Force 16x9 Pan-Scan

A Simple DVD SP Helper

Force 16x9 Pan-Scan is a simple drop-on application that will take one or more MPEG-2 files, sets the 16x9 Pan and Scan indicator and gives them correct and consistent time code information.

DVD players use the 16x9 Pan & Scan indicator to adjust the shape of the output video according to the setup of the player (either 16x9 or 4x3). For 16x9 televisions, the whole image is presented, for 4x3 television, a section of the center of the image is presented so as to fill the screen.

This facility was originally intended to allow the image area displayed on the 4x3 screen to be panned around the 16x9 image by the player itself, allowing a single MPEG stream to be used for both 16x9 and 4x3 presentations.

However, since the image shown on a 4x3 television represent the data from only part of the stream, it is of lower quality than you would see from a dedicated stream for 4x3 viewing.

The facility is useful for less demanding cases than the feature itself. 16x9 Pan & Scan is often used to present menus full screen on both television types.

The caveat to use of the 16x9 PS mode on 4x3 televisions is that the safe title area must conform to the smaller image displayed there. This effectively limits the area outside of the 4x3 image space to background picture when viewed on a 16x9 television.

Force 16x9 Pan-Scan supports usage in menus by exposing a fixed region in the center of the image on 4x3 televisions.

Force 16x9 Pan-Scan, like other MPEG Append tools, transfers markers originating in Final Cut Pro and encoded with compatible encoders then adds new markers at the junction of files. These markers will appear, pre-placed, when you use the asset in DVD Studio Pro.

For a detailed description of the options and general behavior of this and other applications based on MPEG Append, see the MPEG Append documentation.

Quick Start:

Choose the first file to convert, for example “MudPie.m2v”

If you want to append additional files, rename each of those additional files the same as the first with a numeric suffix, like “MudPie.m2v.1” and put them in a folder with the first.

So a Finder list will contain:

MudPie.m2v, MudPie.m2v.1, MudPie.m2v.2, MudPie.m2v.3 etc.

Drag MudPie.m2v onto the Force 16x9 Pan-Scan application.

Specify a file name and location. Click Save.

When it is done, you will have one large file with the 16x9 Pan & Scan attribute and continuous drop-frame timecode.

You can choose to have the output file use Non-drop Frame timecode, or whatever timecode the first file uses using the pop-up at the bottom of the ‘Save As’ dialog.

For almost all cases, the default Drop Frame timecode is preferred because it avoids a persistent bug in DVD Studio Pro which causes audio synchronization problems during preview.

However, if you are using subtitles with markers in your authoring you may encounter another DVD Studio Pro bug which causes it to generate errors indicating that the subtitles cross a marker point when Drop Frame timecode is used. You can avoid

this problem by using Non-drop Frame timecode (but your audio may seem to be out of sync).

Cautions

Force 16x9 Pan-Scanmakes the bold assumption that you have some idea what you are doing (boy, does that simplify the programming).

If you give it a collection of files that are named appropriately, it will process them.

If you supply a combination of spreadsheet files, application files and your laundry list, you will not get anything useful on the output. But Force Anamorphic will happily do it for you.

Force 16x9 Pan-Scan for Mac OS 9 is free. Force16x9 Pan-Scan for Mac OS X is a paid product and part of the MPEG Append Suite for Mac OS X.