

Colour Monitors

Pixel resolutions have traditionally been associated with particular physical screen sizes. This occurred because a screen resolution would display at 72dpi on the associated physical screen size. These days 72dpi is important for Desktop Publishers who want an accurate representation of the page, but has become less important to other users.

Many people today are interested in the size of desktop display. A larger resolution display provides more room for desktop items and windows to be displayed. The standard is moving from the 640x480 13" resolution to the 832x624 16" resolution. With the right monitor and adapter it is possible to display a 21" pixel resolution screen on a 13" monitor or a 13" resolution screen on a 21" monitor. The characters on the 21" monitor would be very large and the ones on the 13" monitor, very small. There is a tradeoff between the size of the characters on the screen and the size of the desktop.

Physical screen sizes and associated pixel resolutions

12" - 512x383
13" - 640 x 480
16" - 832x624
Portrait - 640 x 870
19" - 1024x768
21" - 1152x870

Monitor manufacturers have changed the size of their screens over the past few years and moved to standardise on multisync monitors. Popular physical screen sizes used to be 13", 16", 19", 21". Now the most common physical screen sizes are 14", 15", 17", 20", 21". These multisync monitors can be driven at different resolutions by the onboard Macintosh video. The Macintosh video uses sense pins to determine the resolution the monitor supports. Appropriate adapters are required to match a display resolution with a monitor.

Built-in Video Support - Maximum Vram

Quadra 950 - 24bit @ 13", 16" / 16bit @ 19", 21" / 8bit @ Portrait
Quadra 800 - 16bit @ 13", 16" / 8bit @ 19", 21" / 8bit @ Portrait
Quadra 700/900 - 24bit @ 13", 16" / 8bit @ 19", 21" / 8bit @ Portrait
Centris 650 - 16bit @ 13", 16" / 8bit @ 19", 21" / 8bit @ Portrait
Centris 610 - 16bit @ 13", 16" / 8bit @ 19", 21" / 8bit @ Portrait
Ilvx/Ilvi - 16bit @ 13"
Ilici/Ilsi - 8bit @ 13" / 4bit @ Portrait
LCIII - 16bit @ 13" / 8bit @ 16" / 4bit @ Portrait
LC/LCII - 8bit @ 13"
Powerbook 160/165c/180 External Video - 8bit @ 13", 16" / 4bit @ Portrait

DuoDock - 16bit @ 13", 16" / 8bit @ Portrait
Duo MiniDock - 8bit @ 13", 16", Portrait

Good Colour Screens for Australia

The major suppliers of colour monitors for the Macintosh have been Apple, Rasterops, E-Machines, Radius and SuperMac. All of these suppliers have had problems with the stability and quality of their monitors in Australia. Some of these problems were associated with the production of a new range of Sony Trinitron monitors that have not been available in a southern hemisphere aligned version.

We prefer to sell Sony and Nec monitors that are sourced in Australia. These monitors are manufactured for the Australian market by Nec and Sony and are supported by the very large technical services offered by these companies in Australia.

At present we do not see any reason to purchase a monitor from a traditional Macintosh Colour Screen supplier except for the Radius Pivot monitor on either price, support or quality.

All of these colour monitors are plug compatible with any Macintosh that has builtin video.

832 x 624 - 16" Display

Very sharp and bright 16" Display on a 14" screen. A budget 16" display.

Sony 14" Trinitron w/adapter.....\$999

Switch between 640x480 and 832x624 on a 15" screen. Best value screen for builtin video.

Nec 15" w/adapter.....\$1,099

Best quality 16" display at full size.

Sony 17" Trinitron w/adapter.....\$2,025

640 x 870 & 870 x 640 - Portrait Display

Swivel between 640x870 and 870x640. Best value if you want a vertical display.

Radius PrecisionColour Pivot.....\$2.155

1,024 x 768 - 19" Display

Switch between 832x624 and 1,024x768. Best value for 8bit large screen.

Nec 17" w/adapter.....\$2.500

1,152 x 870 - 21" Display

Brilliant Sony Trinitron display at maximum resolution.

Sony 21" Trinitron w/adapter.....\$4,999