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Glossary of Terms used in the motion-picture industry

This British Standard, having been approved by the Cinematograph Industry Standards Committee, was published under the authority of the Executive Board on 30 June 1975.

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The following BSI references relate to the work on this standard:
Committee reference CME/7 Drafts for comment 72/32043 DC & 72/37476 DC

Co-operating organizations

The Cinematograph Industry Standards Committee, under whose supervision this British Standard was prepared, consists of representatives from the following Government departments and scientific and industrial organizations:

- | | |
|---|--|
| *Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians | *Film Laboratory Association |
| *British Broadcasting Corporation | *Film Production Association of Great Britain |
| *British Film Institute | Illuminating Engineering Society |
| *British Kinematograph, Sound and Television Society | *Incorporated Association of Kinematograph Manufacturers Limited |
| British Photographic Manufacturers' Association | Independent Television Companies' Association |
| *Cinematograph Exhibitors' Association of Great Britain and Ireland | Kinematograph Renters' Society |
| Department of Employment | Ministry of Defence |
| Federation of Specialised Film Associations | Royal Photographic Society |

The scientific and industrial organizations marked with an asterisk in the above list were directly represented on the committee entrusted with the preparation of this British Standard.



Amendment Slip No. 1
published and effective from 30 September 1980
to BS 5196 : 1975
Glossary of terms used in the motion-picture industry

Revised text

AMD 2965
September 1980

Change of BS number

On the cover, title page and at the top of the subsequent pages delete 'BS 5196 : 1975' and substitute 'BS 5550 : Section 8.1 : 1980'.

AMD 2965
September 1980

Change of title

On the cover, title page and at the top of page 3 delete the existing title and substitute the following:

'British Standard
 Cinematography
 Part 8. Glossaries
 Section 8.1 Glossary of terms used in the motion-picture industry'.

AMD 2965
September 1980

Inside front cover

In paragraph 1, line 1 delete 'Industry' and in line 2 at the end of the sentence insert 'as BS 5196'.

In line 25, delete 'CME/7' and substitute 'CMS/7'.

AMD 2965
September 1980

Co-operating organizations

In line 1 delete 'Industry'.

AMD 2965
September 1980

Foreword

In paragraph 1, line 1 delete 'Industry'.

At the end of the foreword insert the following :

'As all British Standards on cinematography are to become eventually Sections or Subsections of BS 5550, this standard has been renumbered BS 5550 : Section 8.1. BSI Sectional List 1, obtainable free from BSI Sales Department, catalogues the British Standards on cinematography. The latest edition of SL 1 should be referred to particularly in view of this development.'

AMD 2965
September 1980

Clause 1.1 Motion-picture film

In the note to term 1102 delete 'BS 850' and substitute 'BS 5550 : Subsection 5.1.1'

AMD 2965
September 1980

Clause 3.2 Lenses and filters

After term 3218 insert the following additional terms :

'3219 fog filter A filter used in front of a camera lens to simulate the effect of fog or mist in a scene.

3220 star filter A filter, incorporating a network pattern, that causes light sources and high-lights appearing in a scene to produce star ray effects.'

AMD 2965
September 1980

Clause 4.2 Cameras, projectors and printers

After term 4212 insert the following additional term :

'4212A fluid head A camera head which uses a fluid damped system in its mechanism to obtain smooth camera movement'.

Delete the definition against term 4246 **cover blade** and substitute 'That sector of a disc shutter which cuts off the projecting light during the film pull-down interval'.

After term 4248 insert the following additional term :

'4248A mirror shutter A shutter with a mirror surface on its front face, usually set at 45 ° to the lens axis, which reflects the image formed by the lens into the camera view-finding system during the film pull-down interval'.

AMD 2965
September 1980

Alphabetical index

Insert the following items in the appropriate alphabetical places :

'filter, fog 3219
filter, star 3220
fluid head 4212A
fog filter 3219
head, fluid 4212A
mirror shutter 4248A
shutter, mirror 4248A
star filter 3220'

AMD 2965
September 1980

BSI publications referred to in this standard

Delete 'BS 850' and its title. After BS 4727 insert 'BS 5550 : Subsection 5.1.1 Definition, testing and marking of motion-picture safety film'.



BS 5196 : April 1975

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Foreword

This British Standard has been prepared, under the authority of the Cinematograph Industry Standards Committee, with the object of providing an authoritative glossary of terms used in the motion-picture industry and, thereby, of encouraging all concerned to use those terms in their correct sense.

The terms are grouped in sections and, although familiarity with the subject and with the standard will enable the user to find most of the terms without difficulty, a comprehensive index is provided to enable any term to be traced.

In general, terms which are in everyday use and/or adequately defined in the Oxford Dictionary, terms in general use in the theatrical business and specialist terms which are defined in the following British Standards are not included in this glossary.

BS 661 Glossary of acoustical terms

BS 4727 Glossary of electrotechnical, power, telecommunication, electronics, lighting and colour terms

Where terms defined in these other glossaries are included and, also, where definitions of terms have been agreed by international organizations, care has been taken to ensure that there is no conflict between such definitions and those given in this standard.

When two or more synonymous terms are in use, the term which is favoured is given first and the alternative terms are given below it in less prominent type. These alternative terms are included in the index for reference, but it is hoped that they will gradually fall into disuse in favour of the standard terms.

NOTE. The titles of the British Standards referred to in this standard are given on the inside back cover.

British Standard Glossary of Terms used in the motion-picture industry

1. General

No.	Term	Definition
1.1 Motion-picture film		
1101	film	1. A generic term for a strip of thin, flexible and transparent material which may or may not carry light-sensitive layers, silver images, dye images or a magnetic coating. It is generally perforated. 2. The subject matter recorded on film as defined above.
1102	safety film slow-burning film non-flam film non-inflammable film, <i>deprecated</i>	Film which complies with standard requirements relating to difficulty of ignition and slowness of burning. NOTE. In the UK, the requirements are specified in BS 850.
1103	acetate film	Safety film of which the base is composed principally of cellulose acetate.
1104	nitrate film inflammable film, <i>deprecated</i>	Flammable film of which the base is composed principally of cellulose nitrate.
1105	reversal film	A film designed to produce, after processing, an image the tonal distribution of which is similar to that to which it was exposed, without any intermediate negative/positive printing stage.
1106	negative film	A film designed to produce, after processing, an image the tonal distribution of which is the reverse of that of the original subject.
1107	positive film	A film designed to produce a positive image (3313) from a negative film.
1108	narrow gauge film substandard film, <i>deprecated</i>	Film which is 16 mm or less in width.
1109	frame	One image or picture on a film.
1110	frame line	The space dividing consecutive frames.
1111	edge numbers key numbers footage numbers	Sequential letters and numbers printed on film stock and sound tracks at regular intervals.
1112	mute print/negative	A positive or negative having no sound track on the same film.
1113	film loop	A length of film joined end-to-end to provide a continuous output.
1114	trailer	A publicity film advertising forthcoming film exhibitions. (Cf. 1203.)
1115	aspect ratio	The ratio of width to height of a picture image.

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No.	Term	Definition
1116	base	The flexible support on which an emulsion is coated.
1117	safety base	A base used for the manufacture of safety film.
1118	grey base	A base permanently dyed a low density grey colour to reduce halation.
1119	polyester base	A non-flammable polyethylene terephthalate material which is stronger and more stable dimensionally than cellulose ester (cellulose triacetate or cellulose acetate butyrate) of equivalent thickness and format.
1120	photographic emulsion	A suspension of light-sensitive agents in a medium such as gelatin.
1121	panchromatic emulsion	An emulsion sensitive to the entire visible spectrum.
1122	grain size	The size of individual particles which constitute the photographic emulsion.
1123	graininess grain	The visible lack of homogeneity in a projected motion picture arising from the presence of groups or clumps of particles in the emulsion.
1124	granularity	The random, spatial variation in the transmitting or reflecting properties of the developed photographic image.
1125	fog	The minimum density inherent in a correctly processed emulsion.
1126	hypersensitization	The treatment of a photographic material to increase its sensitivity or speed (3109).
1127	colour sensitizers	Materials, usually dyes, used to increase sensitivity in photographic emulsions in those regions of the spectrum to which they have little sensitivity.
1128	halation	The spread of light, due to reflection within the emulsion or from the base surfaces, which causes unwanted exposure, generally in the form of haloes round the images of bright objects.
1129	anti-halation layer/backing/ base	A treatment applied to a photographic film to reduce halation.
1130	slitting	The operation of cutting raw stock or processed film into strips of the required width.
1131	perforations sprocket holes, deprecated	Holes, along the edge(s) of the film, used for transporting and registering it in motion-picture equipment.
1132	raw stock	Film on which the emulsion is neither exposed nor processed.
1133	short end	The portion of a roll of photographic or magnetic film remaining after the bulk of the roll has been used.
1.2 Leaders		
1201	leader	A length of film/tape attached to the beginning of a reel (3542) of film/tape, to provide protection, identification and information.
1202	projection leader	A leader, attached to a film intended for projection, comprising picture and sound information, timing and start marks

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No.	Term	Definition
1203	trailer end leader, <i>deprecated</i>	A length of film/tape attached to the end of a reel (3542) of film/tape, to provide protection, identification and information. (Cf. 1114.)
1204	machine leader	See 3304.
1205	start marks	Indications, on a leader, marking the appropriate point at which the film is to be threaded in the picture aperture and/or the sound head of the equipment.
1206	change-over cues motor-and-over dots	Marks, at the end of a reel (3542) of film intended for projection, to indicate when to start the motor of the incoming projector and when to switch over picture and sound.

1.3 Cores, spools and cans

1301	spool reel, <i>deprecated</i>	A hub, with flange(s), on which film is wound.
1302	split spool	A spool having one removable flange, enabling a roll of film to be placed on or removed from it without rewinding.
1303	core centre bobbin, <i>deprecated</i>	A cylinder, usually of plastics, wood or metal, on which a roll of film is wound.
1304	can tin	A film container, usually made of metal.
1305	cassette	A sealed container of film or tape in an endless loop, or feeding from one spool to another within the container.
1306	cartridge	A container, usually sealed, containing a single spool of film or tape. The film or tape is fed out of the cartridge and taken up on a separate spool.
1307	transit case	A heavy-duty container in which cans or boxes of film are transported.

2. Motion picture production

2.1 Studio and set

2101	exterior	An outdoor scene or a representation thereof.
2102	backcloth backdrop	The scenic background of a studio set, usually painted on stretched material.
2103	cyclorama	An arc of backcloth normally used to represent sky.
2104	back projection	The projection of a motion picture or still slide onto the rear of a translucent screen used as a background to a set. (Cf. 6205.)
2105	front projection	The forming of the background of a photographed scene by projecting an image, along the axis of the camera lens, onto a highly reflective surface.
2106	cut-out	A perspective composition, depicted on plywood or hardboard which has been profiled, used in set construction.
2107	false perspective	The illusion of depth in a scene by exaggerating the perspective of parts of it.

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No.	Term	Definition
2108	float floater	A moveable part of a set that can be easily placed into and out of position.
2109	grid	Galleries, installed at maximum height above the stage floor, from which scenery, lighting units, etc., may be supported or manipulated.
2110	Schüfftan process	A method by which a combined photograph, in accurate perspective, of a scale model and of a full-sized set is achieved. It is obtained by reflecting the model into the lens of the camera facing the set by an inclined sheet of clear glass which is silvered only over the area of the image of the model.
2111	foreground miniature	A small-scale model of a part of a set, which is placed in such a position in front of the camera that it will merge with the set in correct perspective and scale.
2112	packstrike	To dismantle a set in such a way that it can readily be re-assembled.
2113	blimp	A rigid, soundproof enclosure surrounding any apparatus to prevent the sound of its mechanism being recorded.
2114	barney elephant	A bag, padded with kapok or other material, used to reduce the sound of a motion-picture camera.
2115	crow's foot	A piece of timber with a V-cut used for securing the legs of the tripod of a motion-picture camera or a lampstand.
2116	booth	A soundproof cabin used for projection or recording.
2117	microphone boom	A mechanically moveable arm from which a microphone is suspended.
2118	acoustic screen	A reflective or absorptive, moveable screen designed to modify sound during recording.

2.2 Studio lighting

2201	broad broadside	A type of floodlight emitting a wide-angle beam.
2202	effects lighting	Any lighting employed to add to scenic or dramatic presentation.
2203	magazine	A light fitting containing separate compartments for each of a number of lamps.
2204	brute	See 4309.
2205	barn-doors	Adjustable flaps which can be attached to the front of a lighting unit to control the spread of the light beam.
2206	fill light	The secondary lighting used to illuminate the areas cast in shadow by the key light.
2207	key light	The dominant light used for illuminating a scene.
2208	lighting contrast	The ratio of fill light plus key light to fill light alone.
2209	high key	The term used when the majority of tones in the subject or image lie at the light end of the grey scale (3124).

No.	Term	Definition
2210	low key	The term used when the majority of the tones in the subject or image lie at the dark end of the grey scale (3124).
2211	Kleigl plug	A type of electrical plug, used in studios, for power supply.
2212	hot spot	A part of an illuminated surface where the illumination is unduly high in comparison with its surroundings.
2213	dead spot	A part of an illuminated surface where the illumination is unduly low in comparison with its surroundings.
2214	skate	A wheeled trolley in the lighting grid of a studio.

2.3 Scripts and continuity

2301	sequence	A section of a film, consisting of a succession of edited scenes or shots, complete in itself.
2302	continuity	The noting, during production, of dramatic, set and costume detail to ensure logical progression from shot to shot.
2303	make-up still	A photograph of a performer used to assist in the subsequent matching of make-up.
2304	reference still	A photograph taken for the use of an art director of a film.
2305	publicity still	A photograph of a scene used to publicize a film or the artistes portrayed therein.

2.4 Production

2401	action	1. The word of command given by a film director for performance of a scene to start. 2. The movement that takes place in front of film cameras.
2402	speed	The indication to the director that the cameras and sound recorders are running at their correct speed.
2403	cut	The word of command given for performance of a scene to stop.
2404	set-up	The arrangement of the scenery, properties (props), performers, lights, microphones and cameras for a particular shot.
2405	shot	Part of a film photographed in one uninterrupted run of the camera.
2406	master shot	The shot containing the entire action of a sequence, parts of which may also be photographed separately.
2407	process shot	A shot in which an illusion is created by the use of optical special effects.
2408	cover shot	A shot not specified in the script but made, in case it is required, by the editor, as a link.
2409	racking	Extending or retracting the telescopic arm of the microphone boom.
2410	tracking shot dollying shot, <i>deprecated</i> trucking shot, <i>deprecated</i>	A shot made whilst the camera is moved sideways, forward or backwards.

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No.	Term	Definition
2411	pan (shot)	A shot made whilst the camera is rotated to traverse a scene.
2412	tilt (shot)	A shot made whilst the camera is rotated vertically.
2413	crane (shot)	A shot made whilst the camera is moved vertically.
2414	dolly	A chassis, mounted on wheels, for supporting a camera.
2415	number board slate	A board on which the name of the film, the slate or scene number and, usually, other information are shown. It is held in front of the camera and photographed before or after each scene is shot.
2416	clapper board	A number board to which is hinged a piece of wood which is brought down smartly onto the number board to assist in sound and picture synchronization.
2417	silent turnover silent slate	Electronic communication between camera and sound recorder which establishes synchronization, and sometimes gives identification information, without the use of a clapper board.
2418	radio slating	The use of a radio link between camera and sound recorder which establishes synchronization, and sometimes gives other information, without the use of a clapper board.
2419	slate number	The number given to each set-up during filming which is cumulative throughout production.
2420	take number	The number given to each successive attempt to film a set-up.
2421	special effects	Apparent action or scene not photographed in reality but produced by the use of photographic, mechanical, electrical or optical devices.
2422	matte	An opaque mask for preventing the exposure of part of a frame or frames in order to obtain a special effect during subsequent exposure.
2423	bipack camera	A camera which will run two separate films simultaneously through the same gate, either to expose both or to expose one through the other.
2424	vignette	The special effect whereby the same subject is shown more than once in a frame, or the action in different locations is shown in different parts of the same frame. This effect is usually obtained by multiple exposure or multiple printing.
2425	split screen	A process shot in which parts of two or more scenes are combined on different areas of the same frame.
2426	wild track	A sound recording without simultaneous photography.

2.5 Animated motion pictures

2501	animation	The filming of drawings, puppets and other static material by stop motion (2503), so that the appearance of movement is given when the film is projected at normal speed.
2502	real-time animation	The manipulation of models, puppets or graphics under a continuously operating camera.

No.	Term	Definition
2503	stop motion photography stop action photography	The technique of exposing a motion-picture film one frame at a time, the drawings or objects photographed being moved to a different position between each successive exposure.
2504	cel	A drawing on a transparent sheet to be used in animation, or the material itself. (Abbreviation of 'celluloid' which was formerly used for this purpose.)
2505	bar sheet music chart	An analysis of the recorded music track to permit synchronization of animation.
2506	rostrum animation stand	An adjustable but rigid support for the camera and the animation table, constructed so that they do not alter position relative to each other in an uncontrolled way.
2507	rostrum camera animation camera	A motion-picture camera used for animated films and able to expose one frame at a time.
2508	animation table	That part of a rostrum which supports the animation board and which may carry the panning gear and turntable.
2509	multiplane	A process, using an animation table, which permits several separate planes of action and background to be moved independently and photographed simultaneously.
2510	pressure plate platen	A rigid sheet of transparent material attached to the animation board, to provide a uniform pressure on the cels and background.
2511	frame glass	A glass pressure plate.
2512	animation board	The surface on which animation cels are placed for photography.
2513	light box	A desk or table, provided with registration pegs, with the drawing surface illuminated from beneath.
2514	registration pegs	Pegs used for the accurate alignment of art-work.
2515	trip gear	A mechanism which effects the exposure of a single frame.
2516	key animation	Drawing the principal positions of a figure or object during a movement.
2517	in-betweens	The intermediate drawings between two key drawings.
2518	cut-out	A drawing cut to the shape of that part of a figure or object which does not change in outline during movement or photography. Simple animation can be made with jointed cut-outs.
2519	cel level	The means of identifying the position of any one of a number of superimposed cels.
2520	set-up	The arrangement of the drawings, cels, background, lighting and camera position.
2521	set-up key	A drawing which indicates the position of one or more set-ups for the guidance of the rostrum cameraman.

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No.	Term	Definition
2522	track	Camera movement towards or away from the subject being photographed.
2523	bump in/out	The instantaneous appearance/disappearance of an object, i.e. in successive frames.
2524	cel flash	The unwanted reflection of light from the uneven surface of a cel into the camera lens.
2525	registration holes	Holes, in material to be photographed, which exactly fit the registration pegs.
2526	pan background panning background	Art-work intended to be moved behind a scene to simulate the lateral or vertical movement of the foreground elements.
2527	backward take	Photographing a scene with the frames exposed in reverse order, which reverses action or movement when the film is projected normally.
2528	dope sheet exposure sheet	A chart used by the cameraman, giving detailed frame-by-frame information, including number of cel levels, background and camera movement, etc., of a complete sequence.
2529	colour key	A specimen cel of each character or object, painted in colours as a guide to the colouring of all the cels for a complete sequence.
2530	animation cycle	The repetition of a series of drawings during photography.
2531	single frame	Each drawing photographed for one frame only.
2532	double frame	Each drawing photographed for two frames. NOTE. Triple frame and quadruple frame animation are also used where the movement is very slow.
2533	speed lines	An impression of speed given by means of lines symbolizing quick movement.
2534	lay-out	The design of a scene including background, characters in correct relative size, colours, cel levels and camera positions and movements.
2535	strobing	The apparent flutter of an object passing rapidly across a screen, due to persistence of vision.
2536	work book	The instructional book giving the timing and action of the film to be made.
2537	rough animation	The initial sketches to determine the required animation.
2538	cleaning up	Making finished drawings from sketches.
2539	key animator	The artist who produces the key animation (2516).
2540	vacuum frame	Apparatus using atmospheric pressure to hold art-work flat.
2541	inking	The tracing of the outlines from the drawings on to the cels.
2542	match-line	An indication on the lay-out showing where one object crosses another.
2543	opaquing	Filling in the tones and colours on a cel.