SpyderExpress Software User Guide (Version 1.0)

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Specs

Power Requirements	5V DC, 100 mA, via USB connector plugged into personal computer
Dimensions	Width: 44.8 mm Height: 76.0 mm Length: 79.1 mm Weight: 140g
Environmental Requirements	Operating Temperature: 5°C to 40° C Maximum Relative Humidity: 80% for temperatures up to 31°C decreasing linearly to 50% relative humidity at 40°C Maximum Altitude: 2,000 meters
Agency Compliance	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 SpyderExpress monitor calibrator. This document will guide you through using your SpyderExpress 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 10,11 32/64
- Mac OS X 10.14, 10.15, 11 (Big Sur), 12 (Monterey), 13 (Ventura), 14 (Sonoma)
- 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

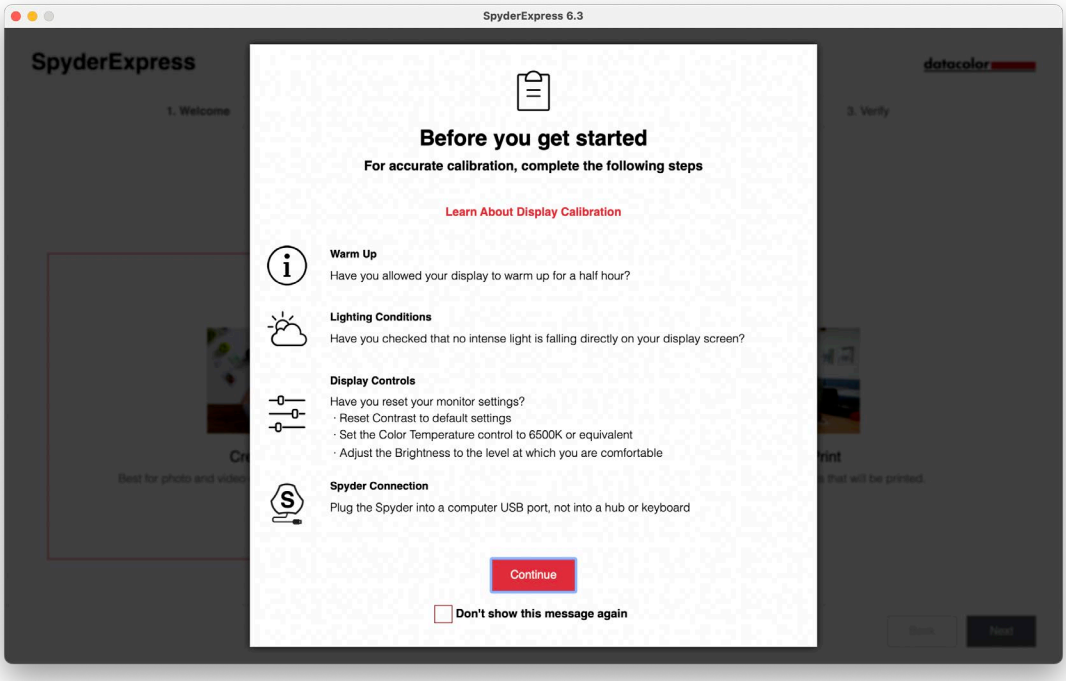
Download the software from http://goto.datacolor.com/getspyderexpress and open the file to install.

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 SpyderExpress application and follow the prompts to activate the software.

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

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**.

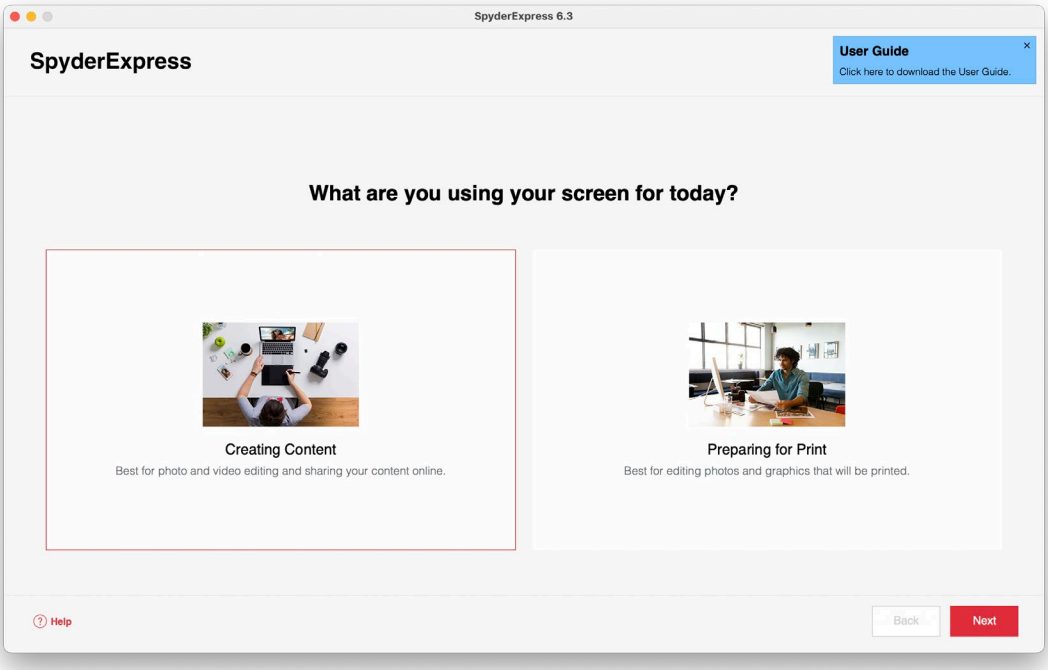
Step 1 – Select Your Display Use

Select how you plan to use your screen for your work.

- **Preparing for Print**:
  Choose this if you are doing color-critical editing and plan to print your photos. This setting provides the most accurate calibration for precise photo editing and print reproduction. Use this option whether you're printing at home with a photo printer or ordering photo books, prints, or other products from a professional print service.
- **Creating Content**:
  Choose this if you're primarily editing photos or videos for online use, such as sharing on social media or websites. This setting is optimized for digital content creation, ensuring that your images and videos appear consistent across typical digital screens.

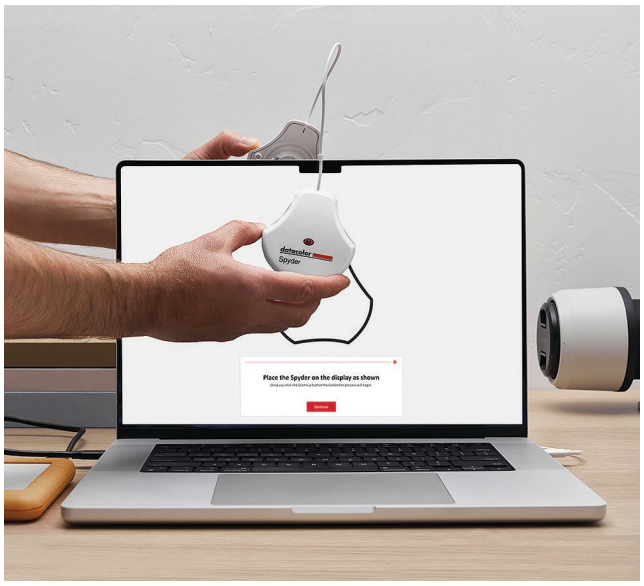
Why should you use different settings?
Not all screens and outputs are the same. Printed photos and digital images can look very different because they're viewed in different ways. For example, prints are affected by lighting, ink, and paper, while digital content is viewed on screens that vary in brightness and color.

That's why there isn't a one-size-fits-all setting. Choosing the wrong one—especially for print—can result in photos that look too dark or have colors that don't match what you saw while editing. This can lead to frustration and unnecessary reprints.



Step 2 - Calibration

Place your Spyder on the screen as shown. Remove the sensor cover — it acts as a counterweight to keep the device in place and flat against the screen.



To make it easier, you can tilt your screen back slightly so the unit rests inside the outline without needing to hold it.

Click **Continue/Next**. The software will then flash a series of colors on your screen to begin the calibration process.

Step 3 – Review Results!

Congratulations! Your monitor calibration is complete.

Now you can preview the results by comparing the **Calibrated** and **Uncalibrated** views. Toggle between them to see the difference in color accuracy.

It's normal if the calibrated view looks different from what you're used to. You might notice:

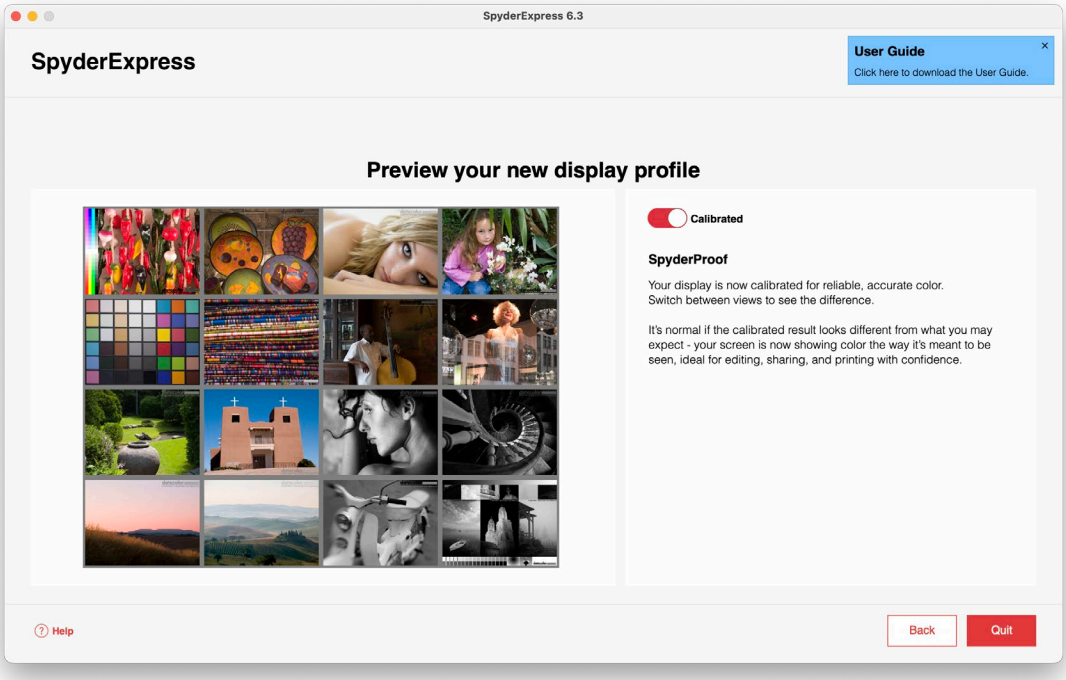
- Colors appear less saturated or more natural.
- Brightness levels adjust to a more consistent standard (especially for printing).
- Subtle details in shadows and highlights become more visible.

This is because your display is now showing color as it should be seen — ideal for editing, sharing, and printing with confidence.

You can click on the image to zoom in and explore the details up close.

To maintain consistent and reliable color accuracy, we recommend recalibrating your monitor before any color-critical work, or whenever your workspace lighting or location changes. This ensures your display always reflects true-to-life color.

That's it! Your monitor is now ready for accurate, reliable color work.



SpyderUtility

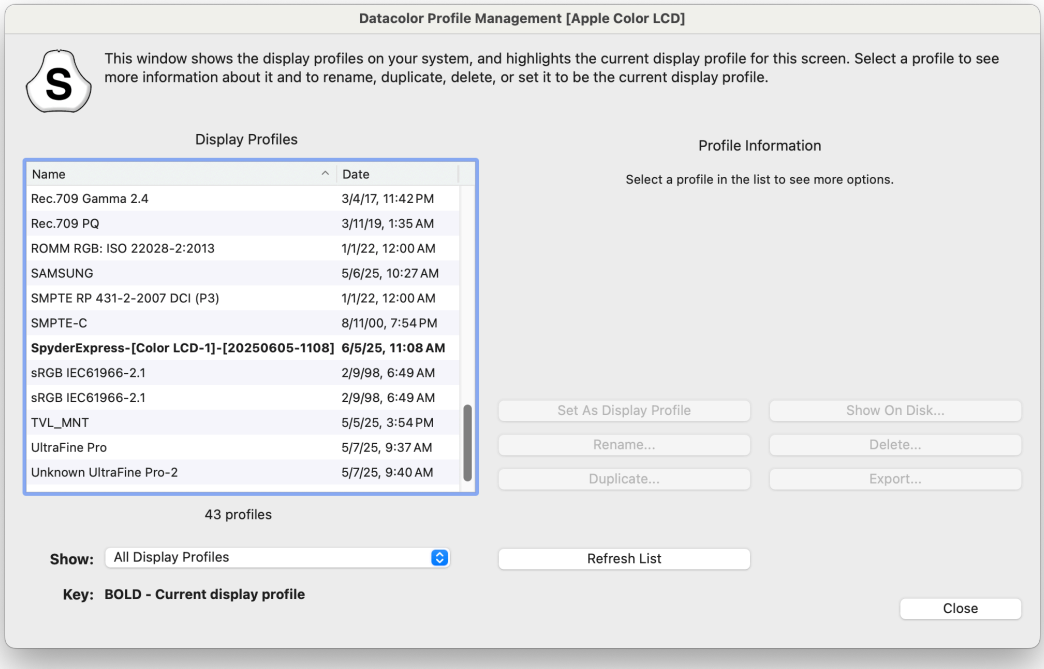
The **SpyderUtility** is a small program that runs in your menu bar (Mac) or system tray (Windows). It ensures that your monitor's calibration profile is correctly loaded and active every time you start your computer. This keeps your display showing accurate, reliable colors.

1. Profile Management

With Profile Management, you can:

- **Switch** between different color profiles.
- **Delete** or **rename** profiles you no longer need.
- **See** which profile is currently active (**bold** in the list).

💡 **Tip**: Move the Profile Management window to another display to manage profiles for that screen.



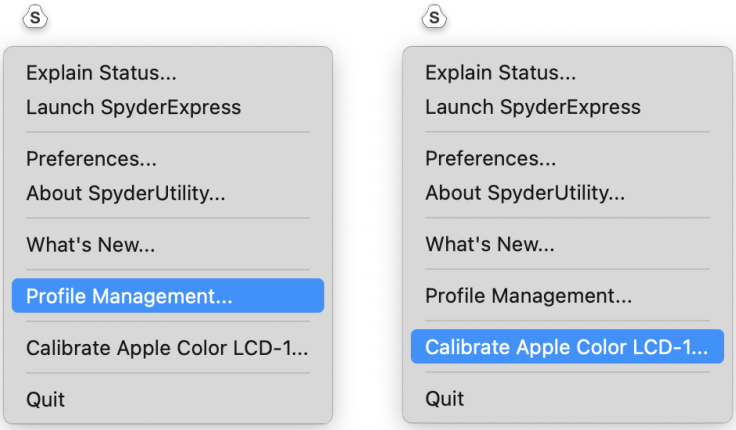
2. 1-Click Calibration

Use **1-Click Calibration** to quickly recalibrate your monitor using the settings from your last calibration.

Note: 1-Click Calibration is available only after you've completed at least one full calibration using the main SpyderExpress software.

How to Access SpyderUtility

Click the **SpyderUtility** icon in your menu bar (Mac) or system tray (Windows), then choose the feature you'd like to use.



📌 Final Note

Most users won't need to use SpyderUtility often, but it plays a key role in keeping your monitor's calibration profile active and your display accurate every time you use your computer.

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