

Thomas Zastrow

SCRIBUS CREATIONS

PART 2





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INTRODUCTION

Here are the *Scribus Creations Part 2*. As sequel of part one, it contains again some more advanced tips & tricks for experienced Scribus users.

If you have some addition or correction to this document, please feel free to do so. It is published under a free license and everyone can use it, change it or add something as he or she likes. I'm always happy for comments, critics or whatever you like to say about this document.

I would like to say thank you to all the Scribus developers – you are doing a damn fine job! Also, thank you to all the experts on the Scribus mailing list and the IRC channel – for your patience and for answering my stupid questions!

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

The main font used in this document is the free font *Linux Libertine*. In some places, I also used the fonts *DejaVu*, *Bitstream* and *Nimbus*.

Except for the Scribus logo, the whole content of this document has been created by me and is distributed under the GNU FDL.

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SOME REMARKS

This document has been created with Scribus Version 1.3.3.10svn under OpenSUSE Linux 10.3. Opening and editing has also been tested on Windows with Scribus 1.3.3.9. Make sure that you have the used fonts installed to properly display this document!

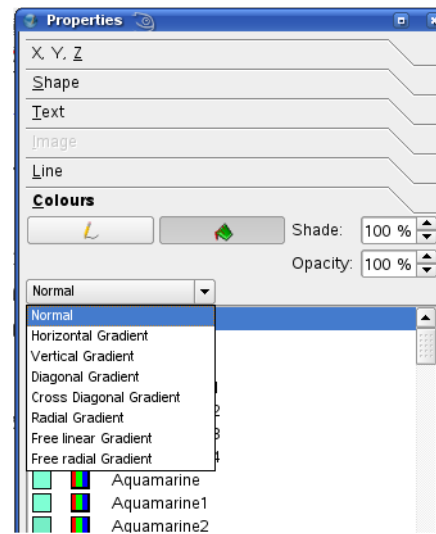


**This nice guy is a Fire fox
who lives in the zoo
Dortmund.**

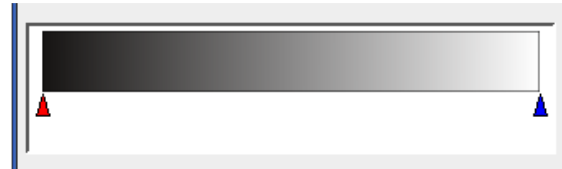
GRADIENTS AND TRANSPARENCY

Scribus has the ability to fill objects with gradients. At a first glance, this function seems to be simple, but in fact it is very powerful and a lot of funny effects are possible. Some of these effects are normally the domain of vector drawing programs like Inkscape, but if you need them integrated in a Scribus layout, it is much more comfortable to create them directly in Scribus.

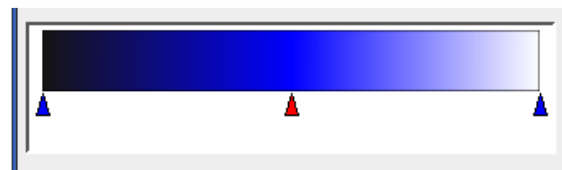
If you have a Scribus object selected with the mouse, open the Properties Palette, and here the tab Colours. Choose the *Edit Fill Colour Properties* and with the select box above the list of colours you can choose which kind of gradient you need.



The simplest example is a linear gradient with two colours, where the first colour starts at 0% and the second one ends at 100%, here in black and white.



But it's possible to create a gradient which goes over more than two colours. Just click in the area under the colour bar, and you can add new intermediate steps and move the existing colours. Here you see a gradient which consists of three colours, from black over blue to white (left to right).



At a first glance, it seems not possible to use transparency as a "colour" within a gradient. Starting point, end point and all intermediate steps of a gradient are always defined colours of the colour palette. The choice of "none" in the colour palette is not possible.

But you can achieve an effect like transparency with a simple trick - just set the opacity of a colour to 0%.

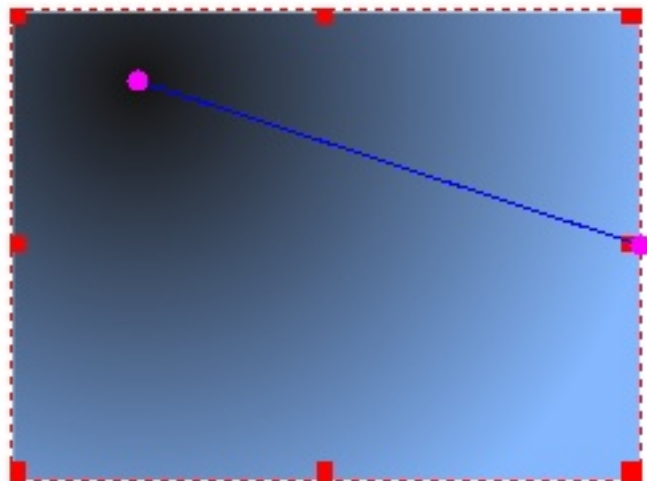
Together with the Shade option, some nice effects are possible.

The use of "transparency" as starting point, intermediate steps or end point is an essential property of some of the following examples.

Another nice feature is the *Free linear / radial gradient*. If you choose one of these gradient types, you can free edit the gradient with the function *Move vector*.



An image frame with a rectangular above it. The rectangular is filled with a gradient from black to white, where the white's opacity is set to 0%



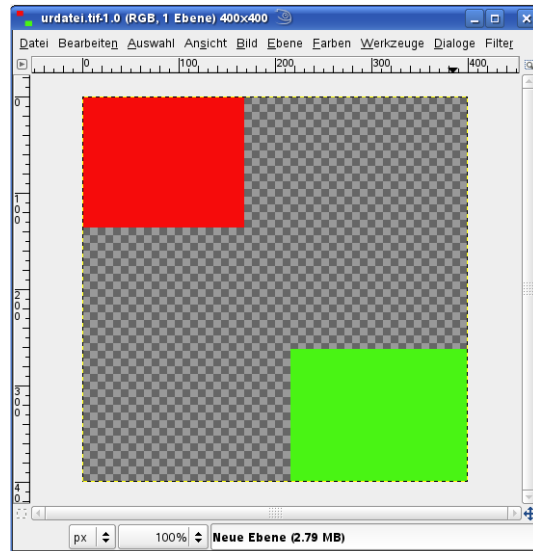
The gradient is defined by the blue vector. Move it around, change it's length etc. to change the gradient.

TRANSPARENCY IN BITMAPS

INTRODUCTION

Sometimes, it is necessary to import bitmaps with transparency into Scribus. But not all file formats are able to handle transparency.

If you create an image in GIMP, the transparency is shown by the chess-alike pattern. Other image manipulation programs are handling this in a similar way. The red and green rectangles in the picture at the right are not transparent.



The image above, saved in different file formats and imported into Scribus. Scribus keeps the transparency: the text in the background shines through the transparent parts of the images:

In this simple example, the result of the different file formats are looking the same here. But remember, the bitmap formats which are used here are very different. They have different features, different advantages and disadvantages. But all of them can contain transparency which is interpreted by Scribus.



SHADOWS

Scribus

Scribus

SCRIBUS

Scribus

INTRODUCTION

Text in Scribus can be shadowed (properties, on the text tab). But these shadows have always the same color than the text itself and are not very flexible. Here are some more examples.

- The simplest shape can be build by duplicating the Scribus element, fill it with another color and place it behind the original element with a slightly shift in other directions.
- Next one: copy the text, convert the copy to outlines, combine the resulting polygones, fill them with a gradient and use the function *Shear the path horizontally to the left* or *to the right* on the *Edit Shape* dialog.



The Shear the paths horizontally to the left / right buttons on the Edit Shape Dialog

Scribus

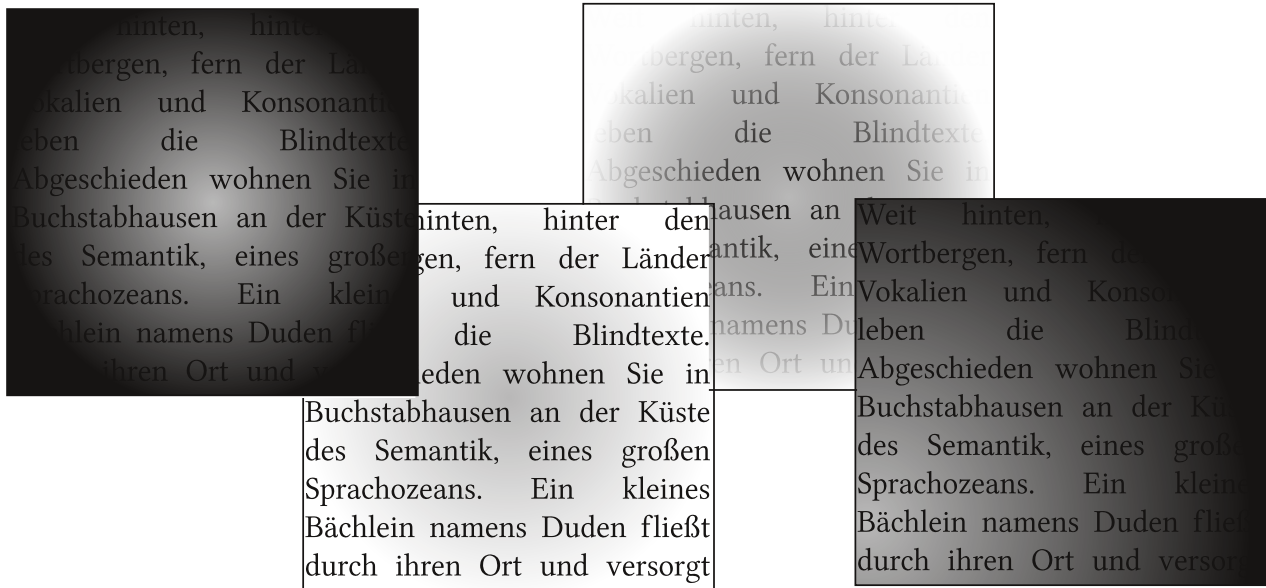
Scribus

SCRIBUS

- The third example works similiar to the second one, but now the shadow is placed behind the original text.

Scribus

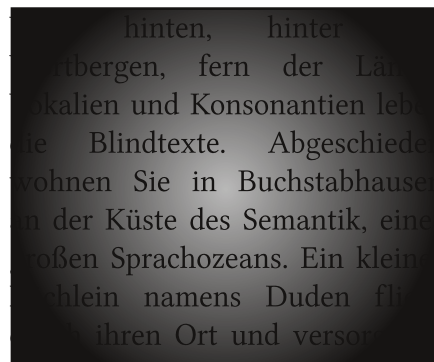
A SHADOW LENS



INTRODUCTION

A nice effect, simulating something like a lens effect.

- Create a rectangular and fill it with a radial gradient from black to black (yes, that's correct). Set the left color (at position 0%) to an opacity of 30% and the opacity of the right color (at position 100%) to 100%. Play around with opacity and shade values, different colors, different gradients etc.
- Move it over a Scribus frame, for example a text frame.

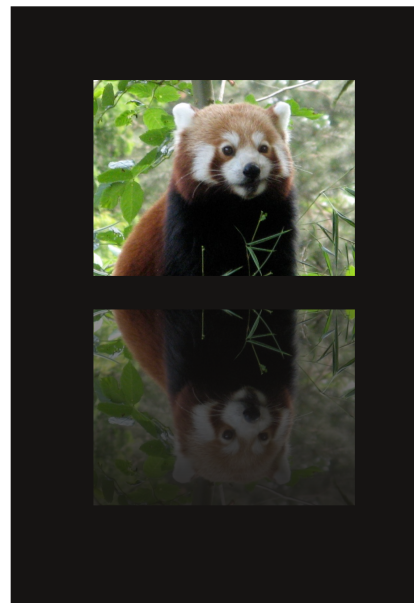


SOME MORE EXAMPLES OF GRADIENTS

- If you are a romantic person, you can place a shape with a gradient from white (100% opacity) to white (0% opacity) above your images ;-)



- A mirror effect, like it is used in modern photo galleries



- Some more examples, all are drawn completely in Scribus (except the Scribus pen which was copied from the Scribus Logo)

Scribus

Button



ONE MORE TEXTEFFECT

- Create a textframe and insert your text.
- Convert it to Outlines.



Scribus

A text frame, converted to outlines

- Duplicate it and place it with a little shift to the left and to the top over the original.



Scribus

A copy of the original outlines, placed above the original with a little shift to the left and to the top

- Mark both frames and use "Combine Polygons" .



Scribus

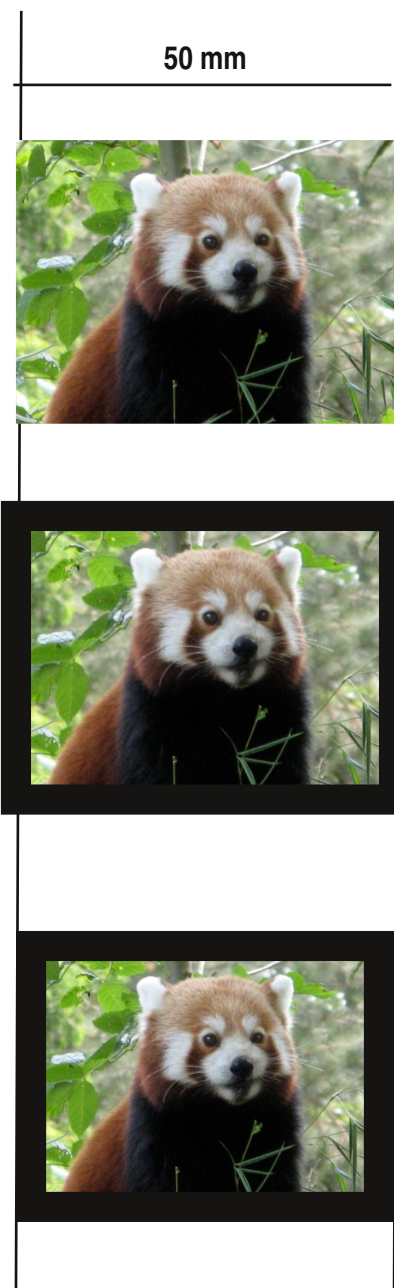
Both combined!

EXACT SIZE OF FRAMES

INTRODUCTION

In a given layout, frames with a exact size are often necessary. A problem appears, when a frame has a colored border: Scribus always adjusts the border of a frame *along the middle* of the frames border. *This results in a growing frame.*

- An image frame with a width of exact 50 mm
- The same frame with a border of 4 mm
- To get again a width of 50 mm, the frame's width has to be set to 46 mm: the border expands the frame on both sides to 2 mm



The exact width of a rectangular frame with a colored border can be calculated:

$$\text{Frame Size} = \text{Frame Width} + \text{Border Width}$$

This works analogue with the height.

LISTS IN SCRIBUS

INTRODUCTION

At the moment, there's no ready-to-use-function for building lists, enumerations etc. in the stable versions of Scribus. But with some tricks, it is possible to build lists with the help of paragraph styles. There is a very fine video tutorial which shows how that works:

http://wiki.scribus.net/index.php/Scribus_Video_Tutorials#Creating_bullet_lists

The bullet lists in this document are also built with this workaround.

Instead of the boring bullets, you can use any character as eye-catcher in front of your lists. Insert them via *Insert / Glyph*:

The diagram illustrates a list of three items with different bullet styles and their corresponding paragraph styles:

- 1. Weit hinten, hinter den Wortbergen, fern der Länder Vokalien und Konsonantien. (Boring bullet)
- 2. Abgeschieden wohnen Sie in Buchstabenhäusern an der Küste (Boring bullet)
- 3. Weit hinten, hinter den Wortbergen, fern der Länder Vokalien und Konsonantien. (Smiley face bullet)

The corresponding paragraph styles are shown in a separate box:

- ▶ Weit hinten, hinter den Wortbergen, fern der Länder Vokalien und Konsonantien.
- ▶ Abgeschieden wohnen Sie in Buchstabenhäusern an der Küste
- ▶ Weit hinten, hinter den Wortbergen, fern der Länder Vokalien und Konsonantien.

Green checkmarks indicate that the boring bullet and the smiley face bullet correspond to the boring bullet paragraph style. A red X indicates that the smiley face bullet does not correspond to the boring bullet paragraph style.



THE WALL

INTRODUCTION

Here, I'll demonstrate some technics for aligning and distributing objects in a Scribus document. The resulting wall can be used for some funny effects.

- Create a brick.
- With the function, *Multiple Duplicate* in the Item Menu, create 5 duplicates of the brick. As horizontaler Versatz, use 1 mm more than the width of the brick. This results in 6 bricks with 1 mm of space between them. The bricks have a width of 12 mm: together with the 5 spaces, the first line of the wall has a width of 77 mm.
- Now, we make the second line which has a small shift in relation to the first one. We duplicate one of the bricks from line one and set it width to the half of the bricks - 6 mm. Be sure that you only change the width and not the height. Next, we duplicate 5 of the big bricks from line one. The small and the 5 big bricks have a width of 66 mm together. Duplicate again one of the bricks and set it width to 5 mm. Now we have: 5 big bricks with 12 mm, one small brick with 6 mm, another small brick with 5 mmm and - 6 spaces of one mm between these bricks, alltogether: 77 mm, exact as the first line. The order of the bricks doesn't play a role at the moment - in the next step, we use Scribus' *Align and Distribute* function from the Window menu to solve this task.



Five big and two small bricks

- Create two guidelines with a distance of 77 mm between them.
- Place all the bricks for the second line between them. Make sure that one brick is aligned to the left and another brick is aligned to the right guideline.

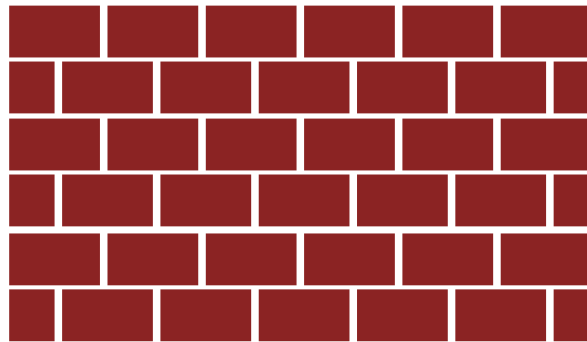


The bricks, with one aligned to the left and one aligned to the right guideline

- Open "Windows / Align and Distribute". Here, use *Align Tops* und *Center on horizontal axis*. The second line is finished!

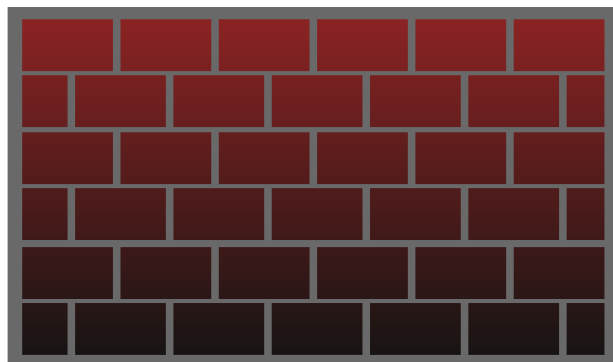


- Group the two lines of bricks and use again "Multiple Duplicates" with a vertical shift on it. Now we got a wall :-)

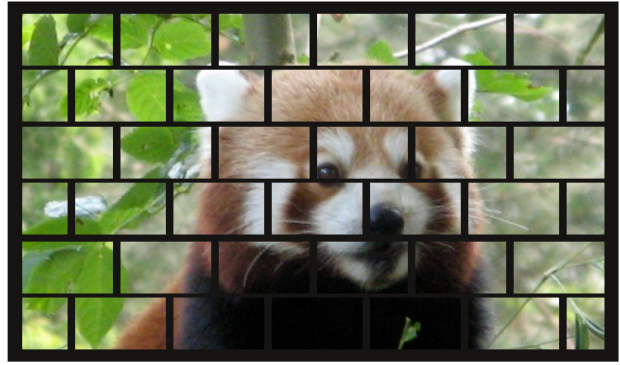


- For the next steps, use *Combine Polygones* from the items menu on the whole wall. This creates one polygone shape from the whole wall.

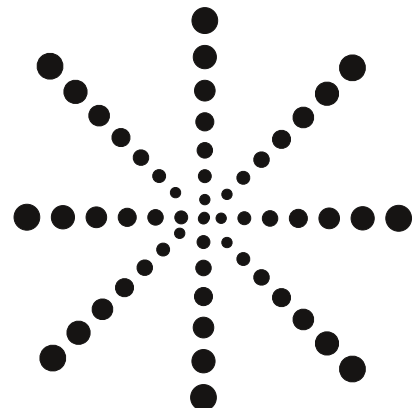
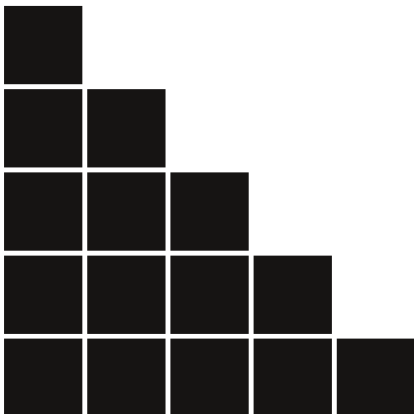
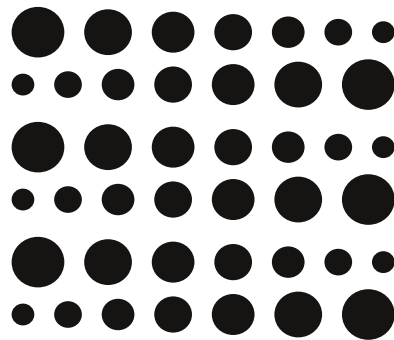
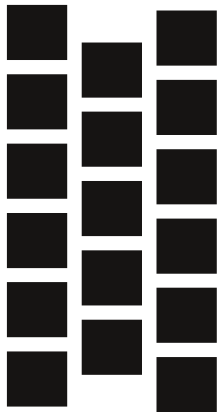
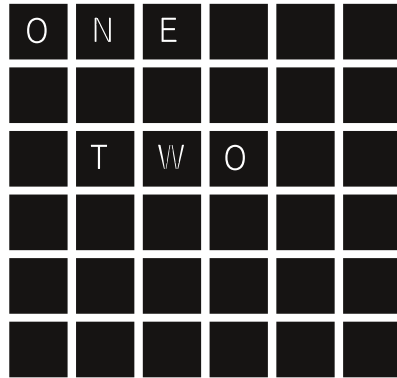
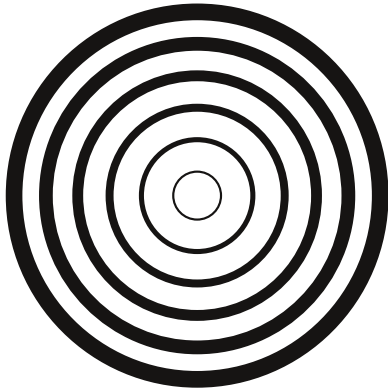
- If you need the spaces filled, just place a rectangular with the color of the spaces behind the wall. Filling the wall with a gradient is always a good idea :-)



- If you use *Combine Polygoes* on the wall together with the background, you will get something like a fence. Let's send the Firefox to prison ;-)



- Here are some more examples, created in similiar manner as the wall.

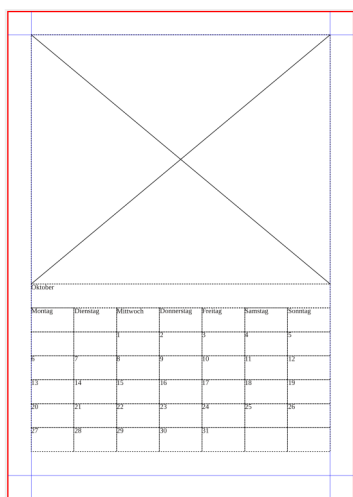
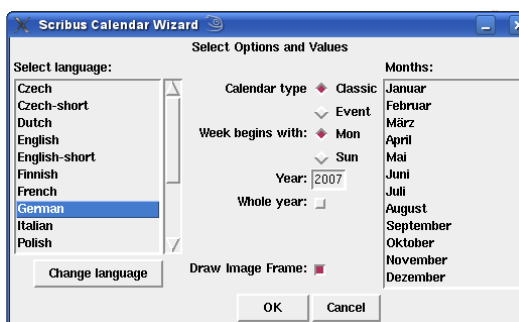


CALENDARS WITH SCRIBUS

INTRODUCTION

Production of calendars is an important task of DTP applications. If you have Scribus compiled / installed with scripting support, Scribus contains under *Scripts / Calendar Wizard* a script for creating basic calendars.

- Scribus' calendar wizard produces calendars with one month per page. An image frame above the calendar is optional.



If you need more complex calendars, you have to use external programs for creating the calendar. A good choice is pcal: it is a commandline program for Linux/Unix and generates PostScript files. These PostScript files can be imported into Scribus and additional elements like images, titles and so on can be arranged around the calendar.

pcal knows a lot of commandline options. Additional, individual dates like birthdays etc., stored in an extra file, can be given to produce individual calendars. Optional, the moon phases can be printed into the calendar. Here are some - hopefully - useful examples of pcal calls.

You can find pcal's homepage here: <http://pcal.sourceforge.net/>

pcal produces PostScript code and prints it to the standard output. You'll need that code as a PostScript file for importing it into Scribus, so you have to redirect the output with the operator > into a file:

```
pcal > actualMonth.ps
```

This command produces a calendar sheet of the actual month in the file *actualMonth.ps*

Here are some of the commandline options which can be used to customize the output of pcal:

- P: the size of the output, for example a4**
- a: the language, for example de for german**
- m: includes the moon phases into the calendar**
- F: the starting day of the week, for example monday. The default is sunday**
- w: A complete year per sheet, for example 2008**

The following command produces a 12-sheet calendar in german, Din-A-4 format with moonphases for 2008:

```
pcal -P a4 -F monday -a de -m 2008 > 2008.ps
```

Please mention, that Scribus can only import the first page of a multipage PostScript document.

The complete year 2008 on one sheet, the moonphases are ignored in this format:

```
pcal -P a4 -F monday -a de -w 2008 > 2008.ps
```

Another great capability of pcal is, to read a data file (with the option -f) with special events. These events are printed directly into the calendar. For example, a file which contains the line:

```
Oct 31 Tom's Birthday
```

will result in a calendar which reminds you on Tom's birthday.

With the help of the external data file, it is also possible to display EPS files at a specific date. For a complete overview of the commandline options, take a look at the pcal man pages or the pcal website.

A one-month calendar sheet, produced with pcal:

October 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																																	
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A complete year:

Januar 2008							Februar 2008							März 2008							April 2008						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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Mai 2008							Juni 2008							Juli 2008							August 2008						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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September 2008							Oktober 2008							November 2008							Dezember 2008						
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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29	30						27	28	29	30	31										29	30	31				

Some examples for the year 2008 can be found in the Scribus Wiki:
http://wiki.scribus.net/index.php/Calendar_2008