

# AI-04504 Dell Dock Models

**Tell me about the Dell Dock genealogy. I want to know which old Dell Docks to get that are old now but works. I will be using the Dell Docks interchangeably on my Dell Latitude 7390 2-in-1 and MacBook Pro and planning to have 2 extra USB C monitor (ASUS mb169ck).**

Here is the breakdown of the Dell dock genealogy and the best used options for your dual-system setup.

## 1. Dell Dock Genealogy: A Quick History

Dell's docking station lineage evolved across four distinct eras, transitioning from proprietary pin connectors to modern Thunderbolt standards.

[E-Port Era] —> [Gen 1: Early USB-C] —> [Gen 2: Modular Era] —> [Gen 3: TB4 Era]  
(Proprietary) (WD15, TB16, D6000) (WD19, WD19TB/S) (WD22TB4)

### Generation 0: The Proprietary Era (2007–2016)

- **E-Port / E-Dock Series:** Heavy physical snap-in docks with a 214-pin bottom connector.
- **Verdict: Obsolete.** Works only with legacy 4th to 7th Gen Latitudes (not your USB-C 7390 2-in-1 or Mac).

### Generation 1: The Early USB-C & DisplayLink Era (2016–2018)

- **Dell WD15:** Dell's first USB-C dock. Uses USB-C DP Alt Mode.
  - *Drawback:* Low bandwidth (max dual 1080p on Windows). Mirrors screens on Mac.
- **Dell TB16:** Thunderbolt 3 dock with a built-in cooling fan.
  - *Drawback:* Notoriously buggy, runs hot, requires huge 180W/240W power bricks, and has cable stability issues.
- **Dell Universal Dock D6000:** USB-C/USB-A dock powered by **DisplayLink** software.
  - *Key trait:* Uses software compression to bypass hardware monitor limits. Works across almost any OS (macOS, Windows, ChromeOS).

### Generation 2: The Modular Era (2019–2021) — *The Sweet Spot*

Dell introduced interchangeable USB-C/TB3 cable modules and refined thermal management. The **"S" models** (WD19S, WD19TBS) were released during the 2021 chip shortage and are identical to non-S

models, just without 3.5mm audio jacks.

- **WD19 / WD19S:** Standard USB-C 3.1 Gen 2 dock.
- **WD19TB / WD19TBS:** Thunderbolt 3 dock. Adds a dedicated downstream Thunderbolt 3 port.

### Generation 3: Thunderbolt 4 Era (2022–Present)

- **WD22TB4:** Upgraded to Thunderbolt 4 with dual downstream TB4 ports.
- **Verdict:** Excellent, but commands higher prices on the used market.

## 2. The macOS vs. Windows Compatibility Trap

Mixing a **Dell Latitude 7390 2-in-1** (Windows) and a **MacBook Pro** introduces a major technical hurdle:

- **macOS does not support DisplayPort MST (Multi-Stream Transport).**
- If you plug a Mac into a standard USB-C MST dock (like the WD15, WD19, or WD19S), both external monitors will display identical mirrored images.
- To get **two distinct extended displays** on a MacBook Pro, you must use either:
  1. **A Thunderbolt Dock (WD19TB / WD19TBS / WD22TB4)**, which routes dual uncompressed video signals over Thunderbolt un-nested.
  2. **A DisplayLink Dock (D6000)**, which compresses video over USB data using the macOS DisplayLink manager driver.

## 3. Best Used Dell Docks for Your Setup

The **ASUS MB169CK** portable monitors feature **dual USB-C inputs (DP Alt Mode)** and a **Mini-HDMI input**. Since docks rarely provide two downstream USB-C ports that output DP Alt Mode video and power simultaneously, here are the best solutions:

### Option A: Dell WD19TB or WD19TBS (*Best Performance & Hardware Integration*)

- **Typical Used Price:** ~\$40 – \$65 (ensure it includes the **180W Dell AC adapter**)
- **Why it works:** It acts as a full Thunderbolt 3 hub on your Latitude and MacBook Pro.
- **How to connect your 2x ASUS MB169CK monitors:**
  - **Monitor 1:** USB-C to USB-C cable directly into the dock's rear **Thunderbolt 3 downstream port** (provides video + power).
  - **Monitor 2:** Mini-HDMI to HDMI cable (for video into the dock's HDMI port) + USB-A to USB-C cable (into dock USB port for power). Alternatively, a DisplayPort-to-USB-C directional cable.

### Option B: Dell D6000 (*Easiest Plug-and-Play Cross-Platform Pick*)

- **Typical Used Price:** ~\$35 – \$50 (requires **130W Dell AC adapter**)

- **Why it works:** Uses DisplayLink software to drive dual/triple extended displays on both Mac and Windows easily.
- **How to connect your 2x ASUS MB169CK monitors:**
  - Since the D6000's front USB-C port is data-only (no video output), connect both monitors using **Mini-HDMI to HDMI cables** for video (into the dock's HDMI/DP ports via adapters) + **USB-A to USB-C cables** plugged into the dock for monitor power.

## Recommendation Summary

| Dock Model            | Used Price | Mac Extended Displays?       | Latitude 7390 Works? | Wiring setup for 2x ASUS MB169CK                         |
|-----------------------|------------|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Dell WD19TB / WD19TBS | \$40–\$65  | Yes (via TB3 + DP/HDMI)      | Yes (100% Native)    | 1x USB-C (TB port) + 1x HDMI to Mini-HDMI (w/ USB power) |
| Dell D6000            | \$35–\$50  | Yes (via DisplayLink driver) | Yes (via USB-C)      | 2x Mini-HDMI to HDMI cables + 2x USB power cables        |
| Dell WD15             | \$15–\$25  | No (Mirrors on Mac)          | Yes                  | Not recommended for dual Mac setup                       |
| Dell TB16             | \$20–\$35  | Yes (Unstable)               | Yes                  | Avoid (thermal/firmware issues)                          |

**Pro-Tip on Power Adapters:** Always verify the used seller includes the power brick. The **WD19TB** requires a **180W Dell barrel charger** to supply full passthrough power (up to 130W to Dell laptops and 90W/96W to MacBooks).

