

Top Gun is an outstanding demonstration of the 70mm Dolby Stereo Surround format. With 70mm Dolby Stereo Surround, Left and Right Surround speakers carry independent sounds, in the same way that Left, Center, and Right screen speakers carry different information. This allows the mixer to create effects such as the sound of aircraft flying diagonally above the audience. The audience is surrounded by a complete sound field, with precise sound placement all around the auditorium.

70mm Dolby Stereo Surround prints are completely compatible with conventional 70mm playback. Left Surround and Right Surround channels carry the stereo surround information, while a separate Mono Surround channel provides the conventional surround signal.

In this showcase format, three tracks (Left Extra, Right Extra and Surround) on the release print carry both the surround information and the low-frequency information used in the front Left Extra and Right Extra speakers. Upon playback in a properly equipped theatre, the 70mm Dolby Stereo Surround decoding circuits generate four channels: Left Surround, Right Surround, Left Extra, Right Extra (Baby Boom) plus the rear Mono Surround for conventional 70mm Dolby Stereo.

This system makes optimal use of 70mm film's six tracks. Along with the sub-woofer feed, the fully-equipped theatre can reproduce nine channels of audio for maximum sonic impact. Over 100 U.S. and Canadian theatres are now equipped for 70mm Dolby Stereo Surround playback.

Top Gun was recorded and mixed in 70mm Dolby Stereo Surround at the Warner Hollywood Goldwyn Sound Facility by Don Mitchell, Rick Kline and Kevin O'Connell from tracks prepared by the editorial team of C.C. Hall and George Walters, and production tracks mixed by William Kaplan. The Dolby Stereo consultant was David W. Grey.

