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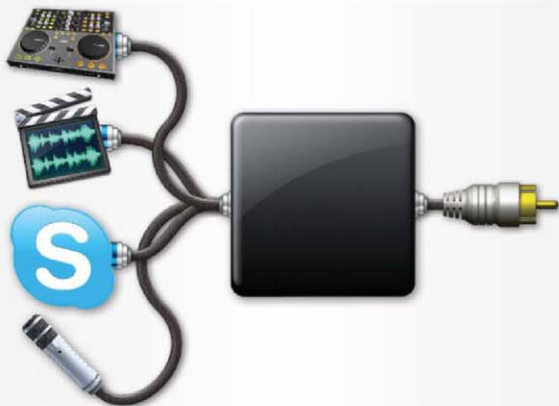


MACWORLD.COM'S TOP 5

The top 5 stories on Macworld.com are:

- 1 Live Update: Apple's 'Let's Rock' Event**
Jason Snell and Dan Moren live-blog Apple's live event (macworld.com/3918).
- 2 First Look: iPhone 2.1**
The latest update to the iPhone software brings fixes and a few new features (macworld.com/3919).
- 3 A Deeper Look at Mac OS X 10.5.5**
Rob Griffiths looks at changes that weren't in Apple's release notes (macworld.com/3920).
- 4 First Look: iPod Touch**
The latest version of the wide-screen iPod takes another step toward the iPhone (macworld.com/3921).
- 5 New-Look Nano Highlights Apple's iPod Changes**
A newly sleek and slender iPod nano is among many changes to the revamped iPod line (macworld.com/3922).

(Rankings valid as of September 26, 2008)



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Growing Pains

Apple's still learning how to run the App Store

Apple's in uncharted territory these days. The iPhone is wildly popular and software for it is flying off the virtual shelves of the App Store. But in the company's rush to create this new marketplace, it let a lot of important details fall through the cracks. How Apple chooses to address these details will determine whether third-party iPhone software becomes vibrant and innovative or just gimmicky.

Learning from Mistakes

Setting up the App Store was a gargantuan task. In a few months, Apple had to roll out a complete third-party development environment, release a new version of the iPhone OS, set up an infrastructure for selling software via iTunes, and create an application-approval process. Unfortunately, the company made some poor choices in that rush.

For example, Apple required that no iPhone developer could discuss iPhone programming in public. The unintended result of that policy was, Apple later admitted, "a burden on developers, authors and others interested in helping further the iPhone's success." Programmers form a tight community in which they share code and ideas, a process that speeds up software development and makes programs better. That community was squashed by Apple's secrecy agreements until late September, when the company reversed course.

Another issue that drove developers (and many users) up a tree was App Store "reviews" of software by people who had never actually used it. Apple finally did what developers had been urging for months: limit reviews to people who owned the software.

Scaring Away Developers

Apple still needs to address one huge issue, however. From the day it opened the App Store, Apple said it would place



I wish Apple would take a hands-off approach and let the market decide which apps succeed or fail.

limitations on what it would allow in the store. But Apple's policies about which programs will be accepted and rejected are confusing.

The company recently rejected one program that allowed the iPhone to download new podcast episodes without reconnecting to iTunes (Podcaster), and another that made it easier to check Gmail from multiple accounts (Mail-Wrangler). Apple's explanation for the rejections didn't make sense.

This is scary. If developers fear their hard work could be wasted by an Apple rejection notice, they will stop writing iPhone programs altogether. The well of innovative, interesting iPhone software will dry up. If developers feel that phones built by Apple's competitors are more open platforms, the iPhone could become marginalized.

The solution is simple. Apple needs to come out with crystal-clear guidelines for the App Store. If developers

are going to invest time and money in app development, they need to know that the app won't be rejected. Even if the guidelines are brutal and draconian, if they're clear and enforced consistently, nobody will be left holding the bag like the developer of Podcaster was.

I wish Apple would take a hands-off approach and let the market decide which apps succeed or fail. But even if the company opts for strict rules, at least developers will know those rules ahead of time. The final decision rests with Apple. The company has shown that it's listening to feedback and is willing to change its policies accordingly. That's an encouraging sign for the iPhone platform. Here's hoping that Apple does the right thing when it comes to the App Store approval process, too.

Writing More

And now for something completely different: November is National Novel Writing Month (nanowrimo.org). It's a fantastic event in which regular people are challenged and encouraged to write a 50,000-word novel in 30 days. If you always wished you could find the time to write a novel, maybe November is the time for you to finally do it.

In this month's *Macworld*, you'll find some advice and information about NaNoWriMo and the panoply of great writing tools for the Mac (page 112). And if you need support, we can offer that, too. Visit macworld.com/3946 for more information about *Macworld* editors, writers, and readers who are participating in this year's event. I've completed NaNoWriMo each of the past two years and I highly recommend it. Come and join us for 30 days of literary abandon. ☒

Editorial Director **Jason Snell** hopes that his first novel gets published someday. In the meantime, he's writing the next one at macworld.com/4044.

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Loving and Loathing Apple

Your iPhone 3G and MobileMe tales roll in

All About the iPhone

I feel a longing when I see articles about the iPhone, and I ruefully skip over them ("iPhone 2.0," September 2008). I drool when someone around me is using an iPhone and I know I can't have one. It's not that I'm poor or low-tech—it's that I'm a Verizon user and have no intention of switching to AT&T. I used AT&T when I got my first cell phone years ago, and its coverage was a disaster in the areas where I traveled. I'm waiting for the time when we Verizon people can use an iPhone.

Barbara Mehlman

The iPhone 3G is probably the buggiest, most unstable of all the computing products I have used in my life, much less those from Apple. I am now at the point where I have to restore daily. I am on my second iPhone 3G and nothing has gotten better, even with the 2.0i firmware installed. This phone was nowhere near ready for release. It's in alpha stage, and to charge \$100 a month for it is embar-

assing. Even more embarrassing is that it comes from Apple, which until now was the poster child for computing devices that "just work."

Via the Internet

Despite all the hype and coverage, the majority of "the rest of us" don't need or want an iPhone. In my case, I don't want

a data plan—just a phone that syncs with my Mac, plays music, and runs a few applications. An iPhone nano, as it were.

Art Gorski

There are some hardware improvements with the iPhone 3G, but not enough to warrant an upgrade from the previous model. I prefer the aluminum back of my old iPhone to the plastic, which makes it look cheaper. The 3G enhancement is negated if you aren't in a 3G service area or if you have access to Wi-Fi, a service that many businesses, including coffee shops, libraries, hotels, restaurants, and gas stations, provide for free. The huge plus for me as an early iPhone adopter is that I won't be paying more for AT&T's "exceptional" service.

Sigil D. Jenkins

I'm on a first-generation iPhone (purchased in April), so I'm stuck with it until 2010 unless I want to pay full price. I downloaded the update and have been happily perusing the App Store—I even purchased a few programs. However, it makes me nervous to buy software that I can't demo first, as I can with the vast majority of programs out there. After purchasing a few iPhone apps that were duds, I now think very carefully about which ones I buy.

Theresa Mesa

I love my iPhone 3G. I have about a dozen programs from the App Store on it and none of them has caused me trouble. I use it more than I could have imagined and have been able to get online everywhere I've been so far. I dig the GPS and maps capability; I am impressed that I can look up a type of business (say, a tailor) and get a map



OVERHEARD ON THE FORUMS

Apple has shown signs of slowing down to rebuild; isn't that what Snow Leopard shows us, that it is willing to hunker down and rework all the things that really matter, rather than try to bolt on new, glitzy features?

Mjtomlin
macworld.com/2797

The myriad problems from the July product launch clearly indicate that Apple has set unreasonable expectations for itself in terms of its ability to execute that number of major events at one time, at the expense of a pleasant customer experience and goodwill. What it accomplished was the lowering of expectations.

Cv
macworld.com/2798



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Correction

In October's *Mobile Mac* column, we incorrectly stated that iChat doesn't allow encrypted file transfers. You can send encrypted files by iChat if you have a MobileMe account, even though it's not specifically mentioned in iChat's help documentation.

showing all the tailors within a reasonable distance of my location—and then it's just a two-tap process to call any of them. Call me satisfied.

□ bzyoung

Caution Pays Off

I suppose if you tend to loiter out there on the bleeding edge, Jason Snell's cautionary approach to the new App Store (*From the Editor's Desk*, September 2008) might be warranted. As for me, I simply rely on the reviews of other people to determine if an application is fatally flawed, and I never download one that receives fewer than four stars. I admit that's not the most sophisticated approach, but I haven't encountered a single problem with any of the 12 programs I've downloaded.

□ Dennis Globus

Adobe Angst

In your tiny blurb about the 10.5.4 Leopard update, which noted that the update fixed a server issue with Adobe Creative Suite 3, you glossed over a huge issue that has significance in the deteriorating relationship between

Apple and Adobe ("OS X 10.5.4 Ready for Download," *MacUser*, September 2008). The 10.5.3 update caused files saved to a server from Adobe Photoshop or Illustrator to become corrupt, with no hope for recovery. When contacted, Adobe stated that "we don't support the use of Photoshop in server-based environments," which is patently absurd. The fact that Apple released an update that would break such a simple thing as saving a file is disturbing. Given the buggy nature of Leopard, it seems Apple is spending more time on selling and marketing the iPhone than it is on developing its operating system, the very thing Mac users treasure most.

□ Dave Courtmanche

A Guitar for Macs

I was surprised that Jim Dalrymple didn't mention Brian Moore Guitars' iGuitar (www.iguitar.com) as one of the right guitars in "Choose the Right Guitar" (*Recording Studio*, September 2008), since it is so Mac compatible and is available with USB connectivity. I have an i9 and an i13 model (which has the 13-pin connector), and I love both of them.

□ Terry Mingle

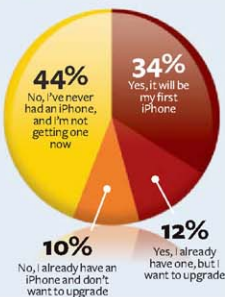
MobileMe Disappointments

I have been a .Mac subscriber for three years, but I am starting to question why I continue with Apple and .Mac as my experiences get worse. I have had significant e-mail issues at least once a week for the past couple months, and about once a month prior to that. Apple's support site is the worst I've ever used, and



READER POLL

Do you plan on buying an iPhone 3G?



the best I've ever seen at avoiding helping customers. The only way to contact the company seems to be through chat, and the last time I tried, the window said someone would be with me in 159 minutes. I guess I am left with only one option: to cancel my account and move on.

□ Via the Internet

I have been happily using a .Mac mail account for a number of years. When I traveled, I did not need to bring a laptop with me because nearly all hotels have PCs available in their business centers. Recently I discovered that, due to the MobileMe "upgrade" to .Mac, I can no longer access my mail account from Internet Explorer 6. I have some news for Apple: most American hotels, cruise ships, and libraries are still running IE 6, which is not compatible with MobileMe.

□ Greg Woods

What About Entourage?

I enjoyed your head-to-head calendar comparison but was very disappointed that you didn't include Entourage 2008 ("The iCal Challenge," September 2008). A direct comparison of its features with iCal's would have been helpful.

□ Craig Tisinger

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- Heather Clancy,
ZDNet.com

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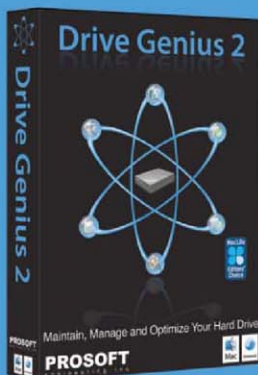
*Average savings are based on comparable competitive models, and are comprised of two energy saving features: an ultra efficient electrical design, and the master/controlled outlets feature.





"Your Own Private Mac Genius"

-MacLife Magazine, July 2008



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LAPTOPS

Apple Updates MacBooks

Models feature new design, Multi-Touch glass trackpad, and improved graphics

The invitation to Apple's October special event in Cupertino included the phrase "The spotlight turns to notebooks," and Steve Jobs and company didn't disappoint on fulfilling that promise. Apple has completely redesigned the MacBook and MacBook Pro, updated the MacBook Air, and even introduced its first external LED display—designed specifically for the latest laptop models.

MacBook Pro

The new MacBook Pros are crafted using an aluminum unibody enclosure—basically a single piece of metal whittled down from a large block of aluminum (Apple used the same process for part of the MacBook Air, and Jonathan Ive, Apple's senior vice president of industrial design, said these new models build on what the company learned with the Air). The design is sturdy and requires fewer individual parts than were in previous models.

The MacBook Pro also includes a newly designed trackpad. The Multi-Touch trackpad is constructed of painted glass and, according to Apple, has a 39

percent larger tracking area than before. Unlike earlier models, it doesn't have a separate button—the entire trackpad acts as a button, moving as you press on it. Apple has also increased its Multi-Touch gestures, adding four-finger ones.

The new MacBook Pro includes another first for an Apple laptop—two graphic chip sets, the Nvidia GeForce 9400M embedded on the motherboard and the Nvidia GeForce 9600M GT as a discrete processor. Users can switch

(now on the right side). It also includes a new Mini DisplayPort, which can drive a 30-inch display and which Apple is using on most of its laptops now (Apple sells adapters to convert a MiniDisplay port to DVI or VGA for \$29 each, or to dual-link DVI for \$99). The MacBook Pros are slightly thinner than before, but also slightly wider and deeper. The edges are more curved, as on the MacBook Air. The ports are now all on the left side, and the array is the same, with one exception:

The new MacBooks were designed to be safer and also highly recyclable.

between them based on their needs (the 9600M GT uses more power and therefore shortens battery life).

The MacBook Pro has a 15.4-inch backlit glossy LED display surrounded by a black bezel, as well as a backlit black keyboard, a magnetic latch, Sudden Motion Sensor technology, stereo speakers, an iSight camera, a microphone, 802.11n and Bluetooth 2.1 wireless networking, and a slot-loading SuperDrive

Apple has removed the FireWire 400 port (you can connect FireWire 400 devices to the FireWire 800 port with an adapter).

The new MacBook Pro comes in two models. For \$1,999 you get a 2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor with 3MB of Level 2 cache, 2GB of 1,066MHz DDR3 memory, 256MB of memory on the 9600M GT, and a 250GB hard drive. The \$2,499 model comes with a 2.53GHz processor with 6MB of L2 cache, 4GB of 1,066MHz

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF APPLE



The MacBook Pro's Multi-Touch glass trackpad has a 39 percent larger tracking area than the previous model's.

memory, 512MB of 9600M GT RAM, and a 320GB hard drive.

The 17-inch MacBook Pro also got a minor update (still with the old design and \$2,799 price). Native screen resolution has increased from 1,680 by 1,050 pixels to 1,920 by 1,200, in either (standard) glossy or (no-cost option) matte form. RAM has increased from 2GB to 4GB, and the hard drive size is now 320GB, up from 250GB.

MacBook

Like the MacBook Pro, the MacBook features a unibody aluminum case, an LED-backlit display (at the same 13.3-inch size as in the previous MacBooks), and a glass trackpad.

With the addition of the GeForce 9400M graphics processor (which uses at least 256MB of shared RAM), MacBooks should attain drastically

improved performance and better power efficiency, as well as the ability to drive a second display at 2,560 by 1,600 pixels.

Physically, the new MacBooks are similar in shape to their predecessors, but they're a little thinner and they shave half a pound off the weight of previous models, coming in at 4.5 pounds.

Apple has replaced the mini-DVI port featured on earlier MacBooks with a Mini DisplayPort connector; the FireWire port is also gone.

The new MacBooks (along with the MacBook Pros) were designed to be greener, with a highly recyclable aluminum-and-glass enclosure, and without the potentially harmful materials included in earlier laptops. The amount of packaging has also been reduced.

The MacBook costs \$1,299 for a 2GHz Core 2 Duo processor with 3MB of L2

cache, 2GB of 1,066MHz DDR3 memory, a 160GB hard drive, and a slot-loading SuperDrive; and \$1,599 for a model that gives you a 2.4GHz processor, a 250GB hard drive, and a backlit keyboard. Both the MacBook and the MacBook Pro can now incorporate solid-state drives. (Apple will continue to sell the 2.4GHz white plastic MacBook for \$999, down from \$1,099).

MacBook Air

Although it hasn't been redesigned, the MacBook Air underwent a few changes as well. Both models now include the Nvidia GeForce 9400M (adjusted to run slightly slower than on the other MacBooks so it won't overheat), larger hard drives (from 80GB PATA to 120GB SATA on the \$1,799 model and from 64GB SSD to 128GB SSD on the \$2,499 model), a Mini DisplayPort, a 1.86GHz processor (up slightly from 1.8GHz) on the top model, and faster DDR3 SDRAM at 1,066MHz.

24-inch LED Cinema Display

Apple's large new display uses LED technology and is designed specifically for use with the latest laptops.

24-inch LED Cinema Display

The \$899 24-inch LED Cinema Display offers 1,920-by-1,200-pixel resolution, a built-in iSight camera and microphone, stereo speakers, and a three-port USB 2.0 hub. It connects only to new laptops with Mini DisplayPorts, and includes an integrated MagSafe charger for powering them. It features an aluminum-and-glass enclosure, which gives the LED monitor a striking resemblance to Apple's current iMac design. ☑

Senior Editor **Peter Cohen**, Editor at Large **Jim Dalrymple**, and Executive Editor **Philip Michaels** contributed to this report.





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iPod News

Everything you need to know about digital music on-the-go

MySpace Launches Music Service

At least two years in the making, MySpace Music (music.myspace.com) is finally ready for its close-up. The skinny is that members can stream pretty much whatever they want—apparently millions of tracks are available from EMI, Warner Music, Sony BMG, and Universal—and then download tracks at 99 cents a pop from Amazon MP3. Everybody makes money because advertisers get a cut of sales.

But seriously, it's 2008. MySpace is a bit late to the party. Like a few years at best. Even Rio Caraeff, executive vice president of Universal Music Group's eLabs, says so. As he told the *New York Times*, "This is something we should have done earlier. It's like a staging ground for us to experiment with new business models." I give it 18 months, tops. —CYRUS FARVAR



AC/DC Hates iTunes in the Name of Artistic Integrity

Last year, in an unprecedented move, the band AC/DC gave Verizon exclusive rights to sell its music online—which raised the question: why would AC/DC continue to spurn Apple, despite iTunes' vast success? Doesn't the group like making money?

Apparently, it's because of the music. Angus Young, the lead guitarist for AC/DC, told London's *Telegraph*: "We don't make singles, we make albums. We believe the songs on any of our albums belong together. If we were on iTunes, we know a certain percentage of people would only download two or three songs from the album. We don't think that represents us musically."

So there you go, folks. Clearly every other band on iTunes is a sellout and is compromising its artistic integrity. Sure. And Verizon is all about the artist. —CYRUS FARVAR

NAPSTER GETS SOLD

Best Buy has laid down \$121 million to purchase music service Napster. The retail chain already owns part of the site, having shelled out \$10 million back in 2004 for a joint marketing agreement. The Best Buy acquisition is just the latest move in the long-troubled history of Napster, which has over the last several years almost been bought by German media conglomerate Bertelsmann (a move that a U.S. court blocked), temporarily acquired by an adult entertainment company, and eventually landed under the aegis of software maker Roxio. It has also more recently gone from being a DRM-ridden subscription service to an open MP3 model, which arguably makes it relevant once again. As for the future of Napster, Best Buy says it plans to use the service to sell nonmusical goods. —DAN MOREN



HARDWARE

eGo Helium from Iomega (www.iomega.com): 320GB portable hard drive weighs 7 ounces and is designed to complement the MacBook Air (\$143).

Exlim EX-F220, from Casio (www.casio.com): Point-and-shoot camera features a 9.1-megapixel sensor and a 20x optical zoom (\$600).

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LaCie Little Big Disk Quadra, LaCie d2 Quadra & LaCie 2big
Design by Neil Poulton

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BUSINESS

Microsoft Says Good-bye to the Bill and Jerry Show

Remember how Microsoft paid Jerry Seinfeld \$10 million to participate in its new ad campaign? Well, that turned out to be \$5 million per commercial, as the collaboration with Bill Gates lasted only two spots. Microsoft has moved on from the surreal ads to a new campaign intended to showcase "everyday" Windows users—you know, like scientists, shark divers, and Eva Longoria. Those ads include a familiar phrase: "I'm a PC."

And so it's back to business as usual for Microsoft. Say what you will about the Seinfeld-Gates spots—if nothing else, they showed that Microsoft was willing to take risks. Redmond needs to revamp its image, but by attempting to co-opt Apple's campaign, all Microsoft has shown is that it would rather ride on someone else's coattails than innovate.

Microsoft execs have claimed that they only intended to run two of the Seinfeld-Gates spots. I'm not sure whether I buy that, but given the short time frame in which Microsoft showed those ads, I'm also not sure the company could have turned on a dime to produce a whole new series of commercials if it hadn't had some plan. —DAN MOREN

Activity Monitor

**Google cofounder
Sergey Brin launches
a personal blog
called Too**

too.blogspot.com

**CNet UK looks at the 50
most significant moments of
Internet history**

macworld.com/4036

Time magazine compares Google Android to iPhone OS
macworld.com/4035

HARDWARE

iTrip Auto, from Griffin Technology (www.grifintechology.com): Charger and FM transmitter for iPod plugs into a cigarette lighter or 12-volt power outlet, and transmits iPod audio to a car's FM stereo receiver (\$60).

Phaser 3300MFP, from Xerox (www.office.xerox.com): Multifunction laser printer outputs 30 pages per minute, can scan in color and black-and-white, and can send color faxes (\$599).

PRODUCT
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VIDEO

One File That Plays Anywhere

Media companies have seen the future: one day there will be a way to disseminate digital video files that will play on any screen or device a user happens to own. The companies have teamed up with Microsoft, Sony, Intel, and a host of other

technology companies to create the Digital Entertainment Content Ecosystem (DECE). You may notice a conspicuous absence from the list. Frankly, DECE needs Apple a lot more than vice versa. Without Apple, DECE is going to end up in the same digital graveyard as the rest of these alliances, initiatives, and consortiums.—**DAN MOREN**



iTUNES

Sell Your Own Movies on iTunes

TuneCore (www.tunecore.com)—a film distribution service—has added iTunes to its list of distributors. Through the service, you can sell your full-length film, documentary, or live concert through iTunes with no back-end distribution fee. You pay an up-front delivery fee based on running time (\$550 for a 60-minute video, for example), and keep all your video rights and iTunes profits—after Apple takes its cut, of course.—**DAVID DAHLQUIST**



By the Numbers

10.6%

Apple's U.S. laptop market share in the second quarter of 2008, according to NPD Group's DisplaySearch.

4GB

Capacity of fourth-generation iPod nano made in limited quantities for international markets.

\$40 million

Value of Microsoft shares Microsoft's board approved to buy back.



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LEGAL

Apple Finally Patents OS X's Dock

It's taken nearly nine years, but the Dock is no longer "patent pending." Apple now has a patent on the application launcher so many people love to hate. The patent reads in part: "To provide greater access and consolidation to frequently used items in the graphical user interface, a userbar is established which includes a plurality of item representations."

That pretty much describes just about any launcher utility, while the second half of the patent is about the Dock's magnification feature—something that I turn off ASAP on every Mac I use.—DERIK DELONG

ACCESSORIES

Checkpoint-Friendly Laptop Bags Explained

In early August, the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced new rules covering "checkpoint-friendly" laptop bags. The goal of these regulations is to increase the speed and efficiency of airport security checkpoints by allowing passengers to keep their laptop computers in their bags during X-ray screening.

So what is a checkpoint-friendly bag? According to the TSA, it must have a designated laptop-only section that must unfold completely to lie flat on the X-ray belt; no metal snaps, zippers, or buckles can be located inside, underneath, or on top of the laptop-only section; it can't have pockets on the inside or outside of the laptop-only section; and nothing can be packed in the laptop-only section other than the computer itself.

Does this mean you have to buy a new bag? Not necessarily. Many existing bags

already meet the guidelines, especially simple sleeves with no zippers or pockets. So before you go out and spend money on another bag, take a good look at your current bag to see how it rates.

—DAN FRANKS



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UTILITIES

Adios, Techspansion

Say it ain't so! Techspansion, maker of the fine media conversion utilities Visual-Hub, Audial-Hub, and iSquint, has discontinued its applications and is shutting down for good.

Wrote Techspansion founder Tyler Loch, "After much soul-searching (it's not you, it's me), for personal reasons, Techspansion is closing its virtual doors."

Visual-Hub and Audial-Hub were virtual alchemists, able to turn just about any video or audio format into any other. And the free iSquint was the easiest way to convert video to an iPod-friendly format.—**DAN MOREN**

iTUNES

Who Caved, Apple or NBC?

By now you've probably heard that, along with announcing the release of new iPods and iTunes 8, Apple also stated that NBC television shows were returning to the iTunes Store. So which company blinked?

JB Perrette, NBC's president of digital distribution, told CNet that Apple had bowed to NBC's demands and allowed the studio the pricing and packaging flexibility it had demanded. His idea of pricing flexibility, apparently, is lowering the price to 99 cents per episode for the classics, and having the liberty to sell episodes from different seasons as part of a package (a "best of" compilation, for example).

On the other hand, Eddy Cue, the guy who handles Internet-related services at Apple, expressly stated, "We've never told anyone they can't lower prices." And since all the networks charge the same prices for HD shows, the new "lower" price doesn't seem like a big deal either.

All said and done, NBC is back and the prices haven't increased—that's what consumers are interested in. Who came crawling back to whom is hardly of any concern to us as customers, and feuding over these petty matters makes for bad publicity.—**AAYUSH ARYA**



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by Richard Thalheimer

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— **CrunchGear**

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— **iPhone24x7**

"With its simple, easy-to-use design, the Backup Battery will zap your Apple iPhone and iPod partway back to life when you're running out of juice."

— **CNET**

"This is a must have iPhone/iPod accessory. When I say 'must have', I mean get online and buy it, NOW!" Editor's Choice Award — **BuyMeAniPhone.com**

"The RichardSolo will revolutionize how I keep the iPhone battery charged and raring to go."

— **JKontheRun.com**

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iPhone

Reset App Store Reviews, Please

I was very happy to see Apple's recent change to the commenting system at the App Store, which now requires customers to download iPhone software before they review it. But I'd like to suggest that Apple take the logical next step: zap all comments from the App Store and just start over.

From the day of the App Store's launch, it was all too easy for a developer to create a sock-puppet account and pimp its own product, just as it was much too simple for a rival to do the same thing to denigrate the competition.

That's not the only problem. The App Store is overrun with inane comments from customers who—hiding behind a veil of anonymity—express outrage that no free evaluation versions of apps are available, who feel that the developer is charging too much, or who complain that a product duplicates functionality found elsewhere.

Now that the commenting system has gained some accountability, let's give the App Store a chance to rebalance itself. —PETER COHEN

HARDWARE

Mac Pros Releasing Toxic Gases?

A report in French publication *Libération* has suggested that pre-2008 Mac Pros might be releasing nasty fumes such as benzene—which can lead to a variety of illnesses after prolonged exposure. Said Apple: "We have not found anything that supports this claim, but continue to investigate it for the customer." —DAN MOREN



INTERNET

Mac Streaming Coming to Netflix

It's been a year and a half since Netflix announced its intention to bring its currently PC-only Watch It Now movie-streaming feature to the Mac. Finally, the company has promised Mac users they will be able to enjoy the feature by the end of 2008. More good news: Netflix is expanding its instant-viewing options. It currently lacks recent releases, and is far from complete when it comes to older titles. But Netflix has added movies being played on Starz to its list. That's not everything, but it does include some great recent hits. I may spend the remainder of the year holed up watching all these movies. Time to find out how many times I can watch *Superbad* before losing my marbles. —DERIK DELONG

Tech Trends

Gadget Gifts

Consumer electronics make some of the most popular holiday gifts these days. Last year's wish list for U.S. consumers shows that portable audio players and notebook computers were the most popular choices. If the numbers hold up this holiday season, iPods and MacBooks should do very well. —MARYANN JONES

THOMPSON

Most-wanted holiday gifts in 2007



Source: Consumer Electronics Association

SOFTWARE

Fio Launch Studio 2.0, from Chronos (www.chronosnet.com): Launch utility now automatically finds applications via a new Smart Search feature (\$30; upgrade, \$15).

NoteBook 3.0, from Circus Ponies (www.circusponies.com): Organizational software adds diagramming and sketching capabilities, and a PDF-annotation feature (\$50; upgrade, \$20).

PDFpen 4.0, from SmileOnMyMac (www.smileonmymac.com): PDF-editing software adds basic OCR support that recognizes text in many scanned documents (\$50; PDFpenPro, \$100).

QuickBooks Accounting 2009, from Intuit (quickbooks.intuit.com): Accounting program adds Customer, Vendor, Transaction, and Report centers that organize data into single-page views (\$200).

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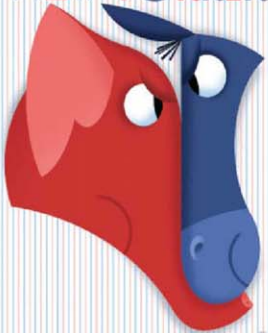


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THE NEW YORKER



GRAPHICS

If It Ain't Broke...

For his recent *New Yorker* cover (left), illustrator and author Bob Staake used Adobe Photoshop 3.0 (released in 1995) as his primary tool. "I am anything but a technophobe," says Staake. "I rarely ever upgrade because I'm usually inundated with work and simply don't have the time to learn new versions." For more on his work and methods, see our complete story at macworld.com/4042—**DAN MOREN**

HARDWARE

The Newton Lives

The future is handheld, and Apple has developed one of the most exciting handheld platforms around, so it's only logical that aficionados of the device have organized a three-day conference starting July 31, 2009, in Vancouver. Topics will include GPS, syncing, and development—for the Newton. The Worldwide Newton Conference 2009 shows that Apple's first (and, I'm sure these folks will argue, greatest) handheld platform is still going strong in some circles, with support for things like Wi-Fi and GPS. The focus for the conference itself is "moving forward"—how to keep the Newton relevant in the age of, ahem, the iPhone. You'll probably want to bring your own Newton.—**DAN MOREN**



BUSINESS

More Awards for Apple

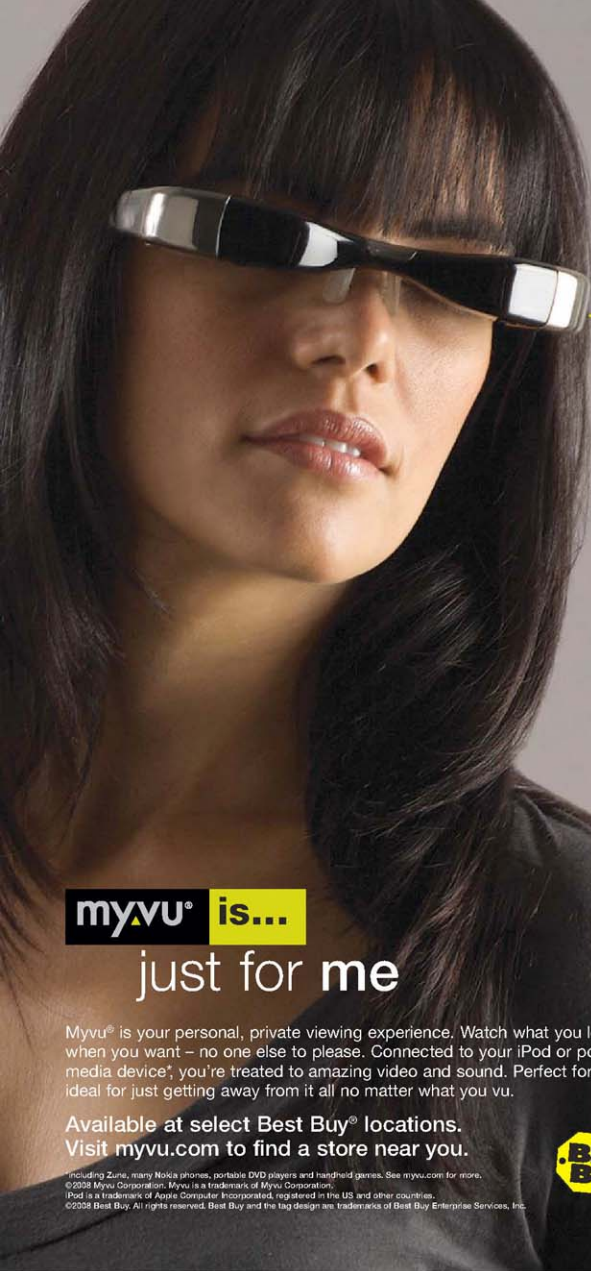
Readers of gadget magazine *T3* can't seem to get enough of Apple—they've chosen Apple products for four of 11 total prizes in the 2008 Garmin *T3* Gadget Awards. Apple captured Gadget of the Year (iPod touch), Best Music Gadget (iPod touch), Commuter Gadget of the Year (iPhone), and the Gadget Candy Award (MacBook Air).

Out of everything we've seen this year, I'm not sure I'd pick the iPod touch as the top gadget. But more awards mean more attention, which means higher market share for Apple. More important, it should lead to more Mac sales as well.—**DERIK DELONG**



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Hot Stuff

What we're raving about this month



CrossOver Chromium

Itching to try out Chrome, Google's new (and currently Windows-only) Web browser, but don't feel like leaving the confines of your Mac? You could install it on Boot Camp or via virtualization, but that's a lot of hassle just to use one application. Fortunately, CodeWeavers, the company behind CrossOver for Mac, which lets you run some Windows applications on your Intel Mac without having to use Windows, has stepped up to the plate. CodeWeavers has set up Chromium, the freely available source behind Chrome, to run on Intel Macs and Linux. This free download isn't a native version—it looks and feels like a Windows application—and CodeWeavers itself says it's more of a proof-of-concept than anything else (www.codeweavers.com). —DAN MOREN

G2 Personal Radio Player

Internet radio can be addictive, but it's not very portable. You can use an Internet radio application for the iPhone, but you'll be sapping precious power. If you don't mind carrying around yet another device, turn to Slacker's G2 Personal Radio Player (4GB, \$200; 8GB, \$250), for use with Slacker's Internet Radio service. About the size of a mobile phone, the G2 uses Wi-Fi to load media from your selected Slacker radio stations, which you configure through your Mac's Web browser. You can view album art and artist information on the G2's 320-by-240-pixel color screen. The Slacker Radio service is free but supported by ads; an ad-free Premium service costs \$7.50 to \$10 per month (www.slacker.com). —ROMAN LOYOLA



MercuryMover

MercuryMover is a \$24 preference pane that gives users the ability to resize and position windows via keyboard shortcuts, without having to resort to a mouse or trackpad. Version 2.0 adds a number of new features, including Shortcuts, which lets users set a window to a preset size and location with just a keystroke. MercuryMover 2.0 requires OS X 10.5; version 1.1 is still available for Tiger users (www.hellumfoot.com). —DAN MOREN



JamVox

Vox amps have been used on some of the most classic music recordings of all time; now you can get those tones on your computer with the \$340 JamVox, Vox's new USB monitor and software system. JamVox gives you access to 19 guitar amps and 54 vintage and modern effects, all from the comfort of your Mac. You can build your own preset—giving it, for example, the classic sound of Brian May's famous Queen tone—or use one of the built-in tones. The most exciting part of JamVox is the new Guitar XTraktion technology, which allows you to isolate and remove the guitar part of a song. So if you want to jam with an Eric Clapton tune, you can use Guitar XTraktion and play the part yourself. What's more, JamVox will also record your playing, so later on you can hear how you did (www.voxamps.com). —JIM DALRYMPLE



UD-10.1 USB Audio Converter and TA-10 Class-T Stereo Audio Amplifier

Getting high-quality digital audio out of your Mac is challenging. Trends Audio's \$149 UD-10.1 USB Audio Converter concurrently outputs audio via USB to five interfaces: optical, coax RCA, coax BNC, XLR AES/EBU, and 3.5mm stereo. Power to the digital and analog sections is regulated separately, and an external battery pack is included for on-the-road use or to isolate the signal from AC power issues.

The matching \$179 TA-10 Class-T Stereo Audio Amplifier takes the analog output of the UD-10.1 or any other source and provides 30 watts (15 per channel) of power for a set of efficient speakers or unpowered monitors (www.trendsaudio.com). —DAN FRAXES



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Reviews

Keyboards and Mice at Hand

Vast array of input-device choices entice Mac users



Best Products Logitech diNovo Edge, Mac Edition, with Logitech MX 1100 Cordless Laser Mouse; Kensington C170 Wireless Desktop Set (top).

Want to add some zing to your desktop or traveling gear? Older accessories becoming sluggish or outdated? A new keyboard or mouse may liven up your act, get some wires out of the way, or help you work faster, more accurately, or more comfortably. We've scoured the market for innovative new keyboards, mice, and keyboard-mouse sets and have chosen 28 products from a dozen vendors to review. We don't cover every new mouse or keyboard out there, but we've included products from some of the major players in the input-device market. For longer versions of the reviews and charts, plus our sidebars on connection types and left-handed mice, check out macworld.com/3980.

Keyboard-Mouse Sets

Buying components together offers additional benefits **BY CHRIS HOLT**

The beauty of buying a keyboard and mouse together is more than just aesthetic uniformity; most sets provide cordless convenience and significant improvements on your Mighty Mouse and standard keyboard. While some sets offer a bedazzling array of new buttons, others focus on style and creating a more comfortable user experience.

We looked at Microsoft's Wireless Laser Desktop 7000 and Kensington's C170 Wireless Desktop Set and Slim-Blade Media Notebook Set. All three are cordless setups that use radio frequency

technology, rather than employing Bluetooth. As cordless setups, they are more convenient for users with little desk space. Unfortunately, all three keyboards have the inevitable Windows key, located between the control and alt/option keys, that we have come to expect on cross-platform keyboards.

The Keyboards

The Microsoft 7000 set has the most distinctive look of the three. It sports a smoke-colored plastic frame with a slight curve to make it more ergonomically

correct, and its keys are easy to press. While it's nothing special ergonomically, the low-profile C170 features two foldout feet that allow you to adjust the keyboard's angle. A comfortable 2mm of key travel (the distance the key must move to register as a keystroke) and sufficient key resistance make this keyboard sleek and easy to use. The Kensington SlimBlade model is even more compact than its C170 cousin and is the only keyboard that could be considered both laptop- and travel-friendly. Despite the SlimBlade's convenient detachable number pad, number crunchers will find it frustrating that the equal key is not on the keypad. Even worse, the SlimBlade is saddled with a deep-set lower row on the keyboard that could make typing painful for some users; there's also no way to adjust the tilt of the keyboard and keypad.

All three keyboards feature additional one-touch buttons. The SlimBlade has five hot keys on the upper right, but two of them work only on Windows machines. The C170 has twice as many, and they all work on the Mac—five hot keys dedicated to media controls and five other icon-festooned keys used to eject optical media and launch Spotlight, iTunes, and your default Web browser and e-mail application. And the 7000 is brimming with buttons—many of them useful, others superfluous. It offers standard media-control buttons, primary and secondary function-key abilities, and



Mice and Keyboards in Sets Microsoft's ergonomic Wireless Laser Desktop 7000 (top) and Kensington's travel-friendly SlimBlade Media Notebook Set.

even three floating My Favorites keys. You can reassign all the keys through Microsoft's IntelliType Pro software.

The Mice

Similarly, all five buttons on the 7000's mouse are customizable and easy to use. When you're done using the mouse, you can recharge the AAA-size rechargeable battery in its cradle. However, the 7000's grooved and curved mouse may cause noticeable discomfort for some users over time. Unlike the 7000, both Kensington sets have ambidextrous mice and simple two-button designs. The SlimBlade has a scroll ball that, unfortu-

nately, does not function as a button. But it's light (4.2 ounces), with comfortable, textured rubber bumpers that give it a nice feel. In contrast, the C170 has a rather stubborn, stiff ratchet-style scroll wheel. To turn off the C170 mouse, you either insert the USB dongle into its belly or try to place the mouse hind-end down in the finicky docking station at the top of the keyboard.

Macworld's Buying Advice

Each of the three setups has strengths and weaknesses—some more forgivable than others. If you're a fan of hot keys and love the feel of an ergonomically curved keyboard, the Microsoft Wireless Laser Desktop 7000 is the best of the lot, even if its high price (\$130) and mouse leave something to be desired. The Kensington SlimBlade Media Notebook Set is the most travel-friendly but, unfortunately, the least functional of the three, and \$130 is too expensive considering what it doesn't deliver. The Kensington C170 Wireless Desktop Set, on the other hand, is a great all-around upgrade to the standard Apple set that comes with your desktop Mac, and for \$80, it's a good buy.

Chris Holt is Macworld's assistant editor.

Keyboard-Mouse Sets Compared

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE	ERGONOMIC FEATURES	SPECIAL FEATURES	FULL REVIEW
C170 Wireless Desktop Set Kensington www.kensington.com	★★★★	\$80	Foldout feet; shallow-key travel distance; ambidextrous mouse.	One USB receiver for both keyboard and mouse; ten hot keys.	macworld.com/3953
SlimBlade Media Notebook Set Kensington www.kensington.com	★★★	\$130	Slim mouse design for relaxed hand posture; ambidextrous.	Compact; laptop- and travel-friendly; detachable number pad.	macworld.com/3954
Wireless Laser Desktop 7000 Microsoft www.microsoft.com/msc	★★★★	\$130	Comfort Curve keyboard; curved right-handed mouse.	Customizable buttons on both keyboard and mouse.	macworld.com/3955

A larger, more complete chart at macworld.com/3950 includes more information about the keyboard-mouse sets we reviewed for this roundup.

The Keyboard Connection

You're not confined to the model that came with your Mac **BY DAN FRAKES**

Your keyboard is the most-used component of your computer system—after the display, of course—yet many people are still using the one that came with their Mac. That's a shame, because today's stand-alone keyboards have a lot to offer. We've taken a look at nine recent models for the Mac.

The Basics

Keys are the most basic component of any keyboard. Dome-style keys, usually confined to desktop keyboards, are thicker and require more travel (the distance the key must move to register as a keystroke) and, sometimes, more force when typing. Scissor-style keys, common in laptop keyboards but also in an increasing number of desktop models, have a lower profile and require less travel.

Of the models we tested, only Kinesis's Freestyle Solo Keyboard, Matias's Folding Keyboard, and VisiKey's Wired Enhanced Visibility Internet Keyboard use dome-style keys. The rest use some variation on scissor keys, with Apple's models using even flatter keys—identical to those on the MacBook laptops. We found that the i-Rocks, Logitech, and Matias keyboards have the best key feel; the Razer and VisiKey models have the worst.

Design

Keyboards are constructed in a variety of ways. For example, Mosh's attractive Celesta is made of aluminum with a brushed-metal finish. Logitech's diNovo Edge is constructed from a single piece of polished Plexiglas and an aluminum frame. The design of Apple's Wireless Keyboard makes it ideal for use with a notebook or on your lap with a Mac connected to a home-entertainment system, though it lacks a numeric keypad. Matias's portable Folding Keyboard fits in a number pad by folding in half for travel. It doesn't lock in the open position, so it's best for use on a flat surface. The latter two models weigh less than a pound.



Keyboard Cornucopia (top) Aevoo/Moshi Celesta, Kinesis Freestyle Solo Keyboard, VisiKey Wired Enhanced Visibility Internet Keyboard; (middle) Matias Folding Keyboard, Apple Wireless and wired; (bottom) i-Rocks KR-6170M i-mini X-Slim Keyboard, Logitech diNovo Edge, Mac Edition, Razer ProType.

When it comes to ergonomics, some vendors take the simple approach: thinner keyboards—such as the Apple, i-Rocks, Logitech, and Mosh models—don't require that you bend your wrists upward. Similarly, laptop-style keys generally take less effort to press. Kinesis, on the other hand, uses a fully ergonomic design: the left and right halves of the keyboard are split and angled outward, and optional incline bases let you raise the middle of the keyboard tent-style, so that your thumbs are higher than your pinkies. This hand position offers long-term ergonomic benefits.

Key Layout

Most computer keyboards are based on a common key layout, but keyboard designers often tweak this for various reasons. The most obvious change is removing the numeric keypad. Apple's Wireless Keyboard does this to achieve a more lap-friendly size; Logitech's, to make room for its touchpad; Kinesis's, to create symmetric halves for tenting. (You can buy USB numeric keypads separately.)

Other layout oddities are less obvious at first glance. For example, the Apple and Kinesis keyboards group the function keys into a single uninterrupted line. The i-Rocks keyboard features a huge return key, but makes room for it by sticking the forward-slash (|) key between the spacebar and the right # key. Matias's Folding Keyboard replaces the caps lock key with an fn key, similar to the fn key Apple includes on its keyboards. And the Kinesis keyboard's home, end, page-up, and page-down keys are tacked onto the right side in a single vertical row. Such nonstandard layouts make it difficult for touch typists to locate keys.

Finally, many keyboards—like the Razer and VisiKey models—are designed for both Macs and Windows PCs, so they usually have Windows and Alt keys instead of the Mac's ⌘ and option keys; you'll need to use Mac OS X's Keyboard & Mouse preference pane to configure them. Worse, some keyboards include extra keys that frustrate touch typists: VisiKey has a Windows Menu key between the right Alt and Ctrl keys.



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Special Keys and Features

Many keyboards include additional keys that perform special functions. All but the i-Rocks model include volume controls; the diNovo Edge adds a touch-sensitive volume bar. The Apple, Kinesis, Logitech, Razer, and VisiKey models also include keys for controlling iTunes playback, and some mirror Apple's own function-key control of brightness, Dashboard, and Exposé. The Logitech model includes other function-key system controls and lets you configure them to perform various other special functions; the Logitech, Razer, and VisiKey models provide keys for launching various programs. Matias's Folding Keyboard provides a useful tab key on the number pad; Kinesis's Freestyle includes a slew of unique keys, including dedicated content-editing keys. Finally, Razer's ProType keyboard offers ten program-

mable keys, along with ten keyboard profiles (sets of key settings).

Most keyboards with special-function keys require that you install software drivers to achieve full functionality. Kinesis's Freestyle Solo Keyboard for Mac, however, provides all its features without requiring drivers.

Matias's Folding Keyboard includes a clever feature that overlays directional keys—the four arrow keys, as well as home, end, page up, and page down—onto the keys under your right hand, allowing you to access those commands without moving your hands from the main keyboard area. Logitech's diNovo Edge includes a small circular touchpad that can function as a trackpad or a scrolling device.

The Razer ProType has a built-in iPod dock for charging your iPod and syncing it with your Mac. Unfortunately, you need

two USB ports to use this feature, and if your keyboard is in your desk's keyboard drawer, a mounted iPod prevents you from closing it. VisiKey's Enhanced Visibility Internet Keyboard features huge white-on-black key labels for better visibility.

Connection Type

Like mice, keyboards connect to your computer via a USB cable, wireless RF, or wireless Bluetooth. Apple's Keyboard, as well as the i-Rocks, Kinesis, Matias, Moshi, Razer, and VisiKey models, all have USB connections. Apple's Wireless Keyboard and the diNovo Edge connect via Bluetooth.

Wireless keyboards help you avoid cable clutter and move farther from your computer, but they require batteries. Apple's Wireless Keyboard runs off three AA batteries, which should last at least several months. Logitech's diNovo includes a built-in rechargeable battery, though its charging dock takes up quite a bit of desk space. The diNovo Edge works for a day on a five-minute charge, and for more than a month on a two-hour charge.

Macworld's Buying Advice

If you're looking for a replacement keyboard, Apple's latest model, with its MacBook-style keys, is a solid upgrade for older Macs; i-Rocks' KR-6170M i-mini X-Slim Keyboard is an excellent value, although it offers only the most basic features; and VisiKey's Enhanced Visibility Internet Keyboard works if you have poor eyesight or work in dim lighting. Kinesis's Freestyle Solo Keyboard offers the best ergonomics.

Portable keyboards are smaller and lighter than ever, and some even sport full-size key layouts. Matias's Folding Keyboard has some unique features for people who don't need the keyboard on their lap. But for lap use and easy packing, Apple's Wireless Keyboard is a better choice. And for people who don't absolutely need a numeric keypad, Logitech's diNovo Edge for Mac is beautiful and has a great key feel and many useful features. It's my favorite.

Dan Frakes is a Macworld senior editor.

Keyboards Compared

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE	CONNECTION	DESIGN	FULL REVIEW
Apple Keyboard Apple www.apple.com	★★★★	\$49	USB (2 ports)	Thin design; shallow key travel; stylish aluminum frame.	macworld.com/3970
Apple Wireless Keyboard Apple www.apple.com	★★★★	\$79	Bluetooth	Thin design; shallow key travel; stylish aluminum frame; power management conserves battery life.	macworld.com/3971
Celesta Aeovoe/Moshi www.moshimonde.com	★★★★	\$120	USB (2 ports)	Thin design; shallow key travel; tactile, responsive keys.	macworld.com/3976
diNovo Edge , Logitech www.logitech.com	★★★★ OUR PICK	\$160	Bluetooth	Thin design; shallow key travel; trackpad with mouse buttons; needs drivers.	macworld.com/3974
Freestyle Solo Keyboard for Mac Kinesis www.kinesis-ergo.com	★★★★	keyboard, \$99; incline base, \$49; keypad, \$60	USB	Low-profile design; positionable left and right sections; driverless Mac hot keys; some function keys require OS X 10.4 or later.	macworld.com/3973
KR-6170M i-mini X-Slim Keyboard i-Rocks www.i-rockusa.com	★★★	\$30	USB	Shallow key travel; stylish frame.	macworld.com/3972
Matias Folding Keyboard Matias www.matias.ca	★★★★	\$70	USB	Shallow key travel; navigation keys overlaid on main key area; portable; includes carrying pouch.	macworld.com/3975
Razer ProType Razer Pro Solutions www.razerzone.com	★★★★	\$130	USB (2 ports)	Thin design; shallow key travel; iPod dock; ten keyboard profiles; ten programmable keys; needs drivers.	macworld.com/3978
Wired Enhanced Visibility Internet Keyboard VisiKey www.visikey.net	★★★★	\$40	USB	Large key labels; cross-platform; needs drivers.	macworld.com/3977

A larger, more complete chart at macworld.com/3980 includes more information about the keyboards we reviewed for this roundup.

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Mightier Mice

There's more to mousing than the Mighty Mouse and trackpads **BY RIK MYSLEWSKI**

All hail the humble mouse, lowly foot soldier of the productivity wars, pint-size pointer-pushing pawn in service to mighty King Mac. Your mouse is the only peripheral you caress for hours a day, but you may have never thought of replacing the limited Mighty Mouse that shipped with your Mac or pondered augmenting your MacBook's touchy trackpad. Today you have numerous choices. We're living in the Golden Age of Rodents.

You may prefer the simplicity of Kensington's two-button, USB-tethered C173 Wired Mouse (●●●; macworld.com/3966), or the versatility of the ten programmable buttons on Logitech's MX 1000 Cordless Laser Mouse. If you travel, you may be enticed by Macally's Turtle, with a rollaway USB ribbon cable hidden inside its belly, or Logitech's V550 Nano Cordless Laser Mouse for Notebooks, with its tiny insert-and-forget wireless dongle and convenient Clip-and-Go laptop-case dock.

Wired or Wireless?

The wired-versus-wireless decision involves a choice between conveniences: Do you want to worry about how much juice is left in a wireless mouse's batteries, or do you want to avoid the hassle of a USB tether?

You could eliminate that first worry by packing extra batteries. Many mice—such as the iRocks 2.4GHz Cordless Optical Mouse—provide a warning light to alert you when your battery is failing. Battery life is also increasing: Logitech's V550 Nano Cordless Laser Mouse for



Best Mac Mice (clockwise from top) Logitech MX 1000 Cordless Laser Mouse, Kensington C173m Wireless Notebook Mouse, Evoluent VerticalMouse 3 Wireless, Razer ProClick Mobile, Kensington SlimBlade Media Mouse, Microsoft Wireless Notebook Optical Mouse 3000 Special Edition, and Logitech V550 Nano Cordless Laser Mouse.

Notebooks, for example, claims an 18-month life for its two AA batteries.

USB cables can be a hassle, but so can a large wireless USB dongle. The Logitech V550 Nano and Kensington C173m Wireless Mouse with Nano Receiver (●●●●; macworld.com/3967) shrink their dongles into tiny quarter-inch nubbins.

Kensington offers a "Can't we all just get along?" answer to the wired-versus-wireless debate: pop open the magnetic lid of its C173m Wireless Notebook Mouse, and you'll find a two-foot USB cable tucked inside. And the mini-USB jack on this cable pops into a matching port on the C173m's dongle.

If you've decided on wireless, your next choice is between Bluetooth and RF. Bluetooth's advantage is that it connects to circuitry inside your Mac, so you needn't fill a USB port with an RF dongle. Its disadvantage is that it can be

finicky, occasionally balking at waking up its connection after your mouse has been napping. RF is rock solid.

Plain Vanilla or Customizable?

One of the great advantages of modern mice is their configurability. You might, however, prefer the simplicity of the limited options in Mac OS X's Keyboard & Mouse preference pane; the Kensington mice in this roundup, for example, rely on Apple's options rather than Kensington's more-powerful MouseWorks driver software, though several of the models ship with their own software.

If you want your mouse's buttons and scroll wheel to respond exactly the way you want them to, Macally's Mouse Input Manager, Microsoft's IntelliPoint, and

Logitech's Control Center driver software can make your mouse do everything but whistle like Mickey in *Steamboat Willie*.

You can, for example, change your mouse's right-click to a double-click, or configure its scroll-wheel button to a window-closing ⌘-W. A thumb button could launch Photoshop or invoke an Exposé function. Input Manager can even assign commands to scrolling while holding down the scroll-wheel button. Control Center offers among its many options One-Touch Search, which lets you configure a button so it can launch Spotlight or open a Finder search window or an Internet page.

If you choose a mouse that doesn't have advanced driver software, you can install third-party driver software such as USB Overdrive (\$20; www.usboverdrive.com) or SteerMouse (\$20; macworld.com/4040). The ergonomic

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Evoluent VerticalMouse 3 Wireless requires a third-party driver; its included driver is Windows-only.

Familiar or Ergonomic?

A mouse doesn't have to have a simple lozenge shape like Apple's Mighty Mouse or Macally's Pebble and Pebble Wireless. A symmetrical lozenge or a humpbacked mouse like Microsoft's Wireless Notebook Optical Mouse 3000 does, however, have the advantage of being ambidextrous—usable by both right- and left-handed mousers. Unfortunately, your *hand* isn't symmetrical. A mouse designed for your hand's contours can help ward off dreaded RSI complications.

The Evoluent VerticalMouse 3 Wireless is an ergonomic dream—once you get used to it. Rather than requiring your forearm to rotate into the unnatural palm-down position as other mice do, it tilts upright, with your fingers grasping it to operate a vertical stack of three buttons and a scroll wheel, with your thumb poised over its own button on the opposite side.

Though Evoluent does offer wired vertical mice for lefties, the VerticalMouse 3 Wireless is for righties only—as is Logitech's MX 1000 Cordless Laser Mouse. Both, however, provide unmatched comfort. They're hefty, but they feel more stable.

Speaking of weight, if "dainty" doesn't describe your hands, avoid Macally's tiny AccuGlide (see [macworld.com/3962](#)). The Razer Pro Solutions ProClick Mobile Notebook Mouse, on the other hand, is both small and comfortable.

Want More Than Just a Mouse?

Kensington offers various mice that are capable of more than just pixel-pushing, screen-scrolling, and button-clicking. The company's wireless SlimBlade Media Mouse includes media controls for music and video on its belly, and its 2.4GHz RF controller with mini-dongle allows you to play, pause, control volume, and skip tracks in iTunes at a range of up to 30 feet. It also replaces the scroll wheel with a 360-degree scroll ball similar to that on Apple's Mighty Mouse (but without the button function).

The SlimBlade Bluetooth Presenter Mouse is designed for road warriors whose duties include Keynote or PowerPoint presentations. Push a Mode button, and this dual-purpose mouse's right and left buttons transform into next- and previous-slide controls, and its scroll button darkens the screen. Since it's Bluetooth, you can range up to 50 feet from your Mac.

Macworld's Buying Advice

Gamers can configure the Logitech MX 1000 Cordless Laser Mouse's 10 buttons to shoot, jump, run, and more, or use the on-the-fly resolution-switching of Macally's Pebble and Pebble Wireless (see [macworld.com/3961](#)) to change tracking speed. Road warriors can forget

batteries with the wireless-and-wired split personality of Kensington's C175m Wireless Notebook Mouse, control presentations with the SlimBlade Bluetooth Presenter Mouse, or dock Logitech's V550 Nano Cordless Laser Mouse for Notebooks to a laptop. If you're right-handed and sharing a mouse with a leftie, Microsoft's Wireless Notebook Optical Mouse 3000 is full-featured and ambidextrous. If your arm hurts after a day of mousing, check out Evoluent's VerticalMouse 3 Wireless. Whatever your choice, you'll find there are many mice mightier than Apple's Mighty Mouse.

Rik Myslewski has been writing about the Mac since 1989.

Mice Compared

PRODUCT	RATING	PRICE	CONNECTION	SPECIAL FEATURES	FULL REVIEW
C175m Wireless Notebook Mouse Kensington www.kensington.com	★★★★	\$33	RF receiver and USB cable	Comes with a USB cable for emergencies; 1,000-dpi tracking; comes in four colors; ambidextrous.	macworld.com/3965
MX 1000 Cordless Laser Mouse Logitech www.logitech.com	★★★★★	\$80	RF receiver	Good gaming mouse; ten programmable buttons; drivers needed; right-handed.	macworld.com/3959
Pebble Macally www.macally.com	★★★★	\$20	USB cable	On-the-fly resolution switching; drivers required for buttons; ambidextrous.	macworld.com/3963
ProClick Mobile Notebook Mouse Razer Pro Solutions www.razerpro.com	★★★★	\$60	Bluetooth	High-precision 1200-dpi optical resolution; comes in four colors; ambidextrous.	macworld.com/3969
RF-7550A 2.4GHz Cordless Optical Mouse i-Rocks www.i-rocks.com	★★★★	\$25	RF receiver	Carrying case, good scroll wheel.	macworld.com/3968
SlimBlade Bluetooth Presenter Mouse Kensington www.kensington.com	★★★★	\$50	Bluetooth	Drives Keynote and PowerPoint presentations; ambidextrous.	macworld.com/3957
SlimBlade Media Mouse Kensington www.kensington.com	★★★★	\$50	RF receiver	Media controls for music and video; ambidextrous.	macworld.com/3956
Turtle Macally www.macally.com	★★★★	\$20	USB cable	Spring-loaded USB cable; drivers required for button customization; ambidextrous.	macworld.com/3964
VerticalMouse 3 Wireless Evoluent www.evoluent.com	★★★★	\$120	RF receiver	Unique ergonomic shape; five buttons; right-handed only.	macworld.com/3877
V550 Nano Cordless Laser Mouse for Notebooks Logitech www.logitech.com	★★★★★	\$60	RF receiver	Includes laptop-mounting docks; two-speed scroll wheel; drivers required for buttons; ambidextrous.	macworld.com/3958
Wireless Notebook Optical Mouse 3000 Special Edition Microsoft www.microsoft.com/mmc	★★★★	\$30	RF receiver	Comes in five colors; receiver tucks into mouse's bottom; drivers required for button customization; ambidextrous.	macworld.com/3960

A larger, more complete chart at [macworld.com/3910](#) includes more information about all the mice we reviewed for this roundup.

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macworld.com/reviews

What we're reviewing online this month



SOFTWARE

BusySync 2.1

RATING: **★★★★** PRICE: \$25 per computer

COMPANY: BusyMac URL: www.busymac.com

BusySync 2.1.6 makes calendar sharing for a family or small group as painless as it can be without the use of a dedicated calendar server. The program allows other people to see and edit your iCal calendars, and you can sync them with Google Calendar. BusySync's enhanced publish-and-subscribe model generally works well; but because it relies on the publishing computer to act as a hub, syncing won't work if that computer is off, asleep, or otherwise disconnected from the network (macworld.com/3930).



Freeway 5.2 Pro

RATING: **★★★★** PRICE: \$249 COMPANY: Softpress URL: www.softpress.com

Freeway 5.2 Pro is a good choice for designers who want to build a Web site but don't want to learn HTML and CSS. In look-and-feel, Freeway 5 resembles Apple's current iLife apps, so you'll grasp the controls easily. The page-design interface is similar to that of a page-layout or illustration program.

New features in Freeway 5 include pure-CSS menus that are compliant with W3C standards, automatic masking of e-mail addresses, and automatic optimization for the iPhone interface (macworld.com/3932).



Hear 1.0

RATING: **★★★★** PRICE: \$50 COMPANY: JoeSoft URL: www.joesoft.com

This audio-enhancement utility lets you apply a range of effects via a paneled interface. Hear 1.0.3 has tools for modifying EQ, enhancing 3-D space, applying limiting and compressor effects, boosting bass, and a lot more. If you'd like to add more life to your music and customize the effects to your taste, Hear is an excellent tool for the job (macworld.com/3933).

NetNewsWire 3.1

RATING: **★★★★** PRICE: Free COMPANY: NewsGator Technologies URL: www.newsgator.com

This powerful RSS reader lets you organize and browse Web-site feeds and then sync those feeds and article statuses across devices. The program handles hundreds of subscriptions with ease and has useful feed-organization features. You can also sync feeds, clippings, and article statuses across multiple devices, including the iPhone and Windows computers. With NetNewsWire 3.1.7, you'll end up following lots of RSS feeds; thankfully, the program has robust reports you can use to separate the articles you want to read from those you're not interested in (macworld.com/3936).

SecuriKey Professional Edition 2.1

RATING: **★★★★** PRICE: \$130 COMPANY: GT Security URL: www.securikey.com

SecuriKey 2.1 is like a security key for your laptop; once you've installed the software, you insert a USB key into a port on your Mac to log in. Without the key, no one can log in to your computer, even with your password. When you remove the USB key, the SecuriKey program returns to the login screen, logging you out or shutting down the computer, depending on which option you've selected. SecuriKey also offers the option of creating an AES-128 encrypted partition on your hard drive, but it doesn't provide whole-disk encryption. SecuriKey might not prevent the theft of your computer, but it will keep the data on your machine safe (macworld.com/3937).



Spore Origins for iPod

RATING: **★★★★** PRICE: \$5 COMPANY: Electronic Arts URL: www.ea.com

Offering a distilled experience of the first part of the full Spore game, Spore Origins makes a surprisingly good debut in this version for third-generation iPod nanos, fifth-generation iPods, and the iPod classic. Using the Click Wheel, you control a microscopic critter that's swimming around in a pool of muck with a basic objective: eat or be eaten. As

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you succeed, you'll see your creature evolve (macworld.com/3938).



HARDWARE

Selphy CP770 △

RATING: ★★★ **PRICE:** \$149 **COMPANY:** Canon

URL: www.usa.canon.com

Sporting a clever bucket design that makes it easy to pack cords and extra media, the Selphy CP770 is a portable dye-sublimation photo printer capable of outputting either 4-by-6- or 4-by-8-inch photos. We found that the CP770 produced colors that were rich and dark.

The printing process takes about a minute per picture, and the dye-sub process yields smoother colors with more-continuous tone instead of an ink-jet's array of tiny dots creating the illusion of solidity (macworld.com/3942).

Internet Radio Alarm Clock with Built-in WiFi

RATING: ★★★ **PRICE:** \$149 **COMPANY:** Aluratek
URL: www.aluratek.com

As the name implies, this device not only plays local FM stations and includes an alarm feature, but also streams Internet radio across an Ethernet or Wi-Fi network, plays MP3 files from a thumb drive or hard disk, and streams music from a media server over the network or the Internet. (However, this feature doesn't support iTunes streaming; rather it supports the Windows-based Windows Media Connect and Windows Media Player 11.) Like a typical clock radio, the Aluratek unit includes a single, monophonic speaker, and that speaker sounds just about the way you'd



expect for a clock radio—meaning the sound's not great but, given the format, it's acceptable (macworld.com/3934).

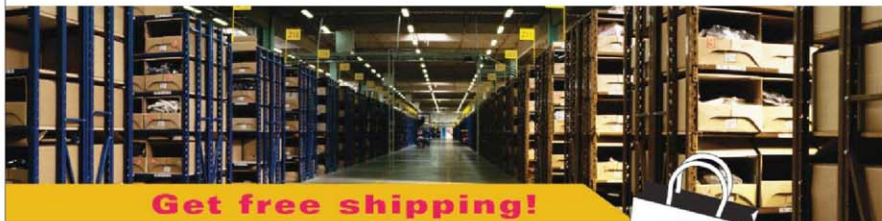
Stylus NX400

RATING: ★★★ **PRICE:** \$100 **COMPANY:** Epson
URL: www.epson.com

Epson's Stylus NX400 is an inexpensive ink-jet multifunction device that can print, scan, and copy documents and photos. Though not billed as a professional-quality photo printer, the NX400 produces prints with bright and pleasing colors that tend to be a little on the red side. Under close inspection, photos have some visible dots in some light areas of the prints, but nothing out of the ordinary for this class

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of printer. In our tests, the NX400 took about 18 seconds to print a one-page Word document at Normal settings, and 2 minutes and 35 seconds to print a ten-page document. The scanner scans at 48 bits but outputs just 24 bits; in tests, the scan captured good detail, even in shadow and highlight areas (macworld.com/3940).



WRT610N Simultaneous Dual-N Band Wireless Router

RATING: ★★ **PRICE:** \$50 **COMPANY:** Linksys
URL: www.linksys.com

The WRT610N network router takes advantage of modern Wi-Fi standards by creating two networks at once: a high-frequency, high-speed 5GHz network for media, which works with the Apple TV, and a slower backward-compatible

2.4GHz network. Unfortunately, Linksys still has a ways to go with its Mac setup—Linksys appears to have spent no effort on presentation or clarity, and the documentation lacks Mac references.

SPEED BOOST

Drobo with FireWire 800

RATING: ★★★★★ **PRICE:** \$499 **COMPANY:** Data Robotics **URL:** www.drobo.com

The Drobo drive array uses a simplified RAID (Redundant Array of Inexpensive Disks) technology to protect against drive failure. The device has slots for up to four Serial ATA (SATA) hard drives. Unlike in other RAID systems, the capacities of the drives do not have to match. Just plug in any four SATA drives, and the Drobo will automatically set them up into what appears to you as a single large volume on your desktop. The device performs data redundancy that allows you to upgrade a drive or install a replacement drive effortlessly. The Drobo offers both USB 2.0 and FireWire 800 connection options, but its FireWire test results were less impressive than we'd hoped. Our lab tests proved that the Drobo with FireWire 800 is faster than the original USB Drobo (★★★★★; macworld.com/3003), performing more than 30 percent faster in some tests (macworld.com/3931).



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"It's as if someone behind your back reached out, found the volume control for the world, and turned it way, way, down," reports *TechnologyReview.com*. Bose QC² headphones incorporate patented technology that electronically identifies and dramatically reduces noise, while faithfully preserving the music, movie dialogue or tranquility you desire. We designed these headphones primarily for airplane travelers. But owners soon started telling us how much they enjoy using them in other places to reduce distractions around them. They're excellent for listening to music whether you're on the go, at home or in the office.

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App Store Selections

iPhone and iPod touch software that's caught our eye

MUSIC

BeatMaker 1.0.2

RATING: PRICE: \$20 COMPANY: Intua URL: macworld.com/3911

The music-creation tool BeatMaker is no stripped-down miniversion of a desktop program. With its multiple screens—including ones that offer 16 drum pads for triggering samples, a song sequencer, effects (FX), waveform trimming, and an editing screen for adjusting velocity and groove—BeatMaker is a deep music maker (macworld.com/3912). —CHRISTOPHER BREEN



PRODUCTIVITY

Pennies 1.0.1

RATING: PRICE: \$3

COMPANY: Design by a Knife URL: macworld.com/3907

Think of Pennies as a handy way to keep track of expenses quickly and simply.

The user sets a monthly budget and enters expenses; as the month progresses, the needle in Pennies' gas-gauge-like interface moves from full to empty as your expenses add up. As time goes on, Pennies provides a history so users can track and compare expenses month by month. Adding an expense is as easy as tapping a button and typing in an amount (macworld.com/3913). —BEN BOYCHUK



STORAGE

FileMagnet 1.0.1

RATING: PRICE: \$5

COMPANY: Magnetism Studios URL: macworld.com/3905

Among the apps that let you store and view documents on your

iPod touch or iPhone, FileMagnet excels in file-format compatibility, reading both Microsoft Office and iWork files. While it requires a free desktop-based app for uploading files to your mobile device, that uploader gives you the ability to queue files for transfer later (macworld.com/3906). —DAN MOREN

SPORTS

Sportacular 1.2

RATING: PRICE: free COMPANY: Jeff Hamilton

URL: macworld.com/3909

Sportacular offers an at-a-glance view of the day's sporting scores, plus the ability to drill down into a wealth of stats and news. Find out who won by jumping to the desired sport; find out how they won by tapping on the game in question for a detailed report (macworld.com/3910). —PHILIP

MICHAELS



PRODUCTIVITY

PCalc 1.0.2

RATING: PRICE: \$10 COMPANY: TLA

Systems URL: macworld.com/3903

PCalc is an appealing alternative to the iPhone's built-in calculator, offering a compelling combination of advanced functions and useful conversion and constant features. While it offers nearly every function found in Apple's calculator, PCalc's advantages include a Reverse Polish Notation entry mode and a virtual tape that displays time-stamped calculations (macworld.com/3904). —DAN FRANKS

More Reviews

See more iPhone and iPod touch apps we've tested at iPhone Central (macworld.com/3850)

APPLICATION	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	RATING	FIND CODE*
iPassword 1.3.2	password keeper	free		3915
Ambiance 1.4	ambient-noise maker	\$1		3917
Dive Planner 1.5	scuba-diver chart	\$4		3914
LED Football	game	\$1		3913
Yelp 1.0.2	food and services finder	free		3916

*Typing in find codes after macworld.com directs you to a product's review or overview. For example, macworld.com/3915 takes you to our review of iPassword 1.3.2.

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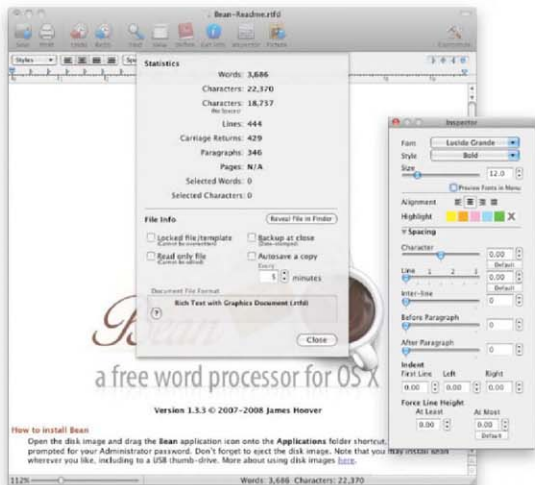
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Mac Gems

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TextEdit Pro Bean is a powerful rich-text editor that's a step up from TextEdit.

UTILITIES

Bean 1.3.3

RATING: ★★★ **PRICE:** free **COMPANY:** James Hoover **URL:** www.bean-osx.com

If you need more text-editing goodness than OS X's own TextEdit serves up, consider Bean. Bean supports .rtf, .rtfd, .txt, .html, and .webarchive formats. It also uses the same OS X services as TextEdit to open .doc, .xml, .odt, and .docx files, although some documents translate better than others.

Bean's interface is cleaner and more accessible than TextEdit's. As you're writing, Bean gives you real-time word and character counts, and a Get Info

button provides useful statistics about the current document, including the number of lines, carriage returns, paragraphs, and pages; you can also select text to see the number of words and characters in the selection. You can select text by font, highlight color, ruler, or combinations thereof, making it simple to reformat matching sections.

Bean also offers a number of useful viewing options, such as live-zoom resizing, page-layout mode, and full-screen editing. Among my favorite features is one-click access to an alternate color mode; the default scheme is white text on a dark-blue background, but you can choose your own colors. I also appreciate the autosave feature and an option to automatically save date-stamped backup versions of my documents. And Bean includes an excellent Help system.

Bean is missing the major features you'd find in a full-fledged word processor, and TextEdit still beats it in a few niche areas. But Bean is a good middle ground between TextEdit and a word processor.

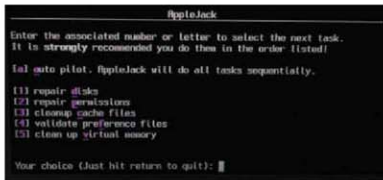
UTILITIES

AppleJack 1.5

RATING: ★★★ **PRICE:** payment requested **COMPANY:** The Apotek **URL:** applejack.sourceforge.net

AppleJack is a clever utility that lets you perform troubleshooting procedures at startup, without needing a Mac OS X Install disc or a third-party bootable disc.

Once installed, AppleJack is available in OS X's single-user mode (hold down ⌘-S at startup). Below the standard "If you want to make modifications to files" message, you'll see a new message instructing you to type `applejack` for troubleshooting assistance. Then you see



Simple Startup Maintenance AppleJack lets you easily perform a number of maintenance tasks at startup.

Give your iPhone more than double the juice.*

Finally, 1800mAh in a pocket-size backup battery!

by Richard Thalheimer

Thinking of getting a backup battery for your iPhone or iPod?

The new RichardSolo 1800 has capacity and features that distinguish it from the competition.

Large 1800mAh capacity will charge the iPhone completely to full, with more power left over for later charging.

Just snap it on-no cable required! Even fits with many cases.

110-240v AC wall charger included for fast charging. And, you can use the iPhone while charging it, and you can charge the RichardSolo 1800 and iPhone together at the same time, with the included USB cable, AC wall charger, or USB car charger — like getting two extra chargers for free! You can also use your Apple AC wall charger to charge both together.

The dual-port USB car charger will charge the RichardSolo 1800 and power another device. The RichardSolo 1800 also features a built-in laser pointer, and super bright LED flashlight, with lock button to prevent accidental use.

For iPhone, sturdy support brace holds iPhone and RichardSolo 1800 securely together. And, this is the only snap-on battery available with an actual iPhone latching mechanism, to keep the RichardSolo 1800 and iPhone firmly attached.



Polymerized lithium-ion battery takes hundreds and hundreds of charges. Three LED lights indicate charge status. The RichardSolo 1800 works with 2G/3G iPhone, and all iPod models except shuffle.

Your satisfaction is guaranteed, with our 30-day no-hassle return privilege, and a 90-day warranty. This is an extremely handy, pocket-sized solution to keep your iPhone or iPod going all day — and night! You will be absolutely delighted. That is my promise, and you can depend on it.

Order now for free USA and Canada shipping:

RS001 for iPhone/iPod \$69.95

Order two, and save 15%

Hours of use may vary, depends upon many factors, including type of use, network, and connection speed. *Estimate of "More than double the juice" is based on charging iPhone when its battery shows red. iPod is a trademark of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. iPhone is a trademark of Apple Inc.



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We are here to support you!

These are actual customer comments:

I had read a number of glowing reviews about RichardSolo quality, and am thrilled to discover your support is top notch. Thanks again for the fantastic customer care — you've certainly gained my loyalty.

— D.G.

I'm sure you can appreciate how little true "customer service" is evidenced in today's business environment. To have you and your company exhibit such exceptional service is unbelievably refreshing. Thank you, Thank you, thank you!!!! I will be highly recommending your company to anyone I encounter.

— P.S.

Dear Richard and Team: This is what I call great customer support. I wish more companies would figure this out these days. Thank you so much.

— D.C.

I've tried ALL the others products AND yours is the ONLY one that works correctly!!!!

— H.L.

Your service and attention was first rate and I will recommend that all my friends with iPhones or iPods purchase your product with confidence that if there is a problem, you guys will fix it!! Good customer service is getting more rare each day so a big THANK YOU to you and your company.

— T.C.

You have provided me one of the best services I have ever encountered on any on-line/telephone shopping.

— T.K.

Richard, thank you. That was the fastest response I have ever received. Great product by the way. Appreciate the assistance.

— M.W.

This is absolutely the best customer service experience I have had in a long time.

— L.L.

RichardSolo®

On-line ordering and blog reviews

www.RichardSolo.com

email: support@RichardSolo.com

Key code# MVB120708

a menu of options; type the number or letter and press return to perform that task. Available procedures include:

- > Repair Disks uses OS X's built-in fsck program to examine and repair any minor damage to your startup drive's directory.

- > Repair Permissions is identical to using Disk Utility's Repair Disk Permissions function.

- > Cleanup Cache Files removes temporary cache files.

- > Validate Preference Files checks preference files for possible corruption.

- > Clean Up Virtual Memory allows you to manually delete virtual-memory swap files that the OS hasn't cleaned up.

You can choose to run all these tasks at once, in order, by typing **auto** (all lowercase) and pressing return. I prefer to run them one at a time, as you get more options that way. In addition, if the Repair Disks procedure says your disk was modified, you'll want to run the procedure again until that message no longer appears. If instead you type **AUTO**, Applejack goes into "deep clean" mode, which means it deletes all system cache files, including the LaunchServices database. The developer recommends this mode only if the standard auto procedure doesn't fix your problems.

New in version 1.5 is an experimental Expert mode. Although many of the tasks available don't function yet, one does—and it's a good one: the ability to more easily use Tony Scamini's \$1.39 Memtest 4.21 (★★★★, macworld.com/3723) in single-user mode to test your Mac's RAM.

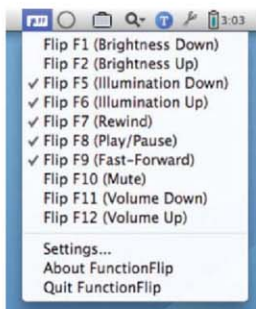
You can perform any of Applejack's tasks when the Mac is booting normally. The beauty of Applejack is that it lets you easily troubleshoot a Mac that won't boot.

UTILITIES

FunctionFlip 1.2

RATING: ★★★★★ **PRICE:** free **COMPANY:** Kevin Gessner **URL:** macworld.com/3923

Apple's current laptops and keyboards assign the function keys some special controls that supersede the keys' original



Assign Functions FunctionFlip lets you choose which F-keys adopt OS X's special functions.

behavior: a function key that used to isolate the active window on the screen now controls keyboard backlighting, for example. Using the Keyboard & Mouse preference pane, you can choose whether you want these special controls

to always take precedence over the keys' original behavior or whether you want to require the addition of the fn key to invoke the special controls. Whatever you choose, the decision applies to all 12 keys globally.

But what if you want only certain of the keys to adopt the special functions by default, and others to behave like standard function keys? Enter FunctionFlip, which lets you pick and choose, key by key. So FunctionFlip can allow quick access to, say, volume and brightness controls, without changing the standard assignments of the other function keys. You simply press and hold down the fn key to toggle between a function key's FunctionFlip-assigned task and its standard function. ☑

Senior Editor **Dan Frakes** is always looking for great, low-cost products. Send your thoughts on this column, or on things you'd like to see in future columns, to macgems@macworld.com.

Promising Prospect: Fantasktik 1.1

One common complaint about OS X's Dock is that it shows only programs, not windows within those programs. Dockland Software's \$10 **Fantasktik 1.1** (www.docklandsoft.com) adds a thin taskbar to your screen that includes a button for every window, with windows grouped by program. Click on a window's button to switch to that window. Double-click on a program icon to hide its windows' buttons.

Click and drag either end of the Fantasktik taskbar to reposition it horizontally. If you don't want the taskbar visible all the time, just click on either end and the entire bar will collapse into that icon.

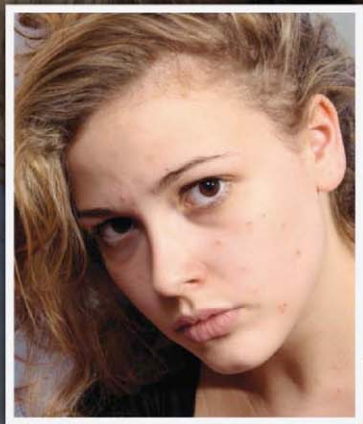
The coolest feature of Fantasktik is its live window previews. When you place your cursor over a window's button, a large preview of the window pops up, letting you see at a glance if it's really the window you want to switch to. Slick.

Fantasktik has plenty of potential, but it has a few issues. If you have many programs and windows open, Fantasktik's icons and buttons don't shrink down to fit everything; some just get cut off. To view the hidden items, you must scroll left or right by dragging anywhere on the bar. Also, some programs don't "see" the Fantasktik bar, so it can end up floating in front of their windows. And if you have multiple displays, Fantasktik appears only on the main display.



Task Previews Fantasktik is a Windows taskbar-like utility that provides useful window previews.

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THE 51 cool add-ons and accessories for your Mac, iPod, and iPhone

MACWORLD

GEAR

GUIDE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER BELANGER

Looking for a new printer, display, digital camera, or other piece of Mac-compatible hardware? Usually, we list our current favorites in these and other hardware categories in our *Top Products* column. This month, we thought they'd fit in well with this Gear Guide. So look for "The Lab Recommends" sidebars in the pages that follow for our latest top picks.

THE LAB
RECOMMENDS



Your iPod has given you countless hours of entertainment. Your iPhone keeps you connected, no matter where you go. And your

Mac—well, from work to play to preserving family memories, there's hardly any part of your life it doesn't touch.

These Apple products have been there for you all year long. With the onset of winter and its attendant holidays, why not do the same for them? Cap off the year by giving a gift to your iPod, iPhone, or Mac.

Ah, but what *kind* of gift? Stroll the aisles of any tech superstore, and you'll find shelf after shelf of gear. So we've done the shopping for you, finding products that are unique, powerful, or just plain fun. In the pages that follow are more than 50 ideas for gear that will delight any iPod, iPhone, or Mac—not to mention its owner.



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GEAR FOR YOUR IPHONE, p. 70



GEAR FOR THE MOBILE, p. 78



GEAR FOR YOUR DESKTOP, p. 82

GEAR FOR YOUR IPOD

→ They call it “the iPod ecosystem”—that’s the expanding universe of speakers, headphones, cases, and other player-related paraphernalia that now surrounds the iPod. Worried about finding the right gear to make your iPod sing? We’re on the case.—DAN FRAKES AND CHRISTOPHER BREEN

ONE CHARGER, NO WAITING

Want to keep your iPhones and dockable iPods all charged without creating a mess of cables or taking up all your USB ports or wall outlets? Griffin Technology’s **PowerDock** can help. This brushed aluminum charging station accommodates as many as two or four devices at a time.

Two-dock model, \$50; four-dock model, \$70; Griffin Technology (www.griffintech.com)

Keep It Down in There

Given how early and often kids listen to music these days, damage to young ears is a big concern. Ultimate Ears’ **LoudEnough headphones** offer a unique solution: kid-friendly earbuds that restrict output to safe levels—you simply can’t crank the volume too high. Still, the sound quality is good for the price, with enhanced bass response; the earbuds also block some external noise. Each pair comes with three silicone eartips, sized for smaller ears, but these headphones are also good enough for grown-ups.

\$40; Ultimate Ears (www.loudenough.com)

ON THE CLOCK

How popular is the iPod? Popular enough that a modern clock radio seems hobbled if it hits store shelves without an integrated iPod dock. With the **Pure-Fi Dream**, Logitech offers just such an iPod- and iPhone-compatible “bedroom music system” (read: very nice clock radio) complete with an AM/FM radio, surround-sound stereo audio, two alarms, a remote control, and a motion-activated snooze function. That’s right—instead of blindly slapping the top of the thing in the hope of gaining an extra ten minutes of shut-eye, you can just wave your hand over it. \$200; Logitech (www.logitech.com)



A Fitting Result

The earbuds included with your iPod (or iPhone) may sound OK, but they don’t always fit so well; many people buy new headphones simply because Apple’s won’t stay in their ears. But there’s a less expensive alternative: **BudFits**, rubber earplugs, available in clear, white, or black, that hold Apple’s earbuds in place. Snap the stem of each earbud into a BudFit clip, and then press the cable into a groove on the back of the clip. You end up with earclip-style headphones that fit securely enough for vigorous exercise.

\$9; Innovelis (www.budfits.com)



Top Camcorders

Canon’s \$665 **Vixia HV30** (★★★★; macworld.com/3708) MiniDV recorder shoots stellar high-def video with vivid colors and smooth motion. Sony’s \$650 **HDR-SR11 Handycam** (★★★★; macworld.com/3731) lets you store your images on a Memory Stick Duo, a 60GB HD, or a Memory Stick Pro Duo card (instead of tape or DVD), and it delivers impressive video quality and has an elegant design.

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GEAR FOR YOUR IPOD } Continued

MyTunes

Logitech's Squeeze-

box Boom

is a tabletop music player with a difference: it connects via Wi-Fi instead of the AM or FM band, and what it plays back is your music library; just about any Internet radio station in existence; online music services such as Pandora, Rhapsody, and Last.fm; and any podcast you can think of. You can set the Boom's configurable alarm system to wake you to your favorite Internet radio station on Tuesdays, your local all-news station's Internet stream on Mondays and Fridays, and a favorite playlist late on Sunday mornings. There's even a programmable snooze button. The Boom is tiny, but its speakers sound good enough for bedside music listening—it may make you chuck your old clock radio forever.

\$300; Logitech (www.logitech.com)



HIGH-END SOUND SYSTEM

If you listen to most of your music on an iPod or a computer but still crave great sound, Focal-JMLab's **XS multi-media system** could satisfy your inner audiophile. The two-way satellite speakers are based on Focal's Solo 6 Pro monitors; the base for the right-hand speaker includes a Universal iPod dock; and the 70-watt subwoofer includes two 30-watt amps (for the satellites). Connect the XS to your Mac's USB port, and it can also take over digital-to-analog-conversion duties. You also get a remote for controlling volume and iPod playback.

\$599; Focal-JMLab (www.focal-fr.com)



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toonboom.com



TOONBOOM

Images courtesy of: Justin Morison, Bakshi Productions, Stephen Sloan.



iPod Touch Booster

Suppose it was your job to fly around the world delivering presents, and you'd been doing it for hundreds of years. You might be dreading your next business trip, too. But suppose you could take along an iPod touch or an iPhone whose battery didn't poop out after just a couple of movies. With one of Mophie's **Juice Packs**, you can. This case incorporates a lithium polymer battery that jacks into the iPhone or iPod touch's dock connector and audio port, providing up to 24 additional hours of audio playback and seven hours of additional video playback.

\$100; Mophie (www.mophie.com)

THE LAB
RECOMMENDS



Top Digital SLR Cameras

With a 12-megapixel sensor and a beautiful 3-inch LCD with live preview, Canon's \$700 **Digital Rebel XSi** (★★★★; macworld.com/3898) redefines the entry-level digital SLR. Nikon's \$425 **D40** (★★★★; macworld.com/2498) is an even less-expensive option. Its 6.1-megapixel sensor may be smaller than that of some point-and-shoots, but it offers plenty of pixels for comfortably printing images as large as 8 by 10 inches.

New iPod or iPhone? We have you covered.

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Sport Grip™ Deluxe for iPod® nano 4G



The Sport Grip Deluxe brings a new level of style to your iPod nano 4G.



MARWARE

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GEAR FOR YOUR IPOD { Continued

SOLE PATROL

If you like the idea of the Nike + iPod Sport Kit (macworld.com/2380) but don't like the Nike shoes, add a set of Sole's **DK+ footbeds** to your favorite footwear. Warm them in the oven, slip them into your favorite shoes, and walk around for a bit; the insoles will mold to your feet. Now, slip a Nike + iPod Sport Kit transmitter into the holder designed for it. Voila: customized foot-support and iPod connectivity.

\$50; Sole (www2.yoursole.com)



Behind the (Click) Wheel

Many new cars now ship with audio-input jacks, letting you play iPods, iPhones, and other portable audio devices through the car stereo—and raising the safety issue of controlling one of these devices while driving. Do you really want to try navigating through a playlist as you steer your car down a steep mountain road? Kensington's **LiquidAux Deluxe for iPhone and iPod** can help.

This iPod power adapter charges all dock-connector iPods except the 3G iPod. It can do this because it uses a USB power connector rather than FireWire. It also features a line-out connection to your car's auxiliary input jack and a small remote control that you attach (with Velcro) to your steering wheel. From there, you can play, pause, and skip songs without fear of swerving off course.

\$100; Kensington
(us.kensington.com)



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GEAR FOR YOUR iPhone

➔ Apple amped up the iPhone's cool factor with a revamped version released this summer. Is it possible to make your phone any cooler? We've got the accessories and applications for the job.—DAN MOREN



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BATTERY BACKUP

Maybe you're navigating around a strange city and relying heavily on the Web and Google Maps. Maybe you've just finished a long conference call. Or maybe you forgot to plug in your iPhone last night. Whatever the reason, sometimes your iPhone needs a little pick-me-up. RichardSolo's **Backup Battery for iPhone / iPod** is just what you need to get your phone back into fighting trim. You can juice up this rechargeable lithium-ion battery either via USB or, using the included wall charger, a standard AC outlet. A 30-pin dock connector makes it easy to plug the battery right into your iPhone. The battery claims to provide up to twice the talk or surf time, which should be at least long enough to keep the phone working in a pinch. \$50; RichardSolo (www.richardsolo.com)

Do Touch That Dial

If your car doesn't have a plug for your iPod, you need to stick with an old-school FM transmitter. XtremeMac's **InCharge FM** not only lets you play your tunes through the radio, but also lets you charge your player from a standard auto power port. Best of all, it works fine with the iPhone (though you'll still want to switch to Airplane mode for original iPhones or for iPhone 3Gs not on the 3G network, to eliminate the dastardly GSM buzz). The InCharge FM has its own buttons for play/pause, next track, and previous track, and it lets you store two station presets for quick access. Plus, it's one of the better-sounding FM transmitters out there.

\$70; XtremeMac (www.xtrememac.com)



Top Displays

While LaCie's 24-inch, \$899 **324 LCD monitor** (★★★★; macworld.com/3896) is aimed at creative pros who need accurate, wide-gamut color, its two HDMI inputs and picture-in-picture support let it double as a multimedia display. If you're looking to spend less but still want a big display with integrated speakers and HDMI input, check out V7's \$400 **D24W33** (★★★★; macworld.com/3897).



A STYLISH STYLUS

Steve Jobs likes to say that the only pointing device you need for the iPhone is attached to the end of your hand. Still, for many people, a stylus beats a finger. If you can't get used to the touch-screen keyboard, Ten One Design's **Pogo Stylus** can help. Made of anodized aluminum with a soft touch-screen-compatible tip, the \$20 Pogo Stylus is ideal for tapping out your every command. It also comes with a pair of clip-on brackets, so your stylus is always close at hand when you need it and out of the way when you don't.

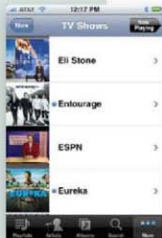
\$20; Ten One Design (www.tenonedesign.com)



Remote, So Close

Apple's remote control is an awfully spartan way to control your iTunes library. Apple's free **Remote** application turns your iPhone into an advanced control device. It lets you control your iTunes library the same way you play music on the iPhone itself: you can browse by song, artist, playlist, genre, and more. You can even search for tunes by tapping out their names. If you have an Apple TV or an AirPort Express, Remote lets you control remote speakers, too.

Free; Apple (macworld.com/3891)



SLIMKEY V2
MONITOR STAND WITH POWERED USB2.0 HUB



WWW.MACESSITY.COM

GEAR FOR YOUR iPhone } Continued

Department of Defense

Your iPhone is a pricey piece of equipment, so of course you want to keep it safe. Otter-Box's **Defender** case, made of a silicone rubber skin over a plastic hard case, strikes a nice balance between resilience and portability. While it adds bulk to the svelte iPhone, it keeps the device's features both protected and accessible. And it fits both the original iPhone and the iPhone 3G.

\$50; OtterBox (www.otterbox.com)



YOU'RE WITH ME, LEATHER

Protection doesn't have to be ugly. If silicone and plastic don't quite do it for you, consider a case of the finest Italian napa leather: Sena Cases' **MagnetFlipper**, available for both the original iPhone and the iPhone 3G, is made of the kind of smooth, supple leather you'd find on a nice wallet or purse. Available in a variety of colors and styles, the MagnetFlipper takes its name from a magnetic closure mechanism that allows you to open or close the case with just one hand. Use the removable belt clip to stow the iPhone on your belt for quick access, or forgo it for a slimmer profile.

\$52; Sena Cases (www.senacases.com)



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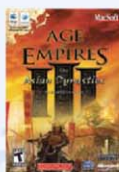
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GEAR FOR YOUR IPHONE } Continued

BUZZ OFF

Thanks to its 30-pin dock-connector port, the iPhone works with many iPod-compatible speaker systems. In most cases, though, the phone will prompt you to switch it into Airplane mode, which means you can play music, but you won't know if somebody calls you. Another trade-off—unless you're on a solid 3G connection—is that the loud buzzes and clicks of GSM interference will periodically interrupt your music. The **NX-PN7** is specially shielded to prevent that from happening and is certified to work with the iPhone. Even better, if you have a pair of iPhones (or an extra iPod), you can charge both simultaneously; there's even a built-in AM/FM radio for when you need a break from your own tunes. **\$150; JVC** (av.jvc.com)



Come Fly with Me

Flight-sim enthusiasts are no longer chained to their computers: Laminar Research has ported its popular **X-Plane** sim to the iPhone. The iPhone app allows you to fly four different plane models, and Laminar says that the physics are almost as good as those of the desktop version. Best of all, you use the iPhone's accelerometer to control X-Plane. **\$10; Laminar Research** (macworld.com/3892)



All-In-One Handle/Stand

The **FIN** tilts your MacBook Pro or MacBook at the perfect ergonomic angle for both typing and viewing. It also serves as a convenient handle that not only makes carrying easier, but much safer by providing an area for a firm grip, thereby helping prevent drops that can severely damage or altogether destroy your Mac.



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We Got the Beat

With everything the iPhone does, you can easily forget it's a music player, too. To truly enjoy your tunes, though, you need something nicer than Apple's stock earbuds. At \$350, Monster's **Beats by Dr. Dre** headphones aren't cheap, but they're designed specifically for the iPhone, incorporating a built-in microphone and a remote like the one on the iPhone's own earbuds. With extra large drivers and powered ambient-noise reduction, they provide good sound, too.

\$350; **Monster** (www.beatsbydre.com)

GO PAPERLESS

Ever load a long Web article and then realize you didn't have time to read the whole thing? Wouldn't it be nice if you could take it with you and finish it later? That's the idea behind **Instapaper**. Add its bookmarklet to your desktop browser and install the **iPhone application**. When you want to save an article, click on the bookmarklet to sync the article to Instapaper's online service. Next time you load Instapaper on your iPhone, your article will be there waiting for you. It'll even be downloaded to the phone, so you can check it out when you're offline. (A free version strips out some features such as adjustable font sizes and the ability to save your position in an article.)

\$10; **Marco Arment** (macworld.com/3893)



Top Point-and-Shoot Cameras

Canon's \$250 **PowerShot A2000IS** (macworld.com/4046) camera has an easy-to-use interface, offers optical image stabilization, and produces high-quality images.

The \$250 **Pentax Optio A40** (macworld.com/3902) is also a great option, with an attractive design and a 12-megapixel sensor.



THE iF
RECOMMENDS

Bowers & Wilkins

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For more information visit: www.bowers-wilkins.com/zeppelin

B&W makes the world's most advanced home theater, Hi-Fi and iPod® speakers, used by music lovers everywhere. iPod® is a registered trademark of Apple Inc. All rights reserved.

GEAR FOR THE MOBILE

➔ Getting up and going can be complex in the digital age. When you hit the road, you're usually accompanied by a multitude of devices that demand your care and attention. But don't fret—we've got you covered with mobile gear that will keep you connected, organized, and powered up.—DAN FRAKES



REUSABLE BAG

Keen's **Alameda 15** is a stylish messenger-like bag with the standard fixings: an internal pocket for 15-inch laptops, external and internal document pockets, two water-bottle pouches, a mobile-phone pouch, and a number of smaller compartments for miscellaneous items. But two things make the Alameda unique: First, while it's not as protective as some other bags, it's surprisingly lightweight (just 2.5 pounds) and flexible. Second, it's designed with the environment in mind. The durable base is made of excess rubber from the company's shoe business. The laptop sleeve is made of recycled polyester and recycled and reclaimed foam. And the zipper pulls and the strap's cam buckle are made of aluminum recycled from old shoe molds.

\$100; Keen (www.keenfootwear.com)

Pack Some Power

Frequent travelers know there are never enough places to plug in your laptop, your phone, and your other electronic gadgets at hotels or airports. With three 3-prong outlets and two USB power ports, the **Portable Power Outlet** lets you turn a single outlet into a slew of surge-protected charging options. The unit has a 15-inch cable with a flat wall plug, and it's relatively flat itself, so it fits easily into your bag.

\$25; Kensington (us.kensington.com)



STOWAWAY STORAGE

Backing up isn't just for the home or office; it's just as important—perhaps even *more* so—when you're mobile. Other World Computing's **500GB Mercury On-The-Go Pro FireWire/USB hard drive** is capacious enough to back up even the largest laptop drives. Thanks to FireWire 800 and USB 2.0 interfaces, connectivity and bootability are guaranteed. Because it uses a low-power, 9.5mm SATA drive, it should work without a power supply on most computers—even via USB.

\$250; Other World Computing (www.macsales.com)

Sound Investment

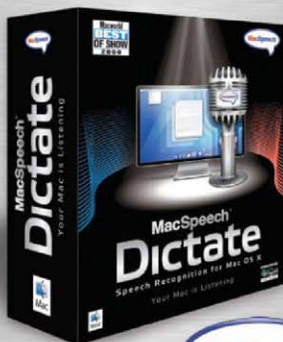
These days, anyone can record podcasts and video voice-overs. But even multimedia amateurs need a decent microphone. MXL's **Studio 1 USB Desktop Recording Kit** is an appealing starter kit that includes a good-quality USB condenser mic with a built-in low-latency headphone jack for monitoring. Just plug the microphone into your Mac's USB port, and you can start recording immediately, using your favorite audio application. The kit also includes a small collapsible tripod, a universal stand adapter, and a hard-shell carrying case for mobile recording.

\$100; Marshall Electronics (www.mxl-usb.com)



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The books that should have been in the box

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GEAR FOR THE MOBILE } Continued

The Photographer's Friend

Having the right gear on hand can make a big difference in catching and processing the perfect shot.

The challenge? Carrying it all. Tenba's **Small Shootout Backpack** is a surprisingly compact pack with an impressive amount of room. The camera area can hold two SLRs, five to seven lenses, and a flash. A separate, reinforced laptop compartment fits a MacBook (or any other 13-inch laptop). Clever side openings provide quick access to lenses without requiring that you take off the backpack. Weather-sealed zippers and a stowaway rain cover keep your gear dry, hiking-pack-grade shoulder and waist straps keep you comfortable.

\$184; Tenba (www.tenba.com)



THE SUN KING

Even when your on-the-go activities take you off the grid, your gadgets still need juice. Solio's **Hybrid 1000** solar battery and charger combines a solar panel and a lithium-ion battery in a thin, lightweight, and rugged enclosure. The Hybrid can recharge a mobile phone or add ten hours of playback to an iPod or another portable media player. The Hybrid 1000 charges via sunlight or (on darker days and at night) via USB or an optional AC adapter. (Need a quick burst of power? One hour of sunshine can give you 14 minutes of phone talk time.) A built-in carabiner clip lets you attach the Hybrid 1000 to the outside of your pack so it can charge while you trek. **\$80; Solio (www.solio.com)**

iLugger.com/Macworld

Carrying case for 17, 20, and 24 inch iMac in assorted colors.



Recharged, Rested, and Ready

Got a perfectly functional older Mac laptop sitting on the shelf because its battery dies minutes after you open the lid? Consider buying a new battery. FastMac offers **TruePower batteries**, battery replacements for notebooks as far back as the original iBook and the Pismo PowerBook, all the way up to the latest MacBooks and MacBook Pros. And each battery gives you more run-time than the laptop's original. \$70 to \$110; FastMac (fastmac.com)



FAMILIAL BAGGAGE

Incorporating 2520D ballistic nylon, heavy-duty zippers, and soft twill lining over a thin layer of padding, Briggs & Riley's **Family Backpack** combines executive style with parent-practical design. A large main area holds clothes, books, and toys; a padded pouch fits a portable DVD player or game system; and countless smaller pockets let you store diapers, bottles, and other supplies. A removable lunch bag sits atop the main compartment for easy access. Thick shoulder straps and mesh-covered back padding make it easy to carry; you can also mount it on the telescoping handle of a rolling case.



\$199; Briggs & Riley (www.briggs-riley.com)

THE #1
RECOMMENDS



Top Ink-Jet Photo Printers

Epson's \$269 **Stylus Photo 1400** (★★★★; macworld.com/2924) prints photos that are rich in both color and detail, yet it's surprisingly well priced. If you prefer a portable, Epson's \$200 **PictureMate Zoom PM 290** (★★★★; macworld.com/3102) is the speediest and best overall portable photo printer on the market.

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GEAR FOR YOUR DESKTOP

➔ A Mac on your desk gives you a pretty powerful workstation—but also a pretty barren one. These products can help spruce up your workspace while also helping you get more creative, store more data, and finish more work.—ROMAN LOYOLA



Power Mogul

Surge protectors may lack the glamour of, say, Apple's latest iPhone release. But the **Conserve Energy Saving 8-Outlet Surge Protector** isn't any old power strip. This one has a wireless remote you can mount on the wall. Flip the switch, and it turns the Conserve off, thus turning off the devices connected to it—that means you're not wasting any electricity, and that saves you money. **\$50; Belkin (www.belkin.com)**

FACE TIME

Apple's built-in iSight sure is nice—if you have one. But if you use a Mac mini, a Mac Pro, or many older Macs, you need a Web cam to partake in video iChat sessions. Let the **QuickCam Vision Pro** be your eyes. The iChat-compatible camera has a built-in microphone, is capable of high-definition 720p video, and uses Logitech's RightLight2 technology to help in low-light situations. In fact, you might find that the QuickCam is a better performer than the iSight. You can also use the QuickCam with Photo Booth, Skype, Yahoo IM, and AIM. **\$130; Logitech (www.logitech.com)**



THE LAB RECOMMENDS



Top Color Laser Printer

The \$600 **C6150dn**, from Oki Data (★★★★; macworld.com/3899), produces great-looking prints and includes built-in duplexing. It also offers easy network connectivity and quick printing speeds. It's particularly ideal for printing top-quality brochures and handouts with photo elements.

Top DVD Burner

LaCie's \$99 **LaCie Portable DVD+/-RW with LightScribe** (★★★★; macworld.com/3878) is a small, speedy DVD burner that draws its power from a USB port.



THE LAB RECOMMENDS

Let a Tablet Be Your Canvas

It's a lot easier to select pixels, make edits, and draw with a tablet input device than with a mouse. The **Bamboo Fun** allows the budding digital artist or photo editor in your life to focus on the artistry at hand. The Bamboo Fun has four Express Keys that can be customized for user-defined shortcuts, and a Touch Ring for zooming the screen in or out. Pick from four colors: black, white, silver, and blue.

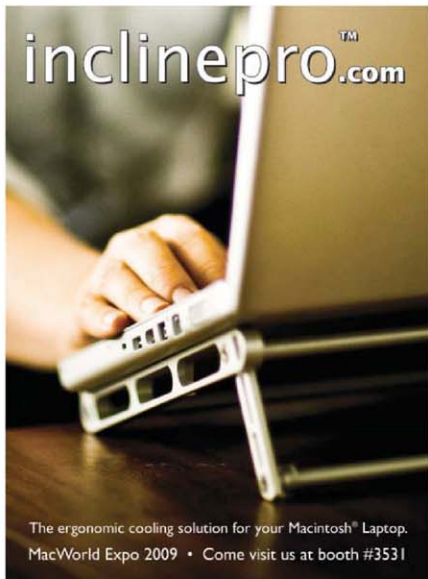
\$99; Wacom (www.wacom.com)





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GEAR FOR YOUR DESKTOP } Continued

BAMBOO BOOM

SimpleTech's **re-drive** is eco-friendlier than your typical storage device. The sturdy enclosure is made of bamboo and recyclable aluminum. Don't pooh-poo bamboo: It's tough enough to be used as flooring. The aluminum acts as a heat sink to keep the drive mechanism inside cool. And the low-powered drive conserves energy. \$160; SimpleTech (simpletech.com)



Mirror Image

Behold the two faces of the Jobo **Mirage L**. This \$359 15-inch digital photo frame turns into a mirror when it's not displaying a picture. When it is displaying one, it does so at 1,024 by 768 resolution, and it's bright enough to see your pics from across a room. You just insert a memory card full of JPEGs from your digital camera; the Mirage L plays them as a slide show. The Mirage L also has a calendar and clock, in case you want to display something more practical. \$359; Jobo (www.jobo.com)

THE LAB
RECOMMENDS



Top Hard Drives

Western Digital's **My Book Studio Edition** (★★★★); macworld.com/3295) combines features, performance, and, at \$207, a low price. If you want something portable, G-Technology's **\$349 G-Drive mini** (★★★★); macworld.com/3949) is one of the fastest portables we've tested. This 7,200-rpm drive supports FireWire 800, FireWire 400, and USB 2.0.

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GEAR FOR YOUR DESKTOP } Continued

THE ART OF BUSINESS

Epson's multifunction **Artisan 800** cleverly combines commerce with creativity. Its color copier and fax machine (with automatic document feeder) take care of business, while the high-resolution scanner and six-color ink-jet printer produce high-quality prints.

\$300; Epson (www.epson.com)



Storage Goes Condo

Geeks worth their NaCl probably have a few old hard-drives sitting around. With the **Drobo with FireWire 800**, those drives can be put back to work. Insert up to four Serial ATA drives, and the Drobo does the rest, combining the drives into one large storage space. If a drive fails, simply yank the bad one out and slip in a replacement drive of any capacity.

\$499; Data Robotics (www.drobo.com)



Top Multifunction Printer

Canon's \$170 **Pixma MX850** (★★★★); macworld.com/3593 prints crisp, legible text comparable in quality to laser output. It also adds speedy performance and duplex printing.



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Your Life in a Comic (Mac + PC)
Comic Life lets you create astounding comics, beautiful picture albums, storyboards... and more.
"An amazingly clever app."
Dan Frakes, Macworld



Comic Touch

Add a Touch of Humor to Your Life (iPhone + iPod touch)
Bring the fun of Comic Life with you when heading out!
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Kelly Turner, Macworld



Doozla

Play to Learn
Doozla is the easy-to-use drawing application for children.
"There are plenty of painting and drawing programs for Mac kids, but plasq's Doozla is one of the best I've ever seen."
Dan Miller, Macworld



Visit plasq.com/macworld and use coupon "PLMW08" for your 20% discount!

* Discount not available for Comic Touch

CARRY THAT WEIGHT

The box that the iMac comes in wasn't meant for everyday use—it is cardboard, after all. If you need to lug an iMac around on a regular basis, it pays to have a case like the iLugger iMac Carrying Case.

Available for the 17-, 20-, and 24-inch Intel- or G5-based iMacs, the iLugger is made of heavy-duty nylon, sports a foam lining, and uses a plastic insert between the nylon and foam to protect your computer. The iLugger even has backpack straps, so you can sling the case across your back and hit the road without slowing down your stride.

\$120 to \$210; iLugger (www.ilugger.com)



A FISTFUL OF GIFT CARDS

For anyone who has a picky friend or loved one—or who is a picky friend or loved one—gift cards can be a godsend. But they lack a little pizzazz in the presentation. So what's an aesthetically conscious gift-giver to do when handing over an iTunes gift card?

You could hold out hope that Apple will begin offering gift packaging to go with its slabs of plastic—some companies have started doing precisely that. For now, though, you're on your own. Artist Kylie Ivany (kylize.etsy.com), who has crafted custom gift-card packaging in the past, has a few suggestions:

"One of my favorite ways to give gift cards is to get a wire photo holder," Ivany says. These little sculptures can be found online by searching for *wire photo holder* at Etsy (www.etsy.com) or at your local stationery shop. Ivany suggests that one way to vary the presentation is to buy several gift cards in smaller denominations and fan them out in a photo holder.

Another tactic is to personalize the gift card by adding on a second, inexpensive gift. "For music gift cards, I'll sometimes make a CD with a theme or songs that are meaningful to me and the recipient, and design a cover to go along with the card." If you have a lot of gift-giving to do, consider buying a kit from Jewelboxing (www.jewelboxing.com)—you'll get 30 CD boxes, as well as formatted paper inserts you can print photos or designs on. —LISA SCHMEISER



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Christopher Breen, Dan Frakes, and Roman Loyola are senior editors and Dan Moren is an associate editor for Macworld.

Real GENIUS

In the seven years since its introduction, the iPod and iTunes have evolved to meet the media demands of their users. In its recent updates, Apple redesigned the iPod nano, pared down the iPod classic to a single 120GB model, and made changes to the iPod touch inside and out. And iTunes, as well as all of the display-equipped iPods, now feature Genius, a brilliant new function that helps you discover new music. We've put all the new iPods and the latest version of iTunes to the test to help you make the right decision this holiday season.

Photography by
PETER BELANGER



We review the latest iPod Nano, iPod Touch, and iTunes 8



BY CHRISTOPHER BREEN, DAN FRAKES, AND SCOTT MCNULTY

4G iPod NANO

BY DAN FRAKES

The latest iPod nano isn't a dramatic upgrade from the previous model, but it offers some unique new features, more storage for the same price, and a new design—albeit one that looks quite familiar. In the process, the nano has officially surpassed the iPod classic as Apple's flagship iPod.



Thin Is (Back) In

At just 1.5 inches wide, 0.2 inch thick, and 3.6 inches tall, the new nano is almost identical in size to the second-generation (2G) nano. However, it feels even thinner than you might expect: made of a single piece of anodized aluminum, it's curved in front and back; the resulting oval shape tapers to fractionally thin edges (which feel a little sharp).

The 4G nano's vertical screen, now made of glass, is identical in size and resolution to that of its predecessor, at 2 inches (diagonal), 320 by 240 pixels, and 204 pixels per inch; it has simply been rotated 90 degrees. The only parts

of the screen that curve significantly are the left and right edges; the rest of it is relatively flat, to reduce glare. What is bigger on the 4G, just slightly, is the Click Wheel—I found myself better able to scroll without my finger accidentally slipping off the ring. The vertical screen forced Apple to make changes to the software interface, and the nano is the better for it. The Preview panel is now considerably smaller and is located at the bottom of the screen, providing more

room for menu text. Apple has also cleaned up the menus themselves by moving playback-related settings to a new Playback menu and many miscellaneous settings to a new General menu.

The New Landscape

This nano plays all video sideways; a new accelerometer lets you determine the orientation of video playback—whether the Click Wheel is to the left or right of the screen—by simply rotating the nano. Video quality is comparable to that of the previous model, although the screen in our test unit was a bit yellower.

Recent iPod nano games—such as the three included titles, Klondike, Vortex, and Maze—also take advantage of the accelerometer. In Maze, you tilt the iPod to guide a ball through a maze; and Apple has added a portrait mode to Vortex—the view changes according to the nano's orientation.

The new nano can also play—in landscape mode only—any games that are compatible with the 3G model. However, since the Click Wheel itself doesn't rotate in landscape mode, when launching older games, the screen displays an image of a Click Wheel rotated 90 degrees and a message about the “new button layout for this game.”

Playback Fun

Another unique use of the accelerometer is the shake-to-shuffle feature: while you're listening to music, giving the iPod

nano a vigorous shake switches the device to shuffle mode and skips you to a random track. Unfortunately, you can't use this feature to skip around within the current playlist, artist, or album listing; it always switches to shuffle mode. Thankfully, the feature requires a forceful shake, and is disabled whenever the hold switch is enabled. You can also disable it completely in the Settings menu.

The new nano includes Genius (see “The Genius of Genius”). This creates a 25-track playlist of similar songs contained on your iPod. You can save that playlist to your iPod, or refresh it to get a new list. (Whether or not the refreshed playlist contains different tracks depends on the contents of your iPod.)

iPod NANO



PROS: More features than the iPod classic; Genius feature; battery life exceeds Apple's estimates; improved interface with optional Preview panel; audio cross-fade; new voice-recording functionality; slightly larger Click Wheel than on previous nano.

CONS: New shape has some drawbacks, including sharp top edges and (especially) corners; odd landscape-mode controls; doesn't charge from some older accessories; spoken-menus feature has some quirks; same video-out restrictions as previous model.

PRICE: 8GB, \$149; 16GB, \$199

COMPANY: Apple, www.apple.com

FULL REVIEW: macworld.com/3928

Lightweight The new nano is the lightest full-featured iPod ever at 1.3 ounces.

Speaking Your iPod's Mind

The impressive new spoken-menus feature reads the iPod's menus aloud as you browse them. Designed to increase accessibility for people with vision problems, the feature could also help to avert traffic accidents caused by drivers who insist on navigating their iPod's menus while speeding down the highway.

Using the voice you've chosen in OS X's System Preferences, iTunes generates audio files for menu names and for the browsable metadata of your iPod's contents: track names, playlists, artists, and so on. iTunes then syncs these audio files to the iPod. It took iTunes approximately 6 minutes and 30 seconds to create and sync 96MB of sound files for a nano with 1,438 songs.

The spoken-menus feature works surprisingly well for alphabetically sorted lists; I was able to easily browse to a particular playlist, artist, or song. It's less effective for long playlists that aren't sorted alphabetically. Also, it pronounces some words better than others, and because of the slight delay between selecting an item and hearing it spoken aloud, it's easy to overshoot the item you're trying to find.

Audio Notes

The new nano adds the ability to record lower-quality mono voice notes using Apple's \$29 Earphones with Remote and Mic (macworld.com/4037) or any iPhone-compatible, mic-equipped headset. (These headphones and headsets also provide basic playback

control, and the Apple model adds volume control.)

Apple has also improved audio quality: gone is the slight background hiss you could hear with higher-end headphones on the 3G nano. A new audio cross-fade feature seamlessly fades the end of the current track into the beginning of the next, and you can (finally) browse the album or artist of the currently playing track, even in shuffle mode.

Underpromise, Overdeliver

Apple claims that the 4G nano offers 24 hours of audio or 4 hours of video playback per charge; both estimates proved to be conservative. In our standard audio test, the nano lasted 32 hours and 34 minutes; it played for 27 hours and 55 minutes with the new audio cross-fade feature enabled. (In both tests, we enabled the new Energy Saver feature, which turns off the LCD completely when it's not in use.)

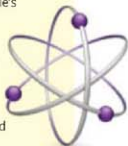
Our video test result was just over 5 hours and 3 minutes. Playing games consumes power at about the same rate as watching video.

Macworld's Buying Advice

If you already have a 3G nano, the 4G model's new features may not convince you to upgrade. But if it's your first nano, or an upgrade from a 1G or 2G model, you can't go wrong. The nano now has features that aren't on the latest iPod classic, meaning that the iPod nano has, for the first time, surpassed that line in functionality.

The Genius of GENIUS

The most highly touted new iPod and iTunes feature is Genius, Apple's playlist-creation and music-recommendation system. Genius comes in two guises, the Genius playlist and the Genius sidebar.



With the Genius playlist feature, you select a song, and Genius analyzes your music library based on that selection and creates a playlist. If the Genius playlist originated on your iPod, it will transfer the playlist over to iTunes at the next sync. The Genius playlist is a great way to rediscover music hidden in the depths of your iTunes library, and it groups songs in unexpected but pleasing ways. Since this initial version of Genius appears to derive a lot of data from your iTunes Store purchases, songs by artists not in Apple's online store can also flummox it. As the feature gets more data from more users, issues like these should become moot—at least in theory.

The Genius sidebar returns recommendations from the iTunes Store based on the currently playing song. These include songs and albums that might interest you, as well as songs iTunes believes are missing from your library. The Genius sidebar has a propensity to recommend songs and albums you already own, though, and it has trouble with more-obscure titles.



2G iPod TOUCH

BY CHRISTOPHER BREEN

Attempting to describe the second-generation iPod touch succinctly, Apple simply declares it—to the chagrin of English teachers everywhere—"the funnest iPod ever." The new iPod touch (\$229 to \$399) could be considered an incremental improvement upon the original wide-screen device. But is it really the "funnest"?



A Step Up

The original iPod touch lacked hardware volume controls—an unfortunate omission, because people routinely put iPods in their pockets, and it's a bother to pull it out simply to adjust the volume. The new iPod touch has a volume rocker switch, similar to the one found on the iPhone, on the left side. It works exactly as it does on an iPhone: press the top of the switch, and the volume increases; press the bottom, and the volume goes down. The iPod touch's interface in general remains impossible to navigate when tucked in a pocket, but the addition of this handy switch is welcome.

An integrated speaker is another welcome new feature, though what you get is hardly hi-fi—in fact, it's less so than even the iPhone's speaker. Apple describes this speaker as intended for "casual listening" and "short-form content"—such as previewing iTunes Store songs, YouTube videos, short podcasts, and games. And it's a reasonable option for all four purposes (though if you plan to spend a fair amount of time with a game that features rich music and sound effects, you'll want to jack in a set of headphones to get the most out of the experience). It's not, however, a great speaker for TV shows, movies, or music. Its sound is very bright, tinny, and not terribly loud. If you were hoping to regain the use of your iPhone on long car trips because your kid in the back seat usually commandeers it to watch *Ratatouille*, forget it. The 2G iPod touch's speaker just won't cut it.

Yellow Screen

When you compare the new iPod touch to the original model or to an iPhone, you'll find its screen somewhat warmer (that is, yellower) in cast. With the iPhone 3G, Apple moved to this warmer display tone because the company felt it provided the best look for all the content the device was capable of playing, including photos and video. If you view it side by side with these other devices, the 2G iPod

touch's display can look a tad dingy, but view it on its own and it looks just fine.

Software and Interface

The 2G iPod touch comes with the iPhone 2.1 software, which brings some improvements and changes to the iPod. The primary enhancement is the addition of the Genius feature (see "The Genius of Genius"). People with large music libraries who take advantage of Genius will rediscover tracks they forgot they owned.

The iPod touch's 2.1 software has addressed some of version 2.0's worst failings, including slow syncing and backups, as well as interminable waits while applications install and update over Wi-Fi. Backups that once took hours now take seconds or a few minutes. I was able to update a copy of Twitterrific on the 2G iPod touch in just 20 seconds. On a first-generation iPod touch running version 2.0.2, it took more than five minutes.

Additionally, the 2.1 version brings some minor interface enhancements. When you create an alarm in the Clock application, for example, you can now choose any of the alert sounds that the iPhone offers as ringtones. You can't add custom sounds, however.

On an iPod touch running the 2.1 software, the icons and text in the Podcasts screen are larger than they were in previous versions. This is helpful when you need to identify a podcast by its icon;

iPod TOUCH



PROS: Handy hardware volume controls; greater capacity for about the same price as original model; Genius playlist support; Improved OS; podcast episodes play one after another; built-in Nike + iPod receiver; great audio play time.

CONS: Internal speaker is tinny; screen looks a little dingy; video play time not up to Apple's estimates; doesn't charge from older accessories; video out requires expensive cable.

PRICE: 8GB, \$229; 16GB, \$299; 32GB, \$399

OS X COMPATIBILITY: 10.4 (Tiger), 10.5 (Leopard)

COMPANY: Apple, www.apple.com

FULL REVIEW: macworld.com/3929



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"The design and feature suite for WTS seem to say 'Give me a chance to make it easier to get this right,' and that's a big plus in any field of endeavor -- it's a shame they don't make marriage counseling software."

— Michael Rose, The Unofficial Apple Weblog (TUAW)

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— Kirk Hiner, Applelinks.com

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but because the text is so large, the label gets cut off after 16 or 17 characters.

When you tap on a podcast, the list of episodes provides more information than it used to. You now see the name of the podcast and the episode title, length, and date. A blue dot marks episodes you haven't listened to; if you listened to part of an episode, you'll see a half dot, and the remaining time will appear below the episode title. Any podcasts you've played to the end appear without a dot. (Videos display similar indicators.) The iPod also provides more song information. When you view songs in the iPod's Music area, you now see not only track titles but also the name of the album and artist.

Podcasts play differently than they formerly did. When you play an episode of a podcast on an iPod classic or a 3G or 4G iPod nano, the podcast plays to the end, and then the next episode in the list (if one exists) starts to play. On an iPhone or iPod touch running versions prior to 2.1, a podcast episode would play, and then you would return to the list of episodes. The iPhone and iPod touch now behave like the iPod classic and new nano, moving directly from one episode to the next. Given how many people listen to podcasts while driving, this is not only convenient, but it also makes for safer driving.

Performance and Play Time

I tested the iPod touch with a variety of low- and high-end headphones and speakers—both attached to the headphone port and from the audio port on an Apple Dock—and was happy with what I heard. The audio coming from each port is solid and clean. As usual, you'll appreciate that audio better with a set of headphones (or a speaker system) that's superior to what comes bundled with the iPod.

Though hardly surprising, it's unfortunate that video output works only with Apple's \$49 audio cables and those accessories that use Apple's proprietary

authorization chip. Similarly, users with older iPod accessories that charge iPods via a FireWire connection will be disappointed that their old equipment won't charge a 2G iPod touch. Like the iPhone 3G, the 2G iPod touch is USB only.

I was pleased that Apple thought to provide built-in support for the Nike + iPod Sport Kit (\$29; www.apple.com/ipod/nike). While the iPod touch may be a little bulky for some exercise enthusiasts, it's nice that you don't have to add extra bulk in the form of a receiver dongle.

And I was frankly tickled with the 2G iPod touch's audio play time. Apple suggests that it can play audio continuously for 36 hours. In a test where I turned off Wi-Fi and asked the iPod to play a list of more than 1,400 MP3 and AAC-encoded tracks (each between 3 and 6 minutes in length), it played for 41 hours and 12 minutes before its battery ran out of power. Regrettably, the 2G iPod touch didn't quite live up to Apple's claim of 6 hours of continuous video playback. With brightness and volume set at the middle marks, I played *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl* over and over until the battery died. It fell just short of the 6-hour mark, pooping out after 5 hours and 34 minutes.

Macworld's Buying Advice

Is the 2G iPod touch the funnest iPod ever? Yes, if your notion of fun is an

FIREWIRE Falls out of Favor

If you have older iPod accessories that charge iPods using the power pins for a FireWire connection, take note: the 2G iPod classic is the only current iPod that charges with a FireWire connection. Such accessories won't charge a 2G iPod touch, a 4G iPod nano, or even an iPhone. These devices charge and sync over USB only.

updated iPod touch with integrated hardware volume controls, a built-in (albeit low-fi) speaker, a curvier case, a warmer color cast, more capacity for the same price, and better battery life. The 2G also has all the things that make the iPod touch such a desirable portable entertainment device in the first place (including the App Store's oodles of programs and games). Put it all together, and it justifies Apple's tortured use of our mother tongue.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF APPLE



No, it's a



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iTunes 8

With the last few major updates to iTunes, it seemed that all that *could* be done to Apple's media manager and player already had been done. But as it turns out, Apple still had some tricks up its sleeve, and iTunes 8 pulls them out. The latest version brings the sense of discovery to listening to music on your Mac.

BY SCOTT MCNULTY



New Grid View

The first thing you'll notice when launching iTunes 8 is a progress bar churning through your iTunes library. This creates album art for the new default view of iTunes—grid view. Very similar to the events view in iPhoto '08, grid view displays your iTunes library as a grid composed of album art. You start playing an album or video by clicking on the album art. Double-clicking on an album takes you to a more traditional list view, with the addition of artwork in the first column. To change the view that iTunes defaults to when you launch the program, simply change to your desired view before you quit iTunes.

If you make sure that all your albums have cover art, and all the genres are

applied correctly in your media's metadata, then grid view is going to be your new best friend. But if your media is missing album art or genre data, grid view ends up looking sloppy. Nowhere is this more evident than in the grid view sorted by genres. Apple has provided tastefully designed cover art for genres found in the iTunes Store. In this view, which works much like events in iPhoto and footage in iMovie, you can scrub through the albums in each group by dragging the cursor across the artwork. The problem arises when you have music that you didn't purchase from iTunes. A surprising number of name variants for genres crops up, leaving you to either edit the metadata for a cleaner, more organized experience or just live with a sloppy iTunes library.

That said, HD shows look much better than their standard definition counterparts.

Sadly, you can't watch the HD files with your iPod or iPhone, but the \$2.99 includes both the HD and standard definition versions of the episode. Be careful, though, because file sizes can add up quickly. For example, an HD episode of *Battlestar Galactica* took up nearly 2GB of disk space.

Podcast Settings

Prior to version 8, iTunes dealt with podcasts as a large blob; settings applied to all the podcasts to which you subscribed, so, for example, you couldn't retain episodes of *PodRunner* longer than you could episodes of the *Macworld* podcast. With iTunes 8, you can now customize download frequency and retention settings for

HDTV Shows

High definition TV shows from a limited number of networks have been added to the iTunes Store at \$2.99 a pop. The shows look very good at their native resolution of 1,280 by 720, which translates to 720p; when viewed on a larger television or computer screen, though, the picture does look a little soft.

iTunes 8



PROS: Genius playlists are surprisingly good and should just get better; totally trippy new visualizers are sure to be a hit in dorm rooms.

CONS: Genius sidebar tends to recommend music you already own; no easy way to disable iTunes Store links in library.

PRICE: free

OS X COMPATIBILITY: 10.4 (Tiger), 10.5 (Leopard)

PROCESSOR COMPATIBILITY: Universal

COMPANY: Apple, www.apple.com

FULL REVIEW: macworld.com/3886



The New Grid View Think of grid view as a flattened Cover Flow, the same eye candy with about the same amount of practical use—that is, very little.

Mac Security Expertise Has a Name



Intego's Mac Security Solutions	
NetBarrier XS	Firewall, antiviral and privacy protection
VirusBarrier XS	Desktop antivirus protection
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Remote Management Console	Remote management of Intego software
Personal Backup XS	Local and network backup solution
FileGuard XS	Protection for sensitive files
Personal Antispam XS	Antispam and anti-phishing protection
ContentBarrier	Lets children use the Internet safely

Intego is the Mac Security Specialist

Intego has a full line of Mac security software designed to protect Macs from the dangers of the Internet. From virus protection to firewalls, from backups to data protection, Intego is the only company specializing in keeping Macs secure. With products designed for the enterprise, only Intego can offer the kind of security that today's businesses need.



each individual podcast, in addition to setting a global default.

Vivid Visualizers and More

The new visualizers are stunning and blow previous iterations out of the water in terms of quality and wow factor. They played back smoothly on a 2.6GHz Core Duo MacBook Pro with 2GB of RAM.

Clearly, Apple is hoping that with the release of iTunes 8, you'll find even fewer reasons to venture outside the iTunes and iPod ecosystem for your music and video needs. The only misstep in this version is the removal of the preference to disable the iTunes Store arrows in your library. While you can use a Terminal command to disable them, Apple should make it easy for a user to banish this little piece of visual clutter (see "Set Missing iTunes 8 Preferences," *Mac OS X Hints*, page n8).

Macworld's Buying Advice

iTunes 8 is worth the upgrade for Genius alone. The refined podcast settings and new visualizers are also welcome. Grid view



Visual Feast iTunes 8's Visualizer is a vast and dazzling improvement over the previous version.

looks pretty if your library has complete information, but it isn't the most practical way of browsing, especially in an age when the single is outselling the album. ☒

Christopher Green and Dan Frakes are *Macworld* senior editors. **Scott McNulty** is a senior contributor at *MacUser.com*.

The iPod CLASSIC Stands Alone

Now only one model of the iPod classic is available: a 120GB version, for \$249. It has the Genius playlist feature (see "The Genius of Genius"). And it has a few new interface changes, with a revamped Add To On-The-Go command, and new Browse Album and Browse Artist commands.

The iPod classic also offers an impressive continuous audio playback time of 42 hours and 17 minutes, surpassing Apple's rating of 36 hours. Video playback also exceeded Apple's 6-hour estimate; I set brightness and volume to their midpoints and repeatedly played *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl* until the battery died 7 hours and 28 minutes later.

Apple has made a couple of minor tweaks to the iPod classic. First, the Click Wheel has a rougher surface than the previous classic's, affording better

traction. The display is also a bit brighter and a bit cooler (bluer) in tone (as compared with the 2G iPod touch, which has warmer hues than its predecessors).

Unfortunately, the iPod classic doesn't have the standout new features found in the iPod nano. You can't shake it to shuffle tracks (but given that its music is stored on a spinning hard drive, that's just as well). Because it has no accelerometer, you can't turn it sideways with the expectation that the display will change orientation. The iPod classic doesn't offer spoken menus, nor does it have an Energy Saver feature.

artists quickly based on the currently playing track, but those enhancements will convince very few people to trade in their old reliable (and perhaps higher-capacity) iPod classic for this year's model.—*CG*

2G iPod CLASSIC



PROS: Lots of storage; impressive battery performance; Genius feature; slightly cooler display colors; charges via both FireWire and USB connections.

CONS: Doesn't include some of the cool new iPod nano's features; people with large media libraries may mourn the demise of the 160GB classic.

PRICE: \$249

OS X COMPATIBILITY: 10.4 (Tiger), 10.5 (Leopard)

COMPANY: Apple, www.apple.com

FULL REVIEW: macworld.com/g927

Macworld's Buying Advice

The iPod classic remains the iPod to own if you want to carry a lot of media with you. The Genius feature is a nice addition, as is the ability to browse albums and



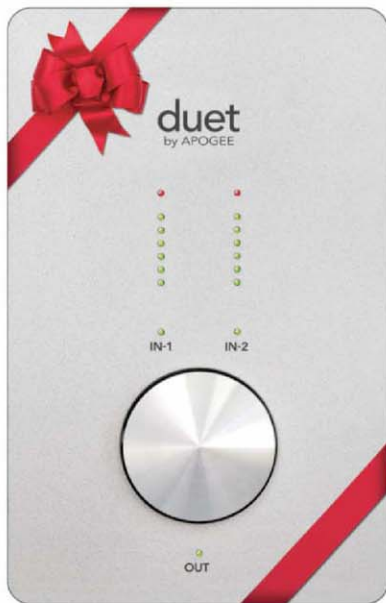
Wish list.

Tony Berg

"Imagine traveling to Japan to record professional quality performances of the Yoshida Brothers, the world's great masters of the shamisen using only Duet, GarageBand a MacBook Pro and a pair of Neumann U87s. Now imagine that you're not imagining that."

Recent Projects:

Simon Dawes, Jakob Dylan, Pete Yorn, Bruce Hornsby, Phantom Planet



Spike Stent

"Duet sounds as gorgeous as it looks!

It's the first truly portable interface which allows me to leave the confines of my studio without sacrificing quality. It's brilliant!"

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Give the Gift of Amazing Sound... Duet is a portable audio interface that lets you plug your guitar, bass, keyboard or microphone directly into your Mac and experience professional sound quality at an affordable price. With controls built into GarageBand, Logic Pro and Logic Express, Duet is the easiest way to make and listen to music on your Mac.



Sing



Play



Record



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...and be merry!



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OS X's Most Underused Shortcut

Services can help you work smarter, faster, and more efficiently **BY TED LANDAU**

As a Mac user, you're primed to look for time-savers that help you be more productive. But you may not be taking advantage of all that OS X has to offer. The Services menu is a case in point. This little known and even more rarely used feature deserves more attention than it gets. Services provide systemwide commands that allow you to quickly accomplish a variety of tasks, such as sending Mail messages lickety-split or making a new Stickies note from a selection. If you're not already using the Services menu, you'll soon discover how it can boost your productivity.

Locating Services

The Services menu resides in a program's application menu (in Safari, for instance, go to Safari: Services). When you visit the Services menu, you'll find both stand-alone commands (such as Spotlight or Search With Google) and the names of certain programs, each with its own submenu of actions.

All Apple software works with services. So do many third-party programs, such as The Omni Group's \$80 OmniFocus (◆◆◆); macworld.com/3448) and Bare Bones Software's \$125 BBEEdit (◆◆◆◆); macworld.com/2414). Unfortunately, many major third-party programs shun services, including Microsoft Office (www.microsoft.com) and Adobe Creative Suite (www.adobe.com). Although these programs display the Services menu, they don't allow you to select any commands.



Putting Services to Work

OS X comes with a number of built-in services. There are also third-party ones worth checking out.

Using Apple's Services Want to quickly create a Post-it-style note? From almost any program that supports text (such as Apple's TextEdit, Safari, or Preview), highlight some words and select *Applicationname: Services: Make New Sticky Note*, or press **⌘-shift-Y**. This launches Stickies and creates a new note containing your selected text—all in one step! Perhaps you'd rather hear a text selection read to you. No problem. Highlight the desired passage and go to *Applicationname: Services: Speech: Start Speaking Text*. You'll be amazed at how realistic the voices in OS X 10.5 sound.

Programs such as Mail and Font Book also include their own sets of services. For instance, if while reading a document you encounter an e-mail address that's not hyperlinked and you want to send a message to that address, simply highlight the text and select *Applicationname: Services: Mail: Send To* (see "Send Text Lickety-Split"). Mail will automatically launch and create a new e-mail message with the selected address filled in as the recipient (no more cutting and pasting).

Suppose you have a document that uses a variety of fonts. To make it easier to access those fonts, create a new Font Book collection that contains them. Press **⌘-A** to select all the text in your document, and then choose *Applicationname: Services: Font Book: Create Collection From Text*. Done!

If you've installed Apple's Xcode developer software, you can access another useful service. (You'll find the Xcode tools in the Leopard Install DVD's Optional Installs folder. You can also download them from Apple at developer.apple.com.) Say you have two versions of a TextEdit document. To see the differences between them, select both documents in the Finder, and then go to *Finder: Services: FileMerge: Compare Files*. FileMerge will open and display the documents side by side, with arrows showing where the contents diverge.

Adding Third-Party Services Many third-party programs, such as the free Skype (www.skype.com) and NewsGator's free NetNewsWire 3.1 (◆◆◆◆; macworld.com)

.com/2799), automatically install items in the Services menu. You can also add third-party services yourself.

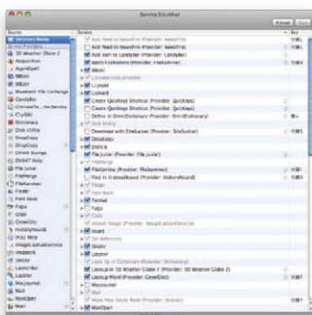
One of the most useful additions is Devon Technologies' free WordService 2.7 (macworld.com/2888), which adds commands such as Convert, Format, and Insert to your Services menu. Use these commands to turn straight quotes to smart quotes, convert text to all caps, strip line-ending characters from a paragraph of text, or add the current date and time to a document.

CalcService (www.devon-technologies.com), another freebie from Devon Technologies, lets you use a fairly sophisticated calculator inside your documents. Type in a formula (the left side of an equation), highlight it, and select *applicationname: Services: CalcService: Calculate & Append* to fill in the rest of the equation. If you select CalcService: Calculate & Replace, the answer will appear in place of the selected text. CalcService supports all basic math operations, as well as exponents, logs, and trig functions. You can even assign values to variables to solve an equation. Enter $x=5; y=7; z=2; (x+y)z$, for

example, and then select Calculate & Append to get your answer (24).

Another time-saver is Robert Stainsby's MappingService (macworld.com/3659; payment requested)—at press time, version 2.0 was a beta release. Say you're in Safari and you find the address of a restaurant you want to go to. Just highlight the address and select Safari: Services: MappingService; your browser will summon Google Maps and display the restaurant's location. You can also get directions between the restaurant and any location in your Address Book by selecting Directions instead of Map.

With Q.I. Software's free Calendar-Creator (www.supertart.com), you can quickly add new events or to-do items to Apple's iCal. To create an event, highlight any text that includes a date, and select *applicationname: Services: Calendar-Creator: Add Calendar Event*. To generate a to-do item, select any text with a date and choose CalendarCreator: Add To Do.



Get Your Services in Order Service Scrubber provides an easy way to reduce your Services menu clutter, but it's not completely supported by Leopard.

Customizing the Services Menu

Once you start using the Services menu, you may notice that it becomes cluttered with dozens of commands you never use. There are a few ways to clean things up.

Cleaning Up by Hand Apple doesn't provide a simple method for removing items from the Services menu, but there are a couple of ways to do so without installing third-party software. The first step is figuring out where the service you want to delete is stored.

Inside either the Library/Services folder or the *yourusername/Library/Services* folder, you'll find all the services you've installed yourself, as well as those installed by third-party programs. Dragging a service from either folder to the Trash deletes it from the Services menu. OS X also installs some items by default in the System/Library/Services folder—for instance, SpeechService.service, which adds Speech commands to the Services menu. I recommend leaving these items alone.

Services linked directly to a specific program appear in application packages. Eradicating such a service requires that you delete the item's listing in the program's Info.plist file.

As a precaution, back up any program you intend to modify to another drive. Then start by right-clicking on it in the Applications folder and choosing Show Package Contents from the contextual



Send Text Lickety-Split Need to e-mail text or files quickly? Select what you want and then use the Services menu to create a message in Apple's Mail.



Troubleshooting Your Services

There are several common problems related to services—and they usually have easy answers.

Grayed-Out Services Often you need to perform a simple act before you can select a service. For instance, if you want your Mac to speak a passage of text, make sure you highlight the text before selecting the command in the Services menu. You might also run into trouble when the active program doesn't support services or can't handle the action you're trying to select. For example, you'll see Import Image grayed out when you're working in a program that lacks graphics capabilities.

Missing Services This occurs when a certain type of data is required in order for the service to work. For example, the FileMerge service works by selecting files, not the contents of a document. Therefore, you'll see it when the Finder is active, but not when you're in programs such as TextEdit or Preview.

Failing Services Even if you can select a Services menu item, it may not work properly. For instance, the Open URL service won't respond if your selected text is not actually a URL. Or a service that requires a network connection won't work if you don't have an Internet connection.

menu. Open the Contents folder to find the Info.plist file. I recommend opening the file with Apple's Property List Editor (in the Developer/Applications/Utilities folder, available if you've installed Xcode).

Once you've opened the file, locate the NSServices property. Click on the triangle to the left of it to reveal a listing of all Services menu items that program uses. For TextEdit, you'll find two items, named 0 and 1. Under 0, you'll see NSMenuItem—click on its triangle to reveal TextEdit/New Window Containing Selection; under 1, you'll find NSMenuItem and TextEdit/Open Selected. To remove one of these items from the Services menu, select the desired NSServices subproperty (0 or 1 in this example), click on the Delete button at the top of the window, and save the file. Log out and then back in.

Be aware that if you install an update to the program, you could end up restoring its Services item listing, which means modifying the Info.plist file again.

Using a Utility If you're hesitant about rummaging through Library folders and application packages, I recommend Many Tricks' Service Scrubber (www.manytricks.com; payment requested), which provides a user-friendly front end

for deleting services items (see "Get Your Services in Order").

Open Service Scrubber and click on the check box next to an item to disable that item. Select an unchecked box to restore it to the menu. You can even modify a service's `key-shortcuts`. Log out and back in for the change to take effect. (For more about using this utility, see "Services Gets a Scrubbing" at macworld.com/2800).

If you're using Leopard, you'll find that several items in Service Scrubber's list are grayed out and cannot be edited. This is because of Leopard's support for digital signatures, which help detect unauthorized modifications to programs by malware. For example, malware could potentially alter a program such as Safari or iChat in order to allow unauthorized

users to gain access to your computer. In such cases, Leopard should detect that the modified program no longer matches its digital signature and prevent it from launching.

As you may have guessed, the changes Service Scrubber makes can also trigger this blockade. To prevent problems, the current version of Service Scrubber doesn't permit editing of digitally signed programs, which includes software installed by OS X. So if you want to delete a Services menu item from such software, you'll have to use one of the aforementioned manual methods. If you go that route, you may find that before OS X launches the program, it will ask if you want to allow incoming connections. Click to allow them, and the program should open.

At Your Service

The best way to discover which services work for you is to experiment with the ones listed in the Services menu. Once you've found a few favorites, you can remove the ones you don't need. You're now ready to use services—and to speed up how you get things done on your Mac. ☑

When not writing about how to use Mac OS X more effectively, Senior Contributor **Ted Landau** is busy preparing the second edition of his book, *Take Control of Your iPhone* (TidBits Publishing, 2008).



Quick Calendar Entries There's no need to open iCal when you'd like to add an event to your calendar; Select the information and then let the CalendarCreator service do it for you in the background.



Needs NoteBook. Has NoteBook.

Stickies, scraps of paper, web clippings, meeting notes, reminders — take control of it all with Circus Ponies NoteBook, the award-winning application for managing information. Get organized using a familiar notebook interface, with pages and tabs, sections and subsections. "Clip" web research, e-mails and other content to your Notebooks for later reference. Create voice-annotated notes and review them from your computer or iPod. Diagram and sketch when words won't suffice. Find anything instantly using NoteBook's patented Multidex™. Share your Notebooks as PDFs or as websites. And much more. NoteBook has everything you need to get organized.

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PONIES**



NoteBook

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Create a DVD Gift

Send your latest photos and videos to friends and family **BY JEFF CARLSON**

Sometimes the best gifts are those you make. And fortunately, “handmade” can apply to the digital realm. You can save some money, avoid the mall, and give something more personal by using the iLife suite to create a custom DVD with videos and photos of the past year’s events.

Plan Ahead

Before starting your project, give yourself plenty of time and sketch out your end result to help you determine whether you have everything you need.

Also, you should think about how you’ll want to build photo slide shows. iPhoto offers many options for customizing a slide show, such as applying the Ken Burns Effect (pan and zoom), adding music, and picking the speed and duration of each slide; however, iPhoto (and iMovie, for that matter) exports the slide show as a movie, so you must go back to iPhoto to make changes. Or you can build editable slide shows in iDVD, with the option to let the viewer control playback; but iDVD slide shows don’t offer the Ken Burns Effect or the same degree of control as iPhoto or iMovie.

Assemble Your Media

Once you’ve sketched out your general plan, it’s time to assemble the media that will appear on the DVD. If you’re creating a slide show in iPhoto ‘08, click on the plus-sign (+) button in the lower left corner. In the sheet that appears, click on Slideshow, and then give the slide show a name. If you’ve selected the photos you want in your slide show already, be sure to choose Use Selected Items in New Slideshow before clicking on the Create button. Otherwise, click on



iMovie Keywords Assign keywords to your video footage, and you can easily view only the clips you want to use to build your movie. Instead of having to search through your entire iLibrary.

that button, return to your photo library, and drag the photos or event you want to use to the new slide show in the sidebar. Pick your settings, and either select File: Export, name your slide show, and select the Large (640x480) size before saving it, or choose to export it directly to iDVD later on (more to come on how to do this).

If you’ll be building a slide show in iMovie or iDVD, set up a new album in iPhoto to hold your favorite pictures. Better yet, create a smart album that can, for example, display your highest-rated photos shot during the past six months. Your albums will appear in the Photos browser (iMovie) or Media pane (iDVD).

You can apply the same techniques in iTunes for building playlists of music you want to use for the slide shows, videos, or DVD menus. When you’re creating slide shows and editing video, it’s helpful to click on the Time column header in

iMovie’s Music And Sound Effects pane or iDVD’s Media pane. This sorts the music by length so you can see which songs best approximate the intended duration of a movie or slide show.

For video, you can take advantage of a hidden organizational feature in iMovie ‘08. In the program’s preferences, first enable the Show Advanced Tools option. Next, assign a unique keyword to the video footage you want to use in the project: in the Event browser, select a range of frames and press the K key to bring up the Keywords heads-up display. Enter a new keyword in the field provided (such as “DVD gift”) and click on Add To Clip. To speed up the process for additional video snippets, click on the Auto-Apply button in the display and select your keyword. You can then simply click and drag over a series of frames to apply that keyword to those clips. This



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technique also works for movies stored in iPhoto (such as those you shoot with video-capable still cameras), because iMovie displays thumbnail previews of iPhoto photos in the Event browser.

Next, display the Keyword Filtering pane (Window: Keyword Filter) and click on the check box next to your keyword. When you select an item in the Event list, only the tagged clips appear in the Event browser, so you don't need to sort through the rest of your clips.

Edit Video in iMovie

With your assets collected, edit your video in iMovie. Unlike with versions of old, iMovie '08 tracks all your movies in the Project Library, so if you're including several movies on your DVD, you can work on them at your leisure without opening and closing files.

iMovie is also the place to record any voice-over work, such as narrating a travel video or recapping highlights from the past year as their visual counterparts appear. Click on the microphone icon or press the letter **O** to bring up the Voiceover tool, and then click on a clip in the Project browser to start recording.

Import into iDVD

Launch iDVD '08 and create a new project. Choose one of Apple's themes and decide whether the project should be standard (4:3) or wide-screen (16:9).

If you've created a slide show in iPhoto, you can now choose Share: Send To iDVD, which encodes the slide show as a movie and adds it to your iDVD project. If you've already exported it, just add it to your project manually.

Chapter Markers The ability to create chapter markers—bookmarks that let you jump to specific sections of a movie while watching a DVD—didn't make it

For slide shows, create a smart album that can, for example, display your highest-rated photos shot during the past six months.

to iMovie '08 when Apple revamped the program. You can instead add chapter markers in GarageBand.

To do so, pick a video in iMovie, then select Share: Media Browser and pick the Large size. In GarageBand, bring up the Media pane, click on the Movies tab, and drag your movie to the timeline. To add a chapter marker, position the playhead and choose Edit: Add Marker (or press the letter **P**). When you're done creating markers, choose Share: Export Movie To Disk and save it with the Full Quality video setting (you can choose Share: Send Movie To iDVD, but it will cause iDVD to create a new project). To add the movie to your iDVD project, choose File: Import: Video and then choose your exported file.

Customize the DVD Menu

To personalize your gift, you'll want to add photos or videos within the Media pane to drop zones within the theme. Click on the Edit Drop Zones button to view the available drop zone wells, and then drag items wherever you choose.

In iDVD '08, nearly everything in the DVD is editable. For instance, you can click on a title once to select it and then

once again to edit the text; the font formatting appears as a set of floating pop-up menus beneath the title or in the Inspector window.

Click on Buttons to change the appearance of the menu items. Bring up the Inspector (⌘-I) to access buttons' sizes and thumbnail behavior.

You can also change the background image of a menu by dragging video or photos onto the menu; before you release the mouse button, press the option key and choose Replace Background from the contextual menu that appears.

Burn the DVD

Because you're giving the DVD as a gift, you could include the high-resolution original copies of photos. If you created your slide show in iDVD, double-click on the slide show to open it, click on the Settings button, and select Add Image Files To DVD-ROM. If you created it elsewhere, choose Advanced: Edit DVD-ROM Contents and drag photos from the Finder to the DVD-ROM Contents window.

Also, it's a good idea to test your completed project by creating a disc image (File: Save As Disc Image), and opening it in DVD Player. If all looks as it should, it's ready to burn (from iDVD or using the disc image you created).

Jeff Carlson is the managing editor of TidBits (www.tidbits.com) and the author of *iMovie '08 and iDVD '08: Visual QuickStart Guide* (Peachpit Press, 2008).



iDVD Background Customize the menu in iDVD by replacing a theme's background with your own photo or video.



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Learn to Play an Instrument

Your Mac can help you pick up new skills **BY CHRISTOPHER BREEN**

If you want to record music, you have to know how to play it. With your Mac, some software, and access to the Internet, you can learn to play an instrument (or improve your playing).

Guitar

You may have the moves and clothes, but true guitar heroes must know the basics of getting around their instrument. Several resources can help you on your way.

Beginner Guitar Lessons For wannabe guitar players, iPlayMusic's \$40 Beginner Guitar Lessons (www.iplaymusic.com) is a good start. The boxed version of the software includes a DVD with more than four hours of video lessons demonstrating chord construction, strumming techniques, and drills. It offers movies in a split-screen presentation so you can view the instructor and both of his hands. And you can slow down or speed up the movie without changing the audio's pitch. Beginner Guitar Lessons also includes an 80-page PDF guide that walks you through the topography of the guitar, shows some basic tablature, offers tips for practicing, and reinforces some material presented in the videos.

Additionally, the lessons include 26 songs that you can strum along with—accompanied by either just the rhythm guitar part or the song fleshed out with the rest of the instruments and vocals. These songs display the instructor's left and right hands, and highlighted chords and lyrics scroll from right to left beneath the video. You can create iPod-compatible versions of the video or send songs to GarageBand with each part laid out as a real instrument (digital audio) track. At this point, you



You Play Guitar iPlayMusic's Beginner Guitar Lessons features a split-pane view so you can see the instructor and both of his hands.

can play along or record your own parts using GarageBand's built-in recording and editing tools.

The program is also extensible—click on the Download Store button and you will find additional songs for 99 cents or packaged collections for \$10.

Guitar Method Another software package, eMedia Music's \$60 Guitar Method 4 (www.emediamusic.com) is a little old-fashioned in its presentation, but it has the elements necessary to help you get started with the guitar. Those elements include split-screen QuickTime movies of the instructor, text explanations, tab notation, audio files associated with a particular part of the lesson, and a

virtual fretboard so you can see which strings to press.

Freeguitarvideos.com The Freeguitarvideos Web site (www.freeguitarvideos.com) also provides downloadable instructional videos in QuickTime format. While not as slick as those offered by iPlayMusic, the lessons are nicely produced, feature engaging instructors, and include a split-screen view that lets you see what the instructor's hands are doing. Although some lessons are indeed free, many of the better ones cost between \$5 and \$15 (the site also offers similarly priced lessons for other instruments—bass, mandolin, and banjo).

Piano

If you're an aspiring keyboard player, check out the Piano Lessons Online (macworld.com/3979) video podcast on iTunes. Presented in both high- and low-res versions, these are snippets from David Sprunger's Playpianotoday.com, a Web site that offers a series of fee-based piano courses. The host site is pretty heavy-handed, making you sit through a long ad and then demanding an e-mail address so that you can gain access to the free material, but the guy can clearly play.

On the software side, eMedia Music also has a package for keyboard players—the \$60 Piano and Keyboard Method 2 (www.emediamusic.com). As with Guitar Method, the lessons are solid but the presentation is on the quaint side. You'll learn the names of the notes, scales, chords, and fingerings, as well as the basics of notation and rhythm.

Beyond the Basics

For those who already have a handle on playing their instruments, iVideosongs (www.ivideosongs.com) offers downloadable instructional videos presented in high definition and largely built around learning a particular tune or technique. In some cases, the video's instructor is the musician who played on the original



Beautiful Boogie-Woogie iVideosongs presents stunning-looking instructional videos presented by pros such as Chuck Leavell.

track. You'll find guitar videos from such players as John Oates (Hall and Oates) and Alex Lifeson (Rush). Chuck Leavell, of Allman Brothers and Rolling Stones fame, shows you the piano part to the Allman's "Jessica" and is featured in boogie-woogie and blues piano videos. Famed session drummer Russ Kunkel can also be found on iVideosongs.

The introductory titles (which you can find for free on iTunes) are strictly

instructional. On some of the pay titles, there's a fair bit of storytelling from the artist in addition to some not-very-detailed instruction. Fortunately, you can preview sections of each title before purchasing it (they're \$10 on average).

Musical Fundamentals

Music is about more than simply plucking, strumming, hammering, blowing, and bowing. It's also about understanding the elements that

make up music—theory, harmony, and counterpoint.

Ars Nova Software's \$100 Practica Musica 5 (www.ars-nova.com) has been around for years, and it remains the Mac's most comprehensive music-training software. The program features interactive activities that help you learn to read music, understand intervals and chord construction, and train your ear to recognize notes, chords, and rhythm. You can interact with the program with your Mac's keyboard or a MIDI keyboard. The textbook, written by the program's author, Jeffrey Evans, provides a solid introduction to music theory.

Although Sibelius hasn't updated the Mac version of its \$199 ear-training software, Auralia 2 (www.sibelius.com), in years, the program is compatible with the current version of OS X and is a worthwhile tool to help you learn to recognize pitch and melody. Sibelius also offers the Groovy Music series, which focuses on musical concepts including rhythm, pitch, notation, and musical terminology (each volume, \$69; all three, \$176). ☒

Senior Editor **Christopher Breen** has had the honor of entering the word *musician* in the Occupation blank of his tax forms for 15 years.



Learning Keyboard Though the interface is dated, eMedia Music's Piano and Keyboard Method 2 provides the basics of playing the black-and-whites.

Fun Photo Projects

Brighten the holidays with photos and creativity **BY AMIT GUPTA AND KELLY JENSEN**

Bring out the tinsel and spike the eggnog—the holidays are almost here. That means it's the perfect time to find uses for the photos you've been taking all year. Whether you're tacking up some holiday lights, making ornaments, or entertaining the kids, using your photos is a great way to add a personal touch to your celebrations.

Holiday Lights

Candles and the winter holidays have a long history together. The ancient Romans gave wax candles as gifts during Saturnalia—their December festival of food, wine, and general debauchery celebrating the god Saturn. This year, liven up your own festivities with these homemade photo candleholders.

What You'll Need You'll need clear or translucent candleholders or votive holders, as well as a tape measure, scissors or a utility knife, transparent tape, tea lights or votives, and ink-jet-printable paper. We used vellum, but backlit film from the Crafty PC (macworld.com/398) or transparency film will work as well.



Festive Glow You can change the photos in your candleholders to complement any season.

Step 1 First, measure each candleholder's circumference and height. Your photos will need to be 0.5 inch shorter and wider than the candleholder. So, for example, if your candleholder were 2.5 inches high and 6 inches around, your photo would need to be 2 by 6.5 inches.

Step 2 When you have your measurements, take a look at your photos. Use your favorite image-editing program to crop them to the correct size. In iPhoto, select the first image you want to use and then choose File: Print (there's no need to crop beforehand). In the Print Settings window, select Custom from the Print Size menu, enter the appropriate width and height, and then click on OK. To reposition your photo within the resulting frame or to zoom in on a smaller area of the image, click on the Customize button. Click once on the image and then use the resulting zoom slider and hand tool to adjust the crop to your liking. When you're done, click on the Print button to set the rest of your printer options.

Step 3 Print the photos on your paper of choice. Check with the paper manu-

facturer to find the best printer settings for your paper. Once the ink is dry, cut out the prints.

Step 4 Wrap each print around the outside of a candleholder and use tape on the inside of the print to hold it in place. When you've wrapped each candleholder, place a candle inside and light it.

Photo Album Ornament

We saw some custom photo ornaments at our local photo lab the other day, and frankly, we were underwhelmed. They were a bit pricey, not so stylish, and only had one photo on them. "Bah, humbug!" we said. So we went home, poured ourselves a stiff eggnog, and set to work creating our own photo-album ornament. Although it takes a little more work, our ornament features more photos, shows more panache, and costs much less—so you can afford to make as many as you want.

What You'll Need To create your ornament, gather four wallet-size photos (2 by 3 inches), one piece of colored construction paper, a pencil, a ruler, scissors or a utility knife, a glue stick, a hole punch, and a piece



PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER BELANGER

of thin ribbon (no more than a half inch wide).

Step 1 Your first task is to choose your photos. You might select four photos that sum up the past year, or create an ornament featuring a particular relative.

Get wallet-size prints made at a local lab or print them at home. To do this in iPhoto, drag each of the images you want to print into an album, press $\%A$ to select them all, and then click on the Print button. In the Print Settings window, select 2x3 from the Print Size menu and click on Customize. In the next window, select Multiple Photos Per Page from the Per Page menu to fit all four images on the same page. When you're done, click on the Print button.

Step 2 With a ruler and pencil, mark a 3-by-8-inch rectangle on the piece of construction paper. This will be the foundation of your miniature album. Now use the ruler and pencil to divide the rectangle into four 2-inch sections. Cut out the entire rectangle using the scissors or utility knife.

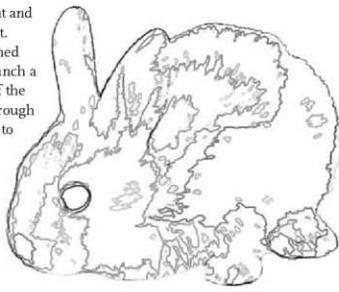
Step 3 Using the section lines you marked as guidelines, fold the rectangle accordion-style. Now attach one photo to each section of the folded paper, all on the same side, using the glue stick.

Step 4 When the photos are dry, fold up the album again. Use the glue stick to glue the back side of the accordion's middle section together. This will keep the book from unfolding when you hang it

up. You can decorate the front and back covers any way you want.

Step 5 When you're finished with the miniature book, punch a hole in the top left corner of the album (be sure to punch through all the pages at once). Cut 5 to 6 inches of ribbon and thread it through the hole.

Now simply hang the album on your celebratory object of choice, top up your eggnog, and enjoy that whole peace-and-goodwill thing.



Color In Photographs Make custom coloring pages for your kids, using photos of their choice and free online editing tools.

Custom Coloring Pages

Every child should have the opportunity to scribble outside the lines, between the lines, or even on the walls (just once). With a great photo and some free online tools, you can make kids their very own custom coloring-book pages.

filters to get the desired effect.

First, click on the Black And White effect. Make sure the Color Filter is set to white, move the Fade slider to 0, and click on Apply.

Using your photos is a great way to add a personal touch to your celebrations.

What You'll Need Aside from your Mac and a printer, you won't need many extras for this project. The biggest challenge is finding the right photos. Images with simple subjects, good contrast, and clean lines work best.

Step 1 First, make a duplicate of your image so you don't accidentally write over your original. Next, use Picnik (www.picnik.com), a free online photo-editing site that makes it easy to upload and edit photos, then download the result. (Note that you must access Picnik via the main URL, as some of the features you'll need aren't included in the version that works on Facebook and Flickr.) From Picnik's home page, click on Get Started and on Upload.

Step 2 After uploading your image, click on the Create tab. Your goal is to eliminate the color and convert what's left into black lines and empty white space. There aren't any settings that will work for all photos, so think of the following instructions as starting points—you'll need to adjust the values and reapply the

Next, choose the Boost filter, which increases contrast and eliminates some of the pesky grays. Tweak the settings until outlines start to form and most grays are washed out—we used a strength of 18 percent.

Now, use the Pencil Sketch effect to turn the outlines of shapes in your photo into solid lines. For our example, we set Radius to 1.4, Strength to 16 percent, and Fade to 6 percent.

Finally, if your outlines still lack sufficient contrast, switch back to the Edit tab and click on the Exposure button. Click on Advanced and experiment with the Highlights, Shadows, and Brightness settings to fine-tune the contrast.

Step 3 When you're happy with your results, download your coloring page from the Save & Share tab to your Mac and print it out. Serve fresh with a side of crayons. 

Amit Gupta and Kelly Jensen write for Photojojo.com (www.photojojo.com), a DIY photography and crafts newsletter.



Decorative Album Feature a special occasion or use your favorite shots from the past year.

Write a Novel in 30 Days

Unlock your creativity during National Novel Writing Month **BY NATHAN ALDERMAN**

Ever thought you might want to write a novel someday? The task can seem so daunting that most people put it off indefinitely. So how about writing a novel in just 30 days?

That challenge might seem nuts, but it has led thousands of people around the world to participate in National Novel Writing Month (nanowrimo.org). Starting at midnight on November 1, they begin scribbling or typing their way furiously forward. The goal: write 50,000 words by the time December dawns.

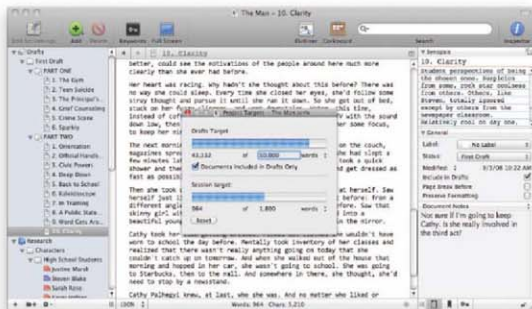
If, like me, you never thought you had a novel in you, NaNoWriMo is a great way to prove yourself wrong. While a nimble brain and dogged persistence are the most important qualities for getting to the summit of this particular mountain, you can also call on some excellent Mac-based writing tools to reach the top.

Plan Your Ascent

There's no one right way to write a novel. Some writers pounce out their prose in furious bursts whenever inspiration happens to strike; others stick to a schedule, writing at set times and in certain places. Some writers plan their book with meticulous notes and outlines, while others jump in with both feet and hope for the best. Whatever

Come Write with Us!

Join several Macworld writers and editors as they take the 2008 National Novel Writing Month challenge. For more information and resources, visit macworld.com/3946.



Scrivener's Delight Literature & Latte's Scrivener gives you room to outline your novel, leave notes for yourself, and even make sure you're staying on pace using a handy progress-tracking tool.

type of writer you are, there's a Mac-friendly tool available to help you.

The Free Wheeler If you prefer to follow your muse, you'll want a simple tool to let you write without distractions. Hog Bay Software's \$25 WriteRoom (hogbaysoftware.com) does exactly that. This stylishly spartan text editor takes over your entire screen, letting you focus solely on your prose. You can tweak the colors of the background and text, and adjust the width of your text—but don't look for frills beyond that. Many of WriteRoom's rivals have aped its style, but none has quite matched its elegant execution.

The Master Planner If structure is your friend, you need a tool that'll help you organize your notes, flesh out your cast of characters, and keep your story lines straight. Mariner Software's \$45 StoryMill (●●●●; macworld.com/3947), Storyist Software's \$59 Storyist (●●●●; macworld.com/3939), and Bartas Technologies' \$25 CopyWrite (●●●●; [\[.com/3943\]\(http://macworld.com/3943\)\) offer powerful tools to keep your novel from getting away from you.](http://macworld</p>
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Each of these programs offers customizable categories for filing away your chapters, characters, locations, and other elements. In a fun touch, Storyist lets you add photographs to your character and location entries to help you better visualize them. And if you've planned your novel's action down to the minute, StoryMill lets you specify start and end times and dates for each of your scenes, and then shuffle them around on a visual timeline. CopyWrite and StoryMill also let you set a word-count goal for your entire novel, a given chapter, or a particular session of writing—a useful feature for NaNoWriMo word warriors.

The Do-It-Yourselfer If you're seeking a middle ground between anarchy and order, Literature & Latte's \$40 Scrivener (●●●●●; macworld.com/3944)—my favorite writing program—offers both power and flexibility. It's armed with

most of the best features of its rivals. Like Storyist, Scrivener lets you plot out your novel as an outline or a series of note cards on a virtual corkboard and then flesh out those steps into full chapters. Best of all, Scrivener doesn't try to lock you into any one method of writing; it just hands you the tools and lets you decide how you want to use them.

To Blog, or Not to Blog?

Authors as diverse as Charles Dickens and Stephen King have tried their hand at serial novels, publishing one segment at a time to keep their readers hooked while they work through their narratives.

Today, anyone can serialize a novel-in-progress through free, easy blogging sites such as LiveJournal (livejournal.com), Blogger (blogger.com), and WordPress (wordpress.com).

I thrive on deadline pressure, so I've blogged both of my previous novels. I did my best to post something every day, driven by the thought that someone might be waiting expectantly for the next installment. Getting encouraging comments from both friends and total strangers was great motivation, too.

That said, there are plenty of valid reasons not to blog your novel. If you're shy or insecure about your prose, letting it

hang out for others to see can be paralyzing. You're also running the risk that some enterprising plagiarist will rip off your hard-won ideas, although most things you post on the Web are implicitly copyrighted.

If you think blogging your novel will help you write better and more consistently, I say go for it. But there's also nothing wrong with keeping your story between you and your word processor.

Now What?

Congratulations! Your magnum opus about the lives of Polynesian pearl divers is complete. Now how are you going to publish it? Happily, the Web offers several excellent resources to help you avoid publishing pitfalls and maybe—just maybe—see your work in print.

The NaNoWriMo site offers its own follow-up page (macworld.com/3945), with links to related contests like Script Frenzy (www.scriptfrenzy.org)—in which you write a complete screenplay in 30 days—and advice from published authors on rewriting.

Writer Beware (www.sfwa.org/beware/) maintains an excellent database of frauds and scam artists who prey on would-be authors, along with detailed descriptions of the pros and cons of various aspects of the publishing world. And the Writer Beware blog (accrispin.blogspot.com) offers updates on the latest publishing news, and includes a treasure trove of links to other writing and publishing sites.

Happily Ever After

For wannabe writers, National Novel Writing Month can be frustrating, exhausting, but ultimately exhilarating. Nothing feels quite like typing the last sentence of your very first novel, especially if you never thought you would start it in the first place. The tools we've highlighted here can't do the work for you. But like a pair of good boots for a mountaineer, they'll certainly make the journey a lot easier, and give you plenty of support along the way. ☑

Nathan Alderman is a writer and copy editor who has reviewed several writing tools for Macworld.

Advice from a Noveling Veteran

I've crossed NaNoWriMo's 50,000-word finish line twice. (As my editors could tell you, writing long has never been a problem for me.) Still, my experience has given me a few good insights that might help your own noveling efforts.

Think Small Writing 50,000 words sounds scary—until you realize that it breaks down to just 1,667 words a day. Rather than keeping your eyes on the distant finish line, use your program's word-count targets to work toward the end of your scene or chapter. Those words will add up faster than you think. To keep track of your progress, you can enter your word count for each day in a box on the NaNoWriMo site, and compare it with those of your friends in the contest. And the site's Word Count Widgets (www.nanowrimo.org/eng/widgets) let you show off your progress.

Everybody Wants Something Are your characters just sitting there like dead-weight? Figure out what they want. Frodo Baggins wants to destroy (or, in darker moments, keep) the One Ring; Scout Finch wants to solve the mystery of Boo Radley. The simplest goals can create conflict and suspense. Screenwriter and playwright Todd Alcott's terrific blog, *What Does the Protagonist Want?* (toddalcott.livejournal.com), dissects popular movies; check out his "Screenwriting 101" and "Spielberg" series of posts.

Keep Moving Forward Writing is an adventure, and adventures always involve plenty of mistakes and wrong turns. For November, silence your inner critic, and stop caring whether what you're writing is any good. Just keep writing. And don't go back to tinker with your existing text, either. If you start editing when you should be writing, you'll lose momentum. Besides, revisiting your prose in the cold light of December (or, better yet, February) will make you a much better judge of what works and what doesn't.

Don't Overplan A fellow NaNoWriMo participant once showed me her elaborate planning spreadsheets and then complained that her characters weren't doing what she wanted them to. Keeping notes on your characters, settings, or overall story arc is a good idea. But half the fun of writing is seeing your characters do something you never expected. Too much planning can squelch that improvisational spirit.



Write Faster, Buddy! NaNoWriMo's Web site provides numerous widgets to track your progress, independently or in comparison to your friends on the site.

iPhone 3G Tips

Readers' smart shortcuts for Apple's latest phone

Every month in our *Mac OS X Hints* column, we publish tips readers have submitted to our Mac OS X Hints Web site (www.macosxhints.com). Lately, a lot of those tips have been about the iPhone 3G. *Hints* editor Rob Griffiths usually avoids mention of the iPhone in his print column, preferring to stay focused on the Mac OS itself. But the iPhone tips that readers have been submitting are too good to keep out of print. Here are a few of our favorites.

Advanced Configuration for iPhone

A lot of people don't know that Apple provides a free iPhone configuration utility. But it's available, and it can add some great features to your iPhone that you can't get any other way—for example, complex passcodes. Typing a long password to get into your iPhone might seem like a hassle, but it can protect your e-mail accounts, contacts, and the like.

First, install and launch the iPhone Configuration Utility (macworld.com/3952). Next, select Configuration Profiles from the Library menu on the left, then click on the plus-sign (+) button at the top of the window. In the General tab, fill out all the information (Name, Identifier, and so on); there is no need for you to sign it digitally. Next, click on the Passcode tab, and select Require Passcode On Device. Select whichever other restrictions you want to enable.

When you're done, click on the Share button at the top of the window. An e-mail message will open with a configuration profile attached. Send that e-mail to your iPhone. Open Mail on the iPhone, and open the message with the configuration profile attached. Click on the profile attachment, and



iPhone Configuration Utility If you want to add advanced features, such as long passcodes, to your iPhone, you can do so with Apple's downloadable configuration tool.

then follow the on-screen prompts to install the profile and set your new long passcode.

Send E-mail from Other Accounts

With the original iPhone 1.x software, you could only send photos and Web links from the default e-mail account. With the latest software, you can now send such messages from any account on the iPhone. After you create a message for sending the photo or link, you'll notice a header line labeled Cc/Bcc, From. Tap this line, and it will expand into three more: Cc, Bcc, and From. Tap the From line, and a menu will appear from which you can select any account you have on the iPhone.

Use iPhone as Apple TV Keyboard

One of the most annoying things about the Apple TV is its on-screen keyboard. Whether you're entering a user name

and password, details about a Wi-Fi network, or search terms for YouTube videos, navigating that keyboard, character by character and row by row, is slow and tedious. If you have an iPhone or an iPod touch and Apple's free Remote application, however, you're holding the solution in your hand. Just fire up Remote any time you see a keyboard input screen on your Apple TV, and the keyboard will appear on your iPhone or iPod touch. By letting you quickly and easily browse through long lists of media—and even search for particular items—the Remote application also fixes the Apple TV's excruciatingly slow list-scrolling.

Access Private MobileMe Galleries

When you're visiting certain Apple Web sites on the iPhone (MobileMe sites in particular), the phone's browser automatically modifies URLs. Specifi-

cally, it adds the string **iPhone** to the real address. That way, the site knows to tailor itself for the iPhone's browser.

But that amendment to the URL means you don't necessarily get the site you really want. For example, if you go to me.com, you don't see the same login screen that you'd get if you were browsing from your Mac; rather, you are presented with a page advertising the MobileMe service. Apple must assume that you don't already have a MobileMe account, because otherwise you'd be using the iPhone's direct MobileMe access instead of trying to navigate there through the browser.


This redirection doesn't always work well. Let's say that you want to view one of your own private MobileMe Web galleries—in other words, one that's not listed in your main Web gallery index. If you send yourself an e-mail containing the gallery's URL, and then click on that link on your iPhone, you won't get the page you want. Instead, the iPhone takes you to the top level of your Web gallery where, of course, the gallery you want isn't linked.

However, there's a workaround: After you get to the top level of your Web



Send from Any Account Tap the From line to send mail from a different account.

Review: Brenthaven Trek Sleeve

RATING:  **PRICE:** \$30 **COMPANY:** Brenthaven **URL:** www.brenthaven.com

Brenthaven's \$20 MacBook Sleeve (macworld.com/3941) was an impressively protective case at an impressively low price. The idea was to come up with a protective bag tough enough to withstand the abuse of school-age kids but inexpensive enough for school districts to buy in bulk.

The company has now updated the MacBook Sleeve to give it a less utilitarian appearance, and it's not just for kids. The new version is called the Trek Sleeve and is priced at a still reasonable \$30. (Education customers continue to pay just \$20.)

I've been using the Trek Sleeve for a few months, and it has impressed me as much as the original, offering good protection and basic organizational features—as well as a lifetime warranty—at a price that many vendors would charge for a simple fabric or neoprene sleeve.

Like the MacBook Sleeve, the Trek Sleeve weighs less than a pound and is designed to fit a 13.3-inch MacBook snugly; it also fits the MacBook Air, though with a bit of wiggle room. The Trek Sleeve retains its predecessor's rigid-panel front, back, and bottom, with thick padding on all six sides. With a MacBook inside, the Sleeve measures approximately 14 by 10 by 2 inches, so it'll fit inside a standard backpack and will even squeeze into the laptop compartment of many computer bags. You can also carry the Trek Sleeve by its nylon handle or by attaching a shoulder strap (not included) to its two metal D-rings.

In addition to making the new version look less utilitarian—by smoothing out the nylon, using grey accent stitching, and adding strips of reflective trim—Brenthaven has also added a slip pocket for documents and a zippered pocket for an AC adapter and cables.

Of course, at this price point, you don't get all the niceties. The nylon is thin and not as rugged as the heavy-duty fabric Brenthaven uses on its higher-end products. As noted above, you have to pay extra for the shoulder strap. But I've never seen a bag or sleeve at this price that provides as much protection and utility. —DAN FRANKS



gallery page, scroll to the top and edit the URL, manually appending the gallery ID number. (That number gets deleted when the **iPhone** tag is inserted.)

Arrange New Apps

Now that you can download apps from the App Store, it can be a real hassle to get them where you want them. This is especially true if each of your screens is completely filled with the maximum of 16 icons, because if you drag and drop a new program onto a full screen, some other application will be shuffled away. You'll then have to go track it down and move it to the desired screen and position.

To avoid this, just leave an empty spot on each screen—that is, place only 15 icons on each screen. As you drag an app's icon from screen to screen, no icons will jump off the page, as there's room to fit the one you're dragging around. Assuming you install only one program at a time, those newly installed apps will always appear in the final position on the iPhone's main screen. This ensures that new apps don't mess up any of your carefully arranged pages. ☒

The following readers contributed hints to this column: **Anthony Mutti, Jerry Pirrung, and Michelle Steiner.**

Network-Attached Storage

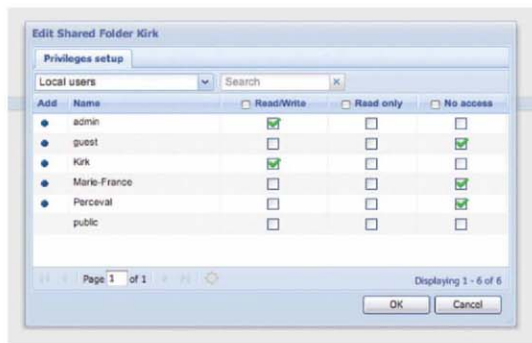
Once for business networks only, NAS can be handy in the home **BY KIRK MCELHEARN**

As more homes get multiple computers, more homes need some type of network storage. With network storage, you can share music files, videos, and photos among machines; send files back and forth; and implement a backup strategy.

A USB drive connected to an Airport Extreme Base Station or a Time Capsule wireless drive can handle the backups—assuming all the machines in your house are Macs. But if you want a central repository for your family's iTunes library, or a place where everyone can share files without pillaging one another's hard drives, or if your home network has both Macs and Windows machines, those two Apple solutions aren't enough.

Network-attached storage, or NAS for short, could be what you need. It can handle a wider range of storage chores than either an Airport-connected USB drive or a Time Capsule can.

NAS has been commonplace on large enterprise networks for years. But this



Setting Permissions Setting up permissions for shared folders is as easy as checking a few boxes.

technology can also have a place in the home (or small business), providing always-on storage for Macs and non-Macs alike. NAS is inexpensive and surprisingly easy to set up and use.

Compared with the cost of buying every Mac in the house its own external drive, NAS can be cost-effective, too.

How It Works NAS involves more than just attaching a hard drive to a network: NAS devices are really mini file servers. Running an embedded operating system (usually some form of

Linux), they give you full control over users and permissions. Most offer additional services as well: some support FTP, virtually all work with both Windows machines and Macs, and many can function as iTunes and media servers, too.

Many major storage and networking vendors sell some form of NAS (sometimes called *network hard drives*); see "NAS for the Home" for a sampling. For the purposes of this column, I chose Synology's Disk Station DS107+ (www.synology.com) and bought a 500GB hard disk to go with it—which provided enough room to back up four Macs and serve up a moderately sized iTunes library. The Synology is compatible with both Mac and Windows, can use external USB or eSATA disks, automatically backs up to an external disk, can work as an iTunes server, and is accessible via FTP.

Whichever NAS device you choose, you connect it via Ethernet (most, but

Network Storage Options

FEATURE	AIRPORT PLUS USB HARD DRIVE	TIME CAPSULE	NETWORK- ATTACHED STORAGE
Can supply external storage	●	●	●
Can be used for Time Machine backups	●	●	○
Can be used for other backups	●	●	●
Individual user accounts and permissions	○	○	●
Can specify user and group permissions for multiple folders	○	○	●
Supports FTP	○	○	●
Can share with Windows PCs	●	●	●
Can connect to any wireless base station	○*	○*	●

* Works only with Airport Extreme. * Works only with Time Capsule. ● = Yes. ○ = No.

not all, are equipped with Gigabit Ethernet). Few, if any, NAS drives are wireless. You can connect the device directly to your router, to a switch or hub, or even to the Ethernet port of the latest AirPort Express. You can then stash it out of sight.

Setting Up NAS

Many NAS devices come with their own preformatted hard disks. Others are empty shells into which you install your own disks. The Synology is one of the latter. If you're using one of the empty shells, you can fill it with any internal drive; a 500GB hard disk costs less than \$100. Hardware installation is easy—all you need is a screwdriver.

Software setup is simple, too. Like many NAS devices, the Synology uses a Web-based interface for configuration. A half-dozen wizards walk you through the processes of adding users, sharing folders, and more. Ideally, you should set up an account for each person who will access the server, then set up individual

folders for each, adjusting permissions as necessary. You'll also want to create a public folder for sharing files.

Once you've set up the drive, it should appear in the Finder's list of shared devices (at least under Leopard). If it doesn't, you can mount the shared folders by typing the IP address of the server (Go: Connect To Server will take you to the correct dialog box), then selecting a folder. If you set a fixed IP address for the NAS device in its network settings, you can make aliases of your folders after you mount them for the first time, and stash them somewhere—the desktop, say—for easy access.

Copying to and from an NAS device is not lightning fast; generally, these devices work well with large files, but copying lots of small files can be a drag. In most cases, you won't be copying a lot of files at once (except, perhaps, for your first backup), so this won't be a problem. Also, as with any server, the more users access the device, the slower the access speeds become. Although the Synology DS107+



Server Aliases With aliases to the server's folders on your desktop, you can access the folders more quickly.

can handle 32 concurrent connections, more than a handful of people copying a lot of files simultaneously can slow things down. If you have a big family or a midsize office, you're better off with a more powerful NAS unit or a stand-alone server computer that handles file serving.

In addition to sharing files via the Finder, you can also connect to some NAS devices via FTP. This allows you to connect to the NAS when you're not at home. If you set up port forwarding in your router (FTP generally uses port 21, but you can change this in the NAS device's configuration; see your router's help for information on port forwarding), you can connect to the device securely from any location using FTP over SSL.

One of the most practical uses for NAS is for backups. Although you can't use this type of device for Time Machine backups (which require disks formatted in HFS+), you can still run backups of the home folders on all your Macs. You can use almost any backup software with an NAS device, as long as it supports network volumes.

Ideally, it'll also support incremental backups; that way, though the first backup could take a long time, subsequent backups will be much quicker. If your software allows it, schedule these backups so each Mac backs up its home folder every day. Think of staggering your backup times, however, so they don't all copy at the same time, putting more stress on the NAS device and slowing down copying even more. (For real security, you'll also want some kind of offsite backup.) ☒

Kirk McElhearn writes about more than just Macs at Kirkville.com (www.mcelhearn.com).

NAS for the Home

PRODUCT	LIST PRICE	STORAGE CAPACITY	WIRELESS NETWORKING	GIGABIT ETHERNET	USB 2.0 PORTS	IPONES COMPATIBLE	BUILT-IN FTP SERVER	RAID
Disk Station DS107+ Synology	\$380	N/A*	○	●	1	●	●	○
Ethernet Disk mini-Home Edition LaCie	\$150–\$250	500GB–1TB	○	●	1	●	●	○
Home Network HD Iomega	\$149–\$300	360GB–1TB	○	●	1	○	●	○
Linkstation Live Buffalo	\$180–\$370	320GB–1TB	○	●	1	●	●	○
NAS 200 Linksys	\$150	N/A*	○	○	1	○	●	0,1
ReadyNAS Duo Netgear	\$400–\$650	500GB–1TB	○	●	3	●	●	X-RAID*
Shared Storage II Maxtor	\$200–\$650	500GB–2TB	○	●	2	●	○	0,1
Time Capsule Apple	\$300–\$500	500GB–1TB	802.11n	●	1	○	○	○

N/A = not applicable. ● = Yes. ○ = No. *You must supply your own drives. †Proprietary to Netgear.

Help Desk

Mac OS X Hints

The insider tips you won't get from Apple **BY ROB GRIFFITHS**

Set Missing iTunes 8 Preferences

The recently released iTunes 8 contains a number of new features as well as some changes to the interface. Among those interface changes, the Preferences pane has been rearranged (which it needed) and trimmed (which it didn't). For example, the following preferences existed in iTunes 7 but have been trimmed from iTunes 8:

The Show Genre When Browsing option turned the Genre column in the iTunes Browser (View: Show Browser) on and off. In iTunes 8, the Genre column is always displayed, and there's no apparent way to disable it.

The Show Links To The iTunes Store option toggled the small arrows-in-circles that appear next to selected items in your library; clicking on one of these links takes you to that artist or album in the iTunes Store (see "iTunes Store Links"). In iTunes 8, you can no longer disable these arrows.

The Play Songs While Importing Or Converting option let you decide whether to automatically listen to the music you're importing. You can't make that decision



iTunes Store Links The way to get rid of these store links in iTunes 8 is to use the Terminal command line.

in iTunes 8. (You can still, of course, just click on the Play button.)

The Load Complete Preview Before Playing option forced the iTunes Store to load a song preview completely before playing it—thereby ensuring that you'd hear the whole thing without interruption. This was particularly useful on slow Internet connections.

Other options were also removed from the iTunes Preferences pane, but the ones just mentioned all have one thing in common: you can still control each from the Terminal command line. Just make sure iTunes isn't running when you execute the commands below, and press return after typing the command. After running the command, relaunch iTunes, and the preference will be reset as you wish.

The Show Genre When Browsing option is now set to "yes" by default. If you'd rather see only Artist and Album in the browser, enter this Terminal command:

```
defaults write com.apple.iTunes  
show-genre-when-browsing -bool  
FALSE
```

If you want to reverse this in the future, quit iTunes and repeat the above command, replacing FALSE with TRUE.

The Show Links To The iTunes Store option is also set to "yes" by default. If you'd rather not see these arrows, enter this Terminal command:

```
defaults write com.apple.iTunes  
show-store-arrow-links -bool FALSE
```

If you want to reverse this in the future, quit iTunes and repeat the above command, replacing FALSE with TRUE.

Have a Hint to Share?

Go to MacOSXHints.com to submit it. This column was based on tips from Tom Robinson and several other anonymous contributors, as well as

MacOSXHints.com editor Rob Griffiths. Each month, the author of our favorite tip receives the *Help Desk* mug.



The Play Songs While Importing Or Converting option is set to "no" by default. If you want to automatically listen to what you're importing, enter this Terminal command:

```
defaults write com.apple.iTunes  
play-songs-while-importing -bool TRUE
```

If you want to reverse this in the future, quit iTunes and repeat the above command, replacing **TRUE** with **FALSE**.

The Load Complete Preview Before Playing option is set to "no" by default. To have iTunes completely load a song preview before playing it, enter this Terminal command:

```
defaults write com.apple.iTunes  
load-complete-preview-before-playing  
-bool TRUE
```

If you want to reverse this in the future, quit iTunes and repeat the above command, replacing **TRUE** with **FALSE**.

Copy and Paste in Keynote Slide Groups

If you use Keynote, you probably know that you can group slides together. It's a great way to keep the sections of your presentation separate. Instead of dealing with a hundred different slides all at once, you can instead work with, say, ten groups of ten slides each, expanding only the group you're working on.

To create a group, pick the slide you want to appear first, then select a number of slides to follow the first one and either drag and drop them onto that first slide or press tab (press shift-tab to ungroup).

As a little-known bonus, grouping slides can also make it easier to copy multiple slides from one presentation to

another. Just collapse the group of slides you'd like to copy, press ⌘-C to copy them, switch to your other presentation, and press ⌘-V. Just like that, all the slides in the group will be pasted into the presentation. Note that if you want to copy only the first slide of the group, you must expand the group before copying it. Otherwise you'll get the whole group.

Permanently Delete Mail Messages

If you're a Mail user, you know that there are several ways to delete messages. You can drag them to the Trash folder, select Edit: Delete, or use the keyboard (press ⌘-delete).

The downside to all three methods is that they really only move the message you want to delete to the Trash folder. Generally, this is good: it gives you a fallback in case you make a mistake. But what if you're emptying out a spam folder or an old archive, and you're sure you want to delete those messages for good?

In that case, press ⌘-X (or select Edit: Cut). This will cut the messages from the folder, as it would if you'd selected some text in a text editor. If you wish, you can then select a new mailbox and press ⌘-V (or select Edit: Paste) to paste the cut messages into the new folder.

But if you don't paste them, and you subsequently put something else into the Clipboard, those cut messages will disappear permanently.

Now, this shortcut can be dangerous, especially if you get accustomed to using it in unimportant Mail folders and then accidentally use it in an important one. If that possibility scares you (and it should),

there's a workaround: reassign Mail's Cut keyboard shortcut.

To do so, open the Keyboard & Mouse preference pane, and go to the Keyboard Shortcuts tab. Click on the plus-sign (+) key in the lower left corner.

That will reveal a keyboard shortcut

WHAT'S ONLINE

Make Changes to Hidden Preference Settings

Figure out defaults commands (macworld.com/3924).

Configure AirPort from Terminal Control wireless networks from the command line (macworld.com/3925).

Easier Lyrics from Safari Quickly paste song lyrics from your browser into iTunes (macworld.com/3926).



assignment sheet. Set the Application pop-up menu to Mail, enter **Cut** for the menu title, enter your desired keystrokes (shift-control-X, perhaps) in the Keyboard Shortcut field, and then click on Add.

If you're running Mac OS X 10.5, you're done. If you use 10.4 and Mail was running when you did this, quit and restart Mail to make the changes take effect.

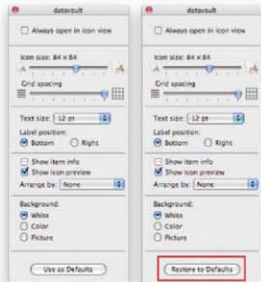
Reset Finder View to Defaults

As you probably know, the Finder's View Options dialog box in OS X 10.5 (View: Show View Options, or ⌘-J) is the key to customizing your folder views. Using this dialog box, you can enable and disable a number of features for each folder on your system. The options available (and what they do) vary depending on the view you're using. In Columns view, for instance, you can set a lot of options, and whatever changes you make will be reflected in all windows viewed in that mode. In List, Icons, and Cover Flow views, however, the changed settings can vary by window.

But what do you do if you've customized a folder with the view you think you'd like to use, and then you decide that you really don't like that setup after all? You could, of course, go through the changes you've made and reverse them one at a time, but that's time-consuming. For all window views except Columns (because every change you make to that view is global), there's an easier solution: just hold down the option key with the View Options window open. When you do, the button



Identifying Senders If messages from people you've mailed recently are the most relevant, this rule color-codes them for easy identification.



Restore To Defaults Hold down the option key while accessing the Finder's View Options dialog box (left), and you can restore its default settings (right).

labeled Use As Defaults will change to Restore To Defaults (see "Restore To Defaults"). Click on the button and marvel at the instantaneous return of your folder to the default settings for that view.

Flag Messages You Need to Read

If you're inundated with incoming messages in your Mail inbox, it can be handy to have a way to identify those that really merit immediate attention. Here's a way to use Mail's Rules to quickly identify e-mails from people with whom you've been corresponding recently.

Open Mail's Preferences and click on Rules. Then click on Add Rule and enter a description (Recent Correspondents, for example). Leave the first pop-up menu set to Any. Click on the second pop-up menu, labeled From, and select Sender Is In My Previous Recipients from the menu.

The Previous Recipients list is just that—a list of the people whom you've e-mailed recently, which Mail maintains automatically. If you've sent these people e-mails, it's likely that their messages are more important to you than others.

Now that you've identified messages from important people, you can add actions to make those messages stand out, using the Perform The Following Actions section of the Rules dialog box. For instance, you could change the color of those messages in your inbox (Set Color, Of Background), move the



POWER TIP OF THE MONTH

Complete Control in Screen Sharing

Built-in screen sharing is one of OS X 10.5's handiest tools. If you have multiple machines in your home, screen sharing can make it much easier to manage them.

But screen sharing has its glitches. For example, usually whatever you type on your local keyboard is implemented on the remote Mac. So if you press ⌘-C , whatever is selected on the remote machine will be copied. But the local machine captures some key combinations before they ever get to that remote machine. For example, if you're running more than one program on the remote Mac, you can't use ⌘-tab to switch among them; instead, that key combination will switch you among the programs running on your local Mac. Likewise for ⌘-option-D (which hides or displays the Dock) and ⌘-option-escape (which summons the Force Quit dialog box).

It's also frustrating that you can't drag and drop a file on your local Mac into the screen-sharing window to transfer it to the remote Mac, and that the cursor isn't bound to the remote window. (Accidentally click in the wrong place, and the cursor will return to your local Mac.)

Fortunately, a free utility called Teleport (payment requested; macworld.com/3988) can help you fix these problems.

The Teleport Solution

You install Teleport on your master Mac as well as on any other Mac you want to control. To enable it, you select Activate Teleport in the Teleport preference pane on each system. On that pane's Layout tab, you position the remote Mac against the screen edge you want to use to activate the program.

That done, when you want to send your keyboard and mouse input to another Mac, initiate screen sharing as usual, then drag the cursor to the screen edge you designated during the Teleport setup. A small animation will indicate that control has been transferred to the remote Mac. From then on, every keystroke and mouse movement you make on your local Mac—including combinations such as ⌘-tab and ⌘-option-escape —will be sent to the remote machine, and the cursor will be restricted to the screen-sharing window, until you position the cursor against the designated edge of the remote Mac's window to transfer control back to your local machine.

Teleport can also help you get around file-transfer frustration. With screen sharing on, drag a file on your master Mac to the other machine's screen edge. Wait for Teleport to activate, then drop the file into the desired folder on the remote Mac. Teleport also includes a nifty tool to sync Clipboards between machines.

messages to another mailbox (Move Message, To Mailbox), play a sound (Play Sound), or do anything else you want (see "Identifying Senders").

Once you've set these options, click on OK to save your rule, and then drag it in your list of rules to a spot that makes sense—remembering that rules are processed in the order of their appearance.

You can make this work in reverse too, creating a rule for messages for which the sender is not in your Previous Recipients

list. You might want to move those to a Not Urgent folder, apply a different color, or maybe even send a canned reply. If you're going to use this rule, however, move it to follow any spam-trapping rules, so that Mail traps spam from unknown senders before it processes the remaining messages (and adds the senders to your Recipients list). ☒

Senior Editor **Rob Griffiths** runs the MacOSXHints.com Web site.

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Holiday Gift Guide



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Mac 911

Solutions to your most vexing Mac problems **BY CHRISTOPHER BREEN**

When Mail Can't Find Its Way

Q: The Find function in my copy of Apple's Mail no longer works. It will find nothing—even my name. How can I restore it?

Doug Eddy

A: It sounds as if the index for your messages is mucked up. I'd try a stern reindexing. And when I say *stern*, that means one thing: Terminal. Launch Terminal and enter `mdimport ~/Library/Mail/`. Terminal will work its magic and then show you the prompt. When it does, Mail's index of messages should be back and searchable.

It's also possible that your Spotlight index is corrupt. To repair it, download a copy of Titanium Software's free OnyX (macworld.com/3951), launch it, click on the Maintenance tab and then the Rebuild tab, enable the Spotlight Index option, and click on Execute. OnyX will do as you requested and rebuild the Spotlight index.

Custom Print Sizes in iPhoto '08

Q: In iPhoto '06, I had wonderful print templates called N-up and Sampler. Now, using the iPhoto '08 standard print size or contact sheet, I cannot get six photos on the page nicely without wasting paper space, and this makes my images smaller. Any suggestions?

David Bahssin



Have a problem?

Go to the Mac 911 forum (macworld.com/2467) for help with your misbehaving Mac or applications.



Print from Preview If you're frustrated by iPhoto '08's printing limitations, use Preview instead.

A: Like you, I mourn the loss of these helpful presets and, as you suggest, the Contact Sheet template isn't the same thing. Fortunately, you can get darned close to the results of those presets, but it takes a little digging.

Specifically, select your images, click on the Print button at the bottom of the iPhoto window, and take a hard look at the Print Size pop-up menu. I found that I was able to place six images in landscape orientation on a single piece of paper by choosing Custom from that pop-up menu and entering dimensions of 4 by 3 inches. The images filled the entire sheet of letter-size paper without leaving a lot of white space, although I did lose the left and right edges of the image.

If you're unwilling to sacrifice any portion of your images, you're welcome to tweak the size settings so that the resulting images more closely track with the original dimensions.

Alternatively, you can open the images you want to print in Preview (see "Print

from Preview"). Select all of them and choose File: Print Selected Images. In the sheet that appears, enable the Scale To Fit option and choose the number of images per page from the Images Per Page pop-up menu (the options are 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, and 16).

Skipping in iTunes

Q: I listen to many lengthy podcasts in iTunes. I would like to be able to jump forward 60 seconds at a time to skip over the commercials. How might I do that?

Via the Internet

A: As the producer of *Macworld's* podcast, I must mention that we make money from those commercials and encourage you to listen to every scintillating second of them so that we can continue providing this content. On the other hand, I purchased a TiVo for exactly this kind of thing, so who am I kidding?

iTunes does have a hidden skip feature, but it's not configurable and you

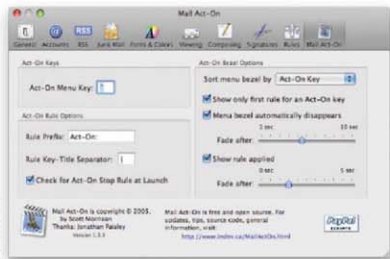
can only skip five seconds at a time. To use it, press and hold ⌘-option and then tap the right-arrow key for each five-second skip (tapping the left-arrow key with ⌘-option held down skips back five seconds). So to quickly get through a 60-second segment, just tap the right-arrow key 12 times.

If the podcast you're listening to is of the enhanced variety—one that has chapters—a Chapters menu will appear in iTunes' menu bar when you start listening to the podcast. It's possible that the person responsible for the podcasts created a separate chapter mark for the commercial as well as for the next segment. If so, all you need to do to skip the ad is choose the chapter after the commercial.

Finally, if a podcast has a predictable spot that you'd always like to skip at the beginning (say, the intro), you can ask iTunes to start the podcast at a specific time. To do so, select the podcast episode, press ⌘-I to produce the Info window, click on the Options tab, and, in the Start Time field, enter the time at which you'd like the podcast to begin—1:52, for example. Click on OK to dismiss the Info window. When you play the podcast, it will begin at the point you designated.

Fast Filing of Mail Messages

Q: When I file an e-mail in one of my mailboxes while using Apple's Mail, I'm forced to drag and drop, which has led to some misfiling of messages. Is



File Mail Faster You can use Indev Software's Mail Act-On to quickly file e-mail messages in Apple's Mail.

Bugs & Fixes BY TED LANDAU



CD-Mounting Glitch A bug that was present in Apple's iTunes 7.7 update seems to remain in 7.7.1. The symptom occurs when you insert a CD to import into iTunes. The disc mounts in the Finder, but it either never shows up in iTunes or appears briefly and vanishes after you click on Yes in the Would You Like To Import The CD dialog box. Here's the surprise: If you immediately reinsert the same disc, everything works fine. However, when you insert a new CD, the symptom returns. If you are importing several CDs, you'll wind up in a repeated insert-eject-insert loop. Hopefully the next iTunes update will fix the problem.



Connect To Server Error When trying to access a server via the Connect To Server command in the Finder's Go menu, you may get an error message that states: "The text entered does not appear to be a recognized URL format." It could appear even if you enter the right address. According to Apple, this erroneous message can crop up if you are either

running Mac OS X 10.5 via an account that was updated from 10.4, or using data in a Time Machine backup of data from another Mac. The solution is to delete a folder named URLMount, located in the /System/Library/Filesystems folder, then restart.



Spotlight Search Failure After you type two letters in the Spotlight text box in the Find window, sometimes the results claim that there are no matches. If you know there are files that match the letters, the cause is most likely a corrupt Spotlight index. The fix is easy: rebuild the index files. One way to do this is to launch Terminal and type `sudo mdutil -E /`. Another alternative is Titanium Software's free Onyx (macworld.com/395/). With either solution, Spotlight will begin reindexing your volume.

Senior Contributor **Ted Landau** is the founder of MacFixIt (www.macfixit.com). Share your problems at bugs@macworld.com or on Macworld.com's Mac g11 forum.

there any way to create either new buttons in Mail or new keyboard shortcuts that would allow me to simply highlight a message and send the highlighted message to a mailbox of my choosing?

Via the Internet

A: This is a time to explore the power of contextual menu commands. In this case, you simply right-click (or control-click) on a mail message and, from the contextual menu, choose Move To. From the submenu that appears, select the mailbox into which you'd like to move the message. (You can

also invoke this command by choosing Message: Move To from the menu bar.)

You can also turn to a utility designed for just this kind of chore. One is Indev Software's Mail Act-On (payment requested; www.indev.ca/MailActOn.html), which allows you to trigger mail rules with a keystroke (see "File Mail Faster"). The gist is that you create a rule to file selected messages in a particular mailbox, assign a shortcut to that rule, and then type the shortcut when you're ready to file your messages. Adam Tow's \$8 MsgFiler (www.tow.com) is another way to go. Just select the messages you want to file, bring up the MsgFiler window, and select the mailbox to which you want to move the messages. ☒

Senior Editor **Christopher Breen** is the author of *The iPod and iTunes Pocket Guide*, third edition, and *The iPhone Pocket Guide*, fourth edition (Peachpit Press, 2008).

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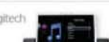
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750GB	7200RPM	32MB	\$199.99	-	\$169.99	
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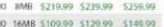
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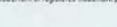
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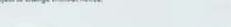
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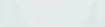
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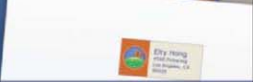
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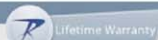
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GEAR GUIDE, THE SEQUEL

A few modest proposals for more tech gifts



Once again, the gift-giving season is upon us, with all its associated stress of trying to find something for the gal who has everything and the guy who likes nothing (Thank God they found each other, because they were driving everyone else crazy.) All that stress sure can pile up, can't it? So why not burn it off by buying yourself something nice? It's not like your family's going to get you anything you want anyway, right? With them, it's all sweaters, socks, and feelings of emotional inadequacy. So let's look at what else is hot this year.

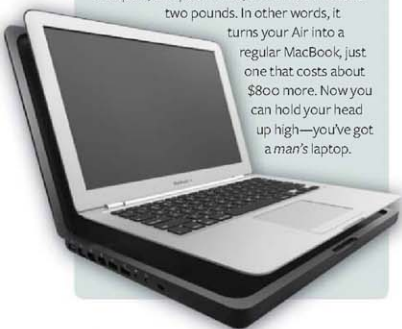


ISTEALTH 4000

Hey, homeboy. All the dawgs in the office are using BlackBerrys, while you're rocking that iPhone? Well, slim, you no longer need to feel like a West Coast rapper at an East Coast party. The IStealth 4000 is an iPhone case that looks exactly like a BlackBerry. Simply slide your phone inside the case, and no one will ever know you're using a cooler smart phone than they are. Your ringtone will convert to an annoyingly generic telecommunications company jingle, the screen will periodically display random sales figures at which you can furrow your brow intently, and the keyboard (while completely nonfunctional) will click loudly enough so that your fellow meeting attendees will think you are one multitasking fool.

Atlas Air Sleeve

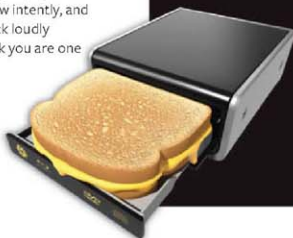
So, now your iPhone fits in, but what about your MacBook Air? Do all the bullies kick sand in your face because you carry a skinny laptop? Not to worry, lightweight—you can now bulk up with the Atlas Air Sleeve. The Air Sleeve is more than just a protective outer shell for your Air: it adds more disk space, a FireWire port, a USB port, an optical drive, and a much-needed two pounds. In other words, it turns your Air into a regular MacBook, just one that costs about \$800 more. Now you can hold your head up high—you've got a man's laptop.



LaCheese Drive

You probably already own drives that will burn you a CD, a DVD, and maybe even a Blu-ray disc. But what good are all those burners when you're up late backing up your ill-gotten BitTorrents and you get hungry? Enter the LaCheese Drive. It burns every kind of optical disc imaginable and makes a mean grilled cheese sandwich. Just slide two pieces of bread and a piece of cheese into the drive and

select Sandwich from the pop-up menu. The drive is not currently ham-compatible, but sources at LaCheese say that option might be added as a firmware update in the future. A pickle dispenser is optional.



KIDDIESCAN LC

You've heard of document scanners and photo scanners. But what about all the lousy art projects your kids make? Who wants to keep a mess of construction paper, felt, and glue that looks like a...what the hell is that? A donkey? Just pop whatever it is into the KiddieScan LC, scan your precious toddler's oeuvre, and then toss it in the trash and get on with your life. The KiddieScan's dome is carefully constructed to make sure the pasta and autumn leaves on your little Monet's objet d'art don't get squished. Leave that for the trash compactor.



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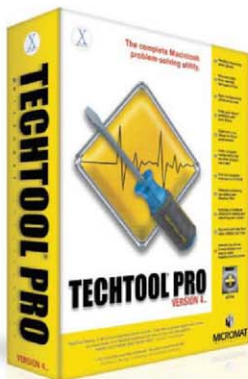


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