

Image Formats

The V4L2 API was primarily designed for devices exchanging image data with applications. The struct `c:type:'v4l2_pix_format'` and struct `c:type:'v4l2_pix_format_mplane'` structures define the format and layout of an image in memory. The former is used with the single-planar API, while the latter is used with the multi-planar version (see [ref:planar-apis](#)). Image formats are negotiated with the `ref:'VIDIOC_S_FMT <VIDIOC_G_FMT>' ioctl`. (The explanations here focus on video capturing and output, for overlay frame buffer formats see also `ref:'VIDIOC_G_FBUF <VIDIOC_G_FBUF>'`.)

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```
.. toctree::
    :maxdepth: 1

    pixfmt-v4l2
    pixfmt-v4l2-mplane
    pixfmt-intro
    pixfmt-indexed
    pixfmt-rgb
    pixfmt-bayer
    yuv-formats
    hsv-formats
    depth-formats
    pixfmt-compressed
    sdr-formats
    tch-formats
    meta-formats
    pixfmt-reserved
    colorspaces
    colorspaces-defs
    colorspaces-details
```