

Technical Bulletin

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Matchprint Virtual 6.0 Monitor Selection Guide

About this guide

Choosing a color monitor to use for virtual proofing is complex. You must consider many factors, including brightness, size, stability, gamut, uniformity, and price. The relative importance of each factor depends on your requirements—no monitor is ideal for all situations. This guide is intended to help you decide which monitor is most suitable for your needs.

For use with the Kodak Matchprint Virtual technology, Kodak recommends EIZO ColorEdge monitors because of their consistently high quality and vendor guarantees. The Eizo ColorEdge CG243W is an excellent choice because of its overall uniformity, brightness, color gamut, viewing angle, size, and price.

The monitor market changes constantly. New models are regularly introduced, and specifications and prices can sometimes change during a production run. Kodak continually reviews and revises this guide to reflect the current monitor market. Before you make a monitor purchase decision, make sure you have the most current version of this guide.

Recommended monitors

Monitor	Brightness after calibration	Color gamut	Approximate list price (USD)**	Size	Viewing angle	Suitability	Certification	Uniformity*
EIZO CG303W	Bright, but lower starting luminance	Wide	\$4100	641.3 mm x 400.8 mm (25.23 in. x 15.77 in.)	Very good	FOGRA 39L GRACoL C1 SWOP C5 SWOP C3		Consistently good
EIZO CG243W	Bright	Wide	\$2499	518.4 mm x 324 mm (20.4 in. x 12.8 in.)	Very good	FOGRA 39L GRACoL C1 SWOP C5 SWOP C3		Consistently good

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EIZO CG241W	Bright	Wide	\$2499	518.4 mm x 324 mm (20.4 in. x 12.8 in.)	Very good	FOGRA 39L GRACoL C1 SWOP C5 SWOP C3	SWOP C5 SWOP C3	Consistently very good
EIZO CG211	Moderate	sRGB	\$2849	432 mm x 324 mm (17 in. x 12.8 in.)	Very good	SWOP C5 SWOP C3	SWOP C5 SWOP C3	Consistently very good
NEC 3090 (LCD3090W QXi-BK)***	Bright	Wide	\$2200	687.3 mm x 668.6 mm (27.1 in. x 26.3 in.)	Very good	FOGRA 39L GRACoL C1 SWOP C5 SWOP C3		Consistently Good
NEC PA241W (PA241W- BK)***	Bright	Wide	\$1079	556.3 mm x 528.3 mm (21.9 in. x 20.8 in.)	Very good	FOGRA 39L GRACoL C1 SWOP C5 SWOP C3		Consistently Good
NEC PA271W (PA271W- BK)***	Bright	Wide	\$1399	640.4 mm x 546.2 mm (25.2 in. x 21.5 in.)	Very good	FOGRA 39L GRACoL C1 SWOP C5 SWOP C3		Consistently Good
Apple Cinema Display 30- in. LCD	Bright	sRGB	\$1799	640 mm x 399 mm (25.2 in. x 15.7 in.)	Good	SWOP C5 SWOP C3	SWOP C5 SWOP C3	Varies from good to poor
Apple Cinema Display 24- in. LED	Bright	sRGB	\$899	518 mm x 323 mm (20.4 in. x 12.7 in.)	Very good	SWOP C5 SWOP C3		Varies from good to poor

* Uniformity refers to the color and brightness (physical uniformity) across the physical surface of a monitor.

** For up-to-date prices, see the product Web sites at <http://www.eizo.com/>, <http://www.apple.com/displays/> or <http://www.necdisplay.com/>.

*** The NEC monitors can be used only with the X-Rite iOne Pro Rev D calibration device.

The NEC 3090 and PA241W will have approximately 30% reduction in the luminance levels when used in a portrait mode (compared to a landscape mode).

Other monitors

Occasionally a model that was acceptable when it was first released is superseded by a superior model or is found to have declined in quality, often due to changing manufacturing specifications. Kodak continues to support customers who already own these models, but no longer recommends them for purchase.

- EIZO CG301W: Not recommended due to poor uniformity and low starting luminance values. Not supported with Apple Mac mini computers.
- EIZO CG210: No longer available
- EIZO CG220: No longer available
- Apple Cinema Display 23-in.: Not recommended due to a color shift that affects gamut and due to uniformity problems
- Apple Cinema Display 20-in.: No longer available

Monitors that are not supported

- EIZO CG221 (Not supported after Matchprint Virtual 5.2.2)
- EIZO CG210-N
- EIZO CG21 (Not supported after Matchprint Virtual 5.2.2)
- EIZO CE240W (Not supported after Matchprint Virtual 5.2.2)

Monitor aging

LCD monitors age. With time, the backlighting grows dimmer and often shifts toward yellow. The decision of when to retire a monitor is up to you. There are many variables, but you can expect to get 8,000 to 12,000 hours of color-critical work out of a monitor before you retire it to non-color-critical applications. You can extend the life of a monitor by turning it off when it is not in use, using a screen saver, and lowering the luminance set point.

For more information about monitor selection, contact your sales representative.

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