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How to submit files for DCP Processing

OVERALL:

Do not use bar/tone/slate at head or tail of your project. Picture and Sound files should be identical in duration to the frame and contain only picture/sound for audience. You may put 1 to 5 seconds of black with no audio before and after if desired.

Caution for FCPX users. We have seen consistent problems with projects submitted to date with DCI/DCP spec output achievable from FCPX specifically multichannel 5.1 output working correctly, discrete mono stem output, controlling and identify colorspace/gamma of output and mix levels in project matching output. Please use with caution until they are solutions for these.

VISUALS:

Colorspace:

- Visual should be in a specific colorspace. Example: Rec709, sRGB etc. DCI P3 or ProPhotoRGB is preferred

Preferred resolution:

- Flat Aspect Flat -2K, 1998×1080 or 4K, 3996×2160 at 1.85:1
- Scope - 2K 2048×858 or 4K 4096×1716 at 2.39:1

Acceptable resolution:

- HD Widescreen (1920 x 1080) at 16:9 (This will require scale and crop or leaving pillarbox bars on side and can cause issues with 3D content) or Full (1.90) although full is DCI spec, not widely supported.

Preferred format:

- 16-bit TIFF or EXR sequence, CinemaDNG, ProRes 4444 or XQ, Avid DNxHR, DNxHD or Avid DNxHD 220 (10-bit) or

Acceptable format:

- ProRes 4:2:2, Avid DNxHD 220 (8-bit), QuickTime or AVI Uncompressed (less color quality)
- HDCAM SR, HDCAM (extra fees for digitizing)

Preferred frame rate:

- 24.000 or 23.976 fps. 3D should have two files/sequences for left eye and right eye at 24.000 or 23.976 fps.

Acceptable frame rate:

- 25 or 29.97 fps (these will require frame rate conversion which takes extra time and expense and reduces quality OR a venue that supports SMPTE DCPs which are not yet widely supported.)

Sound: Sound must be identical length to picture to the frame.

Preferred config:

- Discrete channel 3.1 (Left, Center, Right, LFE) or 5.1 (Left, Center, Right, LFE, Left Surround, Right Surround).
- 3.1 will be four files, 5.1 will be six files

Acceptable config:

- Stereo Mix (this will result in unreliable playback volume but for a small charge can be multiplexed to 3.1 or 5.1)

Preferred format:

- 48 Khz or 96 Khz/24 bit mono discrete channels, AIFF or WAV – levels should be set for theatrical mix.

Acceptable format:

- 48Khz/16 bit embedded in visual file or as AIFF/WAV (16-bit will result in reduced dynamic range and more noise especially in larger venues.)