

# **Spyder Software User Guide**

**(Version 1.0)**

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## Instrument Specifications



|                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Power Requirements</b>         | 5V DC, 100 mA, via USB connector plugged into personal computer                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Dimensions</b>                 | Width: 44.8 mm<br>Height: 76.0 mm<br>Length: 79.1 mm<br>Weight: 140g                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Environmental Requirements</b> | Operating Temperature:<br>5°C to 40° C<br><br>Maximum Relative Humidity:<br>80% for temperatures up to 31°C decreasing linearly to 50%<br>relative humidity at 40°C<br><br>Maximum Altitude:<br>2,000 meters |
| <b>Agency Compliance</b>          | SGS, CSA, C-Tick, CE                                                                                                                                                                                         |

This product is to be used only as specified by the manufacturer, and according to the instructions for operation and maintenance provided herein. The protection of the device may be impaired if used in a manner not specified by the manufacturer.

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## Introduction

Thank you for purchasing your new Spyder monitor calibrator. This document will guide you through using your Spyder software to get the most accurate color from your display(s).

### What's in the Box

- Spyder Sensor
- Serial Number
- Welcome Card with link to software and support resources
- USB-A Adapter

### System Requirements

- Windows 10 32/64, Windows 11
- macOS 10.14 (Mojave) - macOS 26 (Tahoe)
- Monitor resolution 1280x768 or greater, 16-bit video card (24 bit recommended), 1GB of available RAM, 500 MB of available hard disk
- Internet connection for software download
- USB-C or USB-A port

### Download and Activate Software

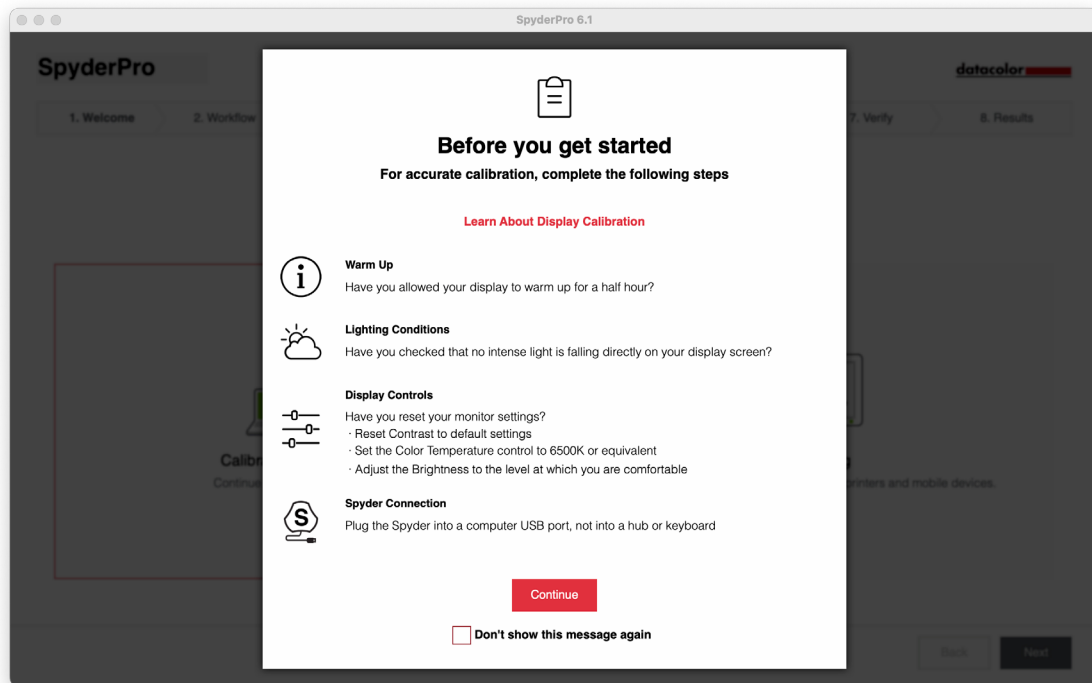
Download the software from <http://goto.datacolor.com/getspyder> and open the file to install.

Plug your Spyder into a direct port on your computer (not on a keyboard, monitor, hub, or extension cable). If your computer does not have a USB-C port, use the included USB-A adapter. This cable provides power and communications between the Spyder and your computer.

Open the Spyder application and follow the prompts to activate the software.

Note: Your serial number is located in the Spyder box under the sensor. A license code is provided after activation. Please reach out to Datacolor Spyder support to recover a lost license code.

## Before you get started



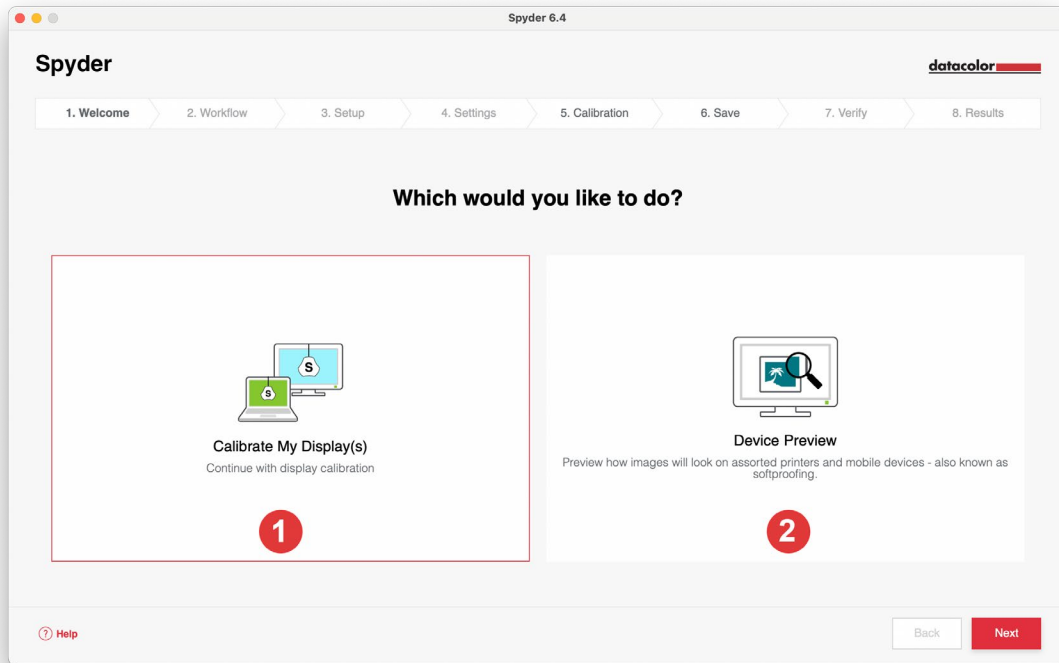
The first screen will provide you with information to set up your display and environment to achieve the best results.

- **Warm Up**  
Your display should be on for at least 30 minutes prior to calibration.
- **Lighting Conditions**  
Make sure there is no direct light falling on your display as this could have an adverse effect on your calibration.
- **Display Controls**  
Reset your display's controls to the default settings (if possible). Disable HDR, auto brightness, and other dynamic features that automatically change the look of your display.
- **Spyder Connection**  
Plug in your Spyder directly to a USB port on your computer. Avoid using a keyboard, monitor, hub, or extension cable port as this could prevent the device from getting the proper data flow.

Once you have completed these steps, click **Continue**.

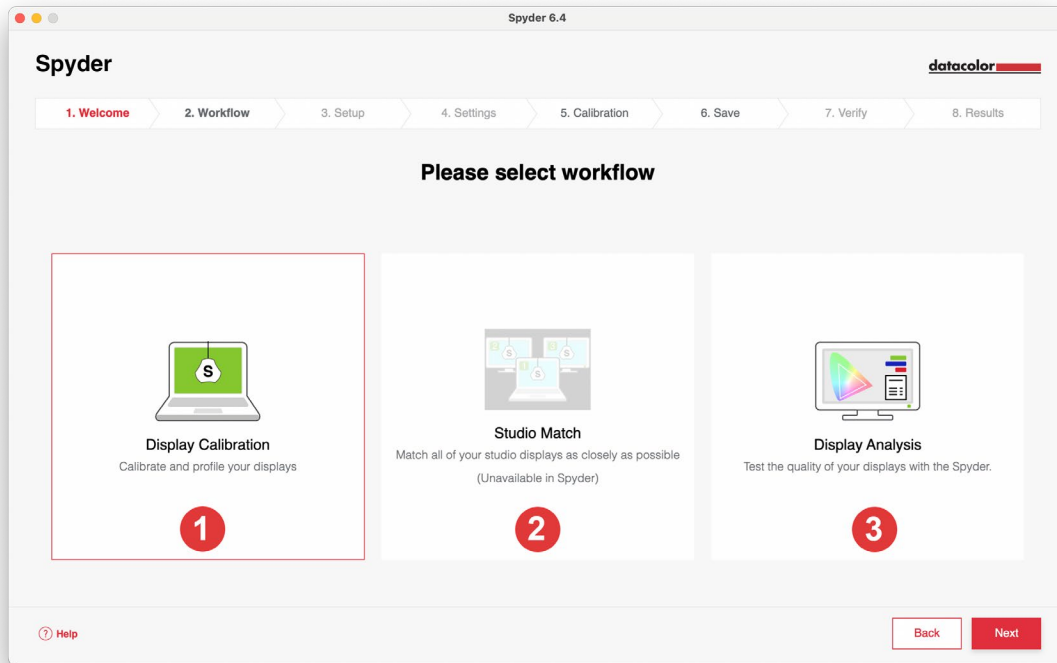
## Welcome

Choose what you would like to do: **Calibrate My Display(s) (1)** or **Device Preview (2)**. Click on your selection and click **Next**.



## Workflow

Choose a workflow: **Display Calibration (1)**, **Studio Match (SpyderPro Only)(2)**, or **Display Analysis (3)**. Click on your selection and click **Next**.



# Display Calibration

## Display Setup

If you have more than one display connected to your computer, choose the display you want to calibrate from the dropdown menu **(1)**. The software will automatically move to the selected display. Do not drag the software window to another display.

The screenshot shows the Spyder 6.4 software window with the 'Display Setup' tab selected. The window has a progress bar at the top with steps 1 through 8. The 'Display Setup' section is divided into three main areas: 'Choose the display to calibrate', 'Display Technology', and 'Identify Controls'. Red numbered callouts are placed over the interface: 1 points to the display selection dropdown, 2 points to the 'Manufacturer' and 'Model' fields, 3 points to the 'Display Type' radio buttons, 4 points to the 'Display Technology' radio buttons, 5 points to the 'Identify Controls' checkboxes, and 6 points to the 'Next' button at the bottom right.

**Spyder 6.4** datacolor

1. Welcome 2. Workflow 3. Setup 4. Settings 5. Calibration 6. Save 7. Verify 8. Results

### Display Setup

**1 Choose the display to calibrate**  

Apple Built-in Display-1

Display Information Edit

Manufacturer: **Apple**  
Model: **Built-in Display**

Display Type  
☒ Desktop  
☐ All-in-one/Laptop

**4 Display Technology**  
☒ **Wide LED (Default)**  
Wide gamut LED and Apple XDR  
Includes Apple P3 displays (iMac and MacBook Pro Retina); Samsung XL20/XL24/XL30; HP DreamColor LP2480z; and other professional displays.  
☐ Standard LED  
Standard gamut LED backlight  
☐ General  
Wide or standard gamut CCFL backlight  
☐ GB LED  
Wide or standard gamut Green/Blue LED backlight  
☐ OLED / QD-OLED  
For OLED displays.  
☐ Mini-LED  
For Mini-LED displays.

**Identify Controls**  
Please check the boxes for controls available in your monitor settings. If you're not sure, we recommend that you check the instruction manual of your monitor.  
☐ Brightness  
☐ Kelvin  
☐ RGB Sliders  
☐ None of the above

Help Back Next

Ensure the **Display Information (2)** is correct. If not, click **Edit** and change the information.

Ensure the **Display Type (3)** is correct. If not, click on the correct descriptor for the display you want to calibrate.

Select the **Display Technology (4)** that best describes your monitor. Clicking on each option will provide a detailed description of each backlight type.

**Identify and select (5)** the controls available for adjustment for your monitor or select **None of the above**.

Once you have made all the necessary selections, click **Next (6)**.

## Calibration Settings

### Calibration Type

If this is your first time calibrating this display, you will automatically have Full Calibration selected. On subsequent calibrations you can choose to do a **FullCAL**, **ReCAL**, or a **CheckCAL**.

**FullCAL** (full calibration) uses the entire sequence of patch measurements to calibrate your screen.

**ReCAL** (recalibration) uses a subset sequence of patch measurements to update a previously created **FullCAL**.

**CheckCAL** (check calibration) evaluates the accuracy of your current calibration.

Select your settings for **Gamma**, **White Point**, and **Brightness** from the dropdown menus (2), or select **Other** to type in your own values. Settings that are listed as (Recommended) are most commonly used for most workflows.

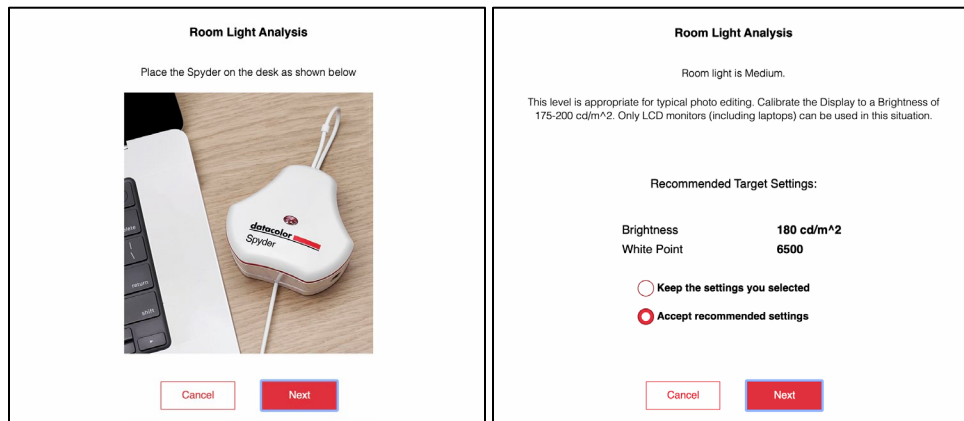
Choose if you want to measure your **Room Light** (3) to help set the brightness of your display based on the level of lighting in your room. Selecting **On** will prompt a notification when a room light level change is detected. Selecting **Automatic Room Light Switching\*** will create multiple profiles that the software will change between automatically when a room light level change is detected.

*Please note, both options require the Spyder sensor to be plugged into your computer to detect the changes in light.*

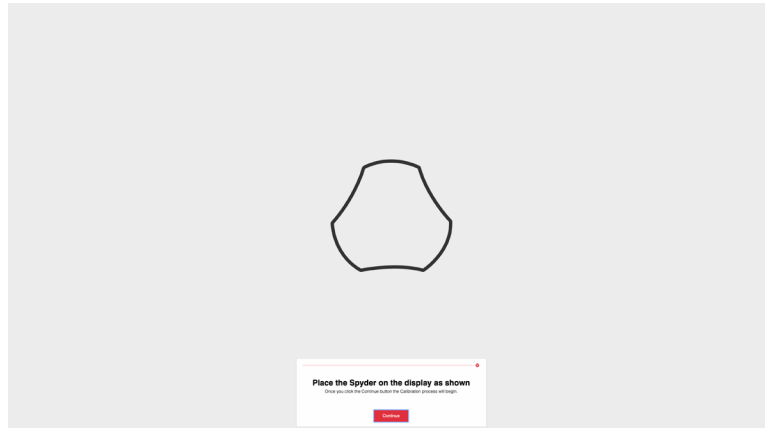
You also have the option to measure your current ambient lighting with **Room Light Analysis (4)**.

Once you have made your selections, click **Next (5)**.

If you selected **Room Light – On (previous screen)**, the software will take a reading of your room light. Place the Spyder on your desk and ensure no direct light is falling on your display or the Spyder. Click **Next** to measure your current ambient light for recommended target settings based on this measurement. Select to keep the settings you selected on the previous screen or accept these recommended settings. Click **Next**.



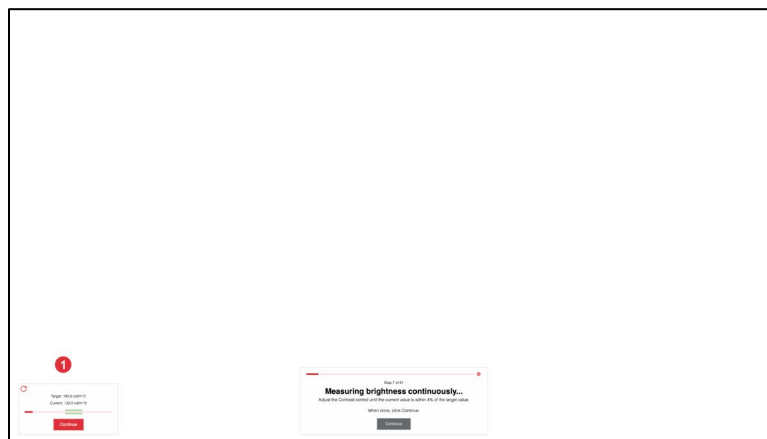
## Calibration (FullCAL and ReCAL)



Follow the prompts to place your Spyder on the screen. Remove the sensor cover. It is used as a counterweight so that the calibrator remains in place and flat against the screen.

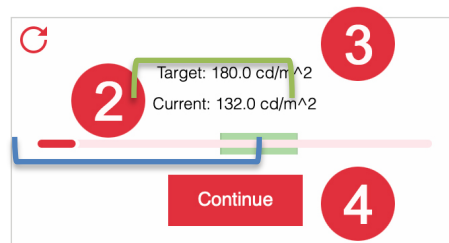
We recommend that you slightly tilt your display back so the unit rests against the screen within the outline without you having to hold it in place. Click **Continue/Next**. A series of color patches will flash on the screen.

If you selected to adjust **Brightness** on the Basic Settings, the calibration process will ask you to adjust your display to be within recommended levels.



Make adjustments. The brightness value will adjust in real time by default, or you can hit the **Update (1)** button to prompt the software to remeasure. Repeat this process until the **Current (2)** value is as close as possible to the **Target (3)** value.

Note: The display may not be able to fall within the **Target** range. Adjust to be as close as possible.



Once you have completed your adjustments, click **Continue (4)**.  
Once the calibration measurements are completed, click **Finish**.

## Save profile

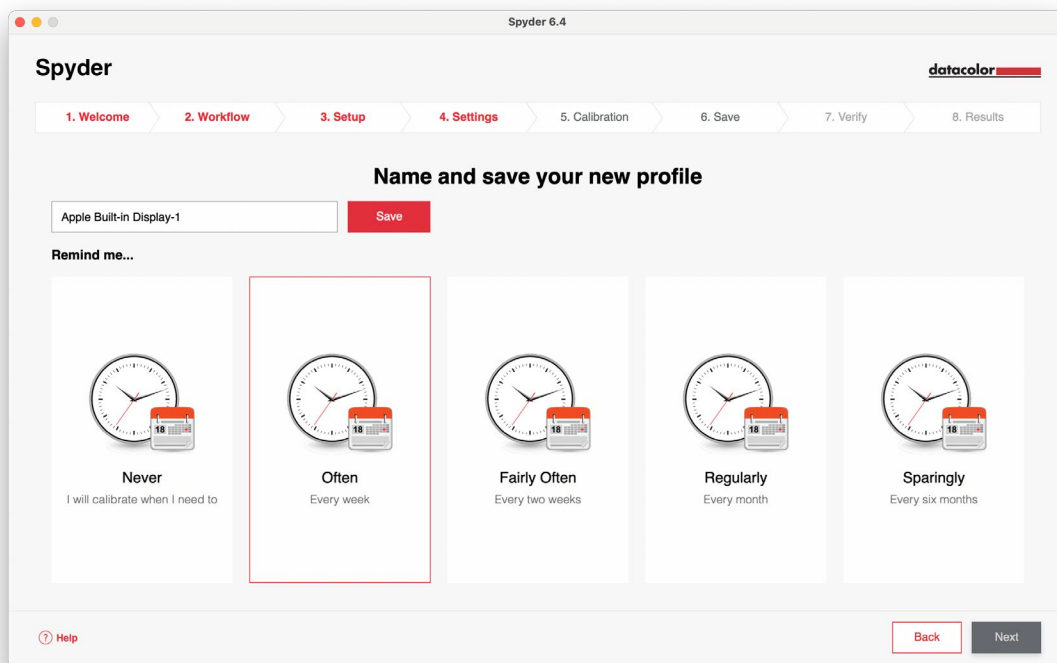
Use the default or create your own profile name. Here is a sample file name we think works best to keep an archive of your monitor profiles:

“Make\_Model\_yyyymmdd(date)\_ver1”

You can also set a reminder when to recalibrate your display, the default reminder is 2 weeks.

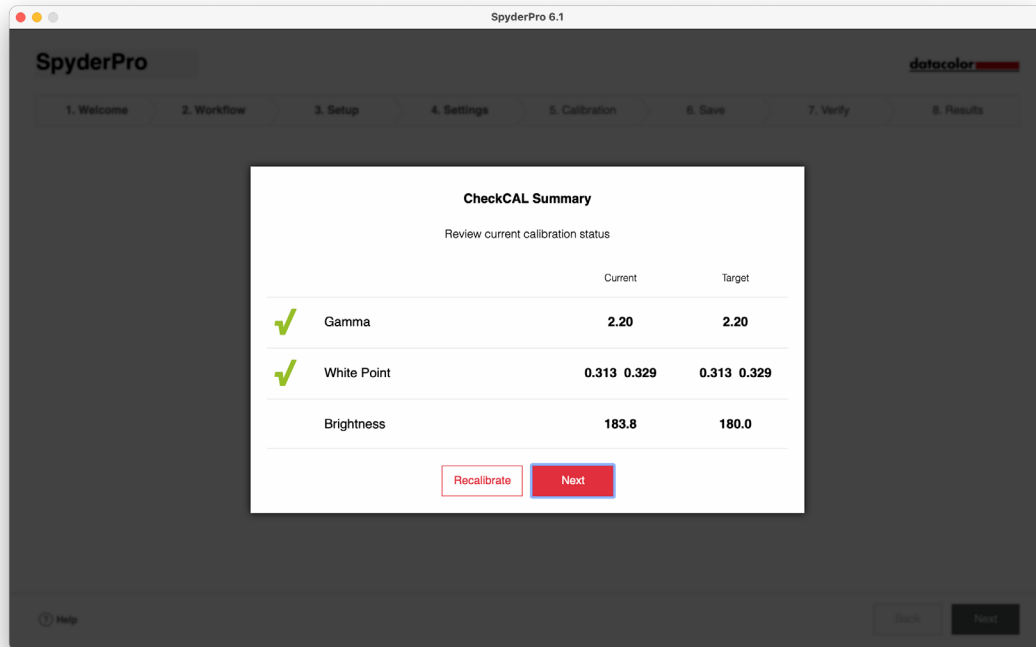
We recommend calibrating a display which is used for color critical work at least every 2 weeks. However, calibration before performing color critical work is advised to ensure colors are accurate and monitor settings are correct for your environment. Or, consider using CheckCal to confirm your calibration.

Click **Save** then **Next**.



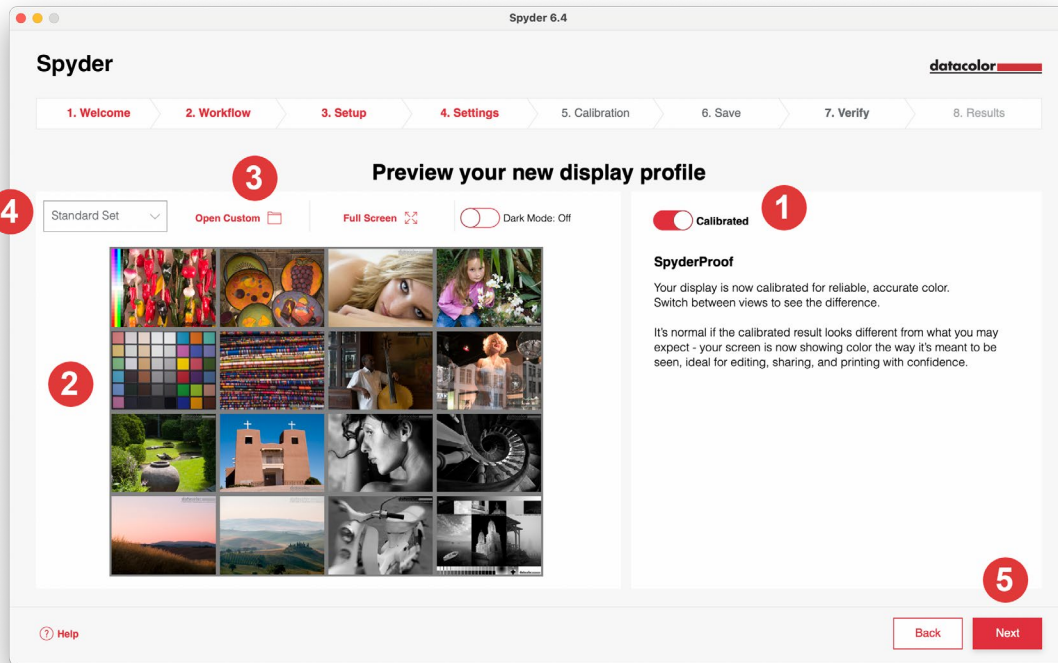
## CheckCAL

A CheckCAL will allow you to quickly see if your display needs calibration. Follow the prompts to place the Spyder on the screen and take measurements of a small set of color patches. When finished, a report will be generated to confirm if the current settings match your target settings. Green check marks denote a pass, and red X marks denote a value out of the acceptable range and recalibration is recommended. Click your choice to **Recalibrate** or continue with **Next**.



## SpyderProof

Review the calibration results by comparing images in **Calibrated** and **Uncalibrated (1)** view by clicking the toggle.



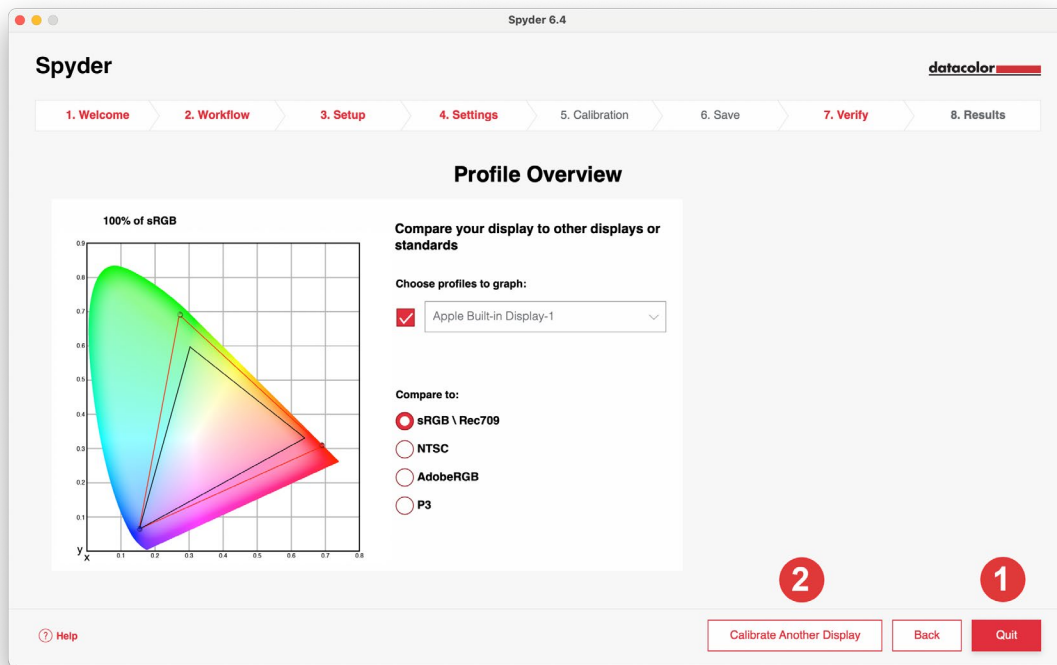
You can click the image to zoom in for more detail.

Click **Open Custom (3)** to choose a .tiff or .jpeg image from your computer files for review.

Choose from the **dropdown menu (4)** to switch between the **standard set** image or your **custom** image.

## Profile Overview

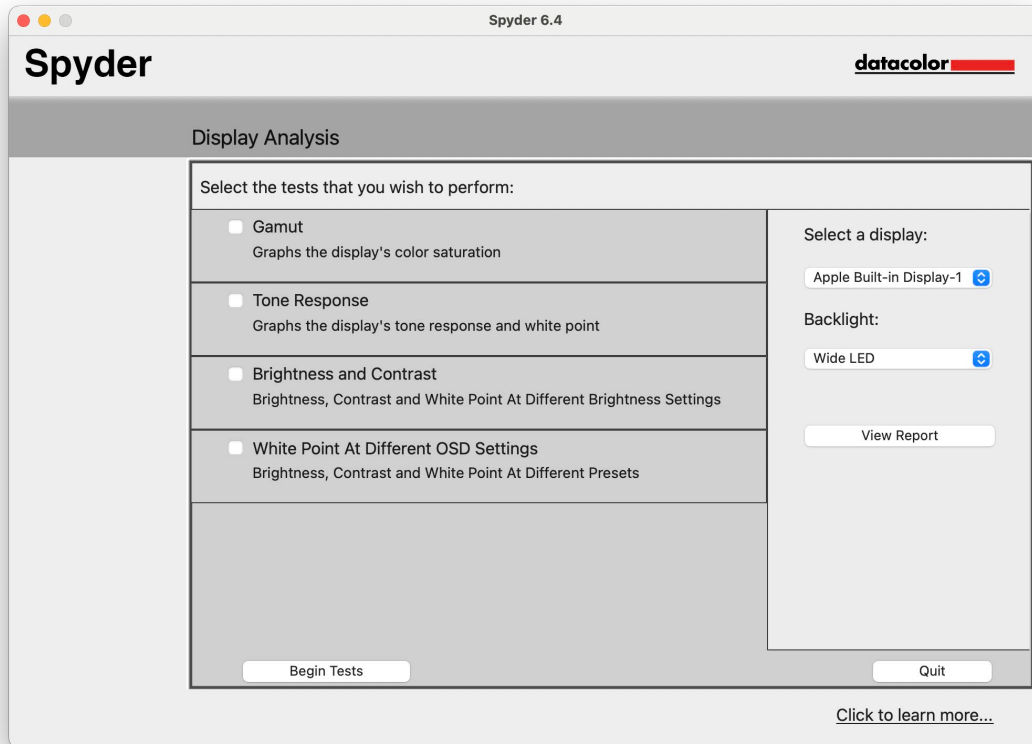
View your display's gamut and compare to industry standards or profiles you previously made.



Click **Quit (1)** if you have completed your calibration(s) or **Calibrate Another Display (2)** if you have another display connected to this computer that you want to calibrate.

## Display Analysis

Run a series of 6 tests on your monitor to see its strengths and weaknesses.



Select the tests you wish to perform and click **Begin Tests**. Follow the prompts to place the sensor and change the brightness on your display.

*Note: All tests other than **Color Accuracy** are performed with the current display profile disabled, to show how your display behaves in an uncalibrated state.*

When performing the Brightness and Contrast test, the first portion of the test will have you set your display to 0% brightness. Once you click **Measure** it will take about 10 seconds to perform the test. As your screen will be fully dimmed it will be difficult to see when the test is complete, please wait about 10 seconds before turning the brightness up to continue.

Once finished testing, select **View Report** to see the results of all the tests you selected.

## Device Preview

Improve Screen-to-Output matching with this workflow of tools to simulate how your photos will look in print or on a device – including home printers, online or retail printers, and certain mobile/tablet devices.

If you are using a home printer, you may already have ICC profiles installed on your computer. If you don't and would like to profile your printer, we recommend using our Spyder Print product.

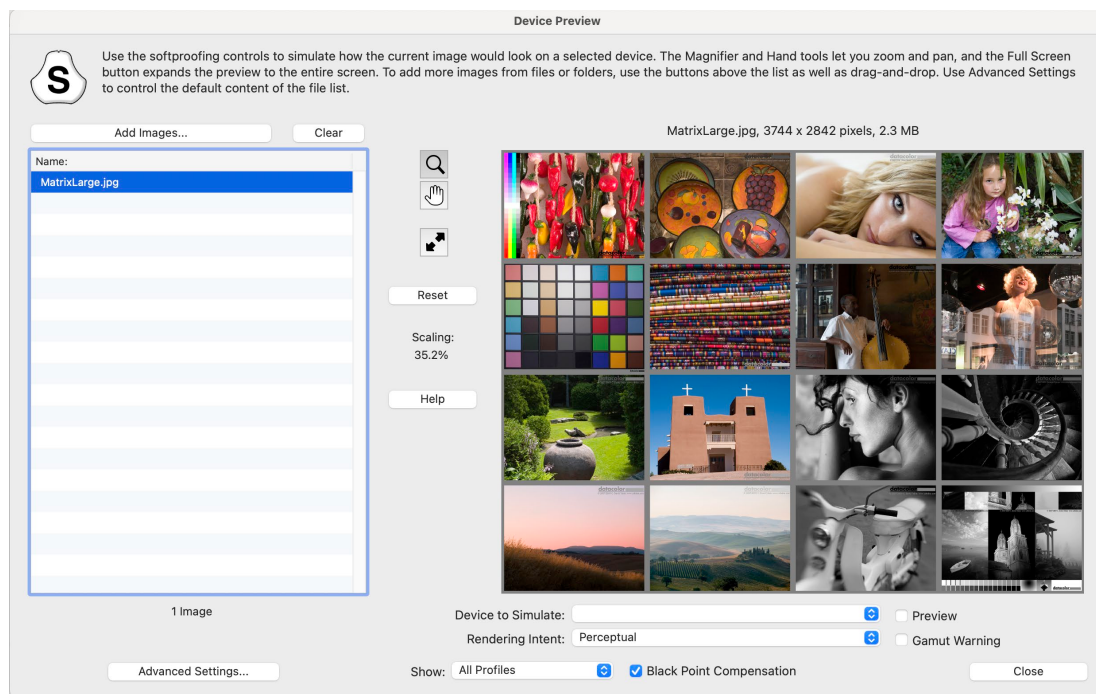
If you want to soft proof for a retail or online print provider, search their website for ICC printer profiles to download and install on your computer.

To preview the look of an image on a mobile/tablet, choose the pre-installed profile to get an impression of how it will look under optimal conditions.

Click **Add Folder** or **Add Files** to add .tiff or .jpeg images to the soft proof list.

Select a profile from the **Device to Simulate** dropdown.

The preview area will simulate your selected image from the soft proof list using the selected profile.



Check or uncheck the **Preview** to turn the simulation on or off. The appearance of your image is based on the **Rendering Intent**. The Rendering Intent is how out of gamut information is translated to the paper or device being simulated.

The **Gamut Warning** shows what parts of your image are out of gamut for the paper or device you are simulating.

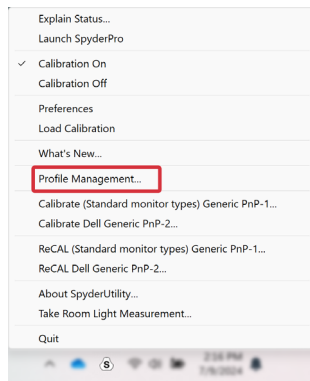
# SpyderUtility

## Profile Management Tool

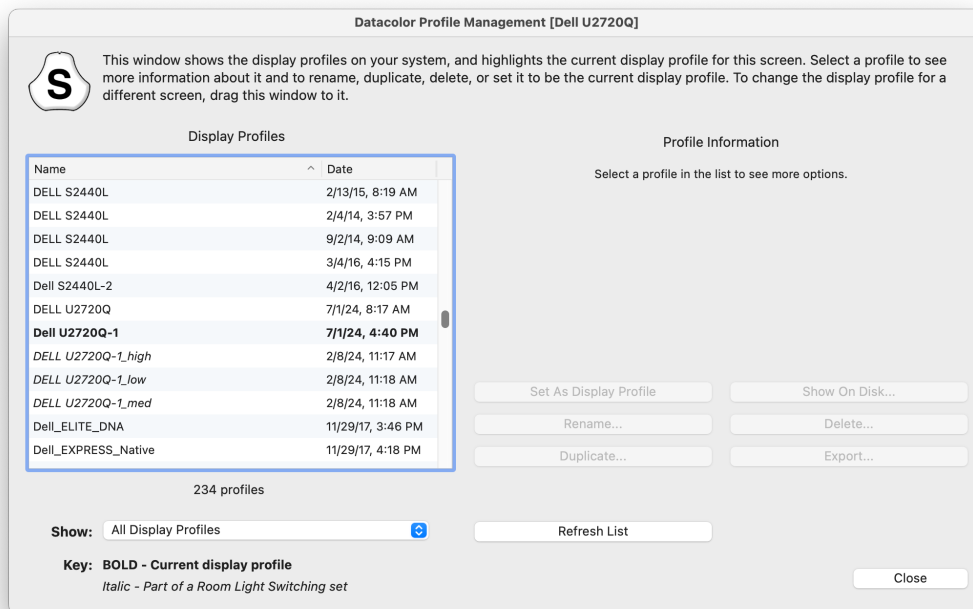
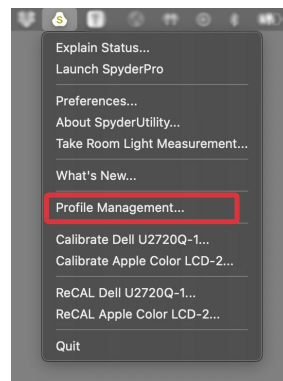
Have complete monitor profile flexibility and control with this tool that allows you to turn off, switch, delete, and rename existing profiles.

Click on the SpyderUtility icon in the menu bar/system tray and click **Profile Management**.

### Windows



### Mac



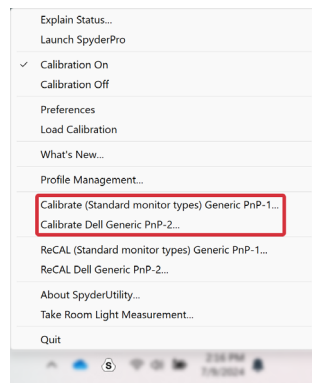
The profile in the list that is bold is the current display profile.

Manually move the Profile Management window to another display to work with the profiles for that display.

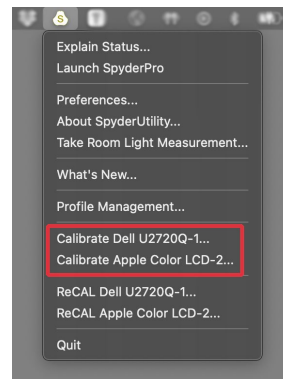
## 1-Click Calibration

A recalibration can also be performed using the '1-click calibration method'. Click on the SpyderUtility icon in the menu bar/system tray. Then select the monitor you would like to calibrate. Complete the calibration process as you would normally. 1-Click Calibration will use the calibration setting from your last calibration.

Windows



Mac



**\*\*Note:** 1-Click Calibration is only available for your monitor(s) after you have completed a full calibration in the software.

## Appendix

### Support

For answers to Frequently Asked Question or additional support, Datacolor provides technical support at no additional charge. If you have a question, please visit our support site:

[spyder-support.datacolor.com](http://spyder-support.datacolor.com)