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## Contact us

Tel: +86-755-8981 8866 Fax: +86-755-8427 6832

Email & Skype: info@chipsmall.com Web: www.chipsmall.com

Address: A1208, Overseas Decoration Building, #122 Zhenhua RD., Futian, Shenzhen, China



# Model 1253

## HDTV Multi-Standard Pattern Generator

Operator's Manual  
Version 3.00



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\* Patterns printed in the manual included with each 1253 is in black in white. To view the manual in color and to take advantage of the examples given please visit [www.bkprecision.com](http://www.bkprecision.com) and download the 1253 manual.

**For more application and support documentation please visit  
[www.bkprecision.com](http://www.bkprecision.com) and search the model 1253.**

## Introduction

Thank you for purchasing the **BK-1253**, the affordable HDTV-Component test-pattern-generator, designed to be a useful tool for the new generation of DTV (Digital TV) products.

During the year 2001, over 1.1 million DTV units were shipped, exceeding expectations of the industry. This trend should continue to grow, especially that the FCC has mandated the existence of DTV. Presently 95.8% of U.S. can receive HDTV broadcasts. Now the major satellite companies such as DirecTV and EchoStar, as well as the cable companies, are starting to transmit HDTV signals.

HDTV test equipment has been relatively expensive, compared to the old TV standards. Most major brand HDTV test-pattern-generators sell for several thousands of dollars. This is prohibitively expensive for many of the people getting into HDTV, such as the TV repair shop. So, at **BK Precision** we recognize the need for a reliable, accurate, and high quality HDTV test-pattern-generator.

Due to the ever increasing popularity of DVD players, and the advent of newer display technologies being introduced, such as Plasma, LCD, TFT, DLP, GLV and OLED, it was necessary to design patterns to test these technologies.

Home theater is also growing in popularity, so we kept in mind the ease of operation, to allow any person to operate the **BK-1253**.

There are several types of video inputs into HDTV monitors including YPbPr (called HD Component Video), RGB, RGBHV, Firewire, and VGA). Fortunately the YPbPr interface is becoming standardized, and has increased to presently cover about 90% of all monitors. Current models of HDTVs, Set-Top-Boxes, and DVD players use this interface too. The BK-1253 therefore uses the YPbPr Video output too.

The **BK-1253** has many uses, and is suited for a variety of different industries:

- a) A TV repair engineer or technician, to test and calibrate a DTV monitor.
- b) A video engineer, to test and maintain studio equipment, such as monitors, cabling, and recording equipment.
- c) A studio installer, to test cables and equipment.
- d) A home-theater installer or user to get the best results out of the DTV equipment.
- e) A store selling HDTV sets, to show side by side comparisons of quality.
- f) A person wishing to test a new HDTV set for compatibility with the ATSC standards.
- g) A teacher, to train their students in the latest HDTV technologies.

## OPERATION:

### The POWER Switch

This Power Switch, on the right side of the unit, turns the power to the unit on and off.

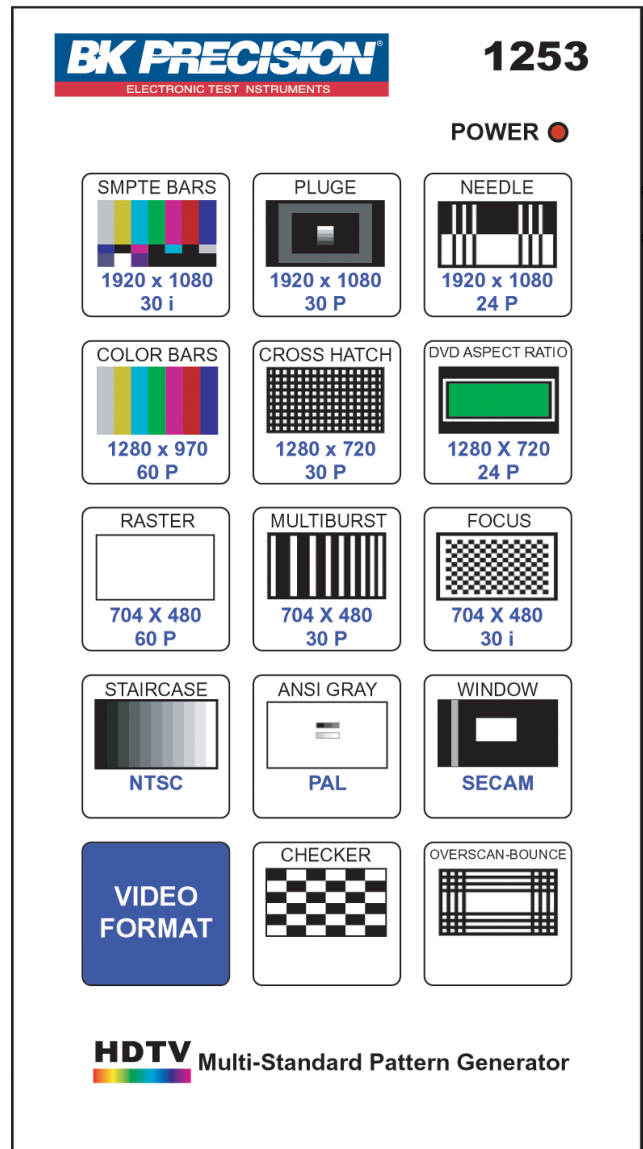
Slide the switch the upward position to turn the unit on. The red POWER LED will be on.

Slide the switch the downward position to turn the unit off. The red POWER LED will be off.

### The VIDEO FORMAT Button

This button is pressed prior to selecting a new Video Format, followed by pressing a button to one of the formats:

- 1) **1920 x 1080 30i** (default on power-up)
- 2) 1920 x 1080 30p
- 3) 1920 x 1080 24p
- 4) **1280 x 720 60p**
- 5) 1280 x 720 30p
- 6) 1280 x 720 24p
- 7) **704 x 480 60p**
- 8) 704 x 480 30p
- 9) 704 x 480 30i
- 10) **NTSC**
- 11) PAL
- 12) SECAM



The same Pattern that was previously displayed (e.g. Color Bars) will be maintained when a new Video Format is selected. After selecting a new Video Format, the unit reverts back to Pattern selection.

The most popular formats used today by the TV broadcasters and DTV equipment are 1, 4, 7 and 10. These are conveniently the left column of buttons. The other formats may not be supported by many TVs.

Format 7 is now output by many newer DVD players, using Progressive-Scan.

Soon to follow in popularity may be format 3 and 6 because of the support by manufacturers, the movie industry, and editing suites of the 24p format (the same frame rate as film cameras).

Note: When new formats become available, and standardized, they will be added to this list. The next version may include the 704 x 480 24p Video Formats (standardized by the ATSC, but not yet by SMPTE). Contact the factory for upgrade information.

## The PATTERN Buttons

These 14 buttons may be pressed at any time, to select the Pattern displayed as an icon on the button. Some Pattern buttons may be pressed multiple times, to display variations of that particular pattern.

- 1) SMPTE Bars 75% (default on power-up)
- 2) PLUGE
- 3) Needle
- 4) Color Bars 75%
- 5) Cross Hatch [16:9]
- 6) DVD Aspect Ratio [1.33, 1.78, 1.85, 2.35]
- 7) Raster [75%: White, Yellow, Cyan, Green, Magenta, Red, Blue, Black]
- 8) Multiburst
- 9) Focus
- 10) Staircase
- 11) ANSI Gray
- 12) Window [2.5 IRE steps from Black to White]
- 13) Checker
- 14) Overscan - Bounce

The same Video Format previously displayed (eg 1280x720 60p) will be maintained, when a new pattern is selected.

Pressing the DVD Aspect Ratio button multiple times, sequences through the most popular DVD aspect ratios (1.33:1, 1.78:1, 1.85:1, 2.35:1). These aspect ratios cover 78% of all movies recorded to DVD media. Read Appendix E: DVD Aspect Ratios for particular movies. DVD players output either 720x480 60p (progressive DVD), NTSC or PAL. Some broadcasters transmit HDTV at these aspect ratios but in the higher resolutions

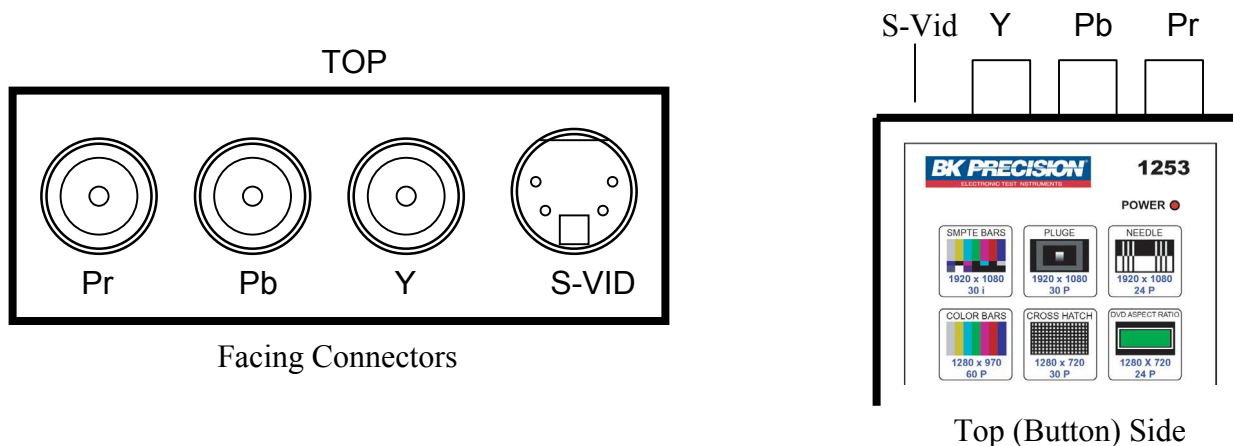
Pressing The Raster button multiple times, sequences the full-screen output through 8 colors, at 75% amplitude: White, Yellow, Cyan, Green, Magenta, Red, Blue, and Black.

Pressing the Window button multiple times, or holding the Window button, sequences the window luminance through all the grays (from black to white), in steps of 2.5 IRE units.

## Connecting the unit

There are 3 BNC connectors on the top of the unit, labeled Y, Pb and Pr.

These are HDTV-Component video connections to be connected to the Y, Pb and Pr connectors of a HDTV monitor or TV with component video input. There is also a DIN connector, labeled S-VID. This is a S-Video (S-VHS) video connector to be connected to a TV with a S-VID input.



The Y is the luminance signal, and Pb and Pr are the chrominance (color) signals. These BNC connectors should be connected to BNC cables with a characteristic impedance of 75 (or 50) ohms. Some TVs use RCA connectors, so a BNC-to-RCA adaptor could be used at the end of each cable.

According to the standards, the Y signal will drive a 1V peak-to-peak signal into a 75-ohm load, and the Pb and Pr signals will drive 0.7V peak-to-peak signals into 75-ohm loads. The unit is correctly back-terminated with 75 ohm impedance for each connector.

The Y signal can be used alone in some cases, to test using luminance only of an NTSC, PAL or SECAM TV using its Composite input. The signal will be seen as a monochrome image, which is fine for most patterns which are monochrome.

The S-VID may be used to test most non-HDTV monitors, which may have a S-Video input. This connection provides no chrominance, so 3 color patterns (SMPTE Bars, Color Bars, and Raster) will display only luminance and no color. The other 11 patterns will display normally.

The outputs of the unit have independent buffers so incorrectly loading an output will not affect the other outputs. The outputs are also designed to drive short-circuit loads under abnormal conditions.

### Power Supply

The unit is powered from an internal 9V battery.

A 9V Alkaline battery (e.g. Eveready Energizer 522) is recommended.

The unit is low power, and it should work under most normal operating conditions. There is a thermal shutdown, as well as reverse protection function in the internal power supply circuitry for safety.

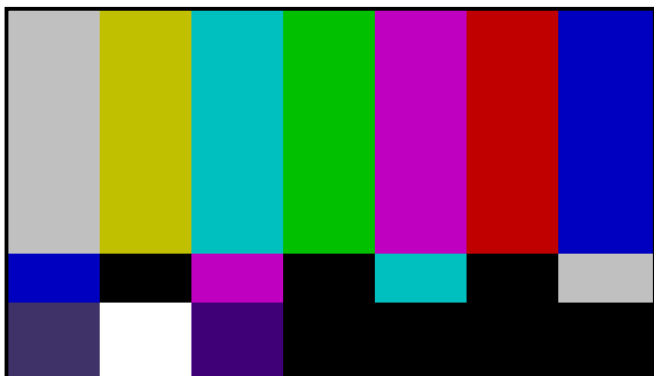
### Low Battery Alarm

When the battery is low, a long beeping sound will be heard when the unit is switched on. You will need to replace the battery soon after this. There will be a few hours of battery life left when you first hear this, so this is a warning alarm, so be sure to replace the battery. If the unit is used for a few hours after this, the battery will become depleted, and the unit will cease to function.

# Patterns

## 1: SMPTE Bars

(Society of Motion Pictures and Television Engineers)



**Description:** 7 equal width vertical bars in 3 groups. The top 2/3 of the pattern contains White (R+G+B), Yellow (R+G), Cyan (G+B), Green (G), Magenta (R+B), Red (R), and Blue (B) bars, from left to right, at 75% (100% saturation).

The middle 2/15 of the pattern contains the blue's complement color for each of the bars above which contain blue: Blue (B), Black, Magenta (R+B), Black, Cyan (G+B), Black, and White (R+G+B)

The bottom 1/5 of the pattern contains the following bars:

-I, White 100%, Q, Black, Blacker-than-black at -5 IRE (2.5 IRE for NTSC), Black = 0 IRE (7.5 IRE for NTSC), and Lighter than-black at 5 IRE (12.5 IRE for NTSC).

**Pattern Usage:** Use to adjust color and hue through a blue filter. While viewing the pattern through a blue filter (Wratten 50), adjust the color control for equal brightness white/blue bars. Adjust the hue control for equal brightness cyan/magenta bars. Also use this pattern to adjust a display's black level at a medium APL. With the brightness (black level) control first adjusted to a slightly higher than normal setting, reduce the brightness control setting until the slightly blacker than black bar (under the large cyan bar) and the black bar (under the large red bar) are both just black. The slightly whiter than black bar (under the large blue bar) should still be slightly visible.

Monitor setup with these color bars is fairly simple. With SMPTE color bars on the monitor, again adjust brightness so the -5 IRE (2.5 IRE for NTSC) pluge signal just disappears. If you can't see it, adjust contrast and brightness to raise the black level towards gray. Then reset the brightness to just make the lowest step disappear. Next, turn on the blue gun only and adjust the monitor Hue (phase) so first there are four blue bars separated by three black bars. Third, adjust the Color (chroma) so the outer two blue bars match between upper and middle bands. Finally, fine tune phase so the middle two bars match between upper and middle bands. If required, fine tune Hue and Color so there is no visible difference between any of the blue bars in the first and second bands.



There are various other applications for SMPTE Bars. It has value in VTR testing and in quick checks of the system phasing thru monitors and Vectorscopes.



Vectorscope Display of SMPTE Bars

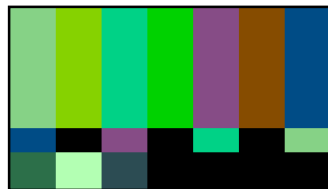
SMPTE Bars are also often used for Tape Headers, or sometimes between edit cuts. Also often used for testing transmission equipment.

**Examples of Uncalibrated Displays:** The following images indicate a TV with incorrect hue settings. Adjust the Hue (or Tint) setting so the first bar appears white (or gray).

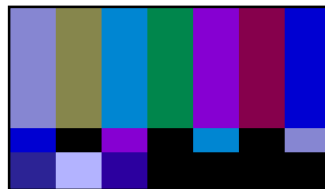
Too Red



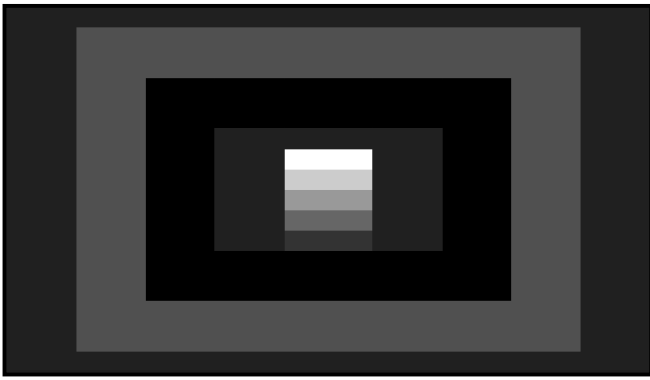
Too Green



Too Blue



## 2: PLUGE (Picture Line Up Generator Equipment)



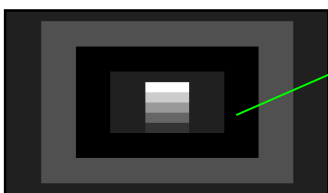
**Description:** The Pluge pattern (Picture Line-Up Generator Equipment – BBC development) is arranged in four concentric rectangular zones. The innermost rectangle is fixed at black (7.5 IRE for NTSC, 0 IRE for other formats) and has a five-step gray scale positioned on it. The second rectangular zone from the center alternates between two light levels, black and slightly blacker than black (7.5/0 IRE for NTSC, 0/-5 IRE for other formats). The third rectangular zone from the center is fixed at a light level slightly whiter than black (10 IRE). The fourth, outer rectangular zone is fixed at black. The average picture level (APL) of this pattern is very low.

**Pattern Usage:** Use this pattern to check the DC restoration (black clamping) performance of a display device and to set the picture black level with a low APL pattern. A display device with less than perfect DC restoration will exhibit alternating changes of brightness in the outer two rectangular zones, due to the display's inability to perfectly clamp black to a fixed level. This can be seen especially well with the brightness (black level) control adjusted to a slightly higher than normal setting. If the brightness level of the outer two rectangular zones remain constant as the second zone from the center alternates between black and blacker than black, the display has good DC restoration.

If a display has good DC restoration, its brightness (black level) control can be adjusted on either a low APL or high APL pattern, with no change in black level as you switch from one pattern to another. In that case, this pattern makes it very easy to accurately adjust the brightness control. With the brightness (black level) control first adjusted to a slightly higher than normal setting, reduce the brightness control setting until the brightness alternations in the second rectangular zone from the center are just no longer visible. The third rectangular zone from the center should still be visible as slightly whiter than black.

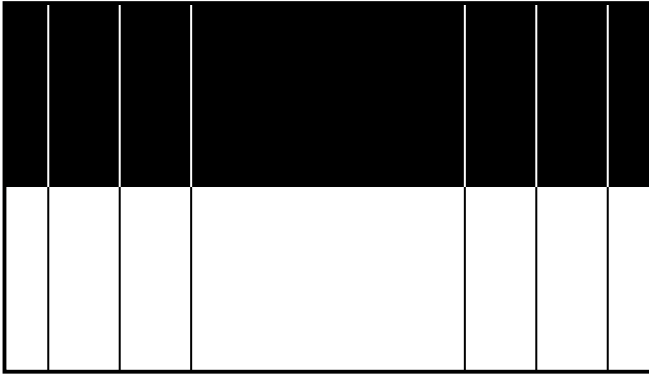
If a display device has less than perfect DC restoration, you will need to decide, based on the primary use of the display, whether the black level should be adjusted on a pattern with low APL or high APL. If the display will usually be viewed in a darkened room, adjust the brightness control with a low APL pattern, such as this Pluge pattern. If the display will usually be viewed in a bright room, adjust the brightness control with the pluge levels in a medium or high APL pattern, such as the SMPTE Bar pattern or one of the Window patterns set to a high IRE level.

**Examples of Uncalibrated Displays:** The following image indicates a TV with the Brightness set too high, because flashing rectangle is visible. Adjust the brightness down until the flashing just disappears.



Flashing Inner Rectangle  
should not be visible

### 3: Needle

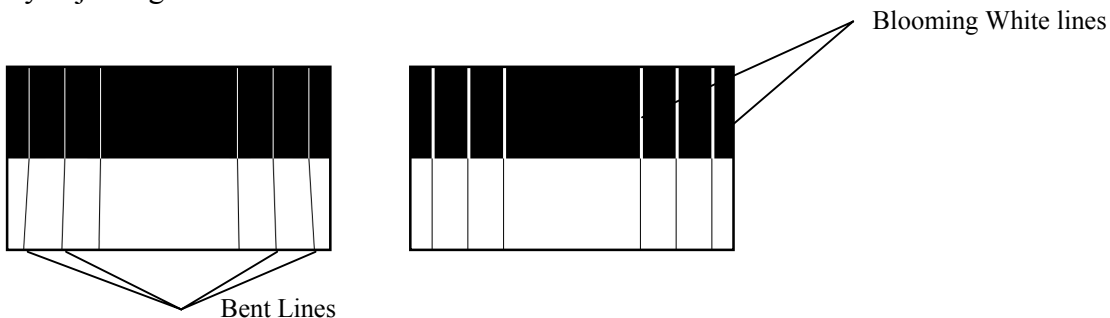


**Description:** This pattern is black on the top half and white on bottom half, with lines (needle pulses) drawn from top to bottom on each side of the pattern, through the black/white transition. Electrically, the needle pulse lines are the same width on the top and the bottom of the pattern.

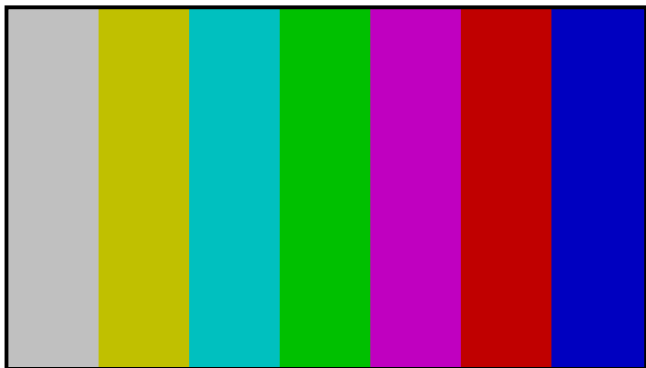
**Pattern Usage:** This pattern makes it easy to detect whether scan velocity modulation (SVM) is enabled on a display device. If SVM is enabled, the black lines on the bottom of the pattern will be thicker than the white lines on the top of the pattern. It is also a good pattern for properly adjusting the contrast/picture/white level control for maximum white luminance level. If the contrast/picture control is adjusted for a higher white level than the display device is capable of producing properly, one of two distortion effects will be observed; blooming or raster distortion. Blooming is especially prevalent in CRT displays and results in light from very bright pixels (phosphors) spilling over to adjacent pixels. This causes bright picture areas to become defocused and slightly larger than they should be. Raster distortion at high luminance levels is caused by high voltage power supply regulation problems. If the contrast/picture control is adjusted for a higher white level than the display power supply is capable of fully supporting on a short-term basis, the black lines on the bottom of the pattern will hook or bend outward. Ideally, for an accurate picture, the contrast/picture control should be adjusted just below the point at which either blooming or raster distortion is evident. This may result in an unacceptably low white level for the picture, however, and a compromise white level adjustment may have to be made between an accurate picture and a bright picture.

**Examples of Uncalibrated Displays:** The following images indicate a TV with incorrect settings, shown by the Needle pattern. The first image has outwardly bent lines. The Contrast/picture levels may be set too high, or the TV may have poor power supply regulation.

The second image shows blooming, where the white lines appear thicker than the black lines. Correct this by adjusting the contrast/white level.



## 4: Color Bars



Color Bars 75%

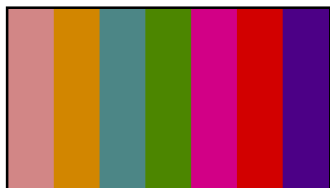
Same as the top of the SMPTE Bars Pattern

**Description:** Seven equal-width vertical bars with 75% (gray) at left, followed by three primary and three secondary colors. Color bars are at 100% saturation with 75% amplitude.

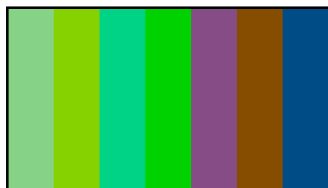
**Pattern Usage:** Use as an overall check of a display device's capability of producing fully saturated primary and secondary colors. Especially helpful in detecting full (or partial) loss of colors in older displays. Also good as a reference input signal when troubleshooting and signal tracing color amplifier or color demodulator problems within a display device.

**Examples of Uncalibrated Displays:** The following images indicate a TV with incorrect hue settings. Adjust the Hue (or Tint) setting so the first bar appears white (or gray).

Too Red



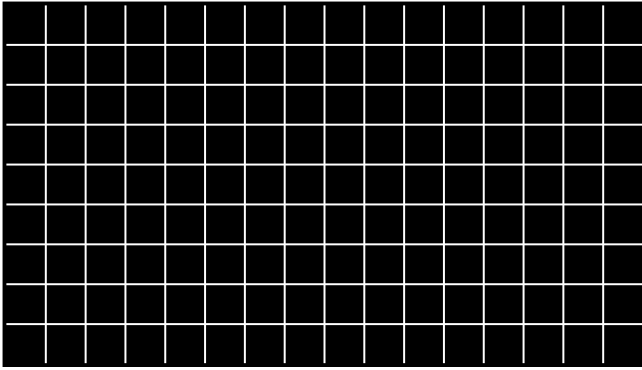
Too Green



Too Blue



## 5: Cross Hatch



**Description:** A grid of 16 x 9 boxes, separated by white lines.

**Pattern Usage:** Used to check and adjust convergence of red, green and blue pictures. The horizontal and vertical lines are usually best observed to detect color fringing resulting from misconvergence, and the dots are usually best observed to make fine adjustments.

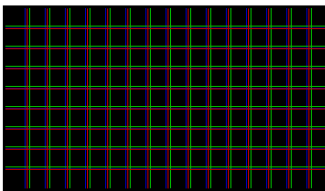
Even if a display device provides an internally generated crosshatch pattern for checking convergence, it is often best to double-check the convergence with an externally generated pattern. Occasionally, a display's convergence on an internally generated pattern doesn't match its convergence on external input video signals.

Also used to check and adjust for the proper geometry of a display, including picture centering, size, trapezoid (keystone) correction, pincushion (bow) correction, and linearity. Horizontal and vertical centering controls should be adjusted to center the pattern on the display screen.

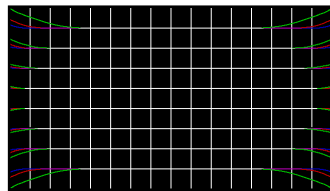
Trapezoid correction control(s) should be adjusted to make the pattern's edges parallel to the edges of the display screen. Pincushion correction controls should be adjusted to straighten the lines to be straight, and parallel to the edge of the screen. Use the edge of the display screen or a flexible straightedge, such as a yardstick, to judge the straightness of the lines. The horizontal linearity control should be adjusted to make the pattern boxes all the same width. The vertical linearity control should be adjusted to make the pattern boxes all the same height.

**Examples of Uncalibrated Displays:** The following images indicate a TV with misconvergence. The White lines become separated Red, Green and Blue lines. They are either straight or curved. Adjust the RGB convergence controls to align the colors to overlap, so the Cross Hatch pattern appears as a grid of white squares.

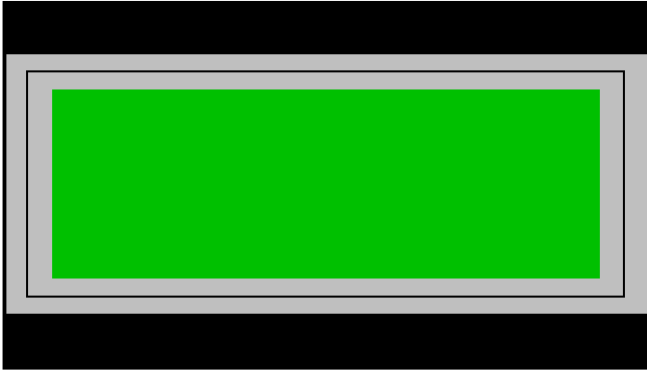
Linear Misconvergence



Non-Linear Misconvergence



## 6: DVD Aspect Ratio



**Description:** Grayscale rectangles occupying a user selected aspect ratio, on top of a black background. The outer rectangle is at 75% gray, with an inner rectangle at 50% (mid) gray. The border of the outer rectangle occupies 10% of the width and height of the rectangles. Through the center of this border is a black line at 5%. This simulates the output of a DVD player generating an image area displayed by the rectangles. The 10% border is 10% of the image width and height, and not of the screen width and height.

**Variations:** Pressing the DVD Aspect Ratio button multiple times, sequences through the most popular DVD aspect ratios (1.33:1, 1.78:1, 1.85:1, 2.35:1). These aspect ratios cover 87% of all movies recorded to DVD media. Read Appendix E: DVD Aspect Ratios for particular movies.

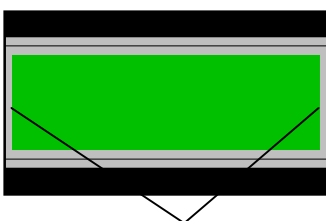
Today's DVD players output one of the following formats:  
720x480 60p (the newer progressive scan DVD), or  
720x480 30i (regular NTSC DVD), or  
720x576 25i (PAL DVD, in Europe).

**Pattern Usage:** DVDs output several aspect ratios (width-to-height ratio), which is normally the aspect ratio as seen in a theater, and is normally what is recorded onto film.

Many newer monitors detect the image aspect ratio coming in, from a DVD for example, and digitally zoom for the best fit. A wide-screen (16:9) TV will display a 1.78 movie to fit the whole screen, a 1.33 movie will have black bands on the left and right, and a 1.85 or 2.35 movie will have black bands on the top and bottom.

Make sure you see at least the black line around all sides of the screen, which allows up to 5% overscan on the monitor. If not, you are zoomed in too much, in which case you may need to turn off the auto-fit function on the TV.

**Examples of Uncalibrated Displays:** The following image indicates a TV with too much horizontal overscan. The left and right portions of the pattern are cut off. Check to see the auto-zoom function is turned on, or if the zoom is manually adjustable then set it so the whole pattern is visible.



Too much left-right overscan

## DVD Aspect Ratios as seen on TVs and Monitors

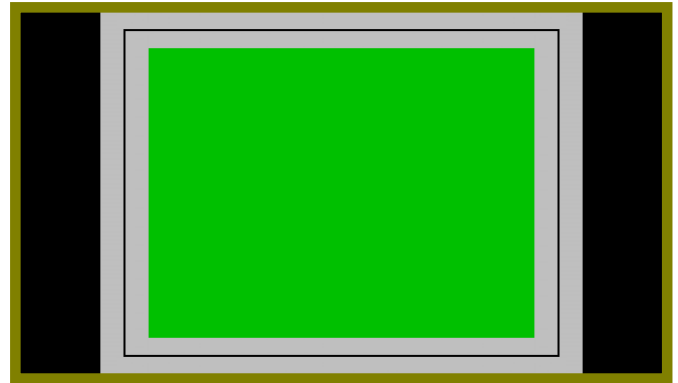
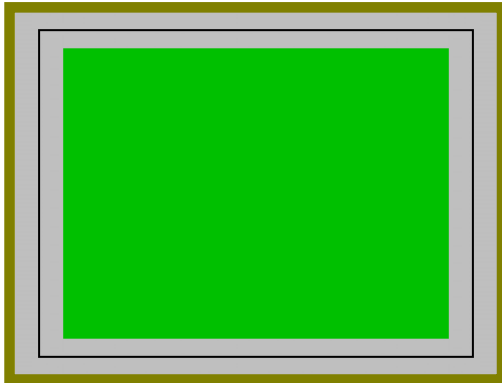
These images show how different aspect ratios will appear on SDTV (4:3) and HDTV (16:9) monitors.

### SDTV 4:3 Monitor

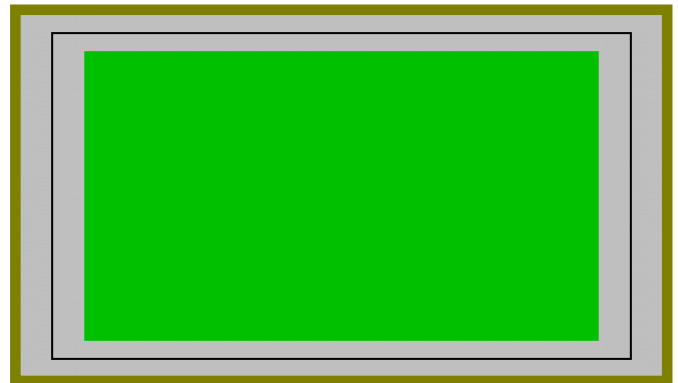
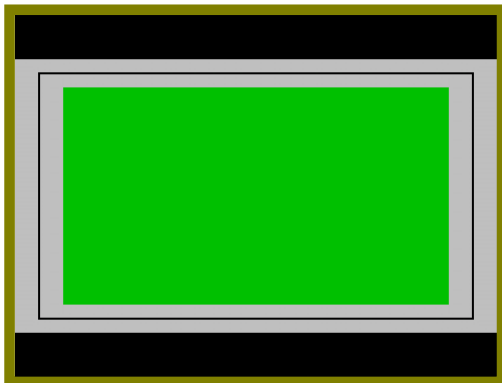
### HDTV 16:9 Monitor

Aspect  
Ratio:

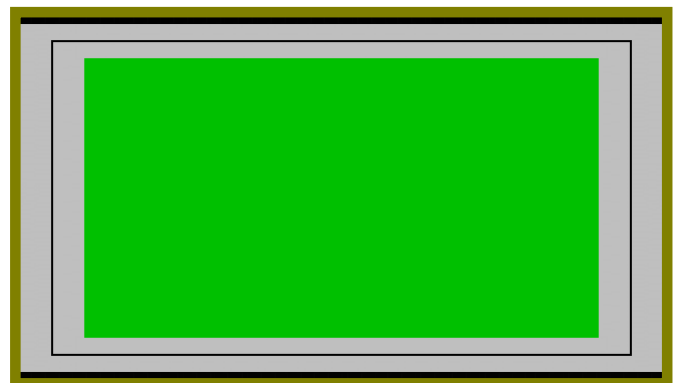
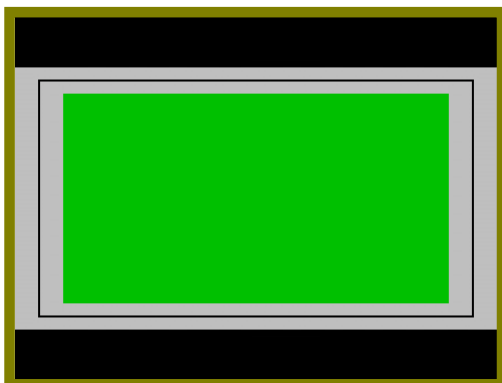
1.33 : 1



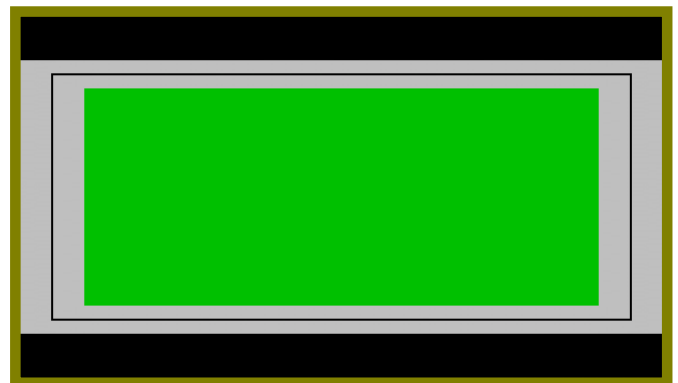
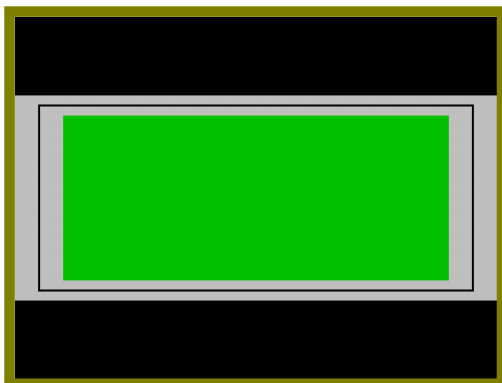
1.78 : 1



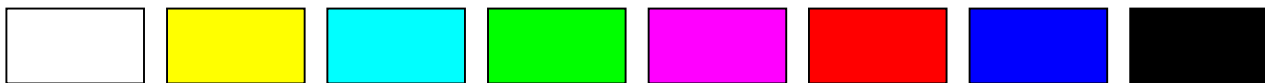
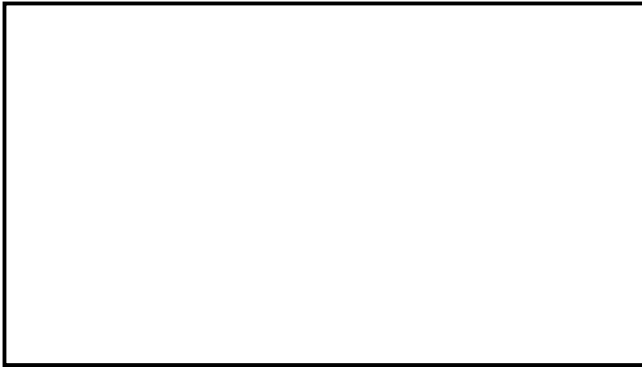
1.85 : 1



2.35 : 1



## 7: Raster



**Description:** Full field color raster patterns at 75% amplitude.

**Variations:** Pressing The Raster button multiple times, sequences the full-screen output through 8 colors, at 75% amplitude: White, Yellow, Cyan, Green, Magenta, Red, Blue, and Black.

**Pattern Usage:** Use to check color purity and display chrominance uniformity. Color purity problems are usually caused by slight magnetization of some part of a CRT display device, often metallic CRT mounting brackets or the metallic CRT shadow mask, located just behind the phosphor screen in a direct-view CRT. This can usually be seen as areas of color on a white raster, but usually shows up better on a primary-color raster, especially red. This pattern may also be useful in detecting red and blue overdrive at the sides of a projection display, due to insufficient correction for CRT side-to-side placement.

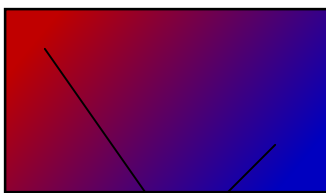
Also used to check missing pixels on a TFT or LCD Monitor by switching to primary colors (Red, Green and Blue), then observing the screen for missing (dark or "stuck") pixels, which are common on these types of displays. Use the Red, Green and Blue Raster Patterns to test each pixel color.

**Examples of Uncalibrated Displays:** The following images indicate problems with a TV.

The first image shows a display which has misconvergence of the RGB guns of a CRT type monitor. If this effect is profound, it could indicate a broken or warped shadow mask.

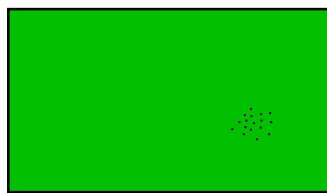
The second image shows "stuck" pixels on a TFT or LCD type monitor. This is normally not repairable.

RGB Misconvergence



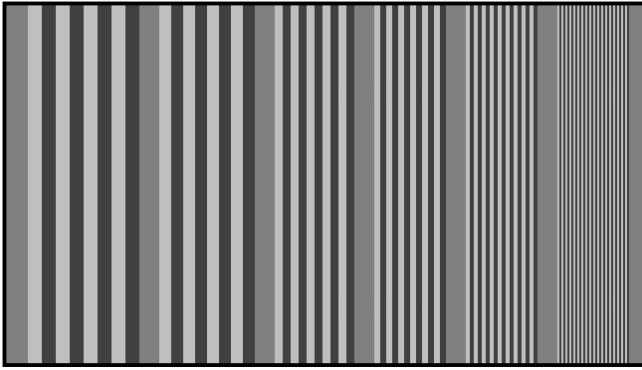
Non-Uniform Color

Missing (stuck) Pixels





## 8: Multiburst

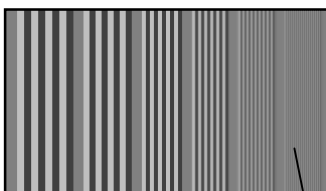


**Description:** Consists of 6 frequency bands increasing in frequency, from left to right, and separated by gaps of mid gray. Vertical segments are filled with alternating black and white stripes. The frequencies are at 1.125MHz, 2.25MHz, 3.375MHz, 4.5MHz, 6.75MHz and 13.5MHz for the HDTV formats, and 0.75MHz, 1.125MHz, 2.25MHz, 3.375MHz, 4.5MHz and 6.75MHz for the SDTV formats.

**Pattern Usage:** Use to check a display device's capability to produce sharply defined stripes, at equal brightness, up to the format's full resolution. This pattern is also useful in adjusting the sharpness control. Starting with the sharpness control at its minimum setting, increase the control until all five bursts are at equal brightness levels. Do not adjust the control high enough to cause ghosting lines adjacent to the widest stripes.

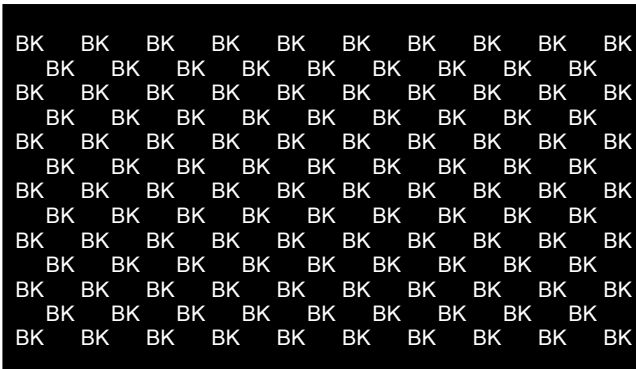
Also used to test the resolution on a DTV set, as well as frequency response of a transmission system, or cable. An oscilloscope, with TV Line lock, may be used to check the attenuation with respect to frequency.

**Examples of Uncalibrated Displays:** The following image indicates a TV with insufficient high frequency response. The black and white stripes on the right of the display are blurred together. You may sometimes improve this by increasing the Sharpness setting. Keep in mind, many monitors can not display the highest (right-hand-side) frequency band of this pattern, and many SDTV monitors can not display the highest 2 frequency band of this pattern.



Stripes are blurred together  
They appear gray.

## 9: Focus



**Description:** Consists of capital letter “B”s and “K”s alternating across the screen. The closely spaced elements of these letters make it easy to judge the effects of focus adjustments.

**Pattern Usage:** Used as a reference signal for viewing the effects of focus adjustments across the entire screen. Since it is difficult for CRT displays to achieve uniform focus across the entire screen, multiple focus adjustments and/or compromise settings of the focus control(s) is necessary to achieve acceptable focus. The focus adjustment method will be different depending on the number of focus controls and whether the device is designed to display video or computer data.

A video display with only one focus control should be adjusted for optimum focus at the center of the screen (where most action occurs). A data display with only one focus control should be adjusted for compromise focus between the center of the screen and the edges of the screen (adjusting for sharpest focus at a midpoint usually works well).

A video or data display with two focus controls is usually adjusted for best center focus with one of the controls and best edge focus with the other control.

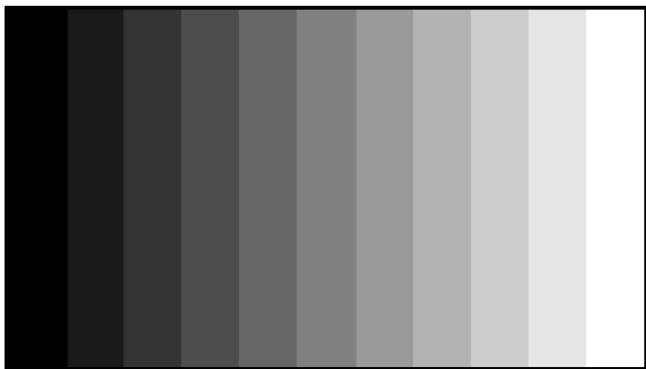
Some TV's have a Sharpness adjustment, and this sometimes improves the Focus by increasing the high frequencies of the display.

**Examples of Uncalibrated Displays:** The following image indicates a TV with focus not set. If The TV has a Focus adjustment, adjust it for optimal Focus. Also adjust Sharpness.



Out of Focus  
The text is not readable.

## 10: Staircase



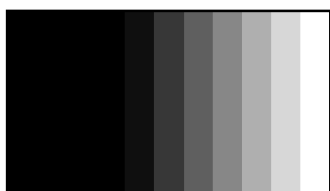
**Description:** 11 equal-width vertical bars step from black at 0 IRE (7.5 IRE for NTSC) on the left, to 100 IRE (white) on the right.

**Pattern Usage:** Useful for visually checking gray-scale tracking performance of a display. Poor performance is seen as a primary color tint (red, green, or blue), especially at the bright or dark end of the pattern. Also useful for adjusting gray-scale tracking by eye, when a color analyzer is not available.

Each step of the Grey Bars should appear as a distinctive brightness level. Adjust the display cutoff/bias controls for a neutral dark gray tone at the dark end of the pattern. Adjust the display drive/gain controls for a neutral bright gray tone at the bright end of the pattern. This pattern is also good as a reference input signal when troubleshooting and signal tracing luminance or color amplifier problems within a display device.

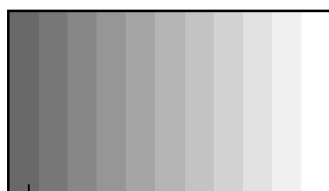
**Examples of Uncalibrated Displays:** The following images indicate a TV with the Brightness and/or Contrast levels are not set properly.

Too Dark



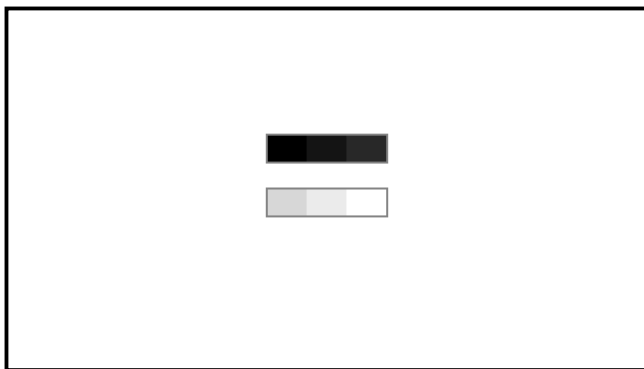
Blacks blend together

Too Bright



Not Black

## 11: ANSI Gray

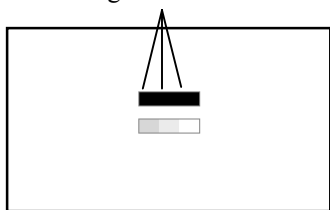


**Description:** Pattern is an all white raster with two centered three-step gray scales. The top gray scale steps are at 10%, 5%, and 0% white levels. The bottom gray scale steps are at 90%, 95%, and 100% white levels (from left to right).

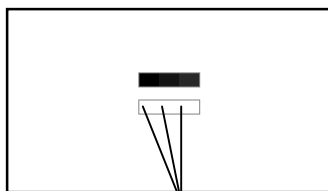
**Pattern Usage:** This pattern can be used to check a display device's ability to hold proper black level at close to 100% APL. Check that you can see three separate levels of dark gray and black in the top gray scale. The pattern is primarily useful, however, in checking for peak-white clipping in fixed-panel projectors (LCD, DLP, and D-ILA). In these devices, the projector bulb determines the maximum amount of light output. If the contrast control is adjusted too high, not only the 100 IRE white levels, but also lower IRE signal levels will produce the same maximum light output level. This will result in peak white clipping, with loss of high-brightness picture detail. Check that you can see three separate levels of bright gray and white in the bottom gray scale. If the brighter levels blend together, reduce the contrast control below the level of clipping.

**Examples of Uncalibrated Displays:** The following images indicate a TV with the Brightness and/or Contrast levels not set properly. Keep in mind, most monitors can not handle this pattern, so reserve this pattern for calibrating only high end TV's and monitors.

Too Dark  
Same Brightness Level

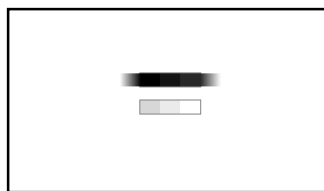


Too Bright

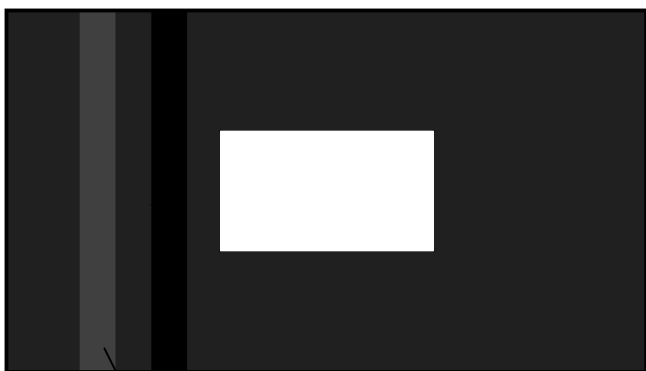


Same Brightness Level  
(Peak-White Clipping)

Smearing



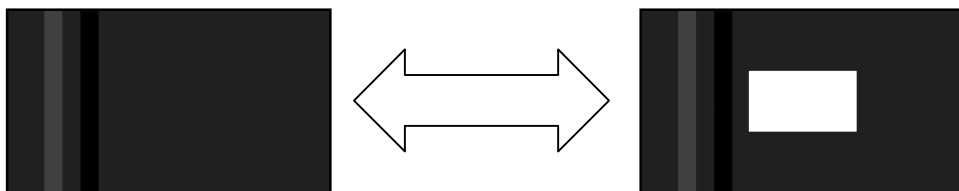
## 12: Window



This PLUGE Bar is the only bar which should be visible

**Description:** Centered 1/3 white window on black background. Luminance levels of Window are independently adjustable from 0 IRE to 100 IRE in 2.5 IRE steps. The window pattern includes PLUGE level bars at +5% and -5% of black to the left of the white window.

**Variations:** Pressing The Window button multiple times, or holding the Window button, sequences the window Luminance Level from black to white, then white to black.

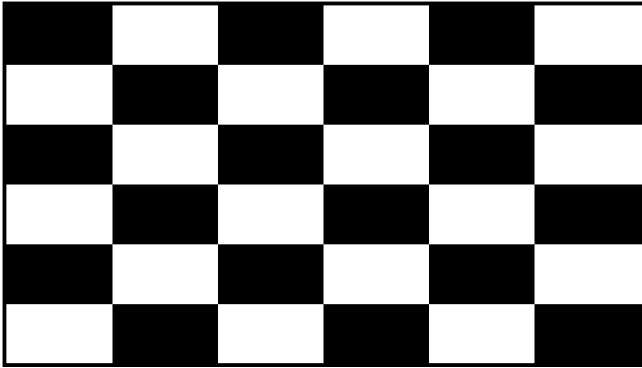


**Pattern Usage:** Use the white window to measure chromaticity of a display device. This pattern is preferable to using a full field white raster since the window pattern more closely duplicates the average picture level (APL) of typical program material and doesn't unnaturally stress display circuits. Press or hold the Window button to sequence the brightness level of the window from black to white in 2.5 IRE steps.

**Examples of Uncalibrated Displays:** The following image indicates a TV with the brightness level set too low. The +5% PLUGE bar is not visible.



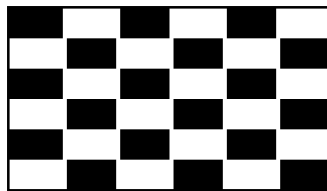
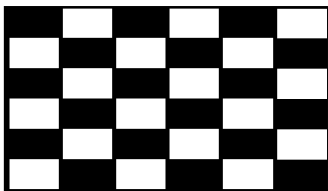
### 13: Checker



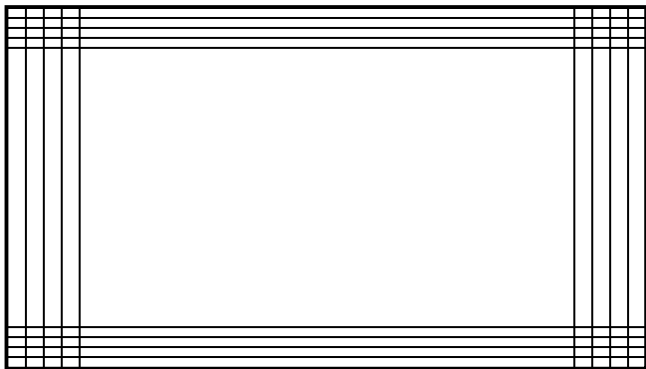
**Description:** Alternating picture areas of black and white in a checkerboard pattern.

**Pattern Usage:** Checks the regulation of CRT video drive power supply circuits. The pattern produces abrupt, maximum changes in CRT video drive current. Ideally, this should not cause the voltage supplied to the video drive circuits to change (good voltage regulation). If the power supply does not have good regulation, it will cause softening or ringing of the vertical line pattern transitions.

**Examples of Uncalibrated Displays:** The following 2 images indicate a TV having insufficient power supply regulation. This effect occurs on CRT type monitors. The corners of each block do not touch each other as they should. You can sometimes reduce this effect by reducing the Brightness or Contrast settings.



## 14: Overscan-Bounce (Regulate)



**Description:** Sometimes called "Regulate", this pattern consists of 4 horizontal and vertical lines at the edges of the screen, marking 2.5%, 5%, 7.5% and 10% of the width and height of the screen. The center of the screen flashes between full white and black every 1 1/3 seconds.

### Pattern Usage:

Used to test the amount of overscan of a monitor (usually a CRT type), and to check the regulation of a CRT monitor's high-voltage and deflection power supply circuits. The pattern alternately produces maximum and minimum CRT beam current. Ideally, these current extremes should not cause the picture size to change. This can be judged by observing how much the line moves.

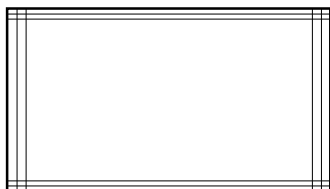
A one to two pixel shift is not noticeable in most picture material to a typical viewer.

Also used to check and adjust for the proper geometry of a display, including picture centering, size, trapezoid (keystone) correction, pincushion (bow) correction, and linearity. The 4 lines at each of the four edges make it particularly easy to see whether there is equal amount of overscan at the sides or at the top and bottom of the pattern.

The horizontal and vertical size controls should then be adjusted for the desired amount of either overscan or underscan. If overscan is desired, a display should usually be adjusted for slightly less than 5% overscan. The horizontal and vertical overscan should be adjusted to be an equal percentage, as judged by the overscan percentage lines.

Trapezoid correction control(s) should be adjusted to make the pattern's edges parallel to the edges of the display screen. Pincushion correction controls should be adjusted to straighten the lines on the edge of the display. Use the edge of the display screen or a flexible straightedge, such as a yardstick, to judge the straightness of the lines.

**Examples of Uncalibrated Displays:** The following image indicates a TV having too much overscan. Only 2 of the four lines are visible at the edges of the screen, indicating an overscan of between 5% and 7.5%.



## Specifications:

<b>Number of Video Formats</b>	12: 1: 1920x1080 30i 2: 1920x1080 30p 3: 1920x1080 24p 4: 1280x720 60p 5: 1280x720 30p 6: 1280x720 24p 7: 704x480 60p 8: 704x480 30p 9: 704x480 30i 10: NTSC 11: PAL 12: SECAM
<b>Number of Patterns</b>	14: 1: SMPTE Bars 75% 2: PLUGE 3: Needle 4: Color Bars 75% 5: Cross Hatch [16:9] 6: DVD Aspect Ratio [1.33, 1.78, 1.85, 2.35] 7: Raster [75% wht, yel, cyn, grn, mag, red, blu, blk] 8: Multiburst 9: Focus 10: Staircase 11: ANSI Gray 12: Window [2.5 IRE steps from Black to White] 13: Checker 14: Overscan -Bounce
<b>Operation</b>	15 buttons, 1 Power Switch
<b>Y Output</b>	1V peak-to-peak into 75 ohms, on BNC
<b>Pb, Pr Outputs</b>	0.7V peak-to-peak into 75 ohms, on BNC
<b>S-VID Output</b>	Luminance Only, on DIN connector
<b>Video Output Buffers Frequency Response</b>	100MHz @ -3dB
<b>Power Supply</b>	9V Battery (Alkaline Battery recommended)
<b>Timing Accuracy</b>	< 25ppm (0.0025%)
<b>Video Level error</b>	< 1.5%
<b>Size (L x W x D)</b>	3.600" x 6.000" x 1.131" (142 x 79 x 28 mm)
<b>Weight</b>	6.2 oz. (176 g)



# Display Calibration

**Important Notes:** The information in this document describes how the **BK Precision BK-1253 HDTV Test Pattern Generator** may be used to calibrate and verify the performance of HDTV display products. This information is applicable only to the **BK Precision BK-1253**.

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## 1. Black-level (Brightness) Calibration

Correct black-level calibration is critical to achieving a picture with full contrast and subtle details in dark shadow regions. Black-level is calibrated by adjusting a display's Brightness control using a PLUGE (Picture Line-Up Generator Equipment) pattern. The BK-1253 provides a variety of PLUGE patterns to make the most accurate black-level adjustment possible.

Professional HDTV standards specify that black corresponds to a video signal level of 0 volts (0-IRE). The display's black-level circuits must be adjusted to produce minimum light output for a 0-IRE input signal. If the Brightness control is set too high, the display will not be able to produce black at all. The darkest areas of the picture will only be dark-gray and the picture will appear washed-out, lacking in vivid contrast.

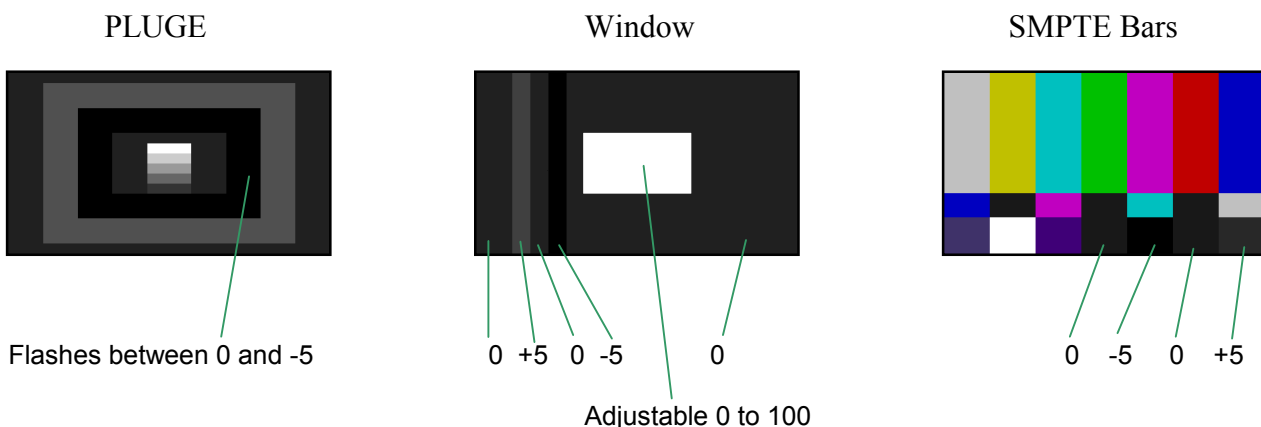
If the display's Brightness control is set too low, portions of the picture that should be dark-gray will be produced as black, and everything darker in the picture will also appear as black. In other words, several levels of dark gray in the picture will be crushed into black and the picture will look overly harsh, lacking in dark shadow details.

One measure of display quality is how well the black-level remains fixed as the average picture (brightness) level (APL) of the incoming video changes. Only the finest displays maintain a constant black-level with large changes in APL. In the majority of CRT-based displays the black-level adjustment must be a compromise over a range of APLs. The BK-1253 provides a Window pattern with PLUGE bars, so the APL may be altered to make the best setting.

Properly calibrated CRT-based displays should be able to produce fully black picture areas; i.e. a complete absence of light output. But fixed-pixel display technologies like LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) and DLP (Digital Light Processing) projectors have not been able to produce total black. It is even more important that the black-level in those display devices be accurately adjusted to minimize light output for black video signals.

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### **BK-1253 Black-level Adjustment Patterns:**



- 5: Blacker-than-black, -5 IRE (2.5 IRE for NTSC)
- 0: Black, 0 IRE (7.5 IRE for NTSC)
- +5: Lighter-than-black, +5 IRE (12.5 IRE for NTSC)

## **Black-level Calibration Procedure:**

Black-level should be adjusted at the beginning of a complete display calibration. It must also be monitored and re-adjusted during the display calibration process. The Black-level adjustment often interacts with the Contrast adjustment and will change during the Color Temperature and Grayscale Tracking adjustments. The BK-1253 provides unique calibration patterns to monitor and re-adjust black-level while making those adjustments.

Using the PLUGE pattern, adjust the Brightness (or Black-level) control of the display until the flashing rectangle can no longer be seen flashing.

Adjust the Brightness (or Black-level) control of the display until the blacker-than-black stripe can not be seen and the lighter-than-black stripe is visible on the Window or SMPTE Bars pattern.

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## **2. Contrast (Peak-White) Calibration**

The Contrast control adjusts the gain of the video amplifier, which determines the peak-white brightness level. In many products the Contrast control and Brightness (black-level) controls interact and must be adjusted interactively.

There is no absolute brightness level that is correct for a video display, but 30 ft-L (foot-Lamberts) is considered an acceptable level for a direct-view display in a dimly lit room. In a bright sun-lit room 50 ft-L or more may be necessary. In a totally dark front-projection home theater 10 ft-L is usually sufficiently bright, and as little as 7-8 ft-L may be acceptable.

As picture brightness is increased in CRT-based displays several performance tradeoffs occur. In many direct-view and rear-projection CRT displays the high-voltage power supplies are too weak to maintain a constant CRT anode voltage with the large changes in CRT beam current that occur as a picture changes from very dark to very bright. The CRT anode voltage may temporarily drop in bright areas of the picture. A drop in anode voltage causes the picture to expand in bright areas.

Short-term high-voltage stability refers to picture behavior within a frame. For instance, a bright white rectangle, in an otherwise dark picture, may widen across the top because the high-voltage dips from the sudden increase in beam current. The sides of the rectangle return to their normal width as the high-voltage stabilizes and returns to its normal voltage. This produces a trapezoidal shape with the top of the rectangle being wider than the bottom. The higher the contrast setting, the brighter the white areas, and therefore the more likely and apparent the short-term stability problems.

Long-term stability problems occur between frames when the picture suddenly changes from high to low APL, or visa-versa. The entire picture may appear to momentarily expand or contract before returning to normal size. In extreme cases the picture size may even oscillate briefly. An excellent example of this problem can be found in pictures that depict lightning storms. The entire picture may pulse in size as bright lightning bolts suddenly and dramatically raise the APL of the picture.

Another problem that occurs in CRT displays at high Contrast settings is a loss of picture resolution. The CRT spot size increases with increasing beam current because of space-charge effects in the electron beam. The electrons repel each other, which causes the beam to increasingly spread apart as the beam current is increased. This is particularly a problem for HDTV displays where CRT spot size is a limiting factor in picture resolution.

For these reasons a brighter picture is not necessarily a better picture.

Fixed-pixel projectors use a bulb with a fixed light level and picture brightness is varied on a pixel basis by changing the transmissive (LCD) or reflective (D-ILA or DLP) property of each pixel. But the bulb limits the maximum brightness level. If the Contrast level is set too high the brightness will clip below the 100 IRE (peak-white) level of the incoming signal. The picture will be harsh with excessive contrast because brightness differences will not be visible in the brightest areas.

CRT-based displays can produce small regions of peak-white brighter than a full-screen of peak-white because of limited available beam current. The difference between the peak brightness levels in small regions and full-fields may be 4:1 or more. Since video, unlike computer graphics, is largely composed of dynamically changing areas of peak brightness, a small area measurement of peak-white is more representative of the apparent picture brightness