

# Color Calibration Hardware

There are two companies that produce color calibration tools that I would recommend. I have used them both, and I currently use X-rite products in my studio. Both products will provide you with similar results. Each option listed here will work with all current monitor technologies and several emerging technologies. The actual hardware used doesn't change often so a purchase will often outlast your current computer/monitor setup and work on your next purchase as well. Both X-Rite and Datacolor just updated their hardware so you have little risk on anything being released soon that might be better.

The biggest difference between the basic versions and advanced versions will be the number of options available and the speed of calibration.

## X-Rite Products

**The intro version of hardware is the iDisplay Studio. Cost between \$149-169.**

**The more advanced version is called the iDisplay Pro and cost around \$249**

The top end is the iDisplay Pro Plus at \$299.

Here is a link to the differences

[https://xritephoto.com/documents/literature/en/X-Rite\\_Display-Comparison\\_en.pdf](https://xritephoto.com/documents/literature/en/X-Rite_Display-Comparison_en.pdf)

Any of these would work fine for calibration of a monitor, for most photographers the difference between the Studio and Pro is the user controls and advanced calibration options with the Pro. If I was going to buy one I would upgrade to the Pro version having the customization options of the Pro software will make a huge difference if you are going to do much digital printing and editing (bw or color). If you aren't doing much printing you can use the Studio version to get what you need to have a good calibrated monitor. So depending on budget you can split those two. The higher end one has a higher nit count on measuring luminance which accounts for the cost difference.

## Datacolor

Datacolor makes the Spyder line of calibration tools. They have two versions the SpyderX pro and Elite.

The Pro version is \$169, and the elite is \$270.

Much like the X-Rite line, the elite will give you more customized controls than the PRO, but the Pro version will do a great job with calibration. A couple of things that the Elite offer that are interesting are advanced mapping tools for control, soft proofing profiles for print reviews. Again like with the other options, it depends on what you are doing digitally long-term. If you are going to be doing printing and more digital editing, the control of the elite will be a nice to have feature. If you just need basic calibration you will be happy with the Pro version.

Here is a link to the webpage with feature comparisons

<https://spyderx.datacolor.com/about-spyderx/>

## Calibration kits for paper and displays

Both companies have Studio suites with more options for calibration for doing papers, displays and such. IF you are thinking you want to do paper calibration and such. Talk to me next week and we can discuss options. These tend to be in the \$500-1200 range.