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Subject: The color bars

Posted by [Strum Drum](#) on Thu, 22 Oct 2020 13:56:27 GMT

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on TVs actually serve a purpose, as I just learned. It is a test pattern for calibration purposes. Engineers actually still use it today in order to adjust the color schemes so that each television that is manufactured will align with the standard. That's pretty nifty! I rarely saw them as a kid. I grew up with 24-7 television, so the whole nightly sign off thing wasn't part of my experience.

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Subject: Re: The color bars

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 22 Oct 2020 14:07:38 GMT

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Before the SMPTE color bars, there was another common test pattern, as shown below. It was used to check things like the linearity of the sweep, overall size, contrast and frequency response. Poor frequency response made lines fuzzy rather than having sharp edges and poor linearity made them spaced closer or further apart on some sections of the screen than others.

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Subject: Re: The color bars

Posted by [Lost the Remote](#) on Sat, 24 Oct 2020 00:24:22 GMT

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Cool! I love little tidbits like these. I always thought the color bars were part of the reel and were meant to show off the magic of color television. I had no idea that they actually have a name, so thank Wayne for sharing that one. I'm surprised that there's a color calibration standard among all televisions though, because it certainly doesn't look that way to me.

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Subject: Re: The color bars

Posted by [johnnycamp5](#) on Sat, 24 Oct 2020 19:11:06 GMT

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I don't remember the earlier test pattern that came before the color bars (Waynes example) but I'm quite offended at the "Indians head" at the top.....

:lol: :lol: :lol: :lol: :lol: :lol: :lol: :lol: :lol:

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Subject: Re: The color bars

Posted by [gofar99](#) on Sun, 25 Oct 2020 02:30:57 GMT

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Hi, :roll: I not only remember them I used them. At one time as a portable unit to field test color TVs I had a special cartridge for an Atari 2600 that was designed to produce the various patterns needed. I probably still have it. It might be interesting to see how well some of the newer TVs are actually calibrated for color balance and purity. The alignment (horizontal and vertical lines) should be perfect as the display is a digital array.

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Subject: Re: The color bars

Posted by [Souldude](#) on Tue, 06 Jul 2021 03:15:24 GMT

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I remember seeing these color bars, but I only learned now that it has a purpose. I've always thought that there was something wrong with the channel when those things would flash out.

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