

Display Tune Plug-Ins: Color Calibration

Correct color is important to more than just professional graphics artists

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Display Tune is a program that allows an end user to control the configuration of a monitor using a simple Windows application and the computer's keyboard and mouse. The program is easily extensible through the use of plug-ins, making it easy to add additional functions to the program.

When a piece of equipment does not work as expected, the end user gets frustrated. When the colors of Web site images or family photos don't match reality, the user often has no idea how to fix it. Even if the monitor has color controls, it is difficult to control the changes and improve the image quality.

LCDs can vary a great deal from the gamma 2.2 tonal response curve. As a result, some shades may be correct, but others may be noticeably off the mark within the same image.

The color calibration plug-in for Display Tune makes it easy and quick for the end user to solve this problem. Displaying a simple pattern, the program gives the user a target to drag around the screen until the hue and shade of the target match the background.

In order to tune the display's tonal response across the spectrum, the program has the user make adjustments at six points. The program then can use this information to generate corrections across the entire range, so that the monitor's response more closely matches the desired gamma 2.2 curve. The entire process takes only minutes, and does not require the skills of a graphics professional.

All this is accomplished using just the computer's keyboard and mouse. There is no need for any front panel controls or on-screen display (OSD) for the monitor.

