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RS-170 Versus NTSC Video Standards

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TOPIC -----

This article contains information about the RS-170 monitor extension software for the Monitors CDEV.

DISCUSSION -----

RS-170 is sometimes described as "the interlaced 60Hz video signal standard used for broadcast video in America."

This statement is a little misleading. RS-170 has not been the broadcast video standard in the United States for more than twenty years. RS-170, drafted in 1957, is a video signal developed by the Engineering Industries Association as a standard for monochrome (black and white) television studio facilities.

RS-170 can be recorded using the "Video In" jacks of most video tape recorders. The Macintosh II Video Card can generate a signal that is very close to the exact specifications of the RS-170 standard--close enough so that it can be displayed on most RS-170 monitors, recorded on most RS-170 video tape recorders, and so on. Unfortunately, the minor deviations from the exact standard causes problems with some video equipment.

Twenty years after the drafting of RS-170, the EIA video signal standard proposal RS-170A evolved into what is known today as NTSC. NTSC is the color television standard of the National Television Standards Committee, and is the standard now used for broadcast video in America. This standard is the result of combining three RS-170 signals into a single encoded color video signal.

While RS-170 signals are compatible with most of today's NTSC video products, it is NOT broadcast video, NTSC video, or color video. Not knowing this fact can lead to confusion.

For more information, search for "Macintosh and Video Overview".
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