

Aspect Ratio Information

4:3 TV (non-widescreen) with 4:3 Broadcast



A 4:3 (non-widescreen) with a 4:3 broadcast

4:3 TV (non-widescreen) Letterboxing



Letterboxing is the practice of broadcasting 16:9 (widescreen) film to video formats while preserving the film's original aspect ratio. On TV's with a 4:3 (non-widescreen) aspect ratio, the resulting image displays black bars on the top and bottom of the broadcast.

16:9 TV (widescreen) with 16:9 Broadcast



A 16:9 (widescreen) with a letterbox 16:9 broadcast

Aspect Ratio Information

16:9 TV (widescreen) with 4:3 Broadcast



One variant broadcast one may see is called **Pillarboxing**. When this is done, the display will have black columns on each side of the image that fill the space between the image and the sides of your screen. The correct aspect ration of the original broadcast 4:3 is preserved using the middle of the screen. Analog, Digital, and High-Definition (HD) can all be broadcast in this way. ***A Broadcast displayed on an HD channel in this format is HD.***

16:9 TV (widescreen) Windowboxed



Another broadcast one may see is called **Windowboxing**. This occurs when letterbox and pillar-box happen simultaneously. For instance, a 16:9 broadcast could embed a 4:3 commercial within the 16:9 image area. A viewer watching on a standard 4:3 (non-widescreen) television would see a 4:3 image of the commercial with 2 sets of black stripes, vertical and horizontal.