Calibrating your monitor is a must if you have a color-managed workflow. That’s because it eases and speeds up image editing, improves productivity, and saves time and money in post-processing by reducing the number of proofs. But calibration can be confusing because there are two different types of calibration — hardware and software.

### Comparison of CALIBRATION APPROACHES

**SOFTWARE**

**Calibration**

- Start Calibration Tool/Sensor
- Run software
- Look up tables
- Color adjustments made to
  - 8-bit
  - Video graphics card or OS

**HARDWARE**

**Calibration**

- 10-bit (and up)
- Monitor electronics

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**BEFORE**

**RESULTS**

**FOLLOW-UP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOFTWARE</th>
<th>HARDWARE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accurate colors; some loss of color depth</td>
<td>Accurate colors; maximum color depth</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Due to their always-on backlight sensors, NEC’s MultiSync PA Series monitors are the only monitors on the market that, once calibrated, do not require regular recalibrations.

**HARDWARE CALIBRATION outshines software calibration**

Hardware calibration offers four advantages over software calibration:

1. Avoid any loss of color depth
2. Adjust colors directly in the monitor
3. Less hassle: quicker and less frequent recalibrations
4. Enables you to plug any computer into a calibrated monitor and be assured of color accuracy

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For more information about calibration and color management, visit us at: www.necdisplay.com/colorcritical/home/colormanagement