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SMPTE RECOMMENDED PRACTICE

Dimensions of Tape Splices on 16-mm and 8-mm Type R Motion- Picture Film, Projection Type



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1 Scope

1.1 This practice specifies the significant dimensions of mated cut splices for 16-mm and 8-mm type R motion-picture film made with an adhesive tape and intended for projection and exhibition.

1.2 There are a number of methods for splicing triacetate or polyester motion-picture film that have found practical and commercial acceptance and that meet the operational requirements for the physical strength of the bond. This practice is not intended to recommend one method over another, but rather to emphasize the requirements common to all tape splices.

2 Application

Inasmuch as the film is usually a print, the primary objective is for the splice to be unobtrusive in the projected image area and the reproduced sound. Film guiding and positioning are usually achieved through the film seeking an equilibrium position through edge guiding for lateral positioning, and perforation reference against a loose fitting tooth or claw for vertical positioning. Splices used for projection applications may have slightly broader width tolerances than those used for laboratory applications.

3 Dimensions

3.1 The dimensions shall be as given in the figures and table 1 and apply to freshly-made splices on processed films and leaders having a nominal shrinkage of not more than 0.2%.

3.2 The transverse cut to provide the mated pairs of film for the tape splice shall fall within the area defined by dimensions A, C, and D. However, if the mated cut is not a straight cut made on one frameline, the cut configuration shall intrude into only one of the two adjoining picture frames and the splice shall be as inconspicuous as possible (see annex A.6).

3.3 Edges of the two spliced films shall not be offset laterally by more than 0.002 in (0.05 mm [dimension G]) unless a difference in the lateral shrinkage of the two strips makes it impossible to maintain the tolerance (see annex A.2).

3.4 The angle between the respective edges of the spliced film shall be $180^\circ \pm 4'$. Thus, the spliced film shall be aligned to the extent that, when one portion of the film is placed against a straightedge, the other portion will not deviate more than 0.006 in (0.15 mm) in 6 in (152 mm).

3.5 The splice should have a negligible gap between the mated cuts of the film ends to prevent hinging and there should not be any film overlap at the splice. Films joined by tape splices are not acceptable for use as originals in commercial printing operations or those intended for magnetic striping (see SMPTE RP 149).