

# Converting your Laptop to a Desktop Computer

## What you need

1. A Laptop or Netbook that has a VGA, DVI or HDMI connection. HDMI is the preferred option.
2. A computer monitor that has a connection that matches the laptop (you can buy converters)
3. A USB corded mouse and keyboard, or wireless mouse and keyboard (either combo, or separate)  
For example:
  - Logitech Corded Optical Mouse M105 (~\$18)
  - Logitech K120 Keyboard (~\$24)
  - Wireless: Logitech MK220 Wireless Keyboard and Mouse Combo (~\$30)
4. A USB hub (optional depending on number of USB ports available). *Note that you can use a cheap unpowered USB Hub to connect mouse/keyboard, such as Targus 4-Port USB Hub (~\$15).*

## Connecting up the Mouse and Keyboard

### *Using USB mouse & keyboard*

Connect the USB Hub to the laptop (optional)

Connect the USB mouse and keyboard to the USB hub or directly in a USB port

## Monitor/computer connection

A monitor can be connected to a computer using VGA, DVI, HDMI connections.

The best connection to use is HDMI, which most computers and monitors have.

Adaptors are available to convert one type to another.

Example: a computer has a HDMI socket and monitor has DVI and VGA sockets. In this case, a DVI to HDMI adaptor is needed to be plugged into the DVI socket then a standard HDMI cable can be used.

*Check what connections you need before purchasing a monitor.*



### **A couple of cheap monitors**

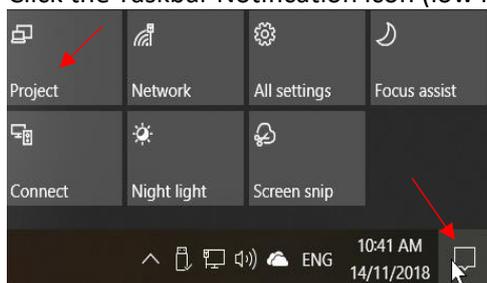
Acer 21.5" LED Monitor KA220HQ officeworks - \$98

LG 22MK400H-B 22in Full HD Monitor – PC Case Gear \$119

## Change the Windows Projection settings to **Second screen only**

When the monitor is connected and powered up, you need to open the *Project* (ie Projection) settings, and change the setting to **Second screen only**. There are two ways to access these settings:

1. Keyboard: Windows key  + P, OR
2. Click the Taskbar Notification icon (low right on taskbar), click the *Project* quick access icon



You will see these options - choose **Second screen only**

*You will also see Multiple displays settings in Start > Settings > System > Display. It is best not to use this option.*

## Changing display resolution, brightness etc.

Depending on your system and monitor type you may be able to access display settings and change them.

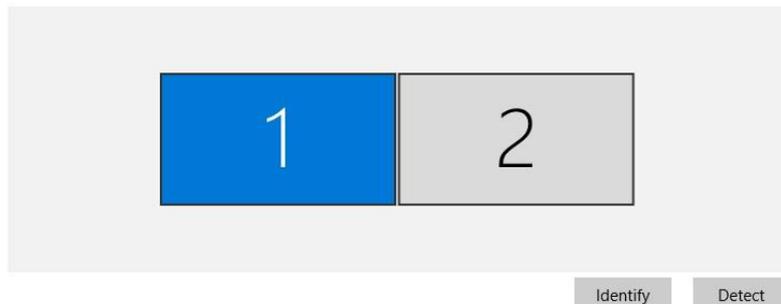
*Start > Settings > System > Display*

**Don't use the rearrangement option.**

### Display

Select and rearrange displays

Select a display below to change the settings for it. Press and hold (or select) a display, then drag to rearrange it.



### Brightness and color

Change brightness



Night light (off until 9:00 PM)

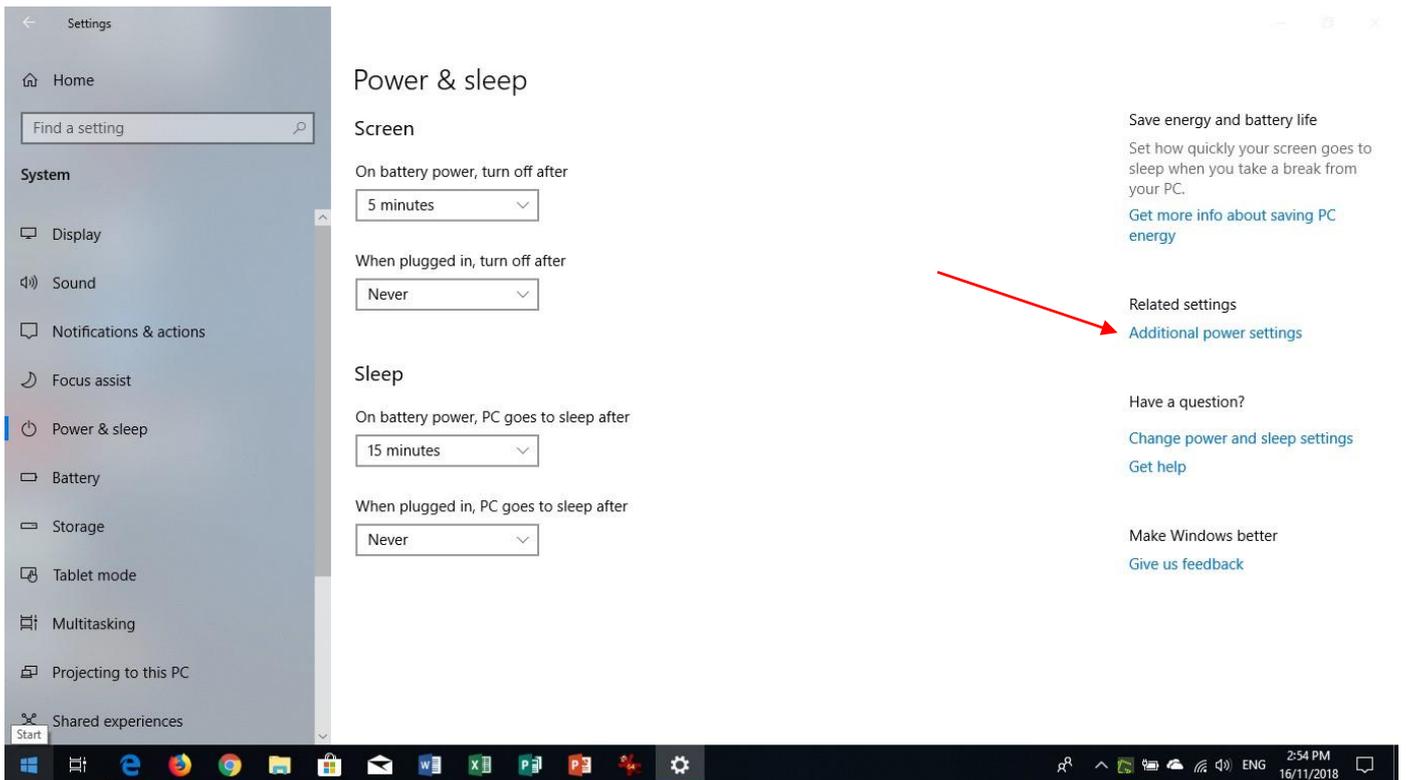


## Blank screen recovery

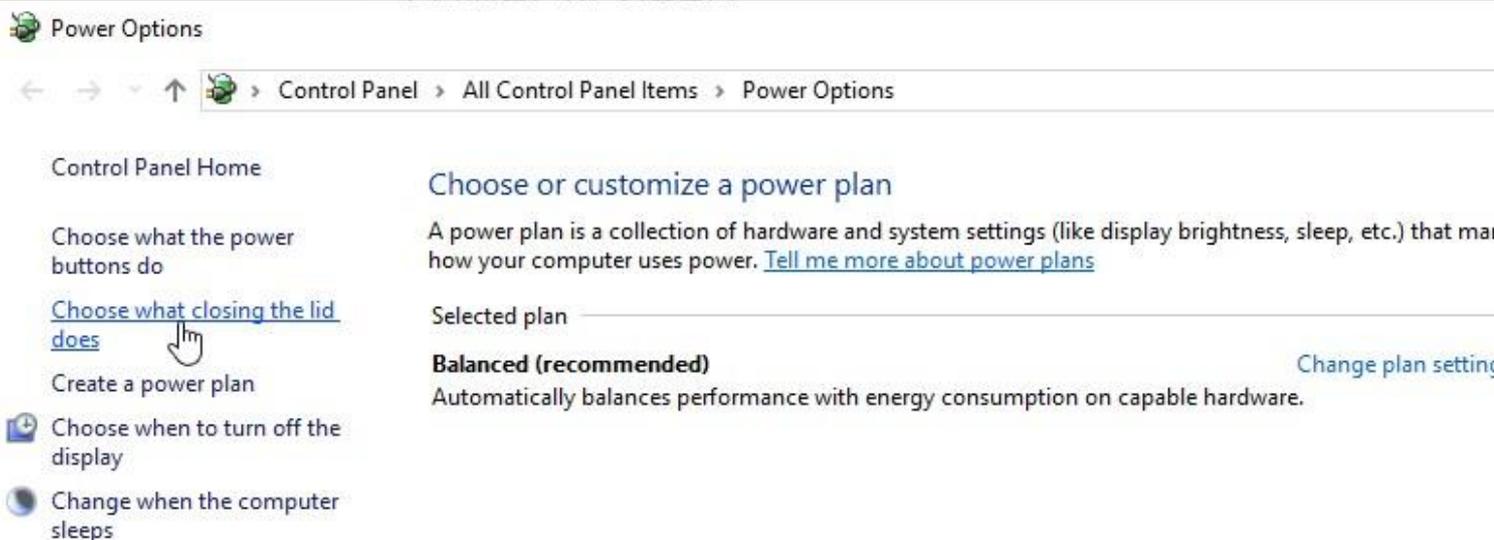
If the second screen loses power or you change its settings resulting in two blank screens, simply unplug the monitor cable from the computer and Windows will revert to the Laptop screen.

## (Optional) Change Windows power settings so you can close the lid of the laptop and it will continue to run (... and coffee-proof your laptop!)

Right click on the Start button and choose *Power options*, OR *Start > Settings > System > Power & sleep*  
Click on *Additional power settings*



Click Choose what closing the lid does



In the section *When I close the lid*, under *Plugged in*, choose *Do nothing*, then *Save changes*

### Define power buttons and turn on password protection

Choose the power settings that you want for your computer. The changes you make to the settings on this page apply to all of your power plans.

 [Change settings that are currently unavailable](#)

Power and sleep buttons and lid settings

	On battery	Plugged in
When I press the power button:	Sleep	Sleep
When I press the sleep button:	Sleep	Sleep
When I close the lid:	Sleep	Do nothing

Shutdown settings

- Turn on fast startup (recommended)  
This helps start your PC faster after shutdown. Restart isn't affected. [Learn More](#)
- Sleep  
Show in Power menu.
- Hibernate  
Show in Power menu.
- Lock  
Show in account picture menu.

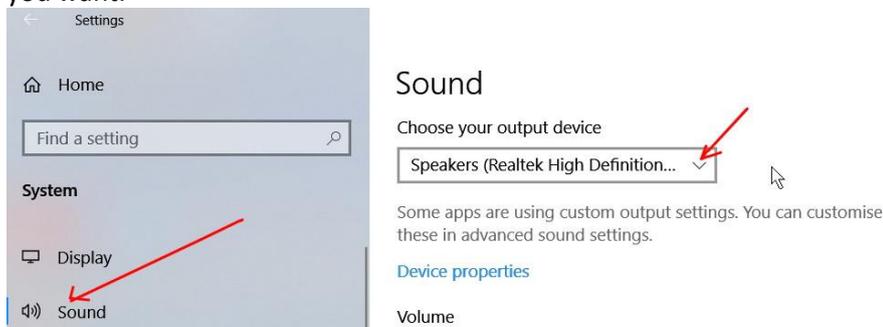
[Save changes](#) [Cancel](#)

## What to do if you have no sound

Windows may think that your 2<sup>nd</sup> display has speakers (some do, in fact), and it may switch the sound output to the 2<sup>nd</sup> monitor.

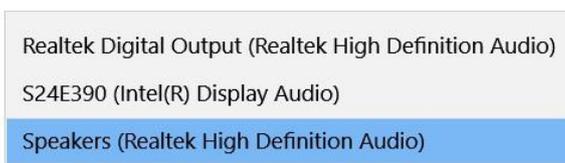
If you have no sound, or want to change it back to the laptop speakers, or some other sound output device, you can easily change the *Sound Output device* setting.

*Start > Settings > System > Sound*, click on the dropdown box under *Choose your output device*, and select the device you want.



The screenshot shows the Windows Settings application. On the left, the 'System' category is expanded, and 'Sound' is selected. A red arrow points to the 'Sound' option. On the right, the 'Sound' settings page is displayed. Under 'Choose your output device', a dropdown menu is open, showing 'Speakers (Realtek High Definition...)' as the selected device. A red arrow points to this dropdown menu. Below the dropdown, there is a note: 'Some apps are using custom output settings. You can customise these in advanced sound settings.' and a link for 'Device properties'. At the bottom, there is a 'Volume' section.

In this example there are three output devices to choose from:



A list of three sound output devices is shown. The first is 'Realtek Digital Output (Realtek High Definition Audio)'. The second is 'S24E390 (Intel(R) Display Audio)'. The third is 'Speakers (Realtek High Definition Audio)', which is highlighted with a blue background.