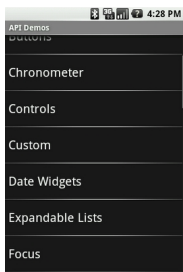


[ListView](#) is one of Android's most widely used widgets. It is rather easy to use, very flexible and incredibly powerful. ListView can also be difficult to understand at times.

One of the most common issues with ListView happens when you try to use a custom background. By default, like many Android widgets, ListView has a transparent background which means you can see through the default window's background, a very dark gray (#FF191919 with the current dark theme.) Additionally, ListView enables the *fading edges* by default, as you can see at the top of the following screenshot; the first text item gradually fades to black. This technique is used throughout the system to indicate that the container can be scrolled.

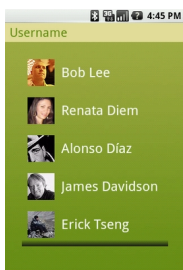


The fade effect is implemented using a combination of [Canvas.saveLayerAlpha\(\)](#) and the [Porter-Duff Destination Out blending mode](#).

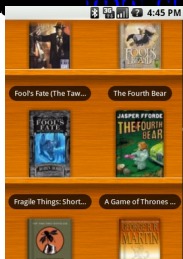
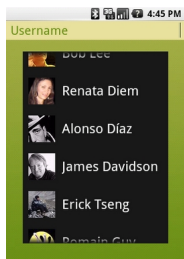
This technique is similar to the one explained in

[Filthy Rich Clients](#)

and various presentations. Unfortunately, things start to get ugly when you try to use a custom background on the ListView or when you change the window's background. The following two screenshots show what happens in an application when you change the window's background. The left image shows what the list looks like by default and the right image shows what the list looks like during a scroll initiated with a touch gesture:



Why is my list black? An Android optimization



Why is my list black? An Android optimization