How to Color Calibrate a Monitor

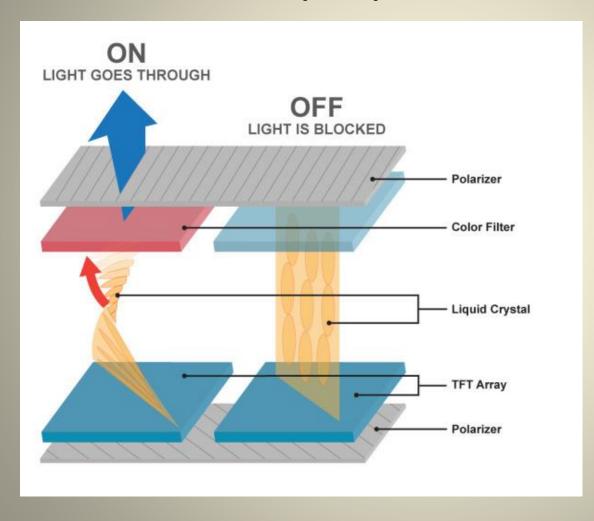
Why Calibrate?

- Monitors can display colors and images differently
 - Different technology
 - Range of possible colors that can be displayed
 - Age of monitor
 - Lighting conditions around monitor
 - Settings (including calibrations)
 - Want to calibrate to common standard
 - Can use software or hardware (colorimeter)

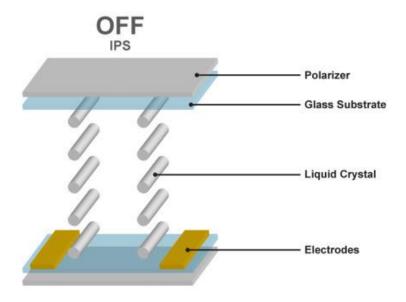
Closeup of Monitor Pixels

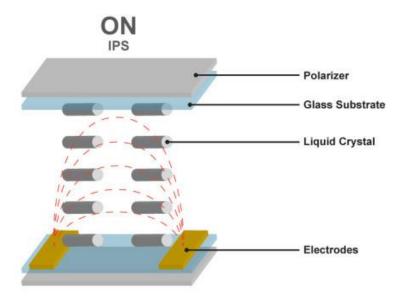


Most Laptops use Twisted Nematic (TN) screens



Disadvantages include narrow color gamut and poor viewing angles.





In-Plane Switching (IPS) displays

are capable of a wider total range of color and viewing angles are much wider.

Which shot is right? Is it the camera or your monitor?



With an uncalibrated monitor, you can't tell what exposure is right, and your prints won't come close to matching your screen.

Software Options

- Use utilities built in with your operating system
- Calibrate using Web software
 - Display Calibration
 - Photo Friday
 - The Logam LCE Monitor Test Pages (can download images as 120KB zip file)

Hardware Options

ColorMunki (X-Rite)



Hardware Options

Spyder (Datacolor)



Print Competition / Show Requirements

- The print may be matted in any color and the overall area of the mat (including the picture) shall not be more than 384 square inches (Example: 16 x 24 inches) with the longest dimension being not more than 36 inches.
- There is no minimum size.
- The print must be framed in a simple metal frame of any color and must have sturdy wire on the back to allow hanging.
- All prints must be behind glass.