StreamGearLab

OBS Black Screen Fix Card

Find the source that shows black, then apply its fix. Right-click source → Properties.

Display Capture
Capture Method: "Windows 10". Laptop: keep OBS on the high-performance GPU.

Window Capture
Swap Capture Method: Windows 10 ↔ BitBlt. Don't minimize the app.

Game Capture
Run OBS as admin. Overlays off. Borderless + Window Capture.

Mac
macOS Screen Capture. OBS menu → Review App Permissions → Screen Recording.

Which source to use

Source	Captures	Black screen usually means
Display Capture	Whole monitor (Windows)	Wrong capture method, often dual-GPU laptops
Window Capture	One app window	App doesn't work with the current method
Game Capture	A running game (Windows)	Game blocks the hook, needs admin, or overlay conflict
macOS Screen Capture	Display, app or window (macOS 13+)	Screen Recording permission missing

Windows checklist

- [ ] Display Capture → Capture Method → "Windows 10" (needs Windows 10 1903+ and OBS 27+).
- [ ] The yellow border is normal. Only you see it, not viewers.
- [ ] Window Capture: try BitBlt, then Windows 10. Keep the window un-minimized.
- [ ] Game Capture: run OBS as administrator. Turn off RivaTuner/MSI Afterburner and FPS overlays.
- [ ] RTSS 7.3.2+: enable "Use Microsoft Detours API hooking".
- [ ] Game blocks capture? Borderless windowed + Window Capture. DX12 issues: try DX11.
- [ ] Fullscreen game + Alt+Tab = black preview. Check with a test recording instead.

Mac checklist

- [ ] Use macOS Screen Capture (older Display/Window Capture are deprecated on macOS 13+).
- [ ] OBS menu → Review App Permissions → enable Screen Recording (plus Camera and Mic).
- [ ] Quit and reopen OBS. Still black? Add a fresh macOS Screen Capture source.

Still black? Update OBS and GPU drivers. Test in a new scene with one source. Check the source isn't hidden or covered by a layer above it.