

Screens

Paul Manias

COLLABORATORS

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<i>ACTION</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>SIGNATURE</i>
WRITTEN BY	Paul Manias	July 26, 2024	

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Chapter 1

Screens

1.1 Screens Documentation

MODULE DOCUMENTATION

Name: SCREENS
Version: 0.9 Beta
Date: December 1997
Author: Paul Manias
Copyright: DreamWorld Productions, 1996-1997. All rights reserved.
Notes: This document is still being written and will contain errors in a number of places. The information within cannot be treated as official until this autodoc reaches version 1.0.

CHANGES VERSION 0.9B

Added: WaitSwitch()
LockVideo()
UnlockVideo()
Display Buffering
Video Locking

Renamed: MovePicture() to MoveBitmap()
ResetPicture() to ResetBitmap()

Edited: MoveBitmap()

Deleted: Removed all Sprite references and functions. Sprites will not appear in V1.0.

All of the raster functions have been removed, as there is now an OO Raster object.

1.2 Module: Screens

INTRODUCTION

OBJECTS

Raster
Screen

THEORY

Display Buffering
Video Locking

FUNCTIONS

AllocVideoMem()
BlankOn()
BlankOff()
FreeVideoMem()
GetScrType()
HideDisplay()
LockVideo()
MoveBitmap()
ResetBitmap()
ReturnDisplay()
SwapBuffers()
TakeDisplay()
UnlockVideo()
WaitSwitch()
WaitAVBL()
WaitVBL()
WaitRastLine()

Colour Functions

BlankColours()
ChangeColours()
ColourMorph()
ColourToPalette()
PaletteToColour()
PaletteMorph()
UpdatePalette()
UpdateColour()

1.3 Screens Module Overview

SCREEN SUPPORT OVERVIEW

The Screens module was the first module to be designed, and speed was a major factor while it was being programmed. To keep it fast, the Screen object has been kept highly simplified while not giving away any powerful features. One example of this power is that you can move the screen around by changing its coordinates, and even dynamically alter its width and height without any adverse affect on the picture display (see the Redimension demo).

There exists a wide range of functions, including special effects such as proportional fading, which allows you to add some very smooth and impressive touches to your programs. The Raster support provides an easy to use gateway to the copper chip. Using the available commands you can acheive affects like mirrors and smooth gradients of colour.

The Screens module is further supported in GMSPrefs, allowing the user to select his preferred screen modes. A powerful feature is being able to

select the screen type, so you can change the display type from ILBM to Chunky for example. This can give you a great speed up if your hardware allows you to use such modes and if the game would benefit from such a change (eg 3D vectors). It is even possible to do things such as upgrading a game to hi-res interlaced, or running in different video modes such as DBLPAL.

1.4 Screens: Display Buffering

DISPLAY BUFFERING

Display buffering is an important issue when you want to double buffer or triple buffer a screen. The technique prevents flickering when drawing to the screen, and in the case of triple buffering it will speed up the program loop.

There are different ways to achieve display buffering, I will explain two of them:

Waiting Method

This method is used for double buffering and some cases of triple buffering. It involves waiting for the vertical blank after you have drawn your data, then calling `SwapBuffers()`. This will usually look something like this:

```
while (loop) {
    Move(Bob);           /* Move objects */
    Draw(Bob);          /* Draw objects to bitmap */
    WaitVBL();          /* Wait for a vertical blank */
    SwapBuffers(Screen); /* Swap the display buffers */
}
```

You can see some real examples of this in the various demo source code.

Triple Buffering Method

This method can also be used for double buffering, but is provided specifically for triple buffering. When the screen module is loaded, it installs a special vertical blank interrupt that lies in the background. This interrupt looks at the current screen and checks the `Switch` field for `TRUE`. If set, the interrupt will switch the screen buffers while the program is running.

At this stage it is important to know what the `MemPtrX` fields mean when triple buffering:

```
MemPtr1 - On display.
MemPtr2 - Waiting for display/VBL ready.
MemPtr3 - Being drawn to.
```

What this allows us to do is draw to the `MemPtr3` buffer while the interrupt takes care of switching the `MemPtr2` buffer to the display. Here is an example:

```
Display(Screen);                                /* Display screen */

Screen->Bitmap->Data = Screen->MemPtr2;

while (loop) {

    /* This section will draw to the buffer in Bitmap->Data.  Because a
    ** switch will probably happen in this area you can understand why
    ** you are not allowed to read from the MemPtrX fields in such an
    ** "unsafe" area.
    */

    Move(Bob);
    Draw(Bob);

    /* At this point we have to make sure that the display has been
    ** switched.  If this is the case then we are running too fast and
    ** will have to wait until a buffer becomes ready.
    */

    WaitSwitch(Screen);                          /* Wait for switch to turn FALSE */
    Screen->Bitmap->Data = Screen->MemPtr3; /* Update for drawing */
    Screen->Switch = TRUE;                       /* We are ready to switch again */
}
}
```

1.5 Screens: Video Locking

VIDEO LOCKING

1.6 Screens: AllocVideoMem()

FUNCTION

Name: AllocVideoMem()

Short: Allocate blitter memory.

Synopsis: APTR AllocVideoMem(LONG Size [d0], LONG Flags [d1])

DESCRIPTION

Allocates a block of memory suitable for the video display. This type of memory is also compatible with the blitter module, and should continue to do so for all hardware configurations.

The memory will be tracked as outlined in AllocMemBlock() if resource tracking is turned on.

INPUTS

Size - The Size of the memory to allocate.

Flags - Memory flags as outlined in FreeMemBlock().

RESULT

Pointer to the allocated memory. All video memory is formatted with 0's when allocated. Returns NULL if error.

SEE ALSO

Kernel: FreeMemBlock()
Screens: FreeVideoMem()

1.7 Screens: BlankColours()

FUNCTION

Name: BlankColours()
Short: Drives all screen colours to zero (black).
Synopsis: void BlankColours(*Screen [a0])

DESCRIPTION

Drives all the colours in a screen palette to zero, which will give a black screen (but only if the ScrType makes use of the palette register). If successful, you won't be able to see any picture detail after calling this routine.

INPUTS

Screen - Pointer to an initialised Screen structure.

SEE ALSO

Screens: BlankOn()

1.8 Screens: BlankOn()

FUNCTION

Name: BlankOn()
Short: Blanks out the entire display until BlankOff() is called.
Synopsis: void BlankOn(void)

DESCRIPTION

After calling this function the screen display will be completely blanked out until BlankOff() is called. For the duration that the display is blanked out, there will be no visible screen effects whatsoever. Note that Display(Screen) is completely incapable of ending a screen blanking period, but once the screen display is returned any screen alterations will be visible.

This function is intended for making a clean transition between two screens, ie closing one screen then opening another.

SEE ALSO

Screens: BlankOff()

1.9 Screens: BlankOff()

FUNCTION

Name: BlankOff()
Short: Gives back the display after BlankOn() was called.

Synopsis: void BlankOff(void)

DESCRIPTION

This function returns the screen display after calling BlankOn(). Any hidden visual changes that occurred after the BlankOn() call will become immediately visible after calling this function.

SEE ALSO

Screens: BlankOn()

1.10 Screens: ColourMorph()

FUNCTION

Name: ColourMorph()

Short: Fades a of set of colours into one colour value.

Synopsis: WORD ColourMorph(*Screen [a0], WORD FadeState [d0],
WORD Speed [d1], LONG StartColour [d3], LONG AmtColours [d4],
LONG SrcColour [d2], LONG DestColour [d5])

DESCRIPTION

Fades the screen from one colour into another colour. Once you call this function, you have to keep on calling it until it gives you a result of NULL. This allows you to put this function in a loop and do other things while the fade is active.

This function uses the proportional fading algorithm to acheive its effect.

NOTE

All fading functions ignore the colour values that are kept internally. This will cause problems for you if you do not know what your current palette looks like when using these functions.

EXAMPLE

```
FadeState = NULL;
do {
    WaitVBL();
    FadeState = ColourMorph(Screen,FadeState,1,0,32,0xFF00AA,0xA7BC30);
}
while (FadeState != NULL)
```

INPUTS

Screen - Pointer to an initialised Screen structure.
FadeState - Initialise to zero, then keep sending the returned value back until you get a NULL in this field.
Speed - The required speed for the fade.
SrcColour - The colour that you are fading from, 0xRRGGBB format.
DestColour - The colour that you are fading to, 0xRRGGBB format.
StartColour - The colour to start fading from (0 ... AmtColours-1).
AmtColours - The amount of colours to fade (1 ... MaximumColours). You must never use a value of 0 here.

RESULT

Returns NULL if the fade has finished.

SEE ALSO

Screens: ColourToPalette()
PaletteMorph()
PaletteToColour()

1.11 Screens: ColourToPalette()

FUNCTION

Name: ColourToPalette()
Short: Fades a set of colours into a range of values.
Synopsis: WORD ColourToPalette(*Screen [a0], WORD FadeState [d0],
WORD Speed [d1], WORD StartColour [d3], WORD AmtColours [d4],
APTR Palette [a1], LONG Colour [d2])

DESCRIPTION

Fades a set of colours of the same value, into a range of colours specified in Palette. Once you call this function, you have to keep on calling it until it gives you a result of NULL. This allows you to put this function in a loop and do other things while the fade is active.

This function uses the proportional fading algorithm to achieve its effect.

NOTE

All fading functions ignore the colour values that are kept internally. This will cause problems for you if you do not know what your current palette looks like when using these functions. Keep track of your current palette values to help you with functions like PaletteMorph().

INPUTS

Screen - Pointer to an initialised Screen structure.
FadeState - Initialise to zero, then keep sending the returned value back until you get a NULL in this field.
Speed - The required speed for the fade.
Palette - Pointer to the palette used as the source.
Colour - The colour that you are fading from, 0xRRGGBB format.
StartColour - The colour to start fading from (0 ... AmtColours-1).
AmtColours - The amount of colours to fade (1 ... MaximumColours). You must never use a value of 0 here.

RESULT

Returns NULL if the fade has finished.

SEE ALSO

Screens: ColourMorph()
ColourToPalette()
PaletteMorph()

1.12 Screens/ChangeColours

FUNCTION

Name: ChangeColours()
Short: Change a set of colours in a Screen's internal palette.

Synopsis: void ChangeColours(*Screen [a0], APTR Colours [a1],
LONG StartColour [d0], LONG AmtColours [d1])

DESCRIPTION

Changes all colours within the set range. Alterations will only be made to the screen's internal palette.

INPUTS

Screen - Pointer to an initialised Screen structure.
Colours - Pointer to a list of 24 bit colours.
StartColour - The first colour to be affected by the change. NB: The first colour is defined as 0.
AmtColours - The amount of colours to be affected by the change. Must be at least 1.

1.13 Screens: FreeVideoMem()

FUNCTION

Name: FreeVideoMem()
Short: Frees a memory block allocated from FreeVideoMem().
Synopsis: void FreeVideoMem(APTR MemBlock [d0])

DESCRIPTION

Frees a memory block allocated from AllocVideoMem().

INPUT

MemBlock - The memory block to be freed.

SEE ALSO

Kernel: AllocMemBlock()
Screens: AllocVideoMem()

1.14 Screens: GetScrType()

FUNCTION

Name: GetScrType()
Short: Gets the default/user screen type.
Synopsis: LONG GetScrType(void)

DESCRIPTION

Returns the screen type that is being used as the default in the screens module. This function is often used by other modules, since the ScrType is a common field in structures not initialised by the Screens module.

RESULT

The default screen type (eg PLANAR).

1.15 Screens: HideDisplay()

FUNCTION

Name: HideDisplay()
Short: Hides the entire display from view.
Synopsis: *Screen = HideDisplay(void)

DESCRIPTION

This function is private and is for internal use only.

This function will hide the GMS display from view. This will cause the OS viewport to be returned, but GMS will still be running "in the background". If GMS is not running on top of another OS then the GMS DeskTop screen will be displayed and the calling task will be put to the back.

If no GMS screens are on display then this function does nothing, and returns a NULL value.

RESULT

Pointer to the structure of the Screen that has been hidden by this function. Otherwise NULL if no Screen was active.

SEE ALSO

Kernel: Display()

1.16 Screens: LockVideo()

FUNCTION

Name: LockVideo()
Short: Locks a screen at the front for video operations.
Synopsis: void LockVideo(*Screen [a0])

DESCRIPTION

This function is required whenever you want to draw something to your screen, or if you want to use the MemPtrX fields. Locking a screen is the only way to guarantee that the MemPtrX fields are pointing to video memory.

Attempting to draw to an unlocked screen with CPU or blitter can have disastrous results, so use this function as often as necessary.

Some systems will grant locks immediately, which is valid for most UMA computers and standard Amigas. Other systems using graphics cards will usually not do this. Your task will have to wait until enough video memory is ready, which may be until another task drops a screen lock or until the user moves you to the front of the display.

NOTE

To keep the system stable, screen locks will nest.

INPUT

Screen - Pointer to an initialised screen structure.

SEE ALSO

Screens: UnlockVideo()
Theory: Video Locking

1.17 Screens: MoveBitmap()

FUNCTION

Name: MoveBitmap()
Short: Moves the screen bitmap to specified X/Y values.
Synopsis: void MoveBitmap(*Screen [a0])

DESCRIPTION

This routine has two uses: Moving the bitmap to any position on the display, and for Hardware Scrolling.

It will take the values from BmpXOffset and BmpYOffset in the Screen structure and use them to set the new picture position. This function will execute at the same speed for all offset values.

You must have set the HSCROLL bit for horizontal scrolling and the VSCROLL bit for vertical scrolling if you wish to use this function. If you set the HBUFFER flag in ScrAttrib then you can also use this function to legally hardware-scroll up to 50 screens in either X direction. Do not draw graphics beyond these boundaries as you will damage the system.

NOTES

If the graphics hardware does not support hardware scrolling, this routine will probably blit the entire picture to the new position. This is very slow but is the only other option.

The normal execution time for this function on ECS/AGA is 2/3rds of a single raster line on an A1200+Fast.

INPUT

Screen - Pointer to an initialised Screen structure. The BmpXOffset and BmpYOffset values will be used to set the picture's new on-screen position.

SEE ALSO

Screens: ResetBitmap()

1.18 Screens: PaletteMorph()

FUNCTION

Name: PaletteMorph()
Short: Fades a set of colours into a new set of values.
Synopsis: WORD PaletteMorph(*Screen [a0], WORD FadeState [d0],
WORD Speed [d1], WORD StartColour [d3], WORD AmtColours [d4],
LONG *SrcPalette [a1], APTR DestPalette [a2])

DESCRIPTION

This function will take the palette in SrcPalette, and use it to fade a colour set into the palette given in DestPalette. Once you call this function, you have to keep on calling it until it gives you a result of NULL. This allows you to put this function in a loop and do other things while the fade is active.

This function uses the proportional fading algorithm to achieve its effect.

NOTE

All fading functions ignore the colour values that are kept internally. This will cause problems for you if you do not know what your current palette looks like when using these functions. Keep track of your palette's values and point to them in SrcPalette if you find that this problem is occurring for you.

INPUTS

Screen - Pointer to an initialised Screen structure.
FadeState - Initialise to zero, then keep sending the returned value back until you get a NULL in this field.
Speed - The required speed for the fade.
SrcPalette - Pointer to the palette used as the source.
Destpalette - Pointer to the palette that you want to fade to.
StartColour - The colour to start fading from (0 ... AmtColours-1).
AmtColours - The amount of colours to fade (1 ... MaximumColours). You must never use a value of 0 here.

RESULT

Returns NULL if the fade has finished.

SEE ALSO

Screens: ColourMorph()
ColourToPalette()
PaletteToColour()

1.19 Screens: PaletteToColour()

FUNCTION

Name: PaletteToColour()
Short: Fades a set of colours into a specific colour value.
Synopsis: WORD PaletteToColour(*Screen [a0], WORD FadeState [d0],
WORD Speed [d1], LONG StartColour [d3], LONG AmtColours [d4],
APTR Palette [a1], LONG Colour [d2])

DESCRIPTION

This function will fade a set of various colour values into a single colour value. This is useful for fading the screen to black for example. Once you call this function, you have to keep on calling it until it gives you a result of NULL. This allows you to put this function in a loop and do other things while the fade is active.

This function uses the proportional fading algorithm to achieve its effect.

NOTE

All fading functions ignore the colour values that are kept internally. This will cause problems for you if you do not know what your current palette looks like when using these functions.

INPUTS

Screen - Pointer to an initialised Screen structure.
FadeState - Initialise to zero, then keep sending the returned value back until you get a NULL in this field.
Speed - The required speed for the fade.

Palette - Pointer to the palette used as the source.
Colour - The colour you want to fade to, in 0xRRGGBB format.
StartColour - The colour to start fading from (0 ... AmtColours-1).
AmtColours - The amount of colours to fade (1 ... MaximumColours). You must never use a value of 0 here.

RESULT

Returns NULL if the fade has finished.

SEE ALSO

Screens: ColourMorph()
PaletteMorph()
PaletteToColour()

1.20 Screens: RefreshScreen()

FUNCTION

Name: RefreshScreen()
Short: Updates the screen display.
Synopsis: void RefreshScreen(*Screen [a0]);

DESCRIPTION**INPUT**

Screen - Pointer to an initialised Screen structure.

SEE ALSO

Screens: WaitVBL()

1.21 Screens: RemakeScreen()

FUNCTION

Name: RemakeScreen()
Short: Remakes the screen display according to its size, width, and position on the monitor.
Synopsis: void RemakeScreen(*Screen [a0])

DESCRIPTION

Remakes the Screen's viewport as quickly as possible. If the Screen is currently hidden, then the changes will show up the next time you call Display(Screen).

You cannot change the display mode, screen type or amount of screen colours with this function.

INPUT

Screen - Pointer to an initialised Screen structure.

1.22 Screens: ResetBitmap()

FUNCTION

Name: ResetBitmap()
Short: Resets the picture position to position 0X, 0Y.
Synopsis: void ResetBitmap(*Screen [a0])

DESCRIPTION

Resets the picture position to 0X, 0Y. This method is faster than clearing the PicXOffset and PicYOffset fields and then calling MoveBitmap().

INPUT

Screen - Pointer to an initialised Screen structure.

RESULT

PicXOffset and PicYOffset in the Screen will be cleared.

SEE ALSO

Screens: MoveBitmap

1.23 Screens: ReturnDisplay()

FUNCTION

Name: ReturnDisplay()
Short: Private function.
Synopsis: Screen = ReturnDisplay(void);

DESCRIPTION

This function is private and is for internal use only.

Returns the monitor display to the OS that GMS is running on. This is a special function in the monitor drivers, and is reserved for use in the screens module.

RESULT

Pointer to the Screen that was removed.

SEE ALSO

Screens: TakeDisplay()

1.24 Screens: SwapBuffers()

FUNCTION

Name: SwapBuffers()
Short: Switch the screen display buffers.
Synopsis: void SwapBuffers(*Screen [a0])

DESCRIPTION

If the screen is double buffered, this function swaps Screen->MemPtr1 with Screen->MemPtr2, and activates the new bitmap for the display. If triple buffered, then all three MemPtr's are switched. Visually:

```
BEFORE          AFTER
MemPtr1         MemPtr2
MemPtr2  ---->  MemPtr3
MemPtr3         MemPtr1
```

INPUT

Screen - Pointer to an initialised Screen structure.

SEE ALSO

Theory: Display Buffering

1.25 Screens: TakeDisplay()

FUNCTION

Name: TakeDisplay()
Short: Private function.
Synopsis: LONG TakeDisplay(*Screen [a0])

DESCRIPTION

Takes the display from the Operating System that GMS is running on. This is a special function in the monitor drivers, and is reserved for use in the screens module.

INPUTS

Screen - Pointer to an initialised Screen structure.

RESULT

Returns ERR_OK if successful.

SEE ALSO

Screens: ReturnDisplay()

1.26 Screens: UnlockVideo()

FUNCTION

Name: UnlockVideo()
Short:
Synopsis: void UnlockVideo(*Screen [a0])

DESCRIPTION**INPUTS**

Screen - Pointer to an initialised Screen object.

SEE ALSO

Screens: LockVideo()
Theory: Video Locking

1.27 Screens: UpdateColour()

FUNCTION

Name: UpdateColour()
Short: Updates a 24 bit \$RRGGBB value in a Screen palette.
Synopsis: void UpdateRGB(*Screen [a0], LONG Colour [d0], LONG RRGGBB [d1])

DESCRIPTION

Updates a single colour value in the screen's palette. The change is immediately visible following the next vertical blank.

INPUTS

Screen - Pointer to an initialised Screen object.
Colour - The colour number to update, between 0 and Screen->AmtColours.
RRGGBB - Colour value in standard RRGGBB format.

SEE ALSO

Screens: UpdatePalette()

1.28 Screens: UpdatePalette()

FUNCTION

Name: UpdatePalette()
Short: Updates an entire Screen palette to new colour values.
Synopsis: void UpdatePalette(*Screen [a0])

DESCRIPTION

Updates an entire Screen palette to new colour values, as pointed to in the GS_Palette field. If GS_Palette is NULL then all of the screens colours will be turned black.

This function has no effect on true colour screens.

NOTE

Palette changes will appear when the next vertical blank occurs.

INPUTS

Screen - Pointer to an initialised Screen structure.

SEE ALSO

Screens: UpdateColour()

1.29 Screens: WaitRastLine()

FUNCTION

Name: WaitRastLine()
Short: Waits for the strobe to reach a specific line.
Synopsis: void WaitRastLine(WORD LineNumber [d0])

DESCRIPTION

Waits for the strobe to reach the scan-line specified in LineNumber. The recognised range is dependent on the low resolution height of your screen,

eg 0-255 for a standard 320x256 screen. It is permissible to enter negative values and values that exceed this range, but only do so if absolutely necessary.

This function has been specially written to avoid beam misses caused by the untimely activation of interrupts.

INPUTS

LineNumber - Vertical beam position to wait for.

BUGS

If you enter a large value that is well beyond the range limit, like #350, the strobe will never reach this line because line 350 doesn't even exist. Please keep your values restricted to the height of your screen.

SEE ALSO

Screens: WaitVBL()

1.30 Screens: WaitSwitch()

FUNCTION

Name: WaitSwitch()

Short: Wait for the buffers to be switched at the vertical blank.

Synopsis: void WaitSwitch(*Screen [a0])

DESCRIPTION

INPUT

Screen - Pointer to an initialised Screen object.

SEE ALSO

Theory: Display Buffering

1.31 Screens: WaitAVBL()

FUNCTION

Name: WaitAVBL()

Short: Waits for a vertical blank.

Synopsis: LONG WaitAVBL(void)

DESCRIPTION

Waits until the horizontal beam reaches the Vertical BLank area. This routine will try and give you as much VBL space as possible, usually by waiting for the exact point where the display stops. If this is not possible, then it will wait for the beam to reach the top of the monitor display.

This version of WaitVBL() will automatically pause your task if the user moves the focus to a different screen. This can be exceptionally useful, as it will prevent your program from stealing resources when the user wants

to do something else.

RESULT

Currently returns null.

SEE ALSO

Screens: WaitRastLine()

1.32 Screens: WaitVBL()

FUNCTION

Name: WaitVBL()

Short: Waits for a vertical blank.

Synopsis: LONG WaitVBL(void)

DESCRIPTION

Waits until the horizontal beam reaches the Vertical BBlank area. This routine will try and give you as much VBL space as possible, usually by waiting for the exact point where the display stops. If this is not possible, then it will wait for the beam to reach the top of the monitor display.

RESULT

Currently returns null.

SEE ALSO

Screens: WaitRastLine()

1.33 Screens:

FUNCTION

Name:

Short:

Synopsis:

DESCRIPTION

INPUTS

RESULT

SEE ALSO
