

Moving Shot

Produced when the camera moves. When the camera remains fixed but swivels horizontal-ly, it is called a pan; when it swivels vertically, it is a tilt. When the camera itself travels horizontally, it is a tracking shot. When the camera travels in closer to a subject or away from a subject, it is called a dolly shot. When the camera travels vertically, it is a crane or boom shot. More info:

Crane Shot: Shot taken from a crane or boom (a sort of huge mechanical arm, which carries the camera and cameraman, and can move in virtually any direction--vertically, forward-backward, transversely, or in a combination of the above).

Tracking Shot: The camera is mounted on a dolly, truck, Steadicam or person's hands, and moves horizontally (sometimes on wheels or railroad-like tracks) to follow the action being filmed or to survey the setting.

Dolly Shot: The camera is mounted on a dolly and moves forward (dolly-in) or away from (dolly-out) the subject. Also called a "Push in/Pull back."

Hand-Held Shot: The camera operator carries the camera while filming the action; this has become possible over the last thirty years with the invention of lighter cameras. Can be used with a "Steadicam" system, a hydraulic harness device that allows the movement to be kept very smooth, almost as smooth as a dolly or crane shot. Usually, however, hand-held shots are used for their lack of smoothness, to give the impression of the point of view of a person walking--for greater naturalism or to create suspense.

Zoom Shot: Technically not a moving shot because the camera itself does not move, the zoom is made by the zoom lens, which has variable focal length. The zoom became a popular technique in the Sixties. On screen a zoom-in resembles a dolly-in, but its telephoto optics as it moves in on the subject differ from the more realistic, dynamic look that a dolly or hand-held shot retains.

Pan Shot: The view sweeps from left to right or from right to left. Differs from the tracking shot in that the camera is not mounted on a movable object but stays fixed. It pans on a horizontal axis (short for "panorama"). In a Flash Pan or Zip Pan the movement is very rapid, so that the filmed action on the screen appears as only a blurred movement.

Tilt: Like a pan, but the camera tilts up or down along a vertical plane.