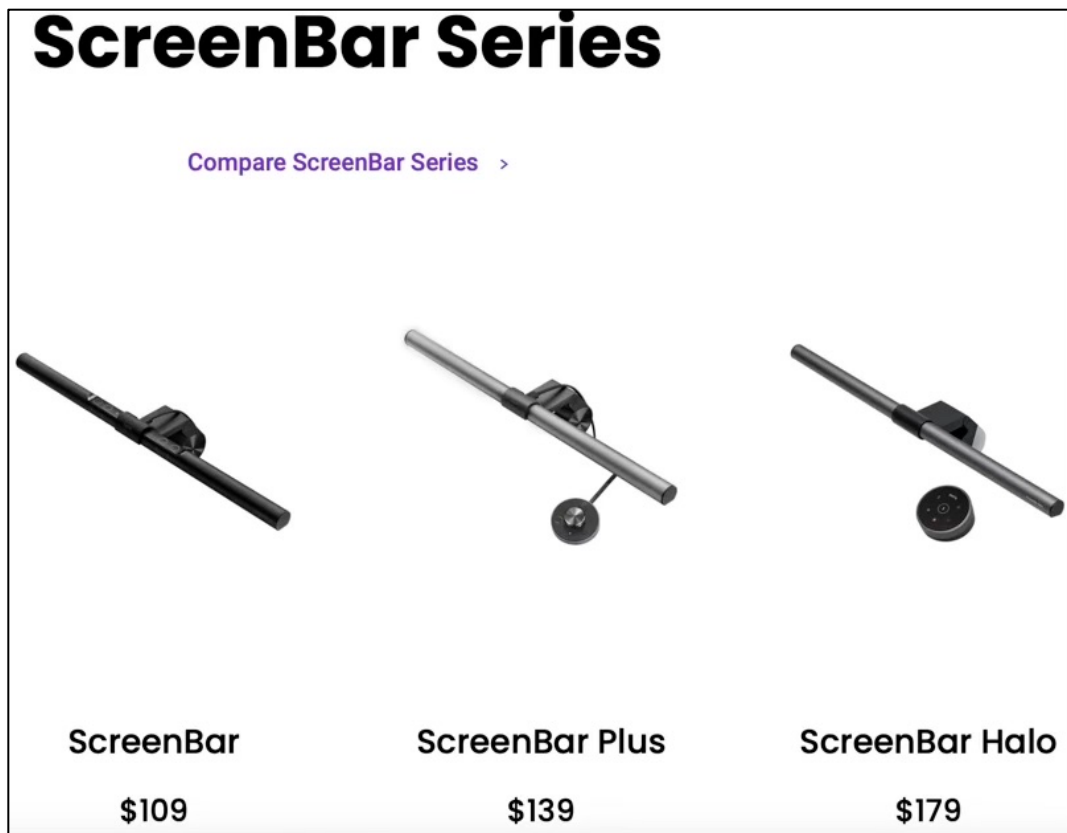## ScreenBar Pro Monitor Light Bar Review

Note: This discussion is based on the latest version of macOS Sonoma, 14.5. Some illustrations may differ when using other versions of macOS. Also, some illustrations may be from screenshots on my iMac or MacBook Pro. Credits: See the credits at the end of this presentation.

For a while now, I've been searching for something that would provide for better illumination of my desk area—especially the keyboard—in front on my iMac. I use a space gray keyboard (black keys with white lettering) and wanted them to show up more clearly.

I've been using an LED desk lamp set off to the right of the keyboard, but it still didn't illuminate the keyboard as much as I wanted. Also, I had to carefully adjust it so it didn't cause glare by also shining a little on my iMac's screen

ScreenBar Light Bar. I'd been looking at a variety of lighting products and came across the ScreenBar light bar series from **BenQ**. These are LED lighting devices that mount on the top of a monitor and project an asymmetrical light that shines down on the desk area, including the keyboard, but not on the monitor's screen. At the time, three models were available, all of which are powered via a power cable from a USB source (5V/1A) such as one on your monitor or Mac:

- **ScreenBar** ($109) with adjustment control buttons on the bar.
- **ScreenBar Plus** ($139) with adjustment features on a control module that sits on the desk and is connected by a cable to the light bar.
- **ScreenBar Halo** ($179) with adjustment features on a control module that sits anywhere you wish and is connected to the light bar wirelessly via Bluetooth.

ScreenBar Models

What caught my interest was the fact that the asymmetrical light pattern is focused on the center of the desk (and keyboard) and does not shine on the face of the monitor. So, no glare on the screen.

One Downside. However, there was one downside to all of them. The mounting bracket would cover the camera on my iMac! So, the ScreenBar would have to be installed slightly off center to avoid covering the camera. While not a showstopper, it was a slight annoyance.

ScreenBar Pro. I was considering one of the first two models since I didn't see any reason to pay the premium for the ScreenBar Halo with Bluetooth-connected control module. Then a few weeks ago, BenQ introduced the **ScreenBar Pro** ($139). This is basically an improved redesign of the $109 basic ScreenBar unit. The first feature that caught my attention was that the ScreenBar Pro mount no longer covers the iMac's camera! It also appears to mount on a wider array of monitors, such as those with curved screens.

So, I ordered the ScreenBar Pro from BenQ on May 8th and received it a few days later. (The total cost was $145.95 including tax.) My order was nicely packaged, and set up was straightforward. I've been using it for several days now and am very satisfied with it.

Here's an image of the ScreenBar Pro installed on a computer monitor:

ScreenBar Pro

Here's another image:

ScreenBar Pro

ScreenBar Videos. Here are a couple of BenQ short videos (YouTube):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bs2Lc7ytnjQ

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6u6Eyq8Bk_w

BenQ's ScreenBar Pro website:

https://www.benq.com/en-us/lighting/monitor-light/screenbar-pro.html

ScreenBar Pro Features. Here's a closer look at the ScreenBar Pro's features:

- **Asymmetrical Illumination.** The light bar is designed to deliver a wide and balanced illumination, without causing any reflective glare on the screen.
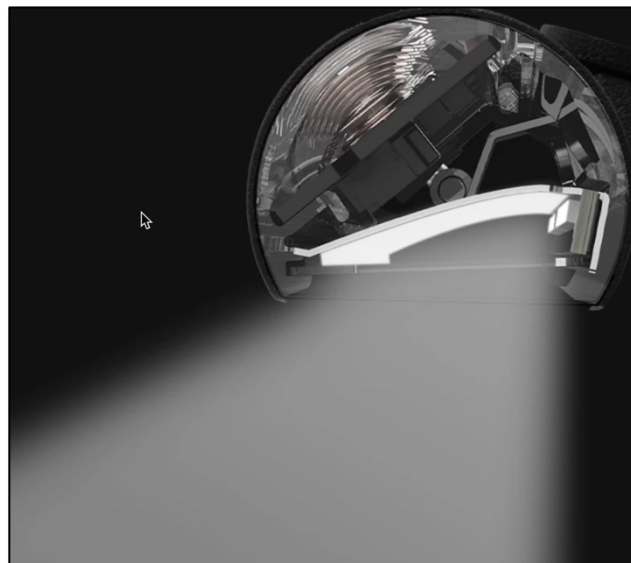
- **Secure Attachment.** The design of the clamp's rear foot allows it to securely attach to monitors with a bulge on the back, preventing any obstruction to the lifting bracket.
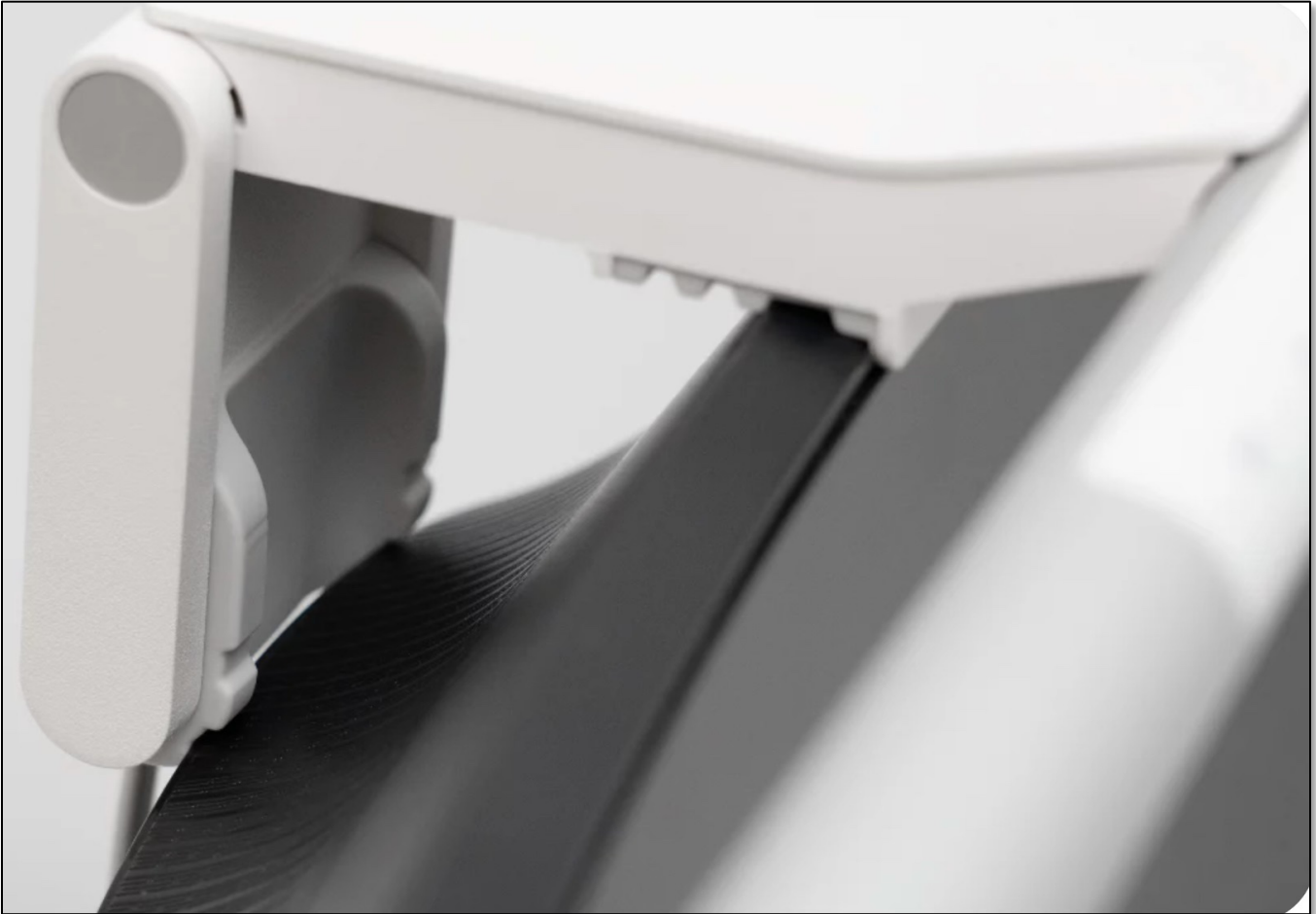

- **Camera Lens Not Blocked.** The front edge of the clamp is designed to not obstruct the camera lens while also compatible with ultra-narrow bezel monitors.

- **Flexible Mounting.** The clamp's top has an asymmetrical sawtooth design for easy mounting onto non-flat structures above the monitor. This avoids interfering with the microphone/speaker at the top of the screen.


Monitor with beveled bezel	Monitor with round bezel	Curved monitor	Monitor with bulge on the back
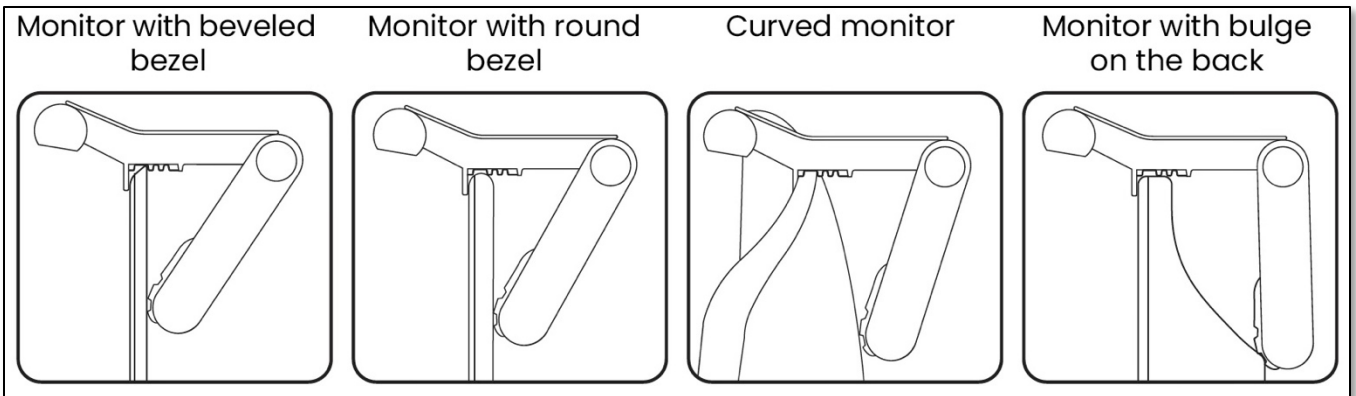
● **Automatic "Lights On" When You Sit and Automatic Shut Off When You Leave.** Tapping the **Presence Detection** button activates the built-in ultrasonic sensor which detects moving objects in front of the screen and automatically turns on the light bar when the user enters the detection area. It automatically shuts off after absent for five minutes.
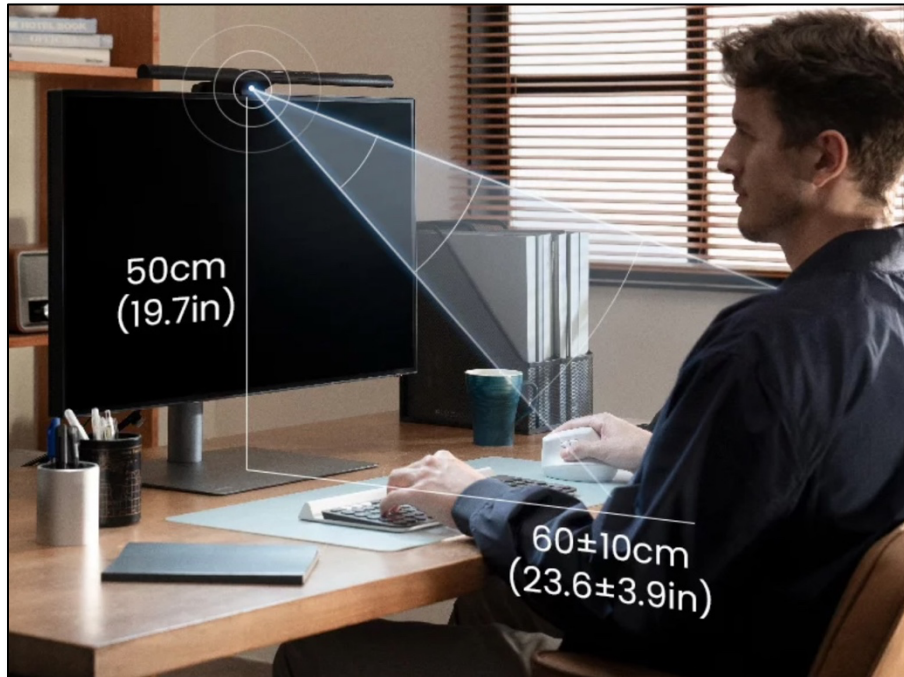
Other Features & Controls on the Lamp Head. Here are the other features of the ScreenBar Pro. Each one is available by tapping its button/key (lights up).
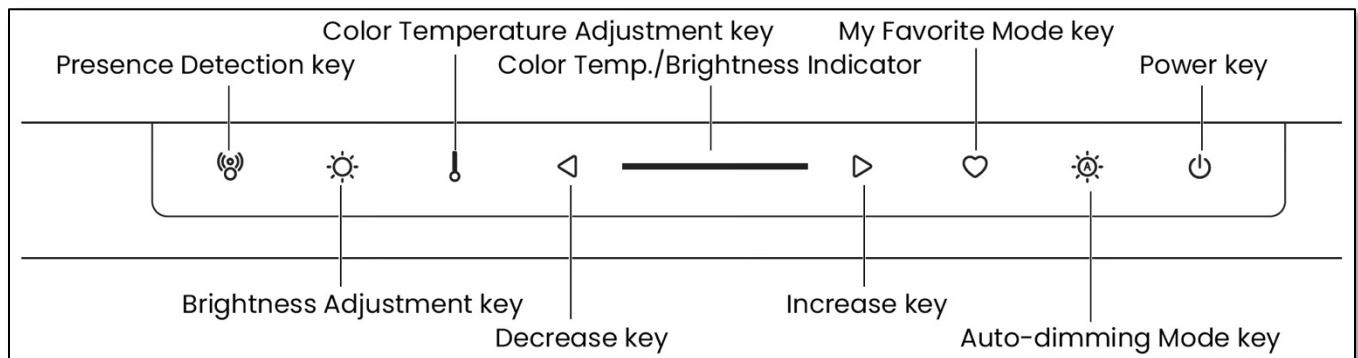
Brightness. Tap the Brightness adjustment button to change the intensity of lighting. Then use the Decrease and Increase arrow keys on either side of the Color Temp./Brightness Indicator (center of the light bar) to select from the range brightness levels.

Color Temperature. The light color projected by the light bar can be adjusted from 2,700K (warm) to 6,500K (daylight). Tap the Color Temperature adjustment button. Then use the arrow keys to adjust the color temperature.

My Favorite Mode. After manually adjusting the lamp's brightness and color temperature settings, tap and hold this button for three seconds to save them as your Favorite Mode. Regardless of any future adjustments that you make to brightness and color, tapping this button will restore your saved settings.

Auto-Dimming Mode. Tap this button to enter the Auto-Dimming mode. This will automatically adjust the working illumination to a level to help protect your eyes.

**Power.** Tap this button to turn on/off the light bar.

Specifications

Model	CR21_C
AC power input	100–240V AC, 50/60Hz (US/JP) 220–240V AC, 50/60Hz (EU/UK)
Max. power consumption	Max. 8.5W
Dimensions (Width x Depth x Height)	50 x 13.5 x 9.2 cm
Power adapter model number	PS15J050K3000UC (US/JP) PS15K050K3000Z (EU/UK)
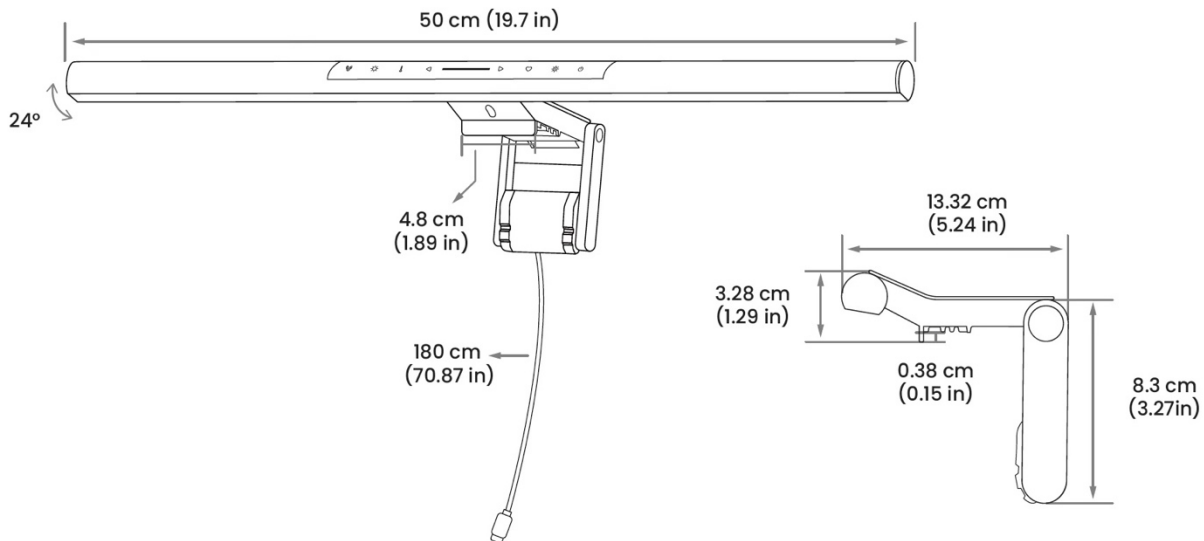
(Continued on the next page.)

Installation. Here's an image from the ScreenBar Pro Manual:
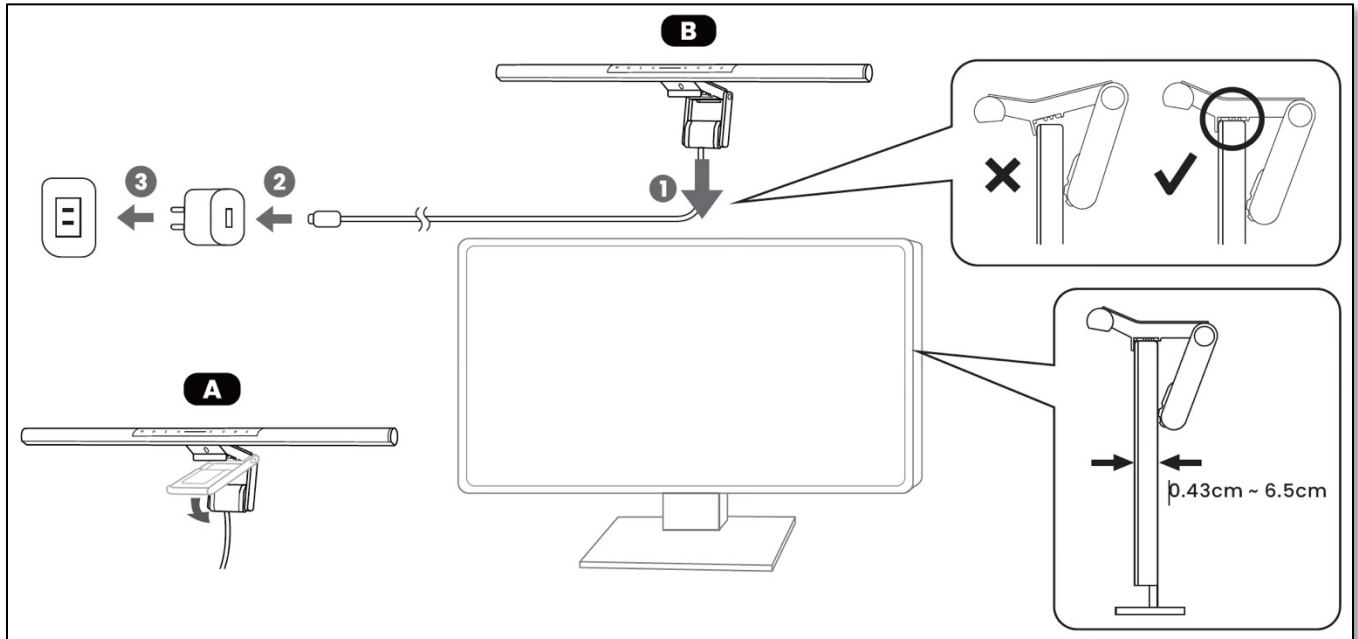
Installation on my iMac was straightforward. A nice addition to the product was inclusion of a USB-C 15W Power Adapter giving you the option of using a USB-C port on your computer, if available, or the separate power adapter.

Summary

I'd been searching for something that would give me better illumination of my desk area, especially my space gray keyboard (black keys with white lettering) to make it show up more clearly. My LED desk lamp didn't illuminate the keyboard as much as I wanted and had to be placed it didn't also cause glare on my iMac's screen.

After looking at a variety of lighting products, I came across the BenQ ScreenBar light bar series which mount on the top of a monitor. They project a light that shines down on the desk area and keyboard but not on the monitor's screen. One downside to the three models were available was that the mount covered my iMac's camera. Then recently, the ScreenBar Pro model was released, and it's mount no longer covered the camera.

I purchased the ScreenBar Pro from BenQ and installed it a few days ago. It has performed as advertised, and I'm very satisfied with it.

Next Presentation

Next month we'll take a look at another macOS feature or utility.

Have a favorite Mac Tip or utility? Please feel free to pass it along, and I'll see if I can work it into a future presentation.

If you have any suggestions for presentation topics, including macOS utilities, please contact me at slp4668@gmail.com.

–Steve Parker

Credits:

BenQ Light Bar Products
https://www.benq.com/en-us/lighting/monitor-light.html

ScreenBar Pro
https://www.benq.com/en-us/lighting/monitor-light/screenbar-pro.html