

Production Strips Explanation

Production strips are an extremely helpful tool when planning a film shoot. Here is a quick guide/key for understanding what each element means:

Each strip is representative of one scene in your film.

Yellow - EXT. DAY
Blue - EXT. NIGHT
White - INT. DAY
Green - INT. NIGHT

Sheet Number – This will reference which breakdown sheet applies to the scene. It may seem like an unnecessary step as it is often the same number as the scene number. However, if any changes are made to the sheets, or if a scene is complex and requires more than one breakdown sheet, you will run into problems. So keep your breakdown sheets numbered.

Page Count – This is the length, in pages, of each scene. You will measure them in 1/8th increments. You can find the page count with a program like Final Draft Tagger or the old-fashioned way with a ruler. Knowing the page count is very important and helpful when deciding how much you think you will be able to shoot in a day.

Shoot Day – You will input this information once you have figured out what scenes you are shooting on which days. It's also important to note that on longer shoots, you will have days off. Those should be represented with their own strips, in black, indicating the date and that it's a non-shooting day.

Script Day – This indicates what day it is inside the story. VERY IMPORTANT if your story spans any length of time. You may be filming out of sequence and you will want to remember what script day it is so that you can avoid continuity issues with things like wardrobe. It will also help you cluster by something like wardrobe to make the shoot more efficient.

Scene Heading – Self-explanatory.

Characters – Each character in your script will be assigned a number. Then, under each scenes strip, you will put that number if they are in the scene.

Scene Description – A brief description of what happens in each scene for easy reference when looking at your production board.