

KVM switcher color anomaly



Overview

After power cycling your KVM, try one USB at a time in the HID ports to see if that particular peripheral works.

Key Takeaways

Color anomalies on a KVM switch are often caused by signal degradation, incompatible cables, or resolution/refresh rate mismatches, and can usually be resolved by checking connections, using high-quality cables, and ensuring compatibility. Common Causes



1. **Signal Degradation or Interference** Analog or low-quality digital KVM switches can degrade video signals, especially at high resolutions or refresh rates. This may result in flickering, color distortion, ghosting, or artifacts. Poor shielding or substandard internal components can allow electromagnetic interference (EMI) to affect the video signal, causing color anomalies or screen flicker .

2. **Incompatible or Low-Quality Cables** Using cheap, long, or low-spec cables can compromise signal integrity. Symptoms include blurred images, color shifts, or artifacts at specific resolutions. Ensure that cables support the required bandwidth for your monitor's resolution and refresh rate, and that they are properly shielded .

3. **Resolution or Refresh Rate Mismatch** Some KVM switches cannot handle certain resolutions or refresh rates. If the switch does not support your monitor's settings, you may see incorrect colors, blank screens, or intermittent flickering. Adjusting the monitor's refresh rate to a supported value (e.g., lowering from 144Hz to 60Hz) can often resolve the issue .

4. **Adapter or Port Compatibility** USB-C, DisplayPort, and HDMI adapters must match the KVM switch and computer outputs. Using incompatible adapters can lead to color distortion or partial video loss. Each monitor in a multi-monitor setup requires its own dedicated video connection to the KVM .

Troubleshooting Steps

- **Check all connections:** Ensure cables are fully seated and ports are clean.
- **Use high-quality cables:** Prefer certified DisplayPort, HDMI, or USB-C cables that support your monitor's resolution and refresh rate.
- **Adjust refresh rate and resolution:** Lowering the refresh rate or using a standard resolution can stabilize the display .
- **Power cycle the KVM:** Disconnect power for a few minutes and reconnect to reinitiate the handshake between devices .
- **Test direct connection:** Connect the monitor directly to each computer to confirm the issue is KVM-related.
- **Check for firmware updates:** Some KVM switches have firmware updates that improve video handling and compatibility.

Additional Tips

- For dual-monitor setups, ensure two separate video connections per computer.
- Avoid excessively long cables or daisy-chaining adapters, which can degrade signal quality.
- If problems persist, consider upgrading to a high-performance KVM switch designed for high-resolution or high-refresh-rate monitors . By systematically checking cables, connections, and settings, most KVM-related color anomalies can be resolved without replacing hardware.

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KVM setup

The KVM has lights to indicate which device it's interacting with: orange lights are supposed to indicate the computer

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Looking for a USB KVM switch that works with chroma

TESmart makes a ton of nice KVMs that have all sorts of HDMI/DP single/multi monitor 2-4channel units - I'd bet you can find

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