

Thanks for looking at Picture This!

(a Kid's Painting/Drawing program from Alston Software Labs)

Kids are very creative, and their imaginations are amazing. The whole world looks so much different from the eyes of a seven year old. Kids need creative outlets, and the more flexible and entertaining the outlet is, the better. To this end we have created Picture This!, a program designed to encourage kids to use their imaginations to the fullest. Not only are the standard Paint program functions included, there are lots of kid-specific drawing tools and special effects. The copy you have here is a shareware Test Drive, which will let you look at the program for as little cost as possible.

Three Step Installation

1. To install the Test Drive, create a unique directory on your hard disk for it, and copy all the files from your disk into the directory. One of the files should be VBRUN300.DLL. If you bought a disk from a disk vendor, it is supposed to be on it. If not, please report this to us. If you downloaded this from a BBS or Online service (like Compuserve) then it's almost certain that the DLL isn't packed with it. The reason is that the DLL is so common that duplicating it with thousands of other programs on the BBS would soon clog up their system. Chances are that wherever you obtained Picture This from will also have a copy of the DLL.
2. Copy VBRUN300.DLL and THREED.VBX files to your Windows\System directory.
3. Start Windows. Select the FILE MANAGER. Locate the directory that you created, and select the file PTTD.EXE from the list. Drag this into the Windows group of your choice.

The program can now be started the same as any other Windows program.

Getting Started

As Picture This! starts up, you'll see a group of colours in the upper left, a white screen, a group of buttons on the left, and some pictures at the bottom. The white screen is the drawing area, and it has the same dimensions as a piece of standard letter sized paper on it's side.

When you click a colour in the upper left, this will change the drawing color (much the same as any other paint program.)

The pictures at the bottom represent different types of things that can be drawn or selected depending on what operating mode you're in. The operating mode is selected by the buttons at the left. The pictures at the bottom will change depending on which button is selected. You can always tell what button is selected by seeing that it is now a dark gray foreground rather than coloured.

The Buttons

Computer monitor picture:

The top left button is the computer. It will allow you to print, save a picture to disk, or retrieve a picture from disk. If you choose to print, please make sure that your printer is set to LANDSCAPE mode. This means that the picture comes out sideways rather than up and down.

**refer to the discussion about registering for more information.*

ABC:

This allows you to use the keyboard to type letters on the screen. They will appear in whatever drawing colour that is selected. To use, position the mouse cursor where you want to type and click to let the computer know where this is. To stop typing, you can press ENTER or use the mouse to choose something else.

Pencils:

This allows you to draw in various ways. How you draw is selected by the pictures at the bottom of the window. Notice that there is a RIGHT ARROW on a button to the right of the pictures. This means you have more selections available.

There are 18 drawing methods available (3 groups of 6.) The first group: pencil (thin line), pen (medium line), marker (thick line), paint bucket (fills in a colour), spray can (spray pattern), chalk (thick with various smears.)

The second group: starburst (a line hinged to a center point), confetti (sprays random size and colour dots on screen), line, circle, box, and scribbler (draws random connected lines as in scribbling.)

The third group: penguin* (animated penguin leaves tracks as he walks off screen), filled-in box, filled-in circle, bubbles (random circles that look like a trail of bubbles), crazy pen (like the tri-colour pens that kids love to play with), and rugs (randomly sized and coloured sets of concentric circles.)

** refer to the menu discussion about the penguin.*

Eraser (Rubber):

There are three different sized erasers (rubbers) and three effects: chalkboard (turns the screen colour to chalkboard green after clearing it), black hole (the screen shrinks to infinity), and bomb (blows the screen up.)

F/X:

Stands for EFFECTS, as in "special effects." There are six effects: scissors (lets you select an area by drawing a box around it and then move it to another area), magnifier (increases the size of what's on screen by 10%), inverter (does wierd things to colours on screen), swapper (divides the screen in half and swaps the sides), mixer (selects and swaps at random little bits of the screen), and imploder (which works much like the black hole but reduces the screen image by 70% overall leaving the outer 10% at each step making a 3D effect.)

Stamps:

There are 24 different rubber stamps, each of which is selected from a group of stamps in the registered version. Stamps can be clicked into place one at a time or they can be smeared. Some of the stamps are 'effects' stamps meant to be smeared. These are the ones that look like a pattern rather than an object.

Menu Selections

The menu is more for Mom & Dad to set up Picture This than for the kids.

Help!

This document.

Settings:

Settings | **Sound** : checked if sound effects are on, unchecked otherwise.

Settings | **Penguin Speed** (Three choices): allows you to set the speed of the animated penguin drawing tool.

Settings | **Stamp Settings** (2 choices): allows you to set whether stamps are deposited once per mouse click or deposited as long as the button is held down. The 'once per click' setting is the easiest for the younger children to play with. The 'while button down' setting allows for cool 3D effects that older kids are likely to enjoy.

Order Me!

Instructions on how to order the whole enchilada. See REGISTRATION BENEFITS below.

About...

Shows you who we are and the version of this program.

Exit

Quits Picture This!

Registration Benefits

What you have here is fun and it works, but to get the most from Picture This! you'll need to buy it. Don't worry, it's not going to break your bank account: at \$24.95 (US) or £18 in the UK. To help you decide to buy this program, here's a list of the neat things you'll get when you do:

- * Enough **Stamps** to make you nervous: You'll get 4 sets of 24 stamps to create the ultimate pictures... City, Country, Special Effects, and Misc.
- * **More Stamps!** Yes, you'll also receive a stamp editor and 24 more stamps that you can customise for any special effect or scenery that you want!
- * Line Size tools to allow lines, boxes and circles to be any thickness you want.
- * Fill-in Selector to allow filled Boxes, Circles, and Painting to be solid, dotted, and more!
- * Open and Save pictures in Windows standard BMP format as well as the normal PTP format.
- * Get rid of that silly box on printed and saved pictures!
- * Copy / Paste to / from other programs using the Windows Clipboard.
- * More great Drawing tools: triangles, birds, grass, and more!
- * More fun sound effects. Truly noisy if you want it that way.
- * Printed documentation including a design guide.

In addition, you'll also receive a 20% discount on other fine Alston Software Labs titles for kids and the home.

Licence

You may install Picture This! and play with it for up to 30 days before you decide whether or not you're going to purchase it. If you do you'll be sent the full version within 1 working day by first class (or air) mail. If not, please remove Picture This! from your system. Picture This! is shareware, not free software, and it is covered by the same international copyright laws that govern retail software. Using Picture This! longer than the licence period without purchase is piracy.

In Closing

Thanks once again for choosing to evaluate an Alston Software Labs shareware program. If you have any questions we can be reached 9 AM - 5 PM (PST) at the number listed below Monday through Friday. On weekends and after hours we redirect the phone to our homes and chances are you'll be able to reach someone. If you would like to order Picture This! using a credit card and are located in North America you can call our 800 number. If you are in Europe or the UK please call our UK publisher (listed in the **About** box.)

Picture This! and this document Copyright © 1993 by

Alston Software Labs

1320 Standiford Ave #242

Modesto CA 95350

(209) 522 - 8666 (voice or Fax)

1-800-959-6298 (orders only)

(209) 883 - 0ASL to get our Home BBS. Log on with your name, type ASL as your password, and go to the Alston Software Labs file area for the latest ASL titles.