

# DVDs: Widescreen or Full Screen?

When you choose which DVD format to watch, are you choosing Full Screen (referred to sometimes as "Pan and Scan") over Widescreen simply to get rid of those pesky black bars? If so, you are losing out on the artist's original vision. To compare, check out the two famous paintings below. On the left is the original

painting's shape, widescreen in this case. But, what happens if we make these paintings fit our TV screen? The red border shows the actual viewable area of most television sets. Both formats lose a little because of TV tube cropping, but pan and scan can sometimes leave you with only 36% of the original frame.

---

## Dali's "Search for the Fourth Dimension"

This famous painting has an aspect ratio (ratio of width to height) similar to the classic Cinemascope movies.

In order to keep the clock, the full screen "Pan and Scan" version loses the cave completely!



---

## Degas' "Dance Greenroom"

And here, we have a more contemporary aspect ratio.

Full Screen still manages to lose a lot!



---

# Don't settle for only half of the movie!

To see more examples, check out <http://www.widescreen.org>