



# Tech Info Library

## Desktop Video: Glossary of Terms (J-M) (8/93)

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TOPIC -----

This article describes desktop video terminology, words "J" through "M".

DISCUSSION -----

### Jitter

Small and rapid variations in a wave form due to mechanical disturbances, changes in the characteristics of components, supply voltages, imperfect synchronizing signals, circuits, etc.

### Kelvin

Also expressed as Kelvin or K, the unit of measurement of the temperature of light. In color recording, light temperature affects the color values of the lights and the scene that they illuminate.

### Keying

The process of replacing part of one television image with video from another image. See chroma keying and insert keying.

### Kilohertz (KHz)

One thousand hertz, or cycles per second. See Hertz.

### LANC

A protocol defined by Sony which permits the external control of video devices and access to status information from the device. Also referred to as Control-L. See VISCA, Vbox.

### Legal signal

A video signal in which each component does not exceed the specified gamut for the given format. Compare valid signal.

### Light valve projector

A video projector design with very high light output. An example of a projector using this technology is the Talaria from General Electric.

### Longitudinal time code (LTC)

Longitudinal time code (LTC) is recorded as an audio signal on the address track or one of the audio tracks of a video tape. It may also be recorded

on a track of audio tape. LTC can be read at high tape shuttle speeds, allowing time code readers to stay "in-sync" during rewind or fast forward. Unfortunately, LTC cannot be read at very slow shuttle speeds (such as when you are "crawling" the tape frame by frame) or in pause. See SMPTE time code, compare vertical interval time code.

#### Looping

A term indicating that a high impedance device has been permanently connected in parallel to a video source.

#### LTC

See longitudinal time code.

#### Luminance

The aspect of the video signal carrying information about the brightness of an image.

#### Macintosh video

Typically refers to the signal produced by a Macintosh 8•24 display card or Quadra built-in video. Although several scan rates and resolutions are supported, when connected to the 13" RGB monitor the display resolution is 640 x 480 pixels with a 67.7 Hz scan rate.

#### Matte

(1) A film term sometimes used in video production work to denote a keyed effect, an insert of video signal information keyed from one source into a second video signal.

(2) A opaque piece of art or a model that leaves a selected area unexposed to be filled on a subsequent pass or in composite. Also referred to as a mask.

#### Mavica

The name-brand of a popular still video camera sold by Sony, See still video cameras.

#### Megahertz (MHz)

One million hertz, or cycles per second. See Hertz.

#### Metal particle tape

Videotape using iron in its pure metallic form, instead of as an oxide. Offers improved frequency response and wider dynamic range than traditional oxide formulations.

#### MIDI

Acronym for Musical Instrument Digital Interface. A standard communications protocol used by electronic music equipment allowing device control from personal computers. MIDI has moved into the audio and video realm for mixing and editing.

#### MIDI time code

A time code system allowing timed device control through MIDI protocols. It has become more important in video post production as more and more people

are working with personal computer based systems. Compare SMPTE time code.

#### Modulate

To modify or alter a signal so as to transmit information. For example, conventional broadcast television transmits the video image by modulating the amplitude and frequency of a carrier signal. Compare demodulate.

#### Moiré

Optical disturbance caused by interference of similar frequencies. The wavy effect produced by the convergence of lines. It usually appears as a curving of the lines in the horizontal wedges of a test pattern. It is a natural optical effect when converging lines in a television picture are nearly parallel to the scanning lines. Compare aliasing.

#### Monitor

A particular type of television that receives a composite and/or component video signal (as opposed to an RF signal) directly from a VCR, camera, or separate TV tuner for high quality picture reproduction. Does not contain a channel selector. Compare television receiver.

#### Monochrome signal

A single color video signal; usually a black and white signal or, sometimes, the luminance portion of a composite or component color signal.

#### Motion control photography

A system for using computers to precisely control camera movements so that different elements of a shot can later be composited in a natural and believable way.

#### Multiscan

A term taken by a particular manufacturer often used to refer to any multisync device. See multisync.

#### Multisync monitors (and projectors)

Video displays which accept a wide variety of horizontal and vertical timings, from NTSC to computer video signals. Multisync monitors and projectors will often automatically adjust to the appropriate timing. Since the horizontal frequency range varies among different models, product specifications should be checked to assure a monitor or projector will support the Macintosh connected to it.

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