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Fig. S1. Alignment of GFP, sfGFP, eGFP, eYFP, mCherry and mRuby2. Sequence-based alignment of GFP, sfGFP, eGFP, eYFP, mCherry and mRuby2. Identical residues to the GFP sequence (top line) are represented by a dot (.), gaps are shown by hyphens (-). Differences to GFP are written in one letter amino acid code and are highlighted in green, red and yellow for sfGFP, eGFP and eYFP, respectively. Differences between mCherry and mRuby2 are highlighted in gray. Compared to GFP (which was used in the RD selection) sfGFP differs in 10 residues (96% sequence identity), eGFP in 3 residues (99%) and eYFP in 6 residues (97%). mCherry (which was the target used in a different RD selection) and mRuby2 have sequence identities of 27 and 30% to GFP, respectively, and 54% to each other.

Fig. S2. Analysis of IMAC-purified DARPin. IMAC-purified DARPins were run on a 15% acrylamide gel. Note that some DARPins run as double bands; this however, is a known phenomenon: since DARPins are very stable they tend to not fully unfold despite an incubation in SDS loading buffer at 96 °C (Binz et al., 2003).

Fig. S3. 2m22 binding to mCherry analyzed by SEC. 2m22 and mCherry were run on SEC either alone or as an equimolar mixture. Elution of mCherry was followed by absorption at 280 nm and at its absorption maximum at 587 nm. Elution of 2m22 was followed by absorption at 230 nm (due to very low extinction coefficient at 280 nm). Upon co-incubation of 2m22 and mCherry a clear and complete shift towards higher molecular weights can be seen, indicating that also the dimeric fraction of 2m22 converts into a 1:1 complex with mCherry.

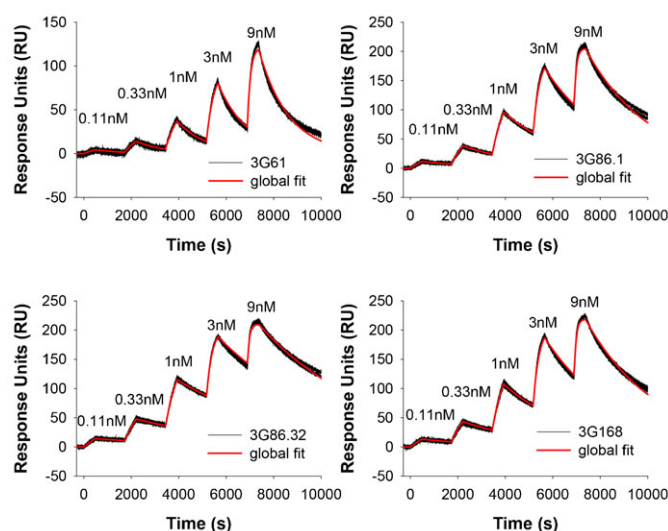


Fig. S4. Kinetic titration SPR experiments of DARPins binding to GFP. Five increasing DARPIn concentrations (0.11, 0.33, 1, 3, and 9 nM) were injected over a GFP-coated surface and binding was monitored by SPR. Black curves represent duplicates of binding signals, red curves indicate a global fit to a 1:1 kinetic titration binding model (Karlsson et al., 2006). Extracted kinetic data can be found in Table 1.

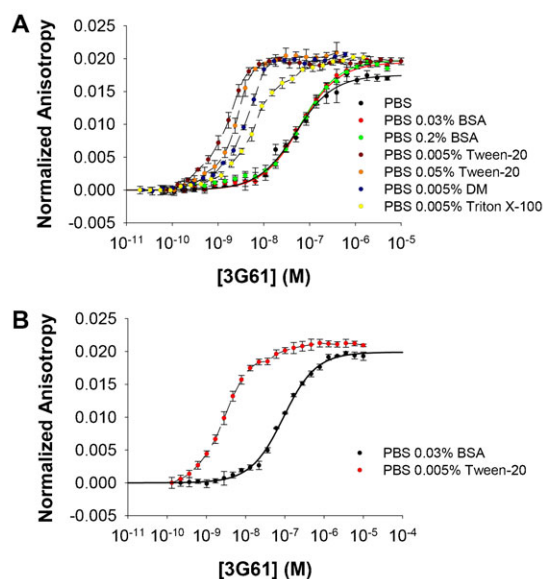


Fig. S5. Influence of buffer conditions on the affinity of anti-GFP DARPins 3G61 binding to GFP (A) and sfGFP (B). Fluorescence anisotropy assays with anti-GFP DARPins 3G61 were carried out in different buffer conditions. (A) Binding to GFP: addition of BSA does not alter the K_D as assays performed in PBS, PBS with 0.03% BSA and PBS with 0.2% BSA all give K_D s of about 60 nM (Table 1). In contrast, addition of Tween-20, decyl-maltoside (DM) and Triton X-100 increases the affinity, although to different extents; note that the dashed lines do not represent a fitted curve, as these assay conditions are not suitable to obtain a quantitative result (as [GFP] is higher than K_D). Nonetheless, it is obvious that the addition of Tween-20 increases the affinity to around the same K_D value determined by SPR (supplementary material Fig. S4 and Table 1), measured under the same conditions. (B) Also binding to sfGFP is much tighter in PBS with Tween-20; also here the dashed line does not represent a fit. For the affinity in PBS with 0.03% BSA, see Table 1.

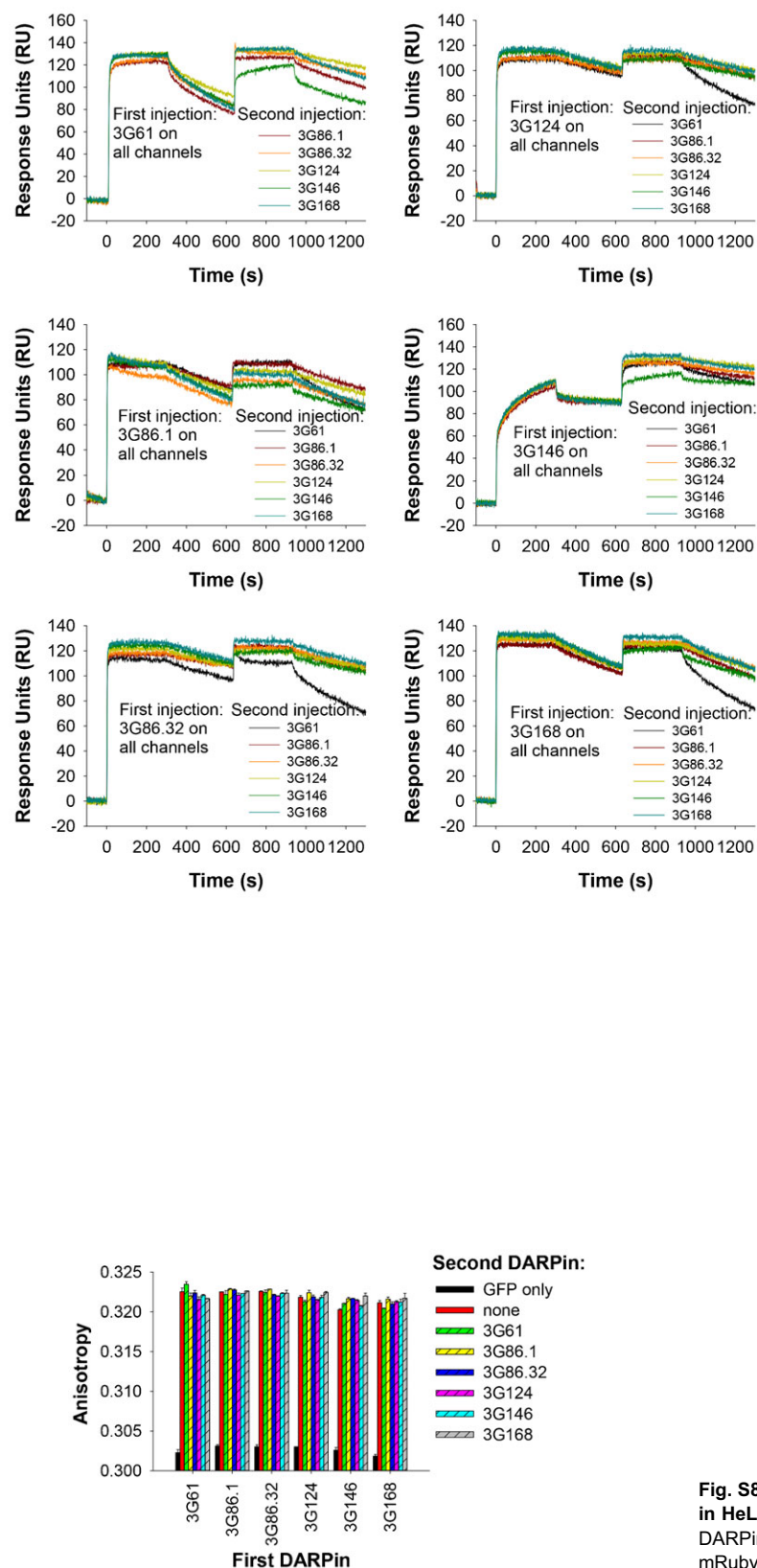


Fig. S7. Epitope binning using FA. GFP was incubated either alone, with an excess of one or with a combination of two DARPins in excess and anisotropy was measured. No combination of any two DARPins showed an increase of anisotropy above the level reached by a single DARPin, indicating that no larger complexes are formed. Bars represent mean values of two replicates, error bars represent standard deviations.

Fig. S6. SPR does not show simultaneous binding of any two DARPins to GFP. A GFP-coated SPR surface was saturated by injection of one DARPin, dissociation was allowed to occur for 300 sec, followed by a second injection with another DARPin. No combination of two anti-GFP DARPins showed an increased binding above the plateau reached by the injection of the first anti-GFP DARPin alone, indicating that these DARPins cannot bind simultaneously.

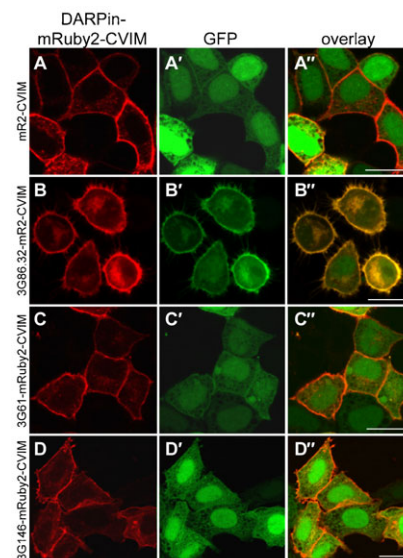


Fig. S8. Membrane-tethered anti-GFP-DARPin 3G86.32 can recruit GFP in HeLa cells. Shown are HeLa cells transiently overexpressing different DARPin-mRuby2 versions tethered to the plasma membrane (DARPin-mRuby2-CVIM, A–D) together with GFP (A'–D') to indicate whether or not GFP is recruited to the plasma membrane (A''–D''). (A,A'') mRuby2-CVIM does not recruit unfused GFP to the membrane. (B,B'') High-affinity 3G86.32-mRuby2-CVIM recruits GFP to the membrane, as can be seen in the overlap of GFP and mRuby2 signal. (C,C'') Low-affinity 3G61-mRuby2-CVIM and (D,D'') low-affinity 3G146-mRuby2-CVIM cannot re-localize GFP. Unprimed letters, mRuby2 channel; primed letters, GFP channel; double primed letters, overlay. Scale bars are 20 μ m.

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Table S1. Full-length nt sequences of DARPins used in this study**3G61:**

ATGAGAGGATCGCATCACCATCACCATCACGGATCCGACCTGGGTAAGAACTGCTGGAAGCTGCTCGTGCTGGTCAGGACGACGAAGT
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CACCTGGAATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGTACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTGATGACGAGGCTGGTTTACTCCGCTGCACCTGGCTGCT
ATTTTGGTCACCTGGAATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGAACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTCAGGACAAATTCGGTAAGACCGCTTCGAC
ATCTCCATCGACAACGGTAACGAGGACCTGGCTGAAATCCTGCAAAAGCTTAATTAA

3G86.1:

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GGTCACCTGGAATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGAACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTGCTGACAATATTGGTCATACTCCGCTGCACCTGGCT
GCTTGGGCTGGTCACCTGGAATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGCACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTCAGGACAAATTCGGTAAGACCGCTTTC
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3G86.32:

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3G124:

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3G146:

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3m160:

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3G168:

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2m22:

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2m74:

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2m151:

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