Home Office Workspace Solutions

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · COMPUTER & DESK TECH

Dual-Monitor & Docking Setup Guide

Plan, connect and arrange two screens and a dock for a clean, one-cable desk.

> Two screens can make research, writing and spreadsheet work much easier, and a dock lets a laptop connect to everything with one cable. This guide covers planning, connecting, arranging and tidying a dual-monitor desk.

Step 1: Check what your computer supports

1. **Count the video outputs**

   Look at your computer's ports and the maker's spec page. Note how many external screens it supports and through which ports.

2. **Know your port types**

   HDMI and DisplayPort carry video. USB-C carries video only if the port supports it (often marked with a display or lightning-bolt symbol).

3. **Check the resolution limits**

   Some computers run two screens only at lower resolutions or refresh rates. Check before buying monitors.

Step 2: Choose a dock or adapter

1. **Simple adapter**

   A USB-C to HDMI adapter is fine for one extra screen.

2. **Dock**

   A dock gives you video outputs, USB ports, network and charging through one cable. Check it supports two screens on your computer.

3. **Power**

   Make sure the dock's charging power meets or exceeds your laptop charger's wattage.

Step 3: Arrange the screens

1. **Main screen in front**

   If you use one screen more, put it straight in front and the second to the side.

2. **Equal use**

   If you use both equally, center the join between them in front of you.

3. **Height and distance**

   Tops of both screens at or slightly below eye level, about an arm's length away.

4. **Match settings**
   In your display settings, drag the screens into the same order as on your desk and set scaling so text looks the same size.

Step 4: Tidy the cables

1. **Mount the dock**
   Fix it under the desk or behind the monitors so only one cable reaches the laptop.
2. **Bundle and label**
   Use ties or sleeves, and label each end of each cable.
3. **Power in one place**
   Plug everything into one surge-protected strip mounted under the desk.

Troubleshooting

Screen not detected	Check the cable is firmly in, try another port, update the dock's driver or firmware
Blurry text	Set each screen to its native resolution and adjust scaling
Screens in wrong order	Drag them into the right order in display settings
Laptop not charging through the dock	Check the dock's power rating and use the port marked for charging

My setup plan

Computer and its video ports:

Screens it supports:

Monitor 1 / Monitor 2:

Dock or adapter:

Arrangement (main + side, or equal):

Cable plan:

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