

What's Your Score?

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Here's a test to improve your projector-operating skill.

WHAT type of test can be made to improve the work of school movie projectionists?

A test of projector-operating skill for student projectionists, audio-visual class members, teachers perhaps, and others, should provide objective observation and scoring of *performance*, reveal clearly the standards of measurement, and encourage the projectionist to engage in self-improvement to attain skills and habits that will mean good picture projection under typical operational conditions. We hope we have here such a test to encourage the projectionist with a flair for precision and perfection of good performance.

If you have a test like this, we hope you will share it with us. If you use or improve this test of ours, please let us know how you have changed or used it. We shall be grateful for your ideas.

Our test instructions may look long. We hope they are also exact. Students use these printed test instructions and the projector-operation test-score sheet to guide and self-test their projector-operation practice. These printed instructions enable students to test each other during projection-practice periods. Thus practice periods are used more intensively and effectively. This test used by students to challenge self-improvement in their projection techniques, saves instructors' time for more rewarding tasks.

You will see that the test includes two steps, two and nine, which require threading the projector while being timed. This timed test is thus repeated because we feel it is important that there be a second chance to show this valuable projection skill. The start and end of the timed parts of the test are defined in the test instructions to increase the objective scoring which should result from use of the test. On modern projectors, designed for simple threading, most of those whom we test can earn the full number of points allowed on these timed parts of the test.

Bonus points are given to students who prepare themselves to try the test on an early date rather than procrastinating until late in the afternoon of final exam day. Bonus points are given too if the student is trying the test for the first time. These bonus points may offset the advantage otherwise gained by the student who has tried and experienced the test previously. Of course, students can self-test themselves or each other in projector operation as many times as they wish before having their test before a regular examiner, such as the instructor of the audio-visual methods-of-education class.

The number of points assigned to individual test items was based on the need to encourage self-improvement most in those aspects of projection in which the greatest carelessness had been noted, and to reflect the difficulty of the individual task in the total projector operation act.

Some students are tested on projectors which can not show stopped single

frames or reverse. Usually the simpler threading of these projectors enables the typical student nevertheless to score as high on the total test as he would have scored on a projector with stop and reverse projection features. However, the brand of projector and model is noted on the test-score sheet.

This test has helped some of our college teachers who were guilty of careless projection practices, such as showing the numbers on the film leader and assuming that bad sound synchronization is always the fault of the film producer.

We recognize that while projection services will often be supplied by student operators, there are times when a teacher needs to know and wants to know the *how* of good film projection. We also know that *teaching* with a film and *projecting* a film are two different tasks. In a classroom the second has little purpose without the first. But sometimes unsolved problems of projecting a film will reduce the teaching effectiveness that can be secured from a film's use.

This test has given in-service teachers a standard by which to self-measure their projection techniques. Teachers who regularly allowed the screen to "go white" because they failed to turn off the illumination lamp at the end of a film, or who did not know how to regulate the framing control or even that such control was there, have now used this test to check their projection skill and challenge themselves to form better habits for correct projection of motion pictures.

At the end of a film showing, test instructions call for immediate rewind of film or cooling of the projector illumination bulb by brief operation of the motor and its fan while the bulb is turned off. We emphasize that cooling the bulb thus to prolong its life is done only when this will not impair discussion or teaching effectiveness of the film, and films should not be rewound if they are to be sent back to a film library which prefers to rewind returned films during inspection.

To improve audio-visual equipment operation practices, we would like your help in improving this test and in devising similar tests for other types of equipment.

Please share your audio-visual test ideas with us!

16mm Projector Operation Test Instructions

Your ability to efficiently operate a 16mm sound motion-picture projector will be observed and scored to help you improve your skill as a projectionist.

There are no "tricks." Simply do your best to demonstrate orderly and accepted procedures by performing the steps outlined on this instruction sheet. You may omit any of those steps which can not be performed on the projector on which you are being examined. If for this reason you omit any of the test steps, tell the examiner that you are necessarily omitting these test steps. You may assume that the projector has been oiled, although you will be asked to show that you know how it should be oiled.

16mm Projector Operation Test Score Sheet

Test of Projector Date

BRING this sheet with you to the test with your name already entered at the upper-left. Hand this sheet to examiner before you start test so that he may score your work.

	Points	Notes
Bonus points for first test scheduled for examinee	5	_____
Bonus for taking test on early date	5	_____
Performs on projector of examiner's choice	5	_____
Changes illumination bulb	3	_____
Shows how to change exciter lamp	1	_____
Shows where to oil	1	_____
Cleans lenses, including condenser, both sides	2	_____
Cleans film-gate area (Removes parts if necessary)	2	_____
Cleans film path thru other parts of projector	1	_____
Checks projector aim before threading	1	_____
Checks lens focus before threading film	1	_____
Uses focus lens set screw	1	_____
Uses best size of take-up reel	1	_____
Threads projector correctly and quickly (Time Score: 15 minus 2 x number of minutes used)	13	_____
Checks by feeling film position on toothed wheels	1	_____
Uses hand-turned thread-check knob (clutch out)	2	_____
Warms amplifier while threading film	1	_____
Checks reverse and speed (silent-sound) controls	1	_____
Has no light on screen before title	2	_____
Has no sound on before title	1	_____
Has room lights off at correct time	1	_____
Has projector light on for film title	2	_____
Has sound on for title	2	_____
Uses both tone and volume controls	1	_____
Adjusts for exact focus before title's end	2	_____
Checks film by hand for damage by projector	3	_____
Provides good sound synchronization	5	_____
Shows single frame	1	_____
Shows reverse correctly	1	_____
Uses frame adjustment control	2	_____
Stops film with light and sound off first	2	_____
Removes film efficiently	1	_____
Rethreads film efficiently (10 minus 2 x no. of min. used) ..	8	_____
Has sound on until end of film	3	_____
Has light on until end of film	1	_____
Has room lights on at right time	2	_____
Has sound off after end of film	1	_____
Has projector light off after end of film	2	_____
Leaves motor on until film is thru projector	1	_____
Uses correct rewind pattern	1	_____
Does not grab reel to stop its spinning without shutting off motor after film rewind or showing	1	_____
Operates motor to cool projector bulb briefly	1	_____
Replaces film and take-up reel where they belong	1	_____
Leaves projector with all power turned off	2	_____
Leaves projector ready for next showing with (forward/ rewind) switch ready for forward projection	1	_____

Secure film and take-up reel from the equipment room or near the projector. Return these after the test.

Use the projector and room assigned, if possible. This entitles you to bonus points. However, if you prefer, you may elect to take the test on the projector of your choice rather than accept the bonus.

This instruction sheet should be used during the test, and the procedure which is outlined for this performance test should be followed without waiting for instructions from the examiner other than the signal to start. If the examiner wants the test to be changed or shortened he will tell you.

You should see the test scoring sheet before test time. However, neither the test scoring sheet nor projector threading diagrams should be consulted during the test.

Credit will be deducted if it is necessary for the examiner to give information during the test about projector operation. For an error which might damage film or projector, the test will have to be retaken on another day for a passing score. If the examiner assists so that loops of film are properly positioned, credit will be deducted.

Follow these ten test steps when you are told to begin:

1. Show how illumination bulb is replaced (remove it and replace it).
2. Show how exciter lamp can be removed (but do not actually remove it).
3. Show where you would oil projector and tell how much and how often.
4. Thread and begin showing of film *after* correctly making *all* pre-show checks and adjustments. From the time when you cause the film or its reel to touch the projector you will be timed until the film *title* (sound and image *correctly* adjusted) appears on the screen. You should correctly control room lighting at all times during the test or direct that this be done for you.
5. After showing first minute of film (and not more than two minutes of film), show a single frame of the film ("stopped"). Show how you would handle this procedure if it were necessary to study the same scene "stopped" for more than 15 seconds.
6. Show another thirty seconds of the film in regular forward direction, and then show about twenty seconds of the film in *reverse*. Show this part of the film again in forward direction. Continue showing film.
7. Hold a card, piece of paper, or other light-colored, flat object about two or three feet in front of the projector lens and focus the picture image clearly onto this surface. Show film clearly on this close-up for at least twenty seconds. Remove the card from in front of the projector and refocus the picture image on the screen. Continue showing film.

8. Show that you can use the framing knob by getting the picture "out of frame" and then readjust to the correct frame position.
9. Within thirty seconds of above procedure, stop the projector, remove the film from the projector, and wind the film quickly forward by motor power or by hand (whichever will be more efficient on the equipment you are using) to within two minutes of the end of the film but at least one minute from the end of the film. Rethread the film and properly show this final portion of the film.
10. Rewind and replace the film where you obtained it. Leave the projector equipment as it should be left for the next user "tomorrow".

Note: Your practice of projection procedure before test time should enable you to complete the steps of this test within twenty minutes. SHORT FORMS OF THE TEST may be given which omit steps 5, 6, and maybe 7. In addition, step 9 will be omitted if you are taking a short form of this test with a film that is 100 feet long or shorter.