WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PASSIVE AND ACTIVE DISPLAYPORT ADAPTERS/CONVERTERS?

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The type of DisplayPort adapter you need—passive or active—depends on the type of signal you're converting to, how many monitors you're using, and whether your video source supports dual-mode DisplayPort (DP++) output.

Passive DisplayPort Adapters:

If your video source supports dual-mode DisplayPort (DP++), you can use a passive adapter to convert DisplayPort signals to single-link DVI or HDMI. The DP++ video source performs the conversion instead of the adapter. Source devices that support dual-mode DisplayPort are usually marked with the DP++ logo. Keep in mind that some graphics cards cannot support DP++ output on the maximum number of monitors. If you're connecting to multiple monitors, you might need an active adapter.

Active DisplayPort Adapters:

An active DisplayPort adapter converts both single-mode and dual-mode output, so your connected video source doesn't have to support DP++. The adapter performs the conversion from DisplayPort to VGA, DVI or HDMI instead of the source device. Active adapters are ideal for use with graphics cards, such as AMD Eyefinity, that do not output dual-mode signals.