

WHIP PAN, WHIP CUT

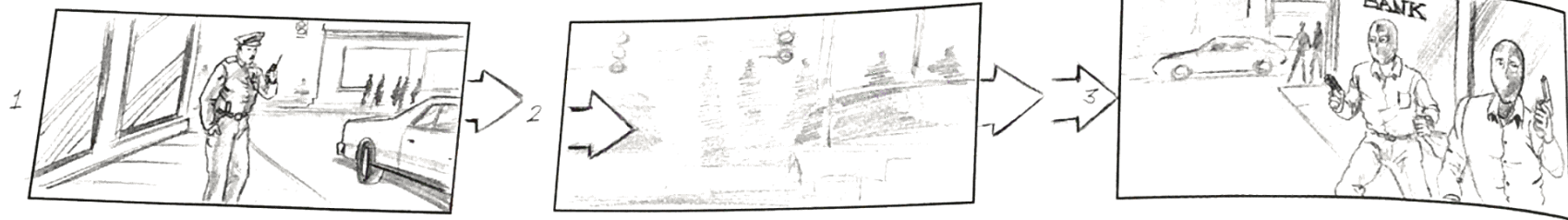
What does it look like?

With a *Whip Pan*, the camera is moved quickly from one angle to another, causing the image to blur from the motion. If the camera zooms in, the effect of the *Whip Pan* will increase. This is because more apparent distance is covered by the zoomed camera movement. *Whip Pan* is often accompanied by a swishing sound that emphasizes the effect.

The blur that occurs during a *Whip Pan* can be used to make a creative *Whip Cut*. By starting out with a *Whip Pan* and cutting to another *Whip Pan*, the audience never notices the difference between the two blurs, making for a transparent transition.

Where can I see it?

Whip Cuts are used in Some Like it Hot. *Whip Pans* and *Whip Cuts* are used frequently in Breaking the Waves. Towards the end of Casino, *Whip Pans* express the escalating intensity of the story.



Whip Pan

WHIP ZOOM LOOK

What does it look like?

Whip Zoom Look is created by zooming quickly toward an object.

Because zooming is an unnatural technique, whip zooms force our attention to a specific object or character in a scene.

Where can I see it?

In Army of Darkness— when Ash forges his new arm—the camera whip zooms towards each step in the process. In The 'Burbs, the camera whip zooms when skeletons are discovered in the trunk of the Klopeks' car. The Quick and the Dead uses this technique during a quick draw competition.



Whip Zoom Look

SEARCH UP

What does it look like?

Search Up is a technique used to gradually "describe" a character or an object. The camera moves slowly over an actor's body, gradually revealing information about the character. Finally, the camera ends up at the character's face, revealing her identity. This technique works with inanimate objects as well.

Where can I see it?

In the beginning of *Aliens*, the camera searches across Ripley's body: from a cigarette clasped in her hand to her close-up. In *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*, *Search Up* is used when Lois Einhorn steps into the room. In *Terminator 2: Judgment Day*, the camera *Searches Up* from the Terminator's boots to his face as he steps out of the bar. In *Goodfellas*, the camera *Searches Up* Ray Liotta at the airport. In *Twins*, the camera uses *Search Up* as Arnold gets into the car with a beautiful blonde. In *The Bride Wore Black*, *Search Up* is used to show Julie in a white dress. In *Once Upon a Time in the West*, the camera *Searches Up* a lone gunman as he steps into the room. In *Easy Rider*, the camera searches across the characters' motorcycles.



Search Up

BACK TO FRONT

What does it look like?

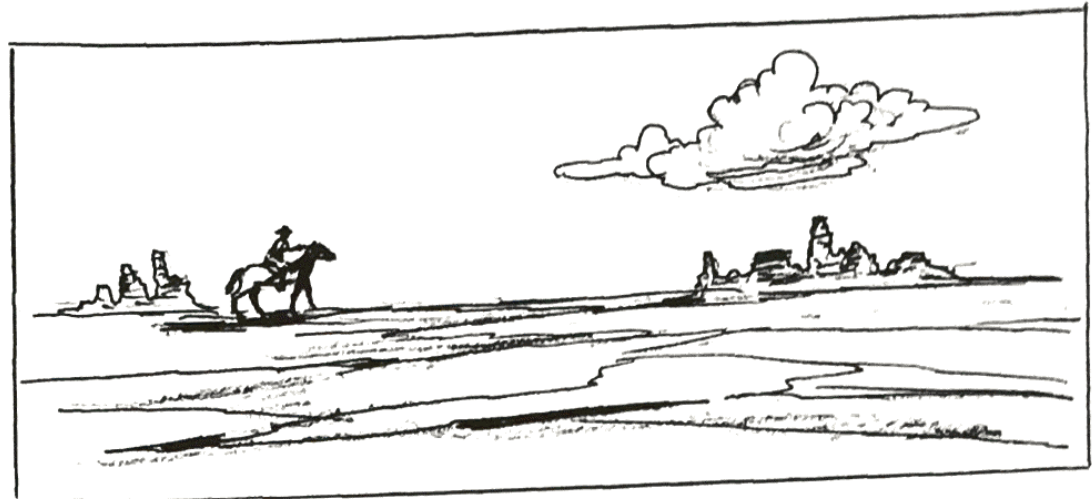
With *Back To Front*, we first see an action occur far in the background. As soon as that short scene is finished, the camera pulls focus and another scene occurs much closer to the camera.

Back To Front emphasizes depth, and is also used to compare and contrast two separate but related scenes without moving the camera.

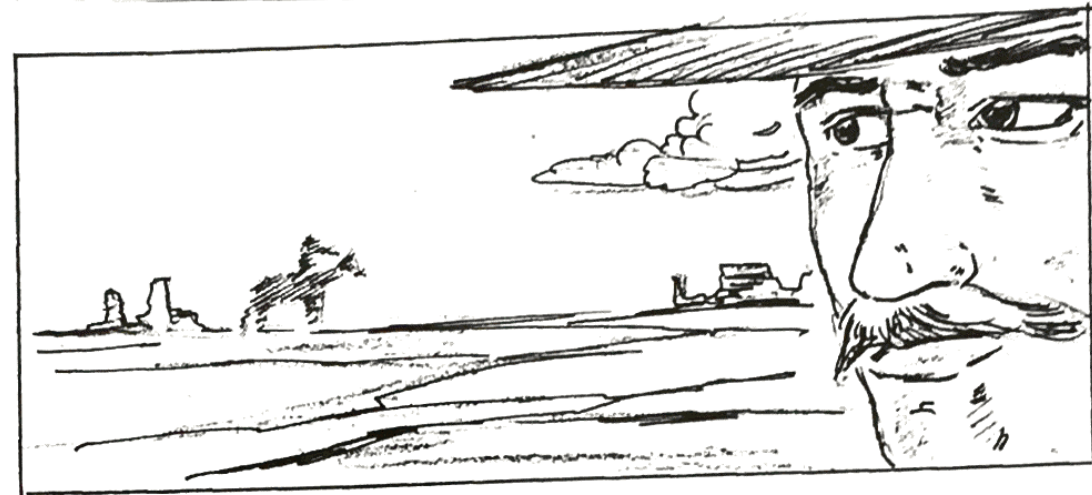
Where can I see it?

Back To Front is used in Terminator 2: Judgment Day. First, Edward Furlong drives his motorcycle far in the background. Then the Terminator drives his motorcycle into frame very close to the camera. In Cinema Paradiso, the camera first looks down at the village square. Finally, a man's watch is pulled into frame.

1



2



Back Focus

Back To Front

FOCUS OUT, PASS OUT

What does it look like?

Focus Out, Pass Out is a POV shot. The audience sees the world gradually losing focus as the character loses consciousness.

Focus Out, Pass Out is often used when a character has been knocked out cold, is falling asleep, or has been drugged.

Where can I see it?

Focus Out, Pass Out can be seen in Point Break, after Johnny Utah is knocked over the head during an attempted robbery. A modified version of this technique can be seen in The Living Daylights. When James Bond is drugged, we see his out-of-focus POV.



Focus Out, Pass Out

FOCUS TRANSITION

What does it look like?

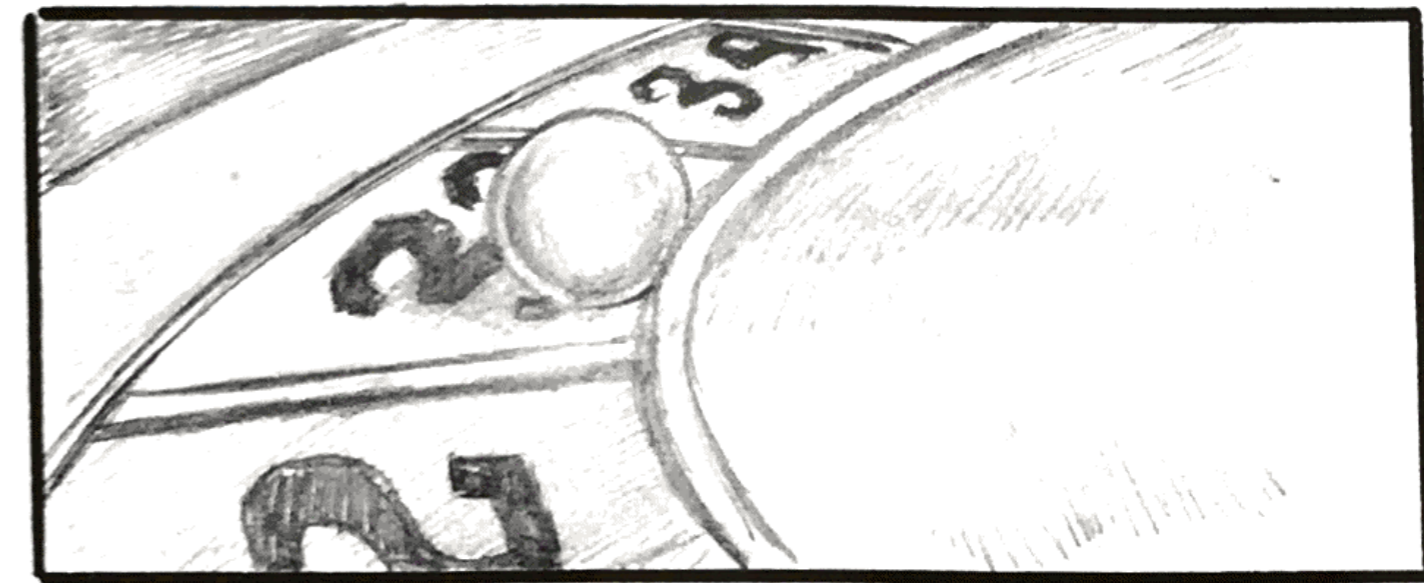
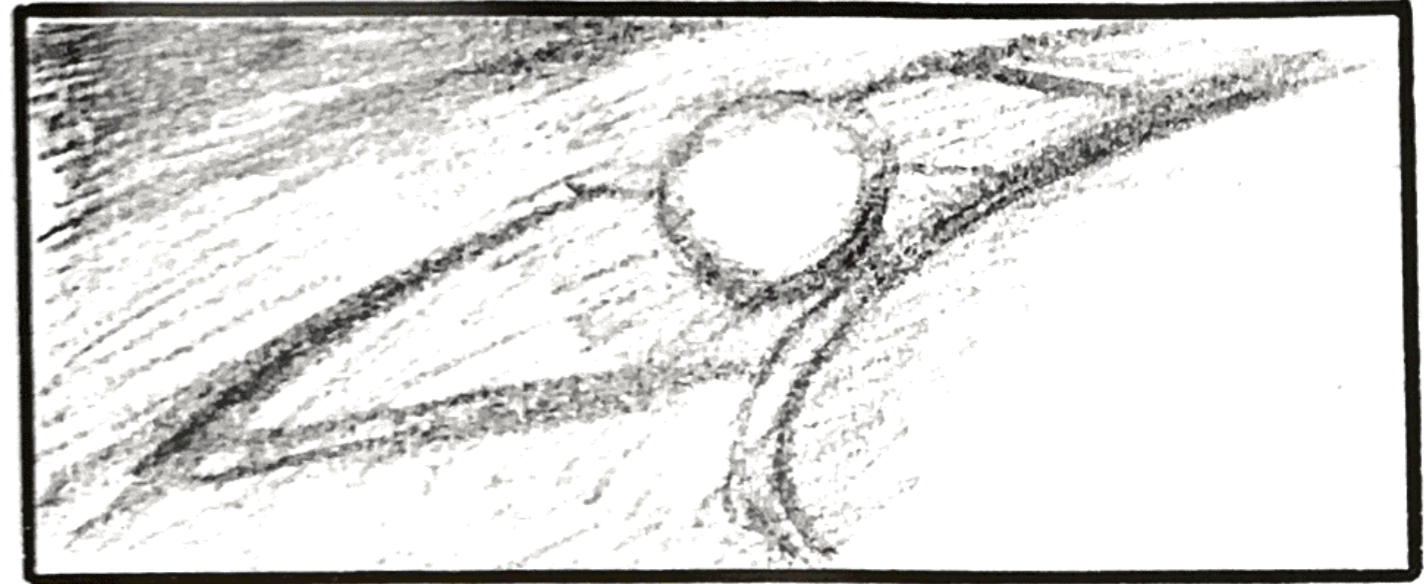
Focus Transition is a specific type of transition achieved by changing the focus over time. This is similar to changing an image's brightness over time to accomplish a fade to black.

This out-of-focus technique sometimes starts a new scene. The image will be very blurry. As the camera focuses in, the scene is revealed.

Another version focuses out to prepare for the end of a scene. Or, these two techniques may be combined. First, the current scene is focused out and then the film cuts to a new scene that is out of focus. Finally, the new scene gains focus. Because the images are blurred, this technique can be used to make subtle cuts between scenes.

Where can I see it?

In Batman, the camera focuses in to a gambling scene. In Once Upon a Time in the West, the camera focuses in to a train arriving at the station.



Focus Transition

OVEREXPOSE FADE, UNDEREXPOSE FADE

What does it look like?

These are two experimental techniques in which the exposure is changed gradually over time. The exposure controls the brightness of the film image. When an image is overexposed, it looks washed out. When an image is underexposed, it's difficult to make out details because of the dark image.

Overexpose Fade gradually overexposes the picture. This technique has been used to give a sense of enlightenment, or that something significant is beginning to change.

Underexpose Fade gradually underexposes the image. It can create a sense of foreboding or gloom.

Where can I see it?

You can see both *Overexpose Fade* and *Underexpose Fade* in Wall Street.



Underexpose Fade



Overexpose Fade

CEILING TWIST

What does it look like?

A *Ceiling Twist* is achieved by rotating the camera whenever it's pointed up toward something of interest. This object is often a ceiling of some sort. The camera may also move toward the object or away from it to add yet another dimension of movement.

A view of a ceiling by itself can be somewhat static and boring. A *Ceiling Twist* makes the simple act of looking up at something more interesting. The rotational energy transforms the shot.

Where can I see it?

At the end of Coppola's version of Dracula, the camera pulls down from a painted ceiling and rotates. At the end of Titanic, the camera looks up at the domed glass ceiling and rotates. In Easy Rider, the camera looks up at a painted ceiling and rotates.



Ceiling Twist

SHIFTING ANGLE

What does it look like?

A *Shifting Angle* is related to the Tilted Horizon technique. For a Tilted Horizon, the camera always stays tilted at the same angle. For a *Shifting Angle*, the camera continuously changes the viewing angle, inducing a dizzying effect. The camera continues to move and tilt back and forth.

Where can I see it?

The use of *Shifting Angles* in Natural Born Killers adds an incredible kinetic energy to the film. This technique may make you sick if you are prone to dizziness. Near the end of the original Dangerous Liaisons, the camera shifts from a static angle to a tilted angle when pushing in to a female lover's close-up. You can also experience this technique several times in Raising Cain.



Shifting Angles

SLEEPOVER

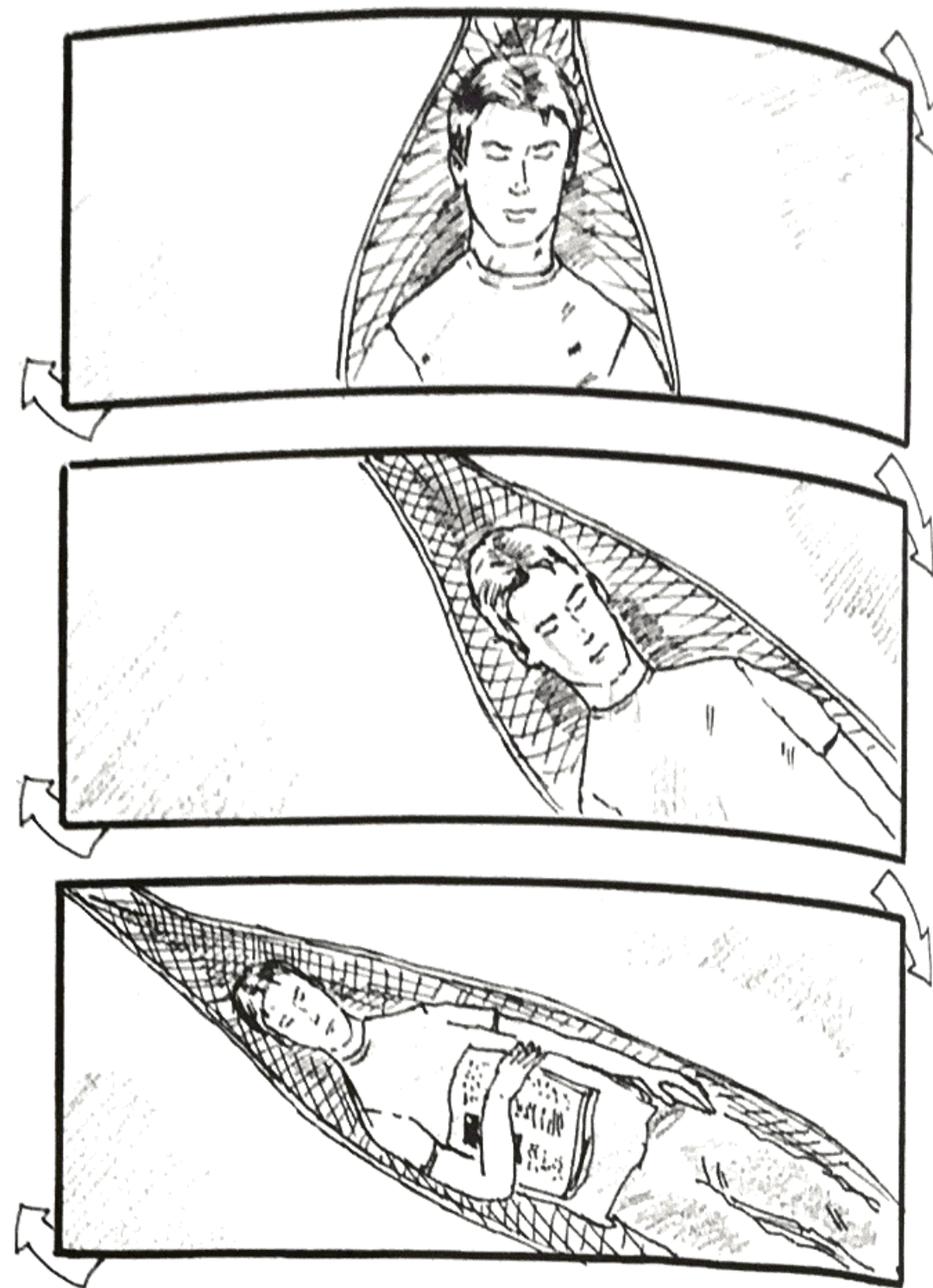
What does it look like?

For a *Sleepover*, the camera is positioned directly above an actor, looking down from a bird's eye view. The camera rotates slowly, and may also rise or fall as it rotates to set up for a transition or a fade to black.

Sleepover is often employed when a character is asleep, unconscious, or lying down.

Where can I see it?

Watch Four Rooms—when the bellhop is knocked unconscious, *Sleepover* is used. Notice in Batman, when the camera looks down at the Joker's dead body from above. Towards the end of Titanic, the camera looks over Rose's body on a raft and spins slowly above her.



Sleepover

EXERCISES

- **Experiment with a camcorder or video camera.** See what effects you can achieve by tilting the camera, rotating it, and flipping it over. If you don't own a camera, you can cut a viewfinder out of cardboard and use it to visualize the techniques.

- **Use the Search Up technique to "describe" objects in your scenes.** Search across an object in different ways: top to bottom, left to right. How do the origin and end of the search affect the audience? If you start at the face of an actress and search down to her feet, the audience will get a different feeling than if you start at the feet of the actress and search up.

- **Try moving the camera quickly so that the image becomes blurred.** Experiment with different zoom distances to modify the effect.

- **Use out-of-focus, overexposed, or underexposed images to your advantage.** Learn how these flaws can be used to enhance the emotional quality of a scene.