

**CUTTING ELECTRONICALLY
BUT FINISHING ON FILM:
TIPS FOR DEALING WITH CGI'S
(Computer Generated Graphics)**

Here are some simple answers to common questions:

Will it matter if my show is drop or non-drop time code? *(No.)*

Once the C.G.I. is done, does the special effects computer output a tape master for me to screen and cut in? *(YES.)*

Can this tape master be drop or non-drop time code? *(YES)*

So this master will serve as my "dailies"? *(YES.)*

What if I need a film copy of this C.G.I. - can I use this same tape master? *(You could - see last paragraph - but the master used to transfer to film, should be "compressed".)*

What does "compressed" mean? *(Instead of transferring the C.G.I. to tape using the 3-2 pull down field configuration for normal viewing (24 film frames = 30 video frames) - "compressed" is when you transfer at the rate of one film frame for each video frame - 24 film frames is 24 video frames. SEE DIAGRAM)*

Why would you do this? *(Because when you transfer tape to film, the machines - Digital Film Recorders - work off singular video frames to create singular film frames.)*

Well, if 30 video frames represented 30 film frames, then if I screened that tape - won't it look like it's sped up 25%? *(Correct. That's why the compressed version is not usable for viewing purposes. Your digital effects company should make you a "viewing" master for dailies and a "compressed" (tape or data medium - such as 8mm) master for transfer to film.)*

Does the Digital Film Recorder use two video fields to make each film frame? *(YES, because the resolution is better.)*

When I get my new film negative, do I just transfer this like my regular dailies? *(YES)*

Any pitfalls to avoid? *(YES! If you're cutting electronically but finishing on film, the most serious error made by picture editors - is that when you make a motion effect it must be divisible by film frames. If you "print every frame two times" - no problem. But if you print every frame 1.5 times - although the digital system can play it for you by duplicating fields - it will never ever transfer properly back to film! This type of D.V.E. or video motion effect is fine as long as you don't need to finish on film.)*

That's the basics. Remember: Not all C.G.I. representatives have knowledge of our editorial needs. They may know how to do spiffy composites but they may not pay attention to "A frames" or compressed dailies. Then problems show up later when you try and load the effect into your electronic editing system and no "A frame" is identified. Many a horror story has been told by the *tape to film* company about masters that are *supposed* to be compressed but they're not! These companies are then forced into a time consuming process involving a Digital Disc Recorder which enables them to figure out where the 3-2 pull down occurs and find true film frames. So - before getting started, talk to your special effects expert regarding your tape and film needs. This may also affect how they work on your particular C.G.I. since they can load and work with it as 24 frame film *or* as 30 frame video. So - be specific!

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