Cal Poly Art and Design

Connecting to Projectors

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INTRODUCTION

If you are using a standardized Cal Poly Smart Room, review [this information](#).

Mac Connection to Art projectors - General Tips:

A. Our projectors cannot display the highest resolutions commonly found on the latest model computers. Users must turn down screen resolution to a level the projector can display, and that is also low enough for good audience viewing (the higher the resolution the smaller EVERYTHING appears on screen).

B. Set up and test your presentation (images, font sizes, etc.) for a common projector resolution:

- **1280 x 1024** (4x3)
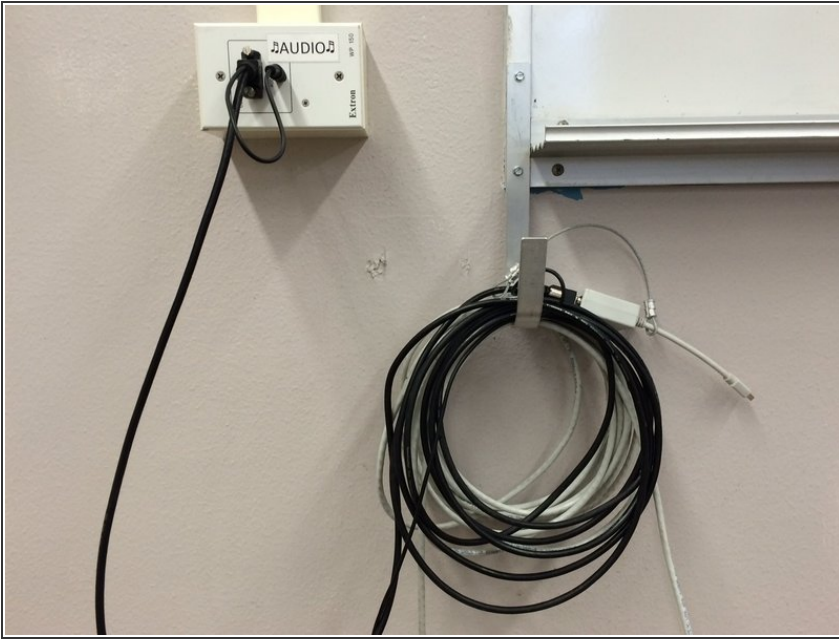- **1280 x 768** (16x10)
- **1280 x 720** (16x9)
- **1024 x 768** (4x3)

Maximum resolution for ceiling mounted projectors in Art & Design (Room 149, 150, 151):

- **1600 x 1200** (4x3)

C. Most presenters prefer to use the **Mirrored Display** option, so that the presenter sees exactly what the audience sees...without having to look up at the projected image.
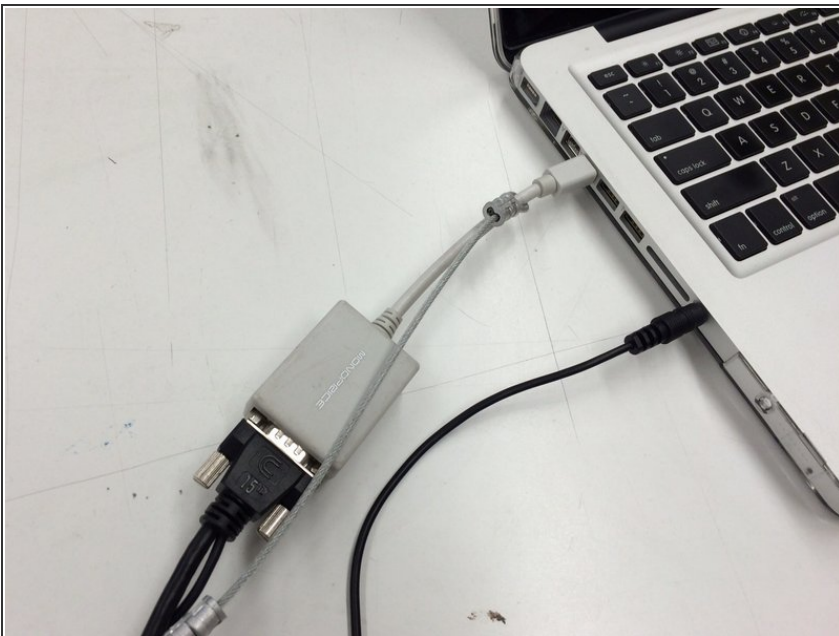
Please review these steps to connect and use overhead projectors from a Mac.

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Step 1 — Locate Projector Cables and Controller Box

- Locate VGA cable and the wall mounted Projector Controller Box, typically on the wall at the front of the room.
  - (i) The **VGA Cable** is for video signal only. The **Mini-RCA** cable is for audio signal only. You can use either one, or both together.

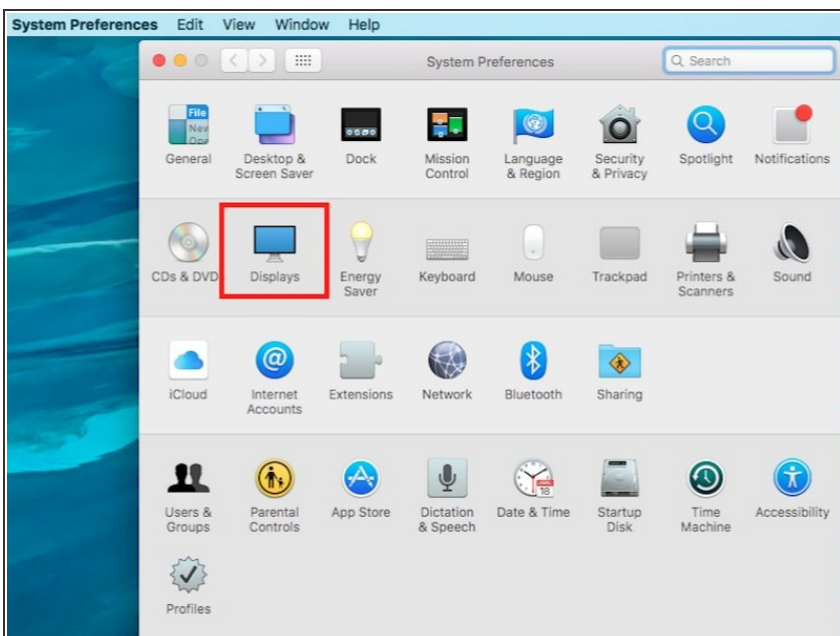## Step 2 — Connect to the Projector cables

- If your presentation includes video, connect the **VGA to Mini Display Port/Thunderbolt adapter** and VGA cable to the Mac.

- If your presentation includes audio, connect in the **Mini-RCA cable** to the Mac.

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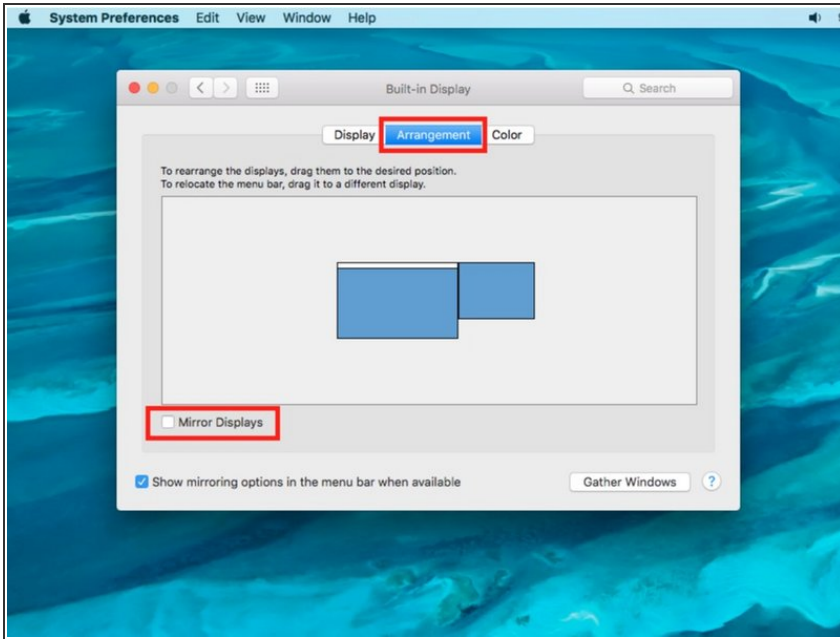
Step 3 — Start and Adjust Projector

- **Turn on Projector:** Push **ON** display button (button will flash while projector warms up, and remain lit when the projector is on).

- **Select Source:** Push **PC** button to select the VGA/Thunderbolt adapter (button will light when selected.)

- **Adjust Audio:** Rotate **Volume** knob to at least 50% (if you have audio in your presentation)

  - **Audio Tip:** Both the source computer and the control box can control volume; if *either one* is turned down to zero, there will be no audio!
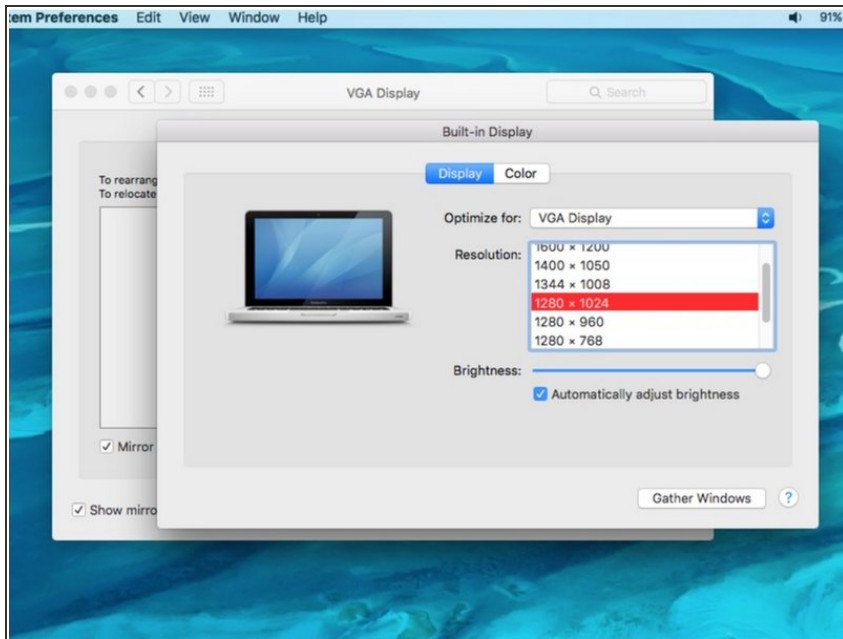
Step 4 — Open System Preference: Displays

- After the video cable is connected, open **System Preferences** and then the **Displays Preference Pane** on the Mac.

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Step 5 — Adjust Mac Display Mrroring

- Select the **Arrangement** Tab at the top.

  ⚠ The **Arrangement** Tab will not be available unless a second monitor is plugged in and detected. Check the video connection if it us unavailable.

- Check the **Mirrored Display** box to project the Mac desktop.

  📌 Mirroring AUTOMATICALLY matches the computer and projector resolution. The best resolution for the projector (and audience viewing) is often less than ideal on the computer; **black bars or fuzzy screens on the computer are common**.

Step 6 — Set Display Resolution

- Select the **Display** tab, and choose a preferred projector resolution.

  - 📌 **Video Tip:** Try **1280 x 1024**, or **1280 x 768**. Some older projectors may require **1024 x 768**.

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