

Projection Aspect Ratio of DCP Features

Prepared by NATO/UNIC Technology Committees

Summary

Exhibition is ultimately responsible for the quality of the image and sound for theatrical presentations. We have seen two major releases (Tomorrowland and Jurassic World) that were delivered in non-standard aspect ratios (2.2:1 and 2.0:1) resulting in an inferior presentation of either the feature or the accompanying trailers. We strongly encourage distributors to prepare releases in one of the two standard formats (1.85 Flat or 2.39 Scope) for all future releases. If new aspect ratios are anticipated we request significant advance notice and that all trailers that might accompany the feature to also be prepared in the same aspect ratio.

Background

Exhibition has embraced the two standard projection aspect ratios and has created masking to provide the best presentation for our patrons. Letter/pillar boxing of presentations create a non-optimal presentation. It is a disservice to either the main feature or the accompanying trailers to have a feature in a non-standard format. In the case of the features, Tomorrowland (2.2:1) and Jurassic World (2.0:1) the intent was to set up the presentation in Flat (1.85) and allow the black bars to show on-screen. In some cases, especially for curved screens, the black bars are clearly visible and not rectangular. If we masked for 2.0/2.2 the attached trailers would be cut off top/bottom. Non-standard aspect ratios are a challenge.

Request

We request that all features be produced in one of the two standard aspect ratios. If new aspect ratios are being considered please allow sufficient time for notification. Also hold an open discussion - including our partners from distribution as well as the creative community - to determine how to satisfy the needs of the industry for both the feature and trailers.

John Fithian, NATO
Jan Runge, UNIC