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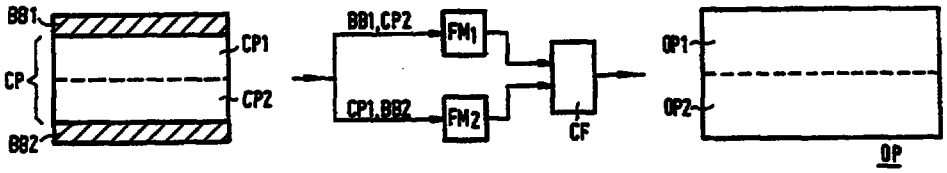
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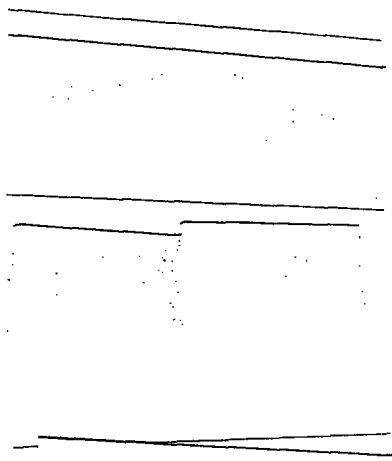
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(54) Title: LETTERBOX TELEVISION SIGNAL DECODING



(57) Abstract

In a method of decoding a letterbox television signal which comprises a wide aspect ratio center part (CP) and upper (BB1) and lower (BB2) black bars located at the respective upper and lower sides of the wide aspect ratio center part (CP), the wide aspect ratio center part (CP) and the black bars (BB1, BB2) together constituting a standard aspect ratio television signal, the black bars (BB1, BB2) conveying additional signals for increasing a vertical resolution of the wide aspect ratio center part, additional signals from the upper black bar (BB1) and a lower half (CP2) of the center part (CP) are stored in a first memory (FM1), and an upper half (CP1) of the center part (CP) and additional signals from the lower black bar (BB2) are stored in a second memory (FM2). Subsequently, the upper black bar additional signals (BB1) and the upper half (CP1) of the center part (CP) are combined (CF) to form an upper half (OP1) of a wide aspect ratio output picture (OP), and the lower black bar additional signals (BB2) and the lower half (CP2) of the center part (CP) are combined (CF) to form a lower half (OP2) of the wide aspect ratio output picture (OP).



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