How to Connect a Laptop to a Projector

For the most part, connecting your laptop to a projector is relatively simple. While not every setup is identical, here are a few basic steps to help guide you through the process.

Steps for Connecting a Laptop to a Projector

1. Make sure your computer and laptop are **both turned off**.

2. Connect the video cable (**usually VGA**) from your laptop's external video port to the projector.
(Unsure what video output you have? View our video connection guide.)

3. Plug your projector into an electrical outlet and press the **"power"** button to turn it ON.

4. Turn on your laptop.

5. If you need audio for your presentation, connect the laptop's **"audio out"** port to the projector, or to another sound system.

6. Sync the projector and laptop by holding down the **FUNCTION** key and

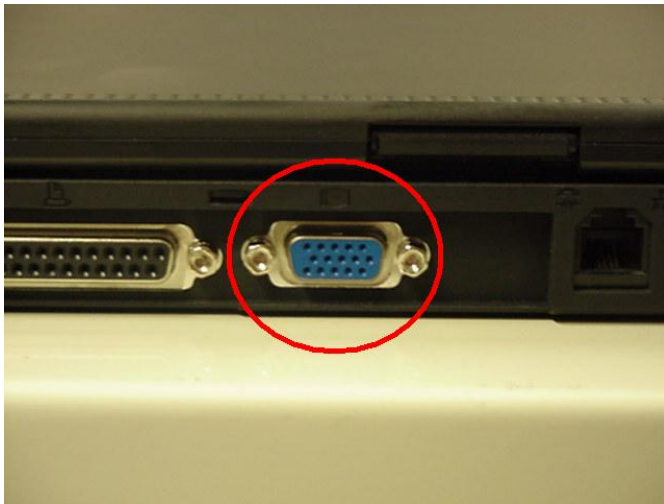pressing one of the following keys to toggle:

(Note: Depending on your computer, you may have to use a different F key than those listed above.)

Laptop Computer Video Output Guide

This is a simple guide to help you determine **which video cable you need to connect your laptop to a projector or TV**. For more information, contact the manufacturer of your PC or Mac laptop.

Common Laptop Video Connectors:

VGA

VGA is an old but popular video output that is still **present on many PC laptops**. Often it is blue or grey in color.

DVI

DVI is found on **some older PC laptops** and continues to be used on many desktops. Often white or cream in color.

Display Port

Display Port is **found on many PC laptops**. Usually you'll need a Display Port to HDMI adapter for TVs.

FULL-SIZE HDMI PORT

HDMI

HDMI is found on most **newer PC laptops and some older Macbooks**. HDMI transmits both video & audio.

Thunderbolt

Thunderbolt is present on **all newer Macbooks and iMacs**. [You'll need an adapter](#) to connect to a TV or projector.

USB-C

A data, video & power connection on **new Macbook & PC laptops**. [You'll need an adapter](#) to connect to a TV or projector.