



iPad 2 Buyers' Guide

From iLounge.com



CoverBuddy™

Compatible with iPad Smart Cover for iPad 2

www.switcheasy.com

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Welcome.

In 2010, Apple introduced the original iPad to a mix of cheers and catcalls: despite years of speculation, some people had no idea what purpose the tablet computer would actually serve, and ridiculed everything from the “iPad” name to its \$499 starting price. It’s hard to believe today, but pundits actively downplayed the device’s chances. Yet millions of people bought iPads anyway, quickly discovering that Apple had created a computer with no need for a mouse, hard drive, optical drive, or other conventional features - most of the time, the iPad could be used entirely without a power supply or physical keyboard. Stripped of user interface challenges, peripherals, and cables, iPads made computing easy enough for anyone, and fun, besides.

This year, the iPad was replaced with an even more powerful successor: the iPad 2 is an all-in-one communications device, media player, and mobile computer that surpasses iPhones and iPod touches in almost every way, albeit inside a larger chassis. All of these iOS devices run the same software, make video calls using FaceTime, and offer impressive battery life given how much they can do. But for the time being, the iPad 2 is the fastest and most capable product in the iOS family, serving as a content creation tool rather than just a way to consume media and access the Internet. Between this new iPad’s hardware, accessories, apps, and games, there’s a lot to learn. So we created the iPad 2 Buyers’ Guide to walk you through it all.

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ColorStudio HD™

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Blank sketchbook



Create, animate and color



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ColorStudio HD App included

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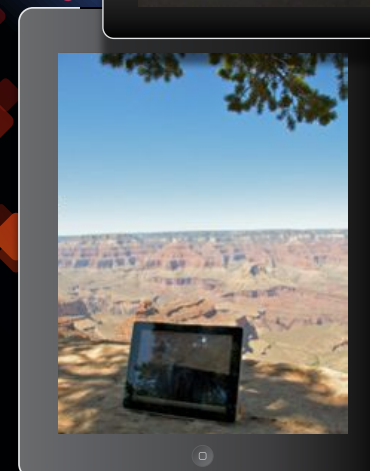
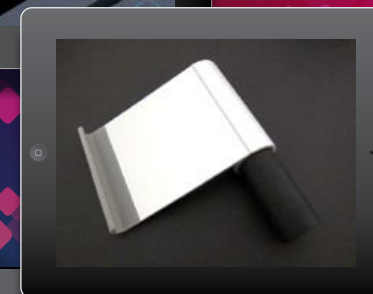
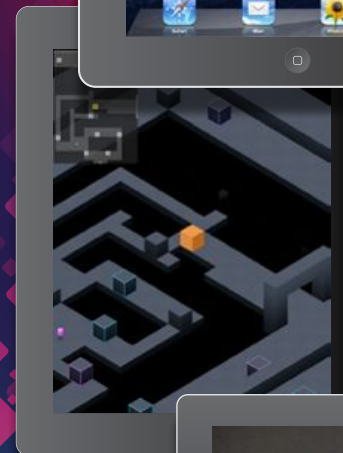
An animated world of color and discovery on your iPad!™

iMarker™ digital stylus + Crayola ColorStudio HD App

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What's coming next for the iPod, iPhone, and Mac.

Released before the dust had settled as to the iPad's name, utility, and popularity, last year's iPad Buyers' Guide was an experiment - our bet that Apple's first tablet computer would be worthy of its own book. Over a million downloads and 15 million original iPads later, there's no question that we were right, and that the iPad was a huge success. So it's only natural that we'd welcome new iPads and their owners with an even better Guide to all the amazing things they can do together.

As of mid-2011, it's already obvious that Apple has changed the world with its latest invention. Toddlers and grandparents can use these new computers with only modest assistance; students can do research and write papers with devices that don't fill their backpacks; and professionals of all stripes can really work without laptops or being bound to their desks. Then there are the games: often amazing, affordable titles that rival and sometimes surpass releases for full-sized computers and game consoles, thanks to both iPads' 9.7" touchscreens, integrated controls, and great 3-D chips. Many users, including us, now view iPads as indispensable at home, work, and on the road, devices we'd keep instead of our iPhones or iPods if we could only have one. Some families own two iPads. Others have - or will have - more.

It's up to you to determine where an iPad will fit into your life. Our iPad 2 Buyers' Guide will show you how to make the most of Apple's tablets, wherever you opt to use them. Inside, you'll find guides to using the iPads, choosing top accessories, and enjoying great apps and games. As always, everything inside has been selected by our editors strictly on the basis of merit - one of iLounge's many commitments to our readers, and a point of pride for all of us.



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Jeremy Horwitz
Editor-in-Chief



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A long-time fan of Apple products, **Dennis Lloyd** was a graphic designer and DJ before creating iLounge, which remains the world's most popular resource dedicated to iPods, iPhones, iPads, and iTunes. Dennis is happily married with a dog, cat, and a two-year-old daughter. He lives in Irvine, CA.

Jeremy Horwitz has written about gadgets, games, and the companies that make them for everyone from GamePro to The New York Times, as well as practicing law. Since 2004, Jeremy has edited iLounge, its Books, and Buyers' Guides. He lives with his wife, two daughters, one dog, and a museum of iPods, iPhones, iPads, and add-ons in East Amherst, NY.



Left to Right: Apple CEO Steve Jobs debuts a white-bodied iPad 2 - available immediately alongside the black version - and shows off the thinner, lighter body's curves. Two new cameras allow for FaceTime, 720p videos, and low-res photos.



Apple Launches iPad 2, Hints No iPad 3 Until 2012

Rumors of Retina Display scotched as cameras, faster chips, and thinner body debut

Heading into the March 2011 event that saw Apple announce the iPad 2 (\$499-\$829), even well-informed sources disagreed as to what the company would include in its second-generation tablet computer: so many rumors had spread regarding a radically upgraded, quadruple-resolution screen - and possible production delays - that the company felt compelled to leak early details of a milder but on-schedule update to the Wall Street Journal. What debuted was a smaller repackaging of the iPad, now in two colors, with twin cameras and a Verizon version,

all at the same prices. Apple CEO Steve Jobs declared 2011 "the year of iPad 2," suggesting that a bigger update was a year away. But given the iPad's incredible trajectory, these changes - plus a dual-core CPU and a much better graphics chip - were enough to spark lines at stores, marred only by Apple's decision to launch internationally before it had adequate supplies. Early buyers were thrilled by iPad versions of the Mac music maker Garageband and video editing tool iMovie, plus past games that were quickly optimized to show off new anti-aliasing and shading effects.

Modest iTunes 10.2, iOS 4.3 Changes Foreshadow Major Releases In Near Future

Last year's launch of the iPad was quickly followed by a brand new version of the iOS operating system for iPhones and iPod touches, leaving iPad users behind for months. This year, Apple delayed its annual iOS event, implying that iOS 5 would be shown first at the Worldwide Developers Conference in June, with a

public release later in 2011. Until then, iPads and iPad 2s run the modestly updated iOS 4.3, which adds FaceTime, Camera, and Photo Booth applications to the iPad 2. It interfaces with iTunes 10.2, which allows iPads to stream videos and music directly from their computers to the tablets. Streaming from Internet-based "media lockers" is expected soon.



For detailed daily news on the iPad and iPad 2, as well as Apple's iPod, iPhone, Apple TV and iTunes, check out iLounge.com's huge news archive (ilounge.com/index.php/news/archives/).



i put your day in motion.

The iHome IA63 alarm clock radio has a motorized rotating dock that lets you switch your iPhone or iPod's viewing mode from landscape to portrait with the touch of a button. Wake to your favorite playlists or to FM radio with exclusive Reson8® speakers, and use the Free iHome+Sleep app for custom wakeups, social media updates and weather alerts. Get ready to rock, dock, and rotate your way to better audio in the morning.

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iLounge.com | All Things iPod

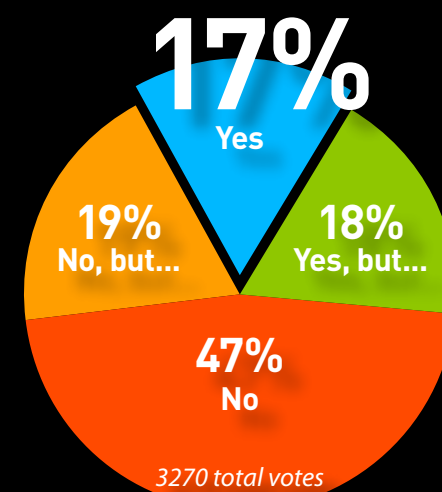
Made for
iPod iPhone

iHome
Live Life Loud

Just How Explosive Is iPad Interest? Our iPad Polls

Even Apple's biggest fans had no idea how popular the iPad would quickly become. We started to survey users before the iPad was announced, and only a small fraction of our readers originally wanted a 10" iOS tablet. But interest has grown rapidly since then.

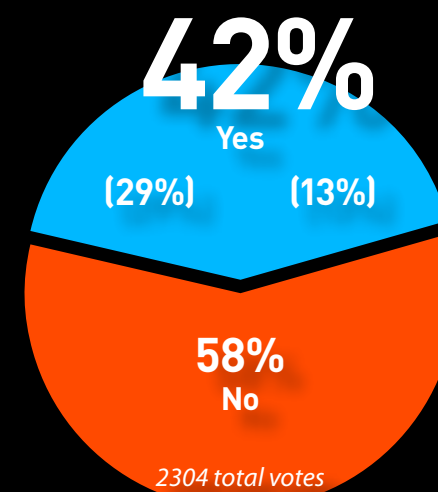
August 2009: Would you buy a big iPod touch if it lacked PC/Mac functionality?



Yes: 17% said yes to a 10" device with iPhone-like media playback + apps/games; 18% said yes to a 6"-7" version.

No: 19% said no because of keyboard/hardware concerns; 47% said no unless it had a full desktop OS like Mac OS X.

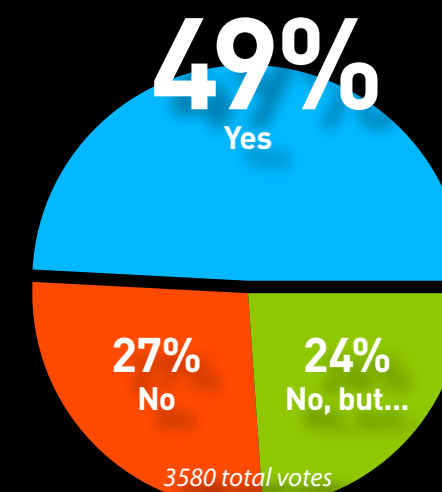
March 2010: Did you pre-order the (Original) iPad?



Yes: 29% said yes to Wi-Fi models (9% said 16GB; 10% each said 32/64GB). Another 13% said yes to 3G models (1% said 16GB, 3% said 32GB, 9% said 64GB).

No: A majority - 58% of responding readers - said no.

March/April 2011: Did you buy an iPad 2? (And how do you like it?)

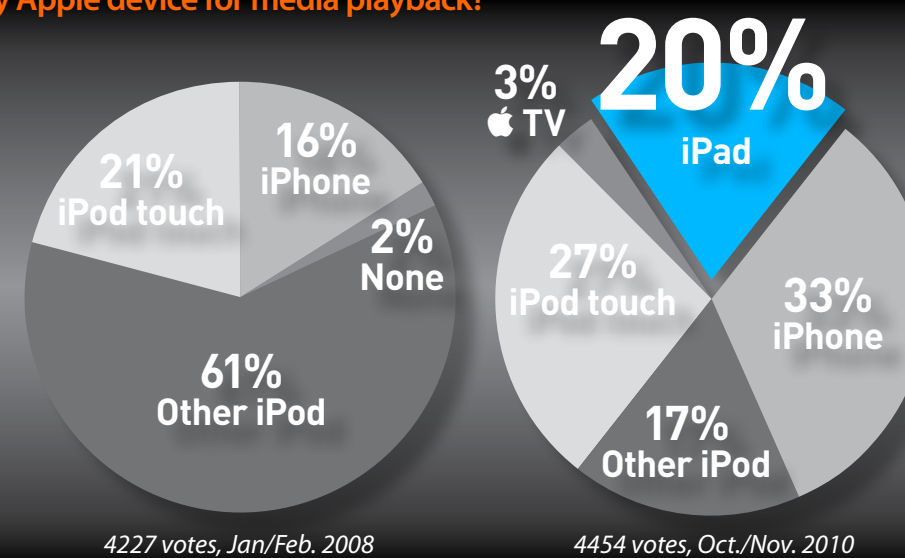


Yes: 49% said yes (40% "very happy," 7% "satisfied" and 2% "slightly underwhelmed").

No: 24% said no, but only because it wasn't available in local stores due to release date or lack of inventory. Only 27% said no and didn't want one.

2008-2010: What's your primary Apple device for media playback?

We've posed this question a number of times over the years to see which Apple devices our readers are using. The shift from Click Wheel iPods to iPhones and iPads has been dramatic over the past several years, if the thousands of votes we've tallied from responding readers are representative of the rest - we believe that they are. Numbers suggest that old iPods have lost considerable ground to the iPhone and iPad, yielding only a little to the iPod touch.





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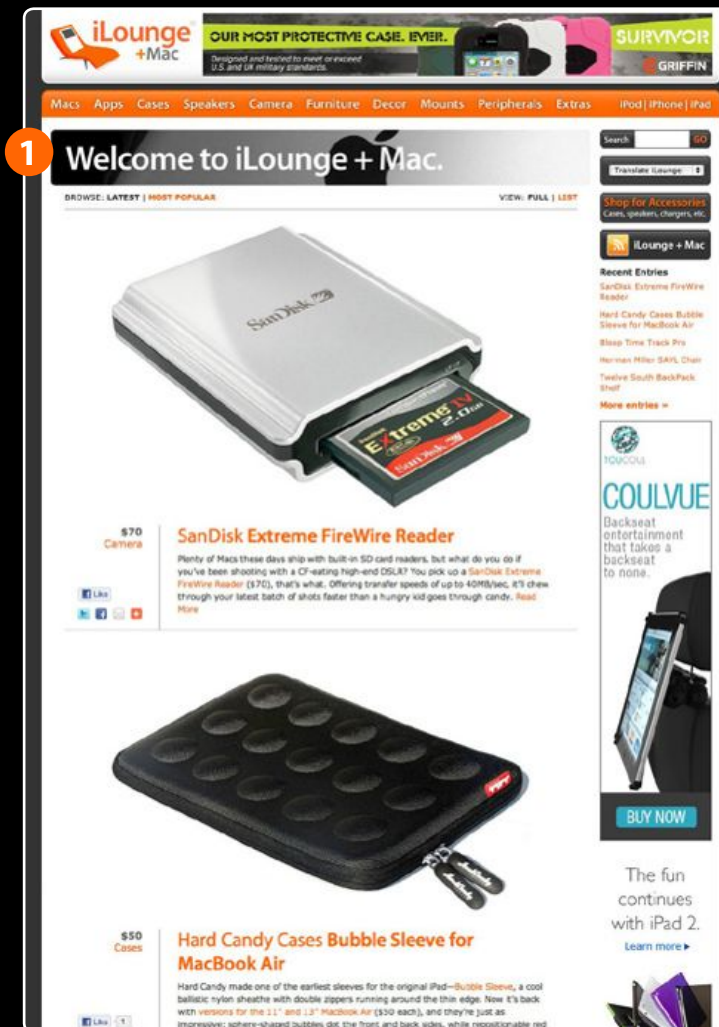
Designed in Japan



IPAD 2 BUYERS' GUIDE

iLounge + Mac: Cool New Macs, Add-Ons And Apps

Everything from Apple-like furniture to Mac-ready cameras, peripherals, and software

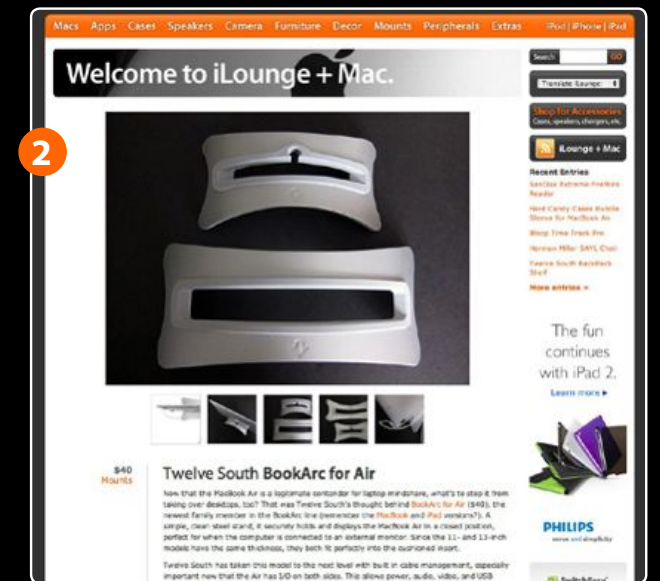


1. Visit iLounge + Mac at <http://mac.ilounge.com>

We've covered other Apple products for years, and wanted to do something different for the Mac. So we created iLounge + Mac, a curated collection of cool products related to Apple's computers. Every weekday, we add a handful of new items that may tickle your fancy: the best peripherals and cases we've seen, plus stylish furniture and posters, and even new games.

2. More Details + Photos On Each Product's Page

Every item we select includes at least one big picture and a couple of paragraphs telling you what to expect. Sometimes, you'll find a gallery of hands-on shots and additional details based on our personal experiences testing the products, too. We've streamlined the individual pages to make text easy to read and photos fun to click on.



3. Plus, Thoughts On Upcoming Releases

Previously, we'd share insights on rumored upcoming Mac products on our Editors' Blog, Backstage. Now they're in iLounge + Mac, so you can easily find our latest thoughts on what Apple's likely to announce in the future, helping you to decide whether to make that big Mac purchase now or hold off until the next major release, whenever it may be.



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Increased Dynamic Range
Earphones with remote & mic
IDR656md
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Accurately reproduce brilliant highs, silky smooth mids and powerful bass for all music genres

tapLINE III control lets you control play, pause, adjust volume, skip tracks and much more

Integrated microphone for Voice Memos, Voice Control, and handsfree conversations

S/M/L single and dual flanged silicone inserts provide superior noise isolation and comfort



boomCAN™
Portable Media Speaker
PM5BK
PM5SR
PM5BL
PM5RD

35mm driver delivers full range acoustic reproduction

Use with virtually any portable media player

Rechargeable lithium-ion battery provides up to 7 hours of music playback

High strength aluminum housing for enhanced durability

Includes audio/USB charging cable and travel pouch



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Chargers
for iPad
USBC3
USBH3

Charge your iPad and an additional USB powered device at once

Use your existing USB cables to charge any additional USB powered devices

2.1 Amp USB port for charging iPad

1 Amp USB port for charging additional devices



folio p2™
Folio Case for
iPad 2 with
Multiple
Viewing Angles
IPD2CFBK
IPD2CPW
IPD2FLBK
IPD2FLW

Folio style protects the screen while on the go

Suede interior lining for enhanced protection

Multiple viewing angles for landscape media viewing, FaceTime video calling and low angle typing

Open design allows complete access to all connections and controls



goBAT II™
Dual USB
Backup Battery
and Charger
IPD8AT2

Internal lithium-ion battery stores power for whenever you need it

Conveniently charge two USB powered devices while on the go

Includes USB adapter for Galaxy Tab

LED battery level indicator

Output: 10 Watt (2 Amp) USB Port for iPad/Galaxy Tab & 5 Watt (1 Amp) USB port for most USB devices; Capacity: 5000mAh



freeKEY™
Bluetooth
Wireless
Keyboard
BTKB

Wirelessly type on your iPad, iPhone, Android device or other Bluetooth enabled tablets and smartphones

Roll-up design is ideal for travel and storage

Water resistant silicone material repels dust and liquids

Up to 30 ft. wireless range

Includes retractable USB charging cable

SNEAK PEEKS

The iPad's first year conclusively established that consumers wanted add-ons to keep the tablet upright. Many of the never-before-seen iPad 2 accessories in our latest collection of Sneak Peeks were designed to address that need; others offer new power solutions, and improved takes on iPad case design.

Just Mobile **Gum MAX** POWER 6-11 **\$120**

Yes, there are dozens of iPod and iPhone batteries already in stores, but they're generally too slow and limited in power capacity for iPad users. As the sequel to Just Mobile's Gum Plus for iPhones, Gum MAX preserves the same handsome aluminum and black plastic exterior, but more than doubles the power of the battery inside to 10,400mAh - enough to fully recharge an iPad with power to spare - and has eight lights to show its current power level. MAX also cranks up the speed: it recharges an iPad as quickly as the latest iPad wall and car chargers, while falling back as necessary to safely charge iPhones and iPods five or more times each. A carrying case, Dock Connector to USB cable, and mini USB to USB cable will be in the package.



iLuv **iMM514 ArtStation Pro** SPEAKERS 7-11 **\$170**

Ready to be released in iPad 2-matching white or black versions, iLuv's new iMM514 ArtStation Pro is a simple audio system with twin 3-Watt speakers inside, capable of being powered by AA batteries or wall power. Most striking is a repositionable iPad-holding arm that can rotate into landscape or portrait orientations, atop a minimalist speaker box that's built to provide stability for the iPad - something we no longer take for granted after testing top-heavy and unstable early iPad speakers last year. As with other iLuv units, ArtStation Pro supports a free iLuv App that adds clock functionality to the iPad.



\$50+ MOUNTS 7-11 Vantage Point **iPad Mounts**

The question for most iPad owners isn't whether to mount their tablets in various places, but "how" - and Vantage Point has a surprising number of answers. The company's upcoming Slide, Alloy, and Secure lines of mounts offer three distinct alternatives for iPad and iPad 2 users. Ranging from \$70 to \$100, Slide is the simplest and least expensive, using a plastic frame that can be transferred between everything from a bean bag to a steel stand to swing and VESA flat wall mounts. Alloy is iPad and iPad 2-compatible, using an even sturdier steel and aluminum frame for the tablet, while adding the option to use tamper-proof screws and/or a Kensington security kit to keep the iPad safe inside. Secure adds a steel tethering cable, sync cable retention piece, and tamper-proof screws to the Alloy package. Alloy and Secure's pieces range from \$75-\$150. Vantage Point will also offer a \$50 bean bag-mounted iPad holder in white, black, or pink.



iSkin solo Smart +
Vu for iPad 2

CASES
\$50+
6-11

As you'll see in the cases section of this Buyers' Guide, many companies have released two separate rear shells for the iPad 2 - one with grooves or a hole in the left side to support Apple's iPad Smart Cover, plus another plain version. iSkin's solo Smart (\$50) is designed to accommodate the iPad Smart Cover without forcing users without Smart Covers to feel left out: the mix of clear soft and hard plastics has the look and feel of a standalone case, but is flexible enough to handle the extra lid, too. By comparison, Vu (\$60) is made from similar soft and hard plastics, this time molded with an advanced flip-out rear stand that also improves the case's compatibility with docking accessories. Coverage for the iPad 2's buttons and headphone port also helps Vu stay ahead of the pack. Vu will debut in marine blue, and solo Smart in frosted clear, each with nice textures.



\$100
6-11

INCAR
ProClip iPad 2
Headrest Mounts

Respected for years as a leader in high-end dashboard mounts for iPods and iPhones, ProClip is moving into the back seat with a series of iPad 2 Headrest Mounts. Unlike rivals, ProClip says its mounts will be safety-certified in "crash testing that exceeds automotive industry impact standards," a difference that may well be of interest to concerned parents. The company's traditional Tilt-Swivel feature will be included to allow the iPad 2 to rotate 360 degrees or tilt 20 degrees; you'll also have pass-through port support so that you can easily connect a charging cable for extended drives. One of the mounts will include a lock and key feature so that the iPad 2 will be harder to steal when left in a car, though we'd be surprised if any thief would leave such a nice mount behind.



United SGP
Leinwand Case

CASES
\$95
6-11

While Apple's iPad 2 Smart Cover lid struck us as ridiculously overpriced given how little it offered, developers have co-opted the folding magnetic lid concept for superior case designs. The upcoming Leinwand Case is one of the noteworthy options, offering considerably more protection in a folio-style case with a magnetic lid that can be bi- or tri-folded into video stand or typing positions. It's not cheap, but it's made from the same handsome genuine leather United SGP has become known for - much higher-grade cowhide than the thin, sparing stuff used in Apple's Smart Cover - and the hard-reinforced rear shell even has an integrated mesh speaker protector built in. Multiple colors will be offered.



\$60
6-11

CASES
iBackFlip Studios
iBackFlip

There are hundreds - probably thousands - of iPad cases at this point, so standing out from the pack is increasingly difficult. iBackFlip pulls that off: it's a sling-style backpack for the iPad or iPad 2 that can be turned around to your front, and flipped open to provide immediate access to the tablet's screen - like a portable desk, complete with support for the device while the bag is open. Magnets, including one to trigger the iPad 2's screen lock feature, are used to help make iBackFlip easier to open, and dual zippers help with security. In the right color schemes, we could easily see iBackFlip appealing to a wide variety of users; the company sees it as ideal for everyone from sport fishers to bike messengers.



XtremeMac
MicroFolio

CASES

\$50
7-11

Offered in six different colors, XtremeMac's new MicroFolio for iPad 2 is another sharp-looking case that leverages a magnetic, folding front lid to enhance a substantially protective frame for the iPad 2's body. Unlike United SGP's Leinwand Case, MicroFolio uses faux leather in order to come in at a more mainstream price point - only \$11 more than the polyurethane version of Apple's iPad Smart Cover, and \$19 less than the leather Smart Cover. Three of the MicroFolios (latte, black, and blue) use a handsome coarse grained leather texture, while the other three (red, bronze, and black) use a distinctive cross-hair texture that looks like a fusion of leather and canvas. As with Smart Cover, microsuede inside the lid protects the iPad 2's screen, and the lid folds into video and typing stand positions, auto-unlocking the screen when opened.



\$40
6-11

STANDS

FreeOneHand iPad 2
Holder & Stand

Originally developed for the iPad, FreeOneHand's iPad 2 Holder & Stand has been redesigned for Apple's second-generation tablet with a few new features. The plastic frame attaches like an X to the back of the iPad 2, with open sides that accommodate the iPad Smart Cover. On the back is a "Power Grip" handle, designed to reduce the strain of holding the iPad in your hand, while doubling as a way to stand the tablet up for typing. The handle is now designed to be collapsible for easier storage during travel, and the frame has a hole to let the iPad 2's rear camera peek through. Colors will be limited to white or black this time out, removing the gray, blue, green, and pink options of the original edition.



Clipstand



Stylus Pro

\$30
8-11

DOCKS

XtremeMac
InCharge Sync

For whatever reason, Apple's iPad Docks have been deliberately designed not to work with cases - even Apple's own iPad Smart Cover doesn't fit properly inside the company's iPad 2 Dock. So we're genuinely happy to see InCharge Sync debut as a "case-friendly dock" for iPads, with the ability to adjust the pyramid-like rear support to accommodate the depths of different devices, including iPads, iPhones, and iPods. XtremeMac will bundle the dock with a USB cable for syncing and charging with a computer; it will be compatible with common USB wall adapters if you want to connect it to a conventional power outlet as a standalone power solution.





LEINWAND

HAND MADE LEATHER CASE FOR IPAD 2



CONVENIENT



PROTECTIVE



MAGICAL

S G P S T O R E

Stylish people's Good Partner



iPad 2 Buyers' Guide Top Tweeter Contest

You love cool speakers. Bowers & Wilkins loves to make cool speakers - including the fancy ones off to the right. So we've come up with a way to bring these speakers directly to you - a super easy contest! Just use Twitter to post this tweet:



Or click on the Retweet icon to retweet:



You have until June 15, 2011 to enter this contest by tweeting or retweeting the message above. On June 16, 2011, we'll look for the top tweeters/retweeters and pick six winners - two for each of the three speakers on the right. Zeppelin Air is a speaker with wireless AirPlay support for the iPad, iTunes, and iOS 4.2-capable iPhones and iPod touches. MM-1 is a multimedia speaker, and Zeppelin Mini is for iPods and iPhones. Good luck!

Win one of six speakers from
Bowers & Wilkins

Grand Prize Zeppelin Air



1st Prize MM-1



2nd Prize Zeppelin Mini



Full contest rules can be found at iLounge.com/ipad2bgcontest. No purchase is necessary to enter. Six (6) winners will be announced at iLounge.com on June 16, 2011. iLounge reserves the right to modify or cancel this contest in its sole discretion.



What we stand for.

The iSkin Vu returns for iPad 2 with a new design infused with style and sophistication. Its exclusively designed multi-positional display stand adjusts to your every need and folds to blend away seamlessly. It's design innovation our discerning customers demand—and we deliver.



Friends with Benefits
Join our Facebook® community
and get exclusive deals on
iSkin products.

Available soon at iSkin.com/iPad2

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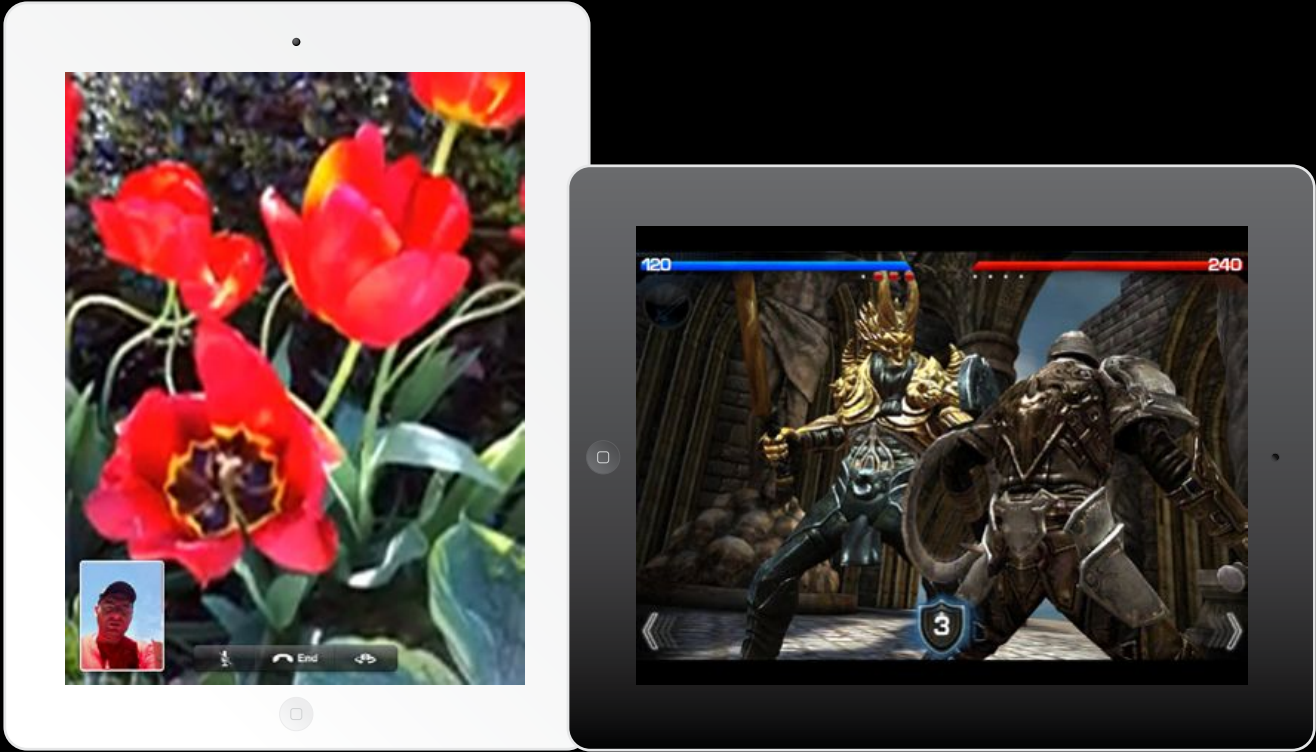
iPad 2: Buy Now, or Wait For iPad 3?

Rumors of a high-resolution iPad 3 were spreading like wildfire even before the iPad 2 was formally announced. So when Apple unveiled its second-generation iPad, the conventional wisdom was that the company had released a minor update in major update's clothing - a stopgap until the bigger revision came along. Yet iPad 2 isn't so easily swept under history's rug; it's a much faster and noticeably sleeker sequel, with twin FaceTime cameras, a powerful new 3-D graphics chip, and other neat features. In All About the iPad 2, we look at the good and bad parts of the new iPad, and help you decide whether any of the eighteen models - three capacities and two colors for separate Wi-Fi, GSM, or CDMA versions of the device - will meet your needs. We also show you where to buy and sell iPads, including up-to-date retail and eBay pricing, plus much more.

Quick Overview: iPad 2 Models

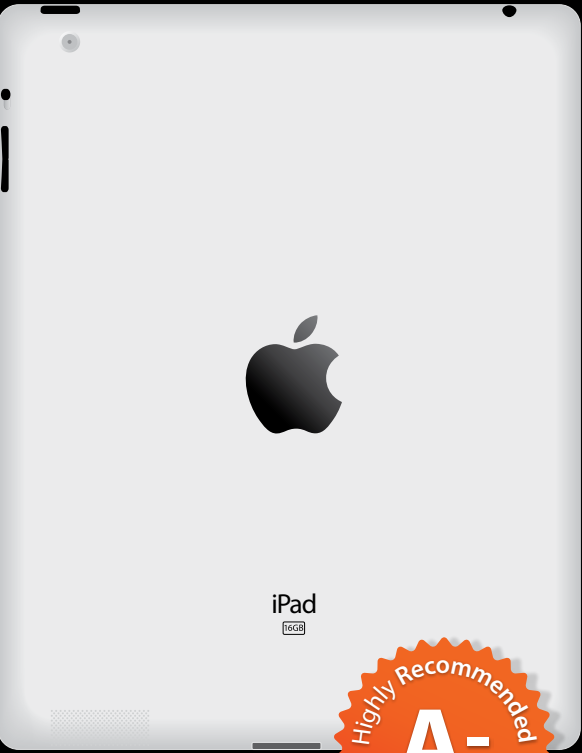


Size	9.50" x 7.31" x 0.34"		
Capacity	16GB-32GB-64GB		
Price	\$499-\$599-\$699	\$629-\$729-\$829	\$629-\$729-\$829
Wireless	802.11n Wi-Fi	802.11n Wi-Fi + GSM 3G	802.11n Wi-Fi + CDMA 3G
Weight	1.33 Pounds	1.35 Pounds	1.34 Pounds
Screen	9.7" Multi-Touch IPS Display With 1024x768 Resolution (132ppi)		
Battery	10-12 Hrs. Video/Wi-Fi Web, 30 Days Standby Time, 9 Hrs 3G Web Browsing		
GPS	No	Yes (A-GPS)	Yes (A-GPS)
Cameras	640x480 Front Camera, 1280x720 Rear Camera		
Colors	White or Black Front Bezel + Silver Anodized Aluminum Rear Casing		
Rating	A-	B+	B
Summary	As the most affordable iPad 2 model, the Wi-Fi-only version is great for everything except in-car mapping and on-the-road Internet access. It's the best pick for kids, and for adults who know they'll always use it while near a Wi-Fi hotspot - or don't need data access.	If you're looking for data access on the road, and willing to pay \$15-\$25 per month for it, the GSM iPad 2 is generally the best pick. Faster data speeds in the U.S. and hugely superior international compatibility let you use Maps and other data-hungry apps anywhere you go.	The CDMA iPad 2 is solely for cellular data users in areas with poor AT&T/GSM service, offering slower U.S. data speeds but a larger 3G network that covers some rural and underserved areas better. Weak for international travel, but good for U.S. mapping.

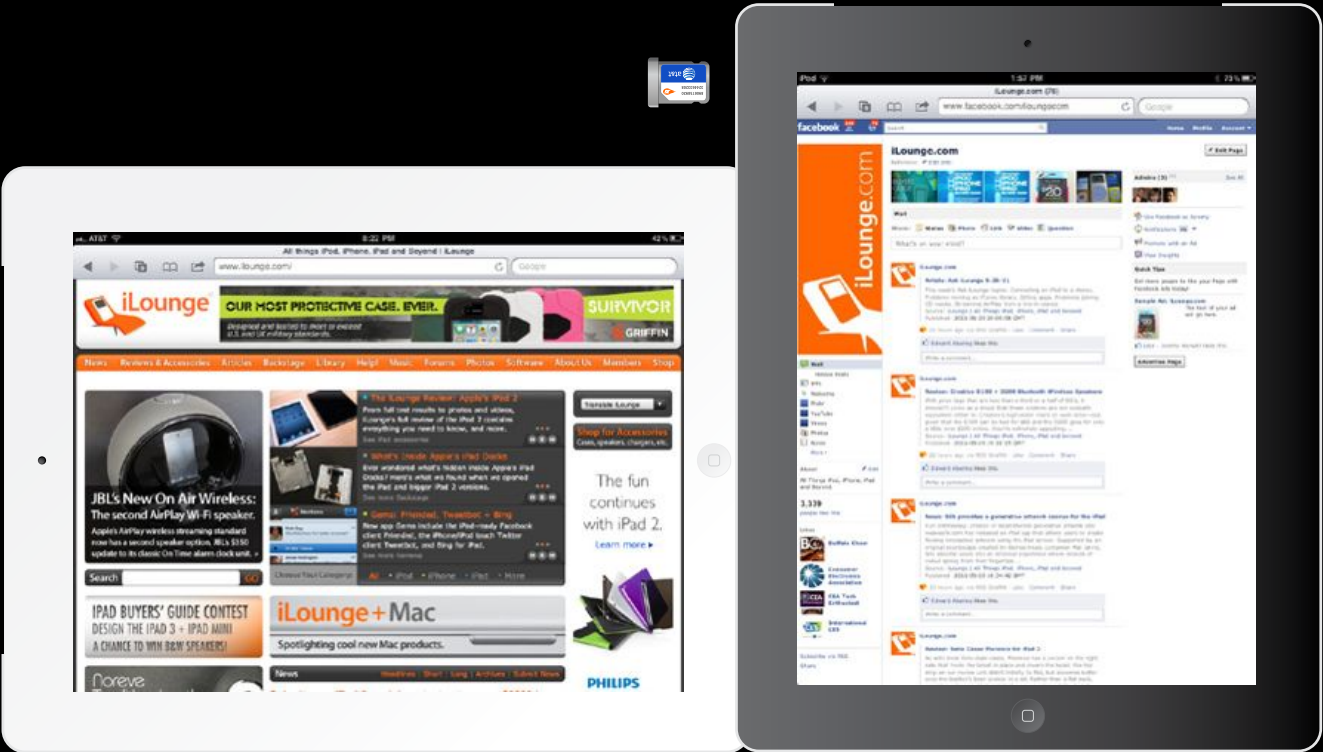


iPad 2 Wi-Fi

Music - Photo Creation + Display - Video Playback + Recording - Books - Games - Internet - FaceTime



Streamlined and speed boosted from the original 2010 iPad, the standard 802.11a/b/g/n Wi-Fi-only iPad 2 is lighter, thinner, and just a little smaller; it's also a lot more powerful. Apple's second-generation tablet computer features a dual-core Apple A5 CPU, twice the RAM, and a graphics chip that's four to nine times as fast as before. Everything from web browsing to app loading is noticeably quicker this time, and iPad 2-optimized games look dramatically better, with smoother frame rates, anti-aliased artwork, and more realistic shading. As a result, though the iPad 2 has the same screen as the iPad, the screen's contents are superior. Apple also gave iPad 2 the ability to mirror its screen and perform 1080p video through an external display, using two cabled adapter accessories. There's only one huge flaw this time out: iPad 2's front and rear cameras are on par with the weak ones in the 2010 iPod touch, producing grainy, low-resolution still images and only decent videos. Better than nothing and useful for FaceTime, they mar an otherwise great update.



iPad 2 Wi-Fi + 3G GSM

iPad 2 Wi-Fi + 3G CDMA

Music - Photo Creation + Display - Video Playback + Recording - Books - Games - Internet - FaceTime - GPS

Music - Photo Creation + Display - Video Playback + Recording - Books - Games - Internet - FaceTime - GPS

If you only need iPad data service at home or Wi-Fi hotspots, the standard iPad 2 is ideal; travelers and road warriors will instead want a version with 3G cellular data abilities. The GSM iPad 2 with Wi-Fi + 3G is the better choice for most on-the-go users. While both 3G versions of the iPad 2 have large black plastic antenna covers on their tops and contain GPS hardware that allows for accurate real-time mapping - the Wi-Fi-only iPad 2 has neither - the GSM version exclusively lets you access the Internet through most of the world's cellular data networks. In the United States, AT&T's GSM 3G service is typically faster than Verizon's CDMA 3G service; CDMA is non-existent or unpopular in most other countries. Unlike the CDMA version of the iPad 2, the GSM version has a Micro-SIM card tray on its upper left side, and comes with a metal tool to eject the tray. This allows international travelers to buy and insert different SIMs when they're outside their home countries - a way to secure the best local daily or monthly data rates rather than paying exorbitant roaming charges.



The CDMA iPad 2 with Wi-Fi + 3G was created primarily for Verizon Wireless, a U.S. cellular carrier with a large but slow network of data towers. Thus, this iPad 2 may work better in parts of the U.S. with weak AT&T coverage, including rural and congested metro areas; elsewhere, expect AT&T's service to be twice as fast. Like the GSM version, this model has GPS hardware inside for real-time mapping, though its incompatibility with GSM cellular networks in other countries reduces its value when traveling outside the United States. You may need to purchase a third-party map application that doesn't require cellular access when used overseas.

Apart from two differences - CDMA hardware and the absence of a SIM card tray - the CDMA version of the iPad 2 with Wi-Fi + 3G is otherwise virtually identical to the GSM version. Our tests showed that the GSM version achieved Apple's promised 9 hours of 3G web browsing; the CDMA version fell short by only 20 minutes. If you live in or visit places where AT&T falls short, consider it.

What's On iPad 2's Outside: The Basics

A top button turns the display on or off, and a front button brings you back to the Home Screen.



Now sold in white- or black-bezeled versions, the iPad 2 has a glass face, with only a ring of plastic separating the glass from a thin silver aluminum bezel. As with the first iPad, the glossy screen quickly gets covered in fingerprints, a problem reduced substantially by quality anti-smudge film protectors. One of two newly-added cameras is centered above the screen. Durable but scratchable aluminum continues from the curved edges to form the device's back, which reaches a 0.34" thickness and includes the second camera. At center, there's a glossy Apple logo atop the iPad name and a small capacity badge. Both iPad 2s with Wi-Fi +3G also have a black plastic antenna compartment on the back top; the GSM version has a Micro-SIM card slot on the upper right side when viewed from behind.



Headphone Port + Mic
iPad 2's 3.5mm headphone port fits most earphones, and supports Apple three-button remote controls and microphones. A tiny top-centered hole hides iPad 2's built-in mic, which works for voice recording, videos, and VoIP calling.



Side Switch + Volume
Based on your preference, a switch above the iPad 2's right-mounted volume buttons either locks the screen in any portrait or landscape orientation, or mutes notification sounds, leaving the volume buttons for everything else.



Dock Connector
Apple's 30-pin port is dead centered on the iPad 2's bottom. It connects to cables, chargers, docks, speakers, adapters, and small electronic accessories.



Speakers
The iPad previously had three mesh pill-shaped speaker grilles on the bottom; now there's a larger dot pattern to vent the speakers through iPad 2's back at roughly the same volume level.

What's Packed In: Not Much

iPad 2's box includes a wall power adapter, a USB cable, a one-page instruction card, a warranty booklet, and stickers; the GSM version adds a SIM tray-opening tool. Conspicuously absent are necessities such as a stand or a screen-cleaning cloth; Apple sells a \$29 dock, magnetic Smart Covers (\$39-\$69), extra power adapters (\$29), a camera adapter kit (\$29), and video adapters/cables (\$29-\$49).



What's Inside the iPad 2: Key Hardware Features

The iPad 2 shares features with the iPhone 4 and iPod touch, besides the bigger screen and battery.



Multi-Touch

iPad 2's screen can detect up to 11 individual touch points at once. Most apps use two or three.



Front Camera

The new 640x480 front camera is low-res, but auto-adjusts pretty well to dim lighting conditions.



Rear Camera

iPad 2's 1280x720 rear camera is adequate for 720p videos; it takes awful-looking still pictures, though.



Sensors

iPad 2 adds a 3-axis gyroscope to its prior 3-axis accelerometer to provide accurate motion sensing.



Memory

How much space do 16/32/64GB iPad 2s actually let you use? 14/29/59GB. Unless you don't plan to store movies/music, buy a 32/64GB model.



Wi-Fi

Every iPad 2 supports 802.11 a, b, g, and n wireless networks for access to the Internet. Web pages, maps, and high-definition streamed videos load noticeably faster when using 802.11 n, which requires a wireless router made within the last several years. Battery life with Wi-Fi is better than with 3G.



Bluetooth

iPad 2 supports Bluetooth 2.1 for stereo audio streaming to headphones and speakers, as well as wireless gaming between various iOS devices. It also has support for Bluetooth keyboards - a huge benefit for word processor users - but does not support monaural wireless headsets.



3G/EDGE

The GSM iPad 2 with Wi-Fi + 3G includes support for GSM, EDGE, UMTS 3G, and HSDPA 3G for global cellular data access, achieving 0.6-2.5Mbps downloads and 1.0-1.3Mbps uploads. The CDMA iPad 2 supports CDMA EV-DO Rev. A networks, with 0.3-0.9Mbps downloads and 0.3-0.4Mbps uploads; it has no EDGE/2G fallback.



A5 CPU/GPU

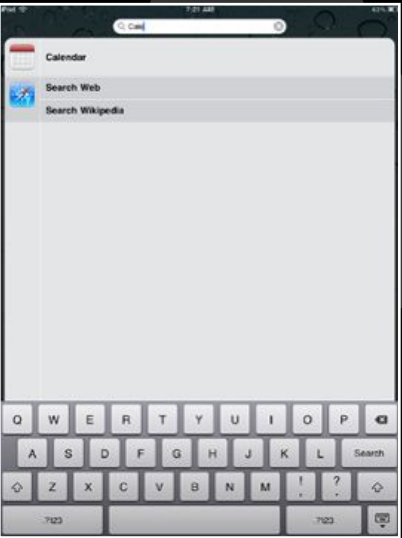
iPad 2's dual-core A5 chip runs at 1.0GHz. Paired with 512MB of RAM and a PowerVR SGX543MP2 GPU, game graphics are 5x better than iPad 1's.

What an iPad Can Do: Apple's Free Apps

iPads ship with 14-17 applications, plus a Picture Frame, Spotlight search, and free access to iBooks.



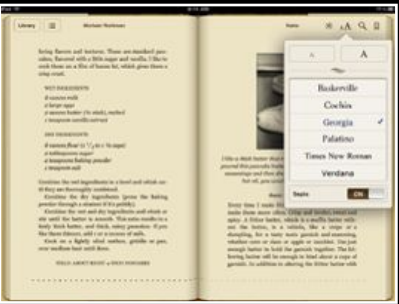
The Lock Screen and Picture Frame. Under most circumstances, the first thing you'll see when turning on an iPad or iPad 2 is the Lock Screen on the left, which you "Swipe to Unlock" with a left-to-right finger gesture at the bottom of the screen. A small flower button next to it lets you instead activate Picture Frame, which displays one to four photos at a time from whichever portion of the iPad's photo library you choose, including gentle transition effects.



Screen Rotation and Spotlight. iPads operate equally well in portrait (tall screen) or landscape (wide screen) orientation, auto-rotating whatever you're doing. Shown here is Spotlight, a search tool found by swiping from left to right on the Home Screen. Type to search all the iPad's content, then tap to jump to what you've found.



iBooks. The first time you open the iPad's App Store, you'll be offered Apple's eBook and PDF reader iBooks, a free download. iBooks lets you sync, store, and download black and white or color books, including tools to ease eyestrain. You can also access the iBookstore, which sells and gives away books from a 200,000-title library.



Calendar. A day, week and month planner, synced to your computer.



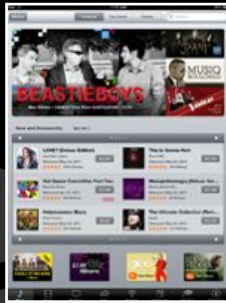
Contacts. Stores names, numbers, and addresses for people you know.



Notes. A simple text editor that stores and syncs typed memos.



Maps. HD maps with directions, Google Street View, and a compass.



iTunes + App Store. Apple's media and software shops.



Home Screen. Straight out of the box, iPad 2 includes 17 built-in applications. You choose background art, and up to six docked applications that remain at the bottom of the screen when you move right to see more apps.



Videos. Play 720p TV shows, movies, music videos and video podcasts.



YouTube. Browse or stream free videos from the web; save and share favorites.



Game Center. Link up with friends for online gaming and track game stats.



FaceTime. iPad 2 only; two-person iPod/iPhone/iPad/Mac video calls.



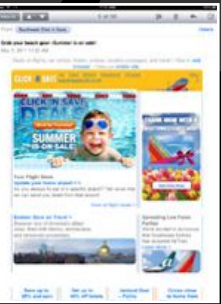
Camera. iPad 2 only. Take photos or videos with the twin cameras.



Photo Booth. iPad 2 only. Take still photos with goofy special effects.



Safari. Browse web pages with zooming, nine windows, and easy bookmarks.



Mail. Multi-account email with in-line photos and attachment viewing.



Photos. Sync from PC/Mac or import from a camera to view and share.



iPod. Play music and audiobooks in an iTunes-like interface.



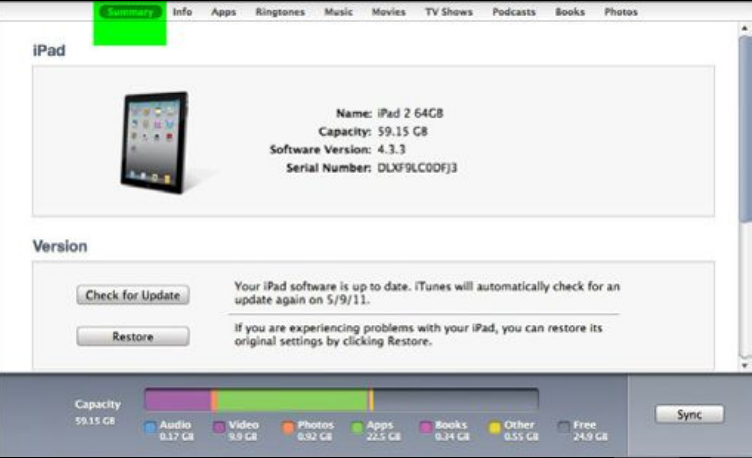
Settings. Manage the iPad's options and 3G service here.

Using the iPad: iTunes Media Synchronization + Sharing

Apple's Mac and PC program iTunes backs up your iPad and fills it with music, videos, photos and apps.



The Main iTunes Window. iTunes is a repository for all of your music, audiobooks, videos, and iOS apps. It also holds books and PDFs that work with iOS devices, and helps sync your computer's photos, calendars, contacts, bookmarks, and e-mail accounts quickly to your iPad.

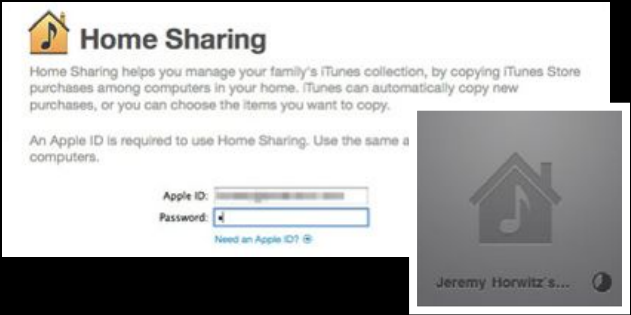


The iPad's Tabs. After you connect your iPad to your computer, select it from the list of Devices on the left. You'll see a Summary tab showing how its storage capacity is used. An Info tab lets you sync calendars, contacts, web browser bookmarks, e-mail accounts, and notes from your PC or Mac. The Apps tab lets you add, organize, or remove apps downloaded from the App Store, and access files saved by those apps to the iPad. Additional tabs let you select specific songs, movies, TV shows, podcasts, and ringtones to transfer from your computer to the iPad. You can also drag them from the main iTunes window individually.



Downloading and Updating Apps. While you can acquire music, videos, PDFs and books from sources other than Apple, the only vendor of official iOS applications is the App Store, built into iTunes. Open the iTunes Store from the left column of the main iTunes window and then look for the App Store tab at the top of the iTunes Store. You'll find over 350,000 applications, many of which are free, with an average selling price of roughly \$3.

Downloading an app is as simple as clicking the "Free App" or price button next to its name, and entering your iTunes Store password. By default, iTunes will transfer it to your iPad the next time you connect the tablet to your computer. Whenever a new app version becomes available, you'll see a number appear next to Apps in iTunes' left hand bar under Library. Click Apps, hit Check For Updates at the bottom right of the iTunes window, and then hit Download All Free Updates at the upper right of the window - it's not as easy as it could be. You can also download and update apps directly from the iPad's App Store app.



Syncing and Retrieving Photos. Unlike music and videos, your photos aren't actually stored inside of iTunes - a difference that leads to some challenges. After selecting your iPad from the Devices list and picking the Photos tab, you need to select either a folder or a supported photo managing program containing albums. Then you pick the photos and videos to sync to your iPad. To save photos or videos created on your iPad or iPad 2, use a Mac's iPhoto or Windows' Import Pictures and Videos (Windows 7/ Vista) or Scanner and Camera Wizard (Windows XP).



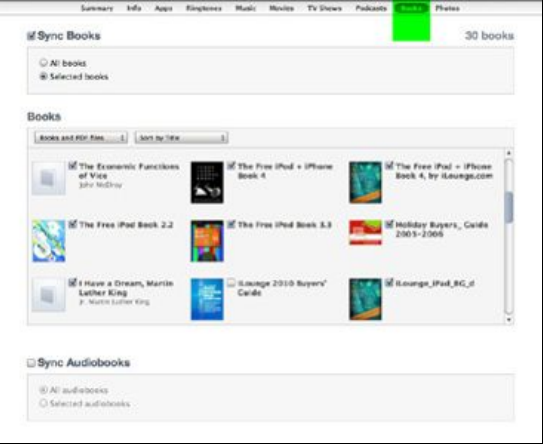
Home Sharing. Found under the Advanced menu in iTunes (top of Mac screen, top of PC's iTunes window), Home Sharing lets your iPad and other devices access this machine's videos, music, podcasts, audiobooks, and more - so long as they're on the same home network. Enter your Apple ID and password. iPad's iPod and Videos apps will find and let you stream from a new Shared Library.

Using the iPad: Downloading and Enjoying iBooks

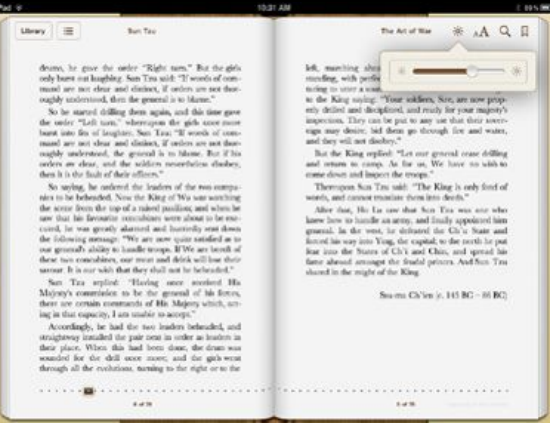
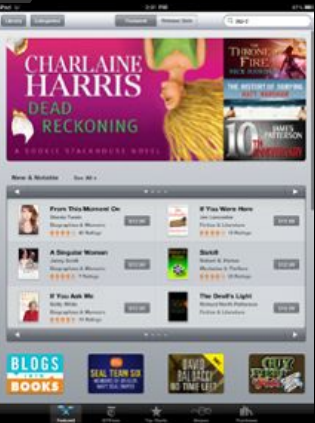
Apple's eBook/PDF reader isn't built into the iPad; instead, it's a free download. Here's how to use it.



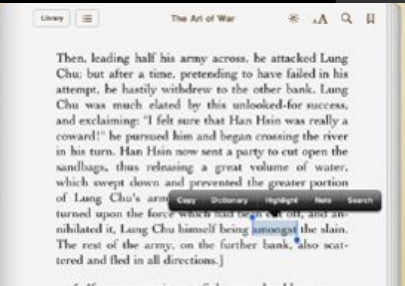
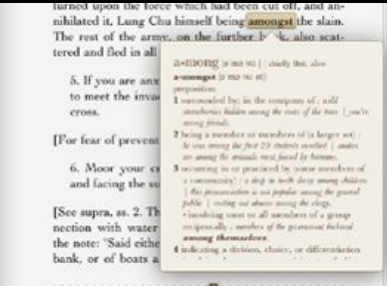
Start With the App Store. Apple didn't want to wait for iOS updates to improve iBooks, so the app is separate - and offered the first time you load App Store on the iPad. Once you grab it, select the iPad under iTunes' Devices list, then the Books tab. You can choose which iTunes-stored eBooks and PDFs to sync.



Build Your Libraries + Shop. iBooks lets you keep separate libraries of eBooks and PDFs, organizing each as you prefer. Click the library's top left Store button to add free and paid eBooks from Apple's iBookstore; get new PDFs via Safari or e-mail.



Read Away. Though eBooks are little more than glorified text files - now with small pictures and sometimes video clips inside - iBooks glams them up with your choice of six fonts, bright or sepia pages, and font size options, rotating to fit tall or wide screens. PDFs display in glorious color, either as 1 tall page or 2 wide pages.



Neat Tricks. Tap on an eBook's word and you can look it up in a dictionary, highlight it, search for it elsewhere in the pages, or type a note for later. Full book searching, page bookmarking, and brightness adjustments are all only a tap away; swipe to flip pages.

Using the iPad 2: Camera, FaceTime, Photo Booth + Photos

Amazingly, the iPad 2 includes four separate camera-related applications. Here's what they do.



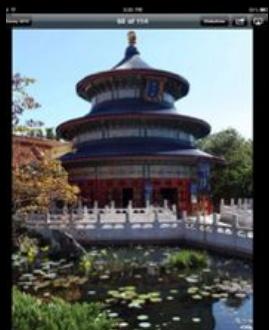
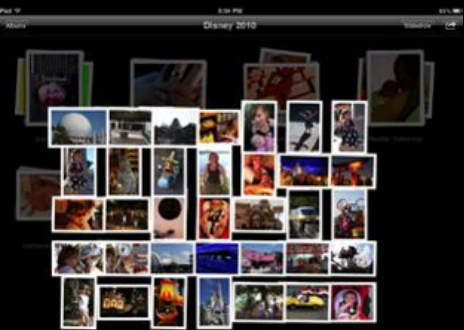
Camera. Virtually identical to the iPod touch 4G version of this app, Camera lets you capture photos and videos using the front and rear iPad 2 cameras. You can tap the screen to adjust exposure, and use a pointless 5X digital zoom, magnifying the grainy, low-resolution images snapped by the iPad 2. A Camera Roll button lets you preview all of your photos and videos.



FaceTime. Starting with a full-screen view of whatever the front camera is seeing, FaceTime overlays a list of your contacts so you can initiate one-on-one, slightly blurry 640x480 video calls to iPhone 4s, iPod touch 4Gs, Macs, and iPad 2s. If someone calls you, the iPad 2 provides an accept/decline option, just like an iPhone call, ringing with a chosen ringtone.



Photo Booth. Based on the same-named Mac app, Photo Booth is a stripped down version of Camera, but with eight image-distorting filters. Thermal and X-Ray play with colors, and the rest use mirror, lightstream or bulge effects. It snaps still pictures that you can quickly e-mail or delete. As with the Mac app, it's mostly a novelty for kids - but they'll love it.



Photos. Carried over from the first iPad, this app organizes all the photos you've synced through iTunes - including sorting by Albums, Faces, and Places - plus any pics and movies made with the iPad 2, or transferred with the iPad Camera Connection Kit add-on. You can view pictures as slideshows or zoomable individual images; videos work, too.

Buying + Renting Media

Apple has made it easy to buy music, books, magazines, videos, apps, and games directly from your iPad, but there are other options that may be easier on your pocketbook - and better ways to get access to huge, unlimited access libraries of media content via affordable monthly subscriptions.

MP3/AAC Music

There are two ways to buy music for an iPad: purchase through Apple's iTunes Store, or hunt elsewhere on the Internet. Apple prevents competing stores from selling music directly on the iPad, so you'll need to use a computer to buy songs at other stores. iTunes often charges more - \$1.29/song or \$12/album - relative to Amazon.com, which sells most tracks at \$1 and albums for \$5 to \$10. Buy through the iPad and you can listen right away; shop elsewhere and you must sync the iPad first. We'd pick Amazon. Audio quality is virtually the same: Amazon sells tracks as 256Kbps MP3s, which are device-agnostic; Apple's tracks are 256Kbps AACs, made for Apple devices and most (but not all) competing products.

Rentals and subscriptions are another option in some countries - at least, for now. Napster and Rhapsody each provide unlimited music streaming and limited on-device storage of tracks as long as you continue to pay \$10 per month. We've reviewed both services, but their futures on iOS devices have become cloudy because of a recent Apple demand for a 30% share of their revenues; Rhapsody has said it will not pay. Whether these subscription services will continue past June 2011 is unclear, but Slacker Radio has just launched a same-priced competitor that may replace them. Slacker's free app lets you stream music with ads; for \$10, choice increases and ads disappear.

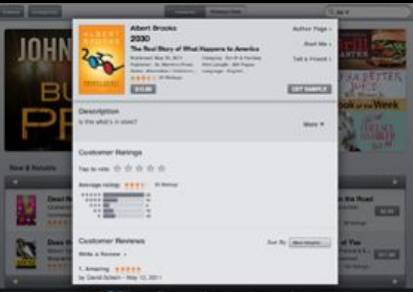
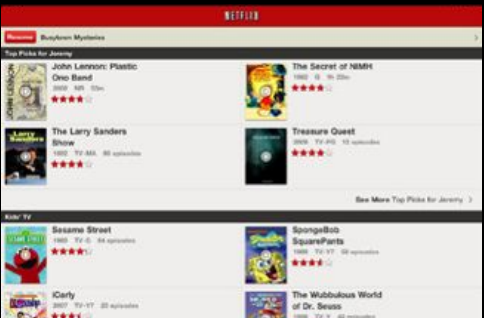
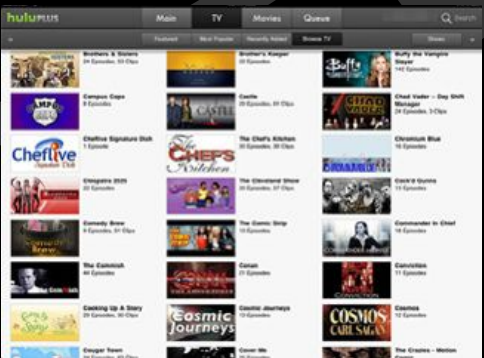
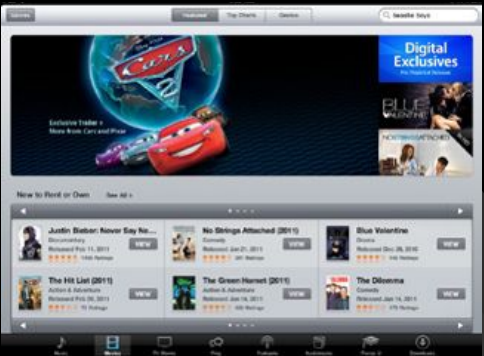


MP4/H.264 Videos

As with music, Apple's iTunes Store is the exclusive direct-to-iPad vendor of videos, including TV shows, music videos, and movies. Although the quality of these videos is high enough to make great use of the iPads' 9.7" screens, they are expensive, with TV shows commonly selling for \$2-\$3 each, and movies for \$10-\$15; high-definition versions typically cost more. The sheer quantity of free or low-cost streaming alternatives is dramatically higher, depending on what you're looking for.

In the United States, many new TV shows are also available through Hulu Plus, an iOS app with an \$8 monthly all-you-can watch subscription fee. Hulu also offers a number of decent movies, but it's strongest for U.S. network shows. Competitor Netflix offers a \$9 monthly subscription with unlimited iOS and Apple TV streaming access to a huge collection of second-run movies and TV programs, including children's content, documentaries, and many popular old TV shows.

While Amazon and other companies sell some of the same TV shows and movies as Apple does, the compatibility of the video files varies, and the price differences are rarely as sharp as with music sold through iTunes. Apple also offers its own growing catalog of rentals of major theatrical releases and a limited number of TV shows, with TV prices starting at 99 cents and generally rising to as much as \$5 per film; some are more expensive. Rentals and subscriptions seem to be the near-term future of video on the iPad, though it remains to be seen whether Hulu, Netflix, and others will agree to Apple's new subscription terms, or bow out of the App Store.



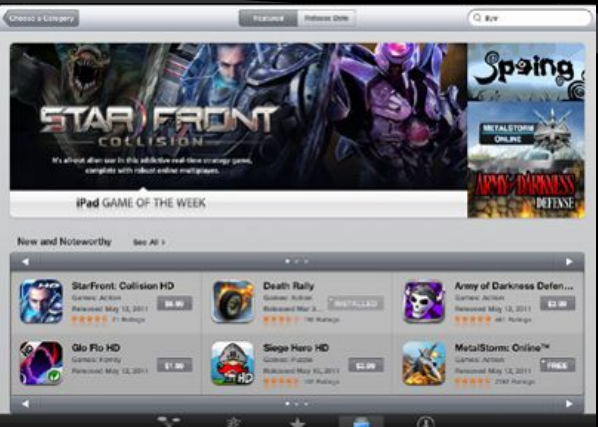
Digital Books + Magazines

Available solely through the free iOS app iBooks, Apple's iBookstore currently offers over 200,000 digital books as a rival to Amazon's Kindle and Barnes & Noble's Nook bookstores. Apple's books most commonly sell for \$10 or more, and classics are given away for free. As with iTunes, the iBookstore may be more expensive than rivals, but the purchasing experience is more convenient: you can only buy from Amazon or B&N via their web sites. On the other hand, Amazon's and B&N's books can be read on computers and inexpensive standalone digital book readers; the least expensive iBooks-ready devices are much smaller-screened iPod touches, and thus far, there's no Mac or PC support for iBooks downloads. That said, we still prefer to buy from the iBookstore due to the superior interface iBooks offers for reading. Truly interactive books and magazines are now being offered as standalone apps, not in iBooks; some now offer monthly and annual subscriptions, as well.

iPad Apps + Games

Once again, Apple is the sole official direct-to-iPad provider of applications and games. While there are competitors to its App Store, they are only available to users who 'jailbreak' (hack) their iOS devices, and Apple has effectively frozen app rivals out by denying warranty coverage to jailbreakers. For this reason, we do not recommend jailbreaking.

The App Store has become an incredible source of new software for iPad owners: today, there are over 87,000 apps and games with iPad support, the most significant of which we discuss elsewhere in this Buyers' Guide. Prices range from free to \$999, with the average game price only a little higher than \$1, and the average app price around \$3. That said, top games often debut at \$5 or \$10 prices before falling lower. Today, the vast majority of titles are \$10 or less, and over 1/3 are free.



Buying + Selling iPads

If you're looking to buy an iPad or accessories, there are several options: shop at the Apple Store, buy from authorized/unauthorized resellers, or go through eBay, which unlike the others continues to serve as a market for past generations of Apple products years after they were discontinued. New iPad and accessory prices are below; eBay's most recent mid-May 2011 used iPad prices are on the right.

Buying From Apple Stores

There's every reason - except one - to buy directly from Apple. It offers free engraving on iPads, free shipping, and no restocking fee for items you decide to return. Apple is also the first to get its own products, has the largest inventory of them, and stocks many good third-party items, too. On the other hand, its prices are amongst the highest around, more notably so on accessories than iPads themselves. It almost never offers sales. But it does offer great deals on refurbished iPads.

Other stores stock it in separate packages, but Apple can auto-register your iPad for **AppleCare** (\$79), which extends your warranty to three total years of coverage; if purchased separately, it can be activated at any time in the first year. Additionally, if you're not sure what to buy someone, or want to chip in towards a bigger purchase, Apple sells **Gift Cards** (\$25-\$5,000).



Shopping Outside of Apple

Compare the prices at several authorized retailers to Apple's. At Best Buy, the prices are at least as high as Apple's; its historic hassles over returns have diminished. Target stocks budget add-ons you won't find at Apple and offers brief sales. Local store returns are easy, but it doesn't sell iPad 2s online. Walmart's prices are low but shipping is extra, mooted iPad 2 purchases. It sells some junk accessories, but also some good ones at low prices.

iPad/Add-On	Apple	Best Buy	Target	Walmart
16GB Wi-Fi	\$499	\$500	\$500	\$499
16GB 3G	\$629	\$630	\$630	\$629
32GB Wi-Fi	\$599	\$600	\$600	\$599
32GB 3G	\$729	\$730	\$730	\$729
64GB Wi-Fi	\$699	\$700	\$700	\$699
64GB 3G	\$829	\$830	\$830	\$829
AppleCare	\$79	N/A	\$80	\$69
Griffin A-Frame	\$50	\$50	N/A	\$31
Jensen JiPS250i	N/A	N/A	\$70	N/A
Free Shipping	\$49+	No	No	No

iPad (Original)



4-2010

16/32/64GB - 10 Hr Battery
Wi-Fi
\$499-\$699 US

16/32/64GB - 10 Hr Battery
Wi-Fi + 3G (GSM)
\$629-\$829 US

Breakthroughs: Apple's first tablet computer, featuring a 9.7" multi-touch glass display and an aluminum body, plus 10-hour battery life for video playback and web browsing, with far longer standby time. Comes in three capacities and two different versions, one with 802.11n Wi-Fi, the other with 802.11n and GSM 3G cellular data service.

Pack-Ins: USB to Dock Connector cable, 10W USB Power Adapter, SIM card ejector tool (3G version only).

Issues: No integrated stand, initially little software. Low storage capacity on low-end model. Only more expensive 3G version includes GPS for mapping; no CDMA version.

eBay Values:	
16GB Wi-Fi (MB292LL/A)	\$381.83
16GB Wi-Fi + 3G (MC349LL/A)	\$436.38
32GB Wi-Fi (MB293LL/A)	\$450.66
32GB Wi-Fi + 3G (MC496LL/A)	\$451.36
64GB Wi-Fi (MB294LL/A)	\$504.25
64GB Wi-Fi + 3G (MC497LL/A)	\$564.98

iPad 2



3-2011

16/32/64GB - 10 Hr Battery
Wi-Fi
\$499-\$699 US

16/32/64GB - 10 Hr Battery
Wi-Fi + 3G (GSM or CDMA)
\$629-\$829 US

(International iPad 2 demand is so high that these used prices are sometimes higher than new retail.)

Breakthroughs: First iPad with integrated cameras and dual core processor. Twice the RAM and up to nine times better graphics performance. Metal body reduced in thickness, height, width, and weight. CDMA version and two front bezel colors (white or black) now available. Added magnets and iOS support for Smart Cover lids.

Pack-Ins: USB to Dock Connector cable, 10W USB Power Adapter, SIM card ejector tool (3G version only).

Issues: Poor rear camera performance. Crazy number of different models due to separate GSM/CDMA versions. Early production flaws cause screen light leakage. Same stand, capacity, and GPS versions as prior model.

eBay Values:	
16GB Wi-Fi (MC769LL/A, MC979LL/A)	\$503.75
16GB Wi-Fi+3G GSM (MC773LL/A, MC982LL/A)	\$700.00
16GB Wi-Fi+3G CDMA (MC755LL/A, MC985LL/A)	\$699.00
32GB Wi-Fi (MC770LL/A, MC980LL/A)	\$579.79
32GB Wi-Fi+3G GSM (MC774LL/A, MC983LL/A)	\$775.00
32GB Wi-Fi+3G CDMA (MC763LL/A, MC986LL/A)	\$658.67
64GB Wi-Fi (MC916LL/A, MC981LL/A)	\$684.79
64GB Wi-Fi+3G GSM (MC775LL/A, MC984LL/A)	\$828.31
64GB Wi-Fi+3G CDMA (MC764LL/A, MC987LL/A)	\$740.40



POWER SUPPORT

iPad 2 HD Anti-Glare film

eliminates glare and finger prints
easy installation and removal of air bubbles



Coming soon

iPad 2 air jacket compatible
with the Apple® Smart Cover

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Find us on  <http://twitter.com/#!/powersupportusa>
 <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Power-Support-USA/104278154315>

www.powersupportusa.com
Use coupon code "m52411" for a 15% discount

Gum Plus™

The high-capacity, high-style backup battery



AluPen™
The stylish stylus for iPad



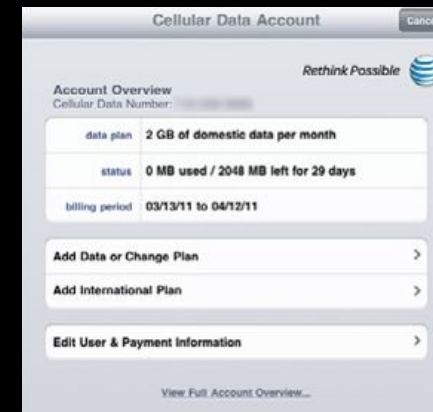
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IPAD 2 BUYERS' GUIDE

ALL ABOUT THE IPAD 2

Domestic + International iPad 2 Pricing: Pay-As-You-Go Service



Unlike the iPhone, which is commonly locked to a specific carrier and sold with a multi-year contract, most iPad 2s with Wi-Fi + 3G are sold unlocked and contract-free. As a result, you pay a higher up-front price, but have the freedom to buy 3G data service on a month-to-month basis from different companies - with varying prices for low and high quantities of data. This is great for frequent international travelers, and for users in countries with multiple GSM carriers. Here are some current iPad 2 prices and 3G options; note that all "\$" prices are in that country's dollars or local currency, and that these are all monthly, no-contract prices, representing the least and most expensive options in each territory.

Country/Region	iPad with Wi-Fi	iPad with Wi-Fi + 3G	Low-End Data	High-End Data
USA: AT&T	\$499-\$699	\$629-\$829	\$15/250MB	\$25/2GB
USA: Verizon	\$499-\$699	\$629-\$829	\$20/1GB	\$80/10GB
Canada	\$519-\$719	\$649-\$849	\$15/250MB	\$35/5GB
Mexico	\$6999-\$9999	\$8999-\$11998	\$47/50MB	\$499/6GB
UK	£399-£559	£499-£659	£8/1GB	£15/10GB
EU	€479-€679	€599-€799	€10/200MB	€25/Unlimited
Australia	\$579-\$799	\$729-\$949	\$10/250MB	\$130/15GB
Switzerland	549-769CHF	699-919CHF	19CHF/300MB	39CHF/2GB
Japan	¥44800-¥60800	¥56640-¥72720	¥1510/100MB	¥4410/1GB
Singapore	\$668-\$928	\$848-\$1108	\$22/3GB	\$37/Unlimited
China	CNY3988-5588	Not Available	CNY80/1GB	CNY300/10GB

Replacing The iPad 2's Micro-SIM Card: What You Need To Know

There are small differences in iPad 2 with Wi-Fi + 3G Micro-SIM pack-ins from country to country. In the United States, the AT&T Micro-SIM is pre-installed in the GSM iPad 2, but in other countries, a card may or may not be included in the package, requiring the customer to visit the data service provider's store and purchase one. Where that's the case, the price is typically under €5, and may include data service. Removing the Micro-SIM card tray is as simple as inserting the sharp edge of the included tray removal tool into a hole on the tray's side, which pops it out of the iPad 2. A Micro-SIM will fit into a specially cut groove in the tray, and the tray will easily slide back in. If the SIM card is too large to fit inside the tray, it's likely an old, full-sized SIM and will need to be cut down or replaced by the cellular provider. Reputable vendors will sell you the right Micro-SIM for the iPad 2 from the start.





The iPad Lifestyle Guide

Playing, Learning, and Working With Apple's iPads

One year ago, iPads had the potential - underscore potential - to replace desktop and notebook computers, as well as bringing computing to new places, such as the hands of restaurant servers, the back seats of cars, and the desks of kindergarteners. Today, thanks to thousands of new apps, iPads are being used for all these things and more: they're word processors, TV replacements, gaming devices, musical instruments, video cameras and editing tools. There's little that iPads can't do, and many ways that they're actively making life easier than before.

Our iPad Lifestyle Guide looks at the ways iPads are being used today at home, at school, on the road, and in the most popular professions, including medical care, food service, and office work. Building upon our 100 Essential Apps of 2010 feature from last year, we focus primarily on new apps and ones that weren't touched upon before.

We particularly appreciate and recommend apps that include universal iPad, iPhone, and iPod touch support within a single download, as they make it easier for iOS users to relax, learn, work, and play with fewer hassles.



CHAT AND SOCIALIZE!

CALL FRIENDS AND SEND TEXT MESSAGES WITHOUT A PHONE. TWEET + FACEBOOK TOO.

Twitter, Friended For Facebook + Textie

Even with 20 million iPads now in the wild, tablet social networking apps haven't received the attention they deserve. Twitter deserves credit for offering a universal version of its official application, complete with a nice iPad-specific sliding panel interface, but Facebook dropped the ball - there's still no official app, and the best option is Friended (\$1) by Napkin Studio, which offers separate photo, timeline, and friend panes, plus live chat and photo importing features. Users looking for an iPad text messaging solution should try the free universal app Textie Messaging, which runs in the background on any iOS device, enabling it to send and receive SMS/MMS-style messages without additional texting fees. It works best when your friends have it installed, too, as Textie eliminates the need to pay when used on both sides.



Skype + Other VoIP/Video Calling Solutions

Skype (above) still hasn't released an iPad-ready update to its free, popular iPhone/iPod touch voice over IP (VoIP) application, but iPads can still run the iPhone version for free Skype-to-Skype voice and video calling. It even works over 3G, and can dial phones for a fee. Yahoo Messenger (right) is the first app with free iPad 2-ready video calls, plus voice and text chat for iPad. Fring is another option with similar features to Skype, though it too is optimized for iPhones.



Previously Covered

Friendly (above) offers another unofficial Facebook client with camera support. Tweetdeck is another popular Twitter client, now owned by Twitter. FaceTime is the best option for video calls.

Accessorize It

A remote-and-mic equipped pair of headphones is highly useful for making VoIP calls. The iPad Camera Connection Kit will make shared photos better.

COOK AND DINE OUT!

FIND A PERFECT RECIPE. CHOOSE GREAT RESTAURANTS. OR RUN YOUR OWN.

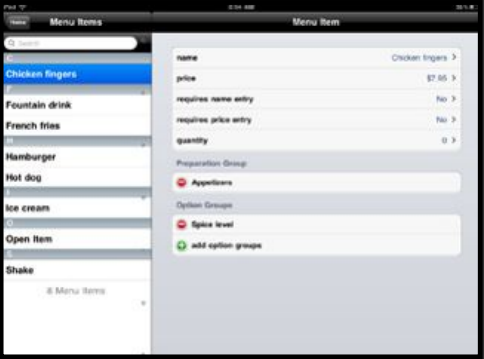


Gourmet Live, Epicurious + OpenTable for iPad

After a bumpy start on the technical side, Conde Nast's free digital magazine Gourmet Live has become a reliably good weekly read about dining and food culture. It provides a locker to hold every free issue you grab, plus a store with \$1 back issues and recipes you missed. We do most of our recipe hunting in Epicurious, an awesome collection of wonderfully presented recipes from Conde's collection. They're impressively organized - and reorganized seasonally, with holidays - including a shopping list tool that holds or e-mails whatever you need to purchase. If you're looking for reservations at top local restaurants, there's a good chance you'll find them on OpenTable, a free app version of the popular site. The interface really simplifies hunting for times and dates, presenting a list of viable options.

Run A Restaurant From Your iPad + iPhone

It's one thing to turn an iPad into a menu, and another to make it the heart of a reservation, ordering, billing, and payment system. Refulgent Software's Ambur dispenses with computers and notepads, so servers can carry iPod touches, iPhones, or iPads to take orders and handle checks. The impressive app is free with a \$1,000 in-app purchase.



Previously Covered

Urbanspoon and Yelp list top-reviewed restaurants. Numerous iPhone-formatted cocktail apps, including Cocktails+, offer drink recipes. Safari lets you access web sites for most restaurants.

Accessorize It

Mount your iPad in the kitchen. Wireless speakers set the mood for a meal. Cases can turn iPads into menus. Square's Credit Card Reader can ring up checks.

CREATE AND EDIT!

MAKE MUSIC. TAKE PICTURES. SHOOT MOVIES. EDIT THEM ALL DIRECTLY FROM THE IPAD.

Apple GarageBand for iPad

Uncharacteristically generous with features for an initial software release, Apple blew everyone away with the \$5 iPad version of its Mac music tool GarageBand, unveiled in March for iPads and iPad 2s alike. GarageBand combines “smart” guitar, bass, drum, and keyboard instruments - each capable of being played, or playing themselves (!) - with an eight-track recording feature. Using the iPad’s touch and motion sensors together to detect interactions with different instruments, GarageBand effectively approximates pressure-sensitive strings, key depressions, and drum strikes. Moreover, between the nine guitar amps, 10 stompboxes, 250 included loops, a sampler, and the ability to record vocals using the iPad’s integrated mic or accessories, the total power in this one app outstrips professional mixing studios of yesteryear. Recordings can be edited, directly outputted from the iPad, e-mailed, or synced back to a Mac for further work in the latest desktop app.

Apple iMovie for iPad 2

As an iPad 2-only addition to the prior \$5 iPhone/iPod touch app, iMovie lets users trim, edit, transition, and title videos recorded with the iPad 2’s cameras. Significant new audio special effects and editing features are included in this easy-to-use app; it’s only limited in its non-iPad video support.



Previously Covered

The iPad 2’s Camera and Photo Booth apps record photos and/or videos. Adobe’s Photoshop Express is a free editing app. IK Multimedia’s AmpliTube adds guitar amps and effects.

Accessorize It

Apple’s iPad Camera Connector imports photos/videos from cameras. Guitar adapters and microphones such as iRig and iRig Mic create better music.



Algoriddim Djay

It took years from the release of the first seemingly compelling iPod accessories to make this happen, but the iPad finally got a real DJ turntabling app in Djay (\$20). Full touchscreen control over two simultaneous audio streams from your iPad’s music library lets you mix, scratch, slow down, and speed up tracks, fading one down to swap a new song in as another one is playing. Pro DJs testify that the app’s good enough to use at real DJ gigs or for practicing sets before live performances; a button provides downmixed recordings that you can analyze later for mistakes or play for a crowd. It’s fun for amateurs, too, and a good investment for kids who want to learn DJing basics.

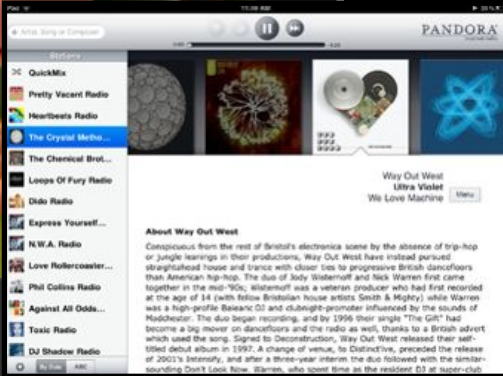
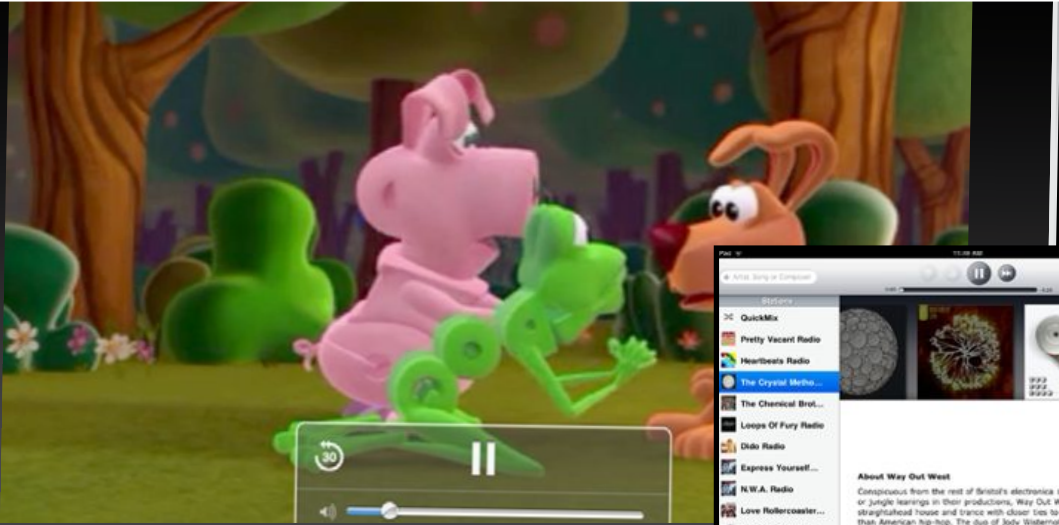
Tons of Photo Editing + Filter Apps

Though the iPad 2’s cameras aren’t great, Apple’s tablets have nice photo fixing and filtering apps that can improve even junky photos. From top to bottom, MacPhun’s PhotoPal (\$4) provides spot healing and red eye removal tools alongside powerful noise reduction and color adjustment effects; Photogene for iPad (\$3) also includes these features, locking new additions inside a \$7 Pro update that now contains watermarking, RGB curve and JPEG compression settings. TouchUp for iPad (\$10) lets you apply dramatic color filters to images, along with masks and layers. Pocketbooth HD (\$2) simulates old-fashioned photo booths, snapping sequential photos with your choice of several filters, and TiltShift Generator for iPad (\$3) adds dramatic, DSLR-style blur and saturation effects to shots.



ENTERTAIN!

STREAM ON-DEMAND TV SHOWS AND MOVIES. CREATE CUSTOM RADIO STATIONS.



From Netflix To On-Demand TV Shows And On-Demand Music

Even though the iTunes Store has sold videos for years, subscription-based TV show and movie services such as Netflix have really taken off over the past year: an \$8 monthly fee provides access to a massive vault of network and cable shows, plus older and B-grade movies. Netflix's free iPad/iPhone/iPod app works flawlessly with this service, the same fee covers access from Apple TVs, too. Individual TV networks, including ABC and HBO, now offer iPad users on-demand, streaming access to past and current seasons of their shows; ABC's is open to anyone, and HBO's only for subscribers. Music fans can also access radio-like stations created by starting from one song or artist you prefer. Pandora's free, ad-supported app is a leader with iPad support; Slacker is another, recently iPad-upgraded option.

Watch Adobe Flash Videos On Your iPad

Apple famously blocked Adobe's Flash from running on iPhones, iPod touches, and iPads, blaming it for crashes and battery problems - retrospectively a smart move. If you really need Flash video access, Skyfire's Web Browser for iPad (\$5) plays many videos, and is expanding its support weekly.



Previously Covered

Hulu Plus offers monthly paid access to network and cable TV shows. ooTunes provides free Internet Radio streaming; YouTube offers short, free clips.

Accessorize It

An Apple TV, Digital AV Adapter, or VGA Adapter will let you enjoy video and/or audio through high-def TVs. A stand will keep the iPad upright. Speakers or headphones can up the volume.

TUAW: " I've come to really like the way the AluPen works with an iPad or iPhone. "

GearDiary: " I finally felt I had found a stylus that looked like it "belonged" with my iPad or iPhone. "



AluPen™
The stylish stylus for iPad



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Eco-Flip



A versatile, eco-leather flip-top iPad 2 case

MicroShell



A stylish, thin polycarbonate hard shell iPad 2 case



MicroShell Folio

C.E.O. Hybrid



An ultra-low profile, hard shell and soft fabric hybrid case

Eco-Vue



A versatile, eco-leather folio-style iPad 2 case

www.MARWARE.com

HEALTH AND MEDICINE!

TRACK YOUR HEALTH. CREATE OR ACCESS MEDICAL RECORDS. DIAGNOSE. PRESCRIBE.

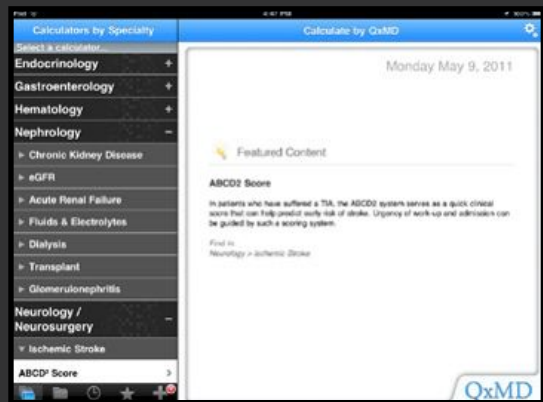


MacPractice, Nimble EMR + Human Atlas

If you're a doctor or medical professional, iPad apps can help you - and your patients. MacPractice provides an iPad interface for its end-to-end Mac-based calendaring, patient management, prescription, diagnosis and referral system, collectively offered for \$800. ClearPractice's Nimble EMR is a free option with scheduling, charting, prescribing, and claim management features, promising to let doctors handle most of their needs without using a computer. By contrast, Blausen's Human Atlas HD (\$30) uses images, descriptions, and even videos to help patients visualize their diagnoses while in the office, including 3-D rendered, rotating body models covering nine different body systems. And dozens of other apps are geared towards medical students, including iPad Gray's Anatomy and Oxford American medical handbooks, flash cards, and test prep tools.

QxMD Calculate Medical Calculator + More

Massive and entirely free, this specialty-sorted tool provides over 150 medical decision support tools and calculators, including everything from estimating burn areas to calculations of a baby's due date and CHADS2 risk scoring for patients with atrial fibrillation. Numerous other quick reference tools are found in the App Store for every medical topic using the Search feature.



Accessorize It

Consumer-grade iOS-ready health accessories and apps are increasing in numbers. iHealth sells a \$100 blood pressure monitor, Wahoo sells the \$80+ Fisica Sensor Key with exercise monitors, and Withings has a \$159 Wi-Fi digital scale and app. Professional-grade diagnostic iOS accessories are coming, too.

LEARN AND TEACH!

CARRY A DIGITAL TEXTBOOK. LEARN ABCS, 123S, AND READING. GO BEYOND LESSONS.



From ABCs To Econ 101

The scope of iPad educational tools continues to expand every month. Early \$2 apps such as Peapod Labs' ABC series (ABC Music, above) teach the alphabet with beautiful photos and tappable letters; now Inklings offers a free digital textbook app complete with note-taking tools, a book store where you can purchase only the chapters you need, and beautifully designed, easy to read pages. More books are needed, but it's an impressive place to start.

Previously Covered

College and grad students will appreciate the academic literature in Papers. The Elements is an amazing iPad 3-D science book. And Duck Duck Moose apps offer great edutainment.



Kids' Books, Evolved

Nosy Crow's 3 Little Pigs (\$8) is a staggering example of next-generation storytelling: the classic fairy tale comes to life with fully animated 3-D scenes, narration, and interactive elements that engage kids. Ideal Binary's Grimm's Rapunzel (\$4) lets kids raise and rescue Rapunzel while telling her story; Jack and Joe (\$3) from Stupid Art Company tells the original story of a boy and his Siberian Husky puppy, including a coloring scene. Apps from Disney include Handy Manny Flicker's Flashcard Fiesta (\$3), which teaches kids Spanish or English with bilingual cards and cute animations.

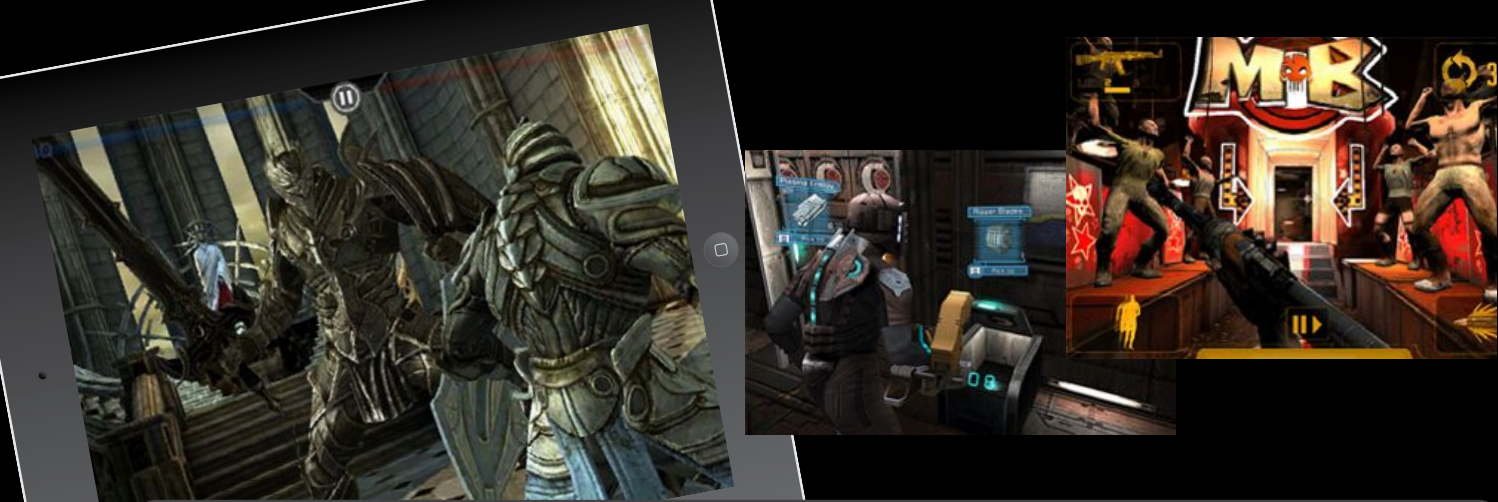


Accessorize It

Griffin's LightBoard and ColorStudio HD add real and digital markers to drawing apps. Styluses and brushes help with writing and painting apps, too.

PLAY + WATCH GAMES!

PLAY GAMES WITHOUT A JOYSTICK. WATCH SPORTS WITHOUT A TELEVISION.

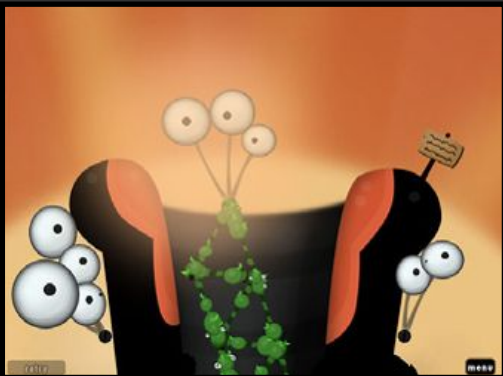


Raw Action: Infinity Blade, Dead Space for iPad + Rage HD

Some of the iPad's most impressive action games were released immediately before and after Christmas 2010, blowing the minds of holiday Apple gift recipients. Epic Games' universal iOS fighting and adventure title Infinity Blade (\$3) brought insanely detailed medieval characters and backdrops to the screen, then added additional characters, collectible items, and iPad 2 graphics improvements in post-release updates. You tap to automatically walk from scene to scene in an amazing 3-D world, using swipes to fight soldiers, monsters, and a collection of immortal warriors. Also updated for iPad 2, EA's Dead Space for iPad (\$10) is a deliberately horrifying, tense sci-fi action game with shooting elements, letting you chainsaw and blast your way through a space station. id Software's Rage HD (\$2) handles footwork for you, letting you control the targeting and gun of a man making his way through a brutal apocalyptic game show filled with demonic killers.

World of Goo HD

Originally developed for other platforms and then ported solely to the iPad, World of Goo HD (\$5) is now universal for all iOS devices. It's a remarkably illustrated and animated puzzle game, requiring you to build structures from colored balls of goo. Touch controls really help in solving the 48 different, brilliant levels.



Previously Covered

We've reviewed thousands of games - the best for iPads are in our two past Buyers' Guides. Our weekly Gems columns point you towards top new releases.

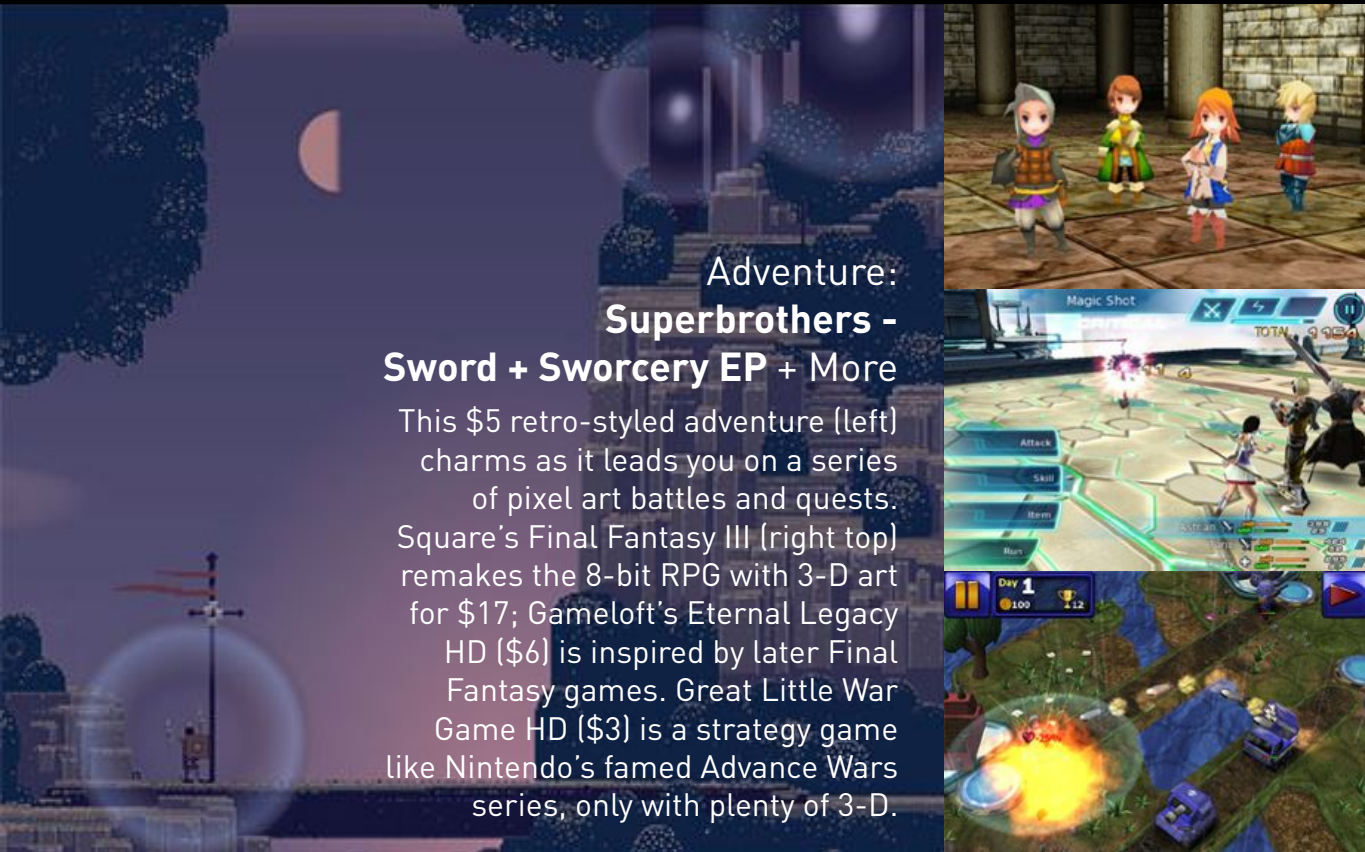
Accessorize It

Apple's Digital AV Adapter lets iPad 2s play games on HDTVs. ION Audio makes iCade, a mini arcade cabinet. Ten One Design's Fling is a suction cup controller for iPad screens.



Puzzlers: Jenga HD, Words With Friends HD + Coin Drop!

For only \$1, NaturalMotion replicates the classic wooden puzzle game Jenga, complete with precariously balanced, physics-dependent tower building and deconstruction challenges - all handled in 3-D. Newtoy's \$3 Words With Friends HD offers an alternative to Scrabble, designed for asynchronous multi-player turns, and compatible with the free ad-sponsored iPad, iPhone, and iPod touch versions. Coin Drop! from Full Fat Productions is a charmingly light, \$1 variation on Peggle, challenging you to drop coins from the top of the screen in hopes that they touch things on the way down; you can shake the iPad to jostle them.



Adventure: Superbrothers - Sword + Sworcery EP + More

This \$5 retro-styled adventure (left) charms as it leads you on a series of pixel art battles and quests. Square's Final Fantasy III (right top) remakes the 8-bit RPG with 3-D art for \$17; Gameloft's Eternal Legacy HD (\$6) is inspired by later Final Fantasy games. Great Little War Game HD (\$3) is a strategy game like Nintendo's famed Advance Wars series, only with plenty of 3-D.



Angry Birds Rio HD
Birds as projectiles. Buildings as physics puzzles. Pigs as targets. In this \$3 movie-inspired sequel to last year's phenomenon, you're mostly freeing fellow birds rather than aiming at pigs, but the slingshot-style action's the same, only with new artwork and episodic level updates.



Move + Shoot: Luxor - Amun Rising HD, Infinity Field + Hook Worlds
Akin to Popcap's Zuma and numerous similar match-three titles with snaking lines of colored balls to match up, MumboJumbo's 88-level, iOS universal game Luxor: Amun Rising HD (\$5) has atypically impressive graphics and music, keeping you moving your pharaoh-inspired cannon from left to right, lining up same-colored balls for matches. Chillingo's shooter Infinity Field (\$2) is iPad-only, but uses dual virtual joysticks, great music, and numerous levels to build on the legacy of Activision's Geometry Wars. Glowing vector art, intense particle effects, and lots of challenges keep it fun. Hook Worlds (\$2) is the latest universal platformer from Rocketcat Games, including four run and jump adventures with different controls: one flips gravity, another includes guns, and others are 16-bit and early 8-bit retro.

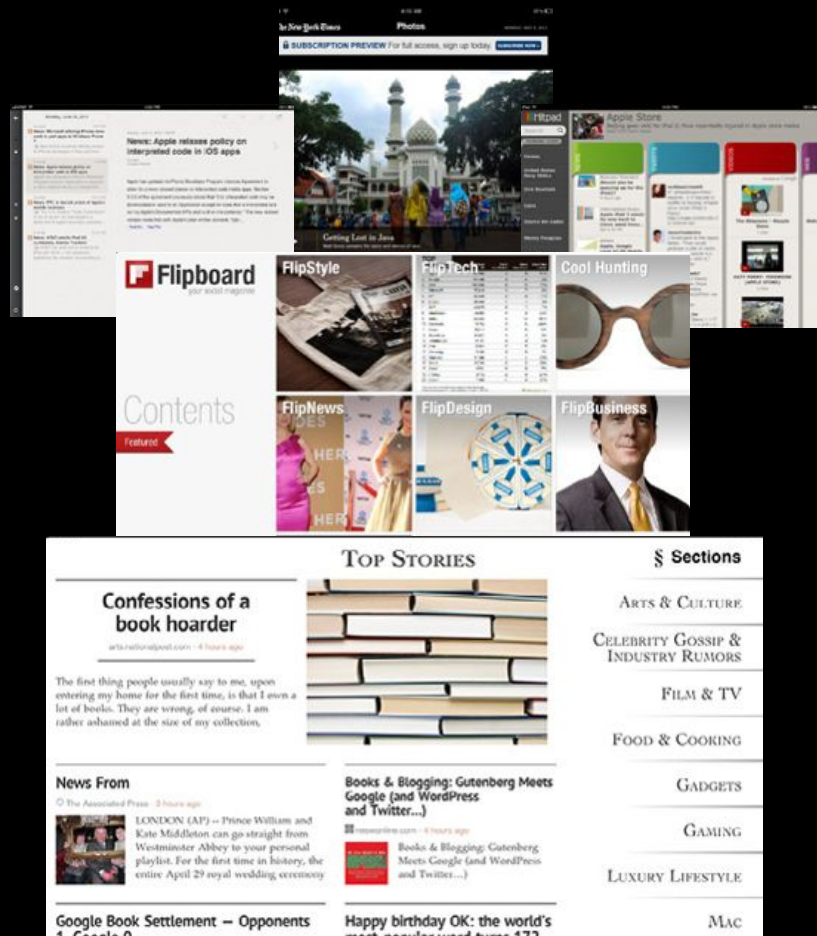
NBA Jam HD, Death Rally, Real Racing 2 HD + Madden NFL 11 iPad
EA's \$10 HD port of the classic 2-on-2 basketball game NBA Jam should be universal, but it's otherwise a fun, intense game of dunks and elbows for one or two players. Remedy's universal \$3 Death Rally is overhead combat driving that gets better every two weeks with new content; Firemint's Real Racing 2 HD (\$10) offers better-than-PlayStation 2-quality 3-D racing, including 1080p TV output. Previously covered, EA's Madden NFL 11 (\$7) is the best football game for iPads, bar none, featuring impressive 3-D character models and tight gameplay.



Check Scores Or Stream Full NFL + MLB Games To Your iPad
If watching sports on your iPad is more your speed, you'll be happy to know that the quantity and quality of options are both on the upswing. ESPN's ScoreCenter XL provides free access to live statistics and play-by-play, plus video highlights, previews, and recaps. DirecTV's NFL Sunday Ticket goes further, giving U.S.-based subscribers monthly or full regular season access to their choice of live HD streaming games, plus the Red Zone Channel, which flips between games as soon as teams are playing within the 20-yard lines. The app's free, but the subscription costs \$350. MLB At Bat 11 starts with a \$15 charge for the baseball video app, which provides news, stats, and limited access to live local games without an MLB.TV subscription. You add unlimited access to out-of-market live and archived games for a \$90 annual fee; the same subscription works with Apple TV. Will live NBA, NHL, or MLS be next?

READ NEWS AND MORE!

CONSUME NEWS MORE EFFICIENTLY. ENJOY NEXT-GENERATION BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.



Newspapers + Newsreaders

Hundreds of individual newspapers from around the world are now being offered as apps, either for free or with in-app subscriptions; simply search for your favorite to see what's being offered. What's really taking off now are aggregators: we love Silvio Rizzi's minimalist, text-heavy Reeder for iPad (\$5), which works with iPhone and Mac apps to sync with RSS feeds managed by Google Reader, providing only news from sources you want to read. But flashier apps such as Flipboard, Hitpad - See What's Up, and Zite Personalized Magazine offer free alternatives, steering you towards categorized news articles, sometimes mixed with your Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, and Google Reader accounts; Hitpad takes a novel approach by providing news, videos, photos, and web links related to current Twitter trending topics. These apps feel like multimedia, multi-sourced magazines of the future.

Next-Gen Books + Magazines As Apps

Despite Apple's iBookstore, many new digital books and magazines are sold now as apps rather than eBooks. Wired (\$2/issue) is among the better magazines, with Al Gore's book Our Choice (\$5) and Decoded by Jay-Z (\$15) similarly integrating video clips, interactive pages, and web downloads to add far more content than printed books could offer.



Previously Covered

Apple's iBooks and Amazon's Kindle apps each include digital bookstores. Instapaper saves web pages for off-line reading. Other news tools and magazines are in our Gems columns.

Accessorize It

The 3G-equipped iPads can grab new content when you're on the road. Well-made cases can make holding the iPad easier for extended reading sessions.

REPLACE YOUR IPHONE!

GIVE YOUR IPAD THE HANDY LITTLE IPHONE/IPOD/COMPUTER WIDGETS IT'S MISSING.



Fahrenheit

iPhones and iPods have the Weather app. iPad doesn't. Fahrenheit (\$1) is one of many, but uses push notifications and badges to show the temperature.



Delivery Status Touch

Used alone or paired with the free Mac widget, this \$5 app keeps a list of all your en route packages across over 30 delivery services, letting you see where each is, and when it's coming.



Converter Touch

Whether you need to switch inches to centimeters, Dollars to Yuan, or Lamberts to Candelas per Square Foot, this super-intuitive and beautifully organized tool from HandyPadSoft will earn its \$1 asking price the first time you load it.

Previously Covered

WunderMap and WeatherStation provide detailed weather info. Calcbot is a sharp calculator. Compass HD replicates the compass apps in recent iPhones. White Pages + Yellow Pages offer telephone/address lookups.

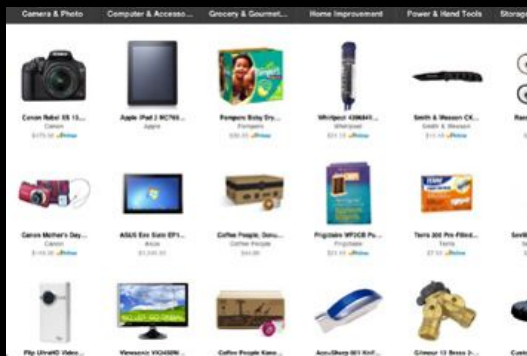
Microsoft Bing for iPad

Though Apple has precluded companies from trying to replicate the Mac's Dashboard full of widgets, Microsoft snuck around the limitation by including some of the best - weather, stocks, maps, a news feed, and a web search bar - all within a single free app. While the searches all take place through the company's #3-ranked Bing search engine, there's undeniable utility in having all of these features in one place, complete with a new daily photograph as pretty wallpaper, and a microphone-assisted search feature for those who don't want to or can't type. Until Apple gives the iPad back some of the iPhone's and iPod touch's widgets, this'll do.



SHOP AND SELL!

BUY STUFF MORE QUICKLY. SELL STUFF MORE EASILY.



Amazon Windowshop, Craigslist Pro + More

Most retailers operate entirely sufficient web sites to sell products, but apps are becoming increasingly popular as more visually intense and responsive catalogs. Amazon's second free iPad app, Windowshop, uses an ever-scrolling grid of popular products to entice you, rather than mimicking the look of Amazon.com. Escargot Studios' Craigslist Pro for iPad (\$2) turns the plain, text-heavy web site into a photographic collection of options near you, with multi-city searching and posting features built in. And even old-fashioned bricks and mortar retailers are joining the App Store: Sears offers a free digital version of its catalog in app form, effectively just providing a cleaner, touch-friendlier alternative to its web site. Japanese retailer Uniqlo has three iPad apps, including great iOS versions of its remarkable web-based clock and calendar.

iPay + Other Point Of Sale Apps

Retailers are experimenting with all sorts of ways to use iPads in stores; Anywise debuted The Matrix (\$5) at CES, turning multiple iPads into a coordinated video wall, and TekTango's iPay Mobile Point of Sale is a free app that turns an iPad into a standards-compliant payment processing terminal that works with credit card reading and thermal printer accessories. Expect more in-store iPad uses.



Previously Covered

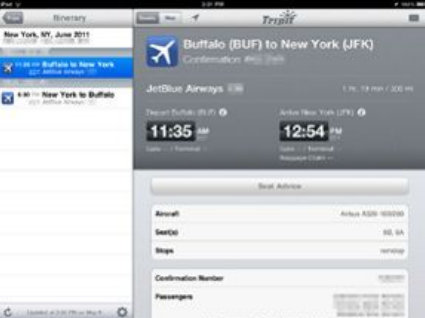
Browse and bid on auctions through the eBay app. Access the online Apple Store through an iPhone- and iPod touch-optimized app. And of course, find music in iPad's iTunes app.

Accessorize It

Handle payments with Square's Credit Card Reader. If you're using iPads in a store, use cases to keep them safe or custom mounts to prevent their theft.

TRAVEL AND NAVIGATE!

GET DIRECTIONS IN ADVANCE OR ON THE ROAD. PICK HOTELS. TRACK FLIGHTS.



Booking + Scheduling

Expedia's and Travelocity's web sites are good at canvassing hotel, rental car, and flight options, but free new iPad apps such as HotelPal are maximizing maps and images to ease the process of finding something with the right price, look, and location for your needs. Once you've booked, Triplt - Travel Organizer lets you organize everything from flights to hotels, rentals and destinations. It's ad-supported and free; a Pro version without ads is \$4.

Previously Covered

UpNext 3D Cities includes amazing 3-D maps of 8 major US cities for free. Many art museums, galleries, theme parks, and third parties are creating iOS apps, some for iPad.

Mapping

Apple includes a Google-dependent Maps app with every iPad; the maps look great and include directions, but automatic turn-by-turn guidance isn't included. Navigon MobileNavigator (\$60+) offers turn-by-turn GPS software for the 3G versions of iPads, as well as iPhones and iPods, all in one universal app.

FlightTrack Pro

Having tested numerous flight tracking apps, our favorite is Mobiata's FlightTrack Pro (\$10), which shows the progress of flights and manages full flying itineraries - it even auto-imports your flight info from e-mails. A \$4 in-app purchase adds Flightboard, showing an airport-style list of similar-timed flights.

Accessorize It

Car mounts and chargers help iPads serve as better on-the-road tools. Only the iPads with 3G have integrated GPS; plug-in GPS units for iPads are rare.

WORK SMARTER!

CREATE DOCUMENTS, PRESENTATIONS, AND SPREADSHEETS. ALL FROM THE IPAD.



Apple Keynote, Numbers + Pages

Radically streamlined from the Mac apps of the same name, these were the iPad's first document creation tools - and remain among the best. Like Microsoft's PowerPoint, Keynote lets you create beautiful presentations using templates, photos, charts, and videos, then perform them on a TV. Numbers is Apple's version of Excel, making spreadsheets easy and optionally attractive, even including templates for event planning and virtual keypads that change automatically to accommodate the situation. Pages is a simpler, nicer take on Word, making word processing (and flyer creation) simple. Each costs \$10, can print to wireless printers, and includes an easy tutorial.

Quickoffice Connect Mobile Suite For iPad

If your office insists on using Microsoft's products, this \$15 app lets you create, edit, view and save Word, Excel, and PowerPoint documents, using e-mail, Wi-Fi, or cloud sharing tools to share files. Printing, exporting as PDF, and multiple language support are included, as well.

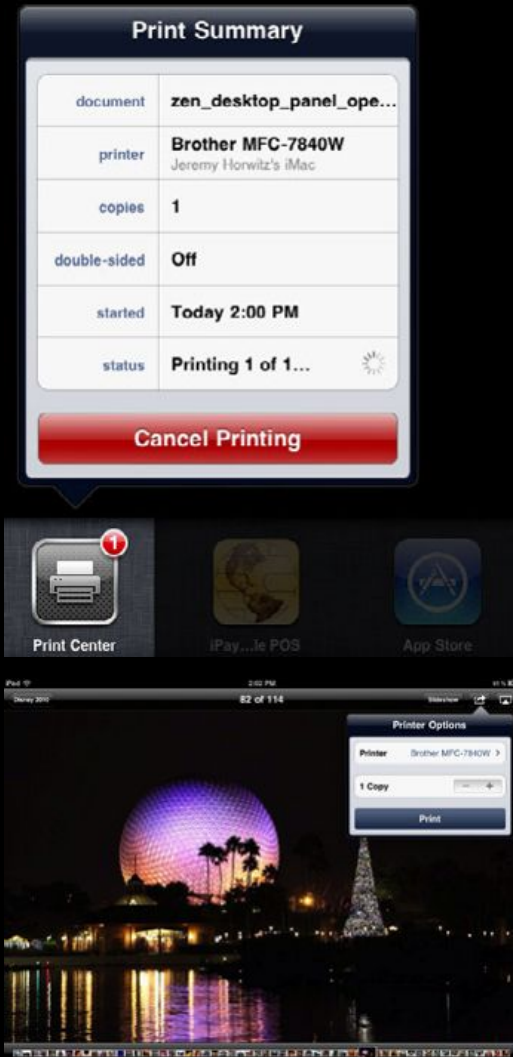


Previously Covered

Take handwritten notes with Penultimate or simple notes with Apple's free Notes, create flow charts with Popplet, access and control your PC or Mac from anywhere with iTeleport.

Accessorize It

Add a wireless keyboard for better typing, a stylus for accurate writing, a stand for desktop viewing, a nice case, and a wireless printer.



AirPrint

Now built into the iPad, Apple's AirPrint can send almost anything you're viewing - e-mails, photos, Safari web pages, or app documents - to a wireless printer on your office or home network. You'll typically find AirPrint listed as Print under a box with an outbound arrow, where you'll find a list of printers, the number of copies to make, and a Print button. A new icon, Print Center, will appear in your multitasking bar just long enough to handle the printing. New HP and certain other printers work beautifully.

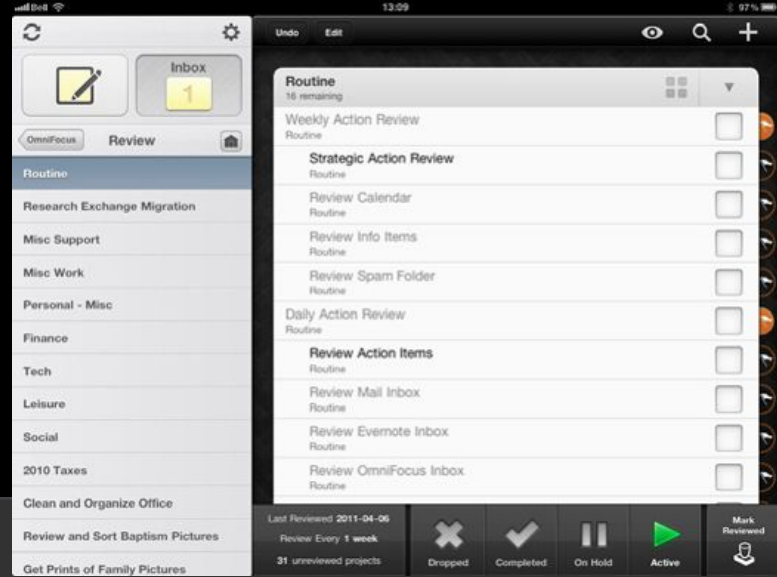
Dropbox

Without floppy disks or a USB drive, sending files from your computer to iPad can be a pain. This free app creates an Internet-based storage space where all of your iOS devices and your computer can save, access, and share the same files. Dropbox also automatically saves new additions to your iPad for off-line viewing, and works with iPhones/iPod touches.



The Omni Group OmniFocus for iPad

From major project management to the simple steps of a daily routine, OmniFocus for iPad (\$40) provides an ultra-streamlined interface for creating, entering, and following lists of tasks that need to be accomplished. Leveraging the iPad or iPad 2's map, media, and camera/mic features, the app lets you pinpoint where each of the tasks needs to take place, and add images, audio, and notes to each goal. A new forecast view lets you see what needs to be accomplished in upcoming days or weeks, and tools let you break big tasks into manageable steps for implementation. Elegantly designed, it's worthy of personal and professional use.



iDesign 2011

For several years, iLounge has profiled the top industrial and interFace designers in the Apple development community, looking for leaders in accessories and apps. We've selected six more winners for 2011.

It's easy to become an Apple developer these days: a \$99 annual fee licenses one person or an entire company to create iOS or Mac software, enabling startups or huge corporations to start churning out apps in days. Selling Apple accessories is nearly as simple: find some cheap plastic shells in China, ink a brand name on them, and set up an online shop. It's been done. Thousands of people now "create" very similar Apple add-ons and apps. The pool is bigger than ever, and filled with tons of me-too products.

iDesign focuses on game-changers - companies that stand out from the rest thanks to spectacular industrial or interface design. Yes, anyone can make accessories, but there are few truly elegant products. Similarly, one person can code an app in days, but it's the extra polish that makes truly great software stand out from hundreds of thousands of other titles.

The accessory developers we've chosen this year are pioneers, either complementing or going beyond Apple's industrial designs with popular, eye-catching add-ons. Some of their products are more conventional than others, but it's obvious that every curve and every line was thought through, generally for the end user's benefit.

The two featured software developers represent different ends of the spectrum. One creates inexpensive but addictive and highly stylized games, while the other produces premium productivity apps that previously demanded powerful computers. Both have mastered Apple's touchscreens, making mice and joypads feel unnecessary. They've each helped to define what iOS devices can do.

Inside, you'll find six developer profiles produced independently by iLounge's editors, alongside six illuminating interviews with key company executives and designers. Enjoy.

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84 · Twelve South: From iPod to Mac and Back

Rocking Beyond the Clock

Dozens of companies make iPod, iPhone, and iPad speakers. Few have been as successful as iHome, which now makes far more than just popular alarm clocks.



Ask the average person to name a company that makes speakers for Apple's products, and iHome's name will likely come up. As an early and prolific designer of iPod-docking sound systems, the New Jersey company's products are now everywhere - homes, stores, and even hotel rooms. Since 2005, iHome has influenced the designs of competitors, most notably with iconic clock radios such as iH5 (left) and sequels that set standards for the category. Yet while its designs mesh well with Apple's, iHome has recently developed a visual language all its own. Over the past few years,

the company has expanded beyond clock radios into new categories; kid-friendly speakers such as iH15 (below) and premium models such as the \$300 iP1. The first product of a partnership with Bongiovi Acoustics, iP1 stepped up in audio quality, and also set a new standard in product design for the price. Since that memorable launch, iHome has led the industry in iOS app-enhanced speakers, first with the iA5, then with the iA100 alarm clock, which became the first iPad-compatible alarm clock system. In so doing, iHome transitioned its best-known form factor into a new age. And then it departed

from its past design cues with the bold iA63, the first iHome system to sport a mechanical rotating dock, an elegant design. Continuing its string of firsts, the company will later this year debut the iW1, the first portable, rechargeable system with AirPlay; before release, the \$300 unit had already spawned a line of smaller, more affordable siblings for later in 2011. It's no wonder that the name "iHome" has become synonymous with iPod, iPhone, and iPad speaker systems of all shapes and sizes - products that are recognized for both innovation and growing ubiquity.

- 1 iH5 Docking Stereo Clock Radio
- 2 iH9 Dual Alarm Radio
- 3 iA100 Bluetooth Audio System
- 4 iH27 iHome2Go Portable System
- 5 iD9 Portable Rechargeable Speaker
- 6 iP1 Studio Series Speakers
- 7 iA5 App Enhanced Alarm Clock
- 8 iH15 LED Color Changing Speaker
- 9 iA63 Stereo Alarm Clock



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4 5 8 9



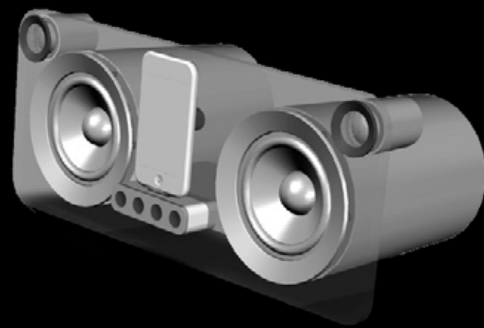
iHome

Evan Stein
Director of Marketing

Speaking on behalf of iHome's design team, Evan Stein walked iLounge through the creation of the stylish iPod/iPhone systems iP1 and iA63, the impressive iPad-ready iA100, and the upcoming AirPlay wireless speaker iW1. Never-before-seen sketches and prototypes show iP1's evolution from concept to the exciting finished product it ultimately became, as well as the early concept design of iA63.

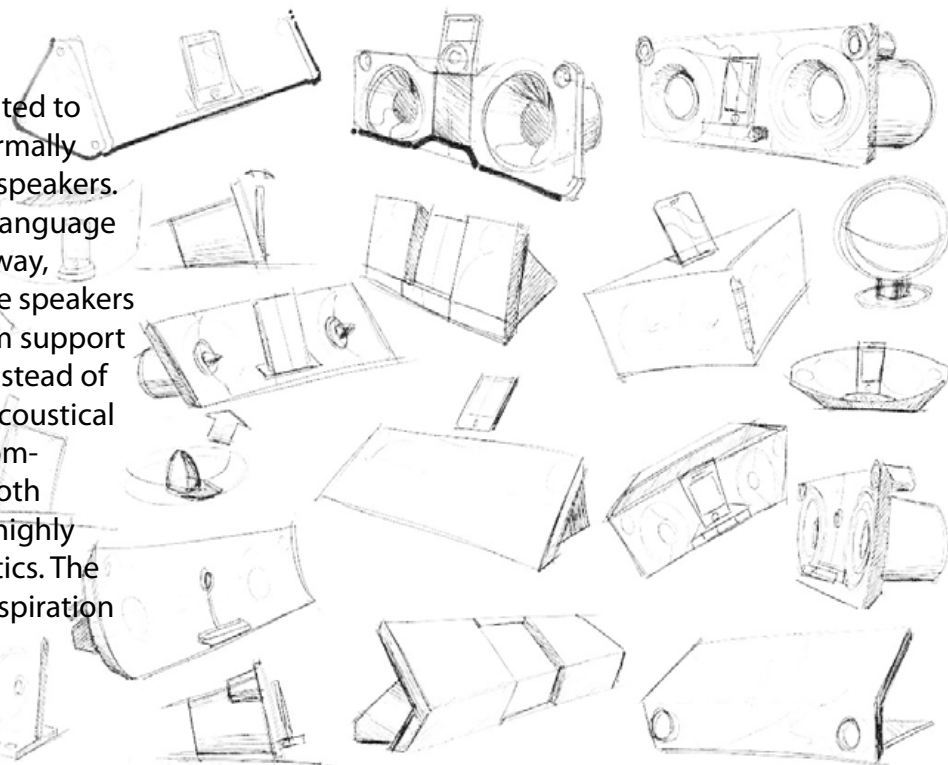
→ Practical challenges in manufacturing the iP1

Shown in this early foam prototype, iP1's signature acrylic panel was easy to design but hard to mass-produce. It "had to be precision laser cut and hand polished to give the edges a mirror-like finish," notes Stein. The detachable mesh speaker grilles were a late addition to protect the speakers in high-traffic offices and retail environments. iP1's floating tweeters turned out to be a challenge, too: "Early units were carefully glued to the acrylic," but some were arriving damaged after shipping. "A factory visit determined that while the unit was being assembled upside-down, the chambers were being stressed, weakening the bond. A mechanically fastened tweeter chamber was implemented as a running change, along with an improved assembly jig."



→ On iP1's Design

"The design team really wanted to give the product a flavor normally seen in showcase-type loudspeakers. These products convey the language of sound in a very different way, celebrating the beauty of the speakers themselves, making the form support the essential components instead of vice versa," says Stein. "Our acoustical engineers presented a custom-designed woofer that was both durable, beautiful, and had highly favorable sound characteristics. The speaker itself became the inspiration for the rest of the product."



← On iPad and iPod/iPhone dock designs

With iA63 (shown at left in prototype form), iHome wanted to offer a rotating iPod/iPhone dock in a small footprint - unlike larger rivals. For iA100 (below), the goal was to accommodate encased iPads, "given an 80% attach rate for iPad case purchases," says Stein. The three main considerations: "To be aesthetically beautiful when docking not only the iPad, but an iPhone or iPod," acknowledge that "people don't like removing their protective case when docking an iPad," and meet "the engineering requirements of delivering a secure and durable docking mechanism" given constant Apple design changes. iA100's flexible Dock Connector was the key to handling iPads.



← On App-Enhanced Speakers

Creating the earliest app-assisted speakers forced iHome to define the role apps would play in the experience. "We wanted to offer more than just EQ adjustment and we saw this as an opportunity to harness the power of iOS computing performance and offer a better sleep experience," says Stein.

"The initial challenge became one of scope; what features do we offer and how do we differentiate ourselves from the sea of alarm clock apps that were already available on the App Store." iHome created iHome + Sleep, with radical new alarms, sleep trackers, and social networking, updating it for iPads when iA100 was released.

→ Moving Beyond the Dock: iW1

"The decision to create a wireless product and move away from an integrated dock was actually quite liberating," Stein recalls regarding iW1's creation. Since wireless iOS and iTunes devices stream audio to it, iW1 "doesn't really require a dedicated control panel.... Because of this, we deliberately pushed for a capacitive touch panel to deemphasize the hardware control interface and enhance the rich [iOS] interactive experience." So why depart from prior iHome designs? "It was important that [iW1] look distinctive to help highlight the difference between our wireless and traditional docking solutions.... the design language was driven by speaker performance, seamless integration with iTunes and iOS devices, and the wireless control of your music at the touch of your fingers."



How Persistence Pays Off

In just a few short years, Incipio has gone from relative anonymity to a leading case manufacturer thanks to its continued pursuit of improvements.

As much as individual accessories deserve to be judged on their merits, every developer has a reputation - a sense of what's to come when opening a package. Unlike many rivals, Incipio has enjoyed a seemingly endless upward trajectory, remarkable for a company that originally operated out of a suburban garage in Southern California. Once an unknown manufacturer of cell phone accessories, Incipio has evolved into a cutting-edge developer of self-branded iPod, iPhone, and iPad cases, leveraging years of tool-making and design expertise to create some of the smartest, cleanest, and most interesting protective solutions ever made. Some are seemingly simple, complementing Apple's designs. Others are so flashy and different that other developers could never have contemplated or manufactured them. Notably, it's accomplished these feats with zero assistance from Apple - promotion or shelf space.

The "how" is obvious: iteration. If Incipio's first design is OK, its second will be good, and the third will be great. Just compare the company's early dual-layer Silicrylic iPhone case with the sequels that followed, noting how they became more elegant. Then consider Bionic, a Silicrylic variation that mirrors the distinctive textures and logos of racing gear company Alpinestars. Or Step, a case that combines multiple textures and materials into a single, easy to install case. On the other hand, there's NGP Matte, a deliberately minimalist soft plastic case that's great for the latest iPod touches and iPads. Every year, the cases get smarter and better.

Thankfully, the company hasn't lacked for whimsy, either. Over the years, it's developed sushi and candy cases for iPod shuffles, and Dotties, a rubber frame that let the user decide where to place colored, raised "dots" on the rear for decoration. Long-established competitors tried to clone the idea with far less success. Most recently, for the 2011 CES, Incipio produced a demo-only iPhone 4 case that looked like a Nintendo Game Boy, complete with D-pad and buttons. There's no shortage of cool concepts coming out of Incipio's labs; these days, the biggest challenge for customers - and us - is deciding which of the great new cases is best to use on our devices.

- 1 Silicrylic for iPhone 4
- 2 Step for iPhone 4
- 3 NGP Matte for iPod touch 4G
- 4 The Ranger, a very generic original iPhone design
- 5 OVRMLD, mixing leather + plastic
- 6 Bionic Silicrylic for Alpinestars
- 7 Game Boy for iPhone 4
- 8 iPod shuffle 3G Lab Cases
- 9 Sushi 3-Piece Bento for iPod shuffle 3G



- 1
- 2 3 6 7
- 4 5 8 9



INCIPIO

Andy Fathollahi
CEO

Vincent Lo

Lead Designer

Kari Nishimura

Art Director

These days, Incipio seems like two companies in one: a wildly creative, boundary-pushing side, and a crisp, understated side creating minimalist and technically perfect solutions. Three key team members discussed Incipio's products, creativity, and evolution.

→ On Iterating Until It's Perfect, And Then Some

Four years after releasing its first iPhone cases, Incipio has polished some of its early designs to near perfection, most notably including the silicon-centered, acrylic-backed Silicrylic - a two-piece case that has seen its parts become more attractive with every successive version. "Persistence is part of Incipio's charm," says Fathollahi. "Our dedication to learning what users want and need in our products allows us to modify and enhance devices. The original inception of the Silicrylic came with the first generation iPhone. Back then the case was bulkier but it did what it was built to do; protect. We learned that users valued the continued protection, but they wanted a sleeker, form-fitting device. Adding small changes, we maintained the protective purpose but streamlined the case. As a result the Silicrylic has been widely popular on a global level and even mimicked by our competitors." Shown at right in iPhone, iPhone 3G, iPad, iPod touch 4G, and iPad 2 versions, Silicrylic's simpler-looking lines mask increasingly precise integration of the rubber and plastic parts, enabling Incipio to add a flat, pop-out video stand to the iPad 2 version without compromising on size or clean looks.



↑ Choosing Colors

Incipio's cases are known for their wide and daring color options. "Fashion and trend forecasting ultimately influence our color selection," explains Nishimura. "Our amazing fan base also weighs in and offers suggestions. While our products cater to different ages and lifestyles, we've learned that all our customers are keen on selection. Not every 13 year-old wants hot pink and not every businessman wants black."



↑ Increasing The Complexity

It's hard enough to make a rubber case fit properly with a separate hard plastic frame, but Incipio mastered that process years ago. So it created Delta, a two-tone, twin-textured rubber body with a satin-coated hard frame - then split the frame into four connected stripes, seemingly just to show it could be done. The result was unlike anything released by other case makers. "We wanted to make a ruggedized solution that was attractive and remained protective," recalls Nishimura. "As a result, we pioneered the soft, shock absorbing silicone core inside the hard polycarbonate exterior. Clean two-toned silicone is hard to do without the colors bleeding together. The tooling is also advanced with the use of texture in different areas of the case."



↓ Outside The Box

Incipio has the rare ability to pivot from precise, book-smart designs to creative, whimsical ones. "Designing to a designer is not considered work," notes Lo. "Rather it's what we do for fun and it's our livelihood." Introduced at CES in 2010, Dotties is an example of fun at work: it allows "users to create countless color variations by placing multicolored silicone dots around a silicone core." Another case took a relaxed, soft approach to protection. "Pillow was designed as something that would feel great in users' hands, yet allowed for exceptional grip."



↙ iPad Versus iPod + iPhone Design

"Although their functionality is the same, the iPad, iPhone and iPod are used much differently," says Lo. "Yes, all users want to protect their devices, but cases that have been successful on a phone won't necessarily be quite as useful on a tablet." Lo cites the gaming case Hive, originally released with bone-like corner grips, as an example. "The indentations on the iPad needed to be augmented because we hold the devices differently. While the iPhone is more palm held, the iPad is more handheld or propped on a table. We addressed ergonomic concerns and redesigned an iPad version of the Hive."



The Masters of Metal

From iPods and iPhones to Macs and iPads, Just Mobile has evolved its designs from plastic to metal, now rivaling Apple's own products in elegance and style.

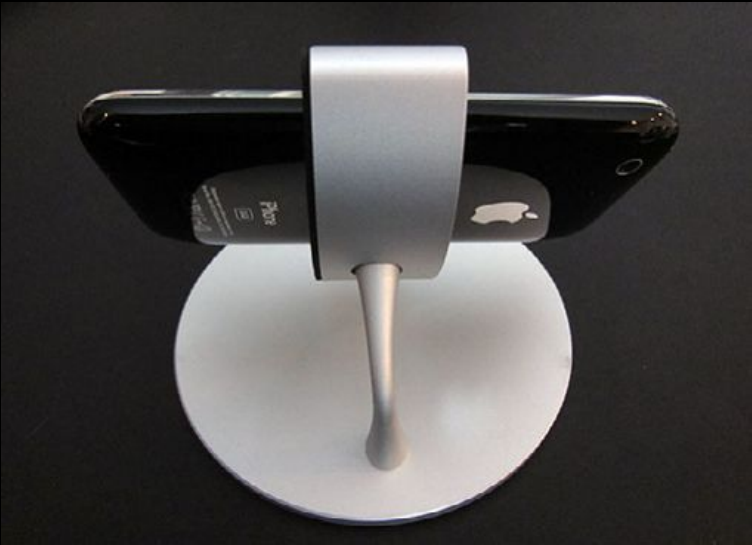


Founded in 2005 as a Windows Mobile accessory developer, Taiwan's Just Mobile quickly switched gears when it saw the first iPhone - a choice that transformed the company and its products into world-class icons of accessory design. Take its affordable plastic Gum Pro USB battery, which evolved into the more expensive but slick metal-clad Gum Plus, the battery pack Apple would have released had it wanted to sate power-starved iPhone users. A similar evolution began with the company's earliest Apple-specific product Xstand, an iMac-like stand for iPhones that began the company's

love affair with aluminum. Though Just Mobile released an early, rigid iPad stand called UpStand, the company collaborated with the Danish design team Tools to create superior sequels: Slide, an exercise in playful design mixed with portable utility, and the circular Encore, the most beautiful iPad holder we've yet seen. While the partnership hasn't always yielded ideal results, they've always been interesting; the Lounge stand for iPhones recalled mid-20th century conceptions of futuristic chairs - a cute but rare example of inelegance. On the whole, Just Mobile has shown a

mastery of silver metal matched by few competitors, using it for nearly every new accessory - the Alupad mouse pad, the MacBook Cooling Bar, and the AluPen stylus. And it now confidently uses clean hinges and black plastics to prop iPads up on a variety of angles, simple but smart elements that would have been unthinkable with Xtands only years ago. Throughout its product range, Just Mobile's designs have stayed true to the company's vision to "unify form and function - and then sprinkle a little joy on top;" they are now amongst the most memorable accessories for Apple's mobile products.

- 1 Gum Plus
- 2 Gum Pro
- 3 AluPen
- 4 Alupad
- 5 Cooling Bar
- 6 Xstand
- 7 Lounge
- 8 Encore



- 1
- 2 3 6 7
- 4 5 8



Just Mobile®
Nils Gustafsson
Managing Director
+ Co-Founder
Erich Huang
Managing Director
+ Co-Founder

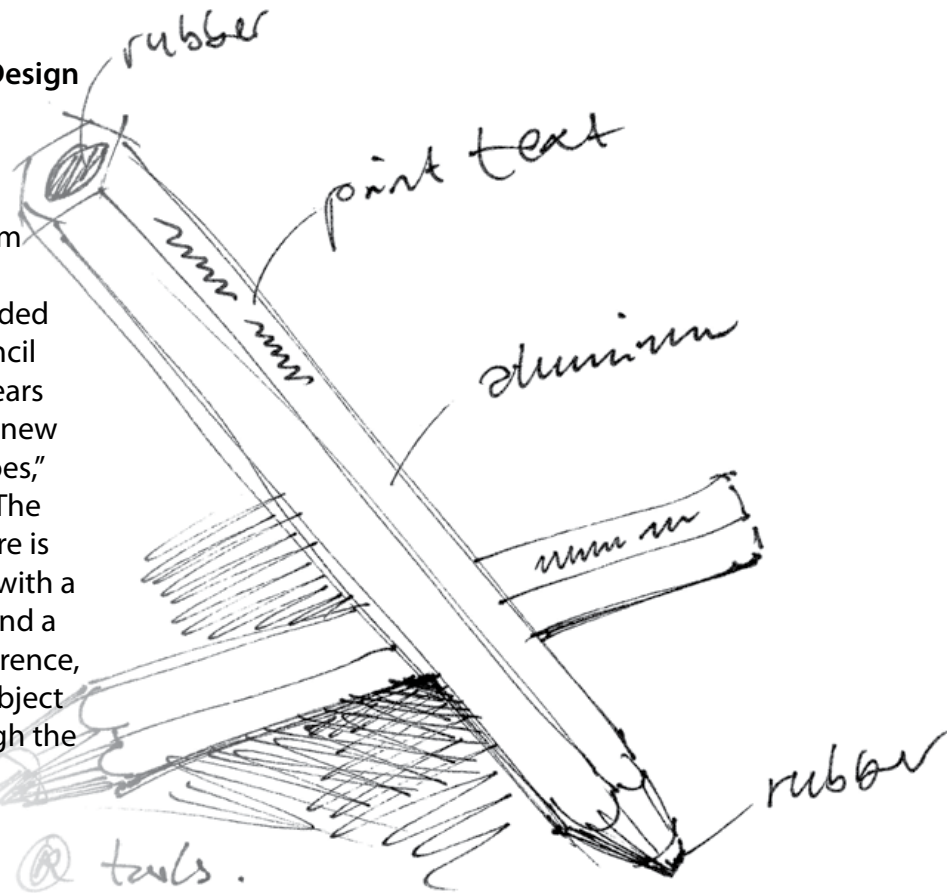
Just Mobile and its collaborators at Danish design firm Tools discussed their projects with us, including the challenges of accessory creation for the iPad and designing electronic add-ons, following Apple's lead in developing aluminum accessories, and the thinking behind the uniquely chunky, pencil-like AluPen stylus.



← **On Aluminum**
Just Mobile's choice of aluminum as a base material in its products was a conscious effort to create a sense of quality and value; it has consequently appeared in everything from the company's iPod/iPhone/iPad stands to Mac shelves and mousepads. "Apple users appreciate design and craftsmanship more so than other mobile users," says Huang. "We want to make not only accessories but also design objects, objects that users will associate with and desire to have. Our design priority has always been in form and function first, and material choice second. We are actually open to other material options, and it won't be surprising if we incorporate them in the near future in our products."

→ **On the AluPen's Chunky Design**

"In this computer age, less and less people use a pen to write," says Gustafsson. "Many users prefer AluPen for its unique form factor and smooth and precise control on iPad." Why? "The 6-sided geometry of the traditional pencil has proved its value over the years and even though materials are new it still communicates what it does," explains the team from Tools. "The 'fat' and slightly oversized nature is intended to avoid confusing it with a real pencil.... We believe we found a new shape by using an old reference, thereby creating a functional object that is instantly familiar although the technology it controls is new."



← **On Designing Slide + Encore**
Deceptively simple, Slide and Encore are amongst the best stands for Apple's tablets. "As a forethought, we designed each iPad stand to fulfill a particular user need," explains Huang. "The Encore came as a variable angle, collapsible desktop stand. Slide uses a simple physics principle to create a compact stand for portable use." (A Slide prototype is shown at upper right, minus its distinctive storage hole.) "As opposed to books that need no interaction, tablet computers are not only for reading," adds Tools. "They require input, sometimes using both hands to type, and watching a movie holding a heavy tablet in your hand is not ideal. That's why tablets need devices to hold them at a comfortable working/viewing angle. And since tablets are admired for their simplicity and beauty, a stand should not spoil the overall experience but rather enhance it and compliment it."

→ **On Designing Electronic Accessories**

Just Mobile has avoided building Apple's Dock Connectors into its electronic accessories - a wise move. "High-tech electronics products have a tendency to be short-lived, and easily outdated by advances in new technology," says Huang. "Our overall design goal has been in creating timeless iconic design objects. Our choice to adopt standard USB ports so Gum power packs can support more generations of iPhones and iPod touch for at least a decade is a good example of this principle."



← **On the Collaboration with Tools**
A number of recent accessories were co-developed with Tools, a design firm that has particularly improved Just Mobile's iPad accessories. "We have worked with Tools Design team on several projects, and I couldn't be more satisfied with their work," says Huang. "Tools designers are also Mac users and they understand the needs of Mac users. Nordic design has always been the source of classic, timeless products, and have profound influence on products that we use every day. At Just Mobile, we also challenge ourselves to create timeless and iconic designer products that users will use for a long time."

Gaming on the Edge

Through five releases in three years and a widely-publicized legal battle, Mobigame has shown how a small team can win fans by executing well on big ideas.



Despite its relative youth, the iOS game market has already seen some developers release scores of lowest-common-denominator games over the last three years, many gaining fame - or at least notoriety - in the process. You won't find Mobigame's name among that group. The small Parisian developer has instead chosen to focus on quality over quantity, rewarding early customers with subsequent improvements in free updates, practices that have earned near-universal acclaim for its releases. A moody and stylishly flat-shaded action puzzle game called Edge was first, challenging players to maneuver a cube across static and moving platforms, learning gravity-defying



tricks along the way. No virtual joystick was needed; intuitive gestures controlled all the cube's movement, even as the levels began to demand new skills, a brilliant touch interface that demanded no visual overlays. Edge quickly became a top pick of iPhone and iPod touch users before abruptly disappearing from the App Store due to a claim from a trademark troll, sparking a successful industry-wide movement to invalidate the mark. The game saw multiple releases, removals, and award nominations, finally re-emerging permanently with Retina Display and iPad support. Mobigame followed Edge up with the finger-twisting puzzle game Cross Fingers, a heavily multi-touch title that could not have been done on any other platform, and an oddball title called Truckers Delight: Episode 1. Based upon a deliberately crude music video that quickly became an Internet sensation, Truckers Delight took inspiration from Sega's OutRun series of driving games; it's the only Mobigame title that doesn't have a special iPad mode, and then only



because its art is deliberately blocky - an ode to the 16-bit generation of driving games. But as jagged as the pixels were in Truckers Delight, Mobigame shifted to more realistic art for its next two games. First was the gritty and violent puzzle/action hybrid Perfect Cell, which has players control dangerous, flying octopus-like creatures making their escape from a secure military base; a swipe-based control interface becomes more challenging as players manage three creatures at once. Then Mobigame joined with human rights organization Amnesty International to release the thought-provoking Bulletproof, in which gamers are expected to save a man from a firing squad, presented from a first-person perspective. Every title's control scheme is invisible - and obvious. While Mobigame remains a small developer, its ideas are anything but; already its game designs have inspired multiple play-alike titles, and have inspired smaller studios looking to enter the iOS space. The lesson: edgy concepts with intuitive but tricky controls can make great games.

- 1 Edge on iPad
- 2 Perfect Cell
- 3 Edge on iPad
- 4 Edge on iPad
- 5 Bulletproof
- 6 Truckers Delight: Episode 1
- 7 Cross Fingers
- 8 Cross Fingers


mobigame

David Papazian
CEO

After nearly three years in the App Store, David Papazian's Mobigame has become known as one of Apple's most daring third-party game developers - willing to radically switch graphic styles, game genres, and play mechanics from title to title, and survivor of a brutal, well-publicized legal fight over the name of its first game. Here, Papazian discusses some of Mobigame's landmark design choices.



← On Making Universal Games

Mobigame's titles generally offer universal iPad/iPhone/iPod support - ideal for iOS users. "In most cases, we believe it is really absurd to sell different versions of the same app for iPhone and iPad," says Papazian. "On a Mac or a PC, you can change the resolution of any game inside the game, and that's exactly the same here, it's just a question of resolution. Especially with the Retina Display, which is almost the same [resolution] as the iPad. We respect our customers a lot and it's only fair to make a universal app when you can."

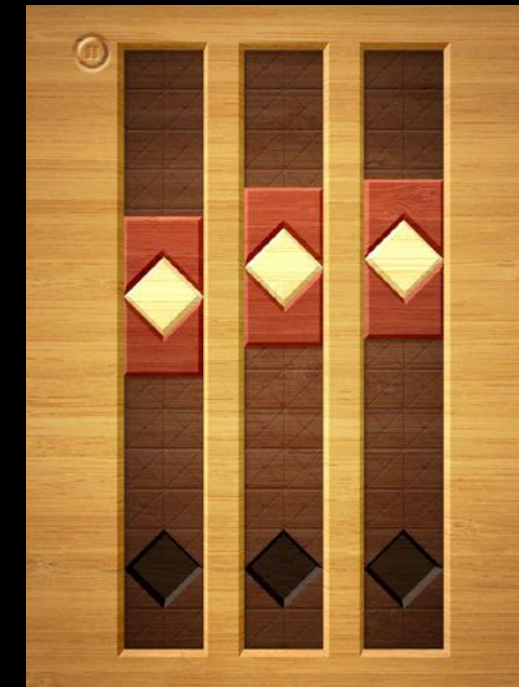
→ On Perfect Cell's Gritty Look

Perfect Cell was the company's fourth game, and broke with tradition with a more realistic look. What inspired the change, which demands extra art labor? "After Edge and Cross Fingers, we did not want to be the guys who make games with cubes, triangles, and other geometric shapes only," Papazian explains. "We wanted to make a game for gamers, something serious, not a clone of a Xbox game with a virtual d-pad, but instead something dedicated to the iPhone and its touchscreen. I must say that my associate Matthieu, game designer on all our games, is a big fan of Kojima's Metal Gear series. When he had the idea of slicing humans with the 'draw and dash' feature, it was obvious that the game had to be realistic, with a lot of blood and physics, a la Tarantino. We also wanted to work on the light and the atmosphere to give it an unique look and feel that anyone would recognize immediately."



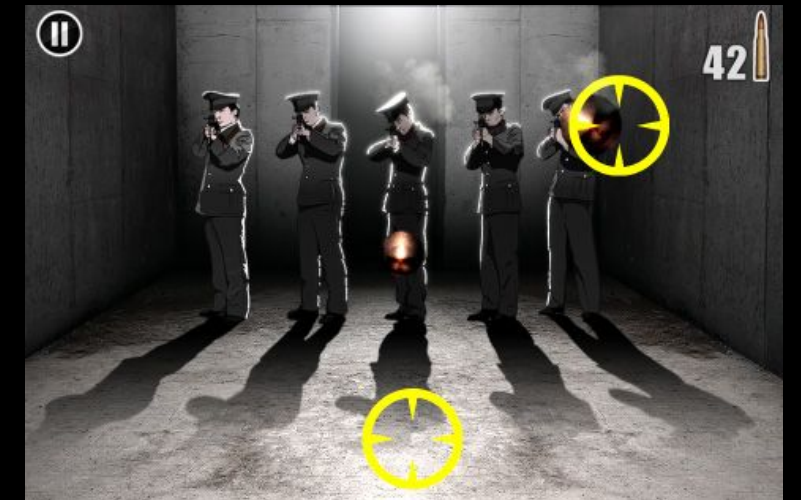
→ On Edge's Breadth, and Fighting Legal Battles

Edge was first released in 2008 with 23 levels, one of the most complete iOS games at the time. "We added 20 levels one month later, and today the game includes 48 levels; it is also optimized for Retina Display and iPad. We are still working on new levels for Edge," says Papazian. "Of course we could have split it in different games, but we consider Edge a piece of art, and not just a commercial product." Fans will be glad to learn that a true sequel is underway, too. As for the prolonged and much-discussed legal battle over the game's name, Papazian adds, "Since we won the fight, we are happy with this result, and we met a lot of great people during the battle. It's the perfect name for the game and we don't regret the journey.... But clearly, now we always register a trademark for the title of our games. Small developers may think lawyers are expensive, but it's important to protect your work, to get good advice, and have people you can trust around you."



↑ On Standing Out in the App Store

"When we design a game, there is an important question at some point: 'Is it hard to do?' If the answer is yes, it is an exciting challenge for us, like snowboarding on the fresh snow. For Cross Fingers we made our own physics engine, and we have not seen any clone of this game yet."

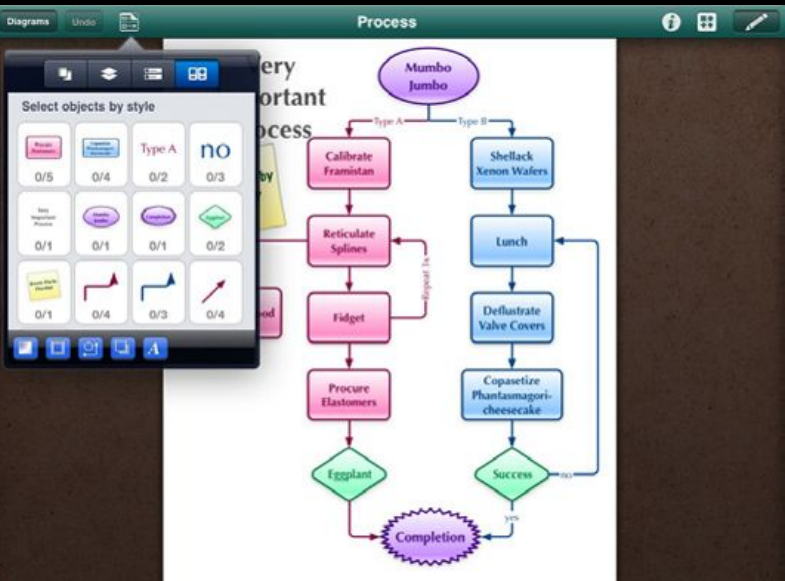


↑ Working with Amnesty International

Bulletproof is Mobigame's most recent release, and another major departure for the developer - arguably its most haunting title yet. French ad agency La Chose contacted Mobigame in October 2010, explains Papazian, as they worked on a campaign for Amnesty International's 50th anniversary. "They did the game design, and asked us if we would be interested to do the development for free. The goal of the game is simple: your iPhone is a weapon to fight for human rights. For 99 cents you can stop bullets in the game, which is a metaphor for stopping human rights violations in the real world. We met some people at Amnesty International, and decided to do it graciously."

The Future of Productivity

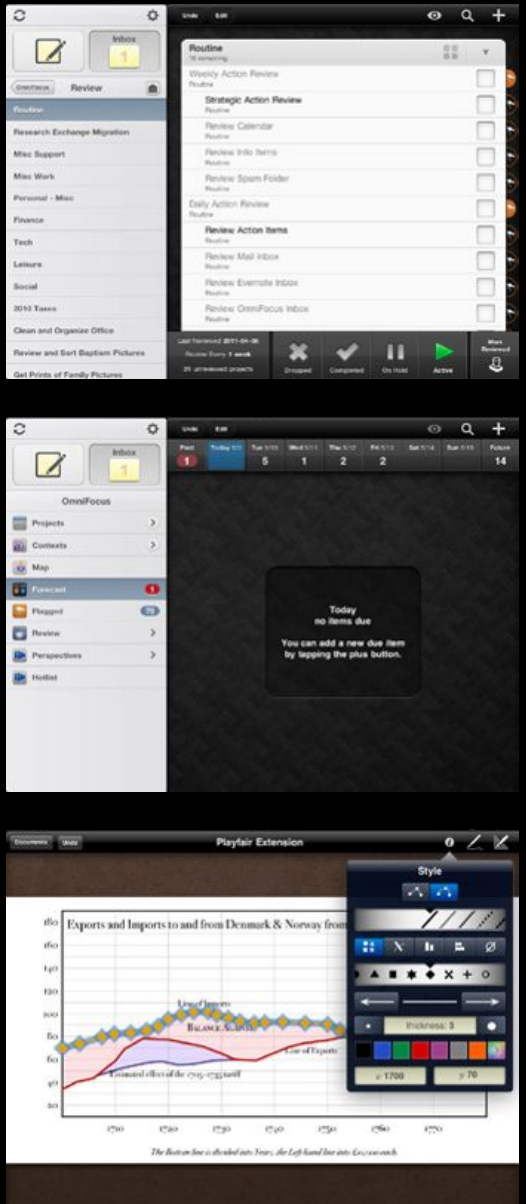
Longtime Apple developer The Omni Group has ported four Mac apps to the iPad - redefining business touch interfaces, and challenging App Store pricing norms.



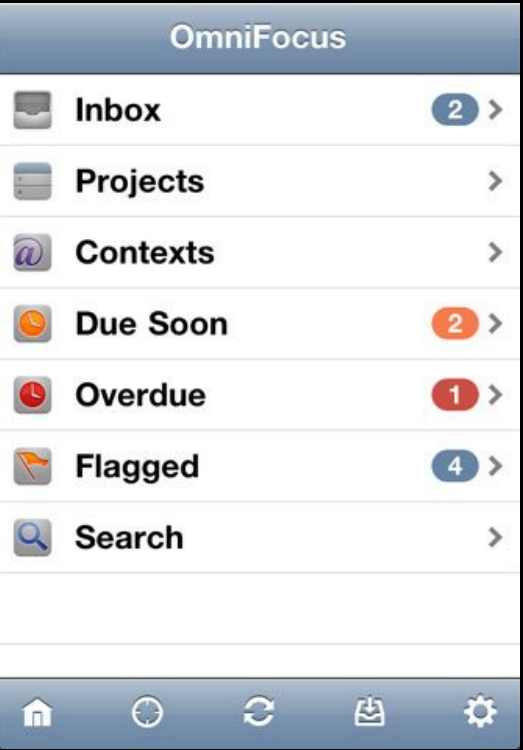
Despite earning billions of dollars for developers, the App Store's average app selling price is around \$3, pressuring companies to sell lots of units on the cheap - and sometimes cut corners. That's not The Omni Group's style. Incorporated in 1993, Omni initially developed software for Steve Jobs' NeXT platform, following Jobs back to Apple with Mac OS X. So it's not a surprise that the Seattle company would quickly convert four of its main Mac productivity apps to the iPad, too - the difference is the UI. Take the text editor and organizer OmniOutliner, which enables users to create highly structured documents that are easy



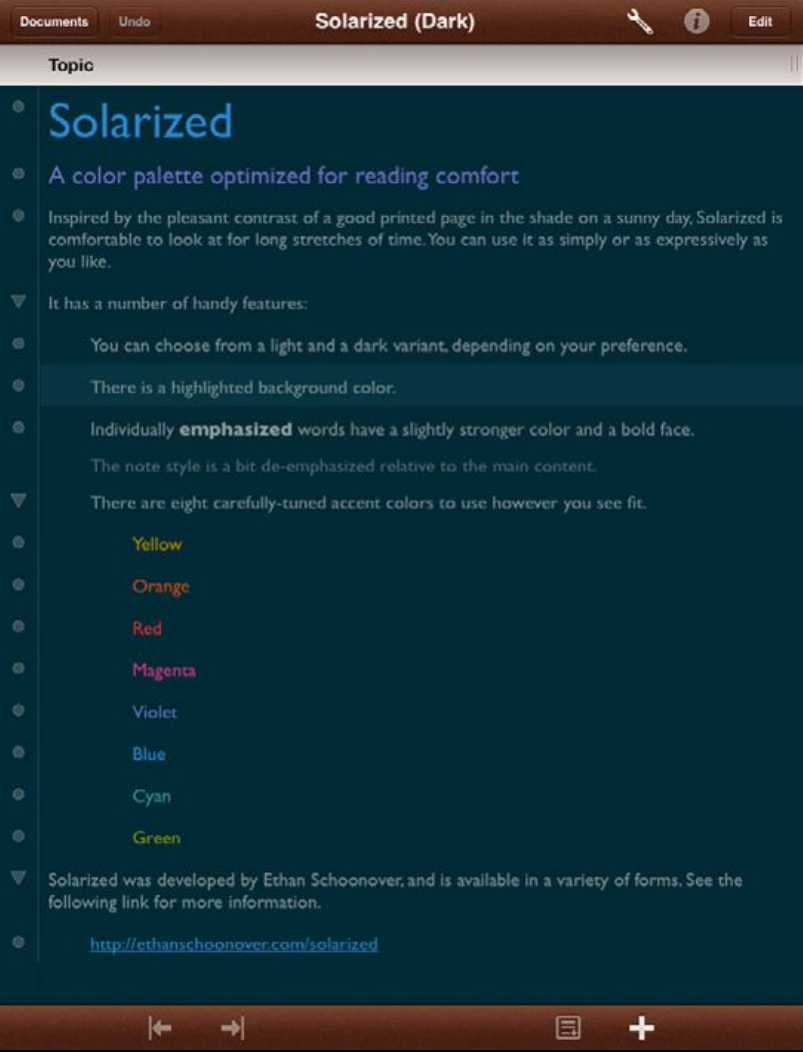
to reorganize at will using touch gestures. It joins OmniFocus, a Getting Things Done-style planning tool that leverages iPad mapping and media capabilities to manage projects and daily tasks; OmniGraffle, a graphic design tool specializing in flow charts and similarly business-oriented images; and OmniGraphSketcher, a graph drawing and data plotting tool - all at \$15-\$50 price tags. The company also released a \$20 iPhone and iPod touch version of OmniFocus before the iPad was announced. In each case, the company reinvented the Mac interfaces for touch screens, a challenge as formidable as Apple's



iWork redesigns. OmniGraphSketcher lets you touch your way to pro-caliber charts, fine-tuning hand drawn sketches to become numerically precise; OmniGraffle applies similar shape recognition to recognize complex diagrams. Nothing else is quite like these apps, which is why the company is confident that consumers will pay more for their interfaces, features, and established brand names. So far, it's been proven correct: The Omni Group's apps have been amongst the top-grossing productivity titles in the App Store, and demonstrate how touch UIs with smart AI can seriously improve - and simplify - business apps.



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| 1 | 4 | 5 |
| 2 | 3 | 6 |
| | | 7 |
| | | 8 |
- 1 OmniGraffle
 - 2 OmniGraffle
 - 3 OmniOutliner
 - 4 OmniFocus for iPad
 - 5 OmniFocus for iPhone
 - 6 OmniFocus for iPad
 - 7 OmniGraphSketcher
 - 8 OmniOutliner



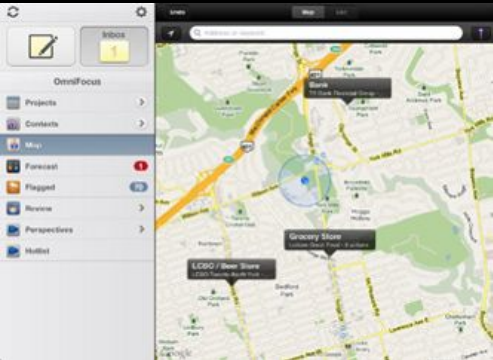
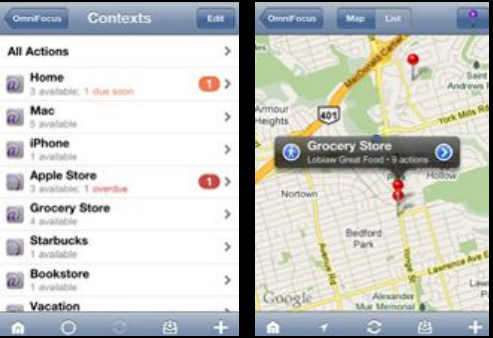


THE OMNI GROUP
Ken Case
CEO

After years of creating databases for companies running Mac OS X's predecessor NeXTSTEP, The Omni Group transitioned into a developer of Mac consumer applications, originally including ports of popular PC games for the oft-ignored Mac platform. CEO Ken Case has led the company's push into iOS development, which has seen Omni's site refocus on iPad apps with Mac synergies.

On iPhone vs. iPad

OmniFocus is the only Omni Group app to be offered on both the iPad and iPhone - an easy opportunity for the company to bring code from one device to another. But it didn't. "Really, we didn't move the iPhone version to the iPad - it was a total redesign for the iPad," Case notes, "and is each time we take an existing title to a new platform. The solutions that worked on the iPhone didn't work on the iPad and we had to think about how best to use the screen real estate available to use. Since people use their iPhones differently than they use their iPads, it was also an opportunity for us to rethink the software and in this case, that yielded Forecast and Review," the former a new feature that will migrate to OmniFocus for iPhone.



On the Advantages of iPad
Extra screen space doesn't always justify new multi-touch gestures. "You can't play water polo in your bathtub - there simply isn't enough room to put an app like OmniGrapple on your iPhone and do it justice, so even though OmniFocus was a good fit for the iPhone, it might not be for all of our applications," explains Case. "We started thinking about all sorts of gesture combinations that we could do, but in the end we felt like they actually made the app harder to use.... All that said, we will occasionally introduce a gesture as a short cut, like twisting a shape in OmniGrapple to rotate it."

New Document

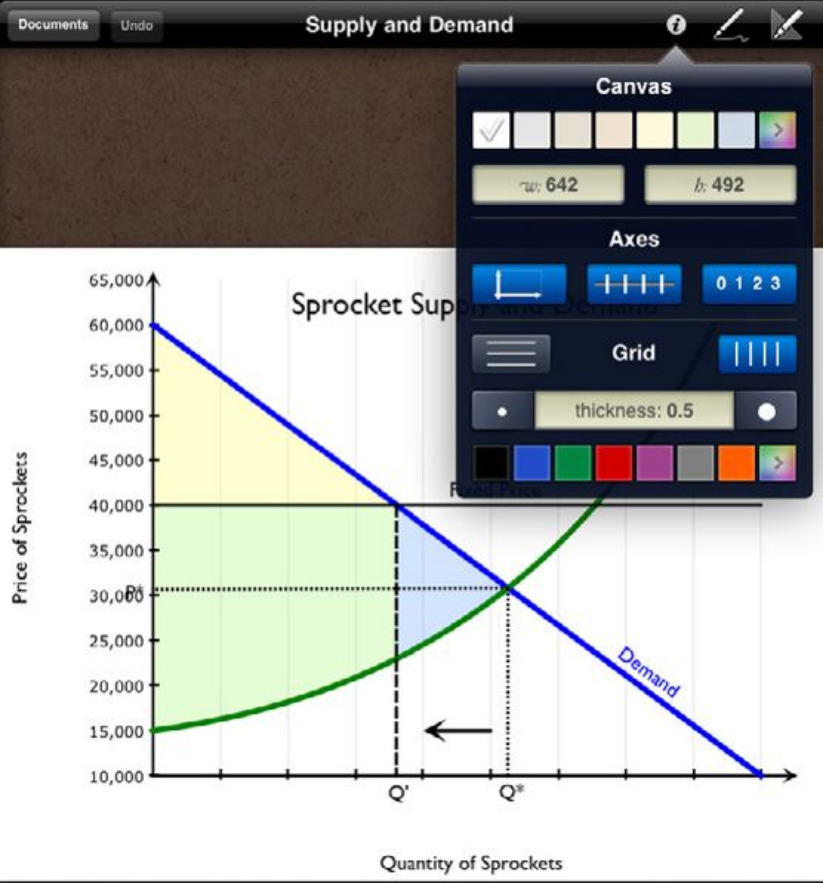


Documents (4 of 10)

On Moving From the Mac to the iPad

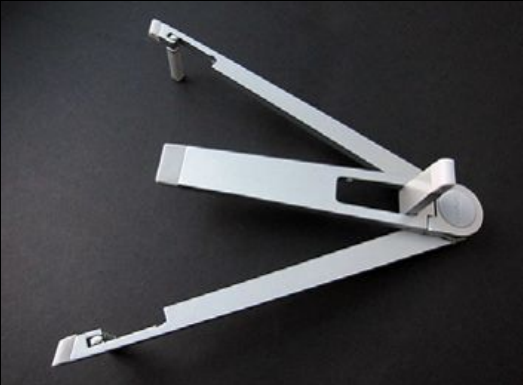
Having ported more major Mac apps to the iPad than any other developer besides Apple, The Omni Group has a special knowledge of the challenges wrought by switching from mice and physical keyboards to touchscreens. "With the screen size being so much smaller than a Mac, it forced us to redesign our applications from scratch to better fit the form factor of the iPad instead of just porting them to the new platform," says Case. "It gave us the opportunity to think about and define the core functionality of each application that we were trying to expose to users. We think that what we've learned in this process will help us to improve our Mac apps," an echo of Apple's recent Back to the Mac strategy, which suggests that iOS innovations can be used to improve Mac OS X Lion applications.

"The disadvantage," continues Case, "is that touch interfaces are much less precise than ones that use a mouse, so you can't design applications with tiny controls. The irony is that even though you can display more information on the Retina Display, your controls have to be so much less precise because our finger is so much bigger than your mouse pointer." Even still, Apple's touch screens offer a major control advantage: developers can use the whole screen, top to bottom, for interface elements. "It's easier to use controls on different parts of the screen than it would be with a mouse because it would be tiring to move your mouse all over your computer's screen. Taps are much less [challenging for the user] than clicks, so that they are more like key strokes. Because of this, you are able to design interfaces the user is able to incrementally move deeper into instead of having to design wide interfaces that are exposed to the user all at once."



Designing Notification Sounds For iPads

"[Y]our usable frequency range is narrow," Case mentions; lows become scratchy and highs get buzzy through the iPads' speakers, so mid-focused, inoffensive sounds are best. "The whole point of a notification sound is to get your attention and, not only do you never know what mood you're going to be in when you get it, but you're going to hear this sound potentially several times a day, sometimes in succession. So, it's important that it doesn't scream 'FIRE' - a common mistake for notification sounds - when what it really means is 'Hey, I have that thing you asked for when you have a moment.'"

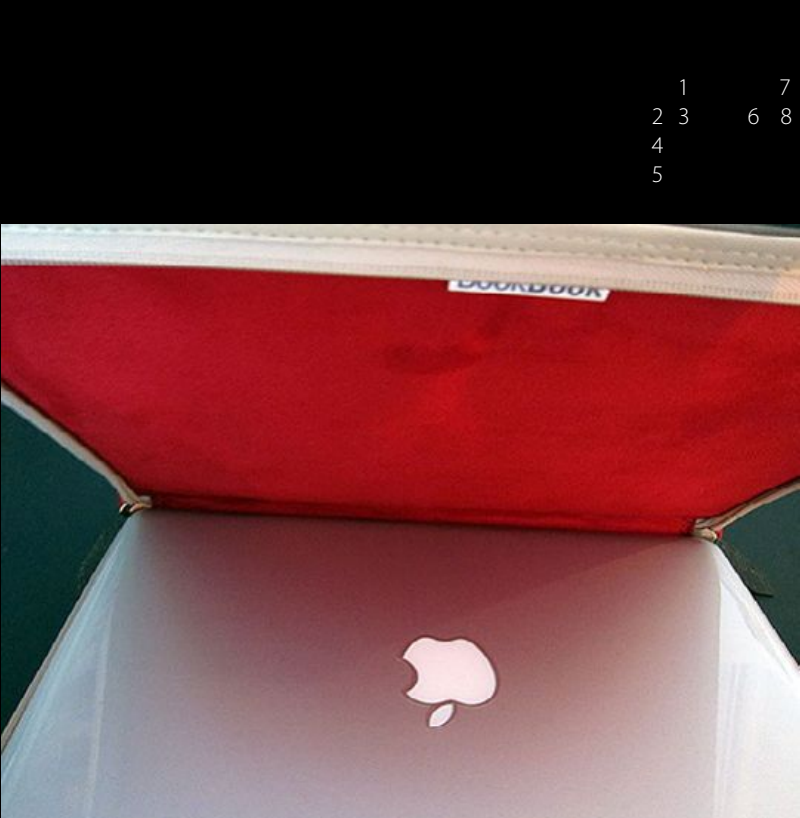


From iPod to Mac and Back

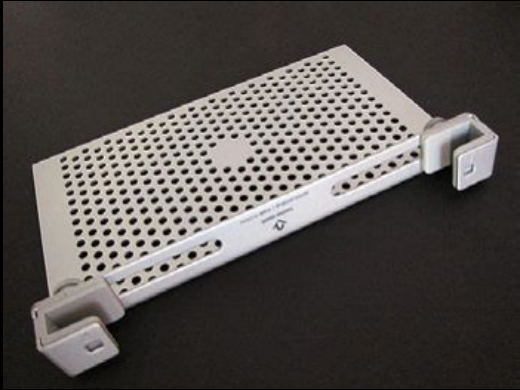
Its first products were for Apple's lineup of Mac desktops and laptops, but accessory developer Twelve South has its roots in iPod accessory design - experience it's now using to expand into the iPad accessory market.



Dozens of companies develop add-ons for Apple's Mac computers. Some also happen to make accessories for the iPad, and a few do neat things for both platforms. Among the latter group is Twelve South, a small South Carolina-based developer that has leveraged its employees' prior experience in the iPod accessory space to create cool little things for Apple's desktop, laptop, and tablet computers. While Twelve South built buzz with early releases such as the Backpack, a tray that hides behind an iMac or Cinema Display to hold a small hard drive or decorative item, and BookBook, a zippered MacBook case in the stealthy shape of an old leather hardcover, it came into its own with BookArc. This elegant curve of steel stylishly holds an upright MacBook, enabling it to connect with an external display while reducing its footprint.



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Twelve South described itself as Mac-only, but after the iPad launched, BookBook and BookArc quickly beat a path to Apple's tablet in smaller forms. These designs illustrate how Twelve South tends to focus on products that fix problems, rather than just creating items simply to add more to its lineup. A better example is Compass, Twelve South's first iPad-only accessory, which functions as an upright or typing stand before folding down into a tiny pick-like shape. Beyond its utility, Compass features a design that begs to be played with - we've found ourselves reaching for it in times of boredom and strife alike, folding and unfolding the steel body as one might repeatedly squeeze a stress ball. And then there's Magic Wand, a decluttering accessory for Mac desktop users; the hollowed tube enables Apple's Wireless

Keyboard and Magic Trackpad to be connected to one another, reducing the Trackpad's tendency to "walk" on a desk and enabling the two peripherals to be carried together into a living room. Simple or complex, each of these products is a mix of influences from Apple's own designs, architecture, fashion, and classic design, resulting in products that are both straightforward and clever. Love them or not, they're all imbued with a well-defined sense of purpose, problem solving, and occasional charm that sets them apart from the status quo. Ambitious new developers would do well to pay attention to the lessons offered here: bigger isn't always better, and sometimes a small, elegant solution will beat out bigger, more complex alternatives.

- 1 Compass
- 2 MagicWand
- 3 Compass
- 4 MagicWand
- 5 BookArcs for MacBook and iPad
- 6 BookBook for MacBook, open
- 7 Backpack
- 8 BookBook for MacBook, closed



twelve south
Andrew Green
Co-Founder &
Creative Director

Previously employed by Griffin and DLO, Andrew Green was involved in a number of major product releases for both iPod accessory developers before starting Twelve South. Originally militantly Mac-only ("If a PC user wants to use our products, they'll have to buy a Mac"), Twelve South now supports both the Mac and iPad; Green told us about past hits and whether iPod/iPhone add-ons are coming.

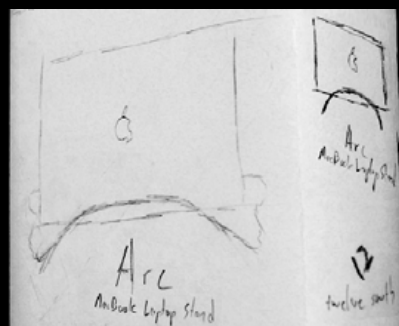
← On Twelve South's Design Focus

Twelve South's products and marketing have literally put Apple's designs on a pedestal. "Our accessories are not the stars of the show," notes Green. "The Apple hardware is. We are there to help the Mac or iPad do what it does, only better.... Our mission is to accentuate Apple hardware with complementary design and innovative ideas to help elevate the whole Apple platform in our small, but unique, way."



↔ On Prototyping

BookArc's hand-sketched, paper-wrapped box prototypes inspired later Twelve South packaging. The BookArc prototype was "made from a bent piece of steel with split tubing for MacBook protection," Green recalls.



↗ On Moving From Mac to iPad... and Beyond?

A version of BookArc was the company's first iPad stand. "From our perspective, the iPad is still just an advanced Mac accessory," explains Green. "After all, the very first thing you do when you get a new iPad is plug it into your Mac!... That said, we are still Mac/Apple hyper-focused. Apple's products inspire us. Making accessories that help integrate Apple products into user's lives is all we want to do. Our favorite customer feedback is when we hear 'I bought a Mac/iPad partially because I wanted to accessorize it with a Twelve South product.' Believe it or not, we hear that all the time. As to whether or not we'll ever accessorize any other Apple hardware, we're not opposed to it."



↑→ Compass, The Fidget-Worthy Stand

Inspired by chopsticks, Compass turned out to be considerably more substantial - and complex. "Everything is tactile whether, as a user, you are conscious of it or not," explains Green. "The Compass' first tactile surprise is its weight. It is heavier than expected - not too heavy, but substantial and secure. The second is the smooth operation of the hinges. These features were all conscious decisions made to enhance the experience... After all, you touch the Compass every time you take it out to use it."

↑ On BookBook, the Literary Case

The juxtaposition of old and new in Twelve South's hometown of Charleston, SC, served as an inspiration for this whimsical case, which was based upon aging books with fabric bookmarks. "With its classic, vintage hardback cover on the outside," Green says, BookBook is "protecting and concealing the most modern and advanced computer in the world on the inside. It offers sleeve-like utility, but with tremendously more protection and style." While the MacBook was the first version's target and namesake, the iPad brought a new dimension to the product. "BookBook for iPad made the MacBook version look like we were just practicing. Its genuine leather and hardback book spine seem to add back an organic element to the digital words and electronic books delivered via pixels inside."

← Backpack: The iMac + Cinema Display Shelf

"One of the Backpack's coolest features is that you can combine several at different heights when your storage needs warrant it, or when you push the 5 pound weight limit! We recently received another user comment with the great idea of flipping a Backpack upside down to create a shelf facing the front," says Green. "One of the things that I think separates Twelve South from other companies is that we create products first and foremost for ourselves, not for a random focus group, or even a buyer at a big box store. We make products that we would be satisfied with first."





IPAD ACCESSORY BUYERS' GUIDE

Only The Best iPad Accessories

Apple gave developers three months to dream up new accessories before the first iPad hit the market, but many companies needed another year to polish their early ideas into excellent finished products. The fruits of their labors have only recently started to arrive in stores: true iPad speakers, better stands, and smarter car mounting solutions, plus better and more reasonably priced cases. Numerous choices in every category make this a great time to be an iPad or iPad 2 owner.

Accessories such as headphones and car chargers work equally well on iPads, iPhones, and iPods, but others are designed specifically for the iPad and iPad 2 - some accommodate only one iPad model. There are hundreds of cases, but still too few iPad speakers and car accessories. If iPads follow iPods, iPhones, and Macs, massive numbers of peripherals will surely appear in the months and years to come. For now, we guide you to the best of what's available, focusing on new releases.

The Big Accessory Picture	90
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Headphones	99
Batteries + Indoor Power	100
In-Car Accessories	102
Cases	106
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Stickers + Protective Film	128
Styluses + Brushes	130
Microphones + Music Accessories	131
Handy Little Adapters	133
Universal Remotes	134
Fun iPad Accessories	135

The Big Accessory Picture

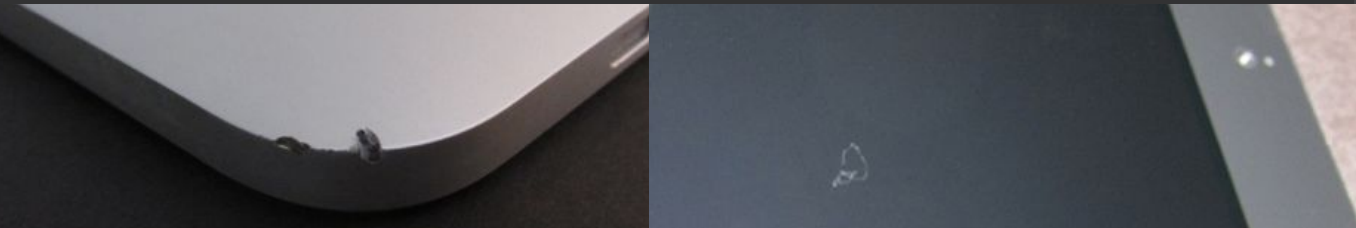
By comparison with the original iPod, which was useless without a pair of earphones and a sync cable, the iPad can spend almost its entire life without accessories - all it strictly *needs* is a recharging solution. Yet as with iPods and iPhones, add-ons improve the iPad's convenience and output quality.

How Can an iPad Benefit From Accessories?

Holding a tablet for extended periods of time is less comfortable than using a stand or a well-designed case. The iPads' built-in speakers offer adequate sound, but great earphones and speakers will really bring its audio to life. Everything looks pretty good on a 9.7" iPad screen, but videos and games can really shine when displayed on an HDTV. And if you're looking to work or travel with your iPad, keyboards, batteries, car chargers, and mounts will unquestionably come in handy.

Why Do Cases and Protective Film Matter?

As sturdy and resilient as iPads were designed to be, they're still susceptible to scratches, chips, dents, and cracks. After a single drop, one of our first-generation iPads had a gash in the side at the six-month point, and a brand new iPad 2 developed a nasty scratch in its screen before the first protective films arrived to cover its face. Using a case and/or film is the easiest way to keep your iPad in near-perfect condition - beautiful and better for resale or gifting. We speak from experience.



How Does iLounge Choose Top Cases, Other Accessories + Applications?

Literally every product selected by iLounge for inclusion in our Buyers' Guides is chosen on pure merit, without any concern for advertising, relationships with developers, or other factors unrelated to the strength of the products themselves. We do not have business ties with any of the companies we cover, and our editors derive no compensation from our coverage of specific products. Our belief is that different products may be right for different users and budgets, so we always attempt to consider options at various price levels, with distinctive features.

To date, iLounge has reviewed thousands of iPod, iPhone, and iPad accessories, as well as thousands of applications from small and large developers alike. We are proud of our continued commitment to objectively and honestly assessing thousands of products, full reviews for most of which can be found on the iLounge.com web site. The products we have covered include a mix of items selected and purchased by iLounge, and ones submitted to us for possible editorial consideration by companies from all over the world. Items received and no longer used for follow-up coverage or comparisons are donated annually to worthy local charities.

What Are The "Sweet Spot" Prices For The Most Common iPad Accessories?

These general guidelines can help you budget for quality options; some top picks are more or less.



Cases and Film
\$40 for full iPad cases, \$25 for film.



Headphones
\$100: Good, \$200: Great, \$500: Wicked.



Batteries
\$100 is the median price for iPad spares.



Speakers
The least expensive is \$70; \$200 is par.

What Other Types Of iPad Accessories Should I Consider?

Wireless video and audio accesories are beginning to take off thanks to AirPlay, the late 2010 replacement for Apple's AirTunes. iPads can stream their videos and audio directly to the latest Apple TVs, as well as a handful of new wireless speaker systems. But wired solutions might better suit your needs. A clock radio or small docking speaker may be ideal for bedside use, portable speakers will be easier to travel with, and video-out cables offer superior app compatibility.



Stands + Docks
Whether you're on the road, at home, or in an office, your iPad isn't going to stand up on its own. A simple stand can make watching or typing easier; a dock can recharge it at the same time as it's standing up.



Car Accessories
We haven't yet seen a truly great complete iPad integration into a car, but accessories to charge and mount iPads in either the front or back of a vehicle are becoming more numerous.



Input Add-Ons
From keyboards to styluses and paint brushes, there are better ways to create documents, notes, and drawings on an iPad than your finger. Most of these add-ons are inexpensive and improve your input.



Apple TV + Adapter
The \$99 Apple TV turns any iPad into a wireless video, music, and photo streamer for your HDTV, and Apple's new \$39 Digital AV Adapter offers a wired alternative, plus full screen mirroring for iPad 2.

What's Being Left Out Of This Year's iPad Buyers' Guide?

Last year's iPad Buyers' Guide focused exclusively on very early accessories for the original iPad, many of which were subsequently surpassed by superior alternatives. The primary focus of this Guide is on iPad 2 accessories, but since there were some good, late accessories for the over 15 million original iPads, we include them, too. Earlier releases can be seen in our past Buyers' Guides.

Docks + Stands

Since the iPad and iPad 2 have no way to keep themselves upright, dock and stand accessories do the trick. We start by looking at docks - stands with electronics built in - and then look at stands for use at home or the office, followed by portable stands that are easy to take on the road.



Apple iPad Dock + iPad 2 Dock
Very few iPad docks include audio- and synchronization-ready ports; Apple's official iPad Dock and iPad 2 Dock offer both, each with a 3.5mm auxiliary audio port and a standard 30-pin Dock Connector port inside a glossy white plastic base. Unfortunately, both Docks are tailored only for bare iPads, and the larger, heavier iPad 2 Dock is even less case-friendly than its predecessor thanks to a thick plastic lip on its front. It doesn't even work easily with Apple's own iPad Smart Covers. Only a handful of iPad cases were designed to work with the first Dock. • \$29

iHome iB969
Still the best iPad charging dock we've tested, iB969 can actually refuel four devices at once - two iPod/iPhone docks are in front of a rear frame that can hold one encased or bare iPad, charged with a self-supplied USB-to-Dock Connector cable. Mini- and Micro-USB cables are included for its fourth port. It's surprisingly handy for travel, though not the easiest item to pack; iB969 is best-suited to a nightstand. • \$60



Griffin PowerDock Dual
With an iPad/iPad 2 dock on the left and an iPhone/iPod dock on the right, PowerDock Dual avoids obscuring the iPad's face - a common issue with multi-docks. Has room for cases, plus a wallet-sized dish. • \$60



XtremeMac InCharge Duo
With a dock for a bare iPad in back and an iPhone/iPod dock in front, InCharge Duo is the most compact two-device charger around; the rear dock can be converted to work with a second iPod/iPhone, too. • \$60

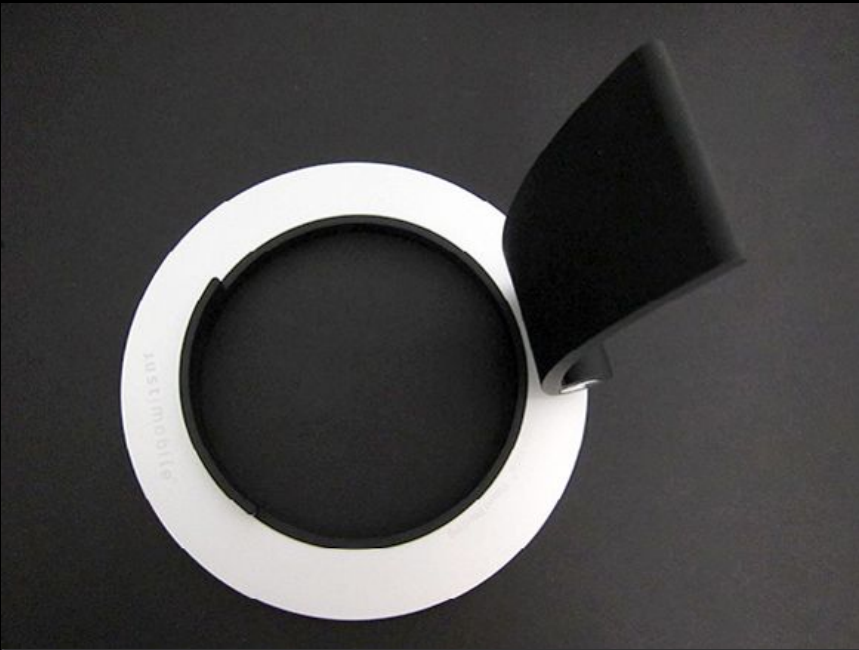


Rain Design iRest
Doing double duty as a desktop iPad stand and an adjustable, lap-friendly iPad/iPad 2 holder, iRest includes two detachable, foam-padded bars that enable you to prop your tablet up on your knees. When you don't want to use them, just unscrew the bars and enjoy the visual mix of clear plastic, chrome, and aluminum. • \$50

Griffin A-Frame + Tablet Stand
Griffin began with A-Frame (\$50), an aluminum easel-style stand that did best holding an iPad/iPad 2 in one fixed position on a desk, folding down for storage. Now there's Tablet Stand (\$30), a smaller, less expensive plastic version that does the same thing with less flair and lower iPad case compatibility. • \$30+



Luxa2 H4 Stand
Unsurpassed in versatility, the largely metal H4 has a rotating and tilting padded center for your choice of viewing angles, and a leg with a hole for cables. It looks like a spider from behind, but nice from the front. • \$60



Just Mobile Encore
Expensive though it may be for a seemingly simple design, Encore is the type of elegant and highly attractive solution Just Mobile has become known for. A rubber-bottomed ring of aluminum uses a rear plastic arm to adjust the iPad or iPad 2's angle of recline; a matching plastic arc supports the iPad's bottom. Beautiful and smart. • \$60



M.Brdz Crystal Stand
Only for the first iPad, Crystal Stand uses clear plastic shells and an aluminum stand to protect the iPad when it's in your hands, then easily mounts like an iMac when you want it on a desk. • \$82



Twelve South **Compass Mobile Stand**

As good as it is as an easel-like iPad and iPad 2 stand - and it's very good, even converting to offer an angle for typing - Compass has stayed in our minds for months because of how fun it is to fidget with when it's not in use. It folds down into a tiny bar for ultra-easy storage, and comes with a black velvet carrying case. So cool.

• \$40



Just Mobile **Slide**

Nearly as elegant as Just Mobile's more expensive Encore, Slide is a smaller, scoop-shaped metal stand that uses a specially weighted, rubber-coated core to let you position your iPad/iPad 2 on any angle. It's ingenious.

• \$40

Belkin **FlipBlade**

It's been a long time since Belkin's industrial design team really showed its stuff on an Apple accessory; FlipBlade is a welcome return to form. Press a button and the metal iPad holder automatically glides open, with its plastic sheathe becoming a base. It only supports one reclining angle, but once you've seen it, you'll be willing to compromise.

• \$30



Jadu **Skadoosh**

Reduced in price to a reasonable level, Skadoosh is a surprisingly smart aluminum design for its size. Packaged with a carrying bag and actually capable of being toted around, it adjusts to hold encased iPads on all sorts of angles, using a flip-out kickstand to add support for any recline. A great pick for travelers.

• \$70



Amzer **Foldo**

Foldo is the least expensive good iPad and iPad 2 stand we've tested, using an all-plastic frame to fold down or provide multiple angles when open.

• \$17

Wall + Kitchen Mounts

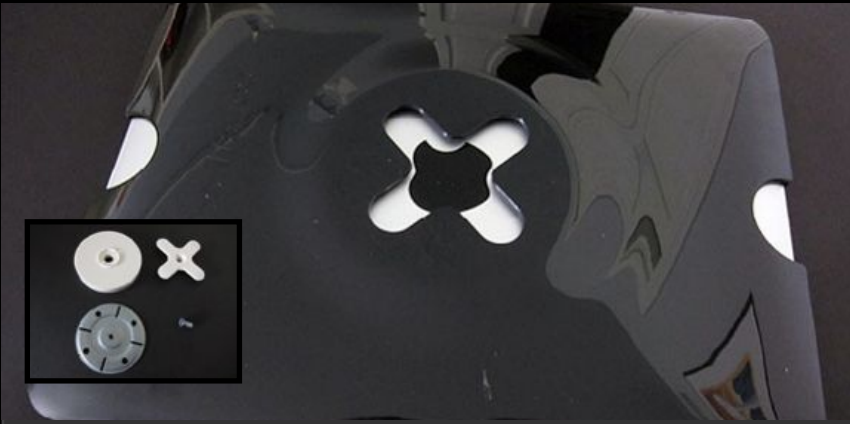
If you need to hang your iPad on a wall, cabinet, or refrigerator, you're in luck: companies have a number of solutions. Some require you to use a bare iPad; others use cases to interact with mounts.



Griffin **Cabinet Mount**

Available solely for the original iPad, this sturdy chrome arm mounts under any 14"-deep cabinet, providing a frame that holds a bare iPad whenever you want to keep it suspended above the kitchen counter. Swivel, turn, and pivot as desired.

• \$70



The Wallee **Wall Mount for iPad**

At some point, there will be a perfect iPad case that integrates seamlessly with a clean wall mount; Australian company The Wallee comes close with this simple glossy iPad shell that locks into a wall-mounted X-shaped post. While greater protection would have made this ideal, the price is pretty close to right. An iPad 2 version is forthcoming with matte and glossy case options.

• \$50



• \$30



• \$29

modulR **Case + Cover** and **Slim Mount for iPad**

modulR's idea is to start with an iPad case and then add extra parts as needed: the Slim Mount is a screwed-in wall mount with slots that integrate with the case's rear posts. (Quick Stand, Shoulder and Hand Straps, a Head Rest Strap, and other parts are also available.) While the first-generation iPad case wasn't fantastic, using a less than thrilling plastic and a kludgy front cover, there's a new version for the iPad 2 that looks more promising, protective, and versatile.



Woodford Design **FridgePad**

Sold in five colors, FridgePad uses a plastic frame and a giant magnet to hold a bare original iPad on a flat refrigerator surface. A free iPad 2 compatibility kit is coming soon.

• \$69

iPad-Ready Speakers

Three types of speakers are now available for Apple's iPads: docking speakers, purely wireless speakers, and speakers with both docking and wireless options. Some work only with the first-generation iPad - with revisions on the way for the iPad 2 - and some work equally well with both. Here's what's available.

DOCKING SPEAKERS



iHome iD9
Affordable, compact, and attractively designed, iHome's iD9 is a perfect visual match for the original iPad: glossy black plastic on an iPad-sized dock, capable of accommodating bare or encased iPads, plus silver plastic that could easily pass for aluminum from a foot or so away. Bundled with a wall charger and loaded with a 4.5-hour rechargeable battery, iD9 has two speakers that fire out from its sides, producing treble- and midrange-focused sound that sounds good even at high volumes. It's the best budget speaker for iPad, and an iPad 2 adapter's coming.

• \$100

Jensen Rocker

Designed around a really smart concept - a speaker with near-total flexibility - Jensen's Rocker has a height-adjusting central arm with a rotating dock for the original iPad. Twin speakers in the base provide midrange-focused audio that's far louder than what the iPad puts out on its own, and an IR remote controls Rocker from afar. But it's not very stable, and only accommodates bare original iPads.



• \$100



Altec Octiv Stage
Nicer than Jensen's Rocker but also pricier, Octiv Stage's rotating, height-adjustable dock also works only with bare iPad 1s, and includes an Infrared remote. It's stable, and has more balanced sound.

• \$150



JBL OnBeat
Compatible with iPods and iPhones, too, OnBeat has a central dock that only works with upright iPads and iPad 2s; it won't rotate. The sound's cleaner than Octiv Stage, but less bassy. A remote is included.

• \$150



Aliph Jawbone Jambox
Pricy but neat, Jambox is a tiny Bluetooth speaker in four colors. Rubber on the top and bottom, it has three drivers for surprisingly powerful sound, plus a mic and case, running for around 10 hours per charge.

• \$200



iHome iDM12
Inexpensive by good Bluetooth wireless speaker standards, the pill-shaped iDM12 works with bare iPads and iPad 2s, including midrange-focused sound, a stand, and a 4.5-hour battery.

• \$70



Creative D100 + D200 Bluetooth Speakers
Incredibly affordable for a wireless speaker of its size, D100 (\$80) delivers strong, full-bodied sound with the option to use wall power or four AA batteries for portable playback. D200 (\$130) is bigger and fancier, with clearer and wider-frequency audio, but loses portability. Great prices, but long-term reliability may be an issue.

• \$80+

SoundMatters foxL V2.2

Similar inside to the Jambox, foxL V2.2 is a little smaller and feels more solid; at normal volumes, it beats Jambox with more dynamic, lively sound, but struggles more at louder volumes where Aliph has the edge. It's packaged with a hand strap, international wall charger, and carrying case, promising five hours of continuous run time, and has a decent mic, too.



• \$199

PURELY WIRELESS SPEAKERS



Altec Lansing inMotion Air
For the same price as Jambox and foxL V2.2, Altec's inMotion Air offers iPad users a lot more: Bluetooth wireless streaming at 100-foot distances, plus sound that's louder, clearer, and with superior dynamic range. While it's much larger, it has a 7-hour rechargeable battery, and includes a dongle for enhanced audio quality with computers.

• \$200



iHome iA100 Bluetooth System

As the only iPad-docking speaker with Bluetooth wireless streaming features built-in, iA100 is a jack of all trades: a dual-alarm clock with FM radio capabilities, better sound quality than most of iHome's speakers, and additional app-enhanced alarm, sound adjustment, and sleep tracking features. Winner of our 2010 Speaker of the Year Award, iA100 is still the best overall value for iPad users today, lacking only for a rotating dock. It's case-compatible, but could use some fine-tuning to ease iPad 2 use.

•\$200

DOCKING + WIRELESS SPEAKERS



Bowers & Wilkins Zeppelin Air

While the last Zeppelin update only added iPhone support to the previously iPod-only unit, Zeppelin Air is completely overhauled inside despite a similar exterior. It was the first third-party speaker to support AirPlay, Apple's new iTunes, Apple TV, and iOS streaming technology, and features tweaks to the original five audio drivers. Somewhat bassier by default than the prior Zeppelin, Air continues to produce powerful, detailed and smooth-sounding audio that's only a little short of audiophile-quality - but far ahead of any of the lower-end speakers that work with the iPad. AirPlay enables Zeppelin Air to perform even lossless audio when you're streaming wirelessly from your iPad; the front dock remains capable solely of docking iPods and iPhones. It's one of the most distinctive speakers around, and a better value than its predecessors thanks to AirPlay.

•\$599



JBL On Air Wireless

Borrowing the Halo design and clock idea from JBL's earlier On Time, the new On Air Wireless is the first AirPlay-equipped alarm clock. While the speakers inside are similar to ones in much less expensive JBL units, a new high-resolution color screen and the iPad-ready AirPlay streaming work pretty well, albeit with small, possibly fixable hiccups. Includes a solid FM tuner, twin alarms, iPod/iPhone dock, and Infrared remote.

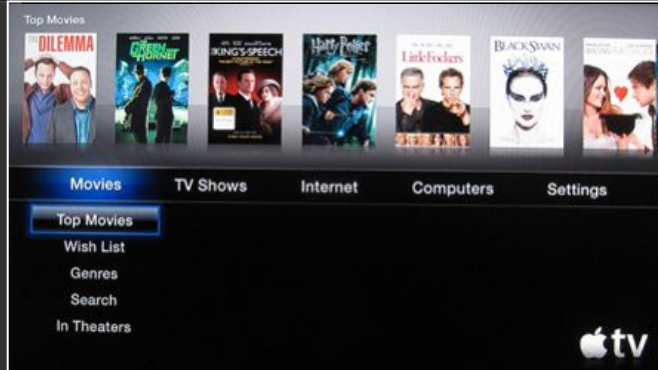
•\$350

Apple TV: iPad Accessory

Two years ago, the original Apple TV was becoming hard to recommend, but Apple's \$99 second-generation version surpassed it, becoming a great stand-alone device and a highly useful accessory for iPads. Here are the iPad features that were added late last year, after our Buyers' Guide was released.



iOS 4.2 lets iPads and Apple TVs work together wirelessly. After two taps on the iPad screen, Apple TV will stop what it's doing and play iPad videos, music, or photos.



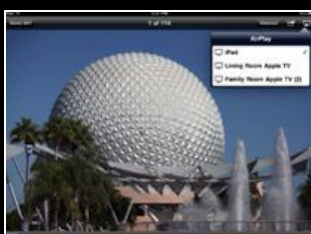
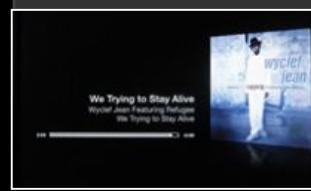
Videos

Look for the box and triangle AirPlay icon next to the play/pause and chapter skip buttons when you're playing any video on your iPad. Press it, select your Apple TV, and watch as the iPad video streams to the TV. Some apps support video and/or audio streaming.



Music

Immediately to the right of the volume controls, you'll see the AirPlay icon. Hit it for the list of AirPlay devices and select one. You'll hear the music play through your Apple TV, and see either a small icon in the corner of the screen, or a full-screen Now Playing window (below).



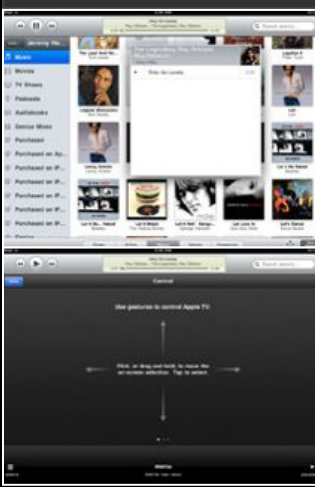
Photos

At the top right corner, you'll see the AirPlay icon. Select an Apple TV and the iPad's picture will appear on the TV; you can scroll through shots and new images will display. Slideshow mode works, too, complete with transitions if you turn them on.



Remote App

As with the iPod and iPhone, Apple's free Remote app lets an iPad control the Apple TV using swipe and tap gestures. iPads can now also use Remote to navigate an iTunes library on a computer in your home, select media, and play it through any Apple TV.



Headphones

Thousands of headphones and earphones are compatible with iPods, iPhones, and iPads, many made with the same components inside, differing mostly in the look and quality of their casings. We look only at distinctive top picks here, as well as some notable wired three-button remote control options.

What Do These Graphics Mean? →

Headphones are built with one to eight miniature speakers per ear, working together to reproduce sound as accurately as possible - or emphasize some parts of the spectrum. Virtually all headphones are centered on performing the midrange, where most musical instruments and voices sit, represented by the central line on this meter. Depending on how they're designed, they also perform some highs/treble (think cymbals) and lows/bass (think low thumping beats). The best ones do everything, which we represent with up to three waves on each side; others do less.

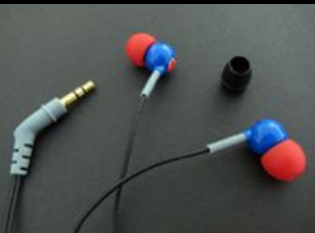


Phonak Perfect Bass + Mic

Built with unusually impressive really low bass capabilities for an inexpensive earphone and nice sonic balance, this mic- and one-button remote-equipped headset presents minor wearability challenges, but great sound overall.



• \$119



H2O Audio Flex

Inexpensive and entirely respectable sonically, this is H2O's lowest-priced pair of waterproof earphones - a very good pick if you sweat a lot or use your iPad near pools or oceans.

• \$30



JAYS a-JAYS 4

Built with great flat cables and an in-line remote and mic unit, these stylish black and gunmetal ear buds fit in the smallest ear canals, and offer pleasantly warm-skewed sound.

• \$70



Audio-Technica ATH-ANC23

These new earbuds deliver clear, balanced sound that rivals peer-priced options sold without its active noise-cancelling hardware, a standout feature for the price.

• \$100



V-Moda Vibrato

Based on the earlier Vibe 2, Vibrato adds a three-button remote and mic set to the bassy, metal-bodied fashion earbuds, which come with sports earhooks and a nice soft case.

• \$130



Fanny Wang On Ear Wangs

Inspired by the style of Monster's Beats line, On Ear Wangs sound better than the \$230 Beats Solo HD, the smaller version of Studio (right). A soft carrying bag and an audio port splitter are bundled.

• \$170



Monster Beats Studio

Beautifully designed but expensive, these earphones have active noise cancellation, a mic, and one-button remote as bonuses; we also really liked the dynamic sound - bassy but with nice treble, too.

• \$350



Westone 4

Designed for true audio connoisseurs, Westone 4 puts four tiny drivers inside each ear, providing highly accurate renditions of sound, rather than boosted bass from Westone 3 in favor of cleaner audio.

• \$449



Ultimate Ears UE18 Pro

Custom fit and king of the hill, UE18 has six drivers per ear for sonic accuracy with controlled warmth. Every detail, nuance, and mistake in a recording is obvious. Brutal for low-fi MP3s, great for high-fi.

• \$1350



Bowers & Wilkins P5

With the comfiest and nicest-looking on-ear pads that have ever touched our heads, P5 oozes class and comfort: wonderfully soft sheep's leather covers the speakers and headband, contrasting with matte and chrome metal hardware. While the sonics skew warmer than they should, you'll love the look and feel; includes an in-line three-button remote and mic unit.



• \$300

Apple-Sanctioned Three-Button Remotes + Mics

Every iPad is compatible with Apple's three-button remote controls and mics, which are now integrated into many third-party headphones. The top and bottom buttons are for volume, while the center button pauses, plays, and changes tracks; on recent iPhones, it also answers and ends phone calls. Apple sells the remotes and mics to developers (including Bowers & Wilkins, JAYS, Monster and V-Moda), which typically add the parts to earlier headphones at a \$20 price premium. Quality is very similar from product to product. Scosche and Belkin sell mic-less remote adapters for \$20.



• \$20



• \$20

Batteries + Indoor Power

iPads have much larger batteries than iPhones or iPods, and require faster new accessories to recharge within the same three- to four-hour time frame. All of the batteries and chargers here are designed to recharge iPads at peak speeds; the chargers and boxy battery packs work with iPods and iPhones, too.



dreamGEAR i.Sound Portable Power Max 16K

With four times the juice of the largest iPod and iPhone battery pack we'd previously recommended, Portable Power Max 16,000mAh can completely refuel an iPad or iPad 2 one time, then fully recharge three iPhones (or 60% of another iPad). Five USB ports let you connect multiple devices at once; an included wall power adapter takes 8 hours to recharge the brick-sized unit.

• \$130

Tekkeon TekCharge MP1860A

As the lowest-priced full-speed iPad recharging battery we've seen, TekCharge MP1860A includes two ports for simultaneous iPad and iPod or iPhone recharging, and has 4,400mAh of power - enough for 50% of a full iPad recharge, or two iPhones. It includes a carrying case, iPad cable, and wall adapter set.



• \$70



PhoneSuit Primo Power Core

With around half the power of Portable Power Max, Primo Power Core is smaller, lighter, and capable of refilling 80% of an iPad, or four iPhones. It includes a wall adapter and bag.

• \$100



NeoSonic LifePower

Built solely for the first iPad, LifePower has an integrated hand strap, video stand, and so-so speakers in addition to a battery with 80-90% refueling power. Interesting, but pricey and somewhat obscure.

• \$200



• \$30+

Griffin PowerBlock + PowerBlock Plus

As alternatives to Apple's official 10W USB Power Adapter, Griffin's PowerBlock for iPad (\$30) and PowerBlock Plus (\$35) offer two different options for recharging an iPad at full speed. The standard PowerBlock uses a glossy black plastic brick with foldable blades and a detachable, included USB cable; PowerBlock Plus provides a USB output for iPad charging and a two-prong faceplate so that you don't have to waste the outlet it's using. You supply your own iPad charging cable for the latter model.



• \$30



Griffin XL 3-Meter USB to Dock Cable

If you need a nearly 10-foot-long way to connect your iPad to a USB port - at home, in a car, at the office, school, or wherever - this monster is the only one we know of that's thick enough to carry the 2.1-Amp power needed to recharge an iPad or iPad 2 at peak speeds. You'll pay a premium, but it's well-built.



• \$40



Incase Combo Charger for iPad

Every iPod, iPhone, and iPad has had some version of Incase's Combo Charger over the years; this one continues the tradition. The bulb can either be used indoors or in a car, plugging in with foldable wall blades or a large car charging bulb, then connecting to an included, matching soft touch rubber USB cable.

• \$40

Apple iPad 10W USB Power Adapter

With nine feet of cable - capable of being shortened to three if you wish - Apple's official wall adapter for the iPad and iPad 2 is still the best value charger available right now. iPads demand more power than iPods and iPhones, and recharge in four hours with this cable, versus eight on prior iPhone chargers or sixteen on iPod cables.

• \$29

In-Car Accessories

Though no developer has yet released an iPod-style inexpensive charger with integrated audio output, or a mounting solution with a charger built in, separate iPad accessories can be combined for these purposes with generally positive results. Here are the best options we've tested over the past year.





New Potato TuneLink Auto


It looks simple in photos, but TuneLink Auto actually represents a new paradigm in car accessories: an app-assisted, “wires optional” car audio kit. You plug in a small charging bulb with Bluetooth wireless hardware and an FM transmitter inside, then choose whether to connect it to your iPad for full-speed charging, or the car’s line-in port if it has one. All music and FM transmitter commands are sent wirelessly from one or more iOS devices to your stereo. Neat idea.

• \$100

Griffin PowerJolt Plus

Going past simple car chargers, Griffin’s PowerJolt Plus has two features that some users will appreciate: a coiled cable that takes up less space when not in use, and a pass-through charging port so that your iPad can charge at full speed while allowing another charger to share the car’s power outlet at the same time. Useful for standalone GPS users and people with other aftermarket car electronics.

• \$30



Kensington PowerBolt Micro for iPad/iPhone

Still the smallest iPad-ready car charger, PowerBolt Micro barely protrudes from a car’s power port, and has a detachable cable. It works well and takes almost no space.

• \$25



XtremeMac InCharge Auto

Conventional though it may be, InCharge Auto continues XtremeMac’s tradition of clean-looking car accessories, with a dark gray cable and a 2.1-Amp fast iPad charging bulb.

• \$25



GripDaddy Arm Mount + Headrest Mount

GripDaddy has come up with two practical ways to turn bare or encased iPads into back seat entertainment devices: one goes behind a headrest, the other in the middle of the car. Both mounts are made from sturdy metal and thick plastic, using independently tightened hooks to secure to a headrest, plus a spring-loaded arm to hold the iPad upright in an open frame. The Arm Mount places that frame on an adjustable arm that stretches to the center of a car, letting back seaters watch together; you’ll need to tighten the screws to keep it all taut.


• \$90



Arkon Headrest Mount

Designed solely for the first iPad, Arkon’s Headrest Mount includes two pieces: a protective faux carbon fiber leather shell that stays on your iPad, linking into a hard, substantial plastic mount. You need to pull off the car’s headrest, pop the metal bars through the mount’s holes, and replace the headrest for installation. It works well enough that we’d love to see a sequel with a more protective iPad 2 case: a mount with a detachable case is a very smart idea.

• \$40



Griffin Cinema Seat

Now available in versions for the original iPad and iPad 2, Cinema Seat works as either a padded leatherette and neoprene case or as a full-time in-car mount. You attach it to a headrest with Velcro straps, and use a slit on the back to insert your iPad. Both versions match light gray car interiors.


• \$40



Luxa2 H7 Dura-Mount

H7 is the rare iPad mount designed to work in the front seats of a car, combining Luxa2’s classic and case-friendly spider mount with a windshield suction cup and flexible bar. It’s surprisingly sturdy and adjustable, but check its local legality before considering one.


• \$70



Toucoul Coulvue

Using a bone-shaped plastic frame that separates into two pieces to clamp a headrest’s metal bars, Coulvue has a highly adjustable set of joints that allow you to reposition the angle of an iPad or iPad 2 held within an X-shaped plastic mount. Notably, separate versions are sold for the iPads, and neither is case- or body film-friendly.

• \$80



How To Choose A Case

We've spent the last year assembling the world's largest gallery of iPad and iPad 2 cases, testing hundreds of options from developers all around the world. Before diving into our sorted case collection on the pages that follow, here are some of the big picture factors you should keep in mind.

Design. The five primary iPad case types are playthrough, folio-style, rear shell, bag, and sleeve. There are also film and Smart Cover screen protectors. All are discussed in this section.



Materials. Most iPad cases are made from plastic, fabric, or leather; a few use wood. Plastic needs to balance thickness, durability, and pliability. Fabric needs to be well-tailored and sewn; leather should be either real or a nice, resilient synthetic.



Face + Screen. iPad cases take four approaches to face protection: no screen coverage, a flap over the screen, bag/sleeve-style opaque coverage, or clear film coverage. If film isn't included, it'll typically cost \$25 to purchase from a top vendor. We feel strongly that anti-glare, anti-smudge film is a must-have item for our iPads.



Bottom. Except for bags and sleeves, iPad cases routinely leave holes for the bottom Dock Connector and speaker grille. Particularly thoughtful designs have partial speaker coverage, or a detachable cover for the Dock Connector.



Back. With the exception of Apple's iPad Smart Cover, virtually every "case" covers most of an iPad's back. On the first iPad, covering the entire back was easy; the best cases did this. By comparison, the iPad 2's rear camera is almost always left exposed; its speaker is often left unprotected, too. Some cases have Apple logo holes, which often look terrible and might lead to scratches. Top developers now build stands into case backs or flaps.



Sides. It's possible to cover virtually all of an iPad's or iPad 2's sides. Many cases leave the volume buttons and side switch exposed; the best find ways to cover the buttons, though the switch is typically bare. Very few have holes for 3G iPads' Micro-SIM card slots.



Top. Original iPad cases had it easy: one hole could expose the headphone port and microphone; a cover could protect the Sleep/Wake button. iPad 2 cases need separate holes for the top port and mic.



Pack-Ins. Some companies include separate video stands, screen film, and port covers with their iPad cases. Others build these features into the cases. Many sell thin plastic rear shells without any frills. Look for great total value and be sure to get enough coverage and extras for your needs.

Playthrough Cases

For iPods and iPhones, the best cases we've tested are known as "playthrough" designs - almost fully protective of the body, ideally with included clear film screen protection. With iPads, this style of case will be ideal for some users, but others will want options with integrated stands, front covers, or both.

FOR IPAD 2



iKit Carbon Case
This was the very first iPad 2 case to make it into our hands - before the device's launch - and it's still one of the best. A combination of soft rubber around the edges and carbon fiber-textured plastic on the back, the fit is perfect. Both the Sleep/Wake button and volume rocker are covered, and an included screen protector makes for almost complete protection. It's very affordable, too.

• \$30

Philips ShockStop
It's conceptually similar to Carbon Case, but the look and feel are different. Made of a translucent TPU rubber-like plastic, ShockStop has the same cutouts and button covers. No screen protector is included, but a cool crystalline pattern inside the rear of the case offers some extra protection. The glossy plastic feels good in the hand, and it's visually interesting.



• \$30



Incipio NGP Matte
Elegant and finished like soft touch rubber, this soft plastic case comes in five different colors, each with two types of screen protectors and integrated button coverage. Good value and clean design.

• \$35



Macally Pencase 2
Even though the green rubber design definitely skews young, Pencase 2 is pretty protective. A hybrid pen-stylus holder is built in to the top, and there are raised dots on the back for grip - a nice pick for kids.

• \$30



Griffin Reveal
Reveal is the closest match to MetroLpad - the best playthrough case for the first-generation iPad - that we've found so far. While the price is higher, we really like the combination of a clear polycarbonate back and black rubber cushion around the edges. It's simple, clean, and protective, showing off the iPad 2 back.

• \$50

Simplism Silicone Case
We've seen tons of low-end, low-priced silicone shells in the past; Simplism's is different. The buttons on the iPad 2 are covered, and both the headphone and Dock Connector port have protective, flip-open flaps. The silicone has an anti-dust coating to repel particles that would be gathered by static. A version with a front lid is also available.



• \$30



Pinlo XyberPro 2
XyberPro 2 is composed of two separate pieces: a soft rubber shell and a hard plastic X that fits underneath it. The result is plenty of coverage with a reinforced frame, even including port protection. We liked the speaker opening, which is a series of shrinking diagonal lines. Translucent grey and blue models are available.

• \$40



XtremeMac TuffWrap Shine
Almost identical to ShockStop, the neutral-looking TuffWrap doesn't have the same crystalline layer on its underside. Buttons remain fully usable while they're covered.

• \$35



HandStand HandStand 2
In addition to the plastic body, HandStand 2 has a hand strap on the back that rotates all the way around - potentially useful in work situations.

• \$50

ACCESSORY GUIDE

FOR ORIGINAL IPAD



Macally MetroLpad

Although we still don't get the name, this is the best playthrough case for the original iPad. Macally got virtually everything right here: the back's frosted clear to show off the tablet, while hard rubber covers the sides and bezel, wisely covering the buttons and exposed ports. On top of all that, the price is outstanding.

• \$20

IPAD 2 BUYERS' GUIDE



Incipio Hive

Hive is Incipio's line of gaming cases, using a distinctive-looking external honeycomb pattern to add some shock protection. At the top and bottom edges are raised grips meant to make holding the iPad easier during gaming sessions. Button coverage is good and a screen protector is included; it's also available for iPad 2.

• \$20



Speck SeeThru + SeeThru Satin

A combination of hard plastic and soft rubber coating, SeeThru Satin has a flip-open iPad Dock cover that allows for access to Apple's accessory when needed. The purple color really pops; there are clear and black versions too.

• \$32

Griffin AirStrap

It can be tough to use an iPad if you're standing or moving around. AirStrap seeks to remedy this with the inclusion of a neoprene hand strap on the back. It does add some bulk, but it's certainly useful. A rubberized frame around the edge enhances the protection. Griffin now has an updated, nearly identical AirStrap available for the iPad 2.

• \$40



IvySkin Quattro-T5

Beyond covering the body, Quattro-T5 has a unique sheet of touch-through glass to protect the screen. It's available in multiple unique-finished colors.

• \$60



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laptop-style keyboard

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closed up folio

Built-In Stand Cases

The only thing that's glaringly missing from the iPad is a stand for video viewing purposes. Developers struggled last year to build stands into the backs of their iPad cases, but some of the smarter designers have recently figured out ways to integrate this feature, or include it as a detachable add-on.



Macally Dualstand 2
At this point, Dualstand is one of the top cases for the iPad 2 - a spiritual sequel to Macally's MetroLpad with complete side button coverage, perfect cutouts for all of the necessary openings, and nice bezel protection. The big plus: two built-in stands - one for typing, the other for video. We're not fans of the black and yellow color scheme, but it's a trade-off for the functionality. **\$30**

DigiPower Coffee Clutch
With a purse-like handle and detachable shoulder strap, Coffee Clutch is geared toward the female iPad 1 user. A stand on the back flips out for photo and video viewing. Unlike similar original iPad competitors, it's easy to get the tablet in and out of the case. We like the elegant design, and appreciate the affordable price. **\$30**



Macally Ecostand 2
Ecostand combines a hard iPad 2 plastic shell - a good one at that - with a detachable, articulating bamboo stand; a magnet holds them together. It may seem strange, but it actually works well and looks nice. **\$40**



Incipio Silicrylic/iPad 2
Enhanced from the first-gen iPad version, Silicrylic mixes a soft rubber case with a hard rear shell, now with a flip-out stand built in. Anti-glare and crystal screen film is packed in; three color combos are available. **\$50**



Newer Technology NuGuard GripStand
Released for the first iPad after it was discontinued, GripStand is practical and the price is great. The shell mixes hard plastic and soft rubber, with a round rotating stand that attaches in the middle. It switches from landscape to portrait, changes angles, and converts into a carrying handle. An iPad 2 version is coming. **\$30**

Substrata Artisan Stripe Case
Although it's certainly not the most practical or affordable case, Substrata's wood shell is undeniably beautiful. When closed, the iPad 2 is completely covered. It converts into a viewing stand with a flip of the lid, and a dowel can be positioned underneath the tablet for typing. It's also available for iPad 1. **\$225**



Joby Gorillamobile Yogi
Just plain smart: Joby's signature ball-joint arms form a stand that can work in any orientation and angle, and are removable from the really nice plastic and rubber case. An iPad 2 version is on the way. **\$50**



Incase Origami Workstation
Rather than protecting either iPad model, the black polyurethane Origami Workstation is a case for Apple's slim Wireless Keyboard that converts into a typing stand for the tablet. Plastic clips hold the keyboard in place, and the corners of the top half fold in on themselves, attaching to each other with Velcro. Really cool. **\$30**



iChair LLC iChair
iChair for the first iPad has two stands built in: a lower angled one for typing, and a larger, rotating stand for viewing in either tall or wide orientation. It also comes with screen protector film. **\$49**

Folio-Style Cases

Folding, folio-style cases never struck us as ideally suited to the iPod or iPhone, but they've been solid picks for the iPad and iPad 2, particularly after developers found ways to use the front flap as a support for video and/or typing purposes. These are the best folio designs we've seen for each iPad model.

FOR IPAD 2



Speck PixelSkin HD Wrap
We really liked Speck's CandyShell Wrap for the original iPad, and this model evolves it for the iPad 2. Combining a really good hard plastic rear shell with precision openings and an articulating front cover with the company's big pixel design, it's protective, attractive, and functional. Rather than magnets, Speck uses a novel micro-suction strip to keep the non-detachable front lid shut. \$50

Incase Magazine Jacket
Magazine Jacket stands out because it's a really thin, ultra light folio that provides a respectable amount of protection. Two ridges on the back act as stands for the convertible cover in either viewing or typing orientations. Port holes are precision-cut, and the elastic band on the back is an interesting touch. \$50



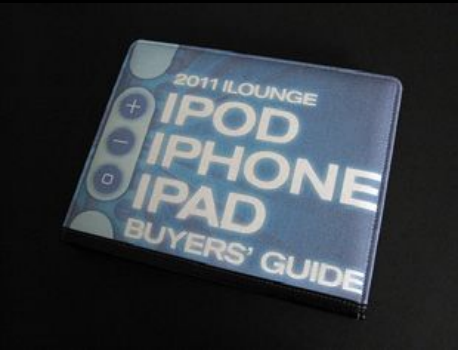
SwitchEasy Cara
Just as with last year's version, Cara has a pliable matte plastic shell that covers the back, and a hard turtle-like glossy front. As usual from SwitchEasy, all sorts of goodies are included, such as video stands. \$50



Tuff-Luv Tri-Axis Stasis
Made out of either faux or real leather, the different Tri-Axis Stasis models have a series of either Velcro or buttons on the front that connect to a flap that on the back to serve as a stand. They look sharp. £29+



Hard Candy StreetSkin
Straddling the line between a folio and playthrough case, StreetSkin has a rubber body as well as a hinged cover. Some people may not like the tread texture, but it does a good job of keeping the iPad 2 safe. \$40



M-Edge MyEdge
Upload your own picture or choose from one of M-Edge's designs, and it'll be printed on the front and back of this relatively simple canvas case. The color replication is surprisingly good. \$50



STM Skinny
The first iPad 2 case from bag maker STM turned out to be a pretty good one, and rather affordable. It's thin and light, with fabric covering the hard plastic shell and cover. Bonus: Skinny has embedded magnets that activate the automatic locking feature of the iPad 2, something we've really come to appreciate. \$40

Targus 360° Rotating Stand & Case

Targus took the traditional folio and put a literal spin on it. The rear iPad 2 shell rotates all the way around inside of the case, and can stand up on ridges found within the front cover. Because it rotates fully, you can put your tablet in any orientation, a freedom most cases don't offer. Handsome-looking, but thick. \$60



SwitchEasy Canvas
True to its name, Canvas has a plastic-like canvas exterior and a hard shell to hold the iPad 2. A clasp on the edge of the front cover keeps the case shut, and Velcro along the left of the shell unhooks to allow you to stand it up. The range of colors is neutral, and we really like the feel of the canvas, an improvement on last year's model. \$50

FOR ORIGINAL IPAD



Frappe Design **Executive Folio**

With two pockets for holding the iPad, Executive Folio can also store a self-supplied notepad - a rare feature in first-generation iPad folio cases. There's also an aluminum stand built in so that an extra accessory isn't needed. It's made of faux leather, with brown, grey, and black versions available, each nice.

• \$69



US+U **Swivel Pro**

This folio is divided into three sections. The center holds the iPad. On the right, there's room for papers. What's different from the other folios is the handstrap on the left. It rotates 360 degrees, allowing the tablet to be held in any orientation. There's also a built-in stand for typing, held in place by magnets.

• \$60



Gumdrop Cases **Surf Convertible**

Surf Convertible is almost exactly the same as Apple's original iPad case, except that it's made of nicer-feeling material and is half the price for first-gen iPads. There's also a choice of colors, something Apple never offered.

• \$20

Speck **CandyShell Wrap**

This case immediately stood out when introduced at the 2011 CES in Las Vegas. It's a combination of Speck's CandyShell playthrough case and a detachable articulating front cover, pre-dating Apple's Smart Cover. Lining the inside of the case is soft rubber to offer shock protection, and the same material covers the iPad's buttons. There's also a flip-open door to cover the Dock Connector. The front cover folds into either a viewing or typing stand, and can even be removed when it is not needed. It's impressively protective without being overly bulky.

• \$39



NewerTech **iFolio**

Sold in a variety of different colors for \$130 to \$180, the Brazilian leather iFolio has an 7"x10" document sleeve on the other side of the first-gen iPad, and comes with a carrying arm strap.

• \$130



STAND IT



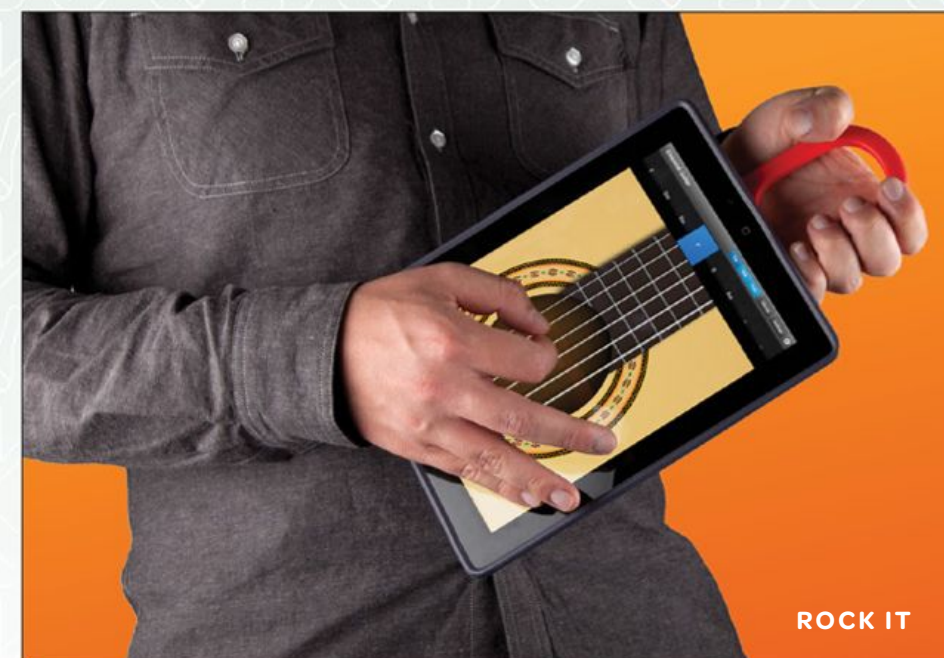
GRIP IT



HANG IT

Your iPad® is pretty dang handy by itself. Just wait 'til you get a handle on it.

HandyShell™ from Speck®



ROCK IT



WATCH IT



SELL IT

* Speck's got your iPad 2 covered with a range of slim, stylish and surprising cases full of functionality and fun. We've been making rad stuff for all your Apple gear since 2001, and we're delighted that iLounge has awarded us iPhone case of the year the last two years running! All our products are designed with love in Palo Alto, CA, right in the heart of Silicon Valley.



speckproducts.com

Rear Shell-Style Cases

If you're looking for the thinnest way to protect your iPad or iPad 2 with hard plastic, these rear shells are probably your best option: developers of these half-cases focus on balancing ultra-thin materials and sturdiness, matching the curves of the iPad's back while offering clear and/or colored options.



SwitchEasy Nude

As has come to be expected from SwitchEasy, Nude is a practical, affordable case option for the iPad or iPad 2, each with all sorts of pack ins. Made fom 1.8mm-thick glossy plastic, it feels sturdy, though like all shells, it doesn't offer button coverage. However, screen protector film and port protectors help make up for this omission, bringing what could otherwise be a very simple rear plastic cover to the same overall degree of protection offered by leading full play-through cases. Seven different colors are available for the iPad 2, and six for the original iPad.

• \$30

XtremeMac Microshield

In all but the smallest details, Microshield is the same as the other shells that don't fully cover the iPad 2. All of the buttons and ports are fully exposed. The openings on the side and for the camera are precise; those on the top and bottom are too large. One thing that stands out is the satin soft-touch rubber finish.



• \$35



Incipio Feather

Unlike Nude, Feather leaves long openings at the top and bottom edges, offering that much less protection. It does include a clear screen protector, and we like some of the metallic finishes available.

• \$35



Macally Snap2

Snap 2 is essentially the same as Feather, except it's only available for iPad 2, and in four colors. Top and bottom protection is limited, and each of the corners has a slit to make installation easier.

• \$30

Water-Resistant Cases

iPads are natural travel companions, far better suited than laptops to a day at the beach or a visit to the pool. But they're not waterproof or particularly ready to be splashed, covered in sand, or otherwise exposed to the elements. The cases here offer varying degrees of elemental protection and usability.



Loksak aLoksak Bags

While it may look like a Ziploc bag, aLoksak is 100% water-, air-, dust-, and humidity-proof, leaving the screen fully usable without port access. The first iPad version was huge; an iPad 2 bag is tailored better.

• \$9



Aquapac 100% Waterproof Case

Using a simple lever closure system and including an arm strap, Aquapac's bag is truly waterproof - submersible up to 15 feet - and floats. The screen remains usable in water.

• \$45



OtterBox Defender

OtterBox makes some of the most protective cases on the market, and Defender for the original iPad is no exception. The solid multi-layer frame is composed of hard plastic, along with plenty of shock absorbent rubber; it's dust-resistant, but not water tight, and the Apple logo circle is goofy. A hard plastic rear frame converts into a video stand, and an iPad 2 version is now available, as well.

• \$90

DryCorp DryCASE

DryCASE is unique in that it uses a vacuum to keep the iPad safe; a hand pump is included to remove the air from the bag. It also includes a headphone pass through, compatible with any waterproof headphones. We've tested it and watched the iPad inside survive submersion, though the screen becomes unusable underwater. DryCorp claims it's watertight to 100-foot depths, and we'd believe it.



• \$60

Smart Covers + Shells

Despite its name, Apple's iPad Smart Cover was designed solely for the iPad 2: the lid attaches magnetically, deactivates the iPad 2's screen when closed, and turns it on when opened. Smart Covers inspired developers to create smarter alternatives - some with rear protection. They're all iPad 2-only.



Apple iPad Smart Cover
Apple's Smart Cover was the only protective solution the company made available to customers during the launch and first months of the iPad 2. Polyurethane plastic (\$39) and thin leather (\$69) versions are available in ten total color and material variations. Magnets inside the folding, plastic-reinforced lid enable it to fold into a triangular video or typing stand, and auto-lock iPad 2's screen, both neat features, seemingly inspired by Incase and Speck designs for the first iPad. Unlike them, Smart Cover doesn't provide enough protection on its own, and the prices are crazy for what it offers; that said, many people bought them in the iPad 2's earliest days, anyway.

• \$39+

SwitchEasy CoverBuddy
Almost identical to Smart Back Cover, CoverBuddy has the added benefit of extending all the way to the top and bottom edges. There are precisely cut holes for all of the openings and buttons, as well as a line of pill shaped openings over the speaker. Definitely a better value for the same price, in five colors.



• \$25



Simplism Smart Back Cover
Smart Back Cover was the first Smart Cover-ready rear shell, in three colors. There's a wide opening along the left for the magnets, but top and bottom edges are left largely exposed.

• \$25



iFrogz BackBone
BackBone is practically the same as CoverBuddy, but the selection of colors is much wider. There is a shade to match each of the Smart Cover options, plus white and clear. You're paying for the colors.

• \$35

Marware MicroShell Folio
MicroShell Folio is sold for the cost of a shell plus a plastic Smart Cover. The rear is black, silver, or white plastic, with a black folding lid. Although the cover has magnets built in that activate the automatic locking feature, they don't hold the video stand in place; that's what the two ridges on the back of the case are for.



• \$70



Beyzacases Executive II
Although the price is high because it's exported from Turkey, this is a "best of both worlds" kind of case. Set up in a folio style, it is composed of the same high-quality leather as the company's other offerings. Coverage is quite good around the body of the iPad 2, while the front cover replicates Smart Cover, yet feels nicer to the touch.

• €130



Speck SmartShell
Similar in design to the other plastic shells, SmartShell extends to all four sides of the iPad 2. What's unique here is the magnet to the left of the Apple logo; it's used to hold the Smart Cover when folded under the tablet, a nice touch. SmartShell is sold in either translucent black or clear, each a classy complement to the iPad 2.

• \$35



United SGP Griff
Instead of plastic, SGP used leather for its Smart Cover-compatible shell. Coverage is good, and the colors roughly match those offered by Apple. The material drives the price up a little.

• \$50



Mivizu Sense
Sense is less expensive than Executive II and the leather reflects that, but it's set up in pretty much the same way - a full case. The cover doesn't fold quite as well, and there's a rectangle sewn onto the back.

• \$60

iPad Bags + Purses

Whether you're looking for a messenger-style bag with an iPad-sized compartment or an iPad-ready purse, developers - including some prominent U.S. companies - have you covered. Most of the bags and purses we've tested work with both the iPad and iPad 2; we note iPad 2-only options.



iSkin Q.West Collection Sling
When iSkin launched its high-end, fashion-conscious Q.West Collection earlier this year, there was no doubt that the star of the family was Sling. This over the shoulder bag has plenty of pockets with room for an iPad or iPad 2, Apple's Wireless Keyboard, a full liter bottle, and most other goodies that may come with you on the road. Sling has a puffy, glossy nylon design with a nicely padded shoulder strap and cell phone carrier; you pick from five colors. **\$125**

Killspencer Leather Carrying Case
Made from high-quality leather, and practical besides, this is a masculine, expensive shoulder bag. A water-resistant zipper keeps your iPad safe, and there are three pockets on the front: one runs the length of the bag; two are smaller. The clips on the nylon strap and D-rings are heavy-duty metal. **\$189**



Waterfield Designs Travel Express
Handmade in San Francisco, this ballistic nylon case has a reinforced pocket for your tablet. Despite its looks, there's plenty of room. Straps and D-rings do cost extra, though. **\$69+**



Skooba Harmony
Skooba claims Harmony was "designed by women, for the way women really work and travel." A giant purse, it can hold everything a woman may need - and then some. Especially good for students. **\$100**



Sena Borsetta
Solely for the iPad 2, this leather folio doubles as a purse thanks to a matching strap. A zipper pocket has dedicated phone and pen holders, plus extra room for other accessories. Built-in stands are also useful. **\$150**



Booq Boa Push
Booq's great laptop bags get downsized here for iPads. The open-sided exterior is tweed-like nylon, with embossed leather inside. Four dedicated pockets hold your ID and credit cards. **\$50**



STM Vertical Shoulder Bag
The top choice of some iLounge editors, Vertical Shoulder Bag reflects STM's long-standing tradition of quality. Pockets have enough room for a 13" MacBook Pro, two iPads, and accessories; the body is made of water-resistant polyester. There are several different sizes, depending on the kind of computer you carry. **\$70**

Kensington Sling Bag

It's certainly one of the least expensive bags around. Even though it is not made specifically for the iPad, it holds either tablet properly along with plenty of other accessories. Bonus: unlike a lot of the options out there, this one is generic enough to appeal to both men and women. You can adjust the shoulder strap using Velcro to fit your dimensions. **\$20**



Speck A-Line
Speck's iPad bag for women breaks the mold with a beautiful design that's likely to appeal to the Urban Outfitters crowd. A buttoned front flap opens to the side, revealing plenty of pockets; the iPad remains accessible through a zipper at the top. Available in three colors, A-Line could easily replace a day to day purse. **\$60**

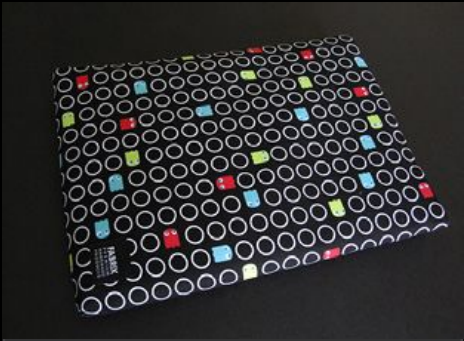
iPad Sleeves

Sleeves are amongst the simplest cases to design for any Apple device - envelopes that are open at one end, or sealed with a flap. They're generally suited solely for taking your iPad out of your house, and provide no protection once you've pulled the tablet out, but some double as very basic stands.



G-Form Extreme Sleeve
Extreme Sleeve is one of those “looks can be deceiving” options. Soft and floppy with enough room for either generation of iPad, it uses a special padded material that automatically hardens upon impact to absorb most force from a shock. G-Form has dropped bowling balls on it and thrown it out of airplanes; the tablet doesn't even get scratched. This is not your average sleeve. **\$60**

XtremeMac Thin Sleeve
It's made out of faux leather, but the material doesn't feel cheap. Unlike some iPad-agnostic models, this one is just big enough to accommodate the iPad 2. XtremeMac made it easier to remove the tablet with a built in an ejector tab; pull up and it rises right out. The top flap stays shut with a magnet. **\$40**



Fabrix Pac Maze
Inspired by the classic video game Pac-Man, this patterned sleeve is about as simple as they come. There's a small inner flap that holds your iPad in place, and the inside is lined with a crinkling nylon. **\$33**



Sena Collega
Made of high-quality textured leather, Collega not only has an accessory pocket on the front, but also has pull-out handles to turn it into a purse-like bag. A zipper on the side closes to keep either iPad or iPad 2 safe. **\$150**



Sena Executive Sleeve
Executive Sleeve lives up to its name, both in material quality and price: the smooth leather used is among the nicest we have seen. Unlike most of the leather cases and sleeves with embedded magnets, the ones in here don't show through or damage the leather during use, something we no longer take for granted. **\$100**

United SGP Illuzion
A lower-priced entry into the real leather sleeve category, Illuzion can hold an iPad 2 with a Smart Cover attached; the wide variety of colors matches Apple's. Except for the rougher Vintage Brown, all of the cases have a soft glossy finish. The magnets in the top flap can accidentally activate the iPad 2's automatic lock feature, so turn it off in the settings. **\$60**



Beyzacases Thinvelope
The high-end leather here has a nice texture and decent padding. Instead of using hidden magnets underneath the surface, Thinvelope has an exposed, nice-looking magnet set on the body and flap. **\$130**



Moshi Muse Slim-Fit Sleeve
Moshi is known for its excellent use of microfiber in a variety of products, so this high-quality sleeve is no surprise. The soft material actually cleans the iPad or iPad 2's screen. A second pocket is perfect for accessories that most sleeves wouldn't accommodate; inside the flap are two hidden magnets to keep everything shut. **\$30**



Speck PixelSleeve
Available in black, pink, or purple, PixelSleeve features Speck's ubiquitous small square pattern. Unlike most of the sleeves, this one has a little handle, making it easier to carry. **\$30**


Keyboards + Cases

Virtually any Bluetooth keyboard can work with the iPad and iPad 2, but some are decidedly better than others. Apple's keyboards are particularly well-built but large, while rivals start at or fold up into more compact shapes: some keyboards have been integrated into cases, though with decidedly mixed results. Forthcoming iPad 2 versions will likely be better; Apple's Wireless Keyboard is now our top pick.

Apple iPad Keyboard Dock

Combining Apple's original iPad Dock with a great keyboard and iPad-specific keys, the iPad Keyboard Dock provides a pass-through port for charging and syncing, plus an audio port. Sadly, it requires the iPad to be in portrait mode, bare or in special cases, and can't fit on a desk's keyboard tray. iPad 2s fit, but not ideally.

\$69





Apple Wireless Keyboard

The best solution we'd recommend for real iPad typing is pairing Apple's Wireless Keyboard with a case or stand to hold the iPad or iPad 2 in your preferred orientation. This keyboard's nearly identical to the one on the Dock above, but uses Bluetooth and runs for months on AA cells. It's easier to carry, and the keys are great.

\$69



Matias Bluetooth Folding Keyboard

Only a little wider than an iPad when folded up, this full-sized Bluetooth keyboard has solid-feeling keys and atypically includes a full numeric keypad; it's missing only iOS-specific buttons. Made from sturdy black plastic and shipped with a soft, simple carrying bag, it runs off of two included AAA batteries. Though it's really designed to be used on a large, flat surface rather than in your lap, business users - particularly ones with lots of numbers to enter - will appreciate its no-compromises keyset.

\$100





Sena Cases Keyboard Folio


Most iPad keyboard cases use rubber-topped keyboards from the same supplier, differing mostly in the quality and style of their leather cases. Sena Cases currently offers the nicest leather versions we've seen - and the priciest at \$140 and up - with separate versions for the iPad and iPad 2. Glossy, fine-grain genuine Napa leather is used for the entire folio-style exterior and the inner holders for both the iPad and the keyboard, the latter with a rechargeable 45-hour battery built in. It folds into a laptop-like shape for typing that's better than the iPad's virtual keys.

\$140

Logitech / ZAGG Keyboard Case for iPad 2 / ZAGGmate

We don't like Zagg's yellowing films, and have reservations about the "case" in this design, but the keyboard here is the best besides Apple's for the iPad and iPad 2. Sold as Logitech Keyboard Case for iPad 2 or ZAGGmate with Keyboard for the original iPad, this is an aluminum shell with a very responsive hard plastic Bluetooth keyboard inside; the keys are around 90% of normal size, but most typists will quickly adjust to the difference, and benefit from increased accuracy over the soft rubber versions elsewhere on this page. Unfortunately, the "case" here holds the iPad or iPad 2 upside-down, leaving its entire metal back exposed; Zagg suggests you buy film to cover it. You can decide whether Apple's Wireless Keyboard and a case would work better for the same price.

\$100





Kensington KeyFolio

Now sold in one version that fits both the iPad and iPad 2, complete with front and rear camera openings for FaceTime, KeyFolio uses a very similar keyboard to the one in Sena's Keyboard Folio, but shifts to synthetic leather for the case to radically reduce the price. We didn't love the squishy keys on the original iPad model, but the keyboard in the quietly updated iPad + iPad 2 version has been markedly improved.

\$80



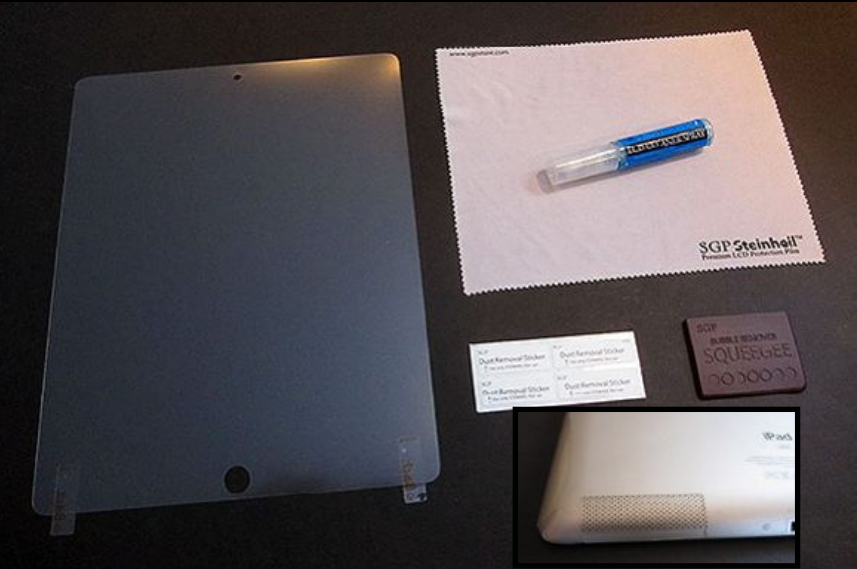
Accessory Workshop tyPad Gen II

Available in separately tailored iPad and iPad 2 versions, the faux leather tyPad Gen II features a similar keyboard to the one we tested in KeyFolio, albeit with a large case-sealing flap where your palms rest, and a Velcro closure. A USB cable is included for the integrated 55-hour rechargeable battery.

\$100

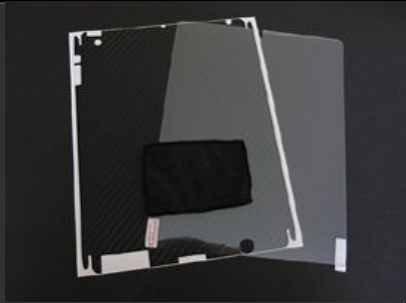
Stickers + Protective Film

If there's any iPad accessory that's mandatory for our own devices, it's anti-glare screen film - a sheet of specially made plastic that uses static cling rather than adhesive to attach to the screen, protecting it from glare, scratches and fingerprints. Here are the best options, along with several decorative stickers.



United SGP Steinheil Films + Incredible Shields
Offering equally excellent alternatives to Power Support's clear and anti-glare screen films, SGP also sells full body film kits under the Incredible Shield name; each comes with very nice screen cleaning and application tools. Matte and glossy versions of the nice-looking rear films are available, generally using a wet application process. They come with a small spray bottle of soapy water to wet the underside of the protector, and the moisture is squeegeed out. **\$22+**

BodyGuardz Armor Carbon Fiber
NLU changed its name this year to BodyGuardz, spotlighting its most popular products. Originally released without a screen protector film, this carbon fiber-textured sticker is more forgiving than clear alternatives - including \$30 BodyGuardz - because you can't see dust or imperfections underneath it. **\$30**



Power Support Anti-Glare Film
The price has increased by \$10 this year, but we still really like the clarity, feel, and quality of Power Support's films. A single sheet comes in the pack, so get it on right the first time. **\$35**



Moshi iGlaze AG
Reusable and very easy to install, iGlaze AG comes in white- or black-bezeled versions that work on those respective iPad 2 colors, covering the tablet's face with a touch-through plastic layer. **\$30**



GelaSkins GelaSkins
While we've never been enthusiastic about putting stickers on our iPads, the latest GelaSkins are amongst the very best options out there. First, the company continues to increase its collection of licensed artwork to include everything from classic comic book covers to the works of famous modern artists and even better indies. Second, the iPad and iPad 2 GelaSkins each come with front and rear stickers, plus matching, downloadable Lock Screen and Home Screen wallpaper. While screen protection remains an issue with GelaSkins' stickers, and they don't attempt to cover every millimeter of a device's back, they do more than rivals, and the quality of the art is very strong. **\$30**



DomeSkin DomeSkins for iPad + iPad 2
Unlike rivals, DomeSkins aren't just flat: they're actually puffy thanks to a thick layer of soft rubber that gives each version a high gloss and front grips. Using the same residue-free 3M adhesive as the others, this collection of designs is more limited, but the offerings include colors, patterns, and various types of popular art. Each includes front and rear stickers, leaving the iPad's edges and screen exposed, though elevated off flat surfaces. **\$30**


MusicSkins Skins
Cheaper than the others, MusicSkins stickers for iPad 2 leave out the screen film that the iPad 1 versions included. But they do have some exclusive big-name licenses - everything from Michael Jackson and Beatles album covers to Jersey Shore, Taylor Swift, and Justin Bieber photos. The size of the MusicSkins collection has become so huge that you're bound to find art, an artist, a TV show, or something else to appeal to your tastes. You also have the option of designing your own. The stickers are scratch-resistant, but don't always try to fully cover the device's sides. **\$20**



Styluses + Brushes


Apple may have discounted the value of styluses, but there's little question that they can improve the accuracy of handwritten notes, while also aiding drawing. One company has even developed a touchscreen-ready paintbrush that works with painting and other art applications.

Wacom Bamboo Stylus
Like many of the styluses we've recently seen, Bamboo Stylus is a metal tube with a rubber dome tip; the difference is that digital pen expert Wacom has picked a 4.75" length, nice weight, and detachable shirt clip that are all akin to a high-quality pen, plus a Japanese-made combination of black and silver matte metals that look and feel pro-grade.




• \$30

Hard Candy Cases Candy Stylus
Just a little longer than Bamboo Stylus when one cap is off, Candy Stylus combines chrome and matte silver metals to beautiful effect: it looks like a long shiny zeppelin, or a throwback to the Art Deco era. One side has a rubber dome stylus tip, the other a black ballpoint pen. It's one of the coolest styluses ever.



• \$35

NomadBrush Nomad Brush
Walnut at the end, carbon in the center, and with a mix of natural and synthetic fibers in a bundle, Nomad Brush offers painters a natural 7.25"-long brush that feels light and comfortable in the hand. When used with most apps, the iPad registers only its center, but it glides across the screen as brushes do and fingers don't.



• \$24



Just Mobile AluPen
At the same length as Bamboo Stylus, the rubber-tipped AluPen has a chunky pencil-like aluminum body to avoid rolling. It's sold in six colors, including silver; each includes a leather carrying sleeve.

• \$20



United SGP Kuel H10
Initially shorter than the other options here, Kuel H10 comes in five colors, each with a special cap that attaches to the iPad's headphone port and dangles there. A silver tube inside can lengthen it, too.

• \$13


Mic + Music Accessories

GarageBand, Skype, and numerous other audio apps have transformed the iPad and iPad 2 into powerful audio creation and communication tools. Here are some of the more interesting add-ons that help you take advantage of these apps; each builds a little upon the existing abilities of Apple's tablet.




Elago StylusPick
Designed to replicate the look of a guitar pick, StylusPick uses the same soft rubber dome-like edging of a traditional iPad stylus, with a hard plastic and microfiber core, plus a headphone port plug that lets it dangle from your iPad's top when not in use. Elago also sells a regular stylus for \$20.

• \$15




Native Union POP Phone
While the limited edition gold version of Native Union's POP Phone might strike some as gawdy - and twice as expensive as the \$30 base model, to boot - the concept's a good one: this accessory replicates the feel of a traditional telephone handset, letting users make Skype calls with a comfortably located microphone and speaker, rather than shouting into the iPad's top and listening to its bottom. Seven matte colors are available.


• \$30+



• \$60



• \$40



• \$40

IK Multimedia iRig Mic, iKlip and iRig
If you want a traditional microphone, iRig Mic uses a metal housing to hold a unidirectional condenser capsule behind a metal mesh windscreen; a pass-through port lets you monitor your recordings through self-supplied headphones. It pairs nicely with iKlip, a plastic mount for the first iPad that attaches to a microphone stand to become a mini teleprompter or musical accompaniment for the iRig Mic. Additionally, electric guitars can connect to the iPad using the original iRig, which adds a 1/4" guitar cable jack and 3.5mm pass-thru to the iPad's headphone port.



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Simple
Genuine leather cover

Offers 6 options for standing vertically or horizontally

For iPad 2

SLIM
Ultra slim protecting pouch

Light • Soft Compatible with Smart Cover Stay clean

eco friendly
go green with lost dog

LostDog™ makes designer cases for iPhone™, iPad™, Samsung Galaxy Tab and more...

lostdog™

Handy Little Adapters

iPads lack for the SD card slots, USB ports, and video outputs found on computers, but fear not: Apple offers Dock Connector adapters to add these features to your tablet - at a price. Thankfully, the results are pretty impressive, and new plug-ins such as Square's Credit Card Reader push the envelope further.



Apple iPad Camera Connection Kit

Sold as a set with one SD Card reader and one full-sized USB port, the Kit lets you import photos from cards and cameras, and attaches to some other self-powered peripherals. Photo imports work best with consumer-grade cameras and low-capacity cards; the images (and some videos) can be shared, and will surpass the color and quality of the iPad 2's built-in video cameras.



• \$29

Square Credit Card Reader

Disruptively brilliant, Square's Credit Card Reader and free app enable virtually anyone with an iPad and a live Internet connection to accept credit card payments. Download the app and Square will send the Reader for free, charging 2.75% per swiped transaction, depositing the balance in your account. Ideal for small businesses and occasional personal use.



• FREE



Apple Digital AV Adapter

It's the best wired video option for TVs with HDMI ports: the Digital AV Adapter uses self-supplied HDMI (audio/video) and Dock Connector (power) cables for 1080p videos and iPad 2 screen mirroring.

• \$39



Apple VGA Adapter

Though some iTunes Store movies won't play through this cable, it's otherwise capable of connecting to VGA-equipped monitors for high-definition video output, including iPad 2 screen mirroring.

• \$29

Universal Remotes

Controlling your home entertainment center from your iPad recently became a lot easier, thanks to new Infrared blasters and dongles that range wildly in price and in overall quality of user experience. The three options below require you to purchase an accessory, then download a free universal app; each has an iPad-specific software interface but works almost identically on iPhones and iPod touches.




Gear4 Unity Remote
As the best universal remote we've yet tested, Unity Remote combines a sleek Bluetooth wireless Infrared transmitter with an extremely well-designed app. Because the glossy black transmitter sits in front of your entertainment center without wires, there's no need to plug anything into your iPad, but it does use three AA batteries to power its wireless chip. The app auto-configures itself for your TV, DVR, receiver, and other devices with minimal help, providing large and intuitive on-screen buttons; Gear4 includes smart battery conservation features and a "unity" feature to create simplified master remote controls. **\$100**



Apptwee Ri
Ri is the cheapest universal remote around and drains the least battery power, attaching to your iPad's headphone port. Half the price of most rivals, it has a simple app with less polish: it switches between multiple remotes one at a time, requires you to turn the iPad's volume up for use, and only works from short distances away. It's a budget solution with budget performance. **\$30**



NewKinetix Re Universal IR Remote
Re is a mid-priced Infrared blaster that connects to the iPad's bottom, and uses the 9.7" screen to simultaneously show tons of buttons that required scrolling on the iPhone and iPod. Tinkerers will like the button customization options. **\$70**



Fun iPad Accessories

The first generation of iPad-controlled toys appeared in 2010, starting with the announcement of Parrot's AR.Drone and continuing with Orbotix's debut of Sphero at CES in early 2011. Griffin has been leading the way with accessory-dependent drawing apps, including LightBoard and ColorStudio HD.



Released last fall, Parrot's **AR.Drone** (\$300, 1-2) is a dual camera-equipped quadcopter controlled by your iPad, iPhone, or iPod touch using Wi-Fi; it's capable of flying and hovering for 15-minute stretches between battery recharges. Parrot and other developers have released free and paid AR.Drone apps, including Tommy Kammerer's **Drone Control** (\$5, 3), which can grab screenshots of your flights or let you play flying games. Orbotix's **Sphero** (\$100, 4) is a robotic ball that's controlled by iOS devices, coming later this year. Griffin's **LightBoard** (\$40, 5-6) frames a first-gen iPad inside of a plastic case with tracing paper, letting kids draw with a black marker. **ColorStudio HD** (\$30, 7) is a Griffin and Crayola collaboration, using a new digital, wireless iMarker for animated coloring books.



iPads
Around the World
Photo Gallery

Since iPads make ideal traveling companions, it's no surprise that photos of jet-setting tablets have made their way into our famous photo galleries. Here are some of our favorite recent submissions.

Left: iPad at Brighton Beach
Melbourne, Australia

Right: iPad at Kuala Lumpur City Centre
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

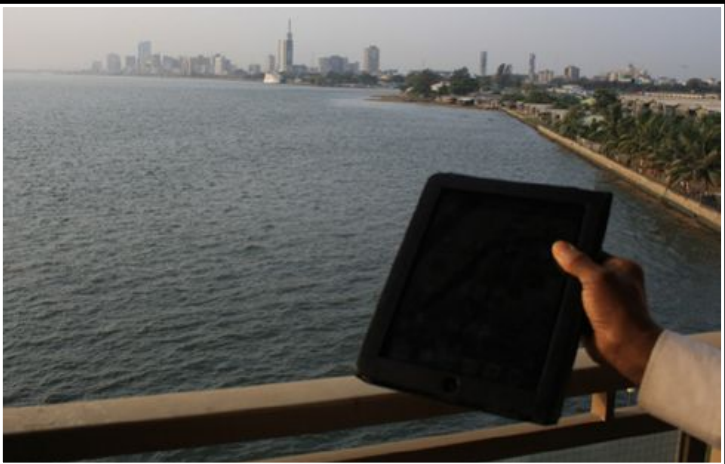
Bottom: iPad 2 in El Nido
Palawan, Philippines



iPad 2 at Notre Dame Cathedral
Paris, France



iPad 2 at Squapan Lake, Maine
Squapan Lake, Maine



iPad with the Skyline of Lagos Lagoon
Lagos, Nigeria



Two iPad 2s at Le Mont Sainte Michele
Normandy, France



The iPad and the African Bull Elephant
Botswana, Africa

What's New in iPod.

Though this Buyers' Guide is focused on iPads, here's a brief look at what's exciting and new in the iPod world since the end of 2010 - primarily accessories and apps.



iHome iA63

With more iPod alarm clocks under its belt than any other major manufacturer, iHome's biggest challenge at this point is finding a new spin on a well-worn theme. iA63 (\$100) literally does that, using a motorized rotating central iPod/iPhone dock that's capable of performing video in landscape mode with just one button press. Below the dock is a simple central clock with a single integrated alarm; iOS users can also download the free iHome + Sleep app to add additional alarms and features.

What's particularly nice about iA63 is its inclusion of features that aren't always found together in a \$100 iHome speaker system: twin stereo speakers, an FM radio, and an Infrared remote control all are part of this package, having all been left out of the company's \$100 entry-level "app-enhanced" iA5 last year. While the side-mounted speakers are sonically a little flat, and not up to snuff with the ones in iHome's similarly \$100 iP90, they're better than the single speaker found in iA5. And iA63's a much sexier design, too. Mixing a gunmetal core with a matte black body, it has one of the smallest footprints of any stereo alarm clock released by iHome, and the dock even adjusts to accommodate iPod nanos with rotated video displays.



Monster Beatbox

As the latest member of Monster's Beats by Dre accessory family - and its first speaker - Beatbox (\$450) offers iPod and iPhone users the ability to hear music as hip-hop producer Dr. Dre thinks it should be performed. The trapezoidal matte black system's clean lines and silver accents mask a powerful, reasonably balanced set of four drivers that do well with everything except low bass.



XtremeMac Tango TRX

Since 2006, XtremeMac's Tango family of speakers has offered iPod users attractively minimalist designs with pretty good speakers inside. Tango TRX (\$180) is its best system yet, using five drivers to deliver warm audio from either the wired iPod/iPhone dock or wireless Bluetooth streaming - very cool for this price.



Gameloft Rainbow Six: SV

Most of Gameloft's iOS games have come to the iPad, but Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six: Shadow Vanguard (\$7) is presently only for recent iPod and iPhone models, owing perhaps to the squad-based first-person shooter's highly impressive 3-D graphics. Eleven single- or co-op missions and five 10-person multiplayer levels will blow you away for hours.



Tap Tap Tap Camera+

Removed from the App Store last year for violating one of Apple's guidelines, Tap Tap Tap's Camera+ (\$2) is back - and even better. Going way beyond Apple's free Camera application, Camera+ lets you choose separate exposure and focus points, plus lock the white balance when taking shots, truly maximizing the quality of each picture. A huge collection of post-processing effects and tweaks lets you enhance photos, too. Amazingly powerful but easy to use.



Speck CandyShell + Grip

Given Speck's history with CandyShell cases, it's no shock that its iPod touch version (top) is just as excellent as its predecessors, using a mix of rubber lining and a hard glossy plastic exterior to perfectly cover all of the iPod save for its rear camera and mic, and bottom ports and speaker. But CandyShell Grip (bottom) was a surprise, adding rubberized rear grips to the back of the case for gamers who need extra hand support. Each sells for \$35.

What's New in iPhone.

Eight months after the iPhone 4 was released, Apple debuted a CDMA version for Verizon, followed by the long-delayed white iPhone 4 at the ten-month mark.



Original Proximity Sensor



Redesigned Proximity Sensor



Apple's Legendary White iPhone 4: Much Ado About White Paint

Who would have guessed that changing the paint from black to white inside the iPhone 4's glass body would cause such problems? Obviously not Apple, which saw its original June 2010 ship date for the white iPhone 4 fall almost a year behind schedule: the bright white model arrived on April 28, with only scant explanation from Apple executives as to what went wrong. During the ten-month delay, engineers redesigned the front proximity sensor area, replacing a light gray-ish grid of small dots with one big, black pill shape that lets the iPhone 4 know when it's about to touch a face during a phone call. They also

added UV coating to prevent the white paint from yellowing over time, and made other under-the-hood tweaks to ensure that light wasn't leaking through the glass body out of the screen or into the rear camera. Our tests of the screen, proximity sensor and camera found no significant differences between the performance of the black and white versions of the iPhone 4, with only minor distinctions in how light was gathered by the camera in pitch black surroundings. While it's hard to get excited about something that's so late to market, the white iPhone 4 is every bit as good as the black one, and certainly rarer.



The Verizon iPhone 4: Small Antenna Changes Force Case Tweaks

For its first three years in the United States, the iPhone was exclusive to AT&T - now the country's second-largest carrier - which proved unable to cope properly with ever-increasing demands on its cellular network. Call drops became so bad in certain cities that Apple's reputation for delivering great products began to suffer. When the exclusive ended, the iPhone 4 came to Verizon, AT&T's bigger and more reliable rival. Based on all the complaints about AT&T, many people expected a massive outflux to Verizon, but that didn't happen: Apple merely tweaked last year's iPhone to work with Verizon's old CDMA network, which

has broader coverage inside the U.S. but runs slower, and has little international support - hence, there's no SIM card slot. Apple also changed the iPhone 4's antenna-separating bands, moving the side ringer switch and volume buttons down a little. Consequently, Apple and other case makers had to redesign their cases with a larger side switch hole. Around the same time, Apple encouraged developers to cut a huge hole for the rear camera and flash to avoid exposure problems caused by the bright LED light and whatever surrounds it. The next iPhone will likely have fewer variations, and a relocated LED flash.



What's New in Mac.

iLounge.com's new section iLounge + Mac looks at more than a dozen cool Mac-related products every week. Here are a handful of our recent favorites.



Apple iMac (Early 2011)

Apple's customers always have a tough choice: buy now, wait for the next minor upgrade, or wait for the next major update. The latest iMac (\$1199+) clearly falls into the "minor upgrade" category, preserving the aluminum and glass chassis introduced in late 2009 while making a series of tweaks under the hood: every machine now has a four-core Intel Sandy Bridge processor, a FaceTime HD camera, and a ThunderBolt I/O port - the 21" iMac has one, the 27" iMac has two.

Because of these changes and new AMD graphics cards, the new iMacs are 30-70% faster than last year's models for apps and up to 3 times faster for games. So should you buy in now, or instead hold off until Apple releases a more radically redesigned model?

Our editors split on that question. Two of us owned the 2009 and 2010 versions of this machine and love them - they're plenty fast, with gorgeous screens and big hard drives inside. One decided to upgrade for the extra speed. A third editor saw the new iMacs and decided to buy a refurbished 2010 model. Your personal choice will depend upon your budget and your need for more horsepower. Whatever's coming next will be great, too, but for now, a faster iMac at last year's prices is a welcome update. We'd be willing to bet that you'll love whichever model you buy.



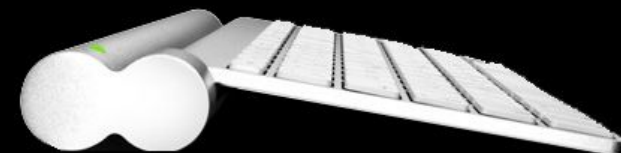
Verizon 4G LTE MiFi 4510L

Last year, the best cellular data connections in the United States fell well behind the speeds of wired broadband service, but thanks to Verizon's new 4G LTE network, that's about to change. Using the MiFi 4510L Wireless Hotspot (\$100 on contract, \$270 off contract), up to five Wi-Fi devices - Macs, iPads, iPhones, and iPod touches - can simultaneously access the Internet at 10 times prior cellular speeds: in a city with 4G service, you can get download speeds of 5-12Mbps and upload speeds of 2-5Mbps, falling back to roughly 1Mbps and 0.5Mbps in areas with older 3G coverage. MiFi works for up to 5 hours on a single battery charge.



H-Squared Backlit Mini Mount

Few companies have accessorized Apple's Mac mini, so the fact that H-Squared has come up with something neat is almost surprising. The Backlit Mini Mount (\$80) lets you hang the aluminum mini on a wall, and gives off a cool white glow if you install the LED backlight; a version without the light sells for \$60. While there are cables to consider, and the need to catch DVDs and CDs if they eject from the bottom, you can pick your preferred orientation - any will save you some desk space and look a lot fancier, besides.



Mobee Technology The Magic Bar

First shown at CES in the iLounge Pavilion, Mobee's The Magic Bar (\$60) is an inductive charging solution for Apple's Wireless Keyboard and Magic Trackpad, two devices that look and work great apart from their hunger for AA batteries. Mobee bundles a rechargeable battery pack with a Mac-matching base station and USB cable, letting you use your Mac to refuel the cell whenever you deposit the Keyboard or Trackpad inside the base, an effortless process.



Valve Portal 2

As Valve's official sequel to Portal, a short but sweet 2007 puzzle game, Portal 2 (\$50) picks up hundreds of years later, challenging you to make your way through rooms of a testing facility using a teleportation gun, various objects, and new paint-like gels that change the physics of whatever they touch. With impressive art and incredible voice acting, Portal 2 offers more than twice as long of a single-player experience - now 10 hours - plus a co-op mode with additional puzzles for two people to solve together.

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The iPad 2 Buyers' Guide was created using Adobe **InDesign CS5** on two 11" **MacBook Airs** and a 15" **MacBook Pro**, two 27" **iMacs**, and a **Mac Pro** with a 30" Cinema Display. Music included the Beastie Boys' **Hot Sauce Committee Part Two**, Daft Punk's **Tron: Legacy Reconfigured**, and The Lonely Island's **Turtleneck & Chain**.



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for iPod, iPhone & iPad news, reviews, forums,
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Closing the Curtain.

As was the case the last time Steve Jobs took a medical leave of absence, the brisk pace of Apple announcements has slowed a lot in 2011. What does it really mean?



Inside iPod nano 7G, photo courtesy apple.pro

For iPods: Same Ol' September

The iPod family started to run out of steam a couple of years ago, and sales of the family have been sliding, buoyed only by the popularity of new iPod touch models, and the fact that Apple's still selling millions of even its less beloved iPods. This year, the touchscreen iPod nano is expected to regain the prior-generation model's video camera, as well as new body colors. A FaceTime HD camera might make its way into the iPod touch. And who knows, maybe Apple will celebrate the iPod classic's 10th birthday?



iPhone 4 (left) + 4S (right), photo courtesy micgadget

For iPhones: Unusual Delays

Since the iPhone's 2007 launch, Apple hasn't missed an opportunity to announce a new model one year later - typically at June's Worldwide Developers Conference. So when Apple said in March that WWDC 2011 would focus on the future of iOS and Mac OS X - not hardware - it implied that the next iPhone would wait until later, possibly at its annual September iPod event. Rumors hint at either an "iPhone 4S" with a larger 3.7" screen, a faster CPU, GSM/CDMA support, and iPad 2-class graphics, or a total redesign of the glass and metal body. An iCloud media streaming service is likely to debut in June.



Mac OS X 10.7 (Lion)

For Macs: Iterative Improvement

Fresh updates to the MacBook Pro and iMac saw both laptops and desktops receive faster processors and Thunderbolt I/O ports - but not much else. Expect similarly iterative, cosmetically invisible changes to the MacBook Air and Mac mini as the year progresses, as Apple's focus has been largely on stabilizing and shipping Mac OS X 10.7 - Lion. We tend to believe rumors of a redesigned, possibly rack mount-friendly Mac Pro, but feel strongly that Apple has placed its professional-grade desktop machines on a distant back burner, so that update could come as early as June or as filler later this or next year.



iPad 2 Buyers' Guide