



FAQ FOR CINEMATOGRAPHERS

WHAT IS ACES?

ACES is a worldwide standard for color management, digital image encoding and archiving that provides a unified approach to image pipelines, reducing the need for “every production is different” workflows. It comprises SMPTE standards, best practices and sophisticated color science. ACES was developed by the production community under the auspices of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The system is not proprietary to any specific device, and is free to use.

ACES has undergone extensive testing and “real world” usage in all kinds of productions from motion pictures to television, streaming media, games, VR, commercials and more.

ACES is built into hardware and software products you probably already use from over 25 companies: cameras, displays, color-correctors, animation and compositing software, and more.

WHY SHOULD CINEMATOGRAPHERS CARE?

Cinematographers are rightly concerned about maintaining the ‘look’ of their work during production, post and in the future as studios and others repurpose content for re-issue as well as for ancillary products (games, VR, etc.). Besides improving content creation color management, ACES creates a “known quantity” archive-ready master that enables future re-use and confirmation of the filmmaker’s original intent.

ACES provides additional specific benefits to cinematographers:

- ACES ensures the same colors and other image characteristics seen at the on-set monitor are carried all the way through the production process.
- ACES preserves the full range of highlights, shadows and colors captured on set as the ACES color space can store every color visible to the human eye and a dynamic range exceeding 30 stops.
- ACES simplifies matching images from different cameras; working on an ACES-based workflow is less tedious and time consuming as all the source materials are already in the same color space. This allows the colorist and cinematographer to spend more time concentrating on “creative” coloring, instead of scene matching.

WHAT PRODUCTIONS HAVE USED ACES?

Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2

Café Society

The Grand Tour

Chappie

King Arthur: Legend of the Sword

The Legend of Tarzan

The Lego Movie

* PARTIAL LIST *

VISIT [ACESCENTRAL.COM](https://acescentral.com) FOR MORE INFORMATION

HOW DO I USE ACES?

Using ACES starts with the decision to do it. A discussion between the cinematographer, the DIT and the post production facility is all that is needed to best design an ACES-based-workflow. ACES does not inherently add cost to most productions as they are already dealing with color management and larger file sizes. There may be some time needed for “learning” if the DIT, post house or VFX studio has not yet worked with ACES.

Importantly, ACES does not change the way you as a cinematographer work. It doesn't add steps to the typical professional workflow on set. Finally, as a cinematographer, you don't need dig into any technical aspect of ACES, so long as you have skilled on-set and post professionals working with you.

WHAT IS THE INDUSTRY SAYING?

“ACES saves me time in the DI suite, and if an HDR master or something we haven't even thought of yet is needed at a later point, I can use the ACES archive. All the detail and the information is there – it's future-proof.”

Theo Van de Sande, ASC

“It's a real revolution in color science as the open-source Academy Color Encoding System gains traction in productions across the board... The color science even persuaded film-centric Woody Allen and DP Vittorio Storaro, ASC to go digital.”

Studio Daily 2016

“ACES is one of the 5 best post production tools of 2016.”

nofilmschool.com

“ACES' greatest feature is that it's completely transparent for a cinematographer: it's there, it's working, but you don't (have to) know how and where it's happening. It works and it allows you to express your art at its best!”

Francesco Luigi Giardiello, DIT, Colorist and Workflow Supervisor

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

You sign up – for free – to ACESCentral.com, the portal for all things ACES. ACESCentral.com has a discussion forum where you can get news, read articles about using ACES, find a list of ACES productions, and ask general or technical questions. The forum is monitored by ACES Mentors, representatives of the 25 companies building ACES into their products, Academy staff and members of the ACES community at large. There are also links to the ACES Video Channel on YouTube and the ACES social media pages.

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