



## **Cable Service That Moves With You**

### **Home Entertainment Terminology Guide**

**16:9 and 4:3 Aspect Ratio:** See aspect ratio.

**Artifacts:** Unwanted visible effects in the picture created by disturbances in the video transmission or processing. Examples include "dot crawl" or "hanging dots" in analog pictures, or "pixelation" in digital pictures.

**Aspect ratio:** The ratio of width to height for an image or screen. The North American television standard uses the "squarish" 4:3 ratio. Newer digital and HDTVs use the wider 16:9 ratio (1.78:1) to better display DVD and HDTV content.

**ATSC:** Advanced Television Standards Committee, which was formed to establish technical standards for the U.S. digital broadcast television system.

**Audio/video inputs:** Using a TV's direct A/V inputs to connect a DVD player, VCR, camcorder or other video component provides improved picture and sound quality compared to using the everything-on-one-wire RF antenna-style input. If your TV is old enough that it only has RF-type inputs, that's reason enough to consider replacing it because DVD players don't normally have an RF output.

Rear A/V inputs are used for components you normally leave connected to your TV. Front A/V inputs allow you to quickly and easily connect/disconnect a camcorder, second VCR, or video game console.

**Audio outputs:** Stereo audio jacks that let you connect your TV to your stereo or home theater system. There are two types: fixed, and variable. If you connect a TV's fixed output to your A/V receiver, you'll be able to raise and lower the TV volume via the receiver's volume control. If you connect the TV's variable output to your receiver, you would control TV volume using the TV's remote.

**Black level:** Describes the appearance of darker portions of a video image. Black is the absence of light, so to create the black portions of an image, a display must be able to shut off as much light as possible. Displays with good black level capability not only produce deeper blacks, but also reveal more details and shading in dark or shadowy scenes.

**Burn-in:** Screen burn-in is damage to the display screen, most commonly on plasma TVs. Burn-in can occur when a static image such as a news ticker or network logo remains on-screen for an extended period. Over time, the images leave a faint, but permanent impression on-screen. Newer plasma TVs have been refined to reduce the chances of burn-in, but owners can further reduce the risk by properly adjusting the brightness and contrast settings.

**Component video:** The three-jack component video connection splits the video signal into three parts (one brightness and two color signals). Component video has increased bandwidth for color information, resulting in a more accurate picture with clearer color reproduction and less bleeding. Component video typically provides better picture quality than S-video or composite video), and is recommended when connecting compatible DVD players, satellite receivers, and cable set-top boxes.

**Composite video:** A single video signal that contains luminance (brightness) and chrominance (color) information. A composite signal is better than an RF signal, but not as good as S-video or component video. A composite video jack is usually a single RCA-type.

**Contrast ratio:** Measures the difference between the brightest whites and the darkest blacks a display can show. The higher the contrast ratio, the greater the ability of a display to show subtle color details and tolerate ambient room light. Contrast ratio is an important spec for all types of TV display, but especially for front projectors.

**Digital audio output:** A connection found on HDTVs and HDTV tuners for sending the Dolby Digital audio of HDTV broadcasts to an A/V receiver with Dolby Digital decoding.

**Direct-view TV:** A general term for non-projection types of TVs, which include conventional tube TVs and flat-panel plasma and LCD TVs.

**Dolby® Digital:** A discrete multichannel digital audio format that is the official audio standard for HDTV (and DVD). Dolby Digital is normally associated with 5.1-channel surround sound. Though this channel configuration is common, it is only one of several possible variations — a "Dolby Digital" soundtrack can mean anything from 1 to 5.1 channels.

**Down-conversion:** A term used to describe the format conversion from a higher resolution input signal number to a lower display number, such as 1080i input to 480i display. Some HDTV tuners are able to down-convert digital HDTV signals for display on a regular analog TV.

**Digital Television (DTV):** A general term for televisions that is capable of displaying the digital TV signal, but may also describe a cable television service which delivers programming content to the home in the digital format.

**Broadcast DTV (Digital Television):** General term for America's digital broadcast TV standard, which completely replaced the 60-year-old analog National Television System Committee (NTSC) broadcast system in June of 2009.

**EDTV (Enhanced-Definition Television):** A designation applied to televisions that can not only display signals in 480-line progressive (480p) mode, but which can also accept 480p signals from video sources such as progressive-scan DVD players. 480p picture quality is superior to standard analog TV (480i), but not as sharp as true HDTV (1080i or 720p). EDTVs are generally either plasma or flat-panel LCD models.

**Electronic program guide (EPG):** Provides an on-screen listing of available channels and program data for an extended time period (typically 36 hours or more). Examples of program guides include subscription services like TiVo® and free guides like TV Guide® On Screen.

**Energy Star® compliant:** A certification for consumer electronics products indicating energy efficiency. Energy Star compliant products must meet stringent standards for power consumption in "standby" mode. (When a component is switched off but still plugged into an AC power source, it continues to draw a small amount of power in standby mode to keep circuits active and ready for quick turn-on.)

**Flat-panel TV:** Any ultra-thin, relatively lightweight TV. Current flat-panel TVs use either plasma, LCD or LED screen technology.

**HDMI™ (High-Definition Multimedia Interface):** A multi-pin HDMI interface (cable) transfers uncompressed digital video with copy protection and multichannel audio.

**HDTV (High-Definition Television):** Often mistakenly used as a generic description of all digital television, HDTV specifically refers to the highest-resolution format of DTV formats. Although there still isn't 100% agreement among manufacturers, retailers, journalists, etc., true HDTV is generally considered to be 1,080-line interlaced (1080i) or 720-line progressive (720p).

**LCD (Liquid Crystal Display):** LCD technology is one of the methods used to create flat-panel, rear-projection, and front-projection TVs.

**Letterboxed video:** A method for displaying content originally developed in a different aspect ratio (such as movies or HD content) within a 4:3 TV aspect ratio.

**MPEG-2:** The video compression standard used for digital television, DVDs and other devices. MPEG stands for Moving Picture Experts Group.

**Picture-in-picture (PIP):** There are two flavors of picture-in-picture: One-tuner PIP models require that you connect a VCR or other video component to provide the source for your second picture. Two-tuner PIP models have two built-in TV tuners, so you can watch two channels at once using only the TV.

**Pixel:** Short for "picture element," it's the smallest bit of data in a video image. The key is the smaller the size of the pixels in an image – the greater the resolution.

**Plasma Screen:** Gas-plasma technology is one of the methods used to create flat-panel TVs.

**Resolution:** The sharpness of a video image, signal or display, generally described either in terms of "lines of resolution" or pixels. The resolution you see depends on two factors: the resolution of your display and the resolution of the video signal.

**RF (radio frequency) jack:** The kind of jack commonly used for bringing signals from antennas and other sources outside the home to components with some type of tuner, such as a cable box, HDTV tuner, VCR, satellite receiver or a TV.

**SDTV (Standard-Definition Television):** A digital television format that is similar to analog standards in picture resolution and aspect ratio, although the picture and sound will be much clearer and have the other advantages of a digital signal.

**Set-top box (STB):** Also called a converter box, these tuners convert television signals (either analog cable, digital cable, or HDTV) for display on a television set. Any HDTV set without a built-in HDTV tuner must be connected to a compatible HDTV tuner set-top box in order to receive digital television programs.

**S-video:** Found on nearly all TVs, this 4-pin connector usually provides a sharp, clear picture by transmitting the brightness and color portions of a video signal separately.

**Up-conversion:** The term used to describe the conversion of a lower resolution signal to a higher one.

**V-Chip:** The FCC (Federal Communications Commission) has required that TVs include "V-Chip" technology to optionally block the display of television programs based on their rating. Parents can program the TV with a rating so that when the V-Chip reads a show's signal, it will prevent it from displaying if it is above the rating.

**Widescreen:** When used to describe a TV, widescreen generally refers to an aspect ratio of 16:9, which is the optimum ratio for viewing DVDs, many video games and HDTV content.

*[Source: Crutchfield.com]*