

## A Users Guide to Spoiler Sync - Viewing Spoiler Images on PDAs.

### **An Unofficial Guide. Martin Shakeshaft (one4zorro).**

Spoiler Sync is a program written to help with [geocaching](#). It allows geocachers with PDA's to automatically carry a folder of spoiler pictures for the geocaches they are attempting to find.

Often there is no need for a spoiler picture if the co-ordinates are accurate and tree cover is not present or a good hint is available. But if you are still struggling and a spoiler is available - you want to see it !

### **How does it work ?**

Paperless cachers usually use lists of waypoints to allow their various gadgets to be easily programmed. Spoiler Sync supports both of the popular formats of these waypoint files (.LOC and .GPX)

When a waypoint file is selected, Spoiler Sync works through the waypoint file and checks the cache page with details of each cache, if there are any spoiler pictures linked to the page Spoiler Sync will download them to your local PC (optionally shrinking them to save space). The local folder of spoilers can then be copied across to your PDA or laptop so that you carry the spoiler pictures with you in case they are required.

### **What do I need to use Spoiler Sync ?**

- A PC with Windows 98 or later
- An internet connection (dial-up or ADSL)
- A PDA or similar which allows .JPG files to be viewed

### **Spoiler Sync features**

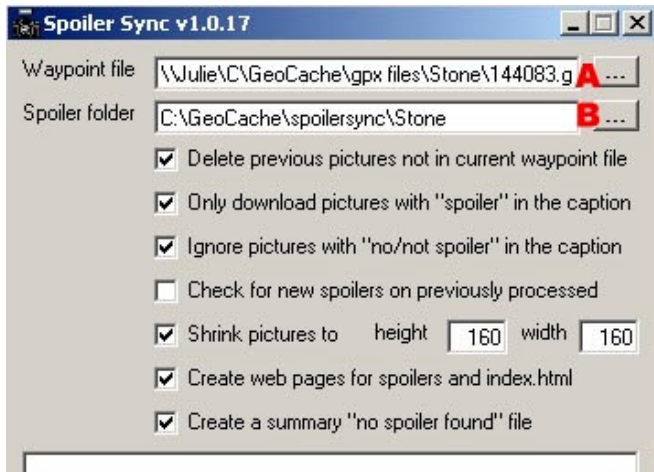
- Supports .LOC and .GPX waypoint files
- Shrinks pictures to save space on PDA etc
- You don't need to see the spoilers unless you're stuck
- Keyword filtering can be used to filter just spoilers
- Option to delete spoilers once the cache is complete
- Automatic prompt for upgrade to latest release
- Installer / Un-installer included
- IT'S FREE !!!!

Download the program from <http://www.anode.plus.com/spoilersync/> Just double click the .exe file to install.

Open Spoiler Sync by going to Start/Programs/Spoiler Sync

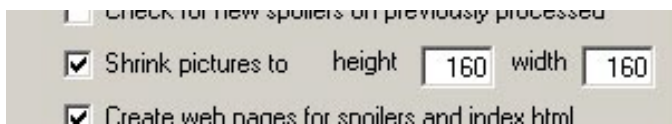
You need to be connected to the internet - preferably broadband. It takes me about 14 minutes to download and resize all of the images for a 400 cache .gpx file on ADSL 512 kbs Broadband.

Select one of your .gpx (Pocket Query) or .loc files. Position **A**  
Select a folder for your output files. Position **B**



For first time use, leave the tick boxes as they are.

The only other setting to make is the image size. This will depend on the screen resolution that your PDA Supports. For early Palm models, that are popular with cachers the width should be 160.



At this point press 'Start' and the program will process your .gpx file. It will search each cache page on [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) for spoiler pictures. It will then create an output file in the folder that you specified **B**

GCKXN5.html	1 KB	HTML Document	09/1
GCKZAF - Spoiler 1.jpg	11 KB	JPEG Image	09/1
GCKZAF - Spoiler 2.jpg	12 KB	JPEG Image	09/1
GCKZAF.html	1 KB	HTML Document	09/1
GCM09N - Spoiler.jpg	15 KB	JPEG Image	09/1
GCM09N.html	1 KB	HTML Document	09/1
GCM4DE - Spoiler 1.jpg	11 KB	JPEG Image	09/1
GCM4DE - Spoiler 2. Cache Location.jpg	11 KB	JPEG Image	09/1
GCM4DE.html	1 KB	HTML Document	09/1
GCM6KB - SPOILER its near the bag.jpg	12 KB	JPEG Image	09/1
GCM6KB.html	1 KB	HTML Document	09/1
index.html	6 KB	HTML Document	09/1
no spoiler found.txt	3 KB	Text Document	09/1

If you look in the directory you will see two types of files, the resized pictures (.jpg) and web pages (.html).

At this point Pocket PC users can just import these files. Palm users have two options, you can just import the image files to your Palm device and use an image viewer to look at the files (such as Fireviewer <http://www.fireviewer.com/>) or you can use a web browser on the Palm to view the images.

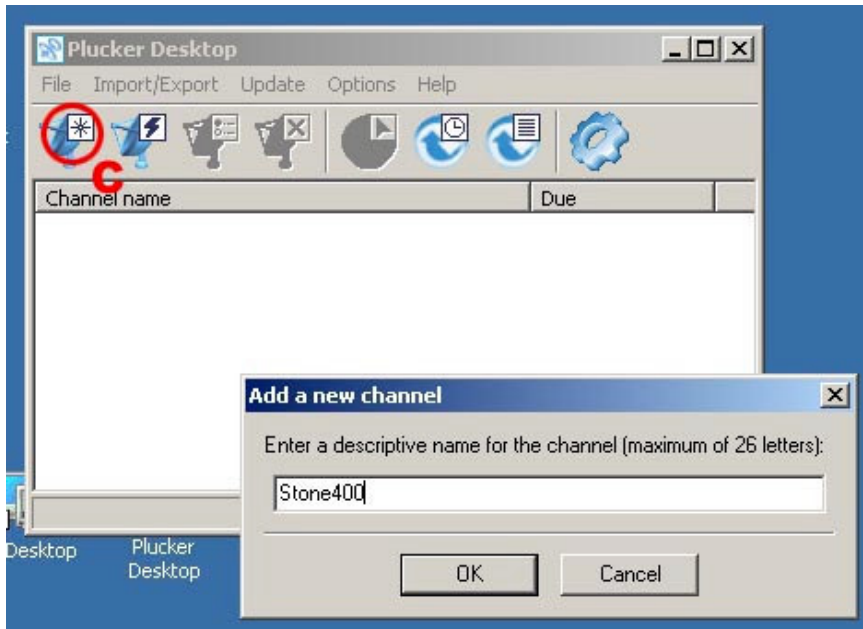
There are a number of HTML viewers for the Palm. A popular freeware one is Plucker, which comes in two parts. The program that installs on the Palm and a converter that installs on your PC.

Download Plucker from <http://www.plkr.org/>

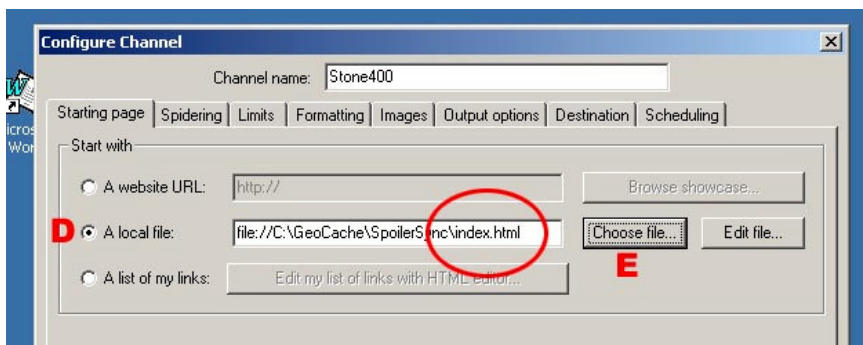
And the desktop program from <http://desktop.plkr.org/>

Install Plucker on your Palm device and Plucker Desktop on your PC.

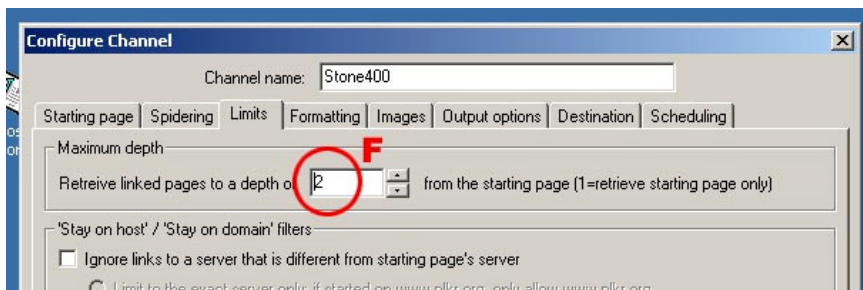
Open Plucker Desktop and select 'Create New Channel' **C**. Enter the name that you want for the file - in this case I have used the same name as my .gpx file. Click OK.



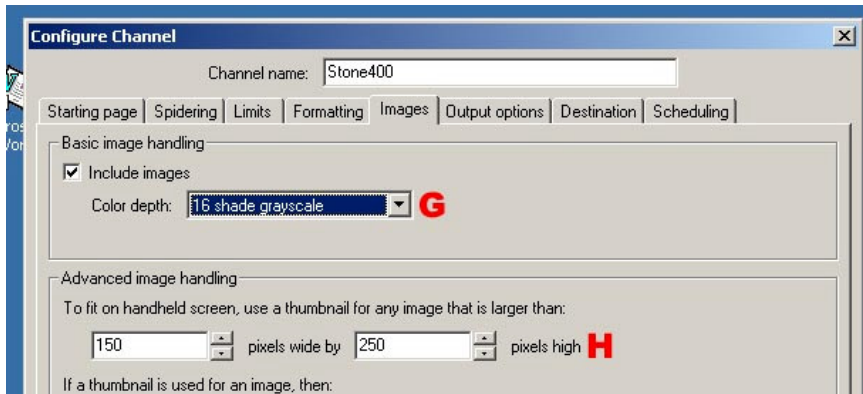
A configure channel Box comes up. Click the Start With/A local File box **D** and then 'Choose File' **E**. Select the 'Index.html' file in the directory that you created using Spoiler Sync.



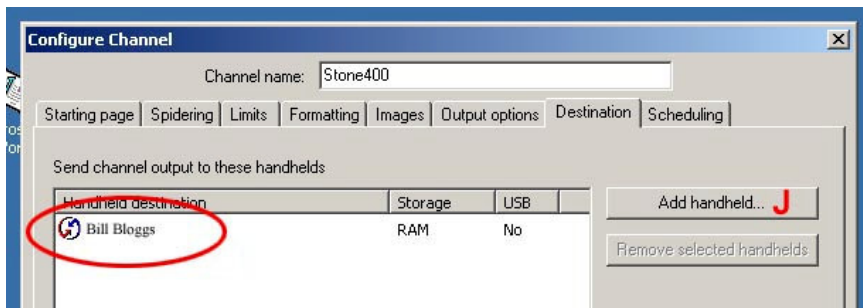
Next click on the 'Limits Tag' and in 'Maximum Depth' select 2 **F**.



Next click on the 'Images' tag. Here Select the Colour depth that your Palm Device supports and size.

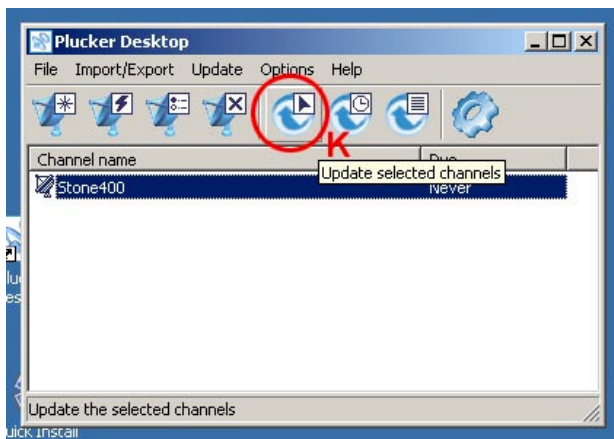


Next Click on the 'Destination' Tag. Select 'Add handheld' **J** and select your Palm device.



Click OK.

Click on the Channel you have created and the select the 'Update Selected Channel' icon **K**.



Now all you have to do is hotsync your Palm and the pictures will be available on your device.

I should say at this point that whilst a lot of people use early Palm devices for caching because they are cheaply available, viewing images is not one of there strong points. The new generation of Palm Devices with TFT screens are much better at this.