screen opens (it would look annoying) (see

Bugs

)

    * picture is automatically closed when something goes wrong with
      booting - when an requester pops up on Workbench or so

    o detaches from shell in an intelligent way (i.e after loading
      the picture)

          * DOES NOT fragment the memory!!!

          o has been thoroughly tested by a team of betatesters

          o will be updated and supported in future

          * comes from Poland :))

1.8 Requirements

                  Requirements

   SysPic requires at least Kickstart 3.0 (no chance for 2.04 compatible
version, sorry). Memory requirement depends on size and no. of colours of
displayed picture.

   To play Protracker modules
                ptreplay.library
                 v6.5+ is needed. It is
included in the package. The library isn't needed if you don't want to play
modules.

1.9 Installation

                  Installation

   It's fairly easy. First step is to copy files in appropriate places.
There is the Installer script provided. Just click on 'Install SysPic'
icon.

   If you prefer to do it by hand first copy file 'SysPic' wherever you
want. I recommend you to put it to C: or somewhere else on your command
path. Note, that there is 68020 version supplied. Use it if you have 68020
or higher CPU.

   In order to remove opened picture, the small program
                ClosePic
                 is
needed. Simply drop it to 'WBStartup' drawer.

   If you use 'FadeIn' option the tool
                WaitForFadeIn
                 is needed. Copy
it also to C:. There are some
                other tools
                 included.

   The second step is to modify the startup-sequnce. Just add one line
right after SetPatch command:

     SysPic <file> <options>

    Options are described in
                Usage
                 section.
                Here
                 you can see an
examplary outline of a customized startup-sequence.

1.10 Customized startup-sequence

                Customized startup-sequence

;
; the startup-sequence
;

C:SetPatch QUIET

DEVS:Monitors/Multiscan   ; load monitor we need for syspics
SysPic <picture> <options>

....commands before IPrefs....

; Please comment/remove the monitor load sequence - it's slow and
; does redunant work - why to create monitor list you use on
; every boot? The only benefit it has is that it automatically
; loads every file in DEVS:Monitors. But do you often change it?
; Therefore it is better to execute them.
;
DEVS:Monitors/PAL
DEVS:Monitors/NTSC
;DEVS:Monitors/Multiscan   ; NOTE! We have already loaded it!!
DEVS:Monitors/DblPAL
DEVS:Monitors/DblNTSC
etc.

;IF EXISTS DEVS:Monitors
; IF EXISTS DEVS:Monitors/VGAOnly
;   DEVS:Monitors/VGAOnly
; EndIF
;
; C:List >NIL: DEVS:Monitors/~(#?.info|VGAOnly) TO T:M LFORMAT "DEVS:Monitors/%s"
; Execute T:M
; C:Delete >NIL: T:M
;EndIF

....more commands before IPrefs....

C:WaitForFadeIn   ; this line is required if you use
                FadeIn
                 option
C:IPrefs

....etc.....

Now see
                Usage

                .

1.11 Usage

                Usage

    The main program - 'SysPic' can be used only from Shell. It makes not
much sense to use it from Workbench (for what ?). Therefore don't try to
launch it from WB because it will do nothing (at least it won't crash the
machine).

    Well, in fact, SysPic is a full-featured viewer. It's capable to
display any ILBM image upto 256 colours and HAM6/HAM8 images as well.
Currently no CyberGFX support - read
                this
                . It uses custom IFF
parsing routines, written in optimized assembly (i.e faaast :).

    The options template for 'SysPic' looks like:

Filename/A,RandMin/K/N,RandMax/K/N,Digits/K/N,Dir/S,EX=ExRand/S,
BF=BestFit/S,SO=SetOscn/S,KP=KeepPtr/S,VC=VCenter/S,BB=BBlank/S,Public/S,
ST=Sticky/S,NF=NoFrag/S,ModeID/K,Monitor/S,FadeIn/K/N,FadeOut/K/N,
R=Red/K,G=Green/K,B=Blue/K,Delay/K/N,Sound/K,Rate/K/N,Volume/K/N,Module/K,
Filter/K,Clock/K,H12/S

Huh, a little complicated? :) Don't be scared, 'SysPic ?' brings a brief
description instead of the cryptic template.

NOTE: Options new in Release 4 are marked with *NEW*

    where

NEW   Filename <path>   Specifies the filepath for an IFF-ILBM
                                 picture or SysPic script. See description
                                 of the script commands. Note, that
                                 'Filename' keyword can be omitted.

                                 Note, this option used to be 'Picture'.

                                 IMPORTANT NOTE: SysPic changes it's current
                                 directory to the directory of picture/script
                                 given here - so the path for sample/module
                                 can be relative to it.

                                 Example. Let's say we have in RAM: two files:
                                 mod.song and picture.ilbm.

                                 C:> SysPic ram:picture.ilbm module mod.song

                                 The above will work.

        RandMin <number>   SysPic 2.x style random selection

```
        RandMax <number>       See
            Random selection
                    Digits <size>


        Dir                    New random selection method.
        EX or ExRand           See
            Random selection
                    BF or BestFit          Switch - if specfied program will  ←
                        use
                            BestModeIDA() function to obtain the best
                            resolution & display mode for the picture.
                            Try it if for some uncertain reasons picture
                            is shown incorrectly.

                            With current implementation this option
                            should correctly display pictures saved in
                            modes like Multiscan, DBLPAL, etc. on
                            PAL/NTSC only configurations. The reverse
                            may not be true.


        SO or SetOscn          Sets your overscan preferences (from
                            envarc:sys/overscan.prefs file). It avoids
                            the very annoying screen-jump when IPrefs
                            sets the overscan prefs. It's practically
                            necessary when you want to display a picture
                            in a hisync mode like DBLPAL or MULTISCAN,
                            which overscan preferences usually differ
                            from the defaults. Note, it's a hack!
                            See
                Bugs
                .


        KP or KeepPtr          Switch - if specified the mouse pointer
                            won't be blanked.


        VC or VCenter          Switch - enables vertical centering. Usable
                            for displaying brushes - saves space & time.


        BB or BBlank           Switch - use ECS/AGA blank border option


        Public                 Switch - makes SysPic's screen publically
                            available. It's NOT public by default as in
                            previous releases (2.03 - 2.11).
                            The screen name is 'SysPic' (surprise?).


        ST or Sticky           Switch - SysPic won't exit at keystroke or
                            mouseclick. The only way to get rid of the
                            SysPic's screen is ClosePic command.


*NEW*   NF or NoFrag           Switch - avoid memory fragmentation. All
                            allocations are made on the top of the
                            memory pool (i.e with MEMF_REVERSE flag, for
                            techies). Recommended, but see the note
                            about
                statram.device
                .
```

```
ModeID <modeid>          Shows picture in a specific mode. The
                         'ModeID' keyword must be followed by a
                         display id value. If it's hexadecimal no.
                         (usually) it must be prefixed with '$' or
                         '0x':

                         ModeID 0x39024 ;MULTISCAN:Productivity
                         ModeID $89024  ;SUPER72:Super-High Res Laced
                         ModeID 692229  ;DBLPAL:High Res Laced


        ListModes
         tool will reveal these magic
                         numbers to you.

Monitor                  Switch - if passed only monitor bits
                         are extracted from 'ModeID' value. I.e the
                         picture will only be promoted to chosen
                         monitor. For example, specifying
                         'ModeID $39024' does not imply 'MULTISCAN:
                         Productivity' display mode but only
                         MULTISCAN monitor! If the picture is in
                         lores it will show up in lores, but using a
                         MULTISCAN resolution.

                         This switch does nothing without 'ModeID'.

FadeIn <rate>            Picture will fade-in from black with
                         specified rate. Legal range for <rate> is
                         1...16. (1-fastest, 16-slowest). Example:

                         FadeIn 16       ; fade-in very slow & smooth

                         NOTE: it won't work with HAM pictures!

                         IMPORTANT: See
        WaitForFadeIn
         description.

FadeOut <rate>           Picture will fade-out to Workbench
                         background color (by default, see below)
                         and then Workbench will be faded-in.
                         Rate range as above.




R or Red                 Specifies the colour to fade out to (and to
G or Green               fade in Workbench from). Valid range is
B or Blue                0..255.  Also hex values are accepted (when
                         prefixed with '$' or '0x').
                         The range is also true on OCS/ECS machines!!

                         Examples:

                         Red=0xff Green 0 Blue=0    - bloody red
                         R 255 G 0 B 255            - musashi violet
                         R=0 G=0 B=0                - funeral black
```

```
                                 Red 200                      - ???

                                 NOTE: if you omit a component it's value is
                                 taken from the Workbench background pen! I.e
                                 'Red 200' modifies only red gun to 200 dec,
                                 leaving green and blue untouched!

         Delay <ticks>           Wait for specifed number of ticks before
                                 showing/fadeing in the picture.
                                 1 second = 50 ticks. Example:

                                 Delay 25        ; wait for half a second

*NEW*    Sound <path>            Sample (IFF-8SVX or RAW) to play, currently
                                 max. size is 128kb for mono samples, twice
                                 for stereo samples. Mono samples are played
                                 on both speakers. If 'fadeout' option
                                 specified sample is synchronously slided
                                 down. Loops are supported.

*NEW*    Rate <value>            Play rate for sample (in Hz).
                                 May be useful for RAW samples.

*NEW*    Volume <value>          Play volume for sample. Range 1..64.

*NEW*    Module <path>           Protracker module to play.
              PTReplay.library
                                               is required. During fade-out it's ←
                                                     volume
                                 also is slided down.

*NEW*    Filter <ON|OFF>         Turn on or off audio filter. Works also
                                 without 'Sound' or 'Module' options.

*NEW*    Clock <clockstr>        Show realtime updated digital clock on
                                 the displayed picture. The 'clockstr' has
                                 following format:

                                 x/y/pen/name.font/size/shadowpen/shadowlen

                                 The last two are optional. Use them if you
                                 want to have shadowed clock. Examples:

                                 Clock 20/10/3/Courier.font/13
                                 Clock 20/10/3/Courier.font/13/2
                                 Clock 20/10/3/Courier.font/13/2/3

                                 If you omit 'shadowlen' the default is 1.
                                 BUGS: the 'shadowlen' must be positive,
                                 unlike as in the 'SHADOW' script command.

                                 NOTE: the coordinates are relative to
                                 top-left edge, not to the font baseline.

*NEW*    H12                     Switch - 12-hour style clock
```

NOTE: When the picture is shown pressing left mouse button cause immediate
quit, while the right mouse button acts like 'ClosePic'. This is usable for
tests, to see the fadeout and/or 'exit' part of script.

1.12 SysPic's Scripts

                    SysPic's Scripts

    The scripts are major new feature of 4.00 release, which allow to
specify SysPic options in file and, using some simple commands, to show some
text with system info on displayed picture. The scripts consist of three
basic parts: options section, init section and program sections.

The outline looks like:

```
SYSPIC           ; must be on the beginning (0 offset)
<options>
...
INIT:
<init section>
...
MAIN:                              \
<main section>                      \
...                                  > program
EXIT:                               /   sections
<exit section>                     /
...
```

Comments are allowed anywhere when preceded with a semi-colon (;).

              Options section

              About the commands

              Init section

              Program sections

              Text printing commands

              Text control commands

              Other commands

              Special values
              The scripts are really easy. Just take a look at these examples:

         Demos.readme

         Amiga.script   run me!
         Amiga2.script   run me!
         AWS.script   run me!

```
A-Start.script     run me!
Clock.script       run me!
Joke.script        run me!
Windoze.script     run me!
```

1.13   Options section

Options section

   All command-line options can be used here and they can be split in
several lines.   The options here take precedence (i.e override) over these
specified on command-line. However, random selections options are treated
differently, i.e they are independent from these on command-line. This
means you can randomly select a script, which again can randomly select a
picture! :-)

   Note, if you want to use this feature, you must put the pictures in
other drawer than the scripts if you use pattern random method due to the
cache file '.syspics'. This will me fixed in near future.

   Note well, scripts cannot be loaded from scripts! (It would be crazy :)

   Examples:

1. The absolutely minimal script:

SYSPIC
Work:Pictures/Bootpic.iff

2. Another one with more options:

syspic   ; <- case insensitive
Work:Pictures/BootPics/#?.iff dir exrand
fadein 16 fadeout 10
nf vc

1.14   About the commands

About the commands

   All commands are case insensitive. Only one command is allowed at a
line. Need not to be placed at the 1st column.

   Convention used in commands descriptions:

        < > - angle brackets enclose required arguments
        [ ] - square brackets enclose optional arguments
        " " - double quotes indicate strings
        | - vertical bar separates options from which you can choose
              only one
```

Sections starts with a label followed by a colon (no spaces before
it), for example:

MAIN:

tells SysPic that commands after it belong to main section.


## 1.15  Init section

Init section

This section starts with 'INIT:' label.  If you want to have main
section (i.e use any script commands) this one must be present and must be
at just after options section.

You put initialization commands here.  Currently only one is defined:

FONT <no> <name.font> <size>

  Assign (and open) font to slot number <no> (valid range: 1..16).
  By default all slots are set to topaz.font 8.


## 1.16  Program sections

Program sections

Two program sections are allowed:  'MAIN:' and 'EXIT:'.

The  main  section  (must  be present, if init section is there) will be
executed  before  showing  the picture.  The picture will be shown after the
last command.  However, it can be shown earlier with 'FADE' command (or it's
alias  –  'SHOW').   This allows you to write some things before showing the
picture and some other when it's already visible.

The  exit  section,  which  is  optional, will be executed when ClosePic
signals SysPic to remove the picture.  After the last command the picture be
closed/faded-out.    Again,   with   'FADE'   command  the  picture  can  be
closed/faded-out  earlier, while following commands are executed (i.e typing
and fading out at the same time).

TO SUMARIZE:  SysPic operates in asynchronous manner, i.e fading and
script executing can happen simulatenously!!

All  program  sections'  commands  are  allowed  both  in  main and exit
sections.


## 1.17  Text printing commands

```
                 Text printing commands


TEXT <"string"> ["right-aligned-string"] [CR]

  Write string on current coordinates and optionally another string aligned
  to the right margin (in fact when the second string is present the
  commands is split in two:  TEXT and RTEXT).  The actual x-coord is
  advanced to the position after printed string, i.e two commands:

  TEXT "Hello"
  TEXT " World!"

  are equal to

  TEXT "Hello World!"

  'CR' switch does the same what
                'CR'
                 command.


TEXTXY <x> <y> <"string"> ["right-aligned-string"] [CR]

  As above, but the string is printed on the specified position.


RTEXT <"right-aligned-string"> [CR]

  As the 'TEXT' command, for only right aligned strings.


RTEXTXY <x> <y> <"string"> ["right-aligned-string"] [CR]

  As above , on x/y position.


You can use some
                special values
                 in the strings.
```

1.18 Text control commands

```
                 Text control commands


CENTER <ON|OFF>

  Turn on or off text centering.  Affects only
                'TEXT'
                 and
                'TEXTXY'
                 commands.
```

CR

  Carriage-return. Just what it says.

FADE

  This is the only command which acts differently in main and exit sections.
  In main section fades/dumps in the picture. In exit section starts the
  fadeout (if applicable, i.e if 'fadeout' options has been specified) or
  just closes the picture. This command has alias
                'SHOW'
                  .

GOTOXY <x> <y>

  Sets pen to x/y position. The 'x' value becomes left-margin for writting
  text (i.e after 'CR' x-coord is reset to this value).

JAM1

  Set 'JAM1' mode (i.e text is printed without background)

JAM2

  Set 'JAM2' mode (i.e text is printed with background)

LINESPACE <n>

  Value to be added to y-coord when going to next line (i.e on 'carriage
  return'). Negative values allowed.

RIGHTMARGIN <n>

  Set right-margin value.

SETAPEN <n>

  Set foreground pen.

SETBPEN <n>

  Set background pen (used in 'JAM2' mode).

SETFONT <n>

  Set current font to <n>.

```
SHADOW [pen] [length] [OFF]                        TRY IT!! :-)
```

  Set's shadow text mode. All texts will be printed with shadow in 'pen'
  colour. The 'length' specifies the shadow length and can be
  negative. Examples:

```
  SHADOW        - turn shadow on with default values, pen 0, length 1
  SHADOW 2      - turn shadow on, pen 2, default length
  SHADOW 100 3  - shadow with pen 100, length 3
  SHADOW OFF    - turn shadow off
```

```
SHOW
```

  Alias for
            'FADE'
             command.

```
TYPERATE <n>                                       TRY IT!! :-)
```

  If <n> is greater than 0 the text will be printed character by charater
  instead of one go. The <n> means the delay before next character is typed
  (ca. in 1/100th of second).

```
TYPESPACE <n>
```

  Value to be added to x-coord after each character is typed. Can be
  positive or negative (negative values allows for reverse typing).

1.19   Other commands

```
Other commands
```

```
BOX <x1> <x2> <y1> <y2>
```

  Draw a filled rectangle with current pen.

```
WAIT <n>
```

  Wait for specified amount of time (100 = 1 second).

1.20   Special values

```
Special values
```

```
The  following  values,  when  used  in  strings  will  be  substituted with
correspoding  string.  They are MCP-compatible (at least these, which exists
```

```
in MCP).

        %os  - Kickstart Release (e.g 3.0)
        %wb  - Workbench Release (e.g 3.1)
        %ov  - Kickstart Version (e.g 39.106)
        %wv  - Workbench Version (e.g 40.4)
        %tc  - Chip RAM in Bytes
        %tf  - Fast RAM in Bytes
        %tt  - Chip+Fast RAM in Bytes
        %Tc  - Chip RAM in KBytes
        %Tf  - Fast RAM in KBytes
        %Tt  - Chip+Fast RAM in KBytes
        %TC  - Chip RAM in MegaBytes
        %TF  - Fast RAM in MegaBytes
        %TT  - Chip+Fast RAM in MegaBytes
        %pr  - Processor
        %cp  - CoProcessor
        %cs  - ChipSet


        %dt  - dd-mm-yy
        %Dt  - mm/dd/yy
        %DT  - dd-mmm-yy
        %t1  - hh:mm (24-hour style)
        %t2  - hh:mm XM (12-hour style, with AM or PM string)
        %_d  - day (with leading 0s)
        %_m  - month (with leading 0s)
        %_y  - year (2-digits)
        %_Y  - year (4-digits)
        %wn  - abbreviated weekday name
        %Wn  - weekday name
        %mn  - abbreviated month name
        %Mn  - month name


        %%   - single percent (%) sign
```

1.21 Random selection

```
Random selection

    SysPic  has  a  very powerful and flexible random selector, which can be
used in two ways.

    First  method,  compatible  with  SysPic  2.x,  works by substituting an
asterisk  (*)  in the filename with a randomly generated number within given
range.

    Options:

        RandMin <number>        Lower bound.
        RandMax <number>        Upper bound.

                                Both must be specified!

        Digits <number>         Specifies length of the inserted number.
                                If char-length of generated number is shorter
```

that it leading zeros will be prepended.

    NOTE!!   From version 3.02 options keywords here are REQUIRED! Following
example will produce names from BootPic001.iff to BootPic018.iff:

        SysPic Work:GFX/Pics/BootPic*.iff randmin 1 randmax 18 digits 3

    This method is simple, but naming all the pictures with the same manner is
very inconvenient – it's hard to identify a picture. This is why SysPic 3.00
introduces completely new method.

    Now you can specify a DOS pattern for pictures to show. A picture will be
randomly selected from the files in a directory matching given pattern. If the
directory contains lots of files this could be slow – but SysPic takes care of
this – the directory is scanned only once and then all matching filenames are
cached in a file named '.syspics'. So remember:

    1) first SysPic looks for '.syspics' file – if found reads it AND ignores
       the given pattern

    2) if not found – scans the directory for matching files and creates
       '.syspics' file.

    If you add/remove some pictures and/or modify the pattern YOU HAVE TO
REMOVE '.syspics' file!!!

    Options:

        Dir   Switch – enables pattern random.

        EX or ExRand   Switch – enables exclusive mode.
                                This means that no picture will show twice
                                until all of them are shown. However, this
                                requires a write to harddisk – the information
                                about currently shown files is stored in file
                                named '.exdata'.

    Examples:

        SysPic Work:GFX/Pics/#?.ilbm dir

    will show all pictures matching '#?.ilbm' pattern. And

        SysPic UMDisk:Images/(Girl|Cute|Sexy)#?(.iff|.ilbm) dir exrand

    will show all those nice pictures starting with 'Girl', 'Cute' or 'Sexy'
and ending with '.iff' or '.ilbm' suffix. Furthermore, you won't be annoyed
with a picture showing more frequently than others. For thorough explaination
of AmigaDOS patterns see AmigaDOS Manual.

    Method shown above unlike it's predecessor doesn't force you to name your
pictures in a number scheme, it's also fast and, at last, gives you the
'exrand' option...

1.22 Included Tools

Included Tools

SysPic's archive contains following tools:

ClosePic
            – closes SysPic's screen

WaitForFadeIn
           – avoids problems with IPrefs when fade-in

ListModes
            – lists available screenmodes

and 2 tools taken from the
            Visage
             distribution archive:

GetModeID
            – an alternative to 'ListModes'

UnpackILBM
            – unpacks IFF-ILBM body – SysPic
                will show unpacked ILBMs usually faster

Two last programs are freely distributable and
Copyright (c) by
            Magnus Holmgren
                I included them because, first, the author allows to use them ←
                 in other
products, second, why to write something what is already written...

1.23 ClosePic

ClosePic

This small program closes SysPic's screen. Can be used from Workbench
and Shell, too. The former method is recommended – ClosePic should reside
in 'WBStartup' drawer (see
            Installation
).

To have picture closed when whole Workbench is initialized set STARTPRI
tooltype to -128. It assures that ClosePic will be launched last (for your
convinience it is already set to -128 :). See
            Tips
            .

ClosePic understands another tooltype – 'DELAY=xxx' which allows to
delay picture closing, where 'xxx' is ticks amount (1 second = 50 ticks).
For example:

```
    DELAY=150
```

causes 3 second delay. This option is unavailable from Shell.

1.24 WaitForFadeIn

```
        WaitForFadeIn
```

   'WaitForFadeIn' checks wether SysPic is fading the picture - if yes -
waits until fade-in is finished, if not - exits quickly.

   This command is required when you use SysPic's 'FadeIn' option. When
SysPic is fading it's screen and in background 'IPrefs' command is executed
(as startup-sequence is processed further) the picture flashes. This is
possible due to the asynchronous behaviour of SysPic, especially in case of
optimized startup-sequnces and slow fade rate.   To avoid it execute
'WaitForFadeIn' just before IPrefs. See
        Installation
            .

   Note, all the above also applies to FastIPrefs by Hans-W. Schober!

   This command has no options.

1.25 ListModes

```
        ListModes
```

   This command (as it's name suggests) lists id numbers of screen modes
present in the graphics database. You would need them for SysPic's
        'ModeID'
        option. This command can be launched from Shell and Workbench as ←
            well.

   Note, that 'ListModes' lists only modes with descriptive names (regular
modes).   I.e will not show modeid for MULTISCAN:160x960 HAM Interlaced, for
example. This is where
        GetModeID
         command comes handy.

   This command has no options.

1.26 GetModeID

   NAME

 GetModeID -- Get screen mode id number.

SYNOPSIS

GetModeID

DESCRIPTION

Open an Asl or ReqTools screen mode requester, and print out the
decimal number for the selected screen mode. Only the number is
printed, making it suitable for "backticking" it into the command
line of other programs.

EXAMPLE

A bit useless perhaps, since Visage have a mode requester (among
other things) already, but just an example to show how it can be
used:

Visage Pics:Some.Pic MODE `GetModeID`

    Even more useless example with SysPic (but you may use it to find
    suitable mode for a picture):

    SysPic Pics:Some.Pic ModeID `GetModeID`

1.27   UnpackILBM

NAME

UnpackILBM -- Unpack IFF ILBM pictures.

TEMPLATE

UnpackILBM FROM/A,TO

SYNOPSIS

UnpackILBM [FROM] <Source> [TO <Dest>]

DESCRIPTION

Unpack the so called BODY chunk of an IFF ILBM file. The BODY chunk
contains the actual picture data. The other parts of the file are
simply copied.

OPTIONS

FROM The picture to unpack.

TO The file to unpack to. If not specified, then the unpacked
    file will overwrite the original (via a temporary file).
    Specifying the same file for both FROM and TO causes an
    error.

    FUTURE PLANS

Several things could be improved, including buffered I/O (and thus
not loading the entire BODY chunk into memory and unpack it there);
a chunk filter (to remove unwanted chunks). Other (less likely to
be implemented) things include the possiblity to add/change some
chunks and pack the BODY chunk.

1.28 Magnus Holmgren

Magnus Holmgren is the author of Visage – a great picture viewer with many
powerful features. You can download it from Magnus's home page or any Aminet
site. Try it out!

If want to contact Magnus write to:

  Magnus Holmgren
  Kvarnbergsvägen 5
  S-444 47 Stenungsund
  SWEDEN

Electronic addresses:

  Fidonet : 2:204/204.6
  Internet: cmh@lls.se or cmh@augs.se
  WWW   : http://www.lls.se/~cmh

1.29 PTReplay

PTReplay

PTReplay.library version 6.5 by Mattias Karlsson. © 1994,95,96 BetaSoft
This version is FreeWare. You may use this library, and also copy it
further, provided that NO CHARGE other that a reasonable media fee is
claimed.

1.30 Tips

                Tips

                        Tip #1

Let's say you want to, for some special reason, randomly show some pictures

which are placed in more than one directory. This can be easily achieved by
editing the '.syspics' file - just add absolute paths for these pictures.

                              Tip #2

Pictures will be generally shown faster when they are unpacked ILBMs. See

              UnpackILBM
               utility.

                              Tip #3

Fade-out looks best when the picture and Workbench are displayed with the
same monitor driver.   Otherwise the monitor will have to resync during
fading what would look ugly. Use
              ModeID
               and/or
              Monitor
               options pair or
just save the picture in desired display mode.

                              Tip #4

Fade-out would also look ugly if you display smaller pictures than Workbench
screen and the BBlank option is turned on.

                              Tip #5

One more issue about fade-out...   If you don't want to waste any second
while booting (this is what SysPic is meant to) set ClosePic's STARTPRI to
lower value, so some programs from 'WBStartup' will be loaded later while
SysPic is fading-out the picture. In my 'WBStartup' drawer it looks like:

        ...
        ClosePic   -90
        SwazInfo   -100
        ToolsDaemon   -120
        AutoAssign   -127

Play with it to achieve best result - Workbench screen should fade-in
exactly as the last program is loaded.

                              Tip #6

SysPic changes it's current dir to the one in which picture (or script)
exists.   This means you can use relative paths for 'Sound' or 'Module'
options. E.g

SysPic Data:bootpics/pic1.ilbm SOUND /samples/yabadabadoo.8svx

                              Tip #7

If the contents of your static ram (e.g statram.device or static.device)
disappers after installing SysPic there are two solutions:
  - don't use 'NoFrag' option (but you lose the neat feature)
  - mount the ram device _before_ SysPic (recommended)
See
                Bugs
                    .

                              Tip #8

Reverse typing is possible with fixed fonts, by using a negative 'typespace'
value. Let's say you use topaz.font/8:

TYPESPACE -16
TEXT "): !sgnirts eht esrever ot tegrof t'noD"

1.31 To Do

                To Do

    Quoting myself from 2.02 docs:

        "No ideas. I think the proggie is complete."

    Geeeezzzz.... life and YOUR suggestions have shown how wrong I was...
    So if you have suggestions - let me know!

    Ideas for future releases:

        o
                CyberGFX Support
                        o MultiUserFileSystem support (login)

        o XPK support (questionable, will slow down boot)

        o increase sample length limit

        o random selection for samples and modules

        o sample play command within scripts, also 'typesample' command

        o text scrollers (maybe :-)

        o prefs editor... (probably MUI-based, upper time to learn MUI ;-)

        o and some more...

1.32 CyberGFX Support

CyberGFX Support

The most asked thing for SysPic is CyberGFX support. I cannot do anything about it as I have no gfx board, nor money for buying it. However, I can promise I'll spend the money I get for SysPic for a gfx board with CyberGFX system :) Even if SysPic doesn't work with your gfx-card, consider registering – you WILL get the CyberGFX-aware-SysPic with IFF-ILBM24 support... Think of those "true-coloured" bootings... :-)

Well, it's the matter of only 20-30 registrations... See
            Shareware
                .
section.

1.33 Bugs

Bugs

Not really a bug – overscan prefs. Starting from Release 2 there are no documented methods for setting preferences. The only program in universe able to do it is 'IPrefs'. Well, everything can be done :-) SysPic sets the overscan prefs EXACTLY in the same way as IPrefs does. But this can be considered as kind of hack. Well, works fine under V39 & V40, however, this maybe not be the case under future releases of Kickstart.

One more – problems with IPrefs (or FastIPrefs) when fading the picture. Currently
            WaitForFadeIn
             program is the workaround. I think the problem lies on the IPrefs's side.

There is a another problem – you won't see MagicWB-daemon's intro-animation because Workbench screen is kept behind SysPic's one. It can be fixed, but only in a "hacky" way. So, we can live with it...

SysPic display mess on CyberGFX. Well, it's real problem as I have no access to any 24-bit gfx board with CyberGFX. Read
            this
                .

If you use 'NoFrag' option a static ramdisk (statram.device or static.device) must be mounted *before* SysPic is called or it's contents will die.

If 'Module' option was used, some harmless Enforcer hits occur, when SysPic closes the ptreplay.library. This is not my fault.

1.34 Acknowledgements

```
                                             I've ever seen...  for 2 days
         Thomas Szücs, Denmark           - Ever longer, biggest postcard
                                           I've ever seen! (for now :)
         Torsten Haubaum, Germany        - did I corretcly spell your name?
         Spiryt, Poland

    YOU guys, will get a FREE keyfile.  Just drop me an e-mail or send a disk.
```

1.35 History

```
            History


v1.00ß (22.07.95)

    o First BETA release.


v1.50 (25.08.95)

    o not "historized" and not released


v2.00 (30.08.95)

    ** not released to public

    o Now SysPic automatically detaches from current Shell process. It does it
      in intelligent way, i.e exits after the picture is loaded & displayed.

    o Added random generator. New options: RANDMIN, RANDMAX, DIGITS.

    o Added feature of setting overscan prefs before IPrefs will do that!
      (New option: SETOSCN). It's a hack! See
              Bugs
               .

    o Sprite blanking works better but it is still unreliable.

    o Added shortcut for BESTFIT - BF.


v2.01 (05.09.95)

    ** not released to public

    o Improved sprite blanking. A little, in fact :-). See
              Bugs
               .


v2.02 (27.09.95)

    o Added support for my other utility - BeetLogin. Automatically closes
      'fake' screen leftover by it.
```

o In some cases SysPic didn't display error messages (ie "Not IFF file").
  Fixed.

o Rendezvous port priority set to a high value to improve ClosePic's
  performance.

o Documentation updated.

o Finally released... (and probably the final release... :-)

v2.03 (27.11.95)

o Now SysPic's screen is public screen. (Requested by Stefano Peruzzi).

o For the same reason 'KEEPPTR' switch added. If specified the pointer
  won't be blanked.

o SysPic always lost 8 bytes of memory due to the patching of
  intuition/OpenScreenTagList() function. Now it losts them only if
  another program patches the same function.

o Optimized a bit (saved over 512 bytes :-)

v2.10 (14.12.95)

o Veritcal centering option added - 'VCenter'. (Requested by Aaron
  Robinson and several other people)

o Border blanking option added - 'BBlank'. (Suggested by Christian Kemp)

o Options changed to mixed-case (increases readability).

o ILBM unpacker rewritten in machine code. A bit faster :).

o 68040+ version included

o 'DELAY' option added in ClosePic. (Suggested by Javier Rodríguez Cos)

o Version string included in ClosePic.

o Bonus pictures cropped to used area (now smaller, but need 'VCenter'
  option to be centered correctly).

o Further optimizations made saving some bytes (again smaller than previous
  version!)

o Installer script included (finally...)

v2.11 (18.12.95)

o Ooopsss... vertical centering had been working until final compilation...
  really stupid bug. Fixed.

o Error messages sometimes were doubled (strange, indeed). Fixed.

o An Enforcer hit could occur when SysPic was passed with bad arguments –
  an old bug in the startup code found & cured.

o Documentation updated... I didn't write that ClosePic's DELAY tooltype
  value is expressed in ticks.

v3.00ß (22.02.96)

  ** not released to public

  o MAJOR UPDATE!!

  o Completely rewritten ILBM code. Most critical parts are now in
    optimized assembly. Up to 10 times faster now! iffparse.library is no
    longer used. However, this has some drawbacks – complex FORMs can't be
    displayed, so SysPic won't show first frame of an animation, for
    example (drawback, really ?).

    Also, pictures without CAMG chunk and bigger than lores didn't show
    (like these saved with AdPro, for example). Fixed. Reported by Knut
    Suebert.

  o Adjustable fade-ins added! Here you are fade-in lovers [yeah, it's
    nice, but rather fancy option ;-]. SysPic can smoothly fade-in picture
    and fade-out it to Workbench. Popular demand... whole bunch of folks
    have cried for this....

  o Pattern random implemented! Just pass a filepattern to select pictures
    randomly from a directory. To make it fast a file (.syspics) containing
    filenames is created.
    Suggested by Johan Torin, Trevor Morris, Gregor Bernhard Rosenauer
    and Andew Bruno.

  o Even more! Exclusive random option is available! No more showing a
    picture twice! Proposed by Johan Torin again.

  o The most wanted 'ModeId' option finally added! Now it's possible to
    force a displaymode or just to promote to a specific monitor.
    Suggested by Sven Eppler, Michael Neuweiler and some other people.

  o SysPic's screen can be closed now by a mouse-click or a keystroke!
    Requested by G.Nath and Johan Torin.

  o SysPic will close it screen immediately when pushed to back! In case
    of an error requester, for example. Idea given a long time ago by
    Christian Kemp (yes, it could be done!).

  o Another unique feature added – SysPic WILL NO longer fragment chip
    memory. Screen's memory is allocated at the top of free memory pool.
    Suggested by John Severinsen.

  o IMPORTANT! SysPic's screen is no longer public by default. New 'Public'
    option makes it public. Could cause problems with tools like MultiCX.
    See

```
                        Bugs
                        . Reported by Markus Rütter.

    o Borderblanking didn't work. Fixed. Reported by Christian Kemp.

    o 'BestFit' option was pratically unusable. Now it works quite nice.

    o 'Delay' option added - adds delay before showing picture.

    o Small bug in ClosePic removed (version bumped to 3.00).


v3.00 (15.03.96)

    o WaitForFadeIn command added.

    o GetModeID and UnpackILBM commands from Visage distribution included.

    o A bug in random generator found & cured.

    o Two bonus pictures added.

    o Documentation updated & reworked (major work....). This guide utilizes
      amigaguide.library v39. Plain doc removed from distribution.


v3.01 (11.04.96)

    o New options added: 'Red', 'Green', 'Blue'. Requested by Dave Dustin,
      Girish Nath and Marcin Orlowski [blackness is now possible, guys :]

    o Right mouse button doesn't immediately close the picture.  It rather
      fades it out (usable for tests). Again Girish Nath's suggestion.

    o Distribution changed - SysPic is now split into two archives,
      one with the program, second one with the bonus pictures.
      (Saving bandwidth... :)

    o Default tool in 'Install SysPic' icon changed to 'Installer'
      (was 'C2:Installer'... ooops, ToolAlias in MCP is guilty).
      Reported by Louis Le Gall.

    o Four (marvellous) bonus pictures by Michal "Dixan05" Prochownik included.

    o Sorry folks, the .01 increment took so long... :(


v3.02 (11.08.96)

    o Minor update

    o When 'Public' switch is used SysPic is in SMART refresh mode. Upto now
      it was practically unusabe, as every closed window left ugly gaping hole.
      Bug reported by Paul Trauth.

    o Stupid "colon-after-if" bug fixed. If a display mode stored in
      picture was unavailable SysPic didn't try to match other. Only using
```

'BestFit' could help. Reported by Ivan Wheelwright.

o 'Sticky' option added. Now you can control when SysPic exits.
  Requested by Andrea Rafreider and Henrik Pedersen.

o NOTE: INCOMPATIBILITY WITH PREVIOUS VERSIONS!!!
  'RandMin', 'RandMax', 'Digits' are now keywords (/K). I.e they must
  be given before argument. If arguments were incorrect SysPic
  reported 'bad number' error what was quite confusing.

o As SysPic's options became more complicated, a brief help is displayed
  instead of the cryptic template.

o Stay tuned for stunning 4.00 release.... REALLY SOON!

v4.00 beta1 (01.09.96)

  ** Limited distribution, only for betatesters

  o MAJOR UPDATE

  o Now SysPic can play IFF-8SVX and RAW samples. Options added:
    'Sound', 'Rate', 'Volume'

  o Protracker modules support added.
            PTReplay.library
              is required for
    this.

  o Now SysPic can use scripts with options which overrides those at
    the commandline.

  o Script-like langauge implemented. Now you can have configurable text
    with soft/hard info displayed on your picture. David Ceulemans is the
    guy, who "forced" me to do it :)

  o Realtime updated clock option added.

  o 'Filter' option to turn on or off the audio filter added

  o Some example scripts included.

  o Full of bugs...

v4.00 beta2 (23.09.96)

  ** Limited distribution, only for betatesters

  NEWS:

  o New commandline switch: 'NoFrag' - in 3.00-3.02 the feature was always
    on. Now it's an option, so the statram.device problem is now "fixed".
    Thanks to Thomas Szücs.

  o Added shortcuts for 'ExRand' and 'Sticky' options, 'EX' and 'ST'

respectively.

o Mouse pointer is now centered at exit. Idea came from Rainboot by
  Kimmo Pekkola (believe or not, I have not seen Rainboot before I have
  created 4.00!).

o Works with DOpus5 now – patches intuition/ScreenToFront().
  Thanks to Trevor Morris.

o Intuition/SetPubScreenModes() patch added, no more problems with MCP
  PubModes (the problem appeared when something opened a window the
  WB screen was brought to front) – the PubModes are cached and set back
  when SysPic exits.

o Removed 'TYPE' script commands family, now 'TYPERATE' affects 'TEXT'
  commands.

o Text can be printed with a adjustable shadow now – 'SHADOW' command
  added.

o Shareware reminder added.

o Documentation updated to reflect 4.00 changes.

o More example scripts and pictures added.

o No longer separate 040 version included. It didn't make any noticeable
  speedup.

o Distribution changed again – due to some Aminet upload problems,
  everything is kept in single archive.

BUGFIXES:

o 'TYPERATE 0' works now.

o Memory no longer leaks (Thanks to Dave Dustin).

o 'VCenter' option didn't work within scripts.

o %wn, %Wn works now also... on Sundays – the most stupid Enforcer hit I
  ever had – it could occur only on Sundays! :-)

o %TF, %TC, %TT now works correctly.

o Hour and minute fields (in %t1, %t2) always take 2 chars, leading zero
  is inserted if needed.

o 68881/68882 copros strings are no longer screwed up.

o The clock is now stable and takes less cpu time.

o A small bug in the clock code fixed – the clock could be
  cut on the right.

o the 'BestFit' code (hopefully) improved a little... Arrghh,
  I hate BestModeID()! :<

  o SysPic badly crashed if pattern random (i.e 'DIR' option) was used both
    on the commandline and in a script. Discovered just a minute before
    releasing beta2 :)

v4.00 (28.09.96)

  ** public release

  NEWS:

   o Several minor changes

   o Now the clock can also has a shadow.

   o New ClosePic icon... by me :-)

  BUGS:

   o A deadly bug, introduced in beta2, found in clean up code...
     SysPic didn't crash itself, but another program after call to
     SetPubScreenModes() could sometimes go to hell, or produce zillions
     of Enforcer hits... Fixed.

   o A whole bunch of Enforcer hits occured when a null string ("")
     was used in the text printing commands. Thanks for David Ceulemans
     for reporting this.

   o '%t2' displayed stupid value. Again, thanks for David Ceulemans.