

# Art to Desktop v2.1

## AppleScript for iTunes

Find more **free** AppleScripts and info on writing your own at Doug's AppleScripts for iTunes.

This Stay-Open applet will set your desktop picture to the album artwork of the currently playing track.

**This script is Donationware. If you use it and like it *please* consider making a donation to support my AppleScripting efforts. Click here for more info.**

### Installation:

**To manually install:** Put AppleScripts in your iTunes Scripts folder. This is located in *[user name] > Library > iTunes*. If there is no folder named "Scripts" there, create one and put the script(s) in it. AppleScripts will then appear in iTunes' Script menu, and can be activated by selecting by name and clicking. Be sure to also save this Read Me document in a safe and convenient place.

This script is an applet; it can **really** be placed anywhere you like that is easily accessible. Just double-click its icon. It will appear in the Dock where you can later **Quit** it or **Reset** it (see below).

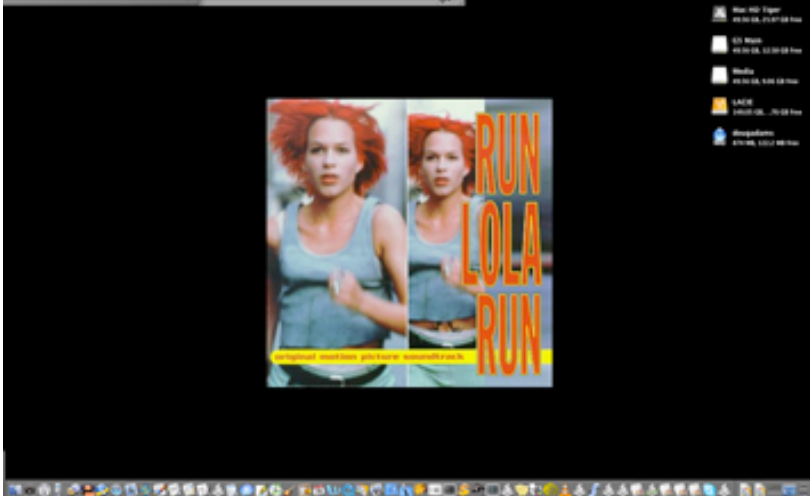
### How to use:

Run the applet. iTunes should be running, though not necessarily playing. When iTunes *is* playing and the current track contains artwork, the applet will grab the artwork, re-scale it if necessary, and display it as your desktop picture. It will take a few seconds for the applet to process artwork for a new track.

- The applet will store the path of the desktop picture which is displayed when it starts up. If a track does not contain artwork or you **Quit** the applet, this picture will be re-displayed.
- It is *possible* that the applet *could* become confused at some point and lose track of your original desktop picture. It *shouldn't*, but I have no idea what you are doing at your house, so I make this disclaimer: **Make sure you know where your initial desktop picture is located so you can restore it if necessary.**

### Desktop picture settings:

You must set your Desktop Picture settings in System Preferences. I personally like a very basic "Center" with a black background:



*My iMac's desktop -- Expose'd -- using "Art to Desktop".*

However, other settings provide interesting results as well ("Tile" for example).

### Reset:

While the applet is running, you can single-click its icon in the Dock and it will clear the current track information and grab the current track's artwork again. This may be handy if you change your System Preferences or in any circumstance where you would like to re-display artwork.

### Quit:

When the applet is Quit, the original desktop picture which was displayed when you started the applet will be re-displayed.

### Hacking the script:

• **By default**, the script exports the artwork image scaled to a width of 500 pixels. You can **scale** the image to your own standard pixel width by entering this in Terminal:

```
defaults write com.dougscripts.arttodesktop defaultScale -int 500
```

...where 500 is the pixel width and an exported image will be scaled to a width of 500 pixels. Any width 200 to 600 is pretty good, but the quality of your images may vary depending on their original dimensions.

### Helpful Links:

Click on the underlined URL text:

- [Doug's AppleScripts for iTunes](#)
- [Assign Shortcut Keys to AppleScripts](#)
- [Download FAQ - Info on downloading and installing AppleScripts](#)
- [Doug's RSS Feed - Recent site news, script additions and updates](#) (add link to your news reader)
- [30 Most Recent RSS Feed - Most recent new and updated scripts](#) (add link to your news reader)

reader)

**Information and download link for this script is located at:**  
<http://dougscripts.com/itunes/scripts/ss.php?sp=artodesktop>

Version History:

**v2.1** Sept 10 2009

- compatible with Leopard and Snow Leopard
- scaling factor accessible via defaults
- code enhancements and finessings

v2.0 June 11 2008

- runs as universal binary
- various fixes and enhancements to modernize since last update (see below)

v1.1 July 26 2006

- deletes contents of temporary work folder so tmp folder does not fill up with artwork files

v1.0 July 26 2006

- initial release

this doc last updated September 10 09

**If you have any trouble with this script, please email me.**

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