

Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 Technical Field

This invention relates to the transmission of widescreen television signals for reception and display on both widescreen televisions and non-widescreen televisions. The term "widescreen television" refers to a television having a display whose ratio of width to height (the aspect ratio) is greater than a predetermined reference value.

One aspect of this invention allows the widescreen transmission to be displayed either in its entirety on a widescreen display or in a contiguous portion on a non-widescreen receiver. Another aspect of this invention relates to the inverse operation of allowing a non-widescreen transmission to be displayed on a widescreen display wherein the aspect ratio of the displayed picture is that of a non-widescreen display.

15 Background Information

The current standard of all television broadcasts has an aspect ratio (the ratio of the display width to the display height) of 4:3, or 1.3333. This aspect ratio was based on the motion picture practice at the time of standardization.

In the United States, Canada and Japan, color broadcasts are made according to the National Television System Committee (NTSC) composite standards. Color video signals broadcast under the NTSC standard require that picture information be separated into two components: luminance, or brightness, and chrominance, or color. Figure 1 is an amplitude-vs.-frequency diagram illustrating, in simplified form, a typical NTSC composite color television signal 50 comprising a luminance signal 52 and a chrominance signal 54. (A composite television signal is one in which chrominance information is carried on a subcarrier.) The signal occupies a nominal bandwidth of 6 MHz with the picture carrier 56 being 1.25 MHz above the lower end of the band. Luminance information is modulated directly onto picture carrier 56, while chrominance information is modulated onto color subcarrier 58 which is in turn used to modulate picture carrier 56. Color subcarrier 58 has a frequency of 3.579545 MHz, a standard established by the NTSC. (Audio information is carried on another subcarrier 40 lying near the upper edge of the band.)

Television signals are produced and displayed as a result of a line scanning process. The picture information is scanned using a progressive series of horizontal lines which are transmitted sequentially in time. The transmitted signal is a continuous analogue of the brightness intensity corresponding to each point of the line. Such a signal is shown in Figure 2 from which it may be seen that in a series of standard lines, any two adjacent active line periods (periods during which video information is transmitted) are separated by a period in which no video information is transmitted. This latter period is known as the line blanking interval and is introduced to allow the scanning device in the receiver to reset to the line-start position.

In the NTSC standard, the active line period includes one signal which simultaneously represents the instantaneous values of three independent color components. Other composite signals, SECAM, which is used in France, and PAL, which predominates the rest of Europe, have the same basic format as the NTSC standard, including a line-blanking interval and an active line period in each scan.

The region labeled A in Figure 1 is of particular importance for it represents overlap between the luminance 52 and chrominance 54 signals. Since separation of luminance and chrominance is accomplished by filtering a frequency-division multiplexed signal, overlaps such as A between the two signals lead to several problems. If, upon reception, complete separation between luminance and chrominance is desired, the necessary filtering will cause the loss of some of the information in both signals. On the other hand, if no loss of information can be tolerated, then one must accept interference between the luminance and chrominance signals. Moreover, since the various parts of the NTSC television signals are transmitted at different frequencies, phase shifts occurring during transmission will affect them differently, causing the signal to deteriorate. Also, the available color information is severely limited by the small color bandwidth permitted.

Other types of analogue video signals which are particularly adapted to transmission by satellite and cable, and which lead to improved picture quality in comparison with existing standards, are presently being studied. These signals are based on a time multiplex of the three independent color components during the active line period of the scan line. Instead of coding the three components into one signal using the NTSC, PAL or SECAM standard, the components are sent sequentially using a time-compression technique. One version of this type of signal is known as MAC (Multiplexed Analogue Components). Signals generated by a time compression technique also adhere to the same basic format as the NTSC, PAL and SECAM standards, including the presence

of a line-blanking interval and an active line period in each scan line. It should be noted that when a MAC signal is employed, digital data may also be transmitted during the line-blanking interval.

A MAC color television signal is illustrated in Figure 3, which is an amplitude-vs.-time diagram of a single video line of 63.56 μ s duration. The first 10.9 μ s is in the horizontal blanking interval (HBI) 62, in which no picture information is transmitted. Following HBI 62 are chrominance signal 64 and luminance signal 66, either of which may be time-compressed. Between chrominance signal 64 and luminance signal 66 is a 0.28 μ s guard band 68, to assist in preventing interference between the two signals.

The MAC color television signal of Figure 3 is obtained by generating conventional luminance and chrominance signals (as would be done to obtain a conventional NTSC or other composite color television signal) and then sampling and storing them separately. Luminance is sampled at a luminance sampling frequency and stored in a luminance store, while chrominance is sampled at a chrominance sampling frequency and stored in a chrominance store. The luminance or chrominance samples may then be compressed in time by writing them into the store at their individual sampling frequency and reading them from the store at a higher frequency. A multiplexer selects either the luminance store or the chrominance store, at the appropriate time during the active line period, for reading, thus creating the MAC signal of Figure 3. If desired, audio samples may be transmitted during the HBI; these are multiplexed (and may be compressed) in the same manner as the video samples. The sample rate at which all samples occur in the multiplexed MAC signal is called the MAC sampling frequency.

With the adoption of a new transmission standard, a new and improved television service should offer a wider aspect ratio for, among other reasons, motion pictures have adopted wider aspect ratios. For example, motion pictures are commonly filmed with aspect ratios of 1.85:1. The Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE) favors an aspect ratio for a television production standard of 16:9, which is the square of the standard 4:3 television aspect ratio. Another aspect ratio under consideration for new television systems is 5:3.

With the introduction of a widescreen television receiver, more samples per line of active video will occur in order to display the picture on the wider screen. Thus, the sampling rate of the picture elements will be higher if more samples are to be transmitted during the same active video line time. Correspondingly, the sample rate at the widescreen receiver would have to be higher.

One problem with the introduction of any new television system is its compatibility with the standard 4:3 aspect ratio receivers presently in use by the public.

One way to achieve compatibility is to transmit two television signals, one having the widescreen aspect ratio for receivers having a widescreen and the other having the standard aspect ratio for receivers having the standard screen. The standard aspect ratio television picture could be generated by selecting a portion of the widescreen picture. Both could be transmitted simultaneously for the simultaneous receipt at both aspect ratio televisions. The method of selecting a portion of the widescreen picture is known in the prior art. For example, U.S. Patent No. 4,476,493, issued to Poetsch et al., and U.S. Patent No. 4,223,343, issued to Belmares-Sarabia et al. both discuss this method of selecting a portion of a widescreen picture for display on standard televisions. This method, however, is costly for it requires dual storage and transmission of every picture.

Another possibility is to transmit the entire widescreen television signal and let the standard aspect ratio television skip alternate samples, allowing the widescreen picture to fit on the standard display. Such a method is described in U.S. Patent No. 4,134,128, issued to Hurst. However, this method causes geometric distortion of the picture on the standard display.

Another possible method is to display the widescreen picture on the standard display, causing the widescreen picture width to be squeezed into the standard display and the height to be displayed by only a portion of the standard display height so as to affect a simulated widescreen aspect ratio. This method is contemplated in U.S. Patent No. 4,394,690, issued to Kobayashi. This document discloses a single compatible television receiver which can receive and display several aspect ratio signals. A "selection" signal that is transmitted with the transmitted television signal specifies which aspect ratio is to be displayed. The signal causes the scanning circuitry to display the signal in the correct aspect ratio. However, this method also geometrically distorts the picture, in addition to not making full use of the display screen.

Another problem with the introduction of any new television system is that the broadcasts or home recorded versions of 4:3 aspect ratio television signals would not be compatible with the new widescreen television receivers.

In an article entitled "Extended Definition Television with High Picture Quality", SMPTE Journal 1028-35 (October, 1983), Broder Wendland provides a discussion of pre- and post-filtering techniques, as well as time-compression techniques for an enhanced television system. In particular, the timeplex (MAC) system called C-MAC in which audio, luminance and chrominance components are individually time compressed and then transmitted to a receiver is discussed. Figure 14a illustrates that for a 5:3 aspect ration signal all transmitted

signal components are used for display. In the case of a 4:3 aspect ratio receiver, a correctly decoded luminance and chrominance signal is obtained if a definable part of the luminance and chrominance signal is properly decompressed. However, the discussion of selecting aspect ratios is sketchy at best. Wendland is silent as to the frequency generation and timing relationships of clock circuitry. Furthermore, Wendland does not disclose how selection is achieved or how a selection signal can be obtained by the television receiver.

The present invention seeks to provide a method to transmit a widescreen television signal for display both on a widescreen receiver and a non-widescreen receiver without introducing a geometric distortion.

Further, the present invention seeks to transmit a widescreen television signal for display on a non-widescreen receiver wherein a contiguous portion of the widescreen signal is displayed.

The present invention also seeks to transmit a widescreen television signal for reception at both widescreen and non-widescreen receivers in either NTSC or MAC format, and to do so in the same time used to transmit NTSC signals currently in use for non-widescreen receivers.

According to the present invention, there is provided a method of displaying a transmitted television signal having a first aspect ratio at both a television receiver having a first aspect ratio and a television receiver having a second aspect ratio, wherein the transmitted signal comprises luminance signal components, the method characterised by the steps of:

receiving a selection signal transmitted with said television signal and defining the position of a fixed portion of said transmitted television signal to be displayed;

writing the luminance signal components into a first memory device at a first clock rate;

reading the luminance signals into a first memory device at a first clock rate;

reading the luminance signal components at either a second clock rate which represents the clock rate for displaying the television signals on the television receiver having the second aspect ratio or a third clock rate corresponding to the product of the second clock rate and the ratio of the first aspect ratio to the second aspect ratio; and

displaying at the respective receivers the signal components read from the first memory device wherein said fixed portion of the luminance signal components selected in accordance with the selection signal are read from the first memory device at the second clock rate and displayed at the television receiver having the second aspect ratio.

The invention further provides an apparatus for displaying a transmitted television signal having a first aspect ratio at both a television receiver having a first aspect ratio and a television receiver having a second aspect ratio, wherein the transmitted signal comprises luminance signal components, said apparatus characterised by:

receiving means for receiving a selection signal transmitted with said television signal and defining the position of a fixed portion of said transmitted television signal to be displayed;

writing means for writing the luminance signal components into a first memory device at a first clock rate;

reading means for reading the luminance signals into a first memory device at a first clock rate;

reading means for reading the luminance signal components at either a second clock rate which represents the clock rate for displaying the television signals on the television receiver having the second aspect ratio or a third clock rate corresponding to the product of the second clock rate and the ratio of the first aspect ratio to the second aspect ratio; and

display means for displaying at the respective receivers the signal components read from the first memory device wherein said display means displays said fixed portion of the luminance signal components selected in accordance with the selection signal and read from the first memory device at the second clock rate and displayed at the television receiver having the second aspect ratio.

Accordingly, a widescreen television picture is sampled at a higher sampling rate so as to fit all the information in the current 52.5µs active video line time. The selection signal being incorporated with the widescreen picture signal allows non-widescreen television receivers to display a contiguous portion of the widescreen picture without geometric distortion. The widescreen television signal is transmitted either in MAC or widescreen NTSC format, and is received by a decoder. The decoder allows the entire widescreen picture to be displayed on a widescreen receiver, and makes use of the selection signal to display the selected portion of the picture on a standard receiver without geometric distortion. In another embodiment, a decoder allows television signals having the standard aspect ratio to be displayed on receivers having widescreen aspect ratios without geometric distortion.

In this way, both widescreen and non-widescreen television signals are fully compatible on either widescreen or non-widescreen receivers.

The spirit of this invention is to transmit a widescreen television signal in such a manner that it can be displayed on either a widescreen receiver or a non-widescreen receiver, without producing geometric distortion

at the display of either receiver. The television signal can be transmitted in either an NTSC or MAC format. If NTSC format is employed, a higher colour subcarrier frequency is used in order to make the wider television picture fit in the same active video line time (52.5µs). If MAC format is employed, the signal may be transmitted at the standard frequency of 6 Fsc or at a higher frequency. Regardless of the method employed for transmitting the widescreen television signal, the invention also provides a device for receiving the transmission and time-compressing the signal for display on either a widescreen or non-widescreen display.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- Figure 1 is an amplitude-vs.-frequency diagram illustrating in simplified form a typical NTSC colour television signal.
- Figure 2 is an amplitude-vs.-time diagram of a typical NTSC colour television signal.
- Figure 3 is an amplitude-vs.-time diagram of a single video line of a typical MAC colour television signal.
- Figure 4 is a simplified block diagram of the decoder of the present invention wherein a MAC widescreen colour television signal is transmitted for display on both widescreen and standard screen displays.
- Figure 5 is a simplified block diagram of the clock frequency generator circuitry required by the decoder of Figure 4.
- Figure 6 is a simplified block diagram of the decoder of the present invention wherein an NTSC widescreen television signal is transmitted for display on both widescreen and standard screen displays.
- Figure 7 is a simplified block diagram of the decoder of the present invention wherein a conventional NTSC television signal is displayable on a widescreen display.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

- Turning now to Figure 4, the decoder 400 for receiving a MAC transmission of the widescreen colour television signal will now be discussed. The MAC transmission is received by an antenna (not shown) and sent to switch 410, controlled by controller 415. Controller 415 controls switch 410 to direct MAC luminance to switch 412, chrominance to switch 414, and the remainder of the received signal to controller 415. A user-controlled switch 422 informs the controller as to the size of the display attached to decoder 400.
- The MAC signal is transmitted serially as analog components and, therefore, a sample-and-hold and an A/D converter (not shown) are required in order to receive the MAC transmission. The sampling frequency will be the frequency to which samples were originally compressed before transmission. (In the event sufficient bandwidth is available so that the time compressed components may be transmitted digitally, the sample-and-hold and A/D converter would not be necessary.)
- Luminance data is written into luminance line store 402 at the sampling frequency and is read out at a lower frequency, explained below. Similarly, chrominance data is written into chrominance line store 406 at the sampling frequency and is read out at a lower frequency, also explained below. Because the luminance and chrominance data must be decompressed, two line stores are provided for each component. One line store (402 or 406) is written into while the other line store (404 or 408) is read. Switches 412 and 414 control read/write while switches 416 and 418 control write/read, respectively, and are themselves controlled by controller 415 to alternate every active line period.
- The line stores are preferably randomly accessible, such as RAM, but can be of the first-in, first-out (FIFO) type, such as charge-coupled devices (CCD).

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

- Turning now to Figure 4, the decoder 400 for receiving a MAC transmission of the widescreen color television signal will now be discussed. The MAC transmission is received by an antenna (not shown) and sent to switch 410, controlled by controller 415. Controller 415 controls switch 410 to direct MAC luminance to switch 412, chrominance to switch 414, and the remainder of the received signal to controller 415. A user-controlled switch 422 informs the controller as to the size of the display attached to decoder 400.
- The MAC signal is transmitted serially as analog components and, therefore, a sample-and-hold and an A/D converter (not shown) are required in order to receive the MAC transmission. The sampling frequency will be the frequency to which samples were originally compressed before transmission. (In the event sufficient bandwidth is available so that the time compressed components may be transmitted digitally, the sample-and-hold and A/D converter would not be necessary.)
- Luminance data is written into luminance line store 402 at the sampling frequency and is read out at a lower frequency, explained below. Similarly, chrominance data is written into chrominance line store 406 at the sam-

pling frequency and is read out at a lower frequency, also explained below. Because the luminance and chrominance data must be decompressed, two line stores are provided for each component. One line store (402 or 406) is written into while the other line store (404 or 408) is read. Switches 412 and 414 control read/write while switches 416 and 418 control write/read, respectively, and are themselves controlled by controller 415 to alternate every active line period.

The line stores are preferably randomly accessible, such as RAM, but can be of the first-in, first-out (FIFO) type, such as charge-coupled devices (CCD).

Switch 422, user-selected at the time that the decoder is first installed at the television receiver, informs controller 415 of the aspect ratio of the television display. If switch 422 is set at the WIDESCREEN position, all of the memory locations in the line stores are used by the display to display the widescreen, picture. These time decompressed components are sent to a converter (not shown) for display on a widescreen display. The converter is well-known to those skilled in the art, and either converts the luminance and chrominance to PAL, SECAM, or NTSC format for a PAL, SECAM, or NTSC type widescreen receiver, respectively, or matrixes the luminance and chrominance to Red, Green and Blue color components for an RGB widescreen receiver.

If switch 422 is set to the STANDARD position, all of the luminance and chrominance components in the line stores will not fit on the display. Preferably, a selection signal, sent with the widescreen television signal, informs the controller which memory locations to use for ultimate display.

The widescreen television signal is monitored before transmission, and an operator manually selects the center of interest and causes a signal to be generated which is transmitted with the picture. Methods of selecting the center of interest and generating the selection signal are well-known to those skilled in the art, as shown, for example, by U.S. Patent Nos. 4,476,493 and 4,223,343 (discussed above). The selection signal could represent, for example, the offset between the centers of the 16:9 and 4:3 displays or the first or last memory location where the selected portion is stored in memory (offset between right edges or left edges). In the preferred embodiment, this selection signal is sent during the vertical blanking interval. If no selection signal is transmitted with the widescreen television signal, the decoder will generate a default selection signal.

Controller 415 receives the data, including the selection signal, from switch 410, recapturing the selection signal and passing the rest of the data to the television receiver (not shown). The selection signal is decoded by controller 415 and used to generate the start and end addresses for reading out the luminance and chrominance components from the line stores. The chrominance and luminance address signals represent a display enable signal.

Although the above description has assumed the use of random access memory as the line stores, the preferred embodiment alternatively contemplates the use of first-in-first-out (FIFO) memories. Each of the four line stores (two luminance and two chrominance) must have enough memory locations to store an entire widescreen active video line of the respective samples (752 for luminance and 376 for chrominance). The selection signal may then be used to control either the writing of samples into the line stores, or the reading of samples from them.

If the selection signal controls the writing of samples, it is used to switch the input of the FIFO between actual samples of the video line and a zero signal. For example, if the leftmost portion of the widescreen picture is to be displayed on a non-widescreen display, the selection signal will first cause actual picture signals to be written into the FIFO. When enough picture signals (564) have been written to fill a non-widescreen line, the selection signal will cause zero signals to fill the remainder of the FIFO. Upon reading, the zero signals are simply discarded.

If the selection signal is to control the reading of samples, first the entire widescreen line is written into the FIFO. Then the selection signal either connects the FIFO's output to the display, or it does not. Once again, assuming that the leftmost portion of a widescreen active video line is to be displayed on a non-widescreen display, the selection signal would cause the FIFO to be connected to the display during the reading of the first 564 samples and disconnected from the display during the reading of the remainder (which would again be discarded).

The rate at which the luminance and chrominance components are written into and read from their respective line stores in order to achieve time decompression will now be discussed. The write clock rate will be the sampling frequency. In the preferred embodiment, this is six times the color subcarrier frequency (6 Fsc). The luminance read clock rate will preferably be two-thirds of the sampling frequency (4 Fsc), and the chrominance read clock rate will ordinarily be half the luminance read clock value (2 Fsc). To decompress the components so that they can be displayed on the standard aspect ratio display, the standard screen read clock rates are determined by the following equations:

$$RCS_L = \frac{\text{STANDARD ASPECT RATIO}}{\text{WIDESCREEN ASPECT RATIO}} * RCW_L$$

$$RCS_C = RCS_L / 2$$

wherein

RCS_L = luminance read clock for standard screen

RCW_L = luminance read clock for wide screen

RCS_C = chrominance read clock for standard screen

5

EXAMPLE 1

10 Samples of a 1.85:1 aspect ratio widescreen television signal will be transmitted at 6 Fsc. Accordingly, the luminance and chrominance write clocks at the receivers will also be 6 Fsc. For display on 1.85:1 aspect ratio, the luminance read clock will be 4 Fsc, and the chrominance read clock will be 2 Fsc. For display on standard (4/3) aspect ratio televisions, the luminance read clock will be:

$$\frac{4/3}{1.85} * 4 \text{ Fsc} = 2.88 \text{ Fsc}$$

and the chrominance read clock will be 1.44 Fsc.

15

EXAMPLE 2

20 Samples of a 16:9 aspect ratio widescreen television signal will be transmitted at 6 Fsc. Accordingly, the luminance and chrominance write clocks at the receivers will also be 6 Fsc. For display on 16:9 aspect ratio televisions, the luminance read clock will be 4 Fsc, and the chrominance read clock will be 2 Fsc. For display on standard (4:3) aspect ratio televisions, the luminance read clock will be:

$$\frac{4/3}{16/9} * 4 \text{ Fsc} = 3 \text{ Fsc}$$

and the chrominance read clock will be 1.5 Fsc.

25

By the above two examples, it can be seen that the ratio of the receiver's aspect ratio to that of the transmitted signal determines the proper write clock rates. This holds true regardless of the frequency at which samples are transmitted. For example, if samples of 16:9 aspect ratio signal were MAC formatted and transmitted at 8 Fsc, the luminance read clock would be 4 Fsc, and the chrominance read clock would be 2 Fsc for display on a 16:9 aspect ratio display; the luminance read clock would be $((4/3)/(16/9)) \times 4\text{Fsc} = 3\text{Fsc}$, with the chrominance read clock being 1.5 Fsc, for display on a standard (4:3) aspect ratio display.

30

Figure 5 shows a simplified block diagram of the clock frequency generator circuitry used by the decoder of Figure 4. As in standard B-MAC, a voltage controlled oscillator 510 operates at 12 Fsc, and is frequency locked to the B-MAC burst which follows data and precedes chrominance in each line. Oscillator 510 drives two frequency dividers 512 and 514, producing the 6 Fsc write clock and the 4 Fsc widescreen luminance read clock, respectively. Divider 512 drives frequency divider 516, producing the 3 Fsc non-widescreen luminance read clock. Frequency divider 518 divides the luminance read clock by two, producing the chrominance read clock. Both read clock frequencies are controlled by switch 422, which is the same switch as shown in Figure 4.

35

40 It is also possible to transmit an NTSC-like signal carrying all of the widescreen television signal information. However, in order to get all of the information in the same active video line of 52.5 us, the signal must be time-compressed. As the NTSC and similar composite signals are analog, time-compression is achieved by modulating the widescreen color information onto a higher subcarrier frequency. The new subcarrier frequency (F'sc) will be determined according to the following equation:

45

$$\frac{\text{WIDESCREEN ASPECT RATIO}}{\text{NON - WIDE SCREEN ASPECT RATIO}} * \text{NON - WIDESCREEN SUBCARRIER} = \text{F'sc}$$

where

$$\text{NON-WIDESCREEN ASPECT RATIO} = 4.3$$

$$\text{NON-WIDESCREEN SUBCARRIER} = 3.579545 \text{ MHz}$$

50 Therefore, if the widescreen aspect ratio is chosen as 1.85:1, the widescreen signal's color subcarrier will be approximately 4.9667 MHz. Similarly, for an aspect ratio of 16:9, the new color subcarrier will be approximately 4.7727 MHz, and for an aspect ratio of 5:3, the modulating subcarrier will be approximately 4.4744 MHz.

As these frequencies are not prime numbers, the design of a new generator may be simplified. Additionally, other odd integers near these values could be used with very minor changes in the actual aspect ratio of the signal transmitted. It is known that small differences in the aspect ratio are not noticed by the observer.

55

Turning now to Figure 6, a description of the decoder of the present invention wherein a composite wide-screen signal is transmitted for display on both widescreen and standard (NTSC) displays will now be discussed. The baseband signal is received from a television receiver front end 1011, which includes a demodulator for demodulating the received signal to baseband, and processed by decoder 1010 as follows. Switch

1012 is set by the user, informing decoder 1010 of the display aspect ratio to which the decoder is connected. If switch 1012 is set at WIDESCREEN, the decoder simply passes the entire widescreen signal to composite television 1045.

If switch 1012 is set at STANDARD, the analog signal is converted to digital by sample-and-hold circuit 1020 and A/D converter 1025. This digital signal is written into a memory at a first clock rate and read out at a second (slower) clock rate. A portion of the samples read out are selected for display by time decompressor and selector 1030. The time decompressor requires two memories, one of which is written into while the other is read from. The portion of the samples read out (if random access memories) or written in (if FIFO memory devices) are selected according to the selection signal previously described with reference to Figure 4. If no selection signal is present, a default position is generated by the decoder. The control of the memories and the selection is identical to the description of Figure 4. The selected portion of the widescreen signal is converted back to analog by digital-to-analog converter 1035, and the selected portion is then passed to composite television 1045. The decompressed signal will contain a color subcarrier of 3.579545 MHz, if the non-widescreen television is designed to receive NTSC signals.

Decoders have been described for allowing widescreen transmissions to be compatible with non-widescreen receivers. Given the vast amount of non-widescreen pictures, either transmitted by television stations or stored at home on video tape, there is a need for widescreen receivers to be compatible with these non-widescreen signals. Turning now to Figure 7, a decoder for displaying standard television signals on widescreen displays having an aspect ratio of 16:9 will now be discussed.

The NTSC composite baseband video signal is input at the decoder at input port 1105, where it is optionally low pass filtered 1110 and converted to a digital signal by sample-and-hold and A/D converter 1115. The digital samples need to be time-compressed to fit on the widescreen display without distortion. To do this, demultiplexers 1125 and 1130, along with multiplexers 1135 and 1140, time compress the samples through line stores 1145-1160. The compressed picture will not fill up the entire widescreen display. The non-widescreen signal, compressed for displaying without distortion on a widescreen display, is delayed by counter 1165 and read enable gate 1170 by a delay preferably causing the displayed picture to be centered on the widescreen display. During the delay, no picture elements are output from the line stores. Additionally, no picture elements are output after the line stores have read out the entire non-widescreen video line. The absence of picture elements creates null components which are used to produce a border for bordering the non-widescreen signal on the widescreen display. It is noted that luminance and chrominance are written into their respective line stores at 3 Fsc and read out at 4 Fsc. This time-compressor ratio (4:3) is the ratio of the widescreen aspect ratio (16:9) to the standard screen aspect ratio (4:3). Other read/write rates could be chosen, and will also be dependent upon the widescreen aspect ratio.

The compressed chrominance components are separated into their R-Y and B-Y components by demultiplexer 1175. The luminance and R-Y and B-Y chrominance components are converted to analog by digital-to-analog converters 1180, 1185 and 1190, respectively, where they are lowpass filtered by filters 1195a, b, and c, respectively, and converted into displayable signals by converter 1200. Converter 1200 either converts the signals for NTSC, PAL or SECAM, or matrixes the signals for display on an RGB display.

Although illustrated embodiments of the present invention have been described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to those precise embodiments and that various changes or modifications may be effected therein by one skilled in the art without departing from the scope or spirit of the invention.

Claims

1. A method of displaying a transmitted television signal having a first aspect ratio at both a television receiver having a first aspect ratio and a television receiver having a second aspect ratio, wherein the transmitted signal comprises luminance signal components, the method characterised by the steps of:
 - receiving a selection signal transmitted with said television signal and defining the position of a fixed portion of said transmitted television signal to be displayed;
 - writing the luminance signal components into a first memory device at a first clock rate;
 - reading the luminance signals into a first memory device at a first clock rate;
 - reading the luminance signal components at either a second clock rate which represents the clock rate for displaying the television signals on the television receiver having the second aspect ratio or a third clock rate corresponding to the product of the second clock rate and the ratio of the first aspect ratio to the second aspect ratio; and
 - displaying at the respective receivers the signal components read from the first memory device



1012 is set by the user, informing decoder 1010 of the display aspect ratio to which the decoder is connected. If switch 1012 is set at WIDESCREEN, the decoder simply passes the entire widescreen signal to composite television 1045.

If switch 1012 is set at STANDARD, the analog signal is converted to digital by sample-and-hold circuit 1020 and A/D converter 1025. This digital signal is written into a memory at a first clock rate and read out at a second (slower) clock rate. A portion of the samples read out are selected for display by time decompressor and selector 1030. The time decompressor requires two memories, one of which is written into while the other is read from. The portion of the samples read out (if random access memories) or written in (if FIFO memory devices) are selected according to the selection signal previously described with reference to Figure 4. If no selection signal is present, a default position is generated by the decoder. The control of the memories and the selection is identical to the description of Figure 4. The selected portion of the widescreen signal is converted back to analog by digital-to-analog converter 1035, and the selected portion is then passed to composite television 1045. The decompressed signal will contain a color subcarrier of 3.579545 MHz, if the non-widescreen television is designed to receive NTSC signals.

Decoders have been described for allowing widescreen transmissions to be compatible with non-widescreen receivers. Given the vast amount of non-widescreen pictures, either transmitted by television stations or stored at home on video tape, there is a need for widescreen receivers to be compatible with these non-widescreen signals. Turning now to Figure 7, a decoder for displaying standard television signals on widescreen displays having an aspect ratio of 16:9 will now be discussed.

The NTSC composite baseband video signal is input at the decoder at input port 1105, where it is optionally low pass filtered 1110 and converted to a digital signal by sample-and-hold and A/D converter 1115. The digital samples need to be time-compressed to fit on the widescreen display without distortion. To do this, demultiplexers 1125 and 1130, along with multiplexers 1135 and 1140, time compress the samples through line stores 1145-1160. The compressed picture will not fill up the entire widescreen display. The non-widescreen signal, compressed for displaying without distortion on a widescreen display, is delayed by counter 1165 and read enable gate 1170 by a delay preferably causing the displayed picture to be centered on the widescreen display. During the delay, no picture elements are output from the line stores. Additionally, no picture elements are output after the line stores have read out the entire non-widescreen video line. The absence of picture elements creates null components which are used to produce a border for bordering the non-widescreen signal on the widescreen display. It is noted that luminance and chrominance are written into their respective line stores at 3 Fsc and read out at 4 Fsc. This time-compressor ratio (4:3) is the ratio of the widescreen aspect ratio (16:9) to the standard screen aspect ratio (4:3). Other read/write rates could be chosen, and will also be dependent upon the widescreen aspect ratio.

The compressed chrominance components are separated into their R-Y and B-Y components by demultiplexer 1175. The luminance and R-Y and B-Y chrominance components are converted to analog by digital-to-analog converters 1180, 1185 and 1190, respectively, where they are lowpass filtered by filters 1195a, b, and c, respectively, and converted into displayable signals by converter 1200. Converter 1200 either converts the signals for NTSC, PAL or SECAM, or matrixes the signals for display on an RGB display.

Although illustrated embodiments of the present invention have been described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to those precise embodiments and that various changes or modifications may be effected therein by one skilled in the art without departing from the scope or spirit of the invention.

Claims

1. A method of displaying a transmitted television signal having a first aspect ratio at both a television receiver having a first aspect ratio and a television receiver having a second aspect ratio, wherein the transmitted signal comprises luminance signal components, the method characterised by the steps of:
 - receiving a selection signal transmitted with said television signal and defining the position of a fixed portion of said transmitted television signal to be displayed;
 - writing the luminance signal components into a first memory device at a first clock rate;
 - reading the luminance signals into a first memory device at a first clock rate;
 - reading the luminance signal components at either a second clock rate which represents the clock rate for displaying the television signals on the television receiver having the second aspect ratio or a third clock rate corresponding to the product of the second clock rate and the ratio of the first aspect ratio to the second aspect ratio; and
 - displaying at the respective receivers the signal components read from the first memory device



wherein said fixed portion of the luminance signal components selected in accordance with the selection signal are read from the first memory device at the second clock rate and displayed at the television receiver having the second aspect ratio.

- 5 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the transmitted signals also comprise chrominance components, wherein the method is further characterised by the steps of:
 - writing the chrominance signal components into a second memory device at a fourth clock rate;
 - reading the chrominance signal components stored in the second memory device at either a fifth
 - 10 clock rate which represents the clock rate for displaying the television signal on the television receiver having the second aspect ratio or a sixth clock rate corresponding to the product of the fifth clock rate and the ratio of the first aspect ratio to the second aspect ratio; and
 - displaying at the respective receivers the signal components read from the second memory device, wherein a portion of the chrominance signal components selected in accordance with the selection signal are read from said second memory device at said fifth clock rate and displayed on the television receiver
 - 15 having the second aspect ratio.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein said transmitted television signal having a first aspect ratio comprises a transmitted widescreen television signal, said first television receiver comprises a widescreen receiver and said second television receiver comprises a non-widescreen receiver, the method further characterised by the step of:
 - 20 displaying the signals read from the second memory device at the respective receivers.
4. The method of claim 2 or 3, characterised in that the fourth clock rate equals the first clock rate.
- 25 5. The method of any one of claims 1 to 4, characterised in that the selection signal is representative of a picture element of the portion of the signal components read from the memory devices.
6. The method of claim 5, characterised in that the picture element is the first picture element.
7. The method of claim 5, characterised in that the picture element is the last picture element.
- 30 8. The method of claim 5, characterised in that the picture element is the centre picture element.
9. The method of claim 5, characterised in that the selection signal is representative of an address of each of the memory devices.
- 35 10. The method of any one of claims 5 to 9, characterised in that the determined portion of the signal components read from the memory devices is contiguous.
11. The method of claim 1 wherein the transmitted signals comprise separate luminance and chrominance signal components and further characterised by the steps of:
 - 40 transmitting the television signals at a sampling frequency proportional to the ratio of the first aspect ratio to the second aspect ratio;
 - receiving the luminance and chrominance signal components;
 - writing the chrominance signal components into a second memory device at a fourth clock rate;
 - reading the chrominance signal components stored in the second memory device at either a fifth
 - 45 clock rate which represents the clock rate for displaying television signals on said television receiver having a second aspect ratio or a sixth clock rate corresponding to the product of the fifth clock rate and the ratio of the first aspect ratio to the second aspect ratio; and
 - displaying at the respective receivers the signals read from said second memory device, wherein a portion of the chrominance signal components selected in accordance with the selection signal are read
 - 50 from said second memory device at said fifth clock rate and displayed on the television receiver having the second aspect ratio.
12. The method of claim 11, characterised in that said first clock rate and said fourth clock rate equal the transmitted sampling frequency.
- 55 13. An apparatus for displaying a transmitted television signal having a first aspect ratio at both a television receiver having a first aspect ratio and a television receiver having a second aspect ratio, wherein the transmitted signal comprises luminance signal components, said apparatus characterised by:



receiving means for receiving a selection signal transmitted with said television signal and defining the position of a fixed portion of said transmitted television signal to be displayed;

writing means for writing the luminance signal components into a first memory device at a first clock rate;

reading means for reading the luminance signals into a first memory device at a first clock rate;

reading means for reading the luminance signal components at either a second clock rate which represents the clock rate for displaying the television signals on the television receiver having the second aspect ratio or a third clock rate corresponding to the product of the second clock rate and the ratio of the first aspect ratio to the second aspect ratio; and

display means for displaying at the respective receivers the signal components read from the first memory device wherein said display means displays said fixed portion of the luminance signal components selected in accordance with the selection signal and read from the first memory device at the second clock rate and displayed at the television receiver having the second aspect ratio.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said transmitted television signal is a widescreen television signal containing luminance and chrominance components occurring at a first frequency, said first clock rate corresponding to said first frequency, said apparatus further characterised in that said writing means comprises:

a first storage device (402) of said first memory device for storing a line of the luminance components at the first frequency;

a second storage device (404) of said first memory device for storing a line of the luminance components at the first frequency;

first input switch means (412) for receiving the luminance components and directing the luminance components for storage to said first and second storage devices, said writing means including:

a third storage device (406) of a second memory device for storing a line of the chrominance components at the first frequency;

a fourth storage device (408) of said second memory device for storing a line of the chrominance components at the first frequency;

second input switch means (414) for receiving the chrominance components and alternately directing the chrominance components for storage to said third and fourth storage devices, and

said reading means is further characterised by: first output switch means (416) for retrieving and outputting the luminance components at a second frequency from said first and second devices; and

second output switch means (418) for alternately retrieving and outputting the chrominance components at a third frequency from said third and fourth storage devices.

15. The apparatus of claim 14 further characterised by:
- control means (415) for controlling said first input switch means (412) and said first output switch means (416) so that received luminance components are directed to one of said first and second storage devices (402, 404) while luminance components are retrieved from the other one of said first and second storage devices.

16. The apparatus of claim 15 further characterised by:
- control means (415) for controlling said second input switch means (414) and said second output switch means (418) so that received chrominance components are directed to one of said third and fourth storage devices (406, 408) while chrominance components are retrieved from the other one of said third and fourth storage devices.

17. The apparatus of claim 15, characterised in that the second frequency is twice the third frequency.

18. The apparatus of claim 15, characterised in that the first frequency is twice the second frequency.

19. The apparatus of claim 15, characterised in that the first frequency is three times the third frequency.

Patentansprüche

1. Verfahren zur Anzeige eines übertragenen Fernsehsignals mit einem ersten Aspektverhältnis sowohl an einem Fernsehempfänger mit einem ersten Aspektverhältnis als auch einem Fernsehempfänger mit einem zweiten Aspektverhältnis, wobei das übertragene Signal Luminanzsignalkomponenten beinhaltet,



- wobei das Verfahren durch folgende Schritte gekennzeichnet ist:
 Empfangen eines mit dem Fernsehsignal übertragenen Auswahlsignals und Definieren der Position eines festen Bereichs des anzuzeigenden, übertragenen Fernsehsignals;
 Schreiben der Luminanzsignalkomponenten in eine erste Speichereinrichtung mit einer ersten Taktrate;
 Lesen der Luminanzsignale in einer ersten Speichereinrichtung mit einer ersten Taktrate;
 Lesen der Luminanzsignalkomponenten mit entweder einer zweiten Taktrate, welche die Taktrate für die Anzeige der Fernsehsignale auf dem Fernsehempfänger mit dem zweiten Aspektverhältnis repräsentiert, oder einer dritten Taktrate, die dem Produkt der zweiten Taktrate mit dem Verhältnis des ersten Aspektverhältnisses zu dem zweiten Aspektverhältnis entspricht; und
 Anzeigen der aus der ersten Speichereinrichtung ausgelesenen Signalkomponenten an den jeweiligen Empfängern, wobei der feste Bereich der Luminanzsignalkomponenten, der gemäß dem Auswahlsignal ausgewählt wird, aus der ersten Speichereinrichtung mit der zweiten Taktrate ausgelesen und an dem Fernsehempfänger mit dem zweiten Aspektverhältnis angezeigt wird.
2. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die übertragenen Signale außerdem Chrominanzkomponenten beinhalten, wobei das Verfahren weiter durch folgende Schritte gekennzeichnet ist:
 Schreiben der Chrominanzsignalkomponenten in eine zweite Speichereinrichtung mit einer vierten Taktrate;
 Lesen der Chrominanzsignalkomponenten, die in der zweiten Speichereinrichtung gespeichert sind, entweder mit einer fünften Taktrate, welche die Taktrate zum Anzeigen des Fernsehsignals auf dem Fernsehempfänger mit dem zweiten Aspektverhältnis repräsentiert, oder einer sechsten Taktrate, die dem Produkt der fünften Taktrate mit dem Verhältnis des ersten Aspektverhältnisses zu dem zweiten Aspektverhältnis entspricht; und
 Anzeigen der aus der zweiten Speichereinrichtung ausgelesenen Signalkomponenten an den jeweiligen Empfängern, wobei ein Teil der Chrominanzsignalkomponenten, der gemäß dem Auswahlsignal ausgewählt wird, aus der zweiten Speichereinrichtung mit der fünften Taktrate ausgelesen und auf dem Fernsehempfänger mit dem zweiten Aspektverhältnis angezeigt wird.
 3. Verfahren nach Anspruch 2, wobei das übertragene Fernsehsignal mit einem ersten Aspektverhältnis ein übertragenes Breitbild-Fernsehsignal beinhaltet, wobei der erste Fernsehempfänger einen Breitbild-Empfänger umfaßt und der zweite Fernsehempfänger einen Empfänger mit nicht verbreitertem Bildformat umfaßt, wobei das Verfahren weiter durch folgenden Schritt gekennzeichnet ist:
 Anzeigen der Signale, die aus der zweiten Speichereinrichtung ausgelesen werden, an den jeweiligen Empfängern.
 4. Verfahren nach Anspruch 2 oder 3, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die vierte Taktrate gleich der ersten Taktrate ist.
 5. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 4, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Auswahlsignal repräsentativ für ein Bildelement des Teils der Signalkomponenten ist, die aus den Speichereinrichtungen ausgelesen werden.
 6. Verfahren nach Anspruch 5, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Bildelement das erste Bildelement ist.
 7. Verfahren nach Anspruch 5, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Bildelement das letzte Bildelement ist.
 8. Verfahren nach Anspruch 5, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Bildelement das zentrale Bildelement ist.
 9. Verfahren nach Anspruch 5, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Auswahlsignal repräsentativ für eine Adresse von jeder der Speichereinrichtungen ist.
 10. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 5 bis 9, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der vorgegebene Teil der Signalkomponenten, der aus den Speichereinrichtungen ausgelesen wird, zusammenhängend ist.
 11. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei die übertragenen Signale getrennte Luminanz- und Chrominanzsignalkomponenten beinhalten und wobei es weiter durch folgende Schritte gekennzeichnet ist:
 Übertragen der Fernsehsignale mit einer Abtastfrequenz, die proportional zu dem Verhältnis des ersten Aspektverhältnisses zu dem zweiten Aspektverhältnis ist;



Empfangen der Luminanz- und Chrominanzsignalkomponenten;

Schreiben der Chrominanzsignalkomponenten in eine zweite Speichereinrichtung mit einer vierten Taktrate;

Lesen der in der zweiten Speichereinrichtung gespeicherten Chrominanzsignalkomponenten entweder mit einer fünften Taktrate, welche die Taktrate zum Anzeigen von Fernsehsignalen auf dem Fernsehempfänger mit einem zweiten Aspektverhältnis repräsentiert, oder einer sechsten Taktrate, die dem Produkt der fünften Taktrate mit dem Verhältnis des ersten Aspektverhältnisses zu dem zweiten Aspektverhältnis entspricht; und

Anzeigen der aus der zweiten Speichereinrichtung ausgelesenen Signale an den jeweiligen Empfängern, wobei ein Teil der Chrominanzsignalkomponenten, der gemäß dem Auswahlsignal ausgewählt wird, aus der zweiten Speichereinrichtung mit der fünften Taktrate ausgelesen und auf dem Fernsehempfänger mit dem zweiten Aspektverhältnis angezeigt wird.

12. Verfahren nach Anspruch 11, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die erste Taktrate und die vierte Taktrate gleich der übertragenen Abtastfrequenz sind.

13. Vorrichtung zur Anzeige eines übertragenen Fernsehsignals mit einem ersten Aspektverhältnis sowohl an einem Fernsehempfänger mit einem ersten Aspektverhältnis als auch an einem Fernsehempfänger mit einem zweiten Aspektverhältnis, wobei das übertragene Signal Luminanzsignalkomponenten beinhaltet, wobei die Vorrichtung gekennzeichnet ist durch:

Empfängermittel zum Empfangen eines mit dem Fernsehsignal übertragenen Auswahlsignals und Definieren der Position eines festen Bereichs des anzuzeigenden, übertragenen Fernsehsignals; Schreibmittel zum Schreiben der Luminanzsignalkomponenten in eine erste Speichereinrichtung mit einer ersten Taktrate;

Lesemittel zum Lesen der Luminanzsignale in einer ersten Speichereinrichtung mit einer ersten Taktrate; Lesemittel zum Lesen der Luminanzsignalkomponenten mit entweder einer zweiten Taktrate, welche die Taktrate für die Anzeige der Fernsehsignale auf dem Fernsehempfänger mit dem zweiten Aspektverhältnis repräsentiert, oder einer dritten Taktrate, die dem Produkt der zweiten Taktrate mit dem Verhältnis des ersten Aspektverhältnisses zu dem zweiten Aspektverhältnis entspricht; und

Anzeigemittel zum Anzeigen der aus der ersten Speichereinrichtung ausgelesenen Signalkomponenten an den jeweiligen Empfängern, wobei die Anzeigemittel den festen Bereich der Luminanzsignalkomponenten anzeigen, der gemäß dem Auswahlsignal ausgewählt und aus der ersten Speichereinrichtung mit der zweiten Taktrate ausgelesen sowie an dem Fernsehempfänger mit dem zweiten Aspektverhältnis angezeigt wird.

14. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 13, wobei das übertragene Fernsehsignal ein Breitbild-Fernsehsignal ist, das Luminanz- und Chrominanzkomponenten enthält, die bei einer ersten Frequenz auftreten, wobei die erste Taktrate der ersten Frequenz entspricht, wobei die Vorrichtung weiter dadurch gekennzeichnet ist, daß die Schreibmittel folgendes beinhalten:

eine erste Speichereinheit (402) der ersten Speichereinrichtung zum Speichern einer Zeile der Luminanzkomponenten mit der ersten Frequenz;

eine zweite Speichereinheit (404) der ersten Speichereinrichtung zum Speichern einer Zeile der Luminanzkomponenten mit der ersten Frequenz;

erste Eingangsschaltmittel (412), um die Luminanzkomponenten zu empfangen und die Luminanzkomponenten zur Speicherung zu der ersten und der zweiten Speichereinheit zu leiten, wobei die Schreibmittel umfassen:

eine dritte Speichereinheit (406) der zweiten Speichereinrichtung zur Speicherung einer Zeile der Chrominanzkomponenten mit der ersten Frequenz;

eine vierte Speichereinheit (408) der zweiten Speichereinrichtung zur Speicherung einer Zeile der Chrominanzkomponenten mit der ersten Frequenz;

zweite Eingangsschaltmittel (414), um die Chrominanzkomponenten zu empfangen und die Chrominanzkomponenten abwechselnd zur Speicherung zu der dritten und der vierten Speichereinheit zu leiten, und

wobei die Lesemittel weiter gekennzeichnet sind durch:

erste Ausgangsschaltmittel (416), um die Luminanzkomponenten mit einer zweiten Frequenz aus der ersten und der zweiten Einheit abzurufen und auszugeben; und

zweite Ausgangsschaltmittel (418), um die Chrominanzkomponenten mit einer dritten Frequenz aus der dritten und der vierten Speichereinheit abzurufen und auszugeben.



15. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 14, weiter gekennzeichnet durch:
Steuermittel (415), um die ersten Eingangsschaltmittel (412) und die ersten Ausgangsschaltmittel (416) zu steuern, so daß empfangene Luminanzkomponenten zu einer von der ersten und der zweiten Speichereinheit (402, 404) geleitet werden, während Luminanzkomponenten aus der anderen von der ersten und der zweiten Speichereinheit abgerufen werden.
16. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 15, weiter gekennzeichnet durch:
Steuermittel (415), um die zweiten Eingangsschaltmittel (414) und die zweiten Ausgangsschaltmittel (418) zu steuern, so daß empfangene Chrominanzkomponenten zu einer von der dritten und der vierten Speichereinheit (406, 408) geleitet werden, während Chrominanzkomponenten aus der anderen von der dritten und der vierten Speichereinheit abgerufen werden.
17. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 15, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die zweite Frequenz gleich dem Doppelten der dritten Frequenz ist.
18. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 15, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die erste Frequenz gleich dem Doppelten der zweiten Frequenz ist.
19. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 15, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die erste Frequenz gleich dem Dreifachen der dritten Frequenz ist.

Revendications

1. Méthode d'affichage d'un signal de télévision transmis ayant un premier rapport d'aspect, sur à la fois un récepteur de télévision ayant un premier rapport d'aspect et un récepteur de télévision ayant un deuxième rapport d'aspect, dans laquelle le signal transmis comprend des composantes de signal de luminance, la méthode étant caractérisée par les étapes consistant à:
- recevoir un signal de sélection transmis avec ledit signal de télévision et définir la position d'une partie fixe dudit signal de télévision à afficher;
- écrire les composantes de signal de luminance dans un premier dispositif à mémoire à une première vitesse d'horloge;
- lire les signaux de luminance dans un premier dispositif à mémoire à une première vitesse d'horloge;
- lire les composantes de signal de luminance soit à une deuxième vitesse d'horloge qui représente la vitesse d'horloge pour afficher les signaux de télévision sur le récepteur de télévision ayant le deuxième rapport d'aspect, soit à une troisième vitesse d'horloge correspondant au produit de la deuxième vitesse d'horloge par le rapport du premier rapport d'aspect au deuxième rapport d'aspect; et
- afficher sur les récepteurs respectifs les composantes de signal lues depuis le premier dispositif à mémoire, la partie fixe des composantes de signal de luminance choisie en accord avec le signal de sélection étant lue depuis le premier dispositif à mémoire à une deuxième vitesse d'horloge et étant affichée sur le récepteur de télévision ayant le deuxième rapport d'aspect.
2. Méthode selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle les signaux transmis comprennent également des composantes de chrominance, la méthode étant de plus caractérisée par les étapes consistant à:
- écrire les signaux de chrominance dans un deuxième dispositif à mémoire à une quatrième vitesse d'horloge;
- lire les composantes de signal de chrominance stockées dans le deuxième dispositif à mémoire soit à une cinquième vitesse d'horloge qui représente la vitesse d'horloge pour afficher les signaux de télévision sur le récepteur de télévision ayant le deuxième rapport d'aspect, soit à une sixième vitesse d'horloge correspondant au produit de la cinquième vitesse d'horloge par le rapport du premier rapport d'aspect au cinquième rapport d'aspect; et
- afficher sur les récepteurs respectifs les composantes de signal lues depuis le deuxième dispositif à mémoire, une partie des composantes de signal de chrominance choisie en accord avec le signal de sélection étant lue depuis ledit deuxième dispositif à mémoire à ladite cinquième vitesse d'horloge et étant affichée sur le récepteur de télévision ayant le deuxième rapport d'aspect.
3. Méthode selon la revendication 2, dans laquelle ledit signal de télévision transmis ayant un premier rapport d'aspect comprend de plus un signal de télévision grand écran transmis, ledit récepteur de télévision



comprend un récepteur grand écran et ledit deuxième récepteur de télévision comprend un récepteur standard, la méthode étant caractérisée par les étapes consistant à:

afficher les signaux lus dans le deuxième dispositif à mémoire sur les récepteurs respectifs.

- 5 4. Méthode selon la revendication 2 ou 3, caractérisée en ce que la quatrième vitesse d'horloge est égale à la première vitesse d'horloge.
- 10 5. Méthode selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4, caractérisée en ce que le signal de sélection est représentatif d'un élément d'image de la partie des composantes de signaux lue depuis les dispositifs à mémoire.
- 15 6. Méthode selon la revendication 5, caractérisée en ce que l'élément d'image est le premier élément d'image.
- 15 7. Méthode selon la revendication 5, caractérisée en ce que l'élément d'image est le dernier élément d'image.
- 20 8. Méthode selon la revendication 5, caractérisée en ce que l'élément d'image est l'élément d'image central.
- 20 9. Méthode selon la revendication 5, caractérisée en ce que le signal de sélection est représentatif d'une adresse de chacun des dispositifs à mémoire.
- 25 10. Méthode selon l'une quelconque des revendications 5 à 9, caractérisée en ce que la partie déterminée des composantes du signal lue depuis les dispositifs à mémoire est contiguë.
- 25 11. Méthode selon la revendication 1, dans lequel les signaux transmis comprennent des composantes séparées de signal de luminance et de chrominance, et caractérisée de plus par les étapes consistant à:
 - transmettre les signaux de télévision à une fréquence d'échantillonnage proportionnelle au rapport du premier rapport d'aspect au deuxième rapport d'aspect.
 - recevoir les composantes de signal de luminance et de chrominance;
 - 30 écrire les composantes de signal de chrominance dans un deuxième dispositif à mémoire à une quatrième vitesse d'horloge;
 - lire les composantes de signal de chrominance stockées dans le deuxième dispositif à mémoire soit à une cinquième vitesse d'horloge qui représente la vitesse d'horloge pour afficher des signaux de télévision sur ledit récepteur de télévision ayant un deuxième rapport d'aspect, soit à une sixième vitesse d'horloge correspondant au produit de la cinquième vitesse d'horloge par le rapport du premier rapport d'aspect au deuxième rapport d'aspect; et
 - 35 afficher sur les récepteurs respectifs les signaux lus depuis le deuxième dispositif à mémoire, une partie des composantes de signal de chrominance choisie en accord avec le signal de sélection étant lue depuis ledit deuxième dispositif à mémoire à ladite cinquième vitesse d'horloge et étant affichée sur le récepteur de télévision ayant le deuxième rapport d'aspect.
 - 40
12. Méthode selon la revendication 11, caractérisée en ce que ladite première vitesse d'horloge et ladite quatrième vitesse d'horloge sont égales à la fréquence d'échantillonnage transmise.
- 45 13. Dispositif d'affichage d'un signal de télévision transmis ayant un premier rapport d'aspect sur à la fois un récepteur de télévision ayant un premier rapport d'aspect et un récepteur de télévision ayant un deuxième rapport d'aspect, le signal transmis comprenant des composantes de signal de luminance, ledit dispositif étant caractérisé par:
 - des moyens récepteurs destinés à recevoir un signal de sélection transmis avec ledit signal de télévision et à définir la position d'une partie fixe dudit signal de télévision à afficher;
 - 50 des moyens d'écriture destinés à écrire les composantes de signal de luminance dans un premier dispositif à mémoire à une première vitesse d'horloge;
 - des moyens de lecture destinés à lire les signaux de luminance dans un premier dispositif à mémoire à une première vitesse d'horloge;
 - 55 des moyens de lecture destinés à lire les composantes de signal de luminance soit à une deuxième vitesse d'horloge qui représente la vitesse d'horloge pour afficher les signaux de télévision sur le récepteur de télévision ayant le deuxième rapport d'aspect, soit à une troisième vitesse d'horloge correspondant au produit de la deuxième vitesse d'horloge par le rapport du premier rapport d'aspect au deuxième rap-



port d'aspect; et

des moyens d'affichage destinés à afficher sur les récepteurs respectifs les composantes de signal lues depuis le premier dispositif à mémoire, la partie fixe des composantes de signal de luminance choisie en accord avec le signal de sélection étant lue depuis le premier dispositif à mémoire à une deuxième vitesse d'horloge et étant affichée sur le récepteur de télévision ayant le deuxième rapport d'aspect.

14. Dispositif selon la revendication 13, dans lequel ledit signal de télévision transmis est un signal de télévision grand écran contenant des composantes de luminance et de chrominance se produisant à une première fréquence, ladite première vitesse d'horloge correspondant à ladite première fréquence, ledit dispositif étant de plus caractérisé en ce que les moyens d'écriture comprennent:
 - un premier dispositif de mémorisation (402) dudit premier dispositif à mémoire, pour mémoriser une ligne des composantes de luminance à la première fréquence;
 - un deuxième dispositif de mémorisation (404) dudit premier dispositif à mémoire, pour mémoriser une ligne des composantes de luminance à la première fréquence;
 - des premiers moyens commutateurs d'entrée (412) pour recevoir les composantes de luminance et diriger les composantes de luminance, pour leur mémorisation, vers lesdits premier et deuxième dispositifs de mémorisation, lesdits moyens d'écriture comprenant:
 - un troisième dispositif de mémorisation (406) d'un deuxième dispositif à mémoire, pour mémoriser une ligne des composantes de chrominance à la première fréquence;
 - un quatrième dispositif de mémorisation (408) dudit deuxième dispositif à mémoire, pour mémoriser une ligne des composantes de chrominance à la première fréquence;
 - lesdits moyens commutateurs d'entrée (414) destinés à recevoir les composantes de chrominance et diriger en alternance les composantes de chrominance, pour leur mémorisation, vers lesdits troisième et quatrième dispositifs de mémorisation; et
 - lesdits moyens de lecture étant en outre caractérisés par:
 - des premiers moyens commutateurs de sortie (416) pour récupérer et délivrer les composantes de luminance à une deuxième fréquence depuis lesdits premier et deuxième dispositifs; et
 - des deuxième moyens commutateurs de sortie (418) pour récupérer et délivrer en alternance les composantes de chrominance à une troisième fréquence depuis lesdits troisième et quatrième dispositifs.
15. Dispositif selon la revendication 14, caractérisé par:
 - des moyens de contrôle (415) pour contrôler lesdits premiers moyens commutateurs d'entrée (412) et lesdits premiers moyens commutateurs de sortie (416), de sorte que les composantes de luminance reçues sont dirigées vers l'un desdits premier et deuxième dispositifs de mémorisation (402, 404), alors que les composantes de chrominance sont récupérées depuis l'autre desdits premier et deuxième dispositifs de mémorisation.
16. Dispositif selon la revendication 15, caractérisé par:
 - des moyens de contrôle (415) pour contrôler lesdits deuxième moyens commutateurs d'entrée (414) et lesdits deuxième moyens commutateurs de sortie (418), de sorte que les composantes de chrominance reçues sont dirigées vers l'un desdits troisième et quatrième dispositifs de mémorisation (406, 408), alors que les composantes de chrominance sont récupérées depuis l'autre desdits troisième et quatrième dispositifs de mémorisation.
17. Dispositif selon la revendication 15, caractérisé en ce que la deuxième fréquence vaut le double de la troisième fréquence.
18. Dispositif selon la revendication 15, caractérisé en ce que la première fréquence vaut le double de la deuxième fréquence.
19. Dispositif selon la revendication 15, caractérisé en ce que la première fréquence vaut trois fois la troisième fréquence.