



## Feature comparison between SpotQuest and Same Spots

Analysis Stage	SpotQuest	SameSpots
Image QC	Automatic image capture QC checks but no image intensity histogram.	Automatic measures quality of image capture as images are loaded. Image intensity histogram provides feedback on intensity levels in use and dynamic range.
Reference image selection	No difference	No difference
Mask of disinterest	No difference	No difference
Alignment method	<b>A fixed alignment approach.</b> You must apply and accept 10 manual vectors on every image before automatic alignment	<b>Automatic alignment approach.</b> One-click to align all your images. Switch to manual alignment and chose how many and where to add them if required. Review your alignment at each step and edit directly.
Alignment review	Alignment review is guided by the software. The user has zoomed-in views a region of all the gels visible on the screen with alignment grid showing. By clicking "Next" button, the zoomed view moves around the gels until all of it has been reviewed.	Check how well your alignment has been applied during and after the alignment stage with the help of the transition window and checker-board gel views. These enable you to see how good (or bad) the alignment is at any time.
Spot outline map	No flexibility. All images are used to generate the outline map.	You can select images used to create the SameSpot outline map. This helps reduces the speed of analysis with large numbers of gels and allow spots to be measured on images of lower quality than the rest without distorting the matching.
Filtering	No difference	No difference
Normalisation review	No normalisation review	Review normalisation plot and normalisation factor for each image. You can then take corrective action if required to maintain experimental quality. The user has the option not to use any normalisation in their experiment (non-DIGE only). This is useful in a dilution series experiment.

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Experiment design/ group set up	Create a single between-subject image analysis design only.	Two options to choose from: between-subject design and within-subject design. You can create multiple comparisons / groupings of the same set of gels in each experiment.
View results - tags	No tagging possible. Just individual tick/cross to select a sub-set of significant spots.	Spots can be selected and coloured based on user defined characteristics. Each spot of interest can be tagged and viewed and exported.
View results – CV plot	No Coefficient of Variation (CV) plot.	There is a Coefficient of Variation (CV) plot of data to show you spots with a high variance in measurements between gels.
View results – extended data table	No extended data table.	The data table contains additional fields: Max CV (%), highest mean, lowest mean, X position, Y position,
Multivariate statistics	No multivariate statistical analysis.	Includes tests for False Discovery Rate (q-values), Principal Components Analysis, Correlation Analysis and Power Analysis
Data export	Spot measurements can only be exported as an Excel	Export spot measurements directly in R format or as an Excel table with whatever fields you select.
Data import	Not possible to import data from external package.	When you import results which have been previously exported for further statistical analysis, it is now possible to label this data with a tag and link it back to the original spot data.
Import Proteins	Add notes on spots individually	Import protein accession numbers and MS-identifications against each spot picked, either as either .csv or Mascot .XML file.
pI & molecular weight calibration	No difference	No difference
Picking	Only supports manual picking. Image map is generated to print out and guide you to physically achieve this.	Generates picking files compatible with a range of picking robots. If using separate picking gel it uses pixel-level alignment to the analysis gel for picking the exact point corresponding to the spot of interest.
Clip Gallery	No clip gallery	Output publication quality images of your results with a simple right click as you work through each view of your data.
Report	Customisable report restricted to measurements in SpotQuest	Customisable report containing all measurements.