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David Price

Editor

Gimme five

Rumour mills turn fastest in a vacuum. And the lack of official announcements concerning the next-generation iPhone has been an irresistible invitation for tech writers to speculate about what we can expect, and when we can expect it.

Yes, there here have been some fanciful theories blowing around over the past year or so. But as launch day approaches, we're starting to get a pretty solid idea of what the iPhone 5 will look like, and how it will differ from its predecessors.

> **"The iPhone 5 handset is only half the equation. The other half, iOS 5, is both revolutionary and free"**

But the handset (which we'll be covering in depth next issue) is only half the equation. The other half, which is getting a fraction of the coverage, is both revolutionary and free.

iOS 5 is compatible with the iPhone 4 and even the 3GS - not to mention the iPad 2 and later generations of the iPod touch. And the user experience with each of these devices will be transformed by this simple upgrade, which adds more than 200 enhancements and new features. Perhaps the most exciting change is that iOS 5 cuts the cord from your desktop entirely - ushering in the post-PC era.

So don't dismiss that trusty old iPhone just yet: with iOS 5, detailed in our cover feature starting on page 26, it's about to get a new lease of life.

Your guide to iPad & iPhone User 54...

GUIDE TO iOS 5 – PAGE 26

Power up your iPad or iPhone for free, with the 200 enhancements and brand-new features in Apple's next operating system. Here's our guide to the ins and outs.

ENTERTAINMENT APPS – PAGE 34

We've got 29 pages of tips to help you get the most out of your iOS device.



IN-EAR HEADPHONES – PAGE 77

Looking for discreet audio on the go? We rate the best in-ear headphones for sound quality, comfort and value for money.

TIPS AND TRICKS – PAGE 84

Get more from your iPad or iPhone, with these eight step-by-step tutorials by our team of seasoned iOS experts.

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REVIEWS

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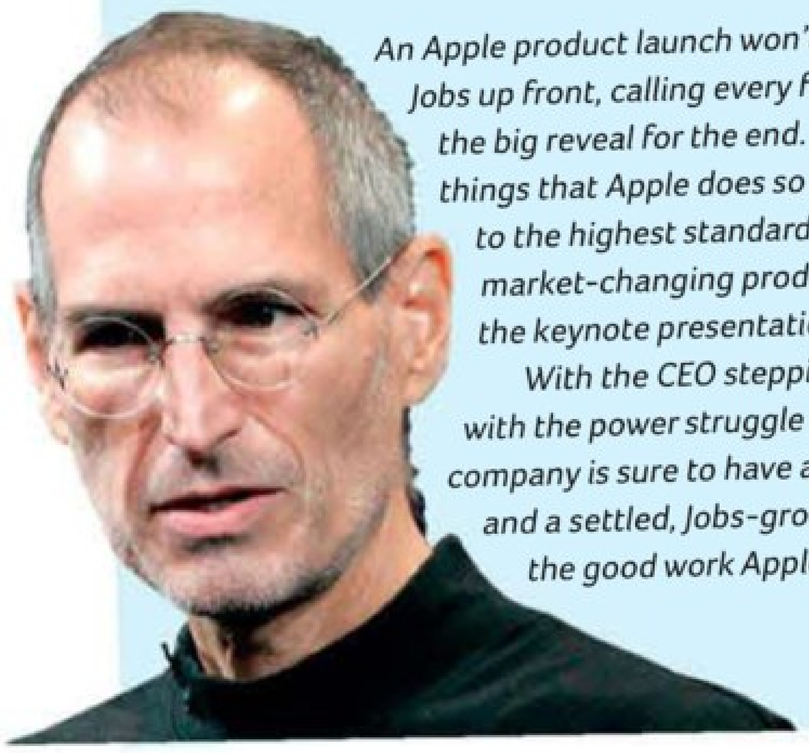
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STAR LETTER

I'm sorry to see the inspired, inspiring and wonderfully dedicated Steve Jobs depart from Apple – particularly with his health worries – but I've got a good feeling about the company's prospects for the future. Apple has many talented employees, and I get the impression that it's ready to move away from the cult of the superstar CEO. Good luck to all concerned, and get well soon, Steve.

John Franks



An Apple product launch won't be the same without Steve Jobs up front, calling every feature "magical" and saving the big reveal for the end. But we agree that all the other things that Apple does so well will continue to be done to the highest standards. The iPad would have been a market-changing product regardless of the quality of the keynote presentation at its launch, after all.

With the CEO stepping down amicably – in contrast with the power struggle last time Jobs left Apple - the company is sure to have a strong succession plan in place, and a settled, Jobs-groomed team ready to continue the good work Apple produced under his leadership.

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iTunes and 64bit Windows

I burned a couple of CDs recently, but I can't get them to play. iTunes doesn't like me since I went over to 64bit Windows, and Windows Media Player, which I usually prefer to use, comes up with some weird execution error. Could it be a DRM copy protection error?

Craig Hinton

If you've re-installed iTunes from an old download, you may not be attempting to run the correct version for your new 64bit setup. You can download the 64bit version of iTunes from Apple's website. Uninstall and reinstall this new version and iTunes should run correctly.

The 'Server execution failed' problem can usually be cured by disabling and re-enabling Windows Media Player.



CD struggles Make sure you've downloaded the correct version of iTunes

Keeping up with the iPhones

While everyone's talking about the iPhone 5, I'm just about to upgrade from the iPhone 3GS to the iPhone 4. How does Apple think we can afford more expense? Then again, Apple hasn't announced anything yet, so I won't hold my breath.

Dave

Well, you might be able to hold your breath if you start now, since the iPhone 5, or whatever Apple decides to call it, should be with us shortly. But of course there's no pressure to buy it if you're happy with your iPhone 4 or 3GS. Many of us here at iPad & iPhone User are compulsive early adopters, but in the technology world it's often best to wait and see how things turn out.

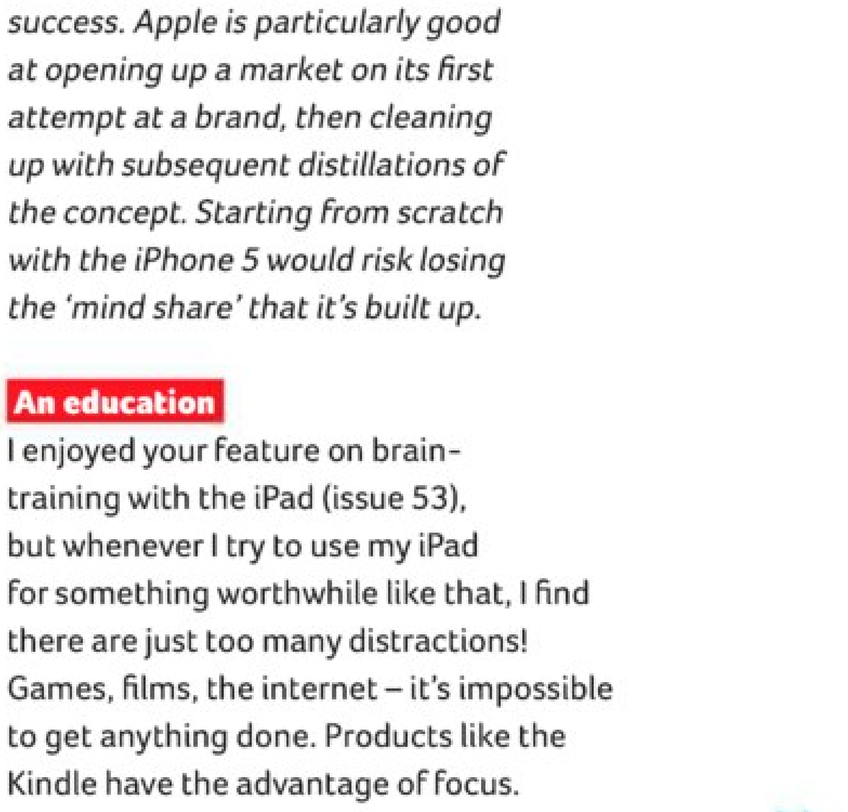
Boring names

I suppose it's not the biggest issue in the world, but I wish Apple would come up with a more imaginative name than 'iPhone 5'. Technology companies and film studios seem to be the worst culprits when it comes to boring branding, assuming we won't buy something unless it has the same name as something else we liked before.

PT Smith

Leaving aside the possibility of 'iPhone 4S' (which isn't exactly super-original, as names go), it does seem unlikely that Apple will break the mould branding-wise.

Easy as it is to dismiss sequelitis, there's no denying the comfort of familiarity, or the simple market principle that a small hardcore of early adopters will try a product the first time, then bring the mass market behind them for the sequel if it's deemed a success. Apple is particularly good at opening up a market on its first attempt at a brand, then cleaning up with subsequent distillations of the concept. Starting from scratch with the iPhone 5 would risk losing the 'mind share' that it's built up.



Distractions With so many different apps and features, it can be tricky to focus on educational apps on the iPad.

An education

I enjoyed your feature on brain-training with the iPad (issue 53), but whenever I try to use my iPad for something worthwhile like that, I find there are just too many distractions! Games, films, the internet – it's impossible to get anything done. Products like the Kindle have the advantage of focus.

Greg Peitrie

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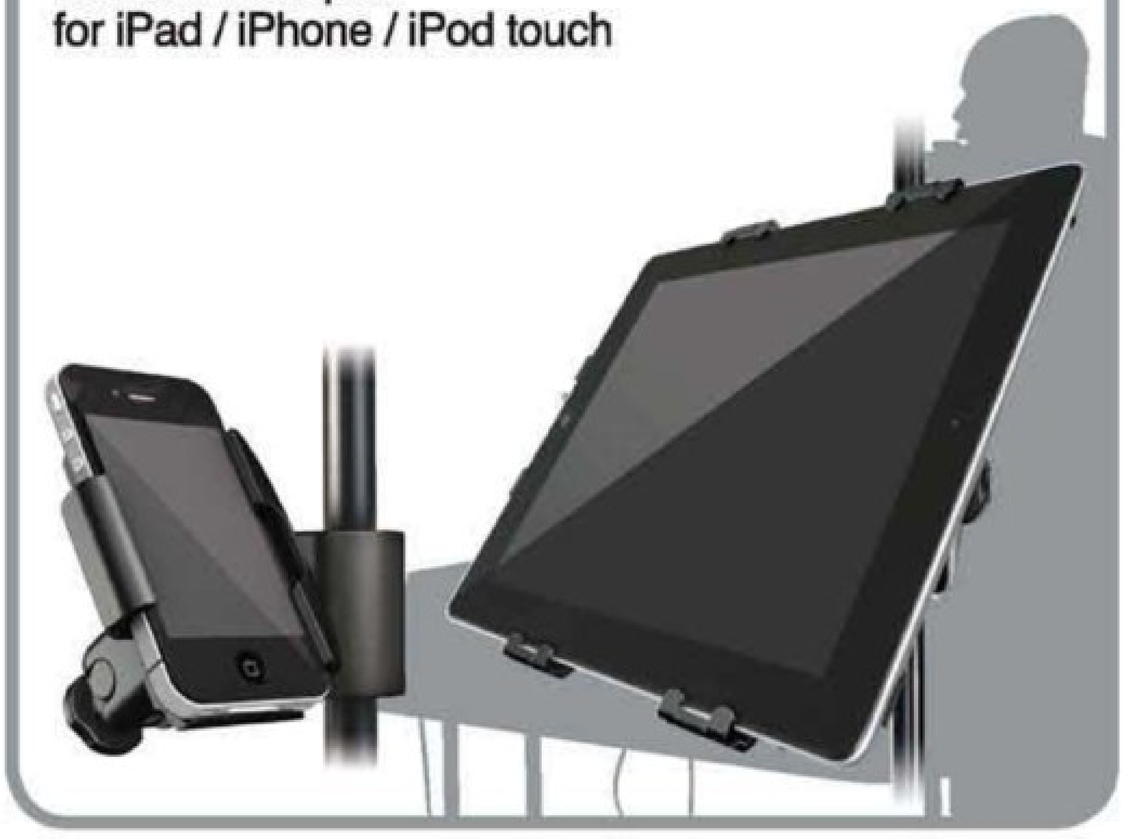
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It's true that if you only want to do one thing on the iPad, there's probably an alternative product that can do that one thing as well, for less money – and you wouldn't keep getting distracted by the hundreds of other functions. But we reckon that if you'd rather be playing games than learning about geology, go with it!



iOS 5 excitement Those that decide not to buy the iPhone 5 when it launches, will still be able to get iOS 5 on earlier generation iDevices.

Hey, let's all get along

I have to laugh when the media tries to turn everything into some kind of artificial 'war' narrative. Every story about tablets either pushes the line that the iPad is crushing all before it, or that Android tablets are taking over and Apple's panicking. Why not just accept that Apple and the Android crowd are both doing well out of a booming tablet market?

Cliff DS

The tablet market is booming, you're right. And there is absolutely a tendency among web news outlets to look for provocative angles when reporting on analyst sales projections and quarterly reports (not that this tendency is unique to the tablets sector, or even to journalism in the internet age).

But regardless of the hype, Android and iOS really are competing forces. I'd even say they are violently opposed visions of what mobile computing could be: one a closed ecosystem, based on meticulous design and fine control, and the other uncontrolled and confusing, but democratic.

And remember that even if both camps are doing well during the boom time, the market can't expand forever. Eventually it'll consolidate, and a lot of people want to know which horse to back for the long term.

Family values

To hell with the iPhone 5! I'm more interested in iOS 5. I'm going to get a load of new features, without having to spend hundreds of pounds for the privilege of upgrading.

Nick O'Brien

That's the spirit, Nick. We've got a feature detailing the exciting enhancements in iOS 5, starting on page 26.

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iPhone 5: Almost here?

An October launch predicted for the next-gen iPhone

As the end of the year draws nearer, rumours are rife about the possibility of next-generation Apple products that could be about to make an appearance.

With iOS 5 and iCloud set to launch soon, it is expected that the next version of the iPhone will also be launching around that time.

It has been reported that Apple has ordered 10 million units of the iPhone 5 from Taiwanese manufacturer Pegatron; that sealed boxes containing iPhone 5s have been transported to mobile network operators for testing purposes; and that Foxconn is assembling 150,000 iPhone 5 units per day.

It is still thought that there could be two new iPhones launching this year, one with an all-new design and a cheaper alternative that looks similar to the iPhone 4 and competes on price with Android phones.

Despite the fact that we still don't know what the iPhone 5 will be like, reports claim that a spokesman for German telecoms provider Deutsche Telekom confirmed that customers can put their name on the list for the next-gen iPhone already.

In the mean time, mockup images of the iPhone 5 based on leaked specifications have surfaced on the web, which show a larger, edge-to-edge screen with an oval-shaped home button, and the iPhone itself is slightly wider, thinner and shorter. The elongated home button could be to accommodate left and right swiping gestures that would enable you to switch between apps quickly, for example.

Other images have emerged that are said to show replacement parts for the next-gen iPhone taken from websites of Chinese resellers. The photographs show the earphone audio jacks in both black and white, which has led to the conclusion that the iPhone 5 will be available in both colours. iPhone parts supplier TVC–Mall has posted images of what claims to be the forthcoming iPhone's battery, camera lens, and earphone audio jack flex cable. All of the components look more or less the same, except the flash is further away from the camera in this case.

> "Sealed boxes containing iPhone 5s have been transported"



It is thought that there could be a MagSafe power connector on its way to iOS devices, after a patent describing this was found.

A widely debated question is whether the iPhone 5 will have 4G LTE chips. Reports claim that 4G LTE equipment has been installed in a major US Apple Store ready for testing. A 4G LTE code has also been found in recent iOS 5 betas. 4G is unlikely to be available in the UK for some time, with an auction of 4G mobile network licences happening in 2012.

How do I look? It is thought that the iPhone 5 will have an edge-to-edge screen

Apple loses iPhone 5 prototype

Apple and police have been put under scrutiny

An Apple employee has lost an iPhone 5 prototype, in an event similar to last year's iPhone 4 debacle. In late July, an Apple employee lost the prototype in a San Francisco bar. The story broke with a report that Apple traced the phone to a home in the area. San Francisco police and Apple investigators visited the home together, and a man gave police permission to search the premises, where they found nothing. Another report then suggested that four men and two women came to his house and presented themselves as police officers, where he said that one of them threatened him. He was then offered $300 to return the device. After this story broke, San Francisco Police finally confirmed that four plain-clothes officers did assist Apple on the visit to the home. The man clarified that he was under the impression that all six visitors were police, and he said that he would never have allowed a search if he had known otherwise.



Oops, I did it again The loss of an iPhone prototype has occured twice

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Steve Jobs resigns

Tim Cook is to take over as CEO, while Jobs continues at the company as chairman of the board

On 24 August Apple announced that Steve Jobs has resigned as CEO of Apple, bringing to a close a remarkable chapter in the company's history.

Tim Cook, previously the company's chief operating officer, has taken over Jobs' position. Cook has experience in the role, having taken over during the CEO's three previous medical leaves of absence.

In his resignation letter, Steve Jobs said: "I have always said if there ever came a day when I could no longer meet my duties and expectations as Apple's CEO, I would be the first to let you know. Unfortunately, that day has come."

Although Tim Cook has had experience running Apple's day-to-day operations during Jobs' leaves of absence, including the period from January to present, there are questions about his ability to continue the spirit of innovation embodied by Jobs, whose headstrong management style inspired workers, and whose vision kept the firm ahead of market trends.

Apple board member Art Levinson, chairman of Genentech, said on behalf of Apple's board: "Steve's extraordinary vision and leadership saved Apple and guided it to its position as the world's most innovative and valuable technology company. Steve has made countless contributions to Apple's success, and he has attracted and inspired Apple's immensely creative employees and world-class executive team."

Levinson added that the board has "complete confidence" that Cook is the right person to be Apple's next CEO. "Tim's 13 years of service to Apple have been marked by outstanding performance, and he has demonstrated remarkable talent and sound judgment in everything he does," he said.

Jobs has now taken up a position as chairman of the board at Apple, so he has not left the company altogether. And executives have stressed that he will still be involved in design and product decisions. "Jobs will continue as chairman of the board, so you are talking about a guy who will continue to have influence on Apple's products for years to come," said Gartner analyst Michael Gartenberg.

But the state of Jobs' health remains sadly unclear, and in his letter to employees he suggested that his role will be lessened in the future.

> "Tim Cook has had experience running Apple's day-to-day operations during Job's absence"

Cook's experience during Jobs' previous absences mean he is no stranger to the spotlight. He's handled the day-to-day CEO duties at Apple since Jobs took a medical leave of absence in January. That marked the third time Cook has overseen the company – he was also interim CEO in 2004 when Jobs had surgery for pancreatic cancer, and then in 2009 when he had a liver transplant. And he's now the official CEO. Jobs' resignation letter refers to an already-in-place succession plan, which was rumoured to exist back in July.

Cook may not match Jobs in creative ability, Gartenberg said, but he is the best person to bring all of the elements of Apple together.



Change of pace Steve Jobs has now taken up a position as chairman of the board at Apple

Samsung vs Apple war battles on

Apple may reveal iPad 2 sales figures in battle over Samsung's Galaxy Tab 10.1

Apple's battle with Samsung over sales of the Galaxy Tab 10.1 in Australia could hang on Apple's willingness to release iPad sales figures in the UK and US.

Apple doesn't traditionally give sales figures for individual territories, but reports suggest that the judge in the Apple vs Samsung case in Australia has said that the data would improve Apple's chances of blocking sales of the Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1 in that country.

Justice Annabelle Bennett of the Sydney Federal Court said: "Unless Apple puts on evidence showing the impact in the US or UK, I can't draw any positive assumptions."

Apple has made the claim that Samsung's Galaxy Tab 10.1 tablet infringes 10 patents relating to the iPad. The company also argues that Samsung has been misleading consumers by insinuating that the Galaxy Tab 10.1 offers the same performance as the iPad 2.



Doppleganger? Apple claims that the Galaxy Tab 10.1 infringes iPad patents

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NEWS

Apple prices iCloud

£70 per year for 50GB, on top of free 5GB

Apple has set out pricing for its forthcoming iCloud service. US punters will fork out $20 per year for an extra 10GB, $40 for 20GB or $100 for 50GB. Those of us in the UK will be able to get 50GB for £70 per year, while other European-based iCloud users will pay 80 Euros for 50B, other sterling and Euro prices are to be confirmed.

Apple announced the pricing as it opened up its first public developer beta test for iCloud in August.

The US pricing looks pretty appealing when compared to rival services such as Dropbox – which charges $9.99 (around £6) per month for 50GB, working out to $120 (£74) per year – and you get 5GB of storage for free with iCloud. Those in the UK won't make as much of a saving, though.

> "Those of us in the UK will be able to get 50GB for £70 a year"

However, you won't be able to store absolutely all of your documents and files in iCloud – Apple said iCloud will only sync documents created with Apple's apps (Pages, Numbers and Keynote, for example) as well as any third-party apps that are adapted to take advantage of iCloud.

iCloud will roll out in the autumn when iOS 5 is announced, though some features such as iTunes in the Cloud won't be available to UK customers initially.

UK customers will, however, have access to features such as Photo Stream, which auto-imports any new pictures taken on an iOS device or added to iPhoto and stores them for 30 days in the cloud. You can view those photos on (and in some cases download them to) other iOS devices, computers, and even your Apple TV.

Other features include the ability to sync your contacts, calendars, email and Safari bookmarks between iOS devices and computers.

Developer pass Apple's iCloud Beta is currently open to developers, but we expect its arrival alongside iOS 5 this autumn



iPhone killer of the month

Could these gadgets be the death knell of the iPhone? As if!

Motorola Photon 4G

A Google Android smartphone with a 4.3in screen and 16GB memory on board. Despite the "4G" in the name, the Motorola Photon 4G doesn't support the LTE 4G spectrum, offering instead the much less available WiMax 4G spectrum.





LG Optimus Black P970

The LG Optimus Black P970 is an android smartphone with 512MB of RAM. It's lacking in internal memory, with just 2GB, although it is expandable up to 32GB through microSD.

White iPod touch coming?

iPod touch headphone jack spotted in white

Apple could be about to release a white iPod touch, according to reports. Japanese website Macotakara has discovered a white headphone jack with a slanted edge, which would fit the current iPod touch design. The site claims it is for the fifth-generation iPod touch, which is expected to be revealed this autumn at a music-themed event.

The white headphone jack doesn't resemble other headphone jacks, supposedly for the next-generation iPhone, which were leaked last month. Back in July, other reports suggested that Apple was planning a white iPod touch. Apple's efforts to create a white iPhone 4 were delayed by problems with the paint letting too much light into the body of the iPhone, leaving pictures taken on the device's camera over-exposed.



White on Is the iPod family expanding with the introduction on a new white model?



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Apple's 'spaceship' campus

Taking architecture to a new level

The planned Apple campus, dubbed the Apple Campus 2, takes architecture to an entirely new level. Curpertino.org, the city's website, says the four-story campus will be an office, research and development building, and is expected to hold 12,000 people, span 2.8 million square feet on 175 acres, and be operational by 2015. Then CEO Steve Jobs presented these plans earlier this summer to the Cupertino city council, which is currently reviewing the plans. Apple says the campus will exceed economic, social and environmental sustainability goals.

"The spaceship concept is clever and a departure from other landmark buildings," says Steve Yamaguma, president and creative director of Design2Market. "It definitely helps define Silicon Valley's 'think different' mantra."



Shared workspace?

Apple patent hints at shared workspace for iOS devices

Your iPhone, iPad or other future iOS devices may be able to work together to create a shared virtual workspace displayed on a wall, door, or any other flat surface. The US Patent and Trademark Office has published a new patent application from Apple that suggests the company may integrate pico or mini projectors into future iOS devices.

Thumbs up...

The Macworld Express app has arrived

Macworld Express offers the best of our web and print content delivered to your iPad, updated every minute of every day.

Apple adds Quick Reads to iBookstore

Apple has added a new section to its online bookstore, aimed at selling more bite-sized ebooks.

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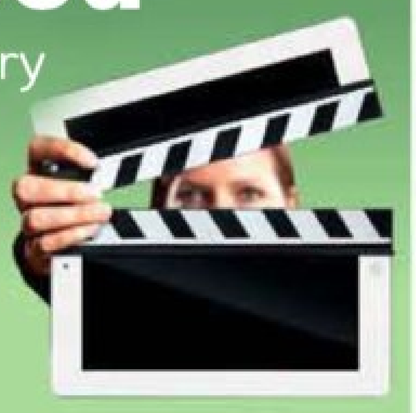
Thumbs down...

27 fake Apple Stores found in China

A total of 27 fake Apple Stores have been discovered in China. They have been ordered to stop using Apple's logo after Apple accused them of unfair competition and violating its registered trademark. An iPhone 5 rip-off - the HiPhone 5 - has also been spotted for sale on Chinese websites.

iPad goes to Hollywood

iPads have caught on in the entertainment industry



If you're lucky enough to be on a Hollywood set, chances are you'll see more than a few people carrying iPads - and most will be big-shot executives. The iPad has caught on in the entertainment industry, driven by the device's billing as a great media-consumption device, and the speed of adoption is pretty impressive.

Hollywood-based Sample Digital, a software developer of workflow applications, built an iPad app version earlier this year. Now the iPad app is used by 70 per cent of Sample Digital's more than 120 movie and television production customers, who produce top shows such as *The Mentalist* and *CSI*. Sample Digital CEO Patrick Macdonald-King said: "The iPad's screen is big enough for people to actually digest media properly and make creative decisions – see stuff on the fly."

The iPad has become a sort of status symbol for executives, says Macdonald-King. Assistants often lug laptops, while the power players prefer to carry a slick, cool-looking iPad. The day is coming, though, when everyone on a production set will have an iPad, he says.

GRAPEVINE

All the latest rumour, speculation, and idle chatter

Power boost for iPad 3

Apple's next iPad will be faster and more power-efficient thanks to its new, quad-core A6 processor, but the tablet may not be ready to ship until next June, according to reports. The A6 will succeed the dual-core A5 processor used in Apple's iPad 2. The A6 chip is likely to be made by chip foundry company Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. The A5 is manufactured by Samsung, and Apple is embroiled in a legal dispute with that company over alleged patent infringements.

There will be a thinner, lighter battery for the iPad 3 An Apple branded TV set will arrive soon iPhone 5 will launch on 21 October, according to an O2 customer services worker Apple will launch an 8GB iPhone 4

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WISHLIST

The best new toys: iPad & iPhone kit to covet

In the neighbourhood

Media Speakers: Lower East Side Edition

Audyssey's new speakers were inspired by New York's Lower East Side District, and are the first in their price range to include auxillary and optical audio inputs for use with a desktop, laptop, Apple TV, iPad, iPod or iPhone. The speakers, available in Apple Stores, consist of two 3.5in woofers, two .75in silk dome tweeters and one 4in passive bass radiator. There's easy access to volume control as well as auto standby. Also, Audyssey have ensured that no matter how low the volume gets, the bass will be maintained.

1 **Lower East Side Edition**
Price: £179
URL: www.audyssey.com



Be in control

Beacon Universal Remote

Griffin's Beacon can turn your iDevice into a Universal Remote Control to allow control of your entire entertainment system. Dijit's Universal Remote App paired with Griffin's Beacon hardware turns Bluetooth signals from your device into infrared commands that your components can pick up, and offers customisable control.



2 **Beacon Universal Remote**
Price: £55
URL: www.griffintechnology.com

Complete control



Bass jumping

TEAC SR-80i Mini Aurb

The SR-80i is an iPhone and iPod speaker system with DAB radio. Its speakers feature a 30W amplifier and TEAC's proprietary Maxx Audio DSP bass-enhancement system to provide more oomph than you'd expect from a unit of this size. It also charges your device's battery while docked.

3 **TEAC SR-80i Mini Aurb**
Price: £150
URL: www.teac.co.uk

GEAR GUIDE

Suits you

Get personal with these cool iPhone 4 cases to suit your style

ThumbsUp! waterproof case
www.thumbsupworld.co.uk
Price: £20
Waterproof up to a depth of 40 metres, the ThumbsUp! Case still enables you to use your iPhone while maintaining full protection.





4 **Carbon-Deluxe**
Price: €44
URL: www.ipad-butler.com

Deluxe stand

iPad-Butler Carbon Deluxe Stand

The Carbon Deluxe is a multipurpose stand for your iPad. It can attach to a wall, can rest securely on a table, can be used in the car to turn your iPad into a navigation device or to keep the kids entertained in the back. It can even be screwed to a desk. The Carbon-Deluxe allows you to use your iPad anywhere with two hands. It's portable and keeps your iPad safely locked in place. It also includes a swan-neck suction cup and a golf ball joint to allow more versatility.

Optional extras include cigarette lighter and headrest adaptors and a floor stand.

5 **Kanex AirBlue**
Price: £33 (ex VAT)
URL: www.kanexlive.com

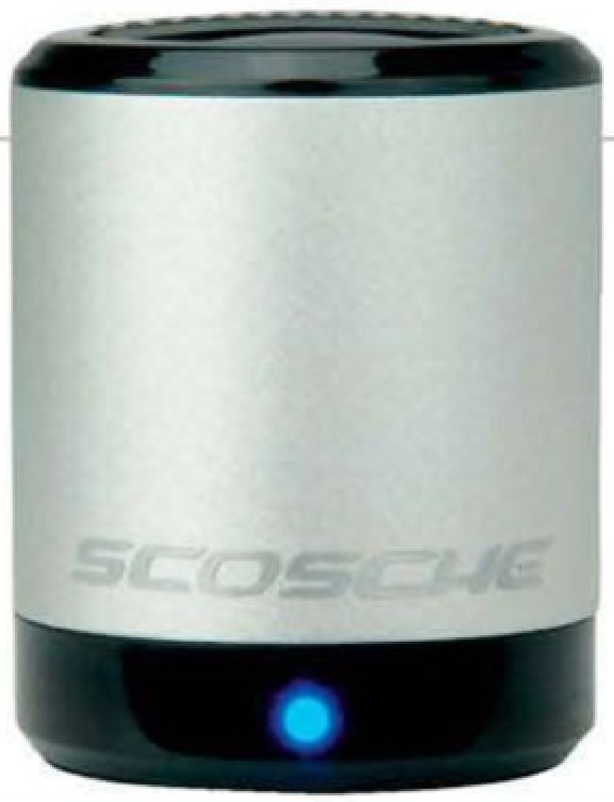


The Blues

Kanex AirBlue

The Kanex AirBlue is a portable music receiver that uses Bluetooth to allow users to wirelessly play, listen to and control music from an iPhone or iPod touch, through a home stereo or speakers. Music can be controlled from up to 40 metres away. The AirBlue is charged via USB, and lasts up to 10 hours to give you plenty of ear candy for the day.

6 **boomCAN**
Price: £20
URL: www.scosche

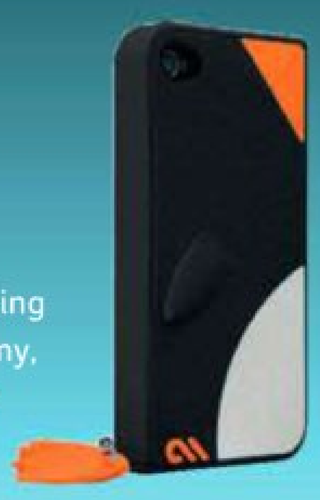


Small but mighty

CAN it

boomCAN

This nifty speaker from Scosche is only 2.5 inches tall and 2 inches wide, and is perfect for the office or bedroom, or on the go. It plugs into a 3.5mm headphone jack so you can use it with your iPhone, iPad, iPod or other media player, and is available in black, silver, blue or red.



Case – Mate Creatures Collection
www.case-mate.com
Price: £20
Wild iPhone cases, including a penguin, a fish, a mummy, a Frankenstein's monster and an owl.

OtterBox Commuter series
www.otterbox.com
Price: £30
Choose one of nine designs in the Commuter Series to keep your iPhone 4 safe within three protective layers.



Cygnett WorkMate Pro
www.cygnett.com
Price: £20
A slim-line case made of silicon and polycarbonate, the WorkMate Pro should help absorb the impact if you drop your iPhone 4.



Storekeeper.com

Take your pick

Sennheiser CX215 and MX365

Sennheiser has released two new budget earphone designs: the CX215 and the slightly cheaper MX365. Available in blue, green, orange, red or bronze, the CX215 in-ear earphones come with finger-contoured housing design to enable easy adjustment and comfort when using them. The MX365 earphones are just £15, and there are six colours to choose from: red, white, blue, gold, bronze or orange, and come with a pair of earpads for optional added comfort.

7 **Sennheiser CX215 and MX365**
Price: £30 or £15
URL: www.sennheiser.co.uk



No tricks here

Magicbox Beam

The Beam is a docking station, with DAB, internet-radio and Wi-Fi connectivity for streaming music from anywhere in the world, or from closer to home. When docked, your iPod or iPhone's battery will charge, and you'll have access to all of its music. A touchscreen makes choosing songs or stations quick and easy, displaying track info and album artwork.

8 **Magicbox Beam**
Price: £180
URL: www.magicboxproducts.com



Crystallised

CrystalDock for iPhone

The CrystalDock is made from crystal glass, and each one is hand-crafted in Europe. There are four designs available, including the Special Limited Edition Aurora, of which only 999 exist. The other designs have different patterns, and are called the Beau, the Celestia and the Dune.

9 **Crystal Dock**
Price: £169 (£299 for Aurora)
URL: www.calypsocrystal.com



GEAR GUIDE

Stay charged

Give your iPhone a power up with these handy charging devices

Mophie juice pack air
www.mophie.com
Price: £60
Juice pack air is a two-in-one iPhone 4 case and rechargeable external battery to increase your talk, surf and play time.

IDAPT i1 Eco Charger
www.firebox.com
Price: £20
The IDAPT i1 Eco Charger comes with three charging tips suitable for most gadgets, and has built-in auto shut-off to save power and money.

StoreKeep.com

PITY THE SOUND'S AS THIN AS THE TV.





There's one problem with flatscreen TVs. The sound quality's a bit flat too.

Thats why Orbitsound have developed the revolutionary new T12 Spatial Stereo TV soundbar and iPod dock.

With its integrated 100-watt amplifier and standalone bass subwoofer, the T12 brings cinema-quality sound to your living room, without the need for multiple speakers and yards of cabling.

And thanks to our unique spatial stereo technology, you hear true stereo sound wherever you're sitting in the room.

We call it the infinite sweetspot, and it's infinitely better than conventional systems.

But don't take our word for it. Come and listen to the T12 for yourself.

Ears don't lie.





Available at John Lewis or buy online at orbitsound.com

orbitsound®
BELIEVE YOUR EARS

WISHLIST

All-round sound

Orbitsound T12v3

Orbitsound has just announced its new T12v3 soundbar (to replace the T12v2), which has several technical improvements from its predecessor. It has a high-gloss unit and a metal speaker grill. The T12v3 incorporates Orbitsound's patented 'spatial stereo' technology, designed to produce stereo sound from a single unit, to prevent users from needing to sit in a particular place in the room to hear the best sound.



10 **Orbitsound T12v3**
Price: £299
URL: www.orbitsound.com

Raising the bar

Tiny disco

X-mini RAVE

The X-mini RAVE Capsule Speaker is a new addition to X-mini's multifunction range. Use it to listen to radio without the need for an external antenna, and to plug in your iPhone or iPad to play your own music. The X-mini RAVE allows users to tune into their favourite radio stations, and it has a memory feature which remembers the last radio station being listened to.

11 **X-mini RAVE**
Price: €40
URL: www.x-mini.com



Tidy and precise

AluPen and AluCube

Just Mobile's award-winning AluPen now has two new colours: Titanium and Pink. The AluPen is a chunky pencil-shaped stylus for your iOS device, with an aluminium body and a soft rubber nib. Its aim is to give you touch precision for your iDevice. The AluCube is a rubber-lined aluminium stand for your AluPen, with a cable recess in the base to help keep your desk tidy. It can also be used as a paperweight.

12 **AluPen and AluCube**
Price: £35
URL: www.xtand.net



"A rubber-lined aluminium stand for your AluPen with a cable recess in the base"

GEAR GUIDE

Inject69
www.xebectech.com
Price: £20
The Inject69 comes in handy when your iPhone runs out of battery and you're away from a plug.



Fuel Max
www.case-mate.com
Price: £70
Offers an additional nine hours of talk time for your iPhone 4, while protecting your device from scratches.



iRis iPhone 4 battery pack
www.lingodab.co.uk
Price: £80
Lingo's iRis battery pack increases your iPhone's life and comes with a patent-pending Charging Wizard management system to monitor your power capacity.



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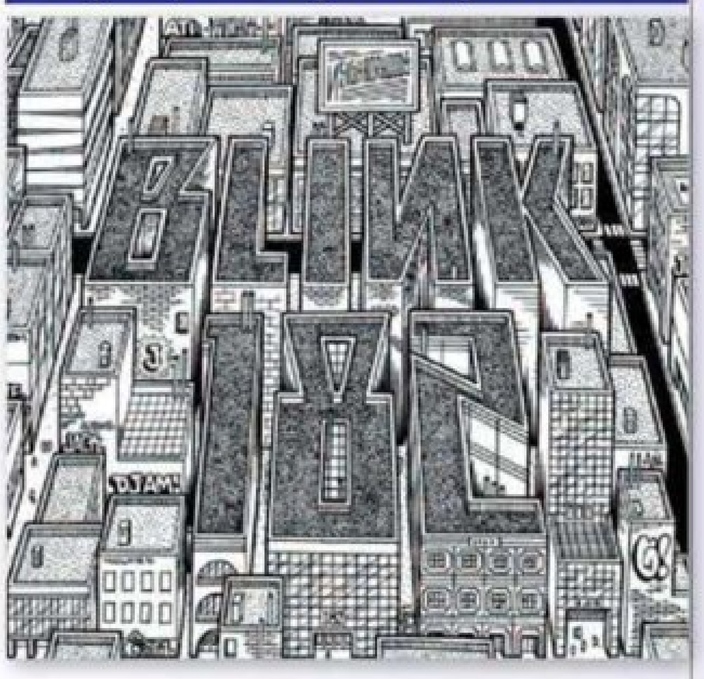
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NEW MUSIC ON iTUNES

The latest sounds on the iTunes Store and beyond...

Everybody needs good neighbours



Blink 182 – *Neighborhoods*

The American pop punk trio are back with their sixth studio album, the first since their indefinite hiatus in 2004. In those seven years, the band's guitarist Tom DeLonge went on to form Angels & Airwaves, and bass guitarist Mark Hoppus and drummer Travis Barker formed +44. A series of unfortunate events brought the three original Blink-182 members back together, most prominent being the South Carolina Learjet 60 crash, in which Barker was one of only two survivors. While in the hospital, Hoppus and DeLonge visited, allowing the band to patch up their differences. DeLonge said it was fate.

Mapped out



One Direction
– *What Makes You Beautiful*

It's the single that teenage girls across the country have been waiting for since this heartthrob boy band came third in last year's *The X Factor*.

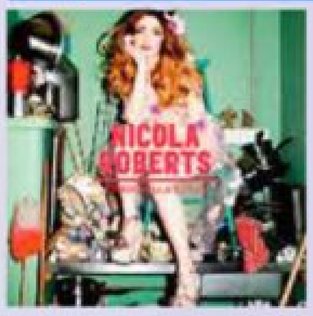
Joy of Six



You Me At Six
– *Sinners Never Sleep*

The third full-length album from these Surrey rockers is set to be released on 3 October, just after Loverboy, the first single from the album.

Pop Princess



Nicola Roberts
– *Cinderella's Eyes*

The Girls Aloud star is going solo with her debut album, featuring her top 30 single Beat of My Drum, and her brand new single Lucky Day.

Feeling rubbish



The Kooks
– *Junk of the Heart*

The first album from this Brighton band since Drummer Paul Garred was replaced by Chris Pendergast due to injury is set to be a hit.

Wake up!



James Morrison
– *The Awakening*

James Morrison teams up with ex-Suede guitarist Bernard Butler to bring us 13 brand-new songs on his third album, also available as a deluxe version.

Prehistoric



Kasabian – *Velociraptor!*

Another English band releasing a new album this month is Kasabian, with their fourth studio album since the rock band formed in Leicestershire back in 1999.

MORE NEW MUSIC...

Internet music radar

No iTunes Replay soon

It was thought iTunes Replay, a new service that would put all your iTunes movie purchases in the cloud, was close to launch. However, Apple and the movie studios are still a long way off a deal that would let you stream or redownload your movie purchases to any PC or iOS device, according to the latest rumours.



iTunes U hits 600 million downloads

Apple's iTunes U has hit the 600 million download mark. According to reports, 30 per cent of traffic comes from iOS devices and 60 per cent from outside the US. In August 2010, Apple celebrated 300 million downloads from iTunes U, meaning that it has doubled that haul in little over a year.



Illegal download risks

Research carried out by the University of Ballarat in Australia, alongside the Federal Police, the state government and other parties, has found that 50 per cent of illegal download links, for music or films for example, are fakes and many contain code that can be used to access personal information.



Apple updates iTunes to 10.4.1

Apple has released iTunes 10.4.1 to address a collection of bugs in the application. The update provides a number of improvements; for example, third-party keyboards' media keys (play/pause, and so on) now work properly in iTunes. An issue regarding the adding of artwork to songs and videos has also been fixed.

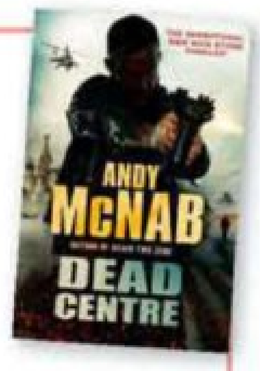


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Other iTunes goodies

Podcasts, games, audiobooks, iTunes U...



BOOK

Dead Centre

The 14th book from Andy McNab to feature the character Nick Stone, *Dead Centre* sees the ex British Army member go under cover to retrieve incriminating material from a devastated landscape.



APP

4oD Catch Up for iPhone

A new version of the 4oD Catch Up app, which supports the iPhone and iPod touch, has been launched. In April, an iPad only version was released, but it's now available on smaller iOS devices.



GAME

Banjo Piranha

Make the little green piranha jump high out of the water to collect banjos and fruit. Stay away from the red and black piranhas, though. Almost as addictive as Angry Birds, this iPad and iPhone game is only 69p.



APP

Luminance

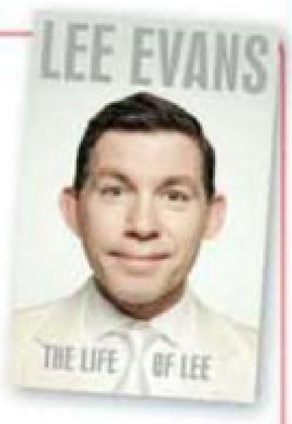
Transform your photographs using one of the 15 adjustable preset filters and effects in this quick and easy-to-use photo editing app for the iPhone or iPad. And it costs just 69p.



GAME

Flick Soccer! HD

Football fanatics will love this fun iPad game from Full Fat Productions. Featuring cool 3D graphics and five different game modes to keep you and your flicking fingers entertained, it will set you back £2.99.



BOOK

The Life of Lee

Lee Evans has written a hilarious autobiography, taking the reader through his life from childhood to stardom as an all-conquering comedian and actor.

ESSENTIALS The highlights from your world right now

GIG: Katy Perry, October 12 to November 8

'California Gurl' Katy is on tour across the UK this month

www.katyperry.com

GAME: FIFA 12, 30 September

The 19th game in the FIFA series has arrived

www.ea.com/uk/game/fifa12

MOVIE: The Change-Up, 16 September

Hilarious comedy from the writers of *The Hangover*

www.thechangeupmovie.com

COMEDY: Jason Manford, until November

Off on tour he goes, across the UK

www.jasonmanford.com

SPORT: Rugby World Cup, until 23 October

This year's world cup is taking place in New Zealand

www.rugbyworldcup.com



Teenage dreaming across the UK in October and November



Off On Tour We Go With Jason Manford until November

Video on the iTunes store

New for your iPad's screen



***Warehouse 13* Season 3**

This series follows secret service agents retrieving artefacts from the mysterious Warehouse 13. It's available for £2.49 per episode.



***Wilfred* Season 1**

A new comedy starring Elijah Wood, in which he forms a friendship with his neighbour's dog. Buy the series pass for £26.99, or £2.49 per episode.



***Eli Stone* Season 2**

Even after his operation, Eli Stone, a lawyer from San Francisco is still having hallucinations in this 'dramedy'. A season pass will set you back £19.99.



***Outnumbered* Season 4**

The hilarious, award-winning British sitcom *Outnumbered* is back on the BBC. You can catch up with the latest goings-on for £1.89 per episode.



***Teen Wolf* Season 1**

Inspired by the 1985 film, *Teen Wolf* follows a 17-year-old werewolf coming to terms with his identity. It's £2.49 per episode or £25.99 for a series pass.



***Born Survivor: Bear Grylls* Season 5**

Bear Grylls is back for another series of survival challenges across the globe. Watch the whole series for £14.99 or £1.89 per episode.

Man of steel

After five decades in the music business, British crooner Tony Christie has seen it all. But it wasn't always an easy ride

By Jo Kendall

The young Tony Christie was born Anthony Fitzgerald in 1943 in the South Yorkshire town of Conisbrough. He shared an extended family home with his piano-playing father and harmonium-pumping grandad, and it was only a matter of time before Tony caught the music bug, picked up a guitar and made his way through the tough British working men's club circuit.

His life – and name – changed (inspired by 60s starlet Julie Christie) and he made Sheffield, the city of steel, his new home.

Now aged 67, Tony Christie is a golden-throated national treasure recognised by fellow Sheffield brethren Jarvis Cocker, Richard Hawley and Alex Turner – not to mention über-comic Peter Kay – and as his new album attests, he's not resting on his well-deserved laurels just yet.

Take us back to how you started in this malarkey, Tony.

I started out in 1961. I was part of a double act from school called The Grant Brothers. We played guitars and did Everly Brothers and Roy Orbison harmonies. We'd do all the working men's clubs, but then my partner got a girlfriend so I went solo. Eventually I was approached by The Counterbeats. Would I like to leave my office job and turn pro, they asked. I certainly did – I was an accountant and not a very good one – so I left and went on the road.

The club circuit was legendarily hard work, wasn't it?

We were a jobbing band. In those days we would gig every night, all over the UK – I did my apprenticeship up and down the M1. In the late 60s I'd do three clubs a night round the Manchester area sometimes. I was forever losing my voice. But that was the life I'd chosen.

How long did it take you to get noticed?

A long time. I did my first record in 1967 with The Who's producer, Shel Talmy [called Life's Too Good To Waste, featuring Jimmy Page]. Then I did a record with MGM, the same label as Tony Blackburn. That wasn't right for me. My next song was a Les Reed tune called Turn Around, but Kathy Kirby had also recorded it and we cancelled each other out. Against Englebert Humperdinck and Tom Jones it was hard to get a break.

What was the tipping point?

It was a song called Las Vegas by a couple of producer-songwriters called Mitch Murray and Peter Callander in 1971. They'd had big successes with Cliff Richard and Gerry And The Pacemakers. Then they came up with I Did What I Did For Maria. And while my manager Harvey Lisberg was in America – he managed Herman's Hermits and later 10cc – he was talking to Neil Sedaka, saying have you got anything for Tony? And that's where Is This The Way To Amarillo? came from.

By the 80s you had left the UK. And then Jarvis Cocker came along in the 90s...

When my career took a bit of a dive in the 80s, I went to live in Spain – on the continent I was selling millions of records. Jarvis contacted me and said: "I've got two mates who are DJs and producers called All Seeing Eye – we've written a song for you [Walk Like A Panther] and they want to produce it." I went back to the UK to record it and forgot about it. Then a few weeks later I got asked to do *Top Of The Pops* – I hadn't been on *TOTP* for 26 years!

Next, Amarillo was back in the charts.

That was a bolt out of the blue. I saw it on *Phoenix Nights* and didn't think any more about it. Then the next day my son rang, saying everyone's asking "Where can we buy that Peter Kay record?" Which slightly irked me! Eventually it was number one through Comic Relief. That's when I got so busy in the UK I moved back.

And Richard Hawley made your next record.

Another Sheffield connection. With Richard producing, I did Made In Sheffield in 2008 and was very proud, it was incredible. I think that record could still be played in 1,000 years time. Big strings, great melodies. Alex Turner from the Arctic Monkeys got involved, then we did a Human League song [Louise] and picked out new songwriters from Sheffield who'd never been heard before.

> **"The voice is still there so while I'm able to do it I want to carry on recording, it's my legacy"**

So what's the new album, Now's The Time, all about?

I got back with All Seeing Eye, who'd written me all these brand-new songs with a classic 60s style. I had faith in them and said: "Do whatever you want." Jarvis got involved again with the track Get Christie [based on the Roy Budd soundtrack to Get Carter] and I'd travel to Sheffield, do two or three vocals, then leave them to it. I could have done a modern digital thing but I like going in a real studio.

Already thinking of the future?

I am. Now's The Time has been snapped up by Germany and the continent – they're going mad about it – and I'm always being asked to do a duets album. After *Come Dine With Me* at the end of last year it was suggested I should work with Goldie, but he's got his own sort of thing going. I'd like to sing with Tony Bennett, a great inspiration to me, but at the moment I want to keep moving forward. The voice is still there so while I'm able to do it I want to carry on recording, it's my legacy.

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Hall of fame

Tony has played thousands of shows all over the world. But which is his all-time favourite venue?



"The Royal Albert Hall. It's historic and beautiful with an incredible atmosphere. Although it's massive, once you get on that stage it's got a surprising intimacy. I've played there four times over the years. The last time was with Richard Hawley and Jarvis Cocker in 2008. Richard was there for his album Lady's Bridge. We did Danger Is a Woman in Love from the Made In Sheffield album. The place went mad. I can't wait to go back!"

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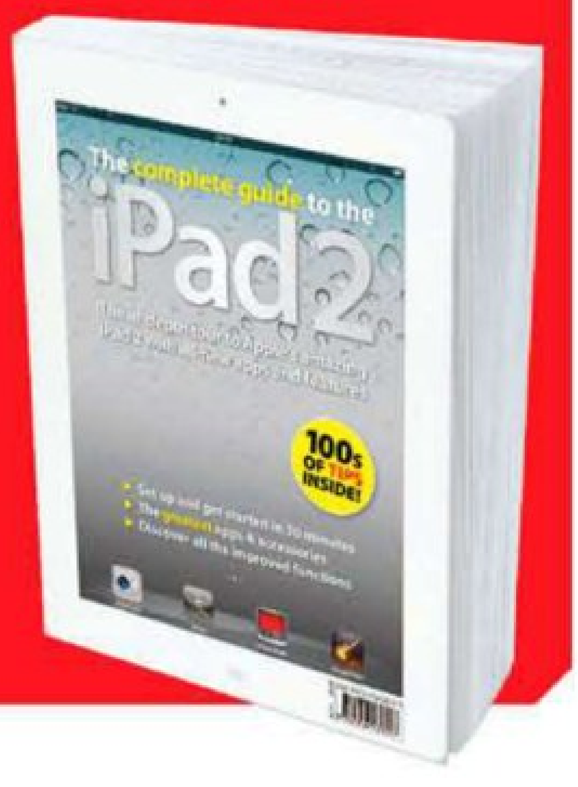


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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



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COMPLETE GUIDE TO iOS 5

Fancy adding 200 dazzling new features to your iPad and iPhone experience, without paying a penny? Apple just made planet iOS even more exciting

By Jonny Rocket



Always anxious for the next big thing, Apple aficionados are feverishly scanning the horizons for the follow-up to last year's iPhone 4 – an eagerly awaited product, which could even, thanks to the cruel vagaries of fate and publishing deadlines, have been unveiled by the time you read this issue.

If you don't fancy shelling out for the iPhone 5 (or whatever it's called), however, another Apple release is approaching that will let your existing iPhone or iPad access hundreds of enhancements and new features for free. We've taken a sneak preview at iOS 5, the next edition of Apple's mobile operating system, and in the following pages look at what you can expect, and answer your questions about the new platform.

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Cut the cord: PC-free setup and sync

Apple claims we're moving toward a post-PC planet. That's one where you don't just depend on the Mac in the corner, but also on a number of connected devices all drawing data from the cloud: music, songs, movies, you name it. iOS 5 brings that idea one step closer. Not only does it let you sync wirelessly (see page 30), but you can even set up a new device wirelessly, update its software without the need for a computer, and more.

To set up your device, simply enter your Apple ID, configure the cloud services including Find my iPhone, and then activate your device right from the phone. The only obstacle here is that you'll need to create an Apple ID in the first place – which is fine if you already have one, but you'll need to use a Mac, PC or other iOS device if you don't. The entire process is well explained through a series of on-screen cues.

Once you've run your first sync, you can set up your device to sync automatically or at your own choice of pre-set intervals. This means your data, music, media and images will always be up to date, even without iCloud. However, iCloud means we can expect increasing quantities of our personal data to be made available across all our compatible devices. The only limitation on Apple's post-PC implementation here is that we still need to plug our devices into a wall socket to power up our batteries, though published patents reveal it won't always be that way...



PC-free Features include non-tethered product activation, wireless iTunes sync and OTA software updates, though you may need to connect to your PC the first time to enable this

Notifications Center

The Notifications Center is Apple's new iOS 5 home for all your notifications, including emails, Facebook messages and tweets. Every app that needs to get a message to you can do so via this feature. Inevitably, as your collection of apps grows you'll find it harder to keep track of them all, so you can choose which apps get to enjoy the default right to get their messages to you first via the Notifications centre using Notification settings within iOS 5. Default notifications come from Calendar, Reminders, Game Center, Mail and Messages, and these can be enabled and disabled at your will.

On a per-app basis you can choose to have new Notifications shown as banners, utilising the new notification system, or as alerts – the traditional iOS way of sharing these. You can get an alert for a new Reminder or a banner for a calendar item. In a tribute to Japan, Apple has also taken the unusual step of including built-in early earthquake warnings for that country inside Notifications. It will be interesting to see in which other ways the company moves to enhance this feature as an early warning system. The lock screen on iOS 5 now displays a list of recent notifications.





Notifications are managed using the Notifications controls tucked away inside the iOS 5 Settings controls

Notifications are available on the Lock screen and will typically look like this selection of recent Twitter messages, all available on-screen



Reminders

New inside Apple's iOS 5, the Reminders app is a simple yet effective way to effectively organise your life. It's easy to use: you introduce new tasks using the familiar '+' button right next to 'Reminders'. You can survey your completed tasks, introduce new ones, assign the priority of different tasks and create folders of related tasks. You might use this to focus your tasks toward specific work projects or to organise a party, for example.

Visible Reminders are organised by due dates and locations. You can even use the location-based alerts to warn you when you're near a specific place – a grocery list when you walk near a supermarket, for example. You can also set up tasks far in advance by tapping on the top left icon on the Reminders screen. That action invokes your calendar. Here you can scan for upcoming tasks and appoint date-determined tasks you can take care of.

Once a reminder is created you can customise it to remind you on a specific day, when an action might be due, how often your repeat this reminder and whether it's a low, medium or high priority item. Like Notifications, Reminders can also be shown as banners, utilising the new notification system, or alerts.





iMessage

Apple takes on BlackBerry in face-to-face combat with its new iMessage feature. Like BlackBerry messaging, this enables direct contact between you and your friends over Wi-Fi or 3G, but lets you send text, photos, videos, locations and share contacts. Group messaging is also supported, and you can track your correspondence with 'delivered' and 'read' receipts. Like in iChat, iMessage lets you see if your contact is typing. You can continue conversations on any other iOS 5 device, so long as you remain logged in.

On message The new iMessages app will let you chat with other iPhone users

iMessage isn't iChat, but bundles all the messaging features of your iPhone, and adds a few strands of intelligence. If you want to text someone, iOS 5 automatically checks to see if they are eligible to receive iMessages rather than the more costly standard text message. If you use Apple's system to communicate you might save some money, but Apple hasn't left an option to insist on sending an SMS message if you'd prefer to do so. Like Facetime, iMessage seems a good candidate to appear on the Mac in future.



Mapped out There's many new features within the iOS 5 Maps app, including the use of a clear blue bar to make directions easier to follow

Maps

The Apple-made Maps app in iOS 5 continues to pull its data from Google's service at time of writing. It adds the ability to print maps using AirPrint and a new visual interface to show you directions. The app is also capable of suggesting multiple routes, so you can pick the one you like best.

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Twitter integration

You can create your own Twitter identity inside the Settings app on iOS 5. Once you've registered your new account you can select the App Store link and an alert will appear to warn you that "Twitter will now begin to download". Once you have created your first account, or entered your existing details if you already have one, you can search the email addresses and phone numbers of your contacts to add your friends and contacts to your Twitter friends. You can also populate your Contacts address book with Twitter user names and photos.



Beyond Twitter there's more evidence of the deepening relationship between Apple and Twitter. For example, friends' Twitter handles are automatically added to your Contacts database. The service is also enabled in Safari, Photos, Camera, YouTube and Maps. That Safari connection means you can Tweet pages from within the browser using its built-in sharing commands. Similarly, you can tweet geographical info (walking directions, for example) from within the iOS 5 Maps app. Even more interesting, you can post images to the social network from directly within the Camera Roll or Photos app.



On Safari Sharing websites from inside Safari gets much better in iOS 5, which now adds Reading List and Tweet tools

Safari

Safari is much improved within the new iOS. Not only do we see the introduction of proper tabbed browsing on iPads, you also gain the new Safari Reader feature, which displays pages ad- (though also image-) free. Reading List will let you save articles to read later, while iCloud will also make a page you pick on one device easily available on all your other iOS gadgets.

Photography

Twitter integration is pretty good for online sharing, but in the real world the other big stand-out iOS 5 feature is AirPrint. This lets you print your snaps using any locally placed AirPrint-enabled printer, just so long as you have access to the Wi-Fi network the printer is on. The new iOS also boosts use of iDevices as cameras, introducing a bevy of useful on-board image capture and image-editing tools. The toolkit includes the capacity to crop, rotate, enhance and remove red-eye from images using the built-in Photos app. Another nifty feature lets you tap in one spot on an image to set the focus and another to set exposure; you can also pinch to zoom an image, rather than tapping once on the screen to invoke the zoom slider.

Your most recently captured 1,000 images are automatically shared using iCloud and Photostream (enabled in Settings, once you have an iCloud account), so you can use the image-editing features of the Photo app on any convenient iOS device. This means that every image you capture should automatically be made available to the Photos app on your iOS devices, iPhoto on your Mac, the Pictures Library on your PC, and the Photo Stream album on your Apple TV.



Snap! New image capture tools include the new Grid view to help you take better snaps

Wireless syncing

Apple CEO Steve Jobs last year promised the company had begun working to enable Wireless Sync. This year it delivers on the promise, meaning your iOS devices should always be possessed of your latest music and other media, because you can wirelessly sync your iOS devices to a Mac or PC running iTunes 10.5 using a shared Wi-Fi access point. You don't even need to think about what you're doing, as Apple explains: "Every time you connect your iOS device to a power source (say, overnight for charging), it automatically syncs and backs up any new content to iTunes. So you always have your movies, TV shows, home videos, and photo albums everywhere you want them."

You can also manually start a wireless sync when you aren't connected. None of this will take place until you launch iTunes on your Mac or PC, connect your device for the first time and enable the 'Sync over Wi-Fi' checkbox, which enables the operation. Once you've taken this step you'll be able to sync automatically or manually (from the device or the computer) wirelessly. So long as iTunes is active you can initiate this operation on your device with the Settings-General-iTunes Sync commands.



Reading List lets you file interesting web pages for later reference, and will sync these temporary bookmarks with your other devices

Miscellaneous changes

These flagship improvements are accompanied by nearly 200 other sweet enhancements to the world's best mobile OS. **AirPrint** has been much improved since iOS 4, now enabling you to print from almost any app. **Newsstand** is another, offering a place to keep and collect all your newspaper and magazine subscriptions. **Mail** gains the ability to format text using bold, italic or underlined fonts. The **Calendar** has been improved and is more iPad-like, with much easier attachment viewing. **Game Center** gains some slightly more social features, while **multitasking gestures** for the iPad have been boosted with new moves and shortcuts.



You've got Mail Apple's much-improved Mail app now lets you select words or phrases to put in bold, italics or to underline in your messages

One hugely interesting feature is the introduction of **AirPlay video-mirroring** capabilities for iPad 2 users. This will let you wirelessly stream whatever's on your iPad to your HDTV via Apple TV. That's great for showing images and films, and promises no little fun for family-based games of Angry Birds. Of course, such activity will require you have your Wi-Fi correctly set up, which is why Apple's introduced an **AirPort configuration utility**.



AirPrint is a great feature. Now you can print from any compatible app, including the much-derided Notes

Another great feature lets you copy images between Photo albums, and create albums as required. There's a selection of new ring and alert tones, alongside a direct link to purchase more should you want them. There's also a legion of welcome accessibility improvements including support for Large Text, Voice Over, White on Black text and more.

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iOS 5: what you need to know

Answers to the big questions about iOS 5

Upgrading

Which of the current crop of iOS devices will support the iOS 5 upgrade?

iOS 5 works on the same devices as iOS 4.3 – the iPhone 3GS and iPhone 4, the iPad and iPad 2, and the third and fourth-generation iPod touch. Yes, iPhone 3G owners – your hardware isn't on that list. But given how some features in last year's iOS 4 update weren't supported on your phone – and how poorly the ones that actually were performed – it can hardly come as a surprise that Apple thinks it's time for you to upgrade your ageing smartphone to enjoy the latest OS it has to offer.

Has Apple hinted at a release date for iOS 5?

All the company would say during the keynote was "fall". (iOS developers, of course, already have a developer preview in hand.) Now whether or not Apple's ideal of autumn hinges on the autumnal equinox, we can't say for certain. We do know that Apple traditionally schedules a music event around that time – last year, it fell on 1 September – and that the iPod touch usually plays a prominent role in such an event, and that it would seem odd to announce a new device that's still running an older iOS version. But that's all just speculation.

What will it cost ?

Nothing – iOS 5 will be free.

New apps

What is Reminders?

Reminders is a new to-do list app from Apple. The app behaves much like many similar apps already in the App Store, but with a few extra features built in. Perhaps the cleverest feature in Reminders is its ability to tie alerts to geographical locations. That way, you can set the app to remind you about a given task – "Don't forget the eggs" – when you arrive at (or depart from) a specific location. You can optionally sync Reminders across your iOS devices via iCloud.

You can also set time-based reminders for tasks. You create separate lists of reminders and any given entry can belong to just one list. Tasks can optionally be assigned one of three priority levels – Low, Medium, or High. More advanced to-do features – like contexts, tags, notes and manual task resorting – aren't included yet, but they may be in the future.



Don't forget Reminders is the ultimate to-do list as it ties alerts to your location – like prompting you to pick up milk as you enter the supermarket

What is Newsstand?

Newsstand is Apple's new approach to discovering and browsing newspapers and magazines on your iOS devices. Newsstand isn't quite an app – it actually behaves like an iOS folder. (As such, you can't tuck it into another iOS folder; it's top-level only.) But unlike a standard iOS folder, Newsstand looks like a bookshelf, and it displays the covers for all your magazine and newspaper subscriptions. New issues of your iOS subscriptions will appear in Newsstand automatically as they will download in the background.

Updated apps

What's new in Safari?

On the iPad, Safari in iOS 5 supports tabbed browsing; the browser window switcher is a thing of the past. Safari Reader – the feature that pulls article text out of its web page and presents it in a standalone, cleaner view – makes the leap from the Mac OS to iOS, too. Also new is Reading List, an Instapaper-like approach for saving web pages to revisit later, short of a formal bookmark. Unlike Instapaper, though,

"PC Free" means plugging in is a thing of the past

What does Apple mean by "PC Free" ?

Sadly, it's not an insane Mac promotional giveaway. Rather, Apple is referring to the fact that with iOS 5, you'll no longer need to connect your device to a Mac or PC during its initial setup, when syncing, or to grab software updates – now you can handle all of those actions from the device itself. A new iTunes Sync section in the Settings app shows your device's current sync status. Apple says that you can only sync with iTunes wirelessly, so long as your iOS device is currently charging. Here's another bonus iOS 5 sidenote. While you sync – even if you do so by plugging your device into your Mac – you can still use your iPhone or iPad during the process.

But software updates are huge! I don't want to download a several-gigabyte iOS update on my iPhone. It's bound to cost me a fortune!

Fret not. Also-new in iOS 5 is support for update deltas. Rather than download an entire new copy of the operating system, you'll download a much smaller patch that only contains the changed bits.

Hmm. But I'll still need my Mac for some things, right?

Apple is happy to keep selling Macs, but you won't need to use your own to update anything on your iPhone or iPad. iOS 5 will allow you to do lots of useful things that previous versions of iOS didn't support, from creating or deleting calendars and mailboxes to heavier lifting like photo editing.



Extra versatility With iOS 5 you'll never have to plug your iPod or iPhone into a Mac or PC again

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iMessage

What is iMessage?
iMessage is Apple's replacement for text, group, and MMS messaging. If you're familiar with BlackBerry messaging, it's Apple's answer to that approach. In short, it's an entire communication platform limited to iOS devices.

How is it better than normal text messaging?
Unlike standard SMS text messaging, iMessage supports features like delivery receipts (to know when your message has been delivered), read receipts (to know when your message has been read), and live typing status (so you can know that your contact is replying). Note, however, that by default, your iOS device won't tell your contact when you've read their message. You still have to enable that feature manually.

Do iMessages count against my network's text-messaging quota?
No. That's another improvement over standard text messaging, which – as anyone who's ever gone over their monthly allotment of texts will tell you – can be surprisingly expensive.



Hello, you All new in iOS 5 is iMessage, Apple's replacement for text, group and MMS messaging

This sounds promising. So does this all mean I can cancel my text messaging plan?
You could, but be careful. Remember that iMessage is limited to conversing between iOS devices. If you want to send a message to a friend using any other kind of phone, you'll need to rely on SMS (or a third-party texting app). And your carrier may well charge you for received text messages if others send them to you.

How does iMessage work on the iPad or iPod touch? Is it subtly different for each kind of device?
Like FaceTime, iMessage can work with your phone number as well as your email address. And like FaceTime, iMessage lets you specify which email addresses you'd like to link to your iMessage account.

Will iMessage be the new replacement for Messages on the iPhone?
No, it's actually now an extra part of that app. When you compose a message on the iPhone, the iOS will switch to the iMessage protocol if your recipient is also an iMessage user; otherwise, it will default to SMS. You won't have to do a thing.

Reading List doesn't appear to save article text anywhere; it really just stores the URLs for revisiting at a later date.

Over in the Settings app, you'll be able to turn on Private Browsing mode.

What's new in Camera and Photos?
The Camera and Photos app sport a variety of new features. In iOS 5, you can use the volume button on the iPhone as a hardware shutter button, instead of relying on the on-screen button. You can optionally enable grid lines while composing your photos. And after you take photos, you can modify them in a variety of ways. There's One-Touch Enhance – pulled straight from iPhoto, red-eye reduction, rotating, and cropping.

Another new feature is a camera button on the iPhone's screen. It sits right next to the Slide to Unlock bar, making it a little narrower than before.

What's new in Maps?
There's now more than one way to get where you're going in iOS 5's version of Maps.

In iOS 5, Maps can suggest alternative routes – a feature that will be welcome to anyone who's been dissatisfied with how the current version tells you to get from Point A to Point B. There's still no sign of the brilliantly useful baked-in turn-by-turn GPS navigation that our Android-toting friends enjoy, though.

What's new with FaceTime?
Not much. Apple says FaceTime video quality is better in iOS 5, and that iOS 5 supports "FaceTime mid-call invitation alerts". However, you still can't place FaceTime calls over 3G – and we're still waiting for other device makers to adopt the FaceTime open standard so that conversations won't be limited to just Apple-built hardware.

What's new with Calendar?
In short, landscape support. Hold on to your hats! Simply turn your iPhone to landscape, and you'll immediately see a week view.

What's new with Mail?
You can hide or reveal Mail's sidebar with a simple swipe in portrait mode on the iPad.

On the iPad, a swipe in portrait mode hides or reveals the sidebar; it's a pleasant alternative to the pop-over button. New in all versions of Mail is the ability to flag messages. That functionality changes the button that used to read 'Mark as [un]read' to simply 'Mark'; while tapping it reveals options to change a message's read or flagged status.

Mail also supports rich text editing (for using **bold**, *italics*, underline, and the like), and full-text searching – including for messages that reside only on the server, not your device.



Read all about it Newsstand is Apple's new approach to discovering and browsing newspapers and magazines on your iOS devices

And what's new in the iPod app?

Music. The Music app gets a stylish makeover on the iPad, but its basic functionality remains exactly the same as it was before.

So what else is new?

I heard that Apple bought Siri and was rumoured to have made some big deal with Nuance. Does this mean that there's a new voice transcription functionality in iOS 5?

Siri Assistant is a voice-driven search app that has remained on the App Store even after its maker was bought by Apple in 2004. Nuance specialises in voice-recognition and has a few well-regarded apps of its own for the iPhone.

It's possible that in the future some jazzed-up voice-driven features may be built into iOS, but as of right now, there aren't any.

So are there any new voice features at all?

You'll be able to place FaceTime calls via Voice Control. That's something, at least.

What does the split keyboard option do?

Remove the virtual keyboard from the bottom of your iPad's screen and it will instantly split into two halves.

That's an iPad-only feature in iOS 5. If you choose, you can drag the virtual keyboard up from the bottom of the iPad's screen. As soon as you remove it from the bottom, the keyboard splits into two halves, with the keys resized to match those of the iPhone. You choose where to drag the keyboard – or really, keyboards – on the screen, and all apps inherit that keyboard setting. You can't use one setting for portrait and another for landscape, but it's very quick to move the keyboard around. And as soon as you drag it back to the bottom, it melds back together and returns to its default size.

What are some other cool features I should be anticipating? Go on, spill the beans...

In iOS 5, you'll be able to tap and hold on any word anywhere to access its definition, as you can already do in the iBooks app. The iPad 2 will offer AirPlay mirroring – what you see on the tablet's screen will also appear on a TV connected to an Apple TV.

On the iPhone, the Notification Center also shows your current weather and a stock ticker. And finally, you can change what sounds iOS uses for voicemail, new email, calendar, and other default alerts.

Anything new on the accessibility front?

Plenty. Among them there's an option to set custom vibration patterns for specific contacts, support for simplified touch control, more voiceover control, an option to speak text, a preference to make the iPhone 4's LED light up when you receive notifications, and more.

What's new on the Exchange support front?

There's new support in iOS 5 for wirelessly syncing Exchange tasks. Also new is support for S/MIME; a lock icon appears when you're sending encrypted messages. It appears, however, that there's still no way to mark Exchange calendar events as Private.

How does the Twitter integration work?

The Twitter section in Settings prompts you to install the official Twitter app, though you can ignore that suggestion if you choose.

You provide your Twitter login credentials in the Settings app and are even able to login to multiple Twitter accounts, if you'd like. Once you've provided your Twitter login data, numerous apps – like Photos, Safari, and Maps – offer the ability to post tweets directly. There's no native tweet-posting functionality unless you want to attach data from one of those apps; that is, you can't just post a 'naked' tweet from a core iOS app.

Tweet direct The Settings app will prompt you to install the official Twitter app

Are there any changes to AirPrint?

None that we know of. Wireless printing should work in iOS 5 as it does in the current version.

I'm slightly worried about the disruption that the latest software upgrade will cause, and that I'll not be able to find my way about my devices as easily. Is the iOS 5 upgrade painless? Is it going to mess with my app icon layout and folders?

Because iOS 5 adds several app icons – it splits iPod into Video and Music, plus introduces Newsstand and Reminders – your app layout order will get mucked about with slightly. But your basic organisation and folders should otherwise remain largely untouched.

Notifications

How will notifications work in iOS 5?

New notifications will appear in a floating banner that looks a lot like Game Center alerts. A swipe down from the top of your device's screen reveals Notification Center, which keeps a running list of all your alerts. And your most recent alerts stack up on your lock screen when they arrive while your device is asleep.

Will third-party apps be able to support the improved notifications?

Yes, and with no extra effort. Apps that support push alerts today are already ready for iOS 5; they'll seamlessly switch to using the new notifications system as soon as you have upgraded to the new OS.

How configurable are the new notifications?

Very. You get plenty of control. You configure how notifications are sorted, you control which apps can and can't send you notifications, and you can even – on an app-by-app basis – switch from the new banners to the original pop-up alerts instead. That way, if you'd prefer text messages to interrupt you, but Words With Friends alerts to use the new approach, you can set things up so that they do.



Know all Your iOS 5-enabled device will alert you to all your notifications in one place

Is there a simple way to keep notifications off my lock screen, or am I going to be stuck with them?

Every notification that arrives while your device is locked will show up on your lock screen in iOS 5, though you can turn off the lock screen display on an app-by-app basis. It's a manual process (but thankfully, it's also a straightforward one). Simply use the Settings app to manually turn the lock screen display off on an app-by-app basis. Otherwise, every notification that arrives while your device is locked will appear on the lock screen when displayed. This continues to happen even if you use a passcode to lock your device.

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THE BEST 40

The iPad is the ultimate entertainment device, enabling you to watch live TV and listen to the radio. We pick the best apps to entertain you

There's no doubt about it, the iPad is an amazing entertainment device. Thanks to its touchscreen, the range of games has exploded on the platform since its launch in 2010, and now encompasses everything from strategy and solitaire to first-person shooters, plus a selection of games that are iPad-only.

However, it's not only in gaming that the iPad excels. You can also watch TV and movies, listen to the radio and read comics, thanks to a huge selection of apps. Whatever you like to do when you're away from work, there's almost certainly an app to help you do it.



NPR for iPad

Price Free

URL itun.es/igr5Rm

Tapping into the wealth of content offered by the National Public Radio media organisation, which creates and distributes news and music programming to a network of 900 US radio, this app brings news reports, music, the arts and life stories to your iPad. You can also view photos and read articles while you listen to live radio streams.

Rating: ★★★★★



4oD Catch Up

Price Free (for a limited time)

URL itun.es/igr5Rz

The 4oD Catch Up app brings together the best of Channel 4 programming onto the iPad. Featuring a huge selection of Channel 4, E4 and More4 shows from the previous 30 days, the app enables you to browse the broadcaster's content by date, category or alphabetically. You can also multi-task within the app by browsing for TV shows while you're simultaneously viewing another programme. Parental controls are offered so that you can restrict content to specific age groups by locking certain programmes with a PIN. The app only works on a Wi-Fi connection, but the intuitive interface really makes the most of the iPad's touchscreen. If you're a fan of a particular TV show on Channel 4 then this app is a must-have for your iPad.

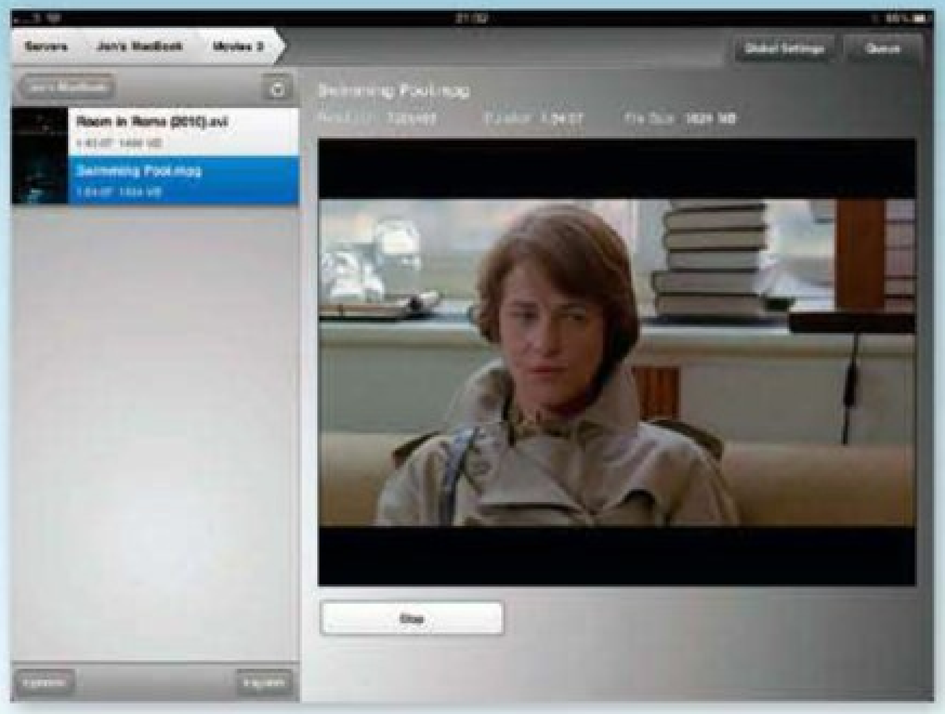
Rating: ★★★★★

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APPS FOR ENTERTAINMENT





Air Video

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For the small price tag of £1.79, Air Video connects with your computer via a Wi-Fi connection so you can watch your library of movies on your iPad without having to copy them to the device. Air Video can stream videos in a wide range of formats (such as MP4, M4V, MOV, AVI, WMV, ASF, MPG, MPEG, DIVX and FLV), and if a format isn't supported on the iPad then the app will convert it on the fly. You can even start watching the video before it's fully converted if you wish.

DRM-protected videos as well as proprietary codecs are not supported. But the app can be used to convert videos into an iPad-friendly format and you can adjust quality, zoom and resolution for each video individually.

Rating: ★★★★★



Angry Birds HD

Price £2.99

URL itun.es/igr5rL

Angry Birds may be the game that comes to define the iPhone era by being one of the most popular downloads. And now the HD version brings those annoyed feathered friends and evil pigs to the iPad. The story remains the same: the pigs have stolen the birds' eggs and the birds are none too pleased. It's your job to fling various birds at the pigs to destroy them. Unfortunately, the pigs are protected by a complex assortment of fortifications.

The game makes full use of the iPad's large screen; aiming is now easier since your finger doesn't block out as much of the screen when pulling back on the slingshot. New levels are included, making it definitely worth the purchase for existing fans of the game.

Rating: ★★★★★

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Release: StoreMags & FantaMag



Mirror's Edge for iPad

Price £2.99

URL itun.es/igr5rh

In Mirror's Edge you play the acrobatic and excessively tattooed Faith Connors as you traverse a bleached white city and its seedy underground using your borderline superhuman parkour abilities to evade the armed Feds. Although the original Mirror's Edge took place from a strictly first-person viewpoint, Electronic Arts' portable edition is more of a 2D side-scroller, although the environments and characters are all rendered in beautiful 3D. Swiping left or right will make Faith run in the given direction, and as you run you'll have to use combinations of upward and downward flicks of the finger to leap over and slide under obstacles, which all makes for an exciting game.

Rating: ★★★★★



Shazam for iPad

Price Free

URL itun.es/igr5rN

Shazam captures a 15-second clip of whatever song you hear playing – whether it's on the radio, TV, in a coffee shop, or anywhere else you can hear music – and then sends that information to its database. Within a few seconds, Shazam will spit out the name of the song, the artist, and the album from which the track came. If you're not connected to the internet, Shazam will store the clip until you're back online.

Rating: ★★★★★



Fipboard

Price Free

URL itun.es/igr5rQ

Billed as your personalised, social magazine, it's easy to see why Flipboard has become one of the most popular apps for the iPad. It aggregates nine of your favourite online media sources, grabbing links posted on those sites by your friends on Twitter and Facebook, then presents that content in an easy-to-read magazine-like format. Flipboard is a fantastic app that makes everything you read on the web much more accessible.

Rating: ★★★★★



Snood for iPad

Price £2.99

URL itun.es/igr5t8

Electronic Arts embellishes Snood's classic gameplay with new modes and features, making this version more than a simple port. Your goal is to group together at least three of the same kind of face; do so, and they'll pop off the screen. You fire each Snood from a cannon – you can see the next one too, which can help you form a strategy.

Rating: ★★★★★



TV Guide for iPad

Price £3.99

URL itun.es/igr5tD

TV Guide for iPad provides you with a comprehensive listing for all the channels in your area, whether terrestrial, digital, cable or satellite, for seven days in advance. You can customise the app so only your favourite channels are listed, view listings in a grid format, set reminders and share your viewing habits on Facebook and Twitter.

Rating: ★★★★★



Infinity Blade

Price £3.99

URL itun.es/igr5tD

Infinity Blade is a medieval adventure, where you play the role of a knight out to avenge you father's death at the hands of the "God King". You follow a predetermined path through the game, fighting duels with a evil swordsmen and massive ogres on your way to confront him. As you work your way into the castle, blue circles indicate possible paths for you to follow, bad guys to battle and objects, including gold and armour, that you can pick up. Defeating the God King's henchmen earns you points, which can be traded for better weaponry. Despite the lack of freedom to explore your surroundings, Infinity Blade is engrossing and immensely playable.

Rating: ★★★★★

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Super Monkey Ball 2

Price £2.99
URL itun.es/igr5tp

Super Monkey Ball was one of the first games to hit the App Store back in August 2008 and was a huge success. In Super Monkey Ball 2, the goal is the same – to safely guide your character through perilous platforms towards the finish line. Falling off the edge or running out of time results in a lost life.

The simple premise belies the amount of fun you'll have in the 115 levels spread across five worlds, involving pirate ships, jungles, swamps and more. In addition to the unlockable levels, Super Monkey Ball 2 offers mini games to play in single player mode or against friends online. Super Monkey Ball 2 is one of the most addictive and compelling titles out there.

Rating: ★★★★★



Broken Sword: Director's Cut HD

Price £3.49
URL itun.es/igr5tK

In this point-and-click game, you play two roles: the first as Nico Collard, a snarky Parisian journalist; the second, George Stobbart, a charmingly dopey, principled American. The story begins with a murder that escalates into a whirlwind of political intrigue. You interact with objects and people using the point-and-click engine, pursuing dialogue options to solve a variety of puzzles.

Rating: ★★★★★



DC Comics

Price Free
URL itun.es/igr5tM

DC Comics is the biggest publishers of comics in North America, and the firm has brought its wealth of printed matter to the iPad's digital screen. Now you can read all the adventures of Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, Green Lantern and many more from the DC universe on your tablet. The app is free, as are some comics, but most have to be bought through in-app purchases.

Rating: ★★★★★



Movies by Flixster

Price Free
URL itun.es/igr5tv

If you're a fan of movies, the Flixster app is must-have for your iPad. This app helps you choose a night out by listing the latest releases and the cinemas in your area (using its geo-location feature) and what they're showing. If you're not sure about a film you can watch the trailer or read the views of critics and other movie-goers.

Rating: ★★★★★



Twitter

Price Free
URL itun.es/igr5cX

This is the official app from Twitter for iPad and gives you all the functions you need to post tweets and view Twitter feeds. You can easily retweet or reply to tweets and the app will also finish posting new tweets if you exit the app before the action is completed – which is especially useful when you're tweeting images or videos.

Rating: ★★★★★



N.O.V.A. 2 – Near Orbit Vanguard Alliance HD

Price £4.99
URL itun.es/igr5cj

In N.O.V.A. 2, humanity is entangled in a civil war that pits the Terran Orbitals against the Human-Alien Alliance. You play the role of Kal Wardin, who has retired on the secluded planet Scorpion. N.O.V.A. 2 wastes little time on backstory or training, opting instead to drop you straight in the action. The controls are intuitive to use and boil down to moving, selecting a weapon and shooting. If you love first-person shooters, N.O.V.A. 2 is a game that has it all: beautiful graphics, great gameplay, excellent controls and smart opponents.

Rating: ★★★★★

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StoreKeeper.com



Real Racing 2 HD

Price £6.99
URL itun.es/igr5c2

Real Racing HD and the iPad were made for each other. This first-person racing game is as good as any console racing game out there, but at a fraction of the price.

As with any racing game, it takes practice to get a feel for the controls. Luckily, there are a whopping five control schemes to please everyone, allowing you to pick your preferred combination of acceleration, steering and braking. There are three main racing modes, with near-endless replayability in each – Career, Quick Race and Time Trial. Real Racing HD has such a vast amount of gaming options and combinations that it's unlikely you'll ever grow tired of it.

Rating: ★★★★★



Sky Mobile TV

Price Free
(subscription required)
URL itun.es/igr5cM

With the Sky Mobile TV you can watch the satellite broadcaster's six live sports channels anywhere you like over Wi-Fi or 3G, so you need never miss a crucial match. Although the app is free, you'll need to take out a subscription with Sky, with various packages depending on whether you're an existing Sky TV customer or not.

Rating: ★★★★★

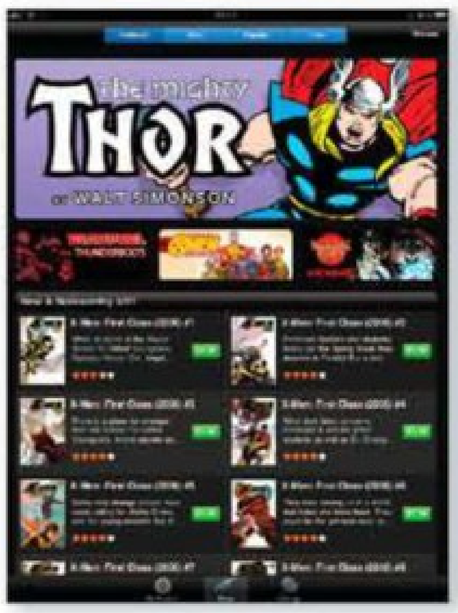


Chess Free HD

Price Free
URL itun.es/igr5cn

Chess has stood the test of time for good reason: it's a ruthless game of strategy. So it's no surprise for a digital version to appear on the iPad. Chess Free HD supports one- and two-player gameplay, so you can pit your skills against a friend or the computer. The graphics are nice, and an automatic save feature kicks in when you close the app.

Rating: ★★★★★



Marvel Comics

Price Free
URL itun.es/igr5cZ

Marvel Comics is famous for bringing Spider-Man and X-Men to the world; now with this app you can continue to read about their adventures on the iPad. The app allows you to browse through hundreds of comic books from the Marvel Comics library, from Iron Man and Thor to Captain America and Wolverine. Free downloads allow you to sample a comic before you decide to buy.

Rating: ★★★★★



Scrabble for iPad

Price €4.99
URL itun.es/igr5wH

If you're good with words then it's almost a certainty that you've played Scrabble at least once in your life. Scrabble for iPad brings the wordsmith's game of choice to the platform. You can either boost your skills by playing against the computer or play in up to 25 multiplayer games at the same time to really tax your vocabulary. You can also connect with friends over Facebook for games.

Rating: ★★★★★



TuneIn Radio Pro

Price 69p
URL itun.es/igr5wF

With TuneIn Radio Pro, you can listen to and record more than 40,000 radio stations, including thousands of AM/FM local stations on your iPad. The app supports multi-tasking in iOS 4, so you can search the internet while listening to your favourite radio broadcast. You can browse TuneIn Radio Pro's directory of radio stations that cover a wide range of content from music and talk to sports and news from all over the world. You also get access to radio listings so you can find the shows and stations that you are likely to find appealing – you can then bookmark the station so it's easier to find at a later date. The app also allows you to pause and rewind live radio as well as record any station for playback later.

Rating: ★★★★★



World of Goo HD

Price £2.99
URL itun.es/igr5wY

The plot in World of Goo HD may be nonsensical, but the levels all follow the same format. At the start of each level, you'll see small goo balls sitting dormant at the bottom of your screen, and an open pipe somewhere else. Between the pipe and the balls should be a complicated structure. Using your finger, you have to stack the balls up to reach the pipe. Once you get your goo structure to reach the pipe, the pipe will suck up all the balls that haven't been used – you need to rescue a certain number to successfully complete each level. The beauty of World of Goo HD is that it never gets repetitive – no level feels like the last.

Rating: ★★★★★



Remote

Price Free
URL itun.es/igr5wp

With Remote you can use your iPad to act as a remote control for your Apple TV or iTunes on a computer on the same local network. Connect your iPad to your Wi-Fi network and complete a one-time pairing. Your iPad's screen now displays a version of iTunes with options for selecting playlists, music, videos and so on. Simply browse to the content you want to play.

Rating: ★★★★★

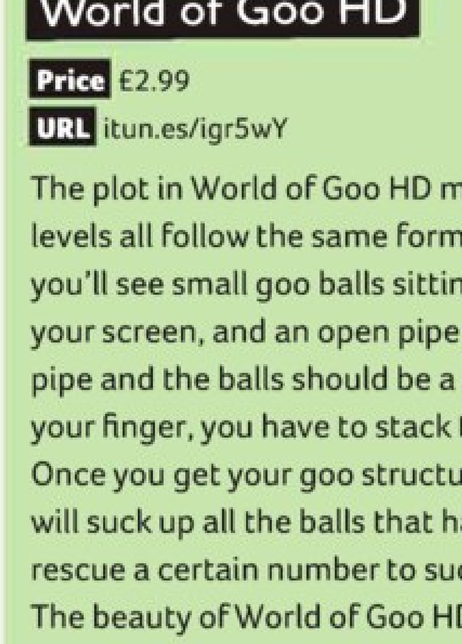


Sudoku

Price 69p
URL itun.es/igr5nk

If you're a fan of the number-placement logic game Sudoku, you're spoilt for choice on the iPad, with many different versions available. We like this one, which offers an unlimited range of puzzles in varying degrees of difficulty, using the standard 9 x 9 grid sub-divided into nine regions. Sudoku has a simple interface that allows you to "pencil" in numbers on the grid.

Rating: ★★★★★

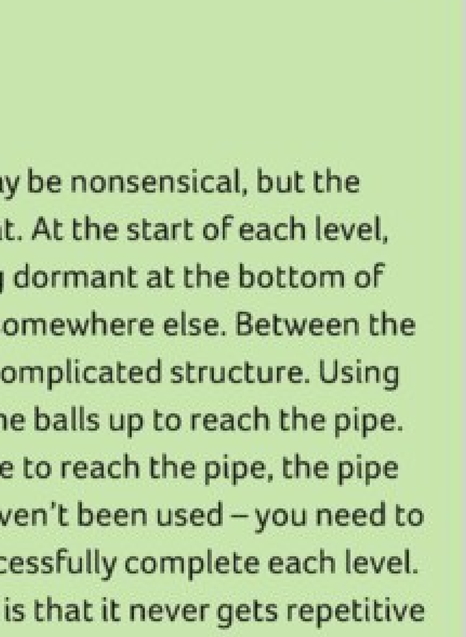


OrbLive

Price €6.99
URL itun.es/igr5nc

OrbLive takes a different approach to enable you to enjoy media on your iPad – it exploits the device's networking capabilities. So instead of being limited by the iPad's storage capacity, you can stream media from you home computer to the iPad. You'll also need to download the free Orb application for your Mac or PC, and the app can handle any format that your computer can play.

Rating: ★★★★★

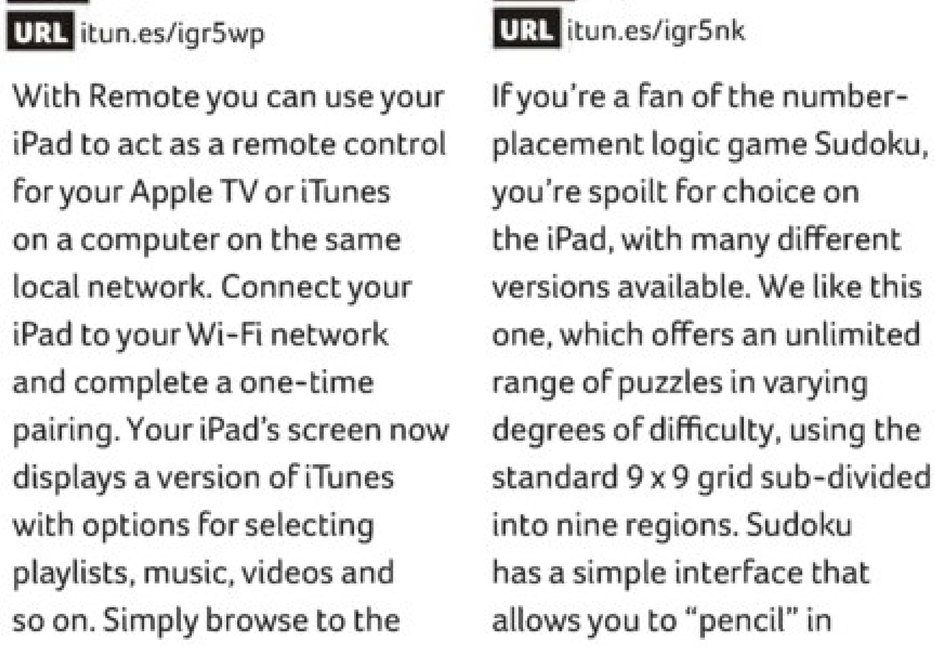


IMDb Movies & TV

Price Free (itun.es/igr5nQ)
URL www

The Internet Movie Database (IMDb) has rightly become a must-visit website for film buffs keen to boost their movie knowledge. IMDb says it has details of more than 1.5 million films, cross-referenced with 3.5 million actors, directors, cinematographers and producers. The IMDb app brings this wealth of trivia to the iPad, offering useful information for movie buffs and casual viewers alike.

Rating: ★★★★★



Flight Control HD

Price £2.99
URL itun.es/igr5Nq

Flight Control wouldn't exist without the iPhone. The unique gameplay is perfectly suited to touchscreen devices, so it's no surprise that it has also been released on the iPad. You assume the role of an air traffic controller. As an ever-increasing number of planes approach the runways, your job is to guide them all in for safe landings, ensuring they stay out of each other's way. Planes travel at different speeds, and each is colour-coded to match the runway it must land on. You tap on approaching planes and drag a flight path for them to follow. The plane turns white to indicate that you've successfully drawn a path to its runway.

Rating: ★★★★★

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Splinter Cell Conviction

Price £2.99

URL itun.es/igr5Nh

Gameloft's Splinter Cell: Conviction follows Sam Fisher, ex-Third Echelon agent and killing machine, who has just heard a chilling rumour: his daughter's death was not a drunken mistake after all. The rumours lead him to the island of Malta, where he will use his skills to defeat numerous enemies over 11 levels set in eight different locations. This game is more about using stealth to take out your enemies than it is about raw power. The mechanics are fairly basic – there's a virtual D-pad for moving, a couple of action buttons in the bottom right corner, which change depending on the situation, and a slider in the upper right corner for changing weapons.

Rating: ★★★★★



David Mitchell's Soapbox

Price Free

URL itun.es/igr5Np

Bafta-winning comedian David Mitchell brings his hilarious views, opinions and rants straight to your iPad. The star of Channel 4's Peep Show airs his opinion on a variety of topics, each delivered in his own unique style. The app streams the videos via YouTube or you have the option of downloading high-quality versions to the iPad for viewing offline.

Rating: ★★★★★



Sky+

Price Free

URL itun.es/igr5Nc

The Sky+ app from the satellite broadcaster is a must-have if you have a Sky subscription. The app not only displays handy seven-day TV listings, but once you've found a show you want to watch, you can set your Sky+ box to record it from your iPad. You'll also need a Sky Remote Record account. But with Sky+ you'll never miss your favourite show regardless of where you are.

Rating: ★★★★★



Korg iElectribe

Price £13.99

URL itun.es/igr5N5

The Korg iElectribe for the iPad is a digital version of the company's classic analogue beat machine, the Korg iElectribe-R, which is used by many dance musicians, and users of the original hardware will find the iPad version a faithful reproduction. The iElectribe can be intimidating if you've never used a drum machine or synthesiser before, but the app comes with tutorials to get you up to speed. Packed with 64 preset patterns ranging in genre from house to break beat and hip hop, the app is a solid all-rounder for a great price.

Rating: ★★★★★



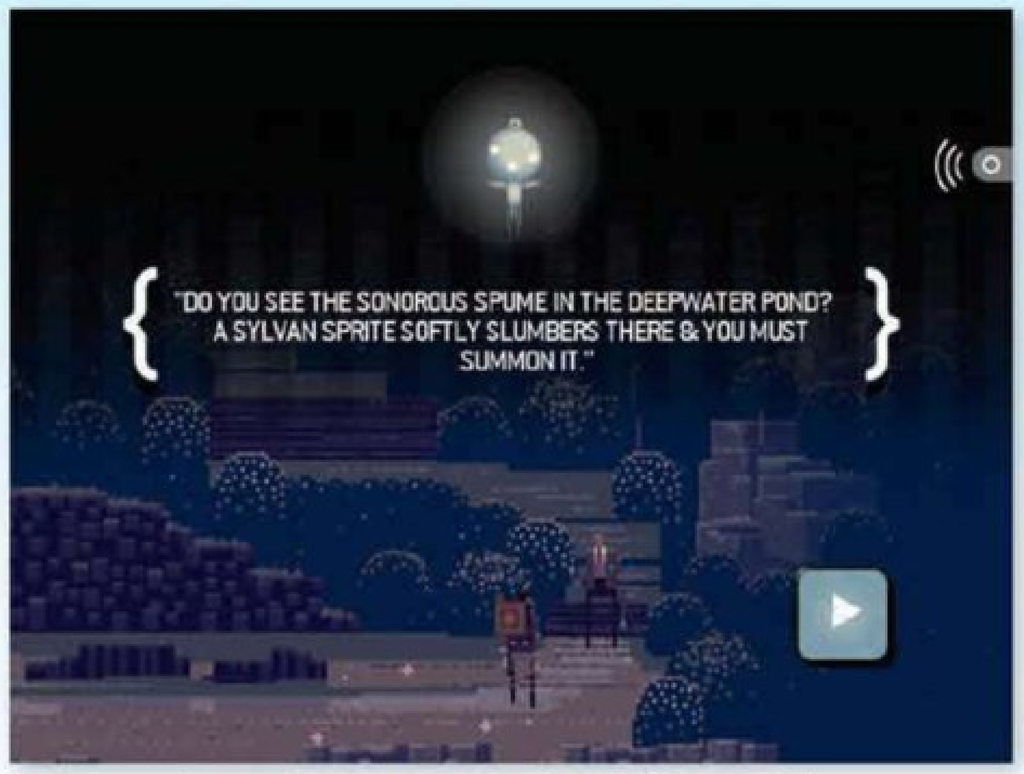
Heartwild Solitaire

Price £2.99

URL itun.es/igr5v8

Heartwild Solitaire is a different take on the classic game of patience, as it leads you on an adventure – the story begins with a heartbroken woman, Anne, finding solace in a relaxing game of solitaire as she reflects on the life she has left behind. Heartwild Solitaire features stunning graphics and soothing music. You make card matches, collecting bonus points for sequential matching, and gather unique level-changing power-ups to help you along the way. This game is a great alternative to conventional solitaire.

Rating: ★★★★★



Superbrothers: Sword & Sworcery EP

Price £2.99

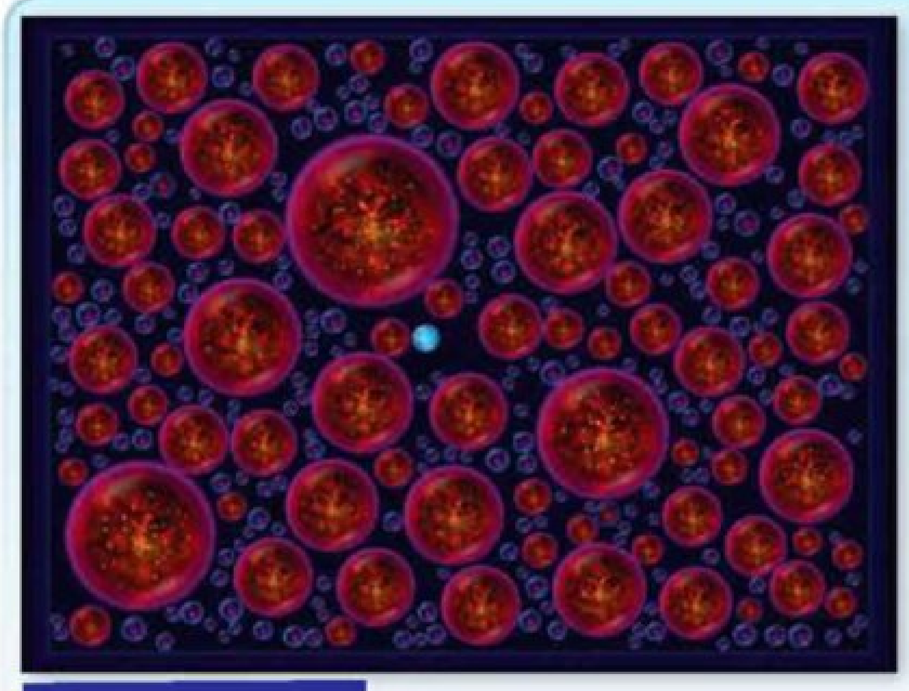
URL itun.es/igr5v8

Superbrothers: Sword & Sworcery EP is a 21st-century interpretation of the archetypical old-school videogame adventure, designed exclusively for the iPad. Featuring a mix of laid-back exploration and careful investigation that is occasionally punctuated by combative encounters, you traverse a mythic little realm, using a sword to do battle with evil beings and evoke "sworcery" to solve mystical musical mysteries. The game allows you to co-operate with friends via Twitter and experience a game that is affected by moon phases. Superbrothers: Sword & Sworcery EP has picked up many plaudits for its retro style and playablility, and we find it hard to disagree.

Rating: ★★★★★

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Osmos for iPad

Price £2.99
URL itun.es/igr5vK

In Osmos, a puzzle/action game by Hemisphere Games, the bigger you are, the better. Osmos is a game of nebulous, colourful objects that looks like single-celled organisms. They're called 'Motes', and your quest is to become the biggest, most dominant Mote on screen. When you collide with smaller Motes, you absorb them and become correspondingly larger in mass. Colliding with larger Motes, on the other hand, has the opposite effect.

An oddly soothing and entrancing game, Osmos is so well adapted to the iPad's unique control scheme that we couldn't imagine playing it on anything else.

Rating: ★★★★★



Words With Friends HD

Price £1.99
URL itun.es/igr5vM

Words With Friends is designed to be a social version of the popular word-making game Scrabble. When you first launch Words With Friends, it asks you to set up an account, then you can play a game with your friends by entering their username. You can also have more than one game going at once. This addictive social board game is a must-have for all iPad owners.

Rating: ★★★★★



Dark Horse Comics

Price Free
URL itun.es/igr5vw

The Dark Horse Comics app for the iPad enables you to browse through a wide selection of publications from the renowned publisher. With all its popular titles, from Emily the Strange, Hellboy, Grendel and The Guild to The Terminator and Conan, you can either download a comic to your iPad or use its cloud storage. What's more, your purchases are also available at Digital.DarkHorse.com.

Rating: ★★★★★



Dead Space for iPad

Price £5.99
URL itun.es/igr5vz

This edition of Dead Space for the iPad features a storyline specifically written for the device, and is a prequel to Dead Space 2. You take on the role of an engineer named Vandal and embark upon a mission in the Mines of Titan to battle the Necromorphs. Mixing horror and action, the game features a fully voice-acted stereo soundtrack and movie-quality sound effects. The game's makers recommend playing the game with headphones for full immersion; this means you can hear every footstep in the empty passages. Brrr.

Rating: ★★★★★



Frisbee Forever

Price Free
URL itun.es/igr5vZ

With Frisbee Forever, you can play frisbee indoors without the risk of damaging your TV. Across more than 100 crazy levels, you have to guide your frisbee through hoops, collecting bonuses along the way. To start, you flick the Frisbee, then use the iPad's gyroscope to twist and turn through hoops and avoid obstacles to complete the level. As you complete levels you earn stars, which can be traded in for different frisbees – and there are more than 100 to collect. Frisbee Forever is addictive and fun, two qualities we like in a game.

Rating: ★★★★★



Worms 2: Armageddon

Price £2.99
URL itun.es/igr55j

It's time to stack up on grenades and rocket launchers as you lead your squad of worms in battle against their bitter rivals. Worms 2: Armageddon is a turn-based strategy game in which you control a crack squad of fighting worms armed with a plethora of heavy weaponry, from napalm strikes and petrol bombs to poison strikes and even earthquakes.

Connect to the internet via Wi-Fi or 3G and you can play against your friends in multiplayer mode, taking on up to three other gamers in more than 10 different game styles. If you'd rather take on the solo campaign and bid to become the ultimate mercenary worm, there are 30 combat missions in single-player mode.

Rating: ★★★★★

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Sonos Play:3

This highly affordable wireless speaker produces a sound that's big enough to fill almost any room



Music-streaming system **Company** Sonos **URL** www.sonos.com/PLAY3 **Price** £259

Sonos, a company that's well-known for producing wireless streaming music systems, has just released its latest offering – the Play:3.

With the speaker plugged into a router via an ethernet connection, and the Sonos Controller app for iPhone or iPad (and even Android), you can easily fill a room with sound from your iTunes library, internet radio, and services such as Napster, Spotify and Last.fm.

The Play:3 is available in black or white, and weighs 2.6kg. It has a single ethernet port on the back, along with a mounting socket. The top of the unit includes the usual volume and mute buttons, though there's no headphone or line-in ports. Inside there are three speakers, a single tweeter and two 3in midrange speakers. The Play:3 uses a passive radiator to pump up the bass. It supports MP3, WMA (including purchased Windows Media downloads), AAC, Ogg Vorbis, Audible (format 4), Apple Lossless, FLAC, and uncompressed WAV and AIFF files.

Setup is remarkably easy. Simply connect the Play:3 to your router via ethernet, or add it to an existing Sonos system that has another component plugged into a router, launch one of the Sonos controller applications, select the Add a Sonos Component command, press the Volume Up and Mute buttons at the same time on the Play:3, and the application adds the unit.

> **"Because of its size, the Play:3 is a perfect companion in the kitchen, bedroom or as a unit you can take outside"**

Once added, you simply direct the Sonos software to add your music library. You can then set up accounts for streaming services you've subscribed to.

We found the out-of-the-box sound of the Play:3 more appealing than Sonos' older S5. While its sound isn't as 'big' as the S5's, its overall character seems more balanced. What you do notice is the lack of much in the way of a stereo field. The speakers are quite close together, and unless you're sitting within a couple of feet of them, you don't hear a lot of differentiation between the left and right channels.

Because of its size, the Play:3 is a perfect companion in the kitchen, bedroom, or as a unit you can take outside. But you needn't confine it to a small room. The Play:3 is loud enough to fill all but the most cavernous rooms and, again, it sounds great.

iPad & iPhone User says...

The Play:3 (in league with a free controller app and compatible mobile device) makes the Sonos experience affordable for a greater number of people. We're completely sold. Our guess is that when you hear a Play:3 of your own, and imagine the musical joy it will bring to your life, you will be too.

Christopher Breen

The Sonos experience

Stream music around your house



Setting aside the impressive sound and ease of setup, the real benefit of a Sonos system is the ability to stream an endless supply of music to any Sonos unit you own. You can even stream different music to different units.

Logitech's Squeezebox players offers a similar feature, but its speaker-bearing gear (such as the Squeezebox Radio) doesn't match the quality of Sonos' kit, nor does it offer as many subscription music services. Sonos' controller applications are also beautifully designed and easy to use.

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Rating: ★★★★★ = OUTSTANDING ★★★★ = VERY GOOD ★★★ = GOOD ★★ = FLAWED ★ = UNACCEPTABLE

XtremeMac Tango TRX

This iOS dock/speaker offers Bluetooth streaming

Speakers, dock
Company XtremeMac
URL www.xtrememac.com
Price £149

The Tango TRX is primarily a dock and speaker system for an iPhone or iPod, but it keeps its options open by adding an auxiliary stereo mini jack input and, more interestingly, Bluetooth audio streaming.

In design terms, it's yet another black plastic slab with a black speaker cloth, but the minimal design has a few distinguishing flourishes. The dock is located on one side of the device's front, while on the other there's a large orange-rimmed knob and a few small LEDs. The control buttons for source select, Bluetooth pairing, song navigation and volume are all on the 'foot' of the Tango TRX. Another set of buttons, located just above the speaker cloth on the top right, control power on/off, and select either bass/treble/volume assignment for the knob and the accompanying LEDs.

> "The Tango TRX doesn't look particularly captivating, but it feels well-built, and sounds good"

With an iPhone 4 on the dock, the Tango sounded fine, although it could get bass-heavy, courtesy of the downward-firing subwoofer. The overall sound was full and relatively mellow, with straightforward bass and treble controls for rudimentary tweaks.

The remote control replicates the device's buttons, but there's also an iOS app that can be used to control the Tango while the iPhone streams audio via Bluetooth. This app adds a 5-band equaliser with presets for various genres. The Tango TRX can also function as a speakerphone.

THE SKINNY...

Likes: Good meat'n'potatoes sound; separate bass and treble controls

Dislikes: Unexciting feature set and design; dock not compatible with iPad

Rating: ★★★★★



Interesting feature XtremeMac's Tango TRX can act as a speakerphone

iPad & iPhone User says...

The free remote app adds equaliser controls, and we love the speakerphone option. The Tango TRX doesn't look particularly captivating, but it feels well-built, and sounds good, with a fairly neutral sound. **Martin Delaney**

Sound Step Recharge

Chargeable dock and speaker system for iOS devices

On the face of it, the Sound Step Recharge is an iOS device dock/speaker system. It is, however, much more than that thanks to an auxiliary mini jack stereo input, Bluetooth pairing with phones, computers or any A2DP compatible device, and a built-in rechargeable battery.

A small rubber cap covers the dock connector, and a larger spacer can be moved to make room for cased devices. At the back there's also a composite video output, and a bass subwoofer port.

With a docked iPhone 4, the Sound Step was surprisingly loud, and the UQ3 enhancer, triggered from either the device's buttons or the remote control, boosted the sound. The remote worked well, but you can also pair the dock with the iPhone via Bluetooth. We downloaded the free Soundfreaq Remote app, which let us control proceedings from the iPhone while it was streaming audio. Annoyingly, the app asked us to compile separate playlists, instead of our iPod/iTunes ones.

> "It sounded pretty good for its size, with clear mids and highs, and a more subdued low end"

The Sound Step sounded pretty good for its size, with clear mids and highs, and a more subdued low end. At higher volume things didn't hold up so well, but that's only to be expected. The advantages of Bluetooth audio and the built-in battery power will offset picky sound quality considerations for a lot of people.

THE SKINNY...

Likes: Compact and portable; iPad-compatible; takes iOS devices in cases

Dislikes: Battery charge indicator in wrong place; no carry handle

Rating: ★★★★★



In the dock This portable device produces decent sound for its size

iPad & iPhone User says...

The Step Recharge produces decent sound, and has a strong set of features. We'd like it even better if the control app let us use our existing playlists, though. **Martin Delaney**

iOS dock/speaker system
Company Soundfreaq
URL www.soundfreaq.com
Price £150

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Release: StoreMags & FantaMag

Blackbox M16

Noise-cancelling headphones

The Blackbox M16 headphones are handsome black-and-gunmetal over-ear models, with expensive-looking leatherette earpads and a general air of quality.

The noise deflection was effective but not foolproof. Switching it on appreciably cut down the sound of air conditioning, whether or not there was any audio coming through the headphones. Human speech could still be made out, but the M16s are better at dealing with background noise.

The audio quality was generally strong, producing a warm sound, though it wasn't exceptionally clear. When tested with some electroclash, the M16s managed a meaty bass kick, and we think most suitable for bass-heavy tracks. Glitchier dance tracks at high volumes were less comfortable, and the noise cancellation technology seemed confused by irregular bass.

Comparing the M16s with a pair of mid-level in-ear headphones is no comparison at all, with these over-ear models producing a fuller, warmer sound. They're comparable with a high-end pair of over-ear Teufel cans, if slightly less powerful, but they're smaller and more comfortable to wear for long periods.

There's a remote on the cable, which allows you to adjust volume and pause or skip tracks. Sadly, the remote on our review sample was a bit unreliable – occasionally it lost the ability to change the volume, but weirdly could still pause and fast-forward. Unplugging and reconnecting solved the problem.

THE SKINNY...

Likes: Expensive-looking headphones; produce strong warm sound

Dislikes: Temperamental remote; didn't like tracks with irregular bass

Rating: ★★★★★

> **"The BlackBox M16s provide strong, warm audio with good bass, and the noise cancellation is largely effective."**



Quality control These great-looking and -sounding headphones have an air of high quality

iPad & iPhone User says...

The M16s provide strong, warm audio with good bass, and the noise cancellation is largely effective. Be warned that this benefit is one-way, and there was outwards leakage at the upper volumes.

David Price

Headphones

Company Blackbox

URL www.blackboxonline.com

Price £165

Just Mobile UpStand

Does the UpStand offer all you need in a stand for the iPad?

Just Mobile's UpStand for iPad is a dedicated stand for viewing your iPad on a desk, table, or countertop. It works with both iPad generations, even when in a reasonably sized case.

The UpStand is precision engineered from aluminium, making it a good complement to Apple's current hardware line. Rubber-coated supporting grips hold your tablet firmly in place, and non-slip feet keep the stand put.

While the stand is sturdy enough for routine tapping and swiping on the iPad's screen, the slight backward angle (about 10 degrees from vertical) is clearly not designed for sustained typing or screen interaction. And since the stand doesn't offer other angles or positions and just a single height, about 1.5 inches off the table or desk, it's best for watching videos and presentations, reading, browsing websites and email, and using simple apps. The angle is also good for using your iPad with an external keyboard.

> **"It's best for watching videos and presentations, reading, browsing and email"**

The stand lets you position your tablet in landscape or portrait orientation and leaves the iPad's dock-connector port accessible for charging and syncing in either orientation.

The UpStand's single angle and height does put it at somewhat of a disadvantage compared to other iPad stands on the market, but it's a convenient position for screen viewing, especially if you want to keep the tablet alongside a computer display.

THE SKINNY...

Likes: Simple; lightweight; works with both iPad generations

Dislikes: Expensive; only one angle; won't withstand lots of typing

Rating: ★★★★★



Over simplified The UpStand is attractive and lightweight but offers little flexibility

iPad & iPhone User says...

Just Mobile's UpStand is an attractive product. However, you'll need an external keyboard if you need to type a lot, and its price tag may be a tad steep for a product that offers little flexibility.

Jackie Dove

Product type

Company Just Mobile

URL www.just-mobile.com

Price £34

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Release: StoreMags & FantaMag

Charge Anywhere

Reduce wasted energy when charging your iPhone



Go green We mainly recommend the Charge Anywhere for its green credentials

Product type
Company iGo
URL www.igo.com
Price £40

If you plug your phone in every night before bed, it takes an hour or so to fully charge, then greedily sucks up unrequired electricity, iGo claims. But the company's Charge Anywhere device offers a better way. It uses clever technology to reduce wasted energy when charging your iPhone, switching off as soon as the device is fully recharged.

The Charge Anywhere is a fairly compact unit, and feels quite rugged. It has three ports - two standard USB ports and one micro-USB port - and works with most mobile phones, MP3 players and handheld games consoles, and various other portable devices. You just need to buy extra tips for around £5.99 each.

The Charge Anywhere isn't equipped to charge an iPad, unfortunately, as an iPad charger requires 2.1A capability.

It's easy to use. If you're using it as a mains charger, simply plug the unit into the wall and then plug your devices into it. If it's being used as a portable charger, charge the unit until its red light turns blue, then pull off the plug, and you're ready to plug in your devices when they're out of juice. A fully charged Charge Anywhere will recharge an iPhone 4 around 1.5 times.

> "It uses clever technology to reduce wasted energy when charging your iPhone"

Operation was generally fine, but we found that the Charge Anywhere device performs better with the iPhone 4 than with earlier Apple handsets. Our iPhone 3GS sucked all the life out of a fully powered Charge Anywhere - a process that took two hours and still left the iPhone under 80 per cent full.

THE SKINNY...

Likes: Fairly compact; three charging ports; works worldwide

Dislikes: Takes a long time to charge and, often, a short time to empty

Rating: ★★★★★

iPad & iPhone User says...

The Charge Anywhere is acceptable for emergency top-ups, but we'd mainly recommend the device for its green credentials. If it's an on-the-go charger you're after, you'd probably be better off with a dedicated battery pack.

Craig Grannell & Karen Haslam

Kingston Wi-Drive

Compact device provides extra storage for your iPhone or iPad

It's great to be able to play music and videos on your iPad or iPhone when travelling. However, it's easy to fill up the storage space quickly, especially if you put long films or TV shows on them. The Wi-Drive solves that problem by giving you extra storage for your music, photos, videos and other files.

Available in 16GB and 32GB sizes, the Wi-Drive is essentially a memory stick that also has Wi-Fi networking built in, which means up to three people can access media at the same time. You use a USB cable to connect it to your Mac or PC, and then copy music, video or other files on to it as you would with a conventional memory stick or hard disk.

The next step is to download the free Wi-Drive app from the App Store. This allows you to link your iPad or iPhone wirelessly to the Wi-Drive, so that you can play music, photos or videos stored on the Wi-Drive. You can view other types of files, including Word and Excel documents and PDFs. The rechargeable battery lasts for about four hours, so you can watch a movie or two before it gives out.

> "essentially a memory stick that also has WiFi networking features built in"

The only problem here is that connecting directly to the Wi-Drive means you lose the connection with your existing wireless network. There is a bridging option that allows the Wi-Drive to connect to your network so that you can still use its internet connection, but you might need to adjust the settings on your wireless router in order to do this, and that can be confusing for less experienced users. However, you're more likely to be using the Wi-Drive when travelling away from home, so this isn't a major weakness.

THE SKINNY...

Likes: Ingenious and compact wireless storage device

Dislikes: Expensive; connecting to an existing Wi-Fi network can be tricky

Rating: ★★★★★

iPad & iPhone User says...

Apart from that hiccup, the Wi-Drive is easy to use and performs well. It's more expensive than conventional memory sticks, but it could come in handy if you want to take music or films on a long trip.

Cliff Joseph



Pocket Power You can slip the slimline Wi-Drive into your pocket when you're travelling

Storage
Company: Kingston
URL www.kingston.com
Price: From £80

Storekeeper.com

iMusic Station

This karaoke dock will have you singing along in no time

Karaoke fans may be tempted by this appealing-looking iPod/iPhone speaker dock from iMusicTech, which combines the entire karaoke setup in a small, portable unit. We have some reservations about the device, but it's generally fun and a nice idea.

You download songs – or rather, MP4 videos, including rolling lyrics – of your choice from ikostore.com (a voucher for five tracks is included in the box – further songs cost a quite steep £1.49 a time), load them on to your iOS device, connect it to the dock and get singing. Two microphones can be connected, though only one is supplied. Both this and the speaker set are on the weedy side - don't expect blockbusting audio.

The size of the iPhone's screen, as compared to the monitors usually used in karaoke booths, unsurprisingly makes it more difficult to read the words, and we had to stand close to the machine while singing. But the legibility wasn't as bad as we expected.

> **"As a sort of portable emergency karaoke machine the iMusic Station is rather sweet"**

If you would prefer a larger screen, there's an output and cable to connect the device to a TV. On the whole, though, we didn't like this arrangement - with the sound coming through the TV, it felt like there was a slight delay on the vocal output. And something was up with the amplification, meaning we had to turn the TV's volume up to almost maximum to get a decent sound.

THE SKINNY...

Likes: Combines karaoke unit in a portable setup; interesting idea

Dislikes: Disappointing sound quality; lyrics can be hard to read

Rating: ★★★★★



iPad & iPhone User says...

Neither the sound quality nor the lyrics legibility are amazing, but as a portable karaoke machine the iMusic Station is rather sweet. It's reasonably priced and works well.

David Price

Speaker dock/karaoke machine

Company iMusic

URL www.imusicuk.com

Price £85

Smart Blood Pressure

This iPhone accessory is designed to test your blood

The first time you plug Withings' monitor into your iPhone, it'll ask if you want to download the app (and will take you straight to the right page on the app store, helpfully). You then key in some personal details and get started.

Anyone who's had their blood pressure taken will know the routine: the sphygmomanometer is strapped around your upper arm, and inflates and tightens. It then slowly deflates and spits out your readings: a maximum and minimum blood pressure, and a heart rate. Multiple results can be collated and displayed on a graph.

The device takes you through an initial five-step tutorial, and we recommend you pay attention to this; even so, we still frequently got messages saying the device had failed to make a measurement. It usually worked on a second attempt, though.

So how accurate was the testing? It seemed to be largely consistent for individuals, except for one worrying episode where a colleague was given a systolic figure in the 140s, which somehow dropped to a more tolerable 125 when we immediately re-tested him. We assume this was a fault in the way we applied the device rather than a medical miracle.

We can't imagine many people will shell out £119 just for giggles, but we'd stress that the device is more suitable for regular use over a prolonged period than for one-off curiosity tests, which could go wrong and terrify you.

THE SKINNY...

Likes: Fairly easy to use; useful five-step tutorial

Dislikes: Expensive; sometimes failed to take a measurement

Rating: ★★★★★



iPad & iPhone User says...

The device is fairly straightforward to use, but we'd advise you to follow the instructions carefully. For those who've been instructed by a GP to monitor their blood pressure, it could be a handy tool.

David Price

Under pressure

This could be a useful tool if you need to keep an eye on your blood pressure

Blood pressure monitor

Company Withings

URL www.withings.com

Price £119

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Release: StoreMags & FantaMag



iPad joystick

Company Ten One Design

URLs www.tenonedesign.com
www.softline.co.uk

Price £20

Fling Joystick

A handy game controller for less dexterous iPad owners

THE SKINNY...

Likes: Improves control over some iPad games

Dislikes: Expensive; not suitable for all types of games

Rating: ★★★★★

Attaching any kind of accessory to an iPad's screen seems to defeat the point of having a touch-sensitive screen. But this joystick could be handy if you play a lot of games.

The Fling is little more than a small piece of plastic that attaches to the edge of the iPad's screen with two small suction caps. There's a small, flexible spiral of plastic attached, with a single button sitting in the centre. You place one finger on that button and then simply move it around to control your movement on the screen.

It's not a bad idea, as we've often struggled when trying to control some action games on the iPad. However, it very much depends on the types of games you're playing. Its design means that it works best with games where movement is two-dimensional – up, down, left and right.

We found that simpler games such as the old Galaga 2D shooter, and Dungeon Hunter – which only has a kind of pseudo-3D perspective – worked well with the Fling. However, more sophisticated games such as N.O.V.A. – a shooter with true 3D perspective – were less successful, as the device didn't cope with the extra complexities of running around while also being able to look up and down as well.

There were also some other types of game that didn't work at all well. Racing games still work best using the iPad's tilt-sensitive controls, while the variety of running, jumping, and fighting moves in platform games such as Mirror's Edge seemed too fiddly for the Fling.

iPad & iPhone User says...

It's not a must-have device for iPad gamers, but the Fling can help to improve your control over certain types of game. It may be worth trying if you can find it more cheaply.

Cliff Joseph

Finally, a **full keyboard** that's built for travel.



Matias **Folding Keyboard**™ for iPad & iPhone

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matias www.matias.ca / keyboardco
www.matias.ca / foldingkeyboard

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iPAD 2 CASE ROUND-UP: eight iPad 2 cases reviewed

By Jordan Parsons



If you want to protect your shiny new iPad 2, the first option to consider is the Smart Cover that Apple sells alongside its tablet. But this is comparatively expensive, particularly in the leather version; third-party covers will tend to be cheaper, and may well have similarly high levels of integration with the iPad's sleep and wake functions.

Think carefully about your priorities. Do you care most about appearances, whether conventionally smart or youthful and funky? Do you want specific functions, such as the ability to double as a stand? Do you want to use the iPad while it's in the case, or are you happy to remove if from a sleeve? And how much protection do you need? If your iPad is going to be mostly staying at home you probably don't need full-body, military-style armour.



Company: Proporta **URL** www.proporta.com/brunswick **Price:** £120

Brunswick iPad 2 case

Luxurious protection for your tablet – at a luxury price

Luxurious and stylish
The cover provides great protection and makes your iPad look smart

THE SKINNY...

Likes: Sturdy; well made; looks great; nice bundle of extras for cleaning

Dislikes: Expensive

Rating: ★★★★★

Proporta recently launched Brunswick, a line of aspirational, high-end tech accessories aimed at men. Our eye was caught by this iPad 2 case made of black leather, which fits snugly around the iPad and seals shut, opening like a book when the iPad is in use.

The case is designed to protect your iPad from scratches, bumps and knocks, while maintaining a stylish, professional look. It will wake your iPad when opened, and send it to sleep when closed. The cover doubles as a sturdy, non-slip stand, perfect for FaceTime or watching films.

The case doesn't block any of the iPad's functions, as there are holes big enough for the camera to see through, and for the charger cable to fit through. And, in a nice touch, the cover comes bundled with a screen wipe to get rid of fingerprints on your iPad – ideal for business types who want to make the perfect impression.

As for cleaning the leather itself, Proporta has considerately provided a small leather swatch, allowing you to try out any cleaning products before you use them on the case.

This cover is one of the most expensive on the market but you get good protection and a stylish look that will make your iPad stand head and shoulders above the rest.

If you can spare the money, this is a high-quality accessory that we're inclined to recommend.



Company: Griffin **URL:** www.griffintechnology.com **Price:** £37

IntelliCase

An affordable way to provide full-body protection

Strong yet smart
This smart case is strong enough to take the bumps and knocks

Griffin's IntelliCase is designed to give your iPad more protection without breaking the bank. The IntelliCase offers 360-degree protection, with a cover built into the front, similar to Apple's own offering – like the Smart Cover, the IntelliCase can fold into portrait and landscape positions. It's not the easiest to use, though: we managed to position the iPad both ways, but only after some fiddling around to persuade it to stay securely in place.

The hard shell back doesn't obstruct the camera, headphone or other ports, and stops your iPad from overheating. The hard shell has a groove in the back for comfort when holding the device.

Removing the cover from the iPad is easy: it simply clips on and off. This could be a worry, of course, but our iPad 2 didn't escape its prison throughout testing.

The case only comes in black. We'd like to see some other options to add a personal touch.

THE SKINNY...

Likes: Good price; solid protection of entire device

Dislikes: Not easy to transform into a stand

Rating: ★★★★★

There are many, many iPad cases on the market, but this one stands out because it covers the entire device. It's one of the cheapest full-body covers around.

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Release: StoreMags & FantaMag



Company: Hypershield **URLs** www.hypershop.com • www.protronica.co.uk **Price:** £20

HyperShield

A dirt-resistant back cover for your iPad

THE SKINNY...

Likes: Lightweight; flexible; works with Smart Cover

Dislikes: A bit lost without the Smart Cover – no front cover or stand of its own

Rating: ★★★★★

Lots of colours

The HyperShield has a huge variety of colours to make your iPad more personalised

The HyperShield is a lightweight, flexible back cover for the iPad 2 that doesn't obstruct any of the iPad's ports or buttons and fits perfectly with Apple's Smart Cover.

The HyperShield comes in a variety of colours to help you personalise your iPad, and these too match the Smart Cover range.

We found the cover easy to put on the iPad, and it's well designed: once you've got it snugly in place, you can be assured the tablet won't fall out, but it's very easy to remove the case if you do want to – to wash the HyperShield, for example.

Not that you should have to wash it very often, since the thermoplastic material is designed to prevent dirt from attaching to the HyperShield. The case is also reportedly 100 per cent recyclable.

The manufacturer has talked up the HyperShield's shock-absorbing technology, so your iPad ought to survive the odd bump or knock. But we wouldn't advise a drop-test.

This is a great cover if you have Apple's Smart Cover, as the two attach together very easily. (The Smart Cover also makes up for the lack of a stand.)

We found the HyperShield easy to both apply and remove, and very good at stopping your iPad from getting dirty or damaged from bumps. For heavy-duty protection there are better alternatives.

Company: iPad 2 sleeve **URL** www.i-luv-uk.co.uk **Price:** £20

Neoprene Sleeve

We love iLuv's foam-padded protector

THE SKINNY...

Likes: Attractive; 360-degree protection

Dislikes: Zip could scratch your iPad 2

Rating: ★★★★★

iLuv Neoprene Sleeve

iLuv's sleeve makes your iPad look stylish, and protects it from bumps and knocks



iLuv's Neoprene Sleeve gives your iPad great protection while looking stylish in a funky, modern sort of way. The pattern of soft embossed triangles also helps to absorb bumps, and the textured surface makes the tablet less likely to slip from your grasp.

The iLuv sleeve is waterproof, flexible and super strong. It comes in two colours: a fairly extreme pink and a more conventional black.

It's also easy to use. The iPad 2 simply slides in, then you zip the sleeve shut. This means you don't have to worry about your iPad falling out of the sleeve, and gives you 360-degree protection from impact and water damage while it's inside.

There is one flaw with zip sleeves: when you put your iPad into the sleeve you might scratch it. But with a little care you should be ok.

On the inside of the sleeve is a soft neoprene lining to help protect your device while keeping it smudge- and dirt-free. The iPad fit snugly inside even if you've applied the Smart Cover.

The iLuv Neoprene Sleeve is an impressive offering, with an appealingly affordable price tag, a characterful look and and great protection. iLuv has created a cool full-body zipped sleeve that will leave you feeling confident that your iPad is safe.



Company: Contour **URL** www.amazon.co.uk **Price:** £8.99

Lucky Clover Sleeve

Unusual looks and lightweight protection at a low price

You're in luck

Cheap, lightweight protection

THE SKINNY...

Likes: Interesting look and theme; low price tag

Dislikes: Usual zip sleeve limitations; could be sturdier

Rating: ★★★★★

Like the iLuv Neoprene Sleeve above, the Lucky Brand Clover Sleeve gives your iPad 360-degree protection while it's in the case, but none at all when you take it out.

It has a simple but effective design, with interesting graphics on the front making up an attractive four-leaf clover design.

Getting your iPad into the case isn't difficult – it just slides in – but again, the slight worry is that the zip might scratch the front or back while the tablet is sliding in. Once inside, your iPad is protected by a cushion; the outside is made from neoprene fabric.

There's no worry about your iPad falling out of the sleeve as long as you remember to zip it up.

You can hardly fail to notice the all-pervading luck theme, which even extends to a set of unique 'lucky numbers' which you'll discover on the inside of the sleeve; the Lucky Brand logo is also repeated here. And we think the brown interior contrasts nicely with the military-green outside.

Like most zip sleeves, the Lucky Clover has its limitation, with no stand functionality or helpful positions for FaceTime. And of course, if you accidently drop your iPad while using it sleeve-free, you've had it.

Still, we like the look, consistent theme and low price tag of this sleeve, and it provides good protection against light bumps, knocks and scratches.

Stored.ggs.com



Top of the Pops
But you can forget about using your Smart Cover

Company: Case-Mate **URL** www.case-mate.eu.com **Price:** £40

iPad 2 Pop Case

A hard back-cover with stand

Case-Mate's Pop easily clips on to the back of your iPad. But that's the only bit of your tablet that'll get protection: the screen is left unshielded. And you can't combine it with Apple's Smart Cover, because the sides are covered with soft rubber and there's no room for the magnets.

The Pop cover is made in three colours, but sadly only black and white are currently available here; for the thrilling pink model on page 48, you'll have to visit the US site.

The case doesn't obstruct any of the iPad's features, ports or buttons. And it comes with an integrated stand, which folds neatly into the back of the iPad. The stand allows the iPad to be used in two positions – portrait or landscape – and has rubber stoppers to prevent the iPad from slipping and sliding about.

There are also rubber grips on the back to cushion your hands and reduce the chances of a drop; but only if you're holding the iPad 2 in portrait mode.

The iPad's back is safely protected from scratches and minor knocks. But if you drop it the iPad could get damaged, as the Pop doesn't protect against shock damage. And removing the iPad from the cover can be difficult.

The Pop is a great cover and has a high-quality stand. It's just a shame it's not compatible with the Smart Cover.

THE SKINNY...
Likes: High-quality stand and great back protection
Dislikes: No front protection, and can't be combined with Smart Cover
Rating: ★★★★★



Bulky iPad
The Rotating Armour makes the iPad somewhat bulky

Company: iPad 2 sleeve **URL** www.cygnett.com **Price:** Price: £34

Rotating Armour

A tough and stylish (but bulky) case and stand

The Rotating Armour gives the iPad strong protection, but the down side is that your previous portable PC becomes distinctly bulky. Bulky, but still stylish, thanks to the nice microsuede material and pleasing design.

Getting the iPad into the cover can be quite stressful, as you find yourself forcing a highly expensive piece of technology into a tight case. Still, at least you know your tablet isn't likely to fall out.

Inside the case there are multiple grooves for the iPad to slot into, which enables you to find the optimum position for watching films or using FaceTime.

On the back of the case is a small round piece of plastic that you can see the Apple logo through. By providing a little hole that cleverly allows the leather to fold back on itself, this feature helps to keep the iPad in your chosen position.

There's a strap on the inside of the case to stop your iPad from falling out, and the Armour has a sturdy inner shell to stop your iPad from being damaged should you drop it.

The cover, like many other products on the market, has an integrated system which can turn your iPad on or off by opening and closing the cover. If you wish to remove it, you might have a fight with the case to get the iPad out.

Portability isn't its strong suit, but the Rotating Armour is among the best for style and toughness.

THE SKINNY...
Likes: Great for FaceTime with three positions; secure
Dislikes: Makes the iPad bulky and hard to remove
Rating: ★★★★★



Overprotected
This heavweight case meets US military standards, but isn't particularly stylish

Company: Griffin **URL** www.griffintechnology.com **Price:** £49

Survivor

Protects you from everything – except ugliness

This case will protect your iPad from everything. It's waterproof, stops sand getting in, and protects against shock, dirt and vibration.

Putting the Survivor on your iPad is relatively easy, but it takes at least ten minutes to put the thing together and attach all the pieces. It has a protective case inside a Silicone outlay, and is so protective it meets the US military's standards.

This isn't the most attractive case, although that won't be a problem for those who put protection before looks. The Survivor's stand is rather meagre, but does the job for typing and FaceTime. The stand only allows landscape positioning.

The case obstructs all buttons, ports and ventilation. The buttons can be found again, but you'll have to open up a hole to use them. If the case isn't applied properly the camera can be slightly obstructed by the case. Even the home button is obstructed, and you just have to push in that area to get the button to work.

The Survivor isn't very nice to hold, and tends to slip out of your hand. It also makes the iPad a lot heavier and bulkier – more like the original iPad. Which rather goes against everything Apple have done to make the iPad 2 what it is.

The Survivor provides exceptional levels of protection, but is unappealing in other respects.

THE SKINNY...
Likes: Protects effectively against the elements
Dislikes: Not great looking; bulky; obstructs iPad functions; meagre stand
Rating: ★★★★★

StoreKeep.com

iPad & iPhone User says...

There are all kinds of cases on the market for your iPad 2, ranging from heavy-duty protective models such as the Survivor to stylish and modern numbers like the Neoprene Sleeve. But which one should you choose?

The Survivor isn't very attractive, but it does give you outstanding resistance to water, sand, shock, vibration and scratches. Whether you need that level of protection is open to question.

The Rotating Armour features a great stand, allowing for three positions, which are specialised for FaceTime, surfing the web and watching videos. It protects your iPad from scratches and knocks.

iLuv's Neoprene Sleeve is ideal for looking stylish and giving your iPad great protection.

The Lucky Clover Sleeve protects against scratches, but your iPad won't seem so lucky if you drop it. Still, this is a good lower-priced option.

The Pop is the best case for watching movies or using FaceTime, and the protection it provides for the back of your iPad is flawless. However, it doesn't protect the screen and can't be used with Apple's Smart Cover. This is a significant disadvantage.

If you have Apple's Smart Cover, the HyperShield is a superb case to use with it. The HyperShield protects your iPad's back, and the combination of the two gives you full 360-degree protection.

Although all of these cases have their advantages, our favourite has to be the **Griffin Intellicase**. It gives your iPad great, solid protection, but it's so slim that you hardly notice the extra bulk. It protects the front and back of your tablet, and the cover for the front turns your iPad on and off, just like the Smart Cover. But unlike the Smart Cover, the Intellicase also protect your iPad's back from scratches and from being damaged.

Jordan Parsons



Our favourite...
The Griffin IntelliCase offers value for money and 360-degree protection

Designed for iPad 2

iMAGE BY ACCURATUS

iPad2 Case with UK Bluetooth Keyboard



Key Features

- Detachable ultra slim (6mm) Bluetooth keyboard with wireless 10M range
- Bluetooth keyboard can be used with other Bluetooth devices eg. iPhone, iMac...
- Square ultra slim Apple style individual tactile keys for comfortable typing
- UK layout keyboard with Apple keys, £ # and € keys
- Special function keys for volume, media playback, photos, search, back etc...
- Designed so the iPad 2 front and rear camera's can still be used
- Smart magnetic feature to auto lock/unlock the iPad 2 upon opening/closing case
- Internal long life rechargeable lithium-ion battery with sleep function
- Keyboard charging port/switches can all be accessed whilst the case is closed
- Rigid but soft, water resistant and durable faux leather for protection and style
- Fold out rear leg opens into stand position
- Fully retail packaged in a high quality sealed box, ideal as a gift

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ACCURATUS

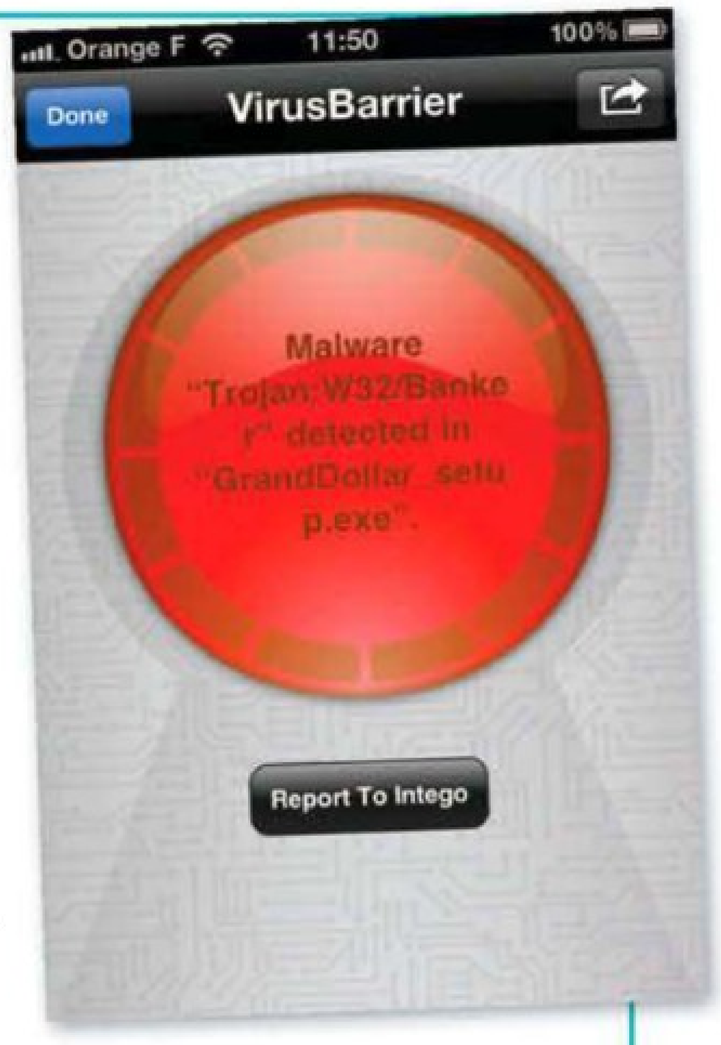
Accuratus: Latin translation - 'accurate, precise, with care', CERATECH - Originators of the Accuratus brand - established in 1981
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REVIEWS

APPS ROUND-UP: The best iPad & iPhone apps reviewed

Company Intego **URL** www.intego.com
Price iPad £1.99 (one-year subscription); iPhone/iPod £1.99 (one-year subscription)

VirusBarrier



Apple's tight rein on iOS devices makes them more difficult for malware authors to infiltrate. There is still, however, the problem of email attachments, which you might forward on and unknowingly infect another platform. This is where VirusBarrier comes in – it lets you scan attachments and shared files online.

The app demands a more hands-ons attitude in place of background scanning used on the Mac. Email attachments have to be checked by holding a finger on them and choosing to open them, one at a time. If, however, the attachment isn't something that iOS or an installed app can read, then Mail won't be able to send it to the app.

Connecting to Dropbox or iDisk lets you scan files that have been uploaded for you. VirusBarrier looks inside Zip files, although it missed the (harmless) Eicar signature inside one of our test files. Also be cautious of other archives, such as Tar. They're treated as single files, so their real contents are overlooked. It might seem unlikely you'd receive these types, but it's too easy to assume that the scanner is taking a closer look than it is.

When an infection is found, its name is shown, but what you can do with that information is limited. There's no explanation of the risk and no way to copy details to inform the sender. On the plus side, files are rescanned after an attempt to clean them.

There's an argument for using VirusBarrier to protect against potential security flaws. PDFs were a potential attack vector in some earlier versions of iOS, so there's definitely some peace of mind if you regularly receive such files.

THE SKINNY...

Likes: Stops the spread of viruses by email

Dislikes: Can't scan every type of email attachment

Rating: ★★★★★

iPad & iPhone User says...

Intego's anti-malware efforts for iOS are valiant but underwhelming. The proactive approach isn't a problem if you're security-conscious, but basic reports and the lack of detail about infections fail to carry that demand to its logical conclusion. Ultimately, VirusBarrier's weaknesses leave you feeling less empowered than you'd hope.

Alan Stonebridge

Company Telltale Games **URL** www.telltalegames.com
Price £4.99 per episode

Tales of Monkey Island HD



Buckle up buccaneers, for a five-episode adventure in the boots of hapless hero Guybrush Threepwood. Things get off to a swashbuckling start when you're tasked with boarding the ship of the zombie pirate Le Chuck to rescue Threepwood's wife. It's a short scene, but it sets the humorous tone and the key characters' motivations if you're new to the series.

This version abandons the illustrated style of the first two Monkey Island games (available on the App Store) for a 3D world. The iPad adaptation has lower-resolution textures and is missing some effects from the Mac version, and it's a little jittery in places. However, the animation and top-notch voice acting bring the world to life.

Threepwood is moved by holding a thumb onscreen and sliding it around. That can be awkward when the camera angle changes dramatically, but tetchiness soon passes because the game doesn't depend on precision movement and timing. It's about observing and interacting with your surroundings, and engaging with the delightful cast.

Dialogue is laden with the laughs and wryness for which the series is famed, and it's packed with clues on how to progress. Tales demands patience and thought and even the most ardent adventurer will get stuck, so there's a hint system to help you get back on track. It's best turned off and only used when your best efforts fail to illuminate the way forward. That way you can savour the brainteasers, which lack replayability.

Beware switching to another app, though. The game will lose your progress since you last manually saved. That's a horrible oversight on Telltale's part, but if you can forgive that, the episodic structure of Tales delivers a twisting story that will keep your brain busy for hours.

THE SKINNY...

Likes: Humorous story

Dislikes: Game can lose progress when you switch to another app

Rating: ★★★★★

iPad & iPhone User says...

Tales is brilliantly daft escapism from start to finish. Play with sound to avoid getting stuck on the early sound puzzle, and for the satisfaction of voice acting throughout. Episodes are sold individually, which is good news if you're uncertain about the old-fashioned adventure style, despite its 3D makeover.

Alan Stonebridge

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For iPhone & iPod touch only | For iPad only | For all three devices

Company Chillingo **URL** www.chillingo.com
Price iPad £2.99; iPhone/iPod £2.49

NyxQuest



Set in Ancient Greece, NyxQuest is a side-scrolling platform game that sees you play as Nyx, a winged girl who is searching for her missing friend Icarus. You'll need to be careful, though, as Hades has sent his minions to try and stop you. Thankfully, the Greek Gods have given you some of their powers to help you defeat these enemies, which include hydras and harpies. You'll also need to keep an eye out for other obstacles such as bottomless pits. To progress through the game's 12 levels, you'll need to solve a series of puzzles, though these shouldn't pose too much of a problem.

THE SKINNY...

Likes: Impressive graphics; highly addictive

Dislikes: The game can be a little too easy at times

Rating: ★★★★★

iPad & iPhone User says...

NyxQuest is a highly addictive and great-looking game, and you'll soon find yourself totally immersed.

Jordan Parsons

Company Chillingo **URL** www.chillingo.com
Price iPad £2.49; iPhone/iPod £1.49

Anomaly Warzone Earth



Anomaly Warzone Earth has taken the tower defence genre and turned it on its head. Instead of building up your defences you go on the offence, leading your troops through a maze of obstacles laid out by an army of alien invaders. The game itself looks fantastic and has a simple story, so you can quickly get into the battles. The controls are easy to understand and follow, and simple to remember. There is, however, a tactical side to the game, as you have to carefully pick your route through the map, from the safest but longest route to the quickest and deadliest one.

iPad & iPhone User says...

Anomaly has great graphics and is fun to watch, but you'll have to make sure you get your tactics right to proceed to the next level.

Jordan Parsons

THE SKINNY...

Likes: Fantastic graphics; easy to understand controls

Dislikes: Don't have total control over your troops' actions

Rating: ★★★★★

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REVIEWS

Company Limbic Software
URL www.limbic.com **Price** iPad/iPhone/iPad, 69p

Zombie Gunship STAR BUY



As you might have guessed from the title, Zombie Gunship is set after a zombie apocalypse. The game sees you ensconced in the cockpit of a heavily armed Lockheed AC-130 that's endlessly circling over a bunker; inside which the last remnants of humanity have taken refuge. Every so often, you'll spy another survivor attempting to reach safety – unfortunately, a horde of zombies is usually in hot pursuit.

Your mission is simple: gun down the zombies before they can reach the bunker without catching any civilians in the crossfire. If a zombie breaches the bunker or if you kill three civilians, your mission will come to an end. A recent upgrade has doubled the number of humans you can kill, though this will set you back 15,000 points.

Your gunship is equipped with a 25mm Gatling gun, and there's ample opportunity to make sure you're well-armed for the fight ahead. Every time you kill a zombie you are awarded a bounty, which you can spend on upgrading your weapons, so that your guns load faster, shoot farther and inflict more collateral damage.

THE SKINNY...

Likes: It's great fun blasting the undead from a gunship

Dislikes: Graphics might not be to your taste

Rating: ★★★★★

The graphics in Zombie Gunship have a decidedly low-tech feel – it's a grainy black and white, not unlike the view you'd get from a plane's surveillance camera. And that's to the game's credit – the graphics really help create the kind of intense atmosphere you'd get in the most edge-of-your-seat monster movies. As grainy as the graphics are, you still get plenty of detail, and you'll be able to distinguish between friend and foe.

iPad & iPhone User says...

All these elements – the strategy, the graphics, and yes, the undeniable thrill of sending the undead back to the grave they crawled out of – make for a compelling iOS game. iPhone and iPad gamers may have a horde of zombie-themed games clamouring for their attention, but few deliver on as many levels as Zombie Gunship. If you're anything like us, you'll find yourself returning to this game time and again to take out the zombie hordes before they get you. **Phillip Michaels**

Company Days of Wonder
URL www.daysofwonder.com **Price** £4.99

Ticket to Ride STAR BUY



If there's one type of game that's perfectly suited to the iPad, it's adaptations of classic board games.

Days of Wonder's Ticket to Ride is one of the latest to jump from the kitchen table to the tablet, and it does so in a manner that brings all the fun of the game without the ziplock bags full of plastic pieces. Your goal is to build railroad lines across a map – by default, the United States, although expansions also offer Europe – connecting different cities.

iPad & iPhone User says...

While Ticket to Ride's £4.99 price tag is higher than the 69p many iPad users are accustomed to paying, the quality of the game is well worth the extra cost.
Dan Moren

THE SKINNY...

Likes: Intuitive controls; great, fun game; great interface

Dislikes: Price might be a barrier for some people

Rating: ★★★★★

Company Donghyun Baik
URL www.voicebriefweb.com **Price** £2.49

Voice Brief



Voice Brief transforms your iPhone into a talking assistant of sorts. The £2.49 productivity app reads content from your iPhone aloud, freeing you from looking at your phone to find out the day's news, weather or more.

It's an outstanding, fully featured app that can help make you more productive. Voice Brief can read many things aloud, including your email, calendar, the weather, blog posts, stock prices, and even your friends' Facebook and Twitter posts. Once you've selected what you'd like the app to read, you then select the voice you'd like it to use.

Voice Brief suffers from only minor irritations, and there'll be times when you wish you have more control over what the app reads.

iPad & iPhone User says...

It's like listening to the ultimate personalised radio station.
Brendan Wilhide

THE SKINNY...

Likes: Cool to have Facebook and Twitter read out to you

Dislikes: Can be difficult to understand sometimes

Rating: ★★★★★

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For iPhone & iPod touch only | For iPad only | For all three devices

Company Apalon **URL** www.apalon.com
Price iPad 69p; iPhone/iPod 69p

Pimp Your Screen



Want to ensure that your handset stands out from the crowd? This 69p app offers a broad selection of well-designed wallpapers for iOS devices of all sizes, making it easy to create your own look.

There are lots of styles for you to choose from, and you can even customise your own wallpaper using the Lock Screen and Home Screen Maker feature. This allows users to select a wallpaper and overlay shelves, icon skins, or other images on top.

Pimp Your Screen is simple to use and is a great way to make a wallpaper of your own.

Rating: ★★★★★

Likes: Easy and fun to use
Dislikes: Hard to browse all items

Company ABBYY **URL** www.mrbware.com
Price 69p

Simply B&W STAR BUY



Let's face it, some photos just look better in black and white, which is where Simply B&W comes in. This app will turn your colour photos into monochromatic masterpieces. You are presented with three simple (although unlabelled) controls – one for a filter, one for a vignette and border, and another for brightness, contrast and grain control. Five common filters are provided, including green, blue, yellow, orange, and the ever popular red. The images produced look very good, and the app is clean and responsive to use.

Rating: ★★★★★

Likes: Accurate and easy to use
Dislikes: Not iPad-compatible

Company WorkSmart Labs
URL www.worksmartlabs.com **Price** Free

Calorific Lite



One of the most effective ways of breaking entrenched eating habits is to write down everything you eat. Calorific Lite splits foods up into three general categories: green, yellow and red. Green foods are the ones you can eat in abundance (vegetables, whole grains, and so on); yellow foods are the things you should eat in moderation (dairy, lean animal proteins, and such); while you should keep red foods to a minimum (butter, steak). It's a bit confusing to use at first, but it's a good way to nudge yourself towards healthier eating.

Rating: ★★★★★

Likes: Good for healthier eating
Dislikes: Can be confusing at first

Company: David Mandell
URL www.yoctoville.com **Price** Free

Alarmed



This useful app combines wake-up alarms, sleep timers, regular timers and time-stamped reminders. Creating new alarms and timers is easy, but you won't confuse Alarmed for an app designed by Apple. It's the kind of app you might describe as having a 'great personality'.

You shouldn't judge this app by its ugly design alone, though, because it works so well. And you can pay £1.49 to unlock a few extra features: recurring reminders, every X hours instead of every X days, weeks, or months.

Rating: ★★★★★

Likes: Simple to use
Dislikes: Unattractive

Company NimbleBit **URL** www.nimblebit.com
Price Free

Tiny Tower



In terms of both look and gameplay, Tiny Tower delivers an old-school gaming experience to the iPhone and iPad.

Like in the early sim games, you're in charge of assembling a virtual village, only in this instance, it's confined to an ever-expanding skyscraper.

NimbleBit has got a lot more things right than wrong with Tiny Tower. From the appealing graphics and catchy music to clever touches – like a 'BitBook' feature, in which your tenants can post Facebook-style status updates about their hopes and dreams – a lot of effort has gone into creating what's turned out to be a very good iOS game.

THE SKINNY...

Likes: Great fun to play; world keeps running when you're away

Dislikes: Could use better Game Center support

Rating: ★★★★★

iPad & iPhone User says...

Sim fans will love Tiny Tower's take on the genre, while gamers who might not have embraced sim games in the past could find themselves drawn into this free-to-play offering's detailed world.

Philip Michaels

Company EA **URL** www.ea.com/iphone
Price iPad £6.99; iPhone/iPod £4.99

Madden NFL 12

We've played Madden NFL on numerous games consoles, and have been fans of the series for a long time. Sadly, although these iOS editions of the game are better than nothing, they're a bit of a disappointment.

The gameplay itself is a mixed bag. Offence is a lot more fun than defence. We found the running game a bit tough to get going in Madden 12, but the passing works well. On the iPad, you can tap icons for your receivers that sit near your quarterback, or you can tap the receivers themselves; the iPhone offers only the latter option, no doubt due to its more limited screen space. On defence, things are tougher to control. The action moves along so quickly that it's a real challenge to manoeuvre your player into position.

THE SKINNY...

Likes: Looks great and is technically impressive

Dislikes: Expensive; difficult to master defence

Rating: ★★★★★

iPad & iPhone User says...

The touch experience simply doesn't mesh well with the densely packed game, and the end result just isn't that fun to play.

Lex Friedman



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Release: StoreMags & FantaMag

Company Booyah! **URL** www.booyah.com
Price Free

Early Bird



Early Bird doesn't exactly break new ground in gaming, but it offers a fun way to pass the time and some adorable graphics of baby birds and their worm enemy.

You control Early Bird in his journey to get from Point A to Point B - Point B being a wormhole populated by an attitude-laden worm. Flicking a finger across the screen sends Early Bird on his way, but you've only got so many flicks for each stage of the game. Obstacles stand in your path, but other objects can help you on your journey.

Levels become more complex and challenging to solve as you progress through Early Bird. That bolsters the game's longevity. You'll also find yourself going back to already-completed levels to improve upon your score. With 96 levels, that's a lot to keep gamers coming back for more.

There's plenty of fun to be had in Early Bird, and as a free download – at least for a limited time, as of this writing – there's no reason not to give this pleasant casual game a try.

Philip Michaels

THE SKINNY...

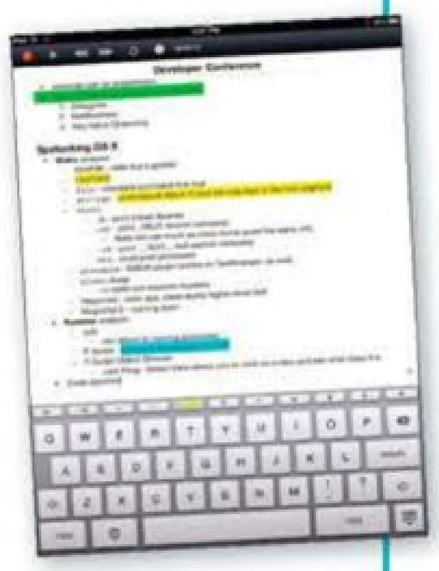
Likes: Cute graphics; timefiller; good replayability; free

Dislikes: Hard to shake the 'me too' feeling after Angry Birds

Rating: ★★★★★

Company: Useful Fruit Software **URL** www.usefulfruit.com
Price: £2.99

Pear Note



Pear Note is an indispensable tool for anyone who uses their tablet to jot down notes. Pear Note records both audio and your keystrokes while you're taking notes during an interview, lecture or presentation. If you find that your notes aren't detailed enough, just tap on the text in the app, and the QuickTime recording jumps to that precise moment, allowing you to revise your notations.

During playback, the app illuminates the keystrokes in time with the recording. Plus, if during a recording, you find you need access to another app, Pear Note will record in background mode while you jump to Safari to fact-check.

Keyboard controls let you render your notes in rich text, with bullet points and highlights among the available features. Best off all, the app syncs easily with Dropbox so that you can have desktop access to your iPad notes.

You can't edit your notes while listening to the recording. Also, you can't record video directly in the app yet, only audio.

Pear Note is great - it's just not quite perfect yet.

Joel Mathis

THE SKINNY...

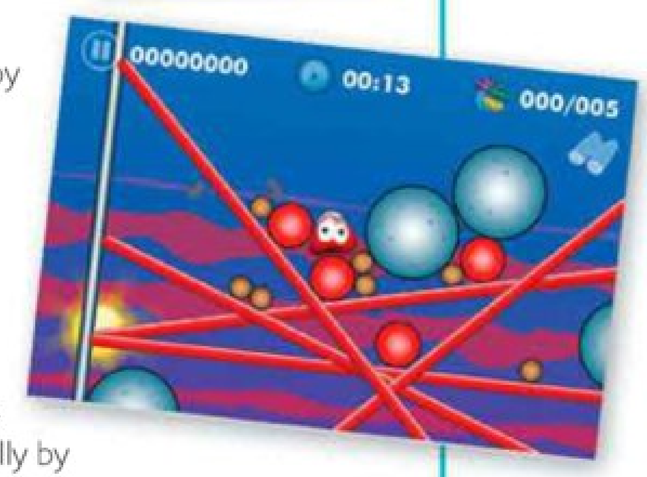
Likes: Records audio and keystrokes; multitasking; sync

Dislikes: No video recording; can't edit notes while listening

Rating: ★★★★★

Company: Chillingo **URL** www.chillingo.com
Price: iPad £1.49; iPhone 69p

Blobster



Children and adults alike will enjoy this entertaining side-scrolling platform game.

There are two methods of controlling the game – you can choose to tilt your device to move Blobster (a cute red blob) or touch the sides of the screen. Both are easy to master, especially by playing the tutorial level.

Blobster has three game modes, Arcade, Survival and Race. Arcade and Race are unlocked when you buy Blobster but you need to complete 75 per cent to unlock Survival.

Arcade mode sees you guide Blobster through four worlds, with 10 levels and three bonus levels in each world. It's seriously addictive, so we wish there were even more levels.

The Race mode is a race against time to get as far into the level as possible while collecting as many Blobules as possible.

In Survival mode you are constantly attacked by enemies and you have to get the right power-up to defeat them.

Offering attractive, colourful graphics and a strong variety of levels, Blobster will keep you entertained for hours.

Jordan Parsons

THE SKINNY...

Likes: Easy controls; freakishly addictive gameplay

Dislikes: Only 40 levels

Rating: ★★★★★

Company: Vine Creative **URL** www.vinecreative.com
Price: Free

My Circles



If you're one of those 'power' iPhone users who likes to send text messages and emails in bulk, this free app could be a handy tool.

The app's mission is simple: it lets users create groups from the contacts list on the phone so that a group text or email can be sent quickly: no more adding recipients one by one while composing your message. The app flags people in a circle who don't have an email address or a text number associated with their contact information in your iPhone, making it less likely that you'll miss transmitting information to its intended recipients.

Adding contacts is easy: the app invites you to "create a circle" on its home page - it's just a matter of following the prompts from there. Circles can be designated for work or personal use. The texts and email messages can be sent directly from the app.

There's not much else to my Circles, but there doesn't have to be. The app is intuitive to use and it gets the job of mass-messaging done without any fuss.

Joel Mathis

THE SKINNY...

Likes: Free; send texts and emails in bulk to designated 'circles'

Dislikes: None

Rating: ★★★★★

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Welcome to Digital Lifestyle, the definitive gadget guide for 2011.

We have asked our staff and customers for their favourite products of the year that will complement Apple and can be used in the Digital Home. This 20-page guide features over 160 best-of-breed products which will enhance your Digital Lifestyle.

We have done the hard work of selecting products across various themes and all you have to do is pick which ones are right for you. Whether you are going on holiday or just staying at home we have the products that will enrich your Digital Lifestyle.

We have new products arriving on a daily basis so remember to checkout our website for new and best selling products. You can purchase these products online or in-store and if you can't find the answers to your questions don't hesitate to give our specialists a call. Many of the products we have are on display so come into our stores and ask for a demo as seeing is believing.

Our Digital Life Support Centre can provide installations, upgrades and technical support for a huge range of products so look online for more information.

We look forward to meeting you.

The Team @ Anvika

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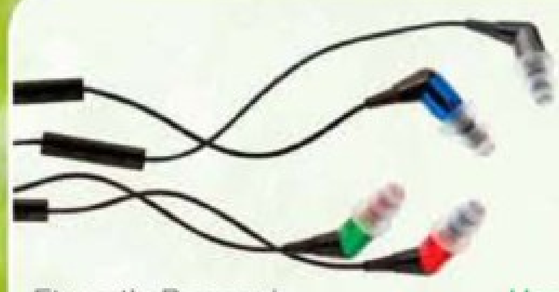
Totem

Portable speaker with SD card playback and rechargeable Li-ion battery.

- Dynamic audio with powerful bass
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Grey: CY1925TOT / Black: CY0204TOT / Red: CY0205TOT

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Etymotic Research — Headset

MC3

Relax in your own personal space with these noise-isolating earphones.

- 85%+ sound accuracy and 35 dB - 42 dB of noise isolation
- Mic included so you can answer incoming calls on your iPhone
- Available in four colours

Black: ETYER7MC3BLACK / Red: ETYER7MC3RED
Blue: ETYER7MC3BLUE / Green: ETYER7MC3GREEN

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Just Mobile — Stand

Encore for iPad + iPad 2

The high-design iPad stand you can use anywhere. Also compatible with most tablet computers.

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- Foldable so you can take it with you

JSMST858

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SENS02888

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- DSP echo cancellation ensures a crystal clear conversation

SCHCBHSOL5

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NGP for Samsung Galaxy SII

This Next Generation Polymer case is malleable, stylish and firm enough to withstand impacts.

- High-density polymer provides excellent shock absorption
- Standard protection guards against daily wear and tear
- Complete access to all ports and controls

Black: INCSA179 / Pink: INCSA180

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Incipio — Hardcase

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A thin, light and rechargeable iPhone case for when you're out and about exploring the sights.

- Concealed internal battery with 1450 mAh capacity
- Intelligently thin design measuring less than 6mm
- Charge and sync iTunes with included micro-USB cable

Black: INCIPH565 / Glossy White: INCIPH566
Glossy Lavender: INCIPH567 / Glossy Red: INCIPH568

Restrictions Apply

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Small, lightweight and ultra portable so you can charge your devices on the go - and with ease.

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- Ultra portable
- Charges quickly and efficiently

INCIP651

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Distinctive, urban and contemporary bag featuring a waterproof coated canvas.

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- 210D nylon lining with PU backing

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15" Grey/Lagoon: BEZ100939 / Black/Safran: BEZ100938



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Extremely useful dual USB car charger, including 1A and 2.1 for iPad.

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GRIGB02464



Griffin — FM Transmitter

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- Charges your iPhone or iPod while you listen
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£89.99



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Juice Pack Plus

2000 mAh capacity accessory for the iPhone 4 for extra battery power on the go.

- More than doubles your iPhone 4's battery life!
- Standby/charging switch
- Features a protective rubberised band

Black: MOP1160HKJPPLP4 / Cyan: MOP1161JPPLP4
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- Ultra-thin, lightweight, low profile design
- Rechargeable Smart Battery concealed inside
- Integrated LED battery status indicator

Black: MOP2010JPAXT4 / Blue: MOP2011JPAXT4 / Red: MOP2012JPAXT4



Incipio — Screen Protector

Screen Protector for iPhone 4

Don't leave home without the right protection, especially on holiday!

- Full screen coverage and protection
- Durable screen overlays quickly and easily
- Custom fit for the iPhone 4

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INCCL455



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Scosche — Portable

boomCAN

Get booming sound from any device: iPhone, iPad, iPod, Android, BlackBerry and more!

- 40mm driver produces Hi-Fi sound
- Rechargeable lithium-ion battery for up to 7 hours of playback
- Audio out so you can connect multiple boomCANs together

Silver: SCHPMSSR / Black: SCHPMSBK / Red: SCHPMSRD / Blue: SCHPMSBL



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Urbanz — Bag

Speaker Bag

Incredible sound, funky protection and useful carrying space - supplied with 4 AA batteries.

- Fun speaker bag is ready to plug and play!
- Protects your device from sand and water
- Suitable for iPhone and any device with 3.5mm stereo output

Pink: URBBEACHPK / Blue: URBBEACHBL



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Pure sound performance in a rechargeable speaker you can take anywhere!

- Portable speaker in three colour mixes
- Loud and clear pure sound performance
- Built in rechargeable battery

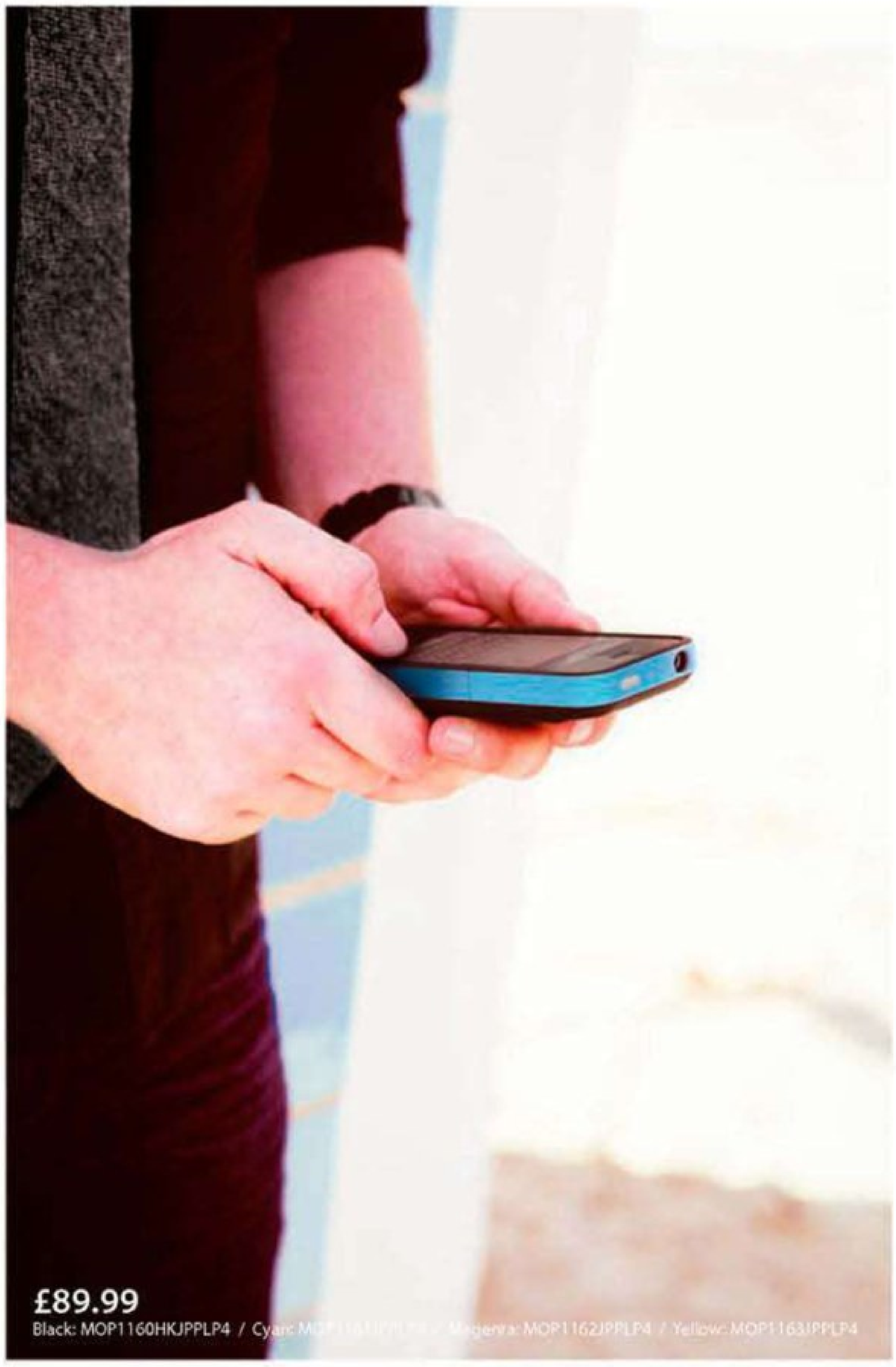
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Connect a Mini DisplayPort equipped Apple computer to any HDMI enabled external display.

- Display video in full 1080p HD
- Automatic EDID and HDCP compliant
- Converts video signal from Mini DisplayPort to HDMI format

KANMDPHDMIV2

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USB Port Euro/UK Wall Charger

Keep your Apple and USB micro devices powered up when you're away from home.

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- Removable UK adapter displays EU plug

1-Port : INCIP653 / 2-Port : INCIP654

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Instantly makes your iPhone 4's speaker 10 decibels louder without the need for batteries!

- Acoustically amplifies the speaker of your iPhone
- The perfect solution for audio and video conferencing with iPhone 4
- Listen to audio from videos, games and music without headphones

GRIGC10038



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My Passport for Mac 500GB

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- USB2 interface
- 15% smaller than previous generation
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WDCWDBAABS000ACHEESN

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£19.99



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- Ultra-soft rubber nib for smooth control

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Three of Apple's most requested connectors in easy-to-pack, no-tangle mini-cables.

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GRIGC17097



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Includes four products that keep you charged and protected on the go, wherever you go.

- Silicon protective case with unique circuit graphic
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CYGCY0207BNIP4



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Twelve South — Stand

Compass for iPad + iPad 2

A stylish, compact folding stand that lets you use your iPad in both landscape and portrait modes.

- Use it as an easel and an instant theatre
- Designed for those who want to work on their iPad
- Folded flat, Compass is a mere 7-inches long by 1-inch wide

Silver: TWS121106 / Black: TWS121107 / Red: TWS121108



Be.ez — Messenger

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Made for those two-day trips where you need to take your MacBook, digital gear and a set of clothes!

- Hi-quality 1682D ballistic nylon envelope
- Hi-grade nylon belt handles and shoulder strap
- Hidden silicon pads for additional laptop protection

Lagoon Dream: BEZ100932 / Lime Park: BEZ100931
Black Coffee: BEZ100930

£109.99



Just Mobile — Stand

Slide for iPad + iPad 2

Simplicity at its finest. Discover the take-anywhere, do-anything iPad stand from Just Mobile.

- Iconic design
- Wide range of viewing angles
- Solid support for gaming and typing

JSMST828

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Scosche — Connectivity

flipSYNC iPod / iPhone

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- Attaches to your keychain
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The ultimate iPhone 4 case for adventurers everywhere.

- Specially designed for iPhone 4
- Integral display shield deflects wind and rain
- Rigid internal frame protects from shocks and drops

GRIGB01902

NEW!



Griffin — Hardcase

Survivor for iPad 2

A tough iPad case designed and tested to meet or exceed U.S. and UK military standards.

- Shock-, rain-, drop and sand-resistant
- Integrated screen protection
- Hinged port covers seal out the elements

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NGP for iPod nano 6G

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- With headphone port and easy access to all buttons
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- Slim and lightweight

Black: INCIP970 / Pink: INCIP971 / White: INCIP972 / Blue: INCIP973
Grey/Black: INCIP974 / Red/Black: INCIP976 / Green/White: INCIP975



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Sennheiser — Sports

MX 680i Sports

Run faster and further, or work out harder. The MX 680i Sports headset lets you achieve them all.

- High performance stereo headset
- Sweat- and water-resistant
- EarFin holding system

SEN504601



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Cygnett — Softcase

Action Sports

Go the distance with this lightweight, weather resistant armband.

- Removable cable management system
- Easy-clean, quick-drying and sweat-resistant
- Comfortable design that moves with you

CYGCYPASA



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Griffin — Softcase

Adidas Mi Coach Armband for iPhone 4

An ultra-lightweight performance nylon band that wraps around your upper bicep.

- Integrated smartphone pocket and key holder
- Strategically-placed ports for headphones or headsets
- Ultra-lightweight wicking nylon band adjusts to fit

GRIGB01817



13" £79.99

15" £89.99

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Revolution

The world's best laptop backpack just got better. Digital gear has never been more organised.

- Concealed, plush lined laptop section keeps digital investments safe
- Integrated iPad pocket with unique fingerprint-removing nylex
- Main compartment for books, paperwork and reading materials

13" Carbon/Black: STMDP30002 / 13" Orange/Carbon: STMDP30009
15" Carbon/Black: STMDP30012 / 15" Orange/Carbon: STMDP30019



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Tigra Technologies — Mount

Tigra Technologies BikeMount

It's more than just an iPhone mount. It helps you get the most out of your iPhone on the road.

- Designed for iPhone 3G/3GS/iPhone 4 + touch 4G
- Weatherproof resistant housing, shock-absorbing silicon lining
- Universal bracket with quick release system

TIGIPH40002

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Travel Speaker

Don't let the music stop with this great little set of speakers for your iPhone or iPod.

- 2-channel stereo
- Compact travel design
- Needs no batteries or power adapters

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Scosche — Connectivity

clipSYNC

A 'never get lost' charge and sync keychain cable for iPhone and iPod, with built-in carabineer clip.

- Always have your cable with you
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- Conveniently clip almost anywhere!

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NEW!



Edifier — Portable

On The Go Encore

Portable iPhone/iPod speaker system with built-in battery and FM radio.

- Edifier Intelligent Distortion Control (IDC) manages input overload
- Completely portable with built-in Lithium-ion rechargeable battery
- Wireless remote for iPhone/iPod, FM radio, auxiliary input and MP3 control

EDFIF350ENCORE

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Tivizen

Watch and record live television on your iPhone, iPad or computer - anywhere.

- Turns your iPhone, iPad or computer into a mobile television
- Watch television (DTT, Freeview) anywhere
- Record your favourite TV shows

ELG1TZ10111000

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Incipio — Power

offGRID Backup Battery

Small enough to fit in the palm of your hand. Powerful enough to charge your devices on the go.

- Charge it up, take it on the road, and power your devices on the go
- Five green indicator lights on the front display
- Simply plug in and charge up for extended play

White: INCIP647 / Black: INCIP565

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Today's technology isn't just for us grown-ups. Kids can also make the most of their time out with some of these ingenious yet affordable accessories.

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Incipio — Silicon

Hive for iPod touch 4G

Unique honeycomb design case for shock-absorbing protection and improved grip.

- Anti-static coating prevents the silicon from becoming sticky
- Raised honeycomb pattern increases grip
- Hand-molded design

Red: INCIP927 / Yellow: INCIP929 / Charcoal: INCIP928 / Black: INCIP926



Griffin — Silicon

Slap Watch for iPod nano 6G

A fun strap case made from metal and silicon that lets kids wear their nano as a watch.

- Flexible spring-steel band
- Thick silicon frame
- Frame covers volume and sleep/wake buttons

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GRIGB02202



Cygnett — Softcase

WatchBand for iPod nano 6G

Wear your entertainment anywhere and anytime. Perfect for the new generation.

- Take your music with you wherever you go
- 11 dasp positions to suit big or small wrists
- Hands-free access to music, photos or apps

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CYGCY0276CAROC

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Griffin — Over-ear

MyPhones

Volume-limiting headphones for kids, designed and built from the ground up.

- Tuned 30mm drivers in a custom designed shell
- Supra-aural design sits comfortably on kids' ears
- Soft washable ear pads

GRIGB10027



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Urbanz — Over-ear

Zip

Premium lightweight headphones available in a range of vibrant colours with a touch of chrome.

- Lightweight with comfort fit
- Ideal for extended use
- Powerful clear sound

Pink: URBZIPPK / Blue: URBZIPCBL / Orange: URBZIPOG / Brown: URBZIPCBR

KIDS

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ANDIKA

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Parrot — Remote

AR.Drone

Control the Parrot AR.Drone with your Apple iPhone/ iPod touch/iPad.

- Augmented reality game for your iPhone/iPod touch/iPad
- Designed for both inside and outside use
- Live video feed on your screen from two onboard cameras

PATPF720002AA Restrictions Apply



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Griffin — Silicon

FlexGrip Action for iPod touch 4G

Built for action, this case is moulded into a shape that's easy to grip in both hands.

- Tough silicon case protects against scratches, dings and dents
- Moulded-in twin wedge grips for two-handed action
- Strap to ensure your device is secure should you get carried away!

GRIGB01954

NEW!



Intelligent Touch — Stand

i360 Stand for iPad 2

Tilt, swivel, rotate. This unique stand, developed with Apple, holds your iPad in any position.

- 90° tilt, 360° rotation and 360° swivel
- Built in wall mount facility
- Non-abrasive securing mechanism to hold your iPad in place

White: ITHIIP053 / Black: ITHIIP051

£79.99



£34.99

Incipio — Silicon

Hive for iPad 2

A honeycomb pattern for extra grip and an ergonomic silicon design, perfect for gaming.

- Tight fitting anti-slip case
- Precision moulded to the shape of the device for a perfect fit
- Smooth to the touch

Red: INCIPAD219 / Grey: INCIPAD220 / Black: INCIPAD218

It's the child inside all of us that keeps us from losing our sanity. So, make sure you keep your inner child entertained wherever you go!

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NEW!



Incipio Hardcase

Smart Feather for iPad 2

Designed to be 100% compatible with the Apple Smart Cover and available in a variety of colours.

Black: INCIPAD225 / Light Blue: INCIPAD227 / Grey: INCIPAD226
Frost: INCIPAD235 / White: INCIPAD232 / Lime: INCIPAD228
Pink: INCIPAD230 / Navy: INCIPAD234 / Tan: INCIPAD233
Red: INCIPAD231 / Orange: INCIPAD229 Restrictions Apply

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Incipio Hardcase

Feather for BlackBerry Playbook

Shock-absorbing protection of silicon with the rigid, hard shell protection of polycarbonate.

Black: INCBB507 / Iridescent Red: INCBB508 / Magenta: INCBB509
Frost: INCBB512

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Incipio Hardcase

Feather for Amazon Kindle 3

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NEW!

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Griffin Hardcase

Reveal for iPhone 4

Ultra-thin, one-piece polycarbonate hardshell case with a silicon edge.

Black: GRIGB01747

£19.99



Contour Design Hardcase

Animal Hardskin for iPhone 4

Sunset, Volkswagen Blue or Clusia: 4 uniquely styled cases that are perfect any time of the year.

Sunset: CTR020100 / Volkswagen Blue: CTR020090
Clusia: (Flower) CTR020070 / (Flower/Animal Logo) CTR020080

NEW!

£24.99



Cygnett Hardcase

Rotating Armour for iPad 2

Represents the last word in flexibility, durability and style for your iPad 2.

Black/Orange: CYGCY0385CIROT / Black/Grey: CYGCY0386CIROT

NEW!

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NEW!



Cygnett Hardcase

Nomad for iPhone 4

A distictive and durable iPhone 4 case for those who've been bitten by the travel bug.

Black: CYGCY0434CPNOM

£19.99



GEAR4 Hardcase

Angry Birds for iPod touch 4G

Don't get even, get angry with new Angry Birds design protective shield for iPhone 4.

Black: GEATCAB404 / Red: GEATCAB401 / Green: GEATCAB403
Yellow: GEATCAB402

Restrictions Apply

£19.99



Incipio Softcase

Premium Kickstand for iPad 2

Features a convenient slide installation that uses three sturdy clips for secure storage.

Black Nylon/Grey Lining: INCIPAD200 / Grey Nylon/Grey Lining: INCIPAD201
Black Synthetic Leather/Grey Lining: INCIPAD202

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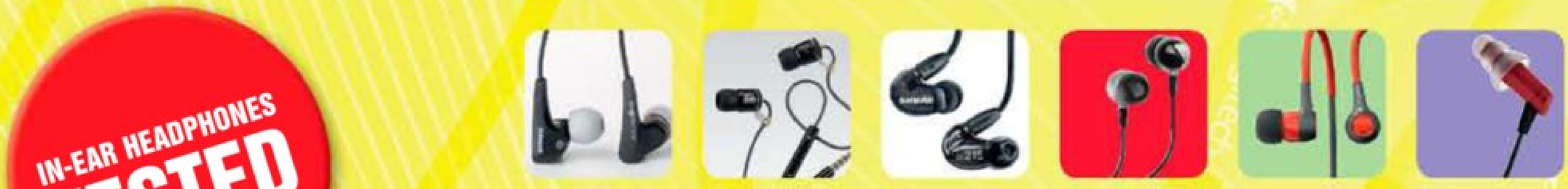
Protect the back of your iPad 2 in any of the 11 available colors.

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A word in your ear

From budget models to high-end bass monsters, we review six of the best sets of in-ear headphones

By David Price and Andrew Harrison

Assuming you don't want to be *that guy* – the antisocial type who obliges a bus full of strangers to listen to their music through a set of cranked-up, tinny speakers – a good pair of headphones is probably the first item below 'new iPhone' on your tech shopping list. (We're guessing the one after that is 'a decent case'.)

This issue we're looking at in-ear headphones. These carry a number of advantages over bulkier, DJ-style cans, though there are a couple of disadvantages, too. For one thing, they're unobtrusive, making you less of a target for muggers. They're also far more portable, which means you can wear them while exercising, and many of the models here come with a carrying case that takes up less space than the average smartphone.

You should, however, bear in mind that in-ear headphones rely on a snug fit to support their weight in your ear, and no two ears are exactly alike. All the headphones reviewed here come with more than one set of ear tips to improve the chances of a good fit, though some are more successful at achieving this than others. And your mileage may vary if you have oddly-shaped ears. Etymotic offers the option of a custom fitting, though this comes with a hefty price premium.

Finally, although the audio quality of higher-end in-ear headphones can be superb (and sound isolation is one area where they lead the field), it's unlikely to match the very best over-ear equivalents. Budget in-ears are likely to sound thin to anyone used to over-ear models.

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Background check
Phonek's earpieces do a good job of blocking out background noise.

Audéo PFE 012 Perfect Bass

Company Phonak **URL** www.phonak.com/uk **Price** £68; £85 with microphone

As a company that produces hearing aids, Phonak ought to know a thing or two about sound quality. This bass-enhanced version of its Perfect Fit earphones has also been designed to block out background noise, so you can play music at a lower volume and protect your hearing.

The Perfect Bass phones are fairly generic in appearance, except for an L-shaped arm on the earpiece – they're designed to be worn inverted, with the cable tucked over the top of the ear and hanging down behind. We found it slightly easier to keep them in the ear when worn the 'conventional' way up, though the sound quality is appreciably better when you wear them the way that Phonak intended, and the earpiece can get further into the ear canal. The sturdy cable feels like it'll stand up to a fair amount of use, though there's no remote. Phonak also provides three sizes of swappable earpiece.

We were generally impressed by the sound quality of these earphones. As the name suggests, bass is their greatest strength (and the area where other midrange in-ear headphones often fall down).

Our sample of bass-heavy disco showcased a decent percussive kick at the bottom end, although it couldn't match the more expensive Shure or Altec Lansings for sheer power. Pushing the volume to get more out of the bass tended to make top-end effects and the female vocal uncomfortably shrill.

On less bassy acoustic tracks, the Phonaks were generally warm and pleasant to listen to, although they struggled to replicate the richness of classical piano, rendering it as somewhat manufactured-sounding. Rock music with a female singer sounded excellent.

THE SKINNY...

Likes Background noise is blocked out; sturdy cable; three sizes of swappable earpiece; warm sound

Dislikes Average-looking design; no remote; L-shaped arm on the earpiece makes them tricky to wear

Rating: ★★★★★

Snug and warm
These earphones sit snugly in the ear and produce a rich and warm sound.



STAR BUY

Muzx Ultra mZx606

Company Altec Lansing **URL** www.alteclansing.com **Price** £80

With their idiosyncratic earpiece design, the Muzx Ultra mZx606 in-ears look like tiny black pistols firing music directly into your brain.

We found the fit a little unreliable, but four sizes are included so there's bound to be one that suits. The 'dual flange' removable cover (shaped like two nested cones) was most effective, sitting snugly in the canal. This achieved a deep position and noticeably better sound, and was less likely to drop out.

There's a smart-looking remote high up on the right-hand lead (it fits with a pleasing overall black-and-gold theme). The cable seemed weaker than that provided with the Phonaks, and we were concerned by the fixed loop that sits behind the earpiece barrel, which looks snag prone. This design should reduce the strain on the connection with the earpiece, though.

Overall sound quality was excellent and entirely justified the relatively high price tag. Beginning with some prog rock, we found the Muzx phones surprisingly loud, so beware. The sound was rich and warm, with good breadth across the spectrum; the bass felt punchy without overshadowing any of the upper notes. To be picky, there was a slightly artificial feel – the word we kept thinking of was 'metallic' - to some of the guitar sections.

The phones really came into their own on our disco sample, mustering a bass kick with plenty of impact.

Female vocals were clear, with good clarity on the singer's enunciation, and there was a pleasing rendering of some fire effects. Classical piano was also a triumph, allowing the ear to separate out the different dubs of the piano and producing a realistic sound.

THE SKINNY...

Likes Interesting design; fantastic sound quality across a wide spectrum of musical styles

Dislikes Cable seemed slightly weaker than the one supplied with the Phonak earphones

Rating: ★★★★★

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TRYOUT: In-ear headphones



Surround sound
The sound produced by these earphones is immense

SE215

Company Shure **URL** www.shure.co.uk **Price** £100

Since they're the second most expensive earphones we looked at, we've got to begin our review of the Shures with some negatives. There is, however, plenty of good stuff to follow.

Like the Phonaks, these have an inverted design, with the cable running over the top of the ear. However, we struggled to get this arrangement to work – the earpieces kept popping out the ear. It's important to jiggle them into place – imagine that you're applying earplugs, which the default, solid foam earpieces resemble. (This is indicated in the accompanying leaflet, but it didn't occur to us that there would be instructions on how to put on a pair of earphones.)

Another annoyance was the fact that we encountered problems changing the earbuds – prying them off was like getting chewing gum off a trainer. Since most people will have to try several different sizes before they find an earbud that fits, we would have liked Shure to have made them easier to change.

Once we'd managed to fit them in, the Shures produced such good audio that we quickly forgot our petty quibbles. Disco is rendered with a monstrous, thick bass punch, even if the upper end could get a shade distorted at high volume. Prog rock felt realistic, warm and dynamic, and revealed details of the recording that weren't apparent with the other earphones in this group test.

Perhaps the most impressive test here, though, was classical piano, where we were treated to a rich, dramatic sound, with even the excellent-sounding Altec Lansing headphones unable to match the bass presence.

THE SKINNY...

Likes The most impressive sound quality of all the earphones tested here

Dislikes Expensive; inverted design meant that the SE125s kept popping out; difficult to swap earbuds

Rating: ★★★★★

CX 280

Company Sennheiser **URL** www.sennheiser.co.uk **Price** £36

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, but we reckon the Sennheisers are the most visually appealing headphones here. We're talking a simple design, with lots of neat touches.

The backs of the earpieces look like polished, shiny black eyeballs, while the nicely sized volume control and the splitter/divider piece on the cable share an 'angled slice' theme. It's a shame that the slider doesn't control the volume of the iPhone, however, instead acting as a variable mute on the sound that comes through it.

Sound quality was less impressive, unfortunately. Although these budget models will do for most occasions – only on bass-heavy dance music was the lack of power truly exposed – you can definitely hear that low price tag.

Classical piano was okay, although it lacked richness compared to costlier models in this group test. (And to make a fairer comparison with a similarly priced product, the Logitech 3090vi set were neither as flat nor as synthetic-sounding.)

Prog rock came out a touch trebly, and with a noticeable lack of warmth. Female-led pop was better – indeed, the vocalist sounded far clearer than the weedy bass in the background, or the now-flattened harpsichord she was playing.

If bassy disco or dance is your thing, these probably aren't the headphones you're looking for. Our disco sample had no kick to it, and the bass drum lost so much weight that it sounded like another instrument entirely – a splashy cymbal, perhaps, rather than the heavy impact we were looking for.

Overall, these headphones offer the weakest audio quality here, although they manage respectably on bass-light tunes. They look good, though, and come in at a relatively low price.

Style over substance
The CX 280s look great, but lack punch when it comes to sound quality



THE SKINNY...

Likes: Simple and effective design; inexpensive; best-looking earphones here

Dislikes: Audio quality reflects the low price of these earphones; lack of power

Rating: ★★★★★

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3090vi

Company Logitech **URL** www.logitech.com **Price** £40

The 3090vis are the third pair of earphones here to loop over the top of the ear. The Logitechs have a mouldable orange cable that you can adjust to fit around your ear, though this still popped out at regular intervals. Unfortunately, this seems to be par for the course for this style of earphone.

In other respects, though, these are solid, low- to mid-price models. They look smart, done in a sharp-looking grey and orange colour scheme, and the six bundled earpieces come in a wide range of sizes. The cable features a volume control/pause remote and detachable lapel clip, and the orange carry box has quite a nice, funky look to it, even if it's a little reminiscent of the cases teenagers carry their braces in.

Considering the £40 price tag, we weren't expecting outstanding sound quality, but the Logitechs proved the stronger of the two sets in the lower price category. Prog rock was warm and realistic, if a touch trebly, and while you won't get majestic bass from these headphones – our disco sample was somewhat thin, with a cymbally rather than deeply percussive feel – they can handle lighter pop and classical music with aplomb.

We actually found the Logitechs' rendition of female-led pop to be full of character, and could clearly make out the singer's vocal inflections, while the accompanying instrumentation felt like it could have been in the same room as us. Classical piano, on the other hand – often the most demanding of our tests - lacked the overall richness of the higher-end products. But it still sounded respectable, and was less flat than the Sennheisers.

Overall, these are decent, lower-priced headphones that should be fine for pop and rock lovers. Bass heads and audiophile classical fans may want to spend rather more, though.

THE SKINNY...

Likes Smart-looking design; six bundled earpieces; decent sound quality for the price

Dislikes 'Inverted' design meant that the earphones kept popping out of our ears

Rating: ★★★★★



Eye-catching design
These smart-looking earphones certainly stand out



Airtight seal
The unique design of these earbuds mean they fit snugly in the ear

hf3

Company Etymotic **URL** www.etymotic.com **Price** £135

It's strange that Etymotic is not more widely recognised, as it was the company to devise the canalphone – an earphone that slips so intimately into the ear that it forms an airtight seal and shuts out practically all outside noise.

More than that, the acoustic seal caused by snug silicone rings truly augments and tightens the bass response. The earphone is often working more efficiently, so overall distortion is far lower and volume can be kept down on the personal stereo. They also prevent the kind of sound leakage that otherwise makes you the pariah of public transport.

The hf3s have a microphone for use in conversations on mobiles, with a three-button in-line remote to answer calls and add full volume control for the iDevices.

The main body of the earphone is made from aluminium, and available in a choice of three colours. Additional foam and glider eartips, a filter changing tool and zipped carry pouch are included.

Sound quality is firmly in the high-end audio class. A solid foundation is formed from deep, extended bass – apparent as a firm kick to bass drum in rock and jazz, and a presence in good live recordings. They perfectly recreate the atmosphere of a performance, with sweet, detailed treble. This is evident in the dulcet chime of steel-strung acoustic guitar, letting you into the finer strokes of the guitarist's strum. Vocals are clear, and sound natural and well balanced in a mix where lesser earphones struggle to succeed.

High volumes are also possible from the sensitive transducers. Played on an iPhone 4, we rarely needed more than 50 per cent volume setting for a comfortable rock 'n' level.

The Etymotic canalphone was the original and the hf3 sits comfortably among the best earphones at any price. The hf3 are a superbly balanced earphone/mic combination that will bring out music like few others.

THE SKINNY...

Likes The canalphone design ensures that almost all background noise is blocked; first-class audio

Dislikes High price

Rating: ★★★★★

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iHome:
Audio solutions for every lifestyle

Bluetooth Audio System
with app-enhancement
and Bongiovi Acoustics
DPS premium sound



iA100

The #1 brand in iPod audio offers a world of innovative accessories for iPad/iPhone/iPod. At home or on the go, these audio systems will enhance your audio experience.



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for any Bluetooth enabled music player

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System with Passive Subwoofer
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5 COLOR CHANGE MODES

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TRYOUT: In-ear headphones



No.1

Value and sound quality

The Altec Lansing Muzx Ultras collect our Star Buy

iPad & iPhone User says ...

As with most things, you get what you pay for when it comes to in-ear headphones, and our group test showed that for audio quality at least, money talks.

For those with £135 to spare, Etymotic's hf3s produce a superb sound, as well as a comfortable fit and effective sound insulation for considerate bus passengers. Audiophiles with larger budgets are likely to get the best overall experience with these earphones.

We were also highly impressed by the Shures, which produce a rich, punchy bass and natural-sounding trebles for £35 less. On the down side, they're quite annoying to put on – once they're in there, though, they're pretty much fine. These are a great option if your musical diet favours bass-heavy tracks or, oddly enough, rich classical recordings.

Our Star Buy award, however, is won by the Altec Lansings, which we rate as the best all-round choice here. They'll suit buyers who want a significant upgrade in sound quality from bundled headphones, but at £80 they're not veering into audio-fetishist price territory – they're £20 cheaper than the Shures, while sounding almost as good. They're also much easier to put in your ears, and less annoying for anyone who wears glasses.

> **"Our group test showed that for audio quality at least, money talks"**

Of the three cheaper models we looked at, each has its own merits. The Phonaks, as their name would suggest, are decent at bass-heavy music (although perhaps not strong enough to warrant a price tag that isn't too far behind the Altecs).

The Sennheisers probably have by a narrow margin the thinnest sound here (although they're not terrible by any means), but they do have a great, simple look and some nice design touches.

Finally, the Logitechs are just solid, mid-range headphones that won't let anyone down, with a nice colour scheme and respectable sound quality. We just wish you could find an extra £40 and give the Altec Lansings a listen.

How they shape up

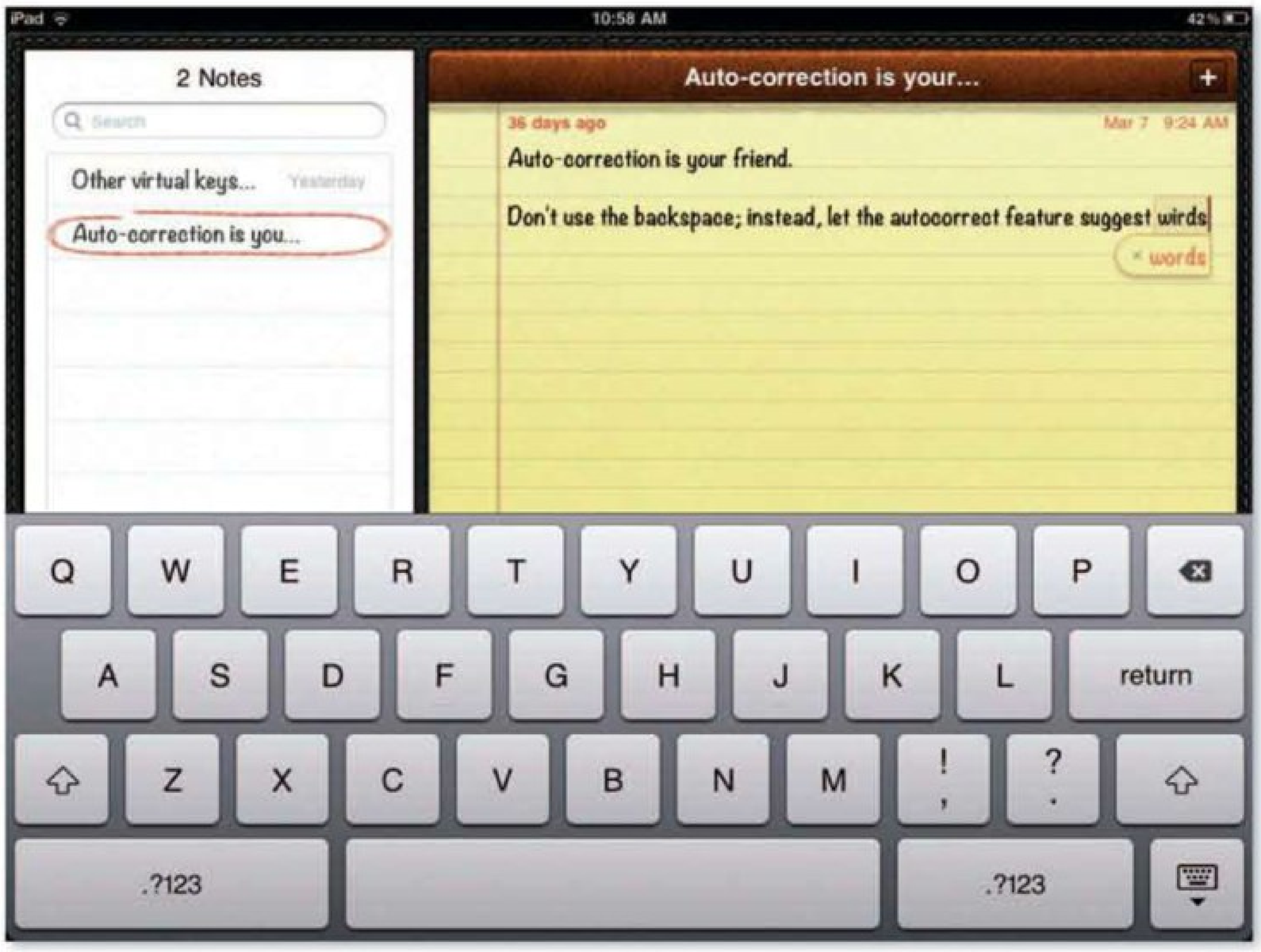
Product	Audéo PFE 012 Perfect Bass	Muzx Ultra mZx606 (STAR BUY)	SE215	CX 280	3090vi	hf3
Price	£68; £85 with mic	£80	£100	£36	£40	£135
Manufacturer	Phonak	Altec Lansing	Shure	Sennheiser	Logitech	Etymotic
URL	www.phonak.com/uk	www.alteclansing.com	www.shure.co.uk	www.sennheiser.co.uk	www.logitech.com	www.etymotic.com
Weight	14g	15g	31g	12g	15g	11g
Frequency range	5Hz-17kHz	20Hz-20kHz	22Hz-17.5kHz	19Hz-20.5kHz	20 Hz-20kHz	20Hz-15kHz
Colour	Black and grey	Black and gold	Black	Black and silver	Grey and orange	Black/black & red
Sensitivity	107dB SPL/mW @ 1kHz	105dB SPL/mW @ 1kHz	107dB SPL/mW @1kHz	120dB SPL/mW @1kHz	105 dB SPL/mW @1 kHz	105dB SPL/mW @ 1kHz
Cable	120cm	140cm	162cm	120cm	115cm	120cm
Accessories (ear tips given in number of pairs)	Three silicon ear tips (small, medium and large)	Remote/mic, soft case, four silicon ear tips (small, medium, large and dual-flange)	Soft case, three foam and three 'soft flex' ear tips (small, medium and large)	Remote, soft case, three ear tips (small, medium and large)	Remote, hard case, shirt clip, six ear tips (in five different sizes)	Remote/mic, four ear tips (various designs and materials)
Star rating:	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★

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10 typing tips for iPad power users

Impress others with your iPad knowledge by learning these tricks

By Lex Friedman



Autocorrect Relying on suggested corrections will help improve your typing speed on an iPad

You don't need to have used an iPad since the first one hit UK retail shelves back in June 2010 to impress others with your tablet savvy. Master the skills outlined below, and you'll have everyone convinced that you're an iPad savant, even if you didn't try one until the iPad 2 arrived this spring.

1 Put your iPad's punctuation keys to work

Typing on an iPad isn't always as convenient as using a real keyboard, especially when you want to access frequently used punctuation that isn't even available on the virtual keyboard's main screen. Thankfully, this little-known trick can help.

Quickly swiping up on the comma key will insert an apostrophe; while swiping up on the full stop inserts a quotation mark. That's one quick swipe on the specific punctuation key, and not the more traditional method of a tap on the '.?123' key, followed by a second tap on the specific punctuation mark you're after.

2 Using virtual keys

Other virtual keys have special features, too. Press and hold down a vowel, for example, and a pop-up window containing accented versions of the selected character will appear. Consonants such as C, S and N also offer accented alternatives when you tap and hold on their virtual keys. Similarly, holding down punctuation marks can provide extra options. The '-' key offers an em dash and bullet point. The '£' sign also hides symbols for numerous currencies.

3 Use common shortcuts

When you connect your iPad to a standard keyboard, you can use some of the same shortcuts you've mastered on your Mac.

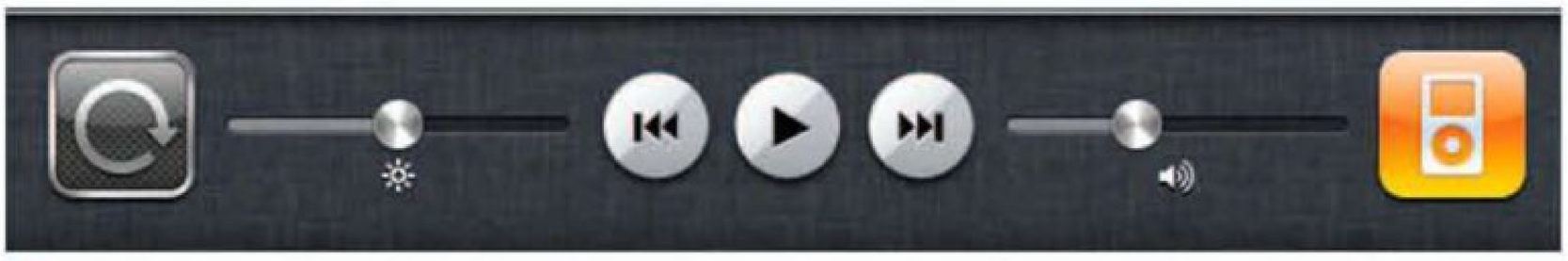
Text-editing key combinations – such as Cmd-C, Cmd-X, and Cmd-V for copy, cut, and paste, respectively – all work, as does selecting text with Cmd-Shift plus the arrow keys.

Other key combinations that work include Undo and Redo (Cmd-Z and Shift-Cmd-Z respectively), and cursor shortcuts such as Control-A, Control-E and Control-K.



Virtual keys Tapping and holding some keys will reveal a hidden range of alternative keystrokes

FloridaMagF.com



Playback Double-tap the Home button and swipe to the right to see these controls

4 Trust auto-correction

If you're slow at typing, then you probably make frequent use of the backspace key. The easiest way to become a virtual typing pro is to use the iPad's auto-correction algorithm. We've trusted the iOS to fix typos in the past, so that when we type 'Dippieedl' the iPad recognises we're after 'Supposedly'. Fix fewer typos and your iPad typing speed will improve.

5 Avoid application exits

We've all been there – you've noticed something you'd like to check out more closely in an app at the exact moment you press the Home button. Instead of letting the app close, then finding its icon and waiting while it relaunches, you can tell your iPad to abort your now-unwanted Home button press. If you hold down the Home button a few seconds longer, your iPad will stop closing the current app and carry on as before.

6 Close background apps

Ever since iOS 4 introduced multitasking, some of your apps can run in the background, even after you've closed them. Generally that's fine; the iPad does a great job of closing apps when it's forced to by memory limits. Some apps, however – particularly ones that use GPS or VoIP – can eat up quite a bit of memory and battery life if they remain open when you no longer need them.

To ensure these apps don't tax your battery, you can force them to quit. To do this, double-tap the Home button to bring up the multitasking bar, then press and hold on any one app until all the apps start to jiggle. In the multitasking bar, tap the red circle on each running app you'd like to quit. The selected apps will now close, freeing up more memory.

7 Find the iPad's music playback controls

With the introduction of the multitasking bar, Apple made finding music playback controls a little bit trickier. After you double-tap the Home button, swipe the whole multitasking bar towards the right. Doing so will reveal several useful controls, shown at the top of the page – these are playback buttons (Reverse, Play/Pause, and Skip), along with individual sliders for brightness and volume.

8 Search smarter

If you don't ever search for content within the iPad's calendar, audiobooks or podcasts, you can remove these from your Spotlight search results. You can also rearrange the order in which Spotlight presents its search results.

Launch the Settings app, tap on General and then on Spotlight Search. Uncheck the categories you don't want to search, and then tap and drag on the right-aligned handles to adjust the sort order.

9 Fill your dock

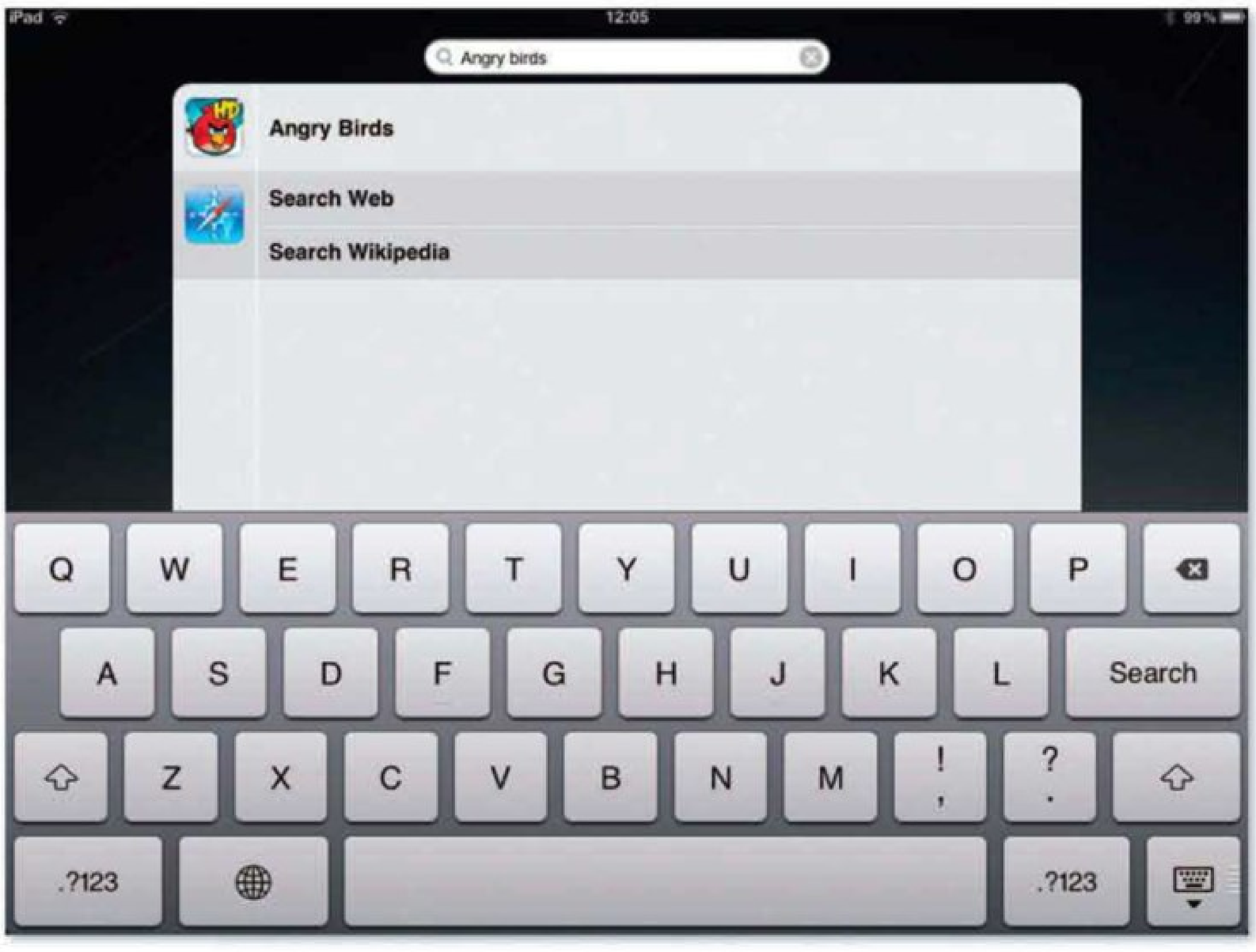
Brand new iPads feature four apps in the Dock, and because of that, many of us don't think to add any more. The Dock can, however, hold six . To keep your most frequently accessed apps in the Dock, you'll need to move them there.

To do so, simply press and hold on any app icon until the apps start to jiggle, and then drag the one you'd like to move right into the Dock, where it will stay.

10 Launch apps quickly

If you've got a lot of apps on your iPad – so many that it's hard to distinguish one home screen from another – turn Spotlight into a virtual app launcher. Tap the Home button to get to your first home screen, and then either tap it again or swipe to reveal Spotlight. Start typing the first few letters of the app's name, and then tap on the appropriate result to launch the app instantly. Spotlight will put your most frequently used apps at the top of its matching results.

> **"When you connect your iPad to a keyboard, you can use some of the shortcuts you've mastered on your Mac"**



Power search You can use Spotlight to quickly find apps

KNOW-HOW

Set up iOS 5 without a PC or Mac

Setting up an iDevice is no longer a tedious task with iOS 5

By Daniel Bramhall

The days of having to connect your shiny new iOS device to a computer before you can actually use it are finally over. iOS 5 allows you to set up your device as soon as you get your hands on it. With iOS 4 and earlier, you had to connect your devices to iTunes to activate them, but now you can get up and running in double-quick time. Here's how to finally cut the cord and set your mobile device free.

And if this taste of the post-PC world appeals, turn to page 26 to find out what else iOS 5 has in store.

VITAL INFO

- **Device:** iPad, iPhone, iPod touch
- **Difficulty:** Beginner
- **Time required:** 5 minutes

What you need

- iOS 5

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Setting up iOS 5 without a computer



1 Choose a language

In earlier iOS setups, the main language was determined at the time your device was first connected to iTunes. With iOS 5, when you 'slide to set up' your iOS device (see iPad image, opposite page), you're asked what your main language is. As you can see here, Apple gives you a multitude to choose from.



2 Location services

Location Services is how applications like Maps determine your location. During the setup of an iOS 5 device, you're prompted to choose whether or not you'd like to enable this. Apple has removed the need for a push notification to appear for each and every application that needs to use your location.



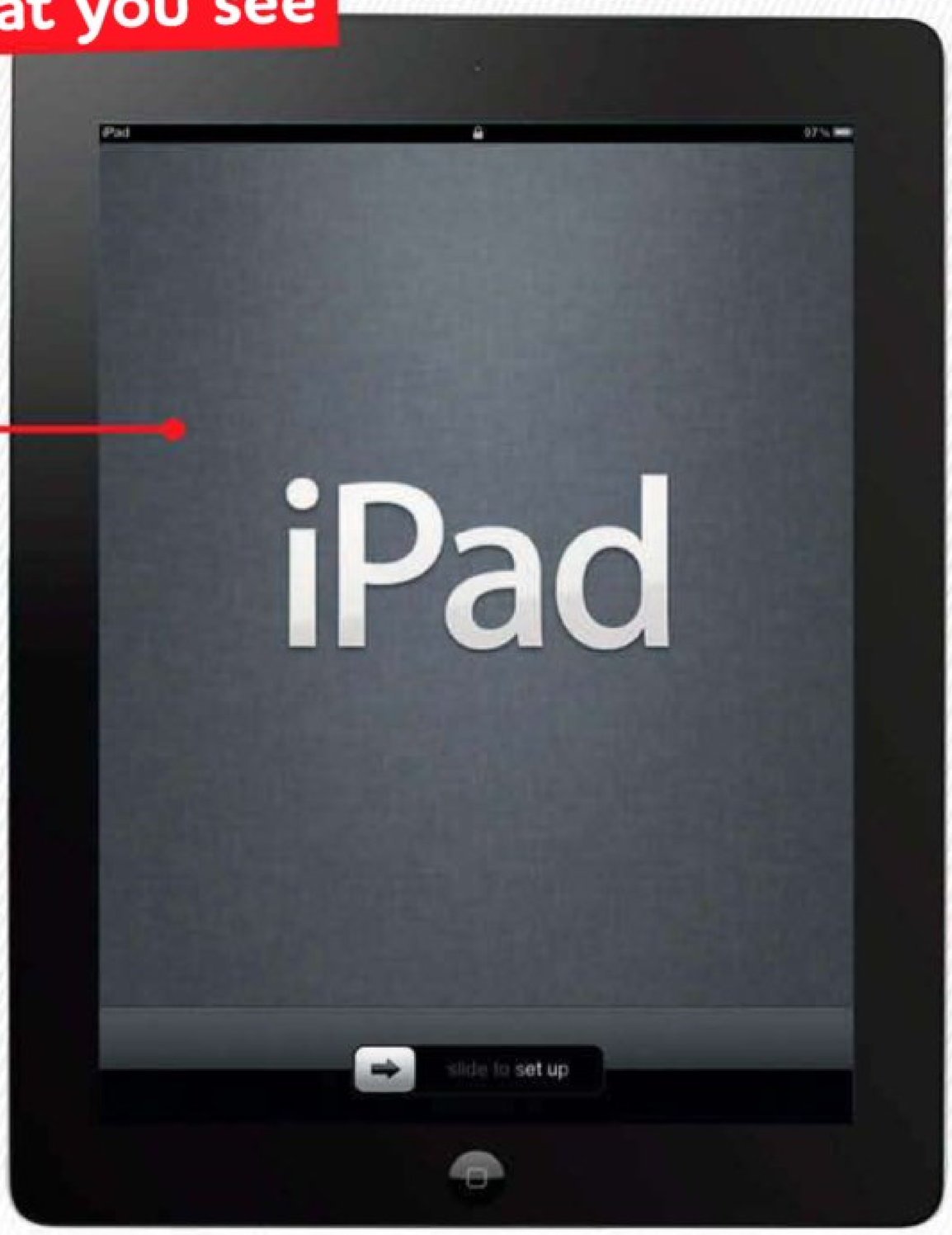
3 Connect to Wi-Fi

In iOS 5, Apple has eliminated the need for you to go into System Preferences and connect to a Wi-Fi network. Instead, Apple uses the device's built-in Wi-Fi to display available networks and allows you to immediately connect, which means you can browse the web as soon as you've set your device up.

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Here's what you see



Clean and simple

Here's the first screen you see when you power up a new iOS 5 device. The clean, unblemished interface is simple, accessible and easy to understand, even if you don't have extensive experience with iOS.

Get tweeting

EXPERT TIP

While you're getting set up, why not take advantage of another new iOS 5 feature and create an integrated Twitter identity?

Register your account in the Settings app, and you'll find Twitter handles automatically added to your Contacts address book, among other enhanced features. See page 29 for more details about Twitter in iOS 5.





4 Additional setup options

Instead of having to connect to iTunes to use your iOS device, Apple gives you the option to start afresh and set up a completely new device, as well as restore from a previous backup using either iTunes or iCloud. This means you can restore your device without connecting to a computer.



5 Sign in

Apple has finally made it easier for you to sign in with your Apple ID. In this case, we signed in with a MobileMe account and the device instantaneously asked us what we wanted to sync with our device.



6 Finish the setup

The final step is simply to press the Start Using iPad (or iPhone) button. With this new feature, Apple gives you the ability to completely disregard your computer when setting up a new device. This is great news if you don't have a computer or just want to activate your device immediately.

KNOW-HOW

iWork gets down to business on the iPhone

Apple has updated its mobile office apps to run on the iPhone – here's how they perform

By Jeffery Battersby, Rob Griffiths and Franklin N Tessler



Slide limitations The iPhone's small screen limits the size of the slide navigator and canvas in Keynote, restricting you to about four slides on the smaller iOS device

On the same day that Apple took the wraps off the original iPad in 2010, it also unveiled mobile versions of its iWork applications for the tablet. It wasn't until May of this year, however, that the company updated its mobile iWork apps for the iPhone and iPod touch. We asked our experts to put these through their paces and find out what you can expect from the 1.4 versions of Apple's mobile office tools.

Keynote

Apple touts Keynote for iOS as a way to view and edit Keynote '09 presentations. However, the mobile app has struggled to keep up with its more capable desktop sibling.

What's changed on the iPad The initial release of Keynote for the iPad did a terrific job of translating the desktop application's presentation functions to the tablet's multi-touch interface, though the iPad imposed limitations that made it less than ideal for creating or editing presentations on the go. Subsequent updates remedied some of the app's shortcomings, such as adding support for presenter notes, object grouping, AirPrint and improved PDF export.

As in earlier versions, Keynote 1.4 doesn't support all the desktop program's features, including Smart Builds, audio tracks, object hyperlinks and some animations. The lack of Move actions, which in the desktop version let you choreograph complex movements of slide objects, is frustrating.

The latest version introduces two new features. You can now organise presentations in folders by dragging them on top of each other, just like you can drag-and-drop apps on the iPhone or iPad. The app also supports Apple's 69p Keynote Remote App for controlling a slideshow on one iOS device from another via Wi-Fi or Bluetooth.

Keynote on the iPhone You'll notice interface changes designed to accommodate the iPhone's much smaller screen. There's no toolbar icon on the iPhone for animating objects; instead, you tap on the Tools icon and select Animation Mode from the list of options.

On the iPad, the slide navigator has room for eight complete slide thumbnails, compared to barely four on the iPhone; these thumbnails are smaller as well. Because there's no slide sorter, it's hard to obtain an overview of a presentation.

The bottom line As long as your presentations are relatively simple and don't rely on features that aren't supported on the iPad, Keynote mostly lives up to Apple's promise. On smaller iOS devices, the small screen will remain a substantial hindrance until fold-out displays appear.

Numbers

The original iOS release of Numbers was great for creating spreadsheets and for working on Numbers-native spreadsheets from your Mac, but fell short in areas that the latest version aims to address.

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File Sharing The best way to transfer files to and from your iPhone is to use iTunes' File Sharing feature. Just drag files to the Numbers Documents window to copy them across

What's changed on the iPad Numbers can now export in Microsoft's Excel format; previously, it could read, but not write, Excel files. You can now create folders in the spreadsheet browser mode in the same way that you create folders for apps.

Numbers still can't import hidden rows or columns, or merged cells – two features that many spreadsheets use extensively. In particular, not being able to merge cells (and having merged cells break on import) will cause layout headaches. You're also still limited to the relatively meagre font collection on your iOS device, and headers and footers won't survive the transition to mobile.

Numbers on the iPhone Full-screen mode and landscape view won't work on the iPhone or iPod touch. The lack of a landscape mode is particularly irksome; viewing a super-wide landscape spreadsheet on an iPhone in portrait mode entails a lot of finger swiping.

The bottom line Depending on the complexity of your spreadsheet needs, iPhone support may be a key feature, though, for our tastes, there wasn't enough screen space to work productively on the iPhone. It's the other features that make the mobile app worth consideration.



Pages view While the idea of page layout on the iPhone seems improbable, Pages makes it easy for you to work with images and text on smaller iOS devices

Pages

It's hard to imagine using Pages on an iPhone or iPod touch – that is, until you actually give it a go. The iPad version remains a solid word-processing tool, though with one notable shortcoming.

What's changed on the iPad While Pages has added WebDAV support for better file sharing, it still lacks support for true file syncing.

Pages on the iPhone What makes Pages a worthwhile writing tool on a small iOS device is the Smart Zoom feature, which zooms in on the text you're currently editing before zooming out once you've finished to give you a full view of your document. Pages on the smaller iOS devices provides every feature you have at your disposal when using the app on the iPad, though the app looks different. The iPad version offers a full menu bar, complete with a new button for changing fonts, as well as all the other formatting tools that have always been available in Pages; however, because of the smaller devices' tinier screens, Pages has to keep these tools hidden until you need them.

> **"While it needs true file syncing to make it a truly great program, Pages is nonetheless a very impressive app"**

The bottom line Pages is an amazing word-processing and page-layout application. It's even more remarkable when you realise that all its power is packed into a device that can fit inside your pocket. While it needs true file syncing to make it a really great program, Pages is nonetheless a very impressive app.

KNOW-HOW

Share the music you love with Ping

Apple's network can help you keep in harmony with your friends

By Jonny Evans

Ping is Apple's social network for music. You can use Ping to share your amazing taste in music with your friends, review tracks and keep an eye on your favourite artists – well, the ones on Ping.

While there are lots of Ping features you can access within iTunes on your Mac or your PC, you can also access Ping using the iTunes app on your iPad, iPhone or iPod touch, so long as your device runs iOS 4.2 or later.

Using an Apple mobile device, your Ping experience is sliced into three categories: Activities, People and Profiles. You can comment and even auto-tweet every song you enjoy.

This tutorial will help get you started using Ping on your Apple mobile device, whether it's an iPhone, iPad or iPod touch.

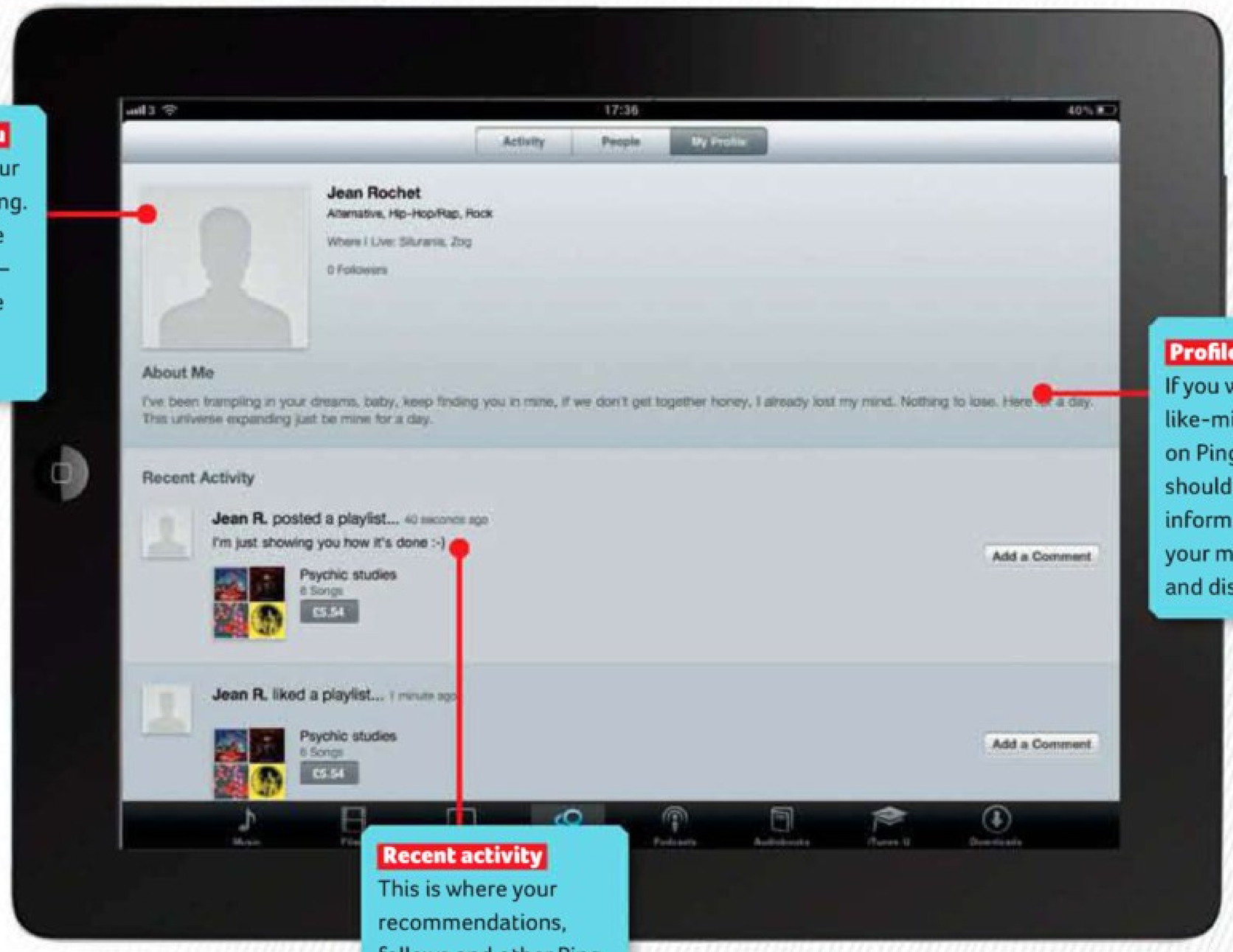
VITAL INFO

- **Device:** iPad/iPhone/iPod touch
- **Difficulty:** Beginner
- **Time required:** 10 minutes

What you need

- iOS 4.2 or later

Your profile on the Ping network



A picture of you
Your profile is your public face on Ping. And here's where your actual face – or another image you select – will be displayed.

Profile bio
If you want to meet like-minded people on Ping, your profile should give plenty of information about your musical likes and dislikes.

Recent activity
This is where your recommendations, follows and other Ping actions will be noted for others to observe.

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Step-by-step guide

Find new and unheard tracks



1 Create your profile

Before using Ping on your device you'll need to set up an Apple ID. Your profile page is the place for all your information, and an image. You'll need to use a computer once to authorise your new profile, and it takes a while for your image to be approved.



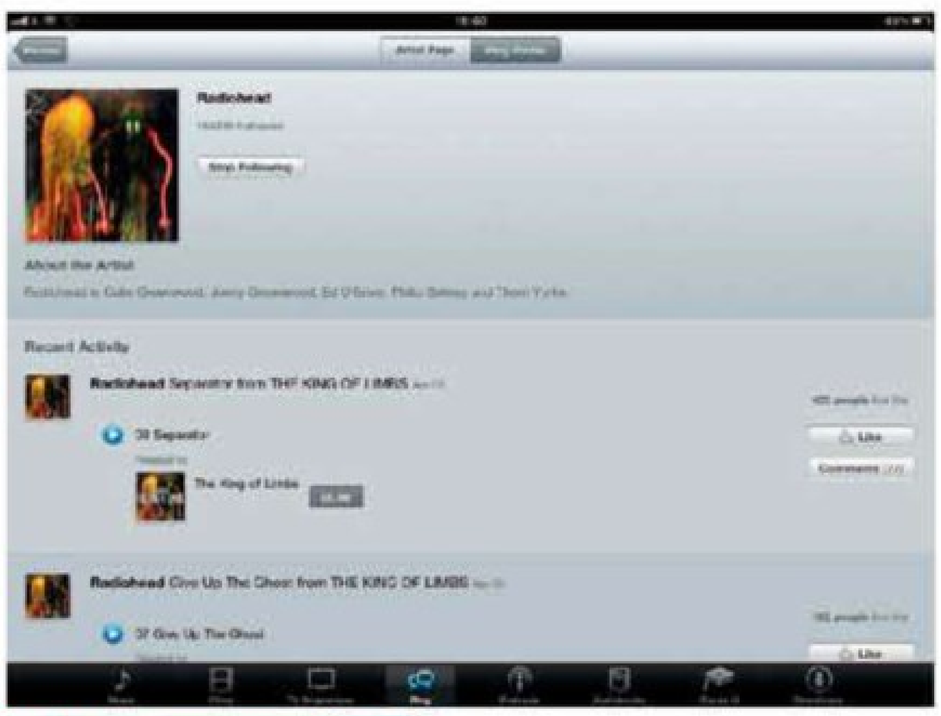
2 Ping people

Now click on the People tab at the top of the Ping menu. You'll see a list of recommended artists and people. Choose some you like, and click the Follow button on each one. You can see more in any category by tapping the See All button.



3 Active minds

Ping will share the music you buy, like or comment on, and will connect you with whatever the people and bands you follow are doing. In the Activity view you can keep up with it all. The View menu lets you filter Activity to just show Artists or People.



4 Artist profiles

When you're looking at the recommended list, take a look at an artist page, and you'll be able to explore their Ping profile. Here you can choose to Follow or unfollow an artist, purchase tracks, and comment on and like items in their Ping stream.



5 Stand up and shout

Posting comments is easy: click on a comment button and a dialogue box like this appears. When you tap inside the comments field the iOS keyboard appears. Don't forget that these comments aren't private, and people may respond.



6 Inside iTunes

Ping is integrated right inside the iTunes Store. When you're looking around for music, you can share your thoughts with a witty comment using the Post command. This is a great way to meet people who like the same music as you.

fileplanet.com

KNOW-HOW

Compose and record a song on the iPad

Can Apple's GarageBand app really do it all?

By Lex Friedman



Drum beat
The Drums instrument allows you to play three different kits; the app combines percussion tracks, so you can play one drum at a time

If you love to make music on your Mac with GarageBand, you might be wondering whether it's worth investing in Apple's iPad version of the software. Could you use it to record an entire song? We decided to give it a go. This is what happened...

1 Lay the foundation

After launching GarageBand on your iPad, tap My Songs in the upper-left corner, then the '+' sign button at the bottom and select New Song. GarageBand will prompt you to pick your first instrument.

We started with the song's chord progression using the Smart Guitar instrument – that way, we could lay down a temporary track to form our composition's overall structure.

By default, each new song is set at the tempo of 110 beats per minute (bpm). Our song needed more pep, so we tapped the settings icon (a spanner) in the upper-right corner. Although you can set a new tempo by selecting the number of beats per minute, we tapped the beat we wanted on the iPad's screen instead, and let GarageBand calculate it (200bpm). All new songs default to C major; we picked E major. Switching back to the guitar, we chose Acoustic since we were going for a folksy feel.

Next, we picked one of the four Autoplay rhythms, but added a twist – you can alter those rhythms by tapping with two or three fingers on a chord instead of just one. When we finished, we 'quantised' (improved the timing) the freshly recorded part (via the Mixer button) to quarter-note triplets.

2 Add instruments

Next we added the bass. Choosing the Smart Bass instrument, we found it was already set to the correct key. We selected one of the Autoplay rhythms and followed along with the chord progression we had just composed.

As with the Smart Guitar, we altered the bass lines by tapping the screen with multiple fingers, though we couldn't get a bass line we liked. To get around this we dug out a small USB keyboard. Using Apple's iPad Camera Connection Kit, we plugged the keyboard into the iPad and used it to control GarageBand's instruments. With the keyboard, we got a bass line we were happy with.

We used the same method to add some Roots Rock guitar lead and a Grand Piano part (using the regular Keyboard instrument).

3 Hit the drums

At first, we decided to use the virtual Drums instrument. It offers three traditional kits and three drum machines. We felt that the latter would be too mechanical, so we focused on the kits instead. The interface for each one shows a bass drum, snare, toms, hi-hat, crash cymbal and ride cymbal (see above left); you play each one by tapping it with your fingertips.

Unfortunately, our tap-drummed beat lacked polish. One reason for this is the volume. The instrument is touch-sensitive; the harder you tap the louder the drum. Unfortunately, it's inconsistent, and at times we found that the snare was too quiet while the crash cymbal was far too loud. So we deleted our initial Drums track (by tapping the instrument icon on the left side of the timeline, and tapping

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Storekeeper.com



again and selecting Delete) and opted for Smart Drums instead.

To create a beat, simply drag the drum you want onto an 8 x 8 grid; the x-axis is Complexity, the y-axis is Volume. GarageBand will create the appropriate rhythm pattern for the intersection you choose.

Smart Drums are easy to tweak, and you can move the drum sounds in real time to update the rhythm. That makes it a breeze to, say, add a cymbal part during the chorus and remove it during the verse.

4 Take a sample

Because we were making a song about barnyard animals (don't ask), we wanted it to have a chorus of moos. To accomplish this, we used GarageBand's Sampler, which allows you to record sounds that you can then play on a keyboard.

We opened the Sampler and tapped the Start button. GarageBand began recording, and we let rip with our best moo into the iPad's built-in mic. Once we were happy with the sample, we played and recorded the moo chorus just as we would any other keyboard track (again, using the USB keyboard). The Sampler's one drawback is that you're limited to one sample per track. Because a GarageBand song can only have eight tracks on the iPad, we didn't have room for a full farmyard.

5 Sing a song

You'll want something better than the iPad's built-in mic when you add the vocals. Again we turned to Apple's Camera Connection Kit, this time to plug in a Blue Microphones Snowball USB mic. We used a pop filter (to protect from plosives), and recorded in a quiet room. We also made sure we used headphones that didn't leak sound: we didn't want the microphone picking up the backing tracks.

Once the headphones were plugged in, we picked the Audio Recorder option, tapped the cable icon in the upper left and turned on Monitor (so we could hear the vocals during recording). We also turned up the Noise Gate when the mic started picking up room noise. During recording, we monitored the levels with the VU meter; our goal was to keep out of the red. We added the lead vocal and, on another track, harmonies.

6 Mix it down

Mixing on the iPad means adjusting levels (how loud each track is) and track panning (where tracks are in the stereo space).

That first one is easy. By default, GarageBand's timeline displays icons for your instruments on the left. By swiping to the right on one of them, you can see (and adjust) levels for that instrument; you can also toggle the Mute and Solo options. Panning is trickier as you need to tap each track, then the Levels icon and finally adjust a vague panning slider.

Because the Acoustic Guitar was our main instrument, we wanted it in stereo. To do that, we selected the whole track (by tapping once on the guitar icon), then tapped on one of the selected sections within the track again, and chose Copy. Last, we tapped on the guitar icon once more to select Duplicate.

Unfortunately, there's no Duplicate option – only Delete, because we'd hit the eight-track limit in the iPad version of GarageBand. Sadly, we had to delete the harmony vocals to make room for the second acoustic guitar. We then tapped inside the main guitar track and chose Paste to duplicate it. We panned the first version 75 per cent left and the second 75 per cent right. We then zoomed in as far as GarageBand would allow (by reverse-pinching) and nudged the second acoustic track a bit, which created the stereo effect we wanted.

Mixing it up In the iPad app, you can adjust volume levels and panning settings for each instrument; too bad you're limited to eight tracks

7 Finish on the Mac

We listened to the song, but were still not satisfied. The track needed more mixing, more harmony and more EQ on the vocal tracks. And we knew the software to do it – GarageBand on the Mac.

We tapped on My Songs at the upper left of GarageBand on the iPad and on the Send To icon below the file; then we tapped to send the song to iTunes. We connected the iPad to the Mac and dragged the song from iTunes to the desktop. We then double-clicked it to launch GarageBand '11.

The desktop program imported it flawlessly. With the iPad's eight-track limit a mere memory, we could rerecord our lost harmonies, and could plug the USB keyboard into the Mac and add more moos. We tweaked the EQ on the vocals, sequenced some panning and volume levels, and polished things up. The only drawback to processing our composition on the Mac was that we couldn't import it back into GarageBand on the iPad.

8 Play it

Were we able to record a song entirely on the iPad? Not quite, but the song probably wouldn't exist at all if we hadn't been able to make it on the tablet. And we think it would have been worse if we'd done it on the Mac. Getting started is the toughest part of composition, and Smart Instruments makes it a lot easier. More than that, the iPad makes recording more truly hands-on than anything else we've tried.

Smart Guitar With Autoplay on, you can get different rhythms by tapping the chords with one, two, or three fingers



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KNOW-HOW

Never miss a gig by your favourite artist

Keep track of concert venues and dates with this handy iPhone app

By Ashleigh Allsopp

Most of us love watching our favourite bands and musicians play live, and it can be frustrating to discover that you've just missed a gig you didn't know about. Songkick.com is a popular website that keeps you informed of all your favourite artists' upcoming dates, and it's just released the Songkick Concerts app. This allows you to see when and where all the artists in your iTunes Library are touring. Here we show you how to ensure that you and your friends never miss a concert again.

VITAL INFO

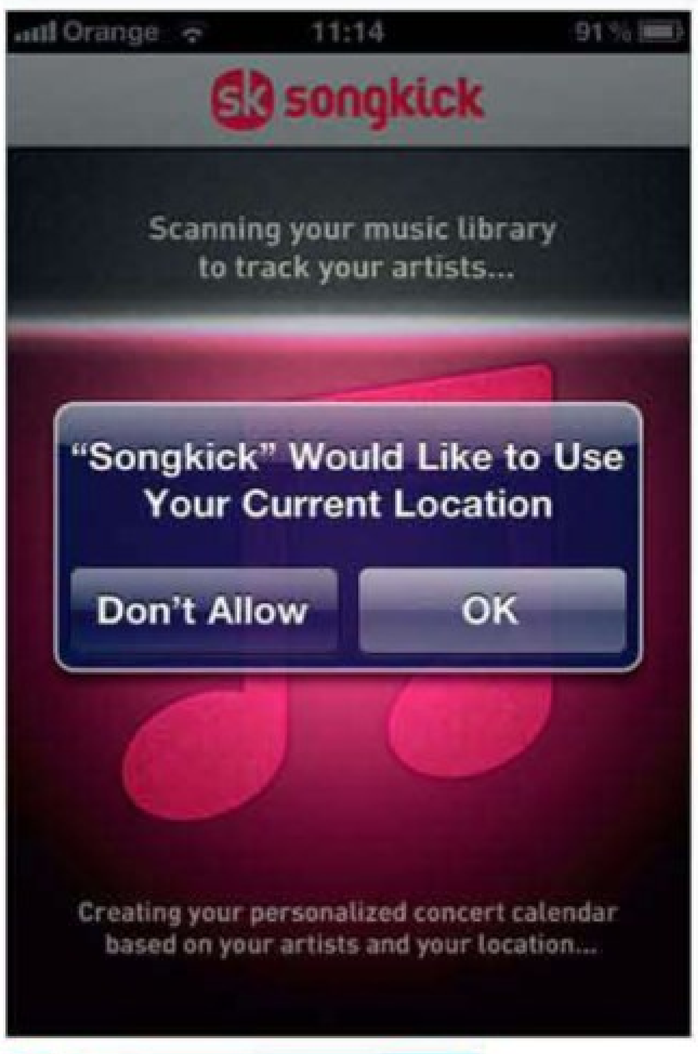
- **Device:** iPhone or iPod touch
- **Difficulty:** Beginner
- **Time required:** 5 minutes

What you need

- Songkick Concerts app (free)
- iTunes Library
- 3G or Wi-Fi connection

Step-by-step guide

Let Songkick Concerts find the shows you want



1 Scan your library

Download the Songkick Concerts app to your iPhone or iPod touch, and it will scan your device's music library. The app will then create a calendar of events that shows concerts from the artists in your iTunes Library, based on your current location. There's also the option to choose a new location.



2 Find a date

Tap the Concerts button at the bottom of the screen to bring up a list of upcoming gigs in chronological order, with the venue listed below the artist's name. You can also jump to a particular date by tapping the calendar icon in the top-right corner. Dates that have just been announced appear in the just added section.



3 Make plans

Next, choose a concert that you might be interested in attending. The app will bring up a map showing the venue's location, as well as the option to choose 'I'm going' or 'I might go'. When you've chosen one of these options, the concert will appear in the 'your plans' view.

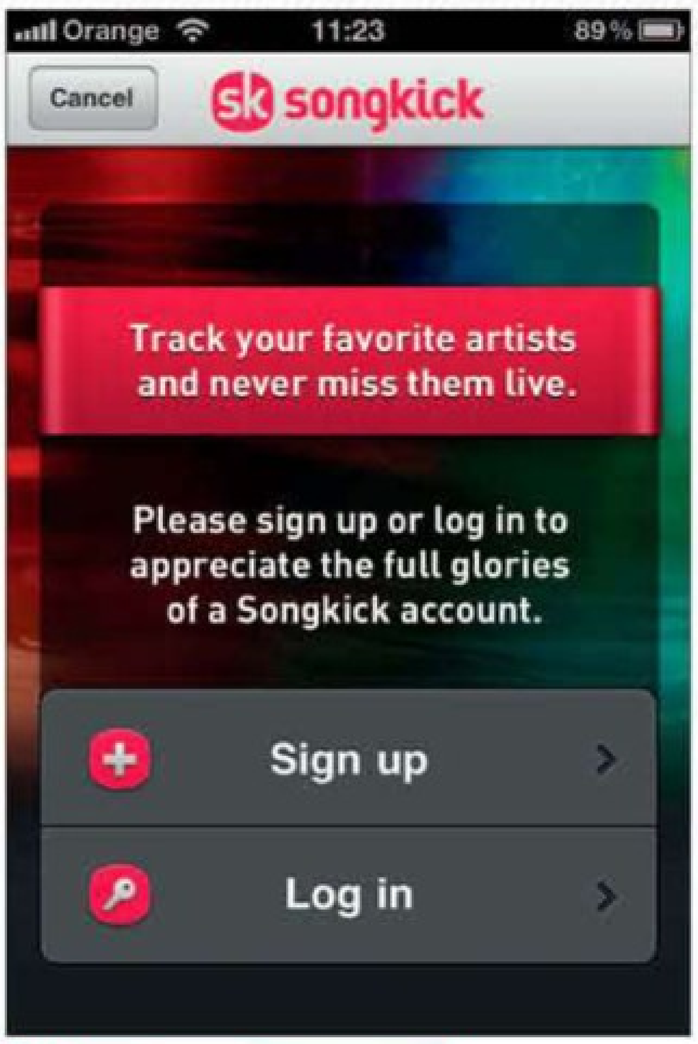
Storekeeper.com

Adjust Songkick Concerts to suit your plans



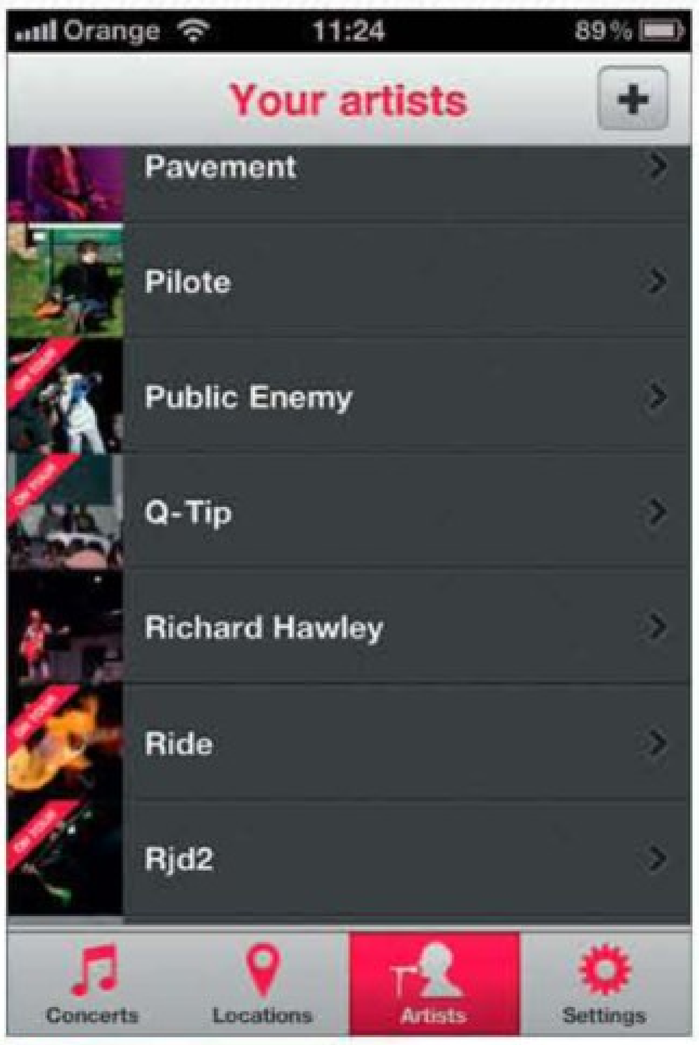
Going travelling?
You can choose to use your current location or, if you're taking a trip, search for locations around the world.

Rescanning
If you've added lots of new artists to your iTunes library, it's a good idea to rescan it to ensure all the new artists show up in your concerts list.



4 Sign up for free

When you choose 'I'm going' or 'I might go', you will be taken to a screen asking you to sign up or log in. If you've already signed up to the Songkick website, then use those login details here. If not, it's free to sign up, which you can do by filling in the details form or logging in with Facebook.



5 Bands on tour

To find out if a particular artist is on tour, tap the Artists tab at the bottom of the screen to bring up your iTunes library artist list. Bands that are currently touring have a red banner. This list isn't limited to the artists in your iTunes library. You can search for any artist by tapping the '+' button in the top-right corner.



6 Purchase tickets

Found a concert that you want to go to? Tap on the artist, then scroll to beneath the map, and choose 'Tickets and more' to find and buy tickets for the gig. Using the options beneath the maps, you can also share the concert info with your friends via Facebook, Twitter or email.

KNOW-HOW

Turn your pictures into a comic book

Become a comic book artist in minutes with this fun app

By Ashleigh Allsopp

No matter how old you are, turning your friends into comic heroes or villains is great fun. ComicBook! lets you create and customise your own comic books in seconds, using images taken with your device's camera or from its photo library. The app also features a wide selection of layouts, effects, speech bubbles and stickers to give your creation a professional look.

ComicBook! offers an interactive way to create stories, which can be shared on social networking sites and via email. Here, we show you how to make the most of the app using an iPad 2.

VITAL INFO

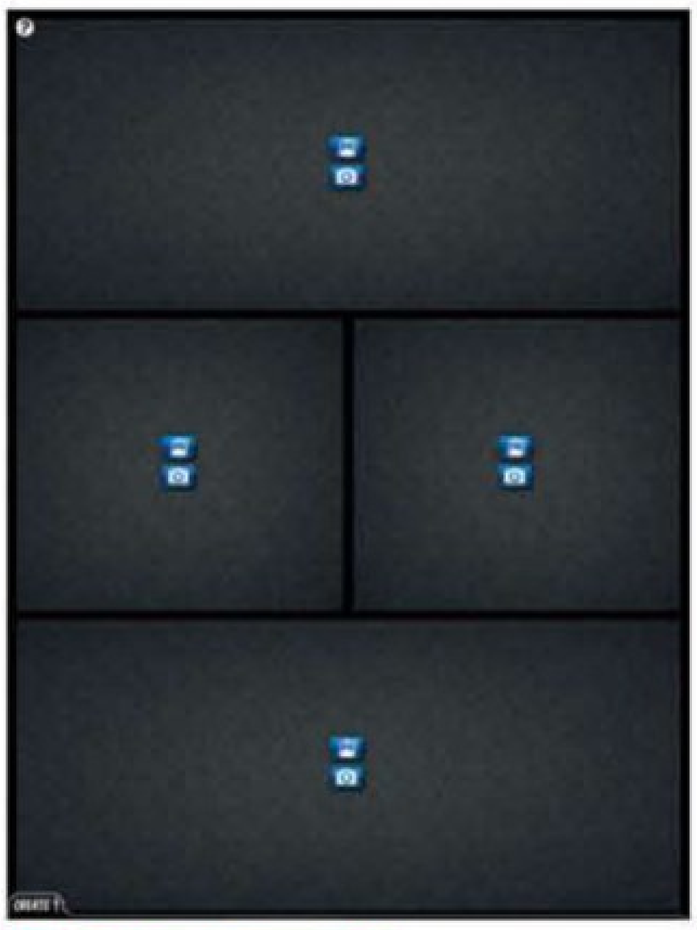
- **Computer:** iPad, iPhone, iPod touch
- **Difficulty:** Beginner
- **Time required:** 10 minutes

What you need

- ComicBook! app (£1.49)
- iOS 4.0.2 or later

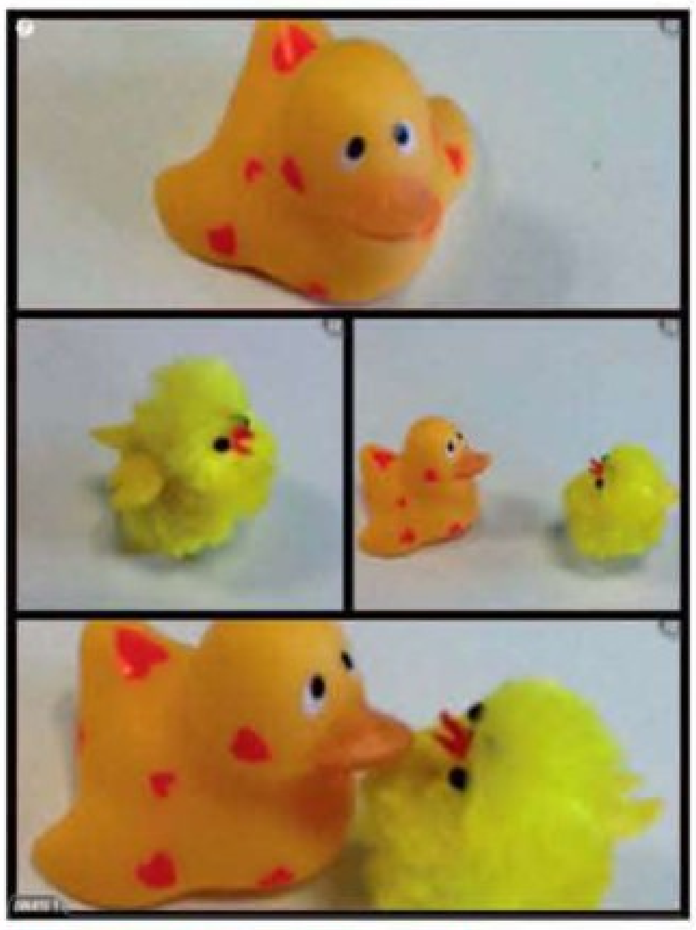
Step-by-step guide

Create a storyline with ComicBook!



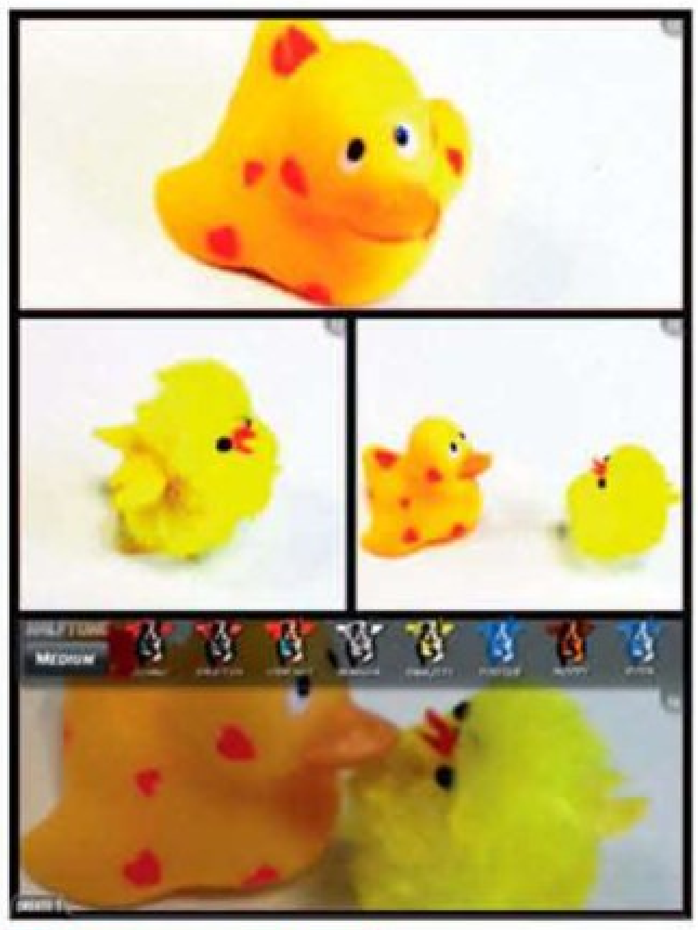
1 Pick a layout

To begin, choose the layout of your comic book page by tapping the Create button in the bottom left of the screen to reveal a toolbar. Choose the rectangular icon on the left, and select your choice of layout by tapping on it. Your layout will then appear as dark grey boxes with blue icons in the centre.



2 Find your heroes

To select images from your device's library, tap the top blue icon in the grey boxes. To take a new photo, tap the blue camera icon and use the iPad to capture an image. Change cameras by clicking on the icon in the top-right corner of the pop-up window. Use gestures to move, or zoom in and out of each image.

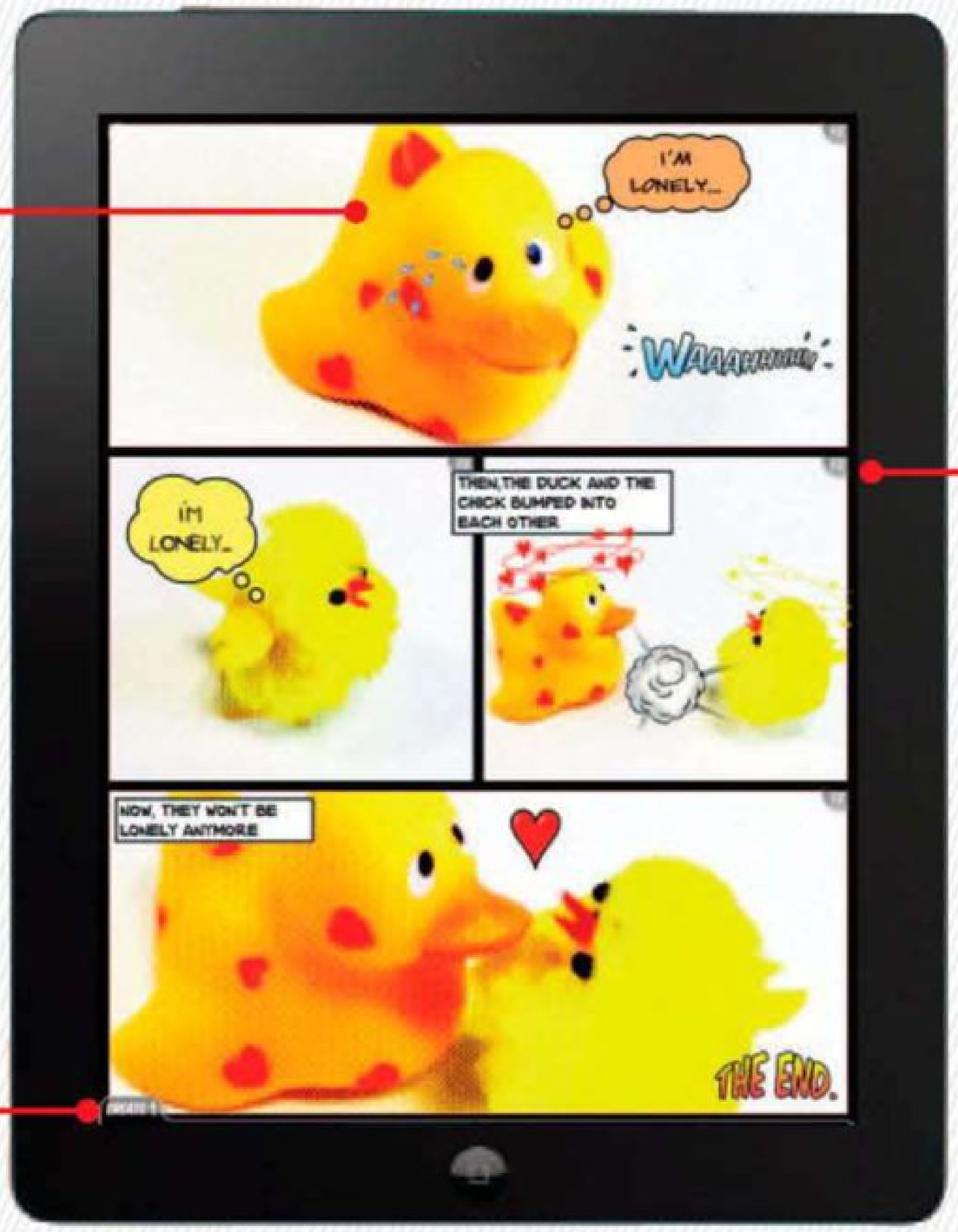


3 Get creative

Once you're happy, it's time to add some effects. Tap the FX icon in the top-right corner of a box to add filters to the image. There are a total of nine customisable filters to choose from. You can also change the halftone (the size of the dots in the filter), to large, medium, small or off.

Storedkeys.com

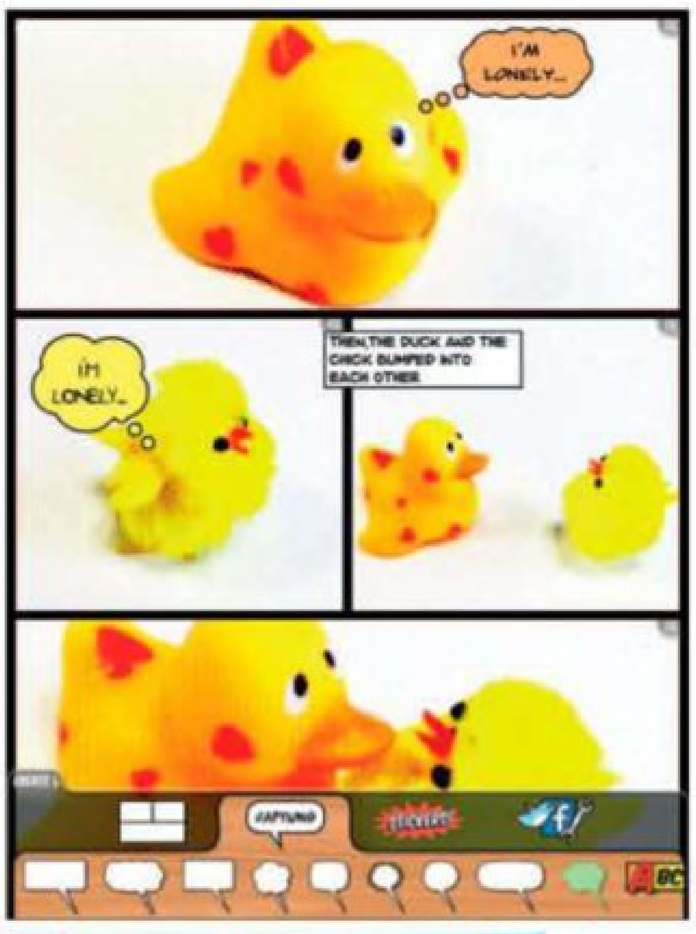
Go quackers with designs and effects



Bring characters to life
Stickers and text bubbles can be added anywhere on the page to help tell the story.

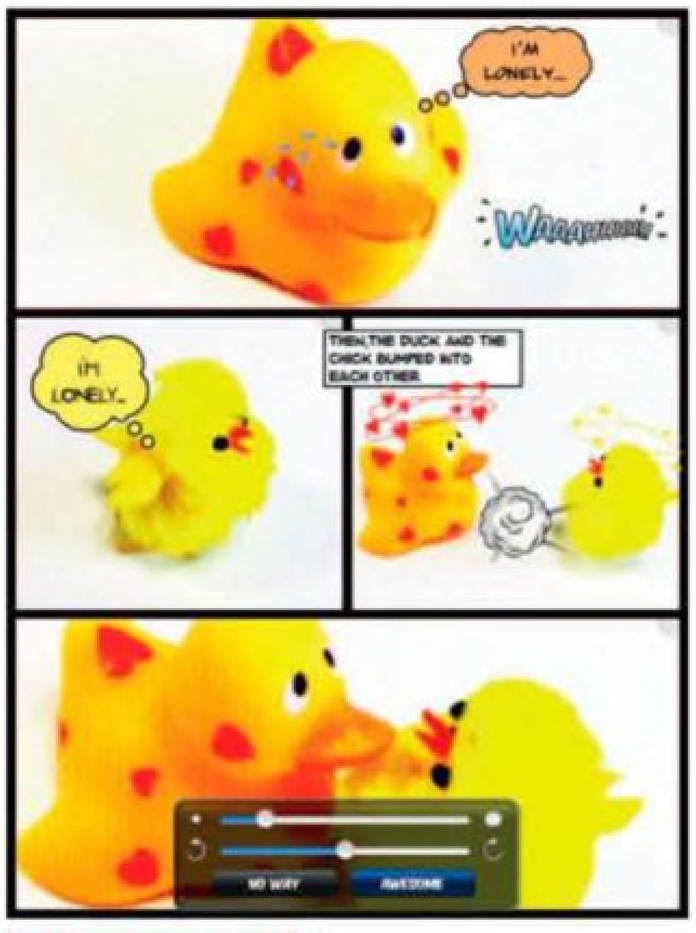
Fun effects
Use the FX button to add and edit effects and filters in each panel.

Design your comic page
Click the Create button to bring up a menu of all the different layouts, stickers, caption and sharing options.



4 Give characters life

You can find captions in the Create menu at the bottom of the screen. To add a caption, choose your speech bubble and font (as well as size and colour), and then start typing. As you type, the bubble will grow to fit the text. You can choose the length and direction of the speech bubble's tail by dragging it.



5 Stick at it

Now you can add stickers to your images, which can also be found in the Create menu. There are a variety of stickers to choose from, and once you've found a suitable one, tap it, then drag and drop it into position on your comic page. To rotate or resize a sticker, tap once to bring up a slider menu. To delete it, tap twice.



6 Share with friends

Once you've created your comic page, complete with effects, captions and stickers, you can use the icon on the far right of the Create menu to save it, email to friends, or share it on Facebook or Twitter. The same icon allows you change the settings such as the border or email quality.

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KNOW-HOW

Transfer iPod tunes back to your Mac

How to recover your music files without specialist software

By David Court

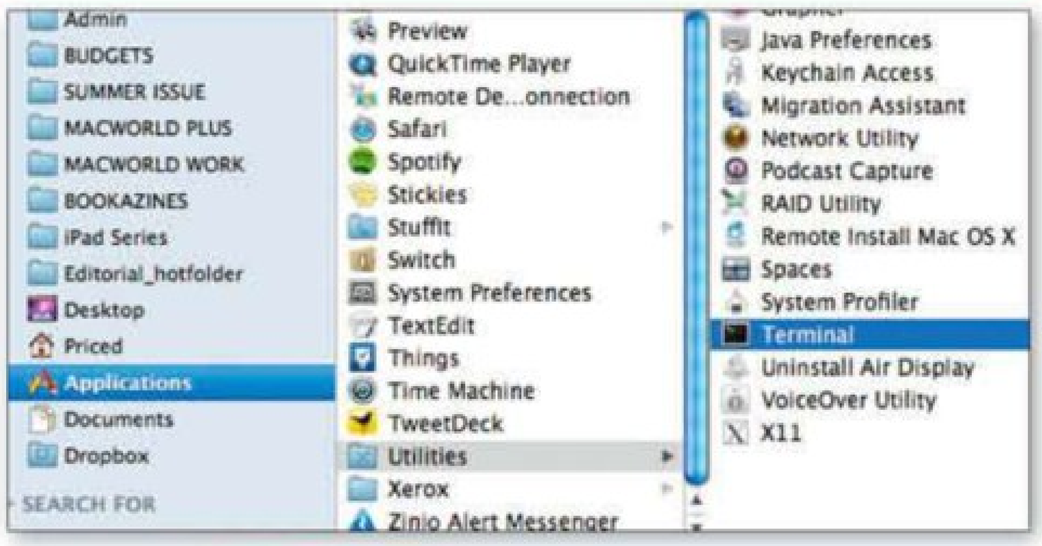
One annoying thing about the iPod is that transferring songs back from your portable music player to your Mac is tricky. Syncing in one direction is easy, but the other? Not so much.

This is especially annoying if your Mac has stopped working or your library has been corrupted, and your sole chance of keeping your music collection relies on finding a way to transfer music files from an iPod to your Mac.

Luckily, there *is* a relatively easy way of changing the settings on your Mac to get back your precious MP3s – and you don't need to download any specialist software. Here's how you go about doing it.

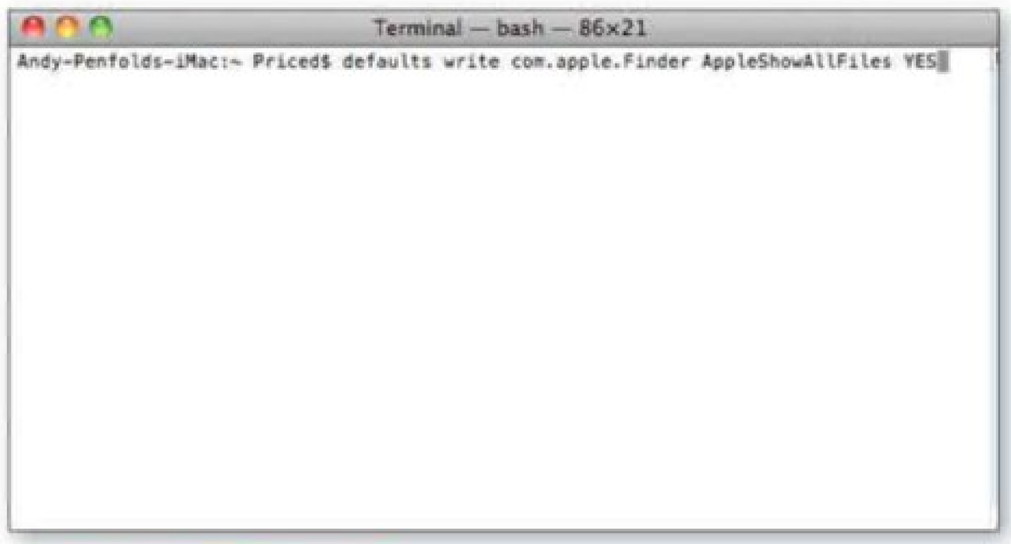
Step-by-step guide

Transfer music from iPod to Mac



1 Open Terminal

Go to Applications, select Utilities and then open Terminal.

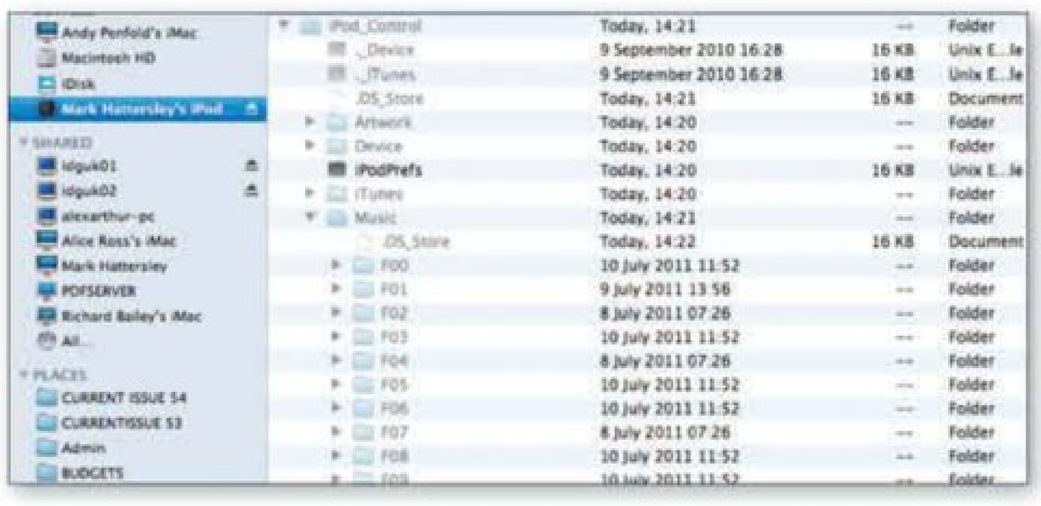


2 Show all files

Once Terminal is open, type the following:

defaults write com.apple.Finder AppleShowAllFiles YES

This will force your Mac to show every file. To undo these changes replace the YES with a NO. Reset the Finder.



3 Paste your music

Locate your iPod and open the iPod_Control folder, then the Music folder. You can now paste all your music to wherever you like on your Mac. One useful tip is to open all the folders in a drop-down list and copy the MP3s rather than the folders, because once you restore the hidden folder settings your music will be hidden again.



4 Where's my track information?

Right now your file folders and filenames will look something like F00/TWVP.mp3, and not make a lot of sense. Fear not, though. Once you import them into iTunes, the files' built-in ID3 tags will be read by the application, and your music will be displayed with all the appropriate track and artist information.

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Read the *Entertainment Edition* of our iPad guides on your iPad

Find out about the iPad features and apps that matter to you in the *Entertainment Edition* of the complete guide to the iPad

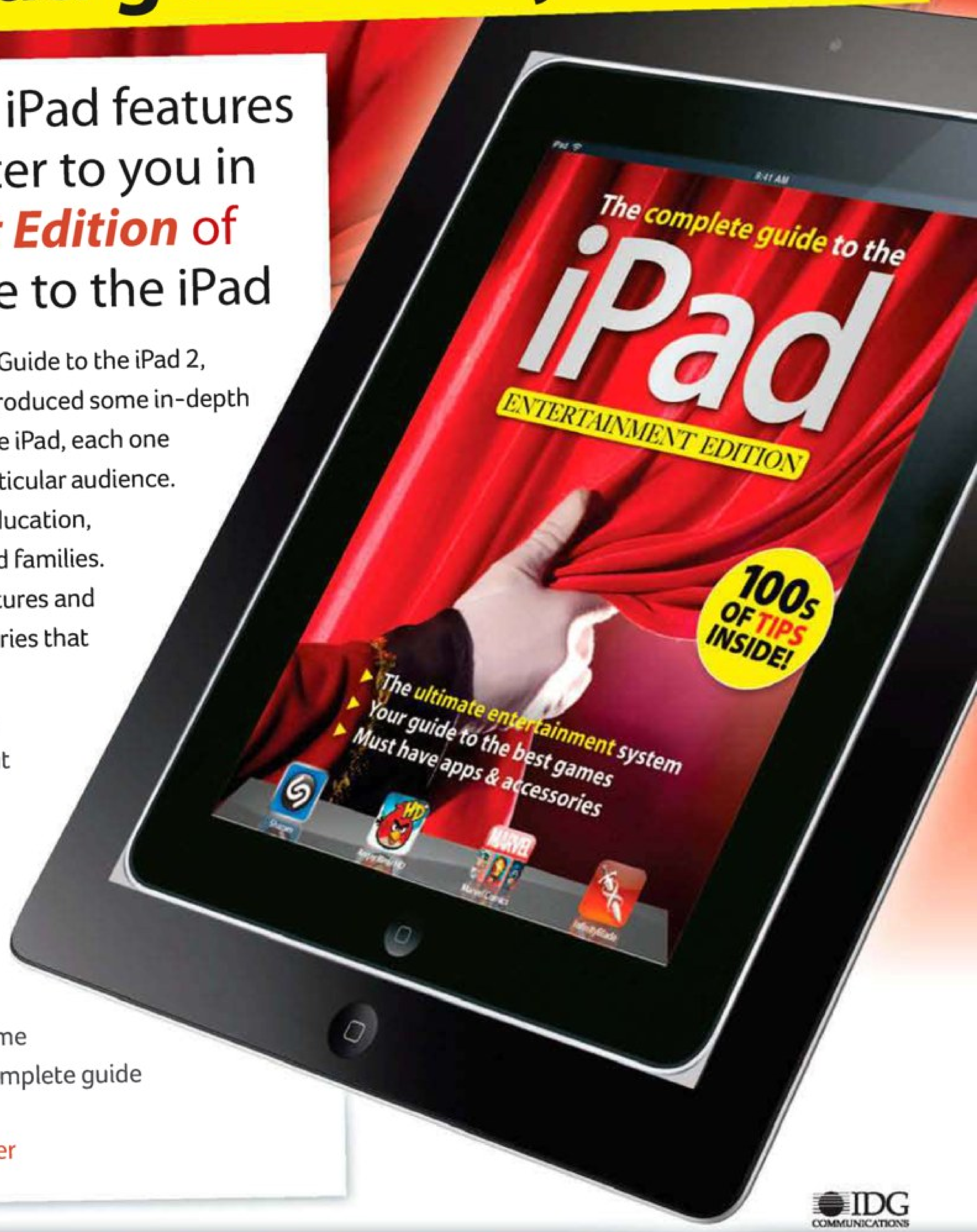
Following the success of our Complete Guide to the iPad 2, iPad & iPhone User publisher IDG has produced some in-depth books on how to get the most out of the iPad, each one targeted to meet the demands of a particular audience.

We've got iPad guides focused on education, entertainment, business, creativity, and families. Each book is packed with tutorials, features and guides to all the best apps and accessories that most interest you.

Our *Entertainment Edition* includes hundreds of tips as well as advice about using the iPad to create the ultimate entertainment system, play the best games, and run fun apps that will amuse you for hours.

We've turned our new books into an iPad app that you can download directly from the App Store. So next time you're on the App Store search for "complete guide to iPad" and check them out. Thanks!

David Price, editor, iPad & iPhone User



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Here at *iPad & iPhone User* we make it our business to bring you the finest gadgets the world has to offer. Here in our buyers' guide you'll find our picks of the best stuff, starting with Apple's devices themselves...

Inside



iPad 2

Is the iPad still magical second time around? You bet

www.apple.com/uk/ipad

Likes Thinner and lighter than before, new Smart Cover is a great addition, faster processor and graphics chip

Dislikes It's still better for play than work, needs a Mac or PC to set up, still quite a lot of money for a handheld device

Price Wi-Fi: 16GB £399, 32GB £479, 64GB £559
Wi-Fi + 3G: 16GB £499, 32GB £579, 64GB £659

Rating: ★★★★★

The iPad was Apple's boldest product in years, a brand-new type of device that gambled that people wanted an easier way to go about doing the sorts of things a computer does. Calling the iPad a success is something of an understatement; already people are referring to a 'post-PC' world where nobody uses laptops any more.

A quick go on the iPad, and you'll understand just why it's so popular. Instantly switching on, it enables you to access the internet and all your favourite apps with the kind of finger interaction that made the iPhone popular. The large screen makes it ideal for reading books, comics, watching videos and so on... and gaming is on a whole new level.

In many ways the iPad 2 isn't that different to the first model; much of the software remains the same (although you can now use apps such as iMovie). Inside is a faster Apple A5 processor and slightly more RAM, and it now sports two cameras for video chat.

One notable difference is that it's thinner and lighter than before, and the new Smart Cover is much more glamorous than the older Apple case (plus it wakes up the iPad when you open the flap).

It's even a bit cheaper, now starting at a more wallet-friendly £399. It's still not exactly cheap, but it is completely worth the money.

The iPad remains one of the most compelling consumer gadgets of our time. Don't miss out.



iPhone 4

Will the iPhone 4 shake off the curse of the Death Grip?

www.apple.com/uk/iphone

Pros High-resolution Retina display, 5Mp camera with LED flash, HD video recording, vastly improved battery life over 3G and 3GS, optimised for iOS 4 software

Dislikes Antenna attenuation issues are a design flaw, still costly to get hold of one, Bumper cases are in short supply

Price From £0-£612, depending on your chosen price plan

Rating: 4GB ★★★★★

The iPhone 4 comes so close to being the iPhone you can't knock. Sure, no gadget is ever perfect, but the iPhone 4 saw most of the major gripes about older versions addressed – it can multitask (kind of) and has a camera that's really rather good instead of woefully bad. It'll never convert everyone, but by version 4 you would expect it to be pretty accomplished, and it is.

But there's a caveat. Gradually, the fawning over the best iPhone ever became gnashing of teeth over the much-publicised 'Death Grip'.

The iPhone 4's design is such that all the antennas are on the outside of the unit. If you cover up the gap between the antennas on the left-hand side with your hand, you seriously affect your signal.

Apple admitted to the issue, and after assuring us that it's a problem for all smartphones, and being hounded by the media for weeks, the company relented and offered a free 'Bumper' case to all iPhone 4 owners. A case fixes the issue, but rather spoils the device's cool look.

All the controversy was a shame, because Apple did so much right on the iPhone 4. The Retina display, for example, which packs in four times as many pixels as older models, is astonishingly good-looking, while the A4 chip means that it's incredibly fast. Battery life, too, is a vast improvement on older models, and the HD video camera so good that it was partially to blame for the demise of Flip Video. We're still inclined to plump for the iPhone 4 over any other smartphone, despite the hoo-ha about the antennas.



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iPhone 3GS

The older iPhone offers a cheaper alternative

www.apple.com/uk/iphone

Likes Fantastic multi-touch interface, superb screen, App Store and application support, browse the internet at 3G data speeds, GPS chip

Dislikes Still more expensive than other smartphones

Price From £0-£428, depending on your chosen price plan

Rating: ★★★★★



Apple has a two-pronged attack with the iPhone – the older 3GS model is still available with 8GB of memory, giving customers the option of a cheaper entry into the iPhone world, and also the conundrum of whether the iPhone 4's antenna problem really is a deal-breaker.

The iPhone 3GS's body is identical to the previous 3G's – and a world away from the iPhone 4's design. It's a tad thicker and has a plastic curved back. If the iPhone 4 is luxurious in the hand, the iPhone 3GS feels a lot more mass-market, and we suspect that was the idea.

The 'S' in the 3GS stands for 'speed', according to Apple, and in terms of snappiness, it's a really good buy. The iPhone 4 is faster, but not to the extent that this older version will drive you crazy.

In terms of functionality, you won't lose out too much if you plump for this model. The 3GS has a compass, so augmented-reality apps work. However, the iPhone 4 can sense acceleration, so is as sensitive for gaming as a Wii remote.

The camera on the 3GS was a weakness in the market even when that unit came out in summer 2009. The 3.2Mp sensor is below even some average consumer phones, and the lack of flash means pictures are weak in low light. The camera is one area where you may wish you'd bought the iPhone 4 after all.

The other area that might disappoint, compared to the iPhone 4, is the battery life. The 3GS's battery runs flat in a day, regardless of how much you use it. The iPhone 4 has a larger battery that lasts much longer.

iPod touch

Camera and video calling make for a fine iPod touch

www.apple.com/uk/ipodtouch

Likes Super speedy like the iPhone 4, excellent games machine, FaceTime video calling, fantastic high-res Retina display, solid music and video player

Dislikes Lacks the compass and GPS functionality of the iPhone, speaker is pretty weak, camera features are fine for FaceTime but otherwise poor

Price 8GB £193, 32GB £254, 64GB £336

Rating: ★★★★★



The iPod touch is wildly popular with good reason. It's an extremely versatile device: media player, pocket gaming machine, productivity tool, internet communication device, and, with this latest update, pocket camcorder, stills camera, handheld recorder and FaceTime video phone.

While its two cameras fail to produce results as good as the iPhone 4, they do make FaceTime possible, which allows us to more easily forgive their less-than-pristine images and movies. Using the iPod touch for FaceTime, combined with its existing ability to use Skype, brings it closer to the iPhone without the expensive contract.

Despite the cameras' weaknesses, this is a very good device. If you have a third-generation iPod touch and lack an iPhone 4, this model's FaceTime capabilities may tempt you to upgrade. If you're unhappy with the performance or capacity of an even earlier iPod touch, this is more compelling still.

And if you're without an iPhone or iPod touch and have been holding out for a device this close to the iPhone – without the incumbent data plan and two-year commitment (and, of course, the phone features) – that realisation has never been closer. Plus, the iPod touch is about half as thick as the iPhone 4, so if you share Apple's obsession with thin, the iPod touch is impressive indeed.

It's hard to imagine what more Apple could do to tempt you with this version, and now is as good a time as any to snap one up.

iPod nano

www.apple.com/uk/ipodnano

Rating: ★★★★★



Yet another drastic makeover for the iPod nano sees it embrace the inevitable – a touchscreen. The iPod nano for Christmas 2010 foregoes most of the fun features from the last iteration – the movie camera, most notably – and instead gives you a very small touchscreen to play with, and a shuffle-style clip design.

In practice, it could do with a slightly larger screen. It all works fine, but it can be a bit fiddly. Annoyingly, the new nano doesn't come with Apple's remote-control-enabled headphones either. It's still a stellar music player, though, and the tiny size and impressive disk space means it's perfect for the gym or holidays.

Likes Cool new touchscreen, incredibly small and handy

Dislikes Loses several features from the old model

Price 8GB £131, 16GB £163

iPod classic

www.apple.com/uk/ipodclassic

Rating: ★★★★★



Lacking the connectivity and wide screen of the iPod touch and the nano's array of tricks, the iPod classic doesn't feel new or innovative.

Rather, it's a tried and tested way to carry around your media. It's brilliant if you want to take a large collection of your media with you. Compared to the iPod touch and 5G nano, though, it's not very sexy.

The latest version is 160GB, which represents excellent value for money. It also offers superb battery life – it'll play your tunes for almost two days before the battery dies. And despite the new iPod's touchscreen wizardry, the click-wheel is still a genuine design classic.

Likes Loads of storage, great battery, Genius support

Dislikes Not as versatile as the touch or nano

Price £197

iPod shuffle

www.apple.com/uk/ipodshuffle

Rating: ★★★★★



We weren't big fans of the third-generation, button-free iPod shuffle. Its control system gave us nightmares and its form factor was perfect fodder for an anti-Apple advertising campaign or parody.

It seems that Apple has also fallen out of love with the buttonless iPod shuffle, as the new model is an improved version of the previous iteration – a clip-on gadget with an easy-to-use onboard control system.

Its square design means it's a third smaller than the previous shuffle to look like this (released two years ago). It also boasts a much improved battery life, and it's clear that the new design erases the bad memories of the previous iteration.

Likes Smart looks, much-improved controls

Dislikes No way to lock controls

Price £40

Headphones

THREE OF THE BEST:

Sports headphones

STAR BUY

Image S5i Rugged

Company Klipsch
URL www.klipsch.co.uk
Price £120



Klipsch's new S5i Rugged headphones are made out of water-resistant rubber that's sturdy enough to avoid curling up and getting tangled. For more adventurous activities, they come with a tough carrying case with belt clip and a built-in flashlight.

HARD CASE

STAR BUY

CX 680 Sports

Company Sennheiser
URL www.sennheiser.co.uk
Price £60

These in-ear headphones have a pair of flexible rubber 'earfins' that fold inside the curve of your ear, and come with three sets of earpieces, so you should be able to find a pair to fit. The Kevlar-made cables are both rugged and water-resistant, even in heavy rain, but there's no mic for taking calls on an iPhone. Soundwise, they deliver well-balanced, strong bass.



SB2 Sportsband

Company Jaybird
URL www.jaybirdgear.com
Price £99

This Bluetooth headset offers retro sci-fi looks. It's very comfortable to wear, and relatively easy to set up and pair with your device. The sound is good, with a nice warm sound and solid bass. It's an improvement on your iPhone's bundled earbuds, but you can get much better sound for £100 with wires.

SCI-FI LOOK



Image S4i

Company Klipsch **URL** www.klipsch.co.uk **Price** £90

STAR BUY



The Klipsch S4is are an in-ear set of headphones that offer exceptional sound quality, if at a premium price point. You also get full iPod or iPhone control thanks to an in-line remote control, which doubles up as a button for answering and hanging up calls on the iPhone. A cracking set of earphones.

Likes Built-in controls, great sound quality
Dislikes Expensive

BackBeat 903

Company Altec Lansing **URL** www.alteclansing.com **Price** £49

STAR BUY



Altec Lansing's BackBeat 903 Bluetooth headset offers good audio quality at a decent price. It'll work with your iPhone, iPod touch, and any other Bluetooth device. The headphones are made of rugged, sweat-resistant material, so are suitable for jogging. A button on the right earpiece lets you turn on a Bass Boost for a bassy kick.

Likes Comfortable, lightweight design, strong bass quality
Dislikes Fiddly rubbery earpieces

P5

Company Bowers & Wilkins **URL** bowers-wilkins.co.uk **Price** £249

STAR BUY



Possibly the finest earphones we've ever heard. The P5s are made from the very best materials. The leather earpieces are ludicrously comfortable, while the audio is stunning. Bowers & Wilkins has created an audio system that it calls TrueSound, and it produces an incredibly rich, natural sound.

Likes Astonishing sound quality, unrivalled comfort, superb design
Dislikes The price is the only down side

HF3

Company Etymotic **URL** www.etymotic.com **Price** £130



The HF3s are an update to an already great set of earphones – the HF2s (see p89). The main difference between the two is that the new set has a three-button headset, which lets you pause, play and adjust volume on the in-line remote control. The headphones still sound great too, which is the most important thing.

Likes Excellent noise cancellation and sound, three-button remote
Dislikes Price is higher than the £99 HF2s they replace

IDR600

Company Scosche **URL** www.scosche.com **Price** £50



Scosche's headphones are neat little numbers, named for their increased dynamic range. Coming with a range of fittings so you can find the ones that perfectly block out the world, they're pretty comfortable, and light enough to use at the gym. The 11mm IDR drivers deliver sharp sound, although bass could be fuller.

Likes Various ear fittings, magnetic cable management, strong sound
Dislikes Could be bassier

CX 550 Style II

Company Sennheiser **URL** www.sennheiser.co.uk **Price** £80

STAR BUY



Sennheiser's new noise-isolating headphones are a stylish and sturdy set. They're designed with a small arm that's tilted forward to help the cable stay in place and the headphones comfortably in the ear. Sound-wise, the CX 550 Style IIs are a strong choice – balanced and detailed. Pricey, but worth it for the quality and comfort.

Likes Rich in detail, comfortable, stylish, good build
Dislikes Expensive

In-Ear Headphones

Company Apple **URL** www.apple.com/uk **Price** £66



Apple's headphones have been a bit iffy to date, but these are an improvement. Each earpiece contains two drivers – a woofer and a tweeter. Apple's buds also have a remote control built into the cord – this only works with the newest iPods. This is a good set, but there are several models that match Apple's buds for price and sound.

Likes Detailed audio, remote control and built-in microphone
Dislikes Weak bass, remote and mic only work with the latest iPods

Q460

Company AKG **URL** uk.akg.com **Price** £130



The presence of Quincy Jones' photo on the box of lets you know that you're looking at an aspirational product. Fortunately, AKG's Q460s manage to live up to those aims, by being a great set for a decent price. Great audio and striking looks make for a good combination, and although the price tag is a little high they're well worth the investment.

Likes Great styling, superb audio quality, folds into a neat package
Dislikes Neon green cable is an acquired taste

MOS004

Company MOS **URL** www.ministryofsound.com **Price** £20



There seems to be a fashion for branded earphones at the moment, and while it's possible to by cynical at the idea of a pair of £20 earphones branded with Ministry Of Sound, we were pleasantly surprised at the sound quality of these. Unfortunately, they're not the most comfortable set we've ever used, and they lack iPhone and iPod touch controls.

Likes Sound quality
Dislikes Comfort factor, lack of iPhone controls

Audéo PFE 122

Company Phonak **URL** www.audeoworld.com **Price** £100



Phonak is best known for making stylish hearing aids, but the award-winning company has now brought its expertise to the headphone market. They're a serious investment too, but they deliver in terms of audio quality. They also come with sets of audio filters that you can fit to the headphones to create a certain type of sound.

Likes Excellent sound quality, can be tuned to your tastes
Dislikes Ear guides can be fiddly, only a single size of earpiece included

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HA-S650

Company JVC **URL** www.jvc.co.uk **Price** £69.99



JVC is homing in on street-smart audio lovers with its HA-S650 headphone set. Most headphones for use out and about are in-ear models, but JVC has gone for an over-ear headband design. However, they look pretty cool – understated and classy – and are comfortable thanks to memory foam pads. Sound is neutral and clear.

Likes Really comfortable, crisp sound quality, smart design
Dislikes Sound could do with a bit more punch, fragile build

Custom Tuned Earphones

Company Radiopaq **URL** www.radiopaq.co.uk **Price** €59



Radiopaq has come up with a new way of getting perfect sound – the company has built four sets of headphones in the same range, each custom tuned to a different genre of music. So you have a set for rock, pop, classical, and jazz. Slightly different shapes and tweaked tech achieve the differences, and sound is very good.

Likes Superb sound quality, reasonably priced
Dislikes Classical and jazz models tinnier than the rock and pop ones

PX 210 BT

Company Sennheiser **URL** www.sennheiser.co.uk **Price** €150



Sennheiser resisted Bluetooth technology for years, but now the company has embraced it with these great wireless headphones. They sound great – the best we've heard from a Bluetooth set, giving a clean clear sound for rock and dance fans. They're also solidly built, with a metal-reinforced headband and sturdier plastic earpieces.

Likes Very good audio quality, good set of accessories
Dislikes Maximum volume is disappointing

a-Jays Three

Company Jays **URL** www.jays.se **Price** €40



Despite the a-Jays Three's low asking price, Jays is very generous with included accessories. Neatly fitted in the box are five sets of ear-pieces, a flight adaptor, a stereo splitter, and a handy plastic carry case. The a-Jays Three offers excellent value and a perfect replacement for the standard headphones you get with your iPhone, iPod or iPad.

Likes Impressive sound for low price, good fit, handy accessories
Dislikes Large connector sticks well out of headphone jack

IE 6

Company Sennheiser **URL** www.sennheiser.co.uk **Price** €70



The IE 6 is part of Sennheiser's professional portable range of earphones. The standout feature of the IE 6 is its enhanced bass, and they do produce a warm, full bass sound that works well with pop and rock music. You get a good set of accessories too – you get six ear tips, ear clips, a tie clip and a carry case.

Likes Very good audio quality, strong bass, good set of accessories
Dislikes No remote control or mic for making calls

HF2

Company Etymotic **URL** www.etymotic.com **Price** €99, moulds €90

STAR BUY



A phenomenal set of earphones – the HF2s might be at the top end of most budgets, but they deliver the kind of sound that can cost a lot more. Etymotic has also teamed up with hearing experts ACS to offer a custom eartip service, which makes for an amazingly comfortable fit. This costs an extra €90. Moulds can be done at your local Boots.

Likes Amazing clarity, superb fit with hand-crafted custom eartips
Dislikes Have to send off for custom ear moulds, a bit light on bass

AH-C252

Company Denon **URL** www.denon.co.uk **Price** €30



It's generally accepted that you get what you pay for when it comes to earphones, and at €30 you might not expect much from these Denons. However, they pack a very decent audio punch. The build is a bit more plasticky and the treble less accurate compared to pricier models, but at €30 you can't complain.

Likes Loud, booming bass, warm mid tones, comfortable, inexpensive
Dislikes Plasticky and odd shape, inaccurate treble, thin cabling

SoundMAGIC E10

Company SoundMAGIC **URL** www.hifiheadphones.co.uk **Price** €35



The E10s are a lightweight set of earphones with a stylish overall design. The body is made from metal and the jack plug is robust. The E10s offer fairly strong bass and the earpieces block out most outside noise; those nearby may be able to hear your music at high volumes, however. The lack of a remote is a shame, but these are a decent option.

Likes Good sound quality, value for money, stylish design
Dislikes No remote or microphone, can be heard by people nearby

AH-C560R

Company Denon **URL** www.denon.co.uk **Price** €70



Denon is known for its high-quality audio systems, but its earphones can be quite pricey. However, the AH-C560R costs €70, and still provides excellent quality. A high frequency range results in a very clean, clear sound with rich echoing bass and detailed higher frequencies. Includes a mic for making and taking calls.

Likes Very good audio quality, microphone and iPhone compatibility
Dislikes Mic is a long way from your mouth

RP-HC55

Company Panasonic **URL** www.panasonic.co.uk **Price** €75



Panasonic's RP-HC55s are unusual for in-ear headphones – they incorporate noise-cancelling circuitry. This is especially striking given the price – noise cancellation usually costs a lot more than €75. Audio quality is quite good, although the higher frequencies can get a bit shrill at high volumes.

Likes Comfortable, noise-cancelling tech at a very good price
Dislikes Audio quality is best suited to lower-key sounds

EDITOR'S PICKS:

Over-ears

Quiet Comfort 3

Company Bose
URL www.bose.co.uk
Price €279

NOISE BUSTER

Every aspect of this pricey headphone set is designed for the frequent traveller, from the noise cancelling features to the bundled accessories. The noise-cancelling feature is powered by two rechargeable batteries. The sound quality is quite something – rich and warm with massive bass. If you can afford them, the QC3 won't let you down.



Crossfade LP

Company V-Moda
URL www.v-moda.com
Price €229

IN YOUR FACE

The V-Moda Crossfades have a pretty 'in your face' look, with their shiny plates and bright colours. They're rigid and comfortable but also pretty much indestructible. Sound-wise, they're bass-heavy and satisfying. That price is a bit eye-watering, but they're a cracking product.



TMA-1

Company AiAiAi
URL www.aiaiai.dk
Price €160

SUPER COOL

Named after a monolith in *2001: A Space Odyssey*, these headphones boast a big, bassy sound. The TMA-1 headphones have a matt black look with no decorative elements at all. They actually look super cool, and come in some stylish packaging. They can be tricky to get comfortable on your head, though.



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Speakers

THREE OF THE BEST: Travel speakers

iP49

Company iHome
URL ihomeaudiointl.com
Price €130

Featuring the same Bongiovi sound enhancement system as the massive iP1 (see p91), the iP49 folds up to the size of a paperback book, and is therefore perfect for your holidays. However, the compact design belies the expansive sound, and it's loud for a little fella, too.

FOLD AWAY!

STAR BUY



T3

Company Orbitsound
URL www.orbitsound.co.uk
Price £50

Orbitsound's T3 offers stonking sound considering its tiny dimensions – it's about the same size as an iPod classic. It features two speakers on the side, which combine to create a 'sound aura' around your head when you wear the speakers round your neck. Works well as a normal portable travel speaker, too.

'SOUND AURA'



AirCurve

Company Griffin
URL www.griffintechnology.com
Price £17

The AirCurve is an acoustic speaker for the iPhone. A small, transparent plastic block with a sealed cradle for the iPhone, the AirCurve contains a funnel design that amplifies the sound from the iPhone's built-in speaker without batteries or wires. A fantastic innovation, and perfect for low-cost, no-hassle travelling. It's also a total bargain at just €17.

SMART IDEA



STAR BUY

On Time 200P

Company JBL **URL** uk.jbl.com **Price** €200



The On Time 200P is a decent, if not standout, iPod alarm clock. Offering 10 radio presets, snooze functions and multiple alarms is handy rather than ground-breaking. It's got two 45mm speakers with a 2x 6W amp, though, and sound is pretty good for a small bedside unit. Build quality is a bit bendy, but it's sturdy enough.

Likes Good sound quality, smart design, plenty of features
Dislikes It's pretty basic in operation

Octiv 102

Company Altec Lansing **URL** www.alteclansing.co.uk **Price** £39



A sleek black iPod dock with an unusual parallelogram shape that helps it fit in snug places on your shelf or bedside table. It's only a mono speaker and you control playback via your iPod – there are no buttons on the unit. That said, it goes pretty loud, and a free app adds alarm clock functionality to the mix.

Likes Good value, unusual design, apps add functionality
Dislikes Mono sound

SoundFrame

Company QDOS **URL** www.qdossound.com **Price** £70



The rotating speaker system is by no means a new idea, but QDOS's SoundFrame succeeds thanks to its excellent sound. The clunky rotating stand is the main weakness, but the SoundFrame's travel credentials are immaculate – it has a large internal rechargeable battery and comes with loads of accessories.

Likes Good sound considering size, travel accessories included
Dislikes Clunky rotating stand

Ikon

Company Revo Technologies **URL** www.revo.co.uk **Price** £130



The Ikon is more than just an iPod dock: it's also a digital radio, analogue radio and network music streamer. It's a reasonably small and lightweight iPod dock that doesn't take up much room. The Ikon would sit comfortably in a bedroom allowing you to make full use of its alarm clock radio function.

Likes Good sound quality, lots of options for listening to content
Dislikes Light on bass, iffy build quality, tricky interface

MM-1

Company Bowers & Wilkins **URL** www.bowers-wilkins.co.uk **Price** £379

STAR BUY



B&W's MM-1 desktop speakers may look unassuming, but these modestly sized blocks – just 17cm tall – are packed with advanced drivers and electronics that put most speakers to shame. The set is beautifully designed, with no visible joins between components, and while the price is high, the MM-1 speakers are exceptional.

Likes Amazing sound, great design, smart build and connectivity
Dislikes You get what you pay for, but they are pricey

SSB-1

Company Crystal Audio **URL** www.crystalaudiovideo.com **Price** €200



An ordinary-looking soundbar system, the SSB-1 actually boasts a virtual surround-sound feature. 'Virtual Surround Sound' oversells it somewhat – the effect boosts the volume and gives it a wider sound, but doesn't sound like surround. Aside from that, though, the SSB-1 sounds great and goes very loud – it's a good system with plenty of inputs.

Likes Good sound quality, loud, multiple inputs
Dislikes Fiddly remote control, virtual surround sound doesn't deliver

GLA-55

Company Harman Kardon **URL** uk.harmankardon.com **Price** £749



Some speakers are designed to blend into their surroundings – but not the GLA-55s. The cut diamond looks of the speakers are crying out for attention, and the design is such that all the electronics are hidden in the base plates. At £750, you'd expect amazing sound, and that's exactly what you get.

Likes Very striking looks, fantastic sound quality
Dislikes Expensive, can sound a bit clinical, looks won't suit everyone

iP88

Company iHome **URL** ihomeaudiointl.com **Price** £120

STAR BUY



Ideal for couples with an iPhone each, or for anyone who lives in a house with more than one iPod, the iHome iP88 offers two docks in a pretty decent alarm clock arrangement. It produces a bright, robust sound that'll have you bouncing out of bed in the morning, with the ability to wake to your docked gadget or AM or FM radio.

Likes Dual docks, powerful sound, good remote, versatile radio
Dislikes Expensive, distorts at very high volume

SoundDock 10

Company Bose **URL** www.bose.co.uk **Price** £549



An iPod dock with no onboard controls, this device combines minimal styling with a neat remote, and certainly has a visual wow factor. While the SoundDock 10 can comfortably fill a room, we were disappointed by the overall sound. Initially impressive, it lacks that special something to justify the hype and price tag.

Likes Classy-looking accessory, distortion-free playback
Dislikes Unexceptional sound for the price, no controls on the dock

T12 v2 Soundbar

Company Orbitsound **URL** www.orbitsound.co.uk **Price** £299



The relaunched T12 v2 Soundbar combines a stereo soundbar and subwoofer with an iPod dock, making it suitable for pumping out music or the audio from your television or home cinema system. It doesn't come cheap, but the sound is rich in detail and clarity, and Orbitsound's unique stereo technology means there's no 'sweet spot'.

Likes Good sound, excellent range of inputs, solid build
Dislikes Subwoofer feels like overkill

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Valve80

Company Logic3 **URL** www.logic3.com **Price** £293



This strikingly designed iPod amp is a hybrid valve and transistor system. It uses the warm fuzzy sound of valve amplification as a pre-amp, before the sound signal goes through the main amp. It creates a lovely sound. It also has the valves externally mounted, so there are three glowing glass tubes on the outside.

Likes Lovely sound quality, great looks, sturdy build
Dislikes No visual representation of settings such as volume and tone

i-DS2

Company Boston Acoustics **URL** www.bostona.eu **Price** £140



The front of the i-DS2 from Boston Acoustics is entirely taken up by the speaker grille, and that sums this iPod system up – it's a bare bones stereo dock for your iPod. The upside is that the i-DS2 maintains Boston's considerable reputation for astounding sound. It's expensive given the limited functionality, but it still rocks.

Likes Great sound quality, smart design
Dislikes Expensive considering the lack of frills

S315i

Company Logitech **URL** www.logitech.com **Price** £65



Logitech's S315i is a streamlined and attractive portable speaker system. The smoothly curved unit is about the size of a paperback book, and about 1.5in thick. It's light and compact enough to slip in a bag when you're travelling. Sound is good, but there's no remote control – a bit of an oversight considering the whopping price.

Likes Compact, good sound quality, rechargeable battery
Dislikes Expensive, no remote control

On Stage micro II

Company JBL **URL** uk.jbl.com **Price** £80



Travel speakers rarely deliver amazing sound, but the On Stage micro sounds pretty good for its size. For £80 we'd expect a few more travel credentials, though, such as a carry case and maybe a built-in rechargeable battery. It runs on four AAA batteries, and you do get a good six hours or so before it conks out.

Likes Nice design, strong sound considering the size
Dislikes Expensive, no built-in battery

On Air Wireless

Company JBL **URL** uk.jbl.com **Price** £330



JBL's AirPlay-enabled system is a step up from the iPod/iPhone speaker docks that preceded it. Don't expect to use this as part of a larger entertainment system as the only audio output is the headphone port. It also works as a standard iPod/iPhone speaker system, and features alarm clock and radio functions.

Likes Large control screen, unique looks, AirPlay compatible
Dislikes Unsuitable for use within larger entertainment system

Go + Play Micro

Company Harman Kardon **URL** uk.harmankardon.com **Price** £230



Somehow managing to look both modern and retro, the Go + Play Micro from Harman Kardon is an attractive speaker system with excellent sound. The unit's bulk is a factor when it comes to portability, and it's also pretty expensive at £230. However, the sound quality and the design make it worth checking out.

Likes Cool looks, good sound, can sync via USB slot
Dislikes Expensive, bulky, requires eight batteries to use on the go

Sensia

Company Pure **URL** www.pure.com **Price** £250



This DAB radio and wireless internet radio streaming hub is a class act. It looks great, and the clear audio and large touchscreen display give it an edge over every other audio streaming device we've tested. The touchscreen interface also offers a number of mini-apps for posting to Twitter and Facebook and for checking the weather forecast.

Likes Touchscreen interface, cool applications, great sound quality
Dislikes Can be a pain for scrolling through long lists on screen

Octiv 202

Company Altec Lansing **URL** www.alteclansing.co.uk **Price** £80

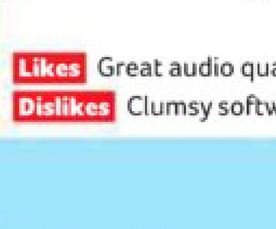


iPhone couples are everywhere, and so we've seen the rise of the dual docking speaker system. The Octiv 202 is a mix of decent design and unnecessary gimmicks. The understated matt black design and cool lighting looks good, and the small footprint is ready for bedrooms and kitchens. Apps add features such as an alarm clock.

Likes Small footprint, smart design, charges three devices
Dislikes Average sound, apps are free but a bit pointless

Sound 53

Company Roberts Radio **URL** www.robertsradio.co.uk **Price** £280



A lovely iPod all-in-one stereo system that offers a CD player as well as DAB and FM radio. The Sound 53 looks great and feels like proper quality, with its glossy black shell and sturdy features. The sound is clear and classy, although bass can be a bit off. At £280, it's pretty expensive, and doesn't offer Wi-Fi capabilities for playing internet radio.

Likes Looks lovely, smooth classy sound, lots of functions
Dislikes Expensive considering lack of Wi-Fi, bass can be a bit iffy

Avanti Flow

Company Pure **URL** www.pure.com **Price** £280



At almost £300, the Avanti Flow is a heavy investment, but there's no denying that its excellent sound quality and wireless streaming features make this an impressive partner for your iPod. However, Pure's FlowServer software for streaming music is clumsy and complicated, and is the main blight on this product's copybook.

Likes Great audio quality, built-in subwoofer, DAB and online radio
Dislikes Clumsy software for streaming music from your computer

THREE OF THE BEST: Luxury docks

Fidelio DS9000

Company Philips
URL www.philips.co.uk
Price £350

HIGH FIDELITY

The Fidelio DS9000 raises expectations with its dark wood, intriguingly shaped iPod/iPhone hi-fi system. The sound doesn't quite live up to Philips' audiophile protestations, but the unit sounds good, and its luxurious design means you might be smitten with the look of it before you've even heard it.



Zeppelin

Company Bowers & Wilkins
URL www.bowers-wilkins.co.uk
Price £399

SPACE AGE

The Zeppelin is quite simply the coolest iPod speaker available. Its curvy, space-age design is a real draw, but it's backed up by incredible build quality and stonking sound. The Zeppelin offers plenty of connectivity options too, so you can make it the centrepiece of your home, and spend your evenings gawping at its beauty.



iP1

Company iHome
URL ihomeaudiointl.com
Price £270

GLASS ACT

iHome's iP1 has an imposing look, with its smoky glass front panel and exposed speakers. Perfect for a bachelor pad, this beast is heavy and pumps out some pretty cracking sounds. The built-in audio processing makes the most of your digital music – it's basically a dynamic equaliser that constantly tweaks the audio for the best output.



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THREE OF THE BEST: iPod cases

Wallaby Wallet

Company Proporta
URL www.proporta.com
Price €30

★★★★★

MONEY SPINNER

Proporta has incorporated a case for the iPod nano into a regular wallet, so you can keep your music and your moolah in the same place. Its iPod credentials are decent enough, but it's as a wallet that the Wallaby falls down. There's no fastenable bit for your change, and with the iPod in place it's too rigid.



Bolt Armband

Company Contour Design
URL www.contourcase.com
Price £25

★★★★½

SLEEVE NOTES

Gym-lovers have a variety of options for taking their nano on the road, and the Bolt Armband is a washable, durable option. Made from a combination of two of our favourite underpants materials – Lycra and Spandex – the bolt has a clear plastic screen for easy access to the nano's controls.



tapSTICK

Company Scosche
URL www.scosche.com
Price £25

★★★★½

The iPod shuffle's minimalism can be problematic when it comes to controlling the iPod and using your own headphones. Scosche has solved this problem by incorporating playback control buttons into a svelte shuffle case. It costs nearly half the price of a basic shuffle, but it does make the iPod easier to use.

ON THE BUTTON



Docks

P-Flip

Company Dexim **URL** www.dexim.net **Price** €60

★★★★★

STAR BUY



At once a handy dock and a travel battery, Dexim's P-Flip is a successful all-in-one iPhone gadget. It folds flat for easy storage, and then flips open when you need it. You can also use the P-Flip to sync your iPhone with your computer – making it an ideal accessory to throw in your laptop bag. The battery charges via USB.

Likes Smart design, good power supply, works with touch too
Dislikes iPhone won't fit if it's in a case

Universal Dock

Company Apple **URL** www.apple.com/uk **Price** £50

★★★★½



Apple used to ship a dock with the iPod, but now it's an optional extra. This is still quite a basic model – if you want all the leads, a remote control and a power connector, it'll set you back a few more quid. It's a premium price for an ordinary experience, but it's well built – as you'd expect from the Apple stable.

Likes Excellent build quality and styling
Dislikes Expensive if adding cables, basic functionality without them

WD100

Company Sonos **URL** www.sonos.com **Price** £99

★★★★½



A dock that allows you to stream the content from a connected iPhone or iPod to a Sonos music system. It works with the company's multi-room systems, and can connect to a compatible CD player, as well as sources such as Spotify, Rhapsody, Last.fm and Napster. It can even stream content that's DRM-protected.

Likes Ability to stream protected content
Dislikes Scrolling for tracks takes time

Pro-Dock

Company Logic3 **URL** www.logic3.com **Price** £50

★★★★½



The Pro-Dock boasts an eye-catching design with its cylindrical shape and glowing logo on the front. It has component and composite video connectors on the back, as well as stereo audio. There's also a USB interface for when you want to use it to sync your iPod with your computer. However, only audio cables are supplied – no video wires.

Likes Smart design, includes composite and component video output
Dislikes No video cables or dock adaptors

DS-A3

Company Onkyo **URL** www.uk.onkyo.com **Price** £80

★★★★½

STAR BUY



Onkyo's DS-A3 is primarily designed for use with the company's own range of specialist amps and music systems. However, you don't have to be an Onkyo addict to appreciate its high-quality design and useful features. It's easily connected to your TV and hi-fi, and crucially it includes all the cables you'd need.

Likes Attractive design, displays iPod music/video menus on your TV
Dislikes Expensive, on-screen display is basic, no USB connector

iPhone cases

Motif

Company Griffin **URL** www.griffintechnology.com **Price** €15

★★★★½



Griffin's Motif is the closest thing to a soft silicone case available via the iPhone 4 Case Program, but its thermoplastic urethane (TPU) material is smoother and shinier than most silicone skins. It's thin enough that the case doesn't add much bulk to the phone, but it offers more protection than many of the options on the Case Program.

Likes Unusual looks, protects against bumps
Dislikes Detracts somewhat from iPhone design

Luxe

Company iFrogz **URL** www.ifrogz.com **Price** €20

★★★★½



The iFrogz Luxe is a good bet – it gives your iPhone a smart finish without adding too much bulk. The bottom half is black, while the top comes in a range of seven colours, each with a swish metallic finish. The two halves slot together and fix with a button on the bottom that slides under a catch on the top.

Likes Looks cool, plenty of colours to choose from
Dislikes A bit clumsy to put together

KickBACK

Company Scosche **URL** www.scosche.com **Price** £33

★★★★★

STAR BUY



Scosche's KickBACK iPhone case offers good protection for your iPhone, with a handy extra – a clip-out stand on the back that lets you prop up your phone for movie watching. When not in use, the stand sits flush against the case. Your iPhone is held in place by rubber casing, while the back is made of shatterproof polycarbonate.

Likes Novel idea, neat stand hidden well when not in use
Dislikes Nothing major

Mizu Shell

Company Proporta **URL** www.proporta.com **Price** £20

★★★★½



A silicone case, the Mizu Shell has a shiny plastic feel but isn't sticky like a lot of skins of this kind. It doesn't cover the iPhone's screen, but the lip over the front helps prevent scratches if you lay the phone face down on a table. The case does lend a certain visual quirkiness to the iPhone, and, while stretchy, it fits well.

Likes Protects from scratches, hard-wearing
Dislikes Looks a bit 'kiddie' compared to bare iPhone

Feather

Company Incipio **URL** www.myincipio.com **Price** £15

★★★★★



The Incipio Feather is the smartest, least conspicuous iPhone case we've seen so far, and as such it's a huge success. It's a very thin hard shell that covers the back and sides of the unit and comes with a plastic screen protector. The black one is barely noticeable, but if you want to make more of a statement it comes in 11 other shades.

Likes Stylish, very thin and understated
Dislikes Not suited to being taken on and off repeatedly

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Car adaptors

iTrip Auto FM

Company Griffin **URL** www.griffintechnology.com **Price** €45



Your regular no-nonsense iPod car player, the iTrip Auto FM is a good option, incorporating a charger, FM transmitter and dock connector. The device is finished in a smart black and silver plastic. The sound is a little bit hissy, but the SmartScan feature means you can easily find an FM channel to use.

Likes Well made, responsive buttons, LCD screen makes tuning easy
Dislikes Prone to background hiss

LiquidAUX

Company Kensington **URL** uk.kensington.com **Price** €54



Kensington's LiquidAUX offers up a refreshing variation on the in-car iPod device, which at first appears to be pretty standard FM transmitter fare. On closer inspection, though, you'll find a wireless remote control that attaches to your steering wheel, which is most handy. Works with all the iPods and iPhones too.

Likes Bluetooth wireless control pad, works as iPhone hands-free kit
Dislikes Useless if you don't have a 3.5mm socket in your car stereo

CarDock FM Follow Me

Company Gear4 **URL** www.gear4.com **Price** €50



The CarDock FM Follow Me has a new 'ClearSearch' feature, which enlists the use of a compatible RDS car radio to work. ClearSearch allows you to find a new, clear FM signal at the touch of a button, which is great for adjusting your signal when your music starts to crackle. It also charges your iPod via a car cigarette lighter.

Likes Compact design, ClearSearch works well, good value
Dislikes No cables, so the iPod has to sit near your ciggie lighter

Play

Company iO **URL** www.my-io.com **Price** €102



iO's Play is the finest in-car iPod setup we've seen so far. It lets you stream music to your car stereo via Bluetooth. You get a Bluetooth dongle for your iPod, while the rest of the system is installed behind the dashboard. You get a voucher to cover the cost of getting it wired in. It also acts as a hands-free kit for iPhone users.

Likes Fantastic audio quality, built-in hands-free for mobile phones
Dislikes Volume control has a delay before it actually takes effect

TuneCast Auto IV

Company Belkin **URL** www.belkin.com/uk **Price** €50



Belkin's TuneCast is a stalwart of the iPod car scene, and version four sees some good design tweaks. It has two programmable preset buttons, and there's also a one-push station locator called 'ClearScan'. It might not find you in congested areas, though – if FM airwaves are busy, you'll be hard pushed to find a clear channel.

Likes Good styling, programmable buttons, backlit LCD display
Dislikes Interference in busy areas, retuning can be difficult

Batteries and chargers

powermonkey-explorer

Company Powertraveller **URL** www.powermonkey-explorer.com **Price** €65



The powermonkey-explorer stores up power for topping up your gadgets on the road – but the set's main draw is its clamshell solar panel, which lets you charge up your iPod and phone using the power of the sun. If you're driven to despair by running out of juice when all you want is to zone out with your iPod, get yourself one of these.

Likes Great for travellers, environmentally friendly
Dislikes Lots of bits to carry around and fiddle with

Juice Pack Air

Company Mophie **URL** www.mophie.com **Price** €70



The iPhone 4 went a long way to addressing the 3GS's seriously lacking battery, but like most smartphones it still runs down pretty quickly when you use its full feature set. The Juice Pack Air will give you about 70 per cent extra battery power if you run your iPhone 4 down first, and is styled to look as much like the iPhone as possible.

Likes Good styling, good battery boost, good protection
Dislikes Bulkier than we'd like

Power Skin

Company Power Skin **URL** www.powerskin.co.uk **Price** €50



The Power Skin is an iPhone case that incorporates an external battery. It's a great option for anyone who is frustrated with having to charge up their iPhone all the time. You first run out the iPhone's battery, then flick a switch when it's depleted to use the Power Skin's battery. It should give you a good 24-hour stint without charging.

Likes Double battery life in standard iPhone use
Dislikes Bulky and heavy, doesn't switch automatically

Power Spring 4

Company MiLi **URL** www.iphonemili.com **Price** €50



Expert in producing battery/case hybrids, MiLi has updated its Power Spring offering to fit the iPhone 4. The Power Spring 4 packs a higher-capacity battery than its predecessor – up to 1,600mAh from 1,200mAh. It almost doubles the thickness of the iPhone, but it doesn't add too much weight. The look of it blends in well with the iPhone, too.

Likes Good snug design, provides a big boost to battery life
Dislikes Bulky

i4

Company Idapt **URL** www.idaptweb.com/uk **Price** €40



Available in a range of colours (11 altogether), the smart-looking Idapt i4 is a neat solution to the increasingly messy mobile-device charging jumble of cables. Go for the Custom four-tip configuration if you want to ensure you have all the correct charging options for your own digital devices.

Likes Simultaneously charge four mobile devices
Dislikes Adding the Apple connectors adds €10 to the cost

THREE OF THE BEST: iPad 2 cases

iLuv Smart Back Cover

Company iLuv
URL www.i-luv-uk.co.uk
Price €25

COVER YOUR BACK



Designed to protect the areas of your iPad that Apple's folding front-panel can't, iLuv's Smart Back Cover fits snugly to the rear of your tablet and protects it from scratches and marks. The camera, sleep button and volume controls are unobstructed, and the unit is available in colours to match Apple's Smart Cover. It's attractively priced and nicely finished.

Booqpad Agenda

Company Booq
URL www.booqbags.com
Price €89



BUSINESS CLASS

At last someone has combined an unbleached, acid-free notepad with an iPad 2 case, wrapping the whole package in Nappa leather with slots for business cards and pens. Perfect for jotting down notes or sketching out ideas – although admittedly priced as a showpiece – this blend of old-world Filofax styling and new-world technological power will send the right messages in meetings.

iLuv ICK826UK Professional Case

Company iLuv
URL www.i-luv-uk.co.uk
Price €81

HANDY TIME SAVER

The second iLuv model to make this round-up, the Professional Case with Bluetooth Keyboard is a great way to type while keeping your iPad in the perfect viewing position. The case is reasonably thin, and the keyboard is attached with magnets. If you often type while travelling with your iPad, this could be a handy timesaver that also offers protection from knocks.



THREE OF THE BEST:

Racing games

Crash Bandicoot: Nitro Kart 3D

Company Vivendi
URL www.vivendi.com
Price £1.99

★★★★★

RACING CLASSIC

Crash Bandicoot is the game that proved the iPhone is a genuine gaming platform – the graphics are fantastic, offering a colourful 3D racing environment and cute characters, and the gameplay is fast and furious and fun. Still an App Store highlight.



DrawRace

Company RedLynx
URL www.drawrace.com
Price £1.99

★★★★½

TOP DRAW

In DrawRace, up to three players battle it out by drawing routes for cars before the race begins. You then watch events unfold, determined by the speed and direction of your tracings. The solo game is hard, but playing this unconventional racer with friends is fun.



Racer

Company Tatem Games
URL www.tatemgames.com
Price 69p

★★★★★

TRAFFIC JAMS

Racer is a beautifully designed, addictive game that will rattle your nerves worse than rush-hour traffic. It's set on one straight road, and you simply have to swipe left and right to change lanes and avoid the cars ahead of you. You can also speed up and slow down by swiping back and forward, and you get more points the faster you go.



Games

Infinity Blade

Company Epic Games **URL** www.epicgames.com **Price** £3.99

★★★★★



Infinity Blade is a sort of on-rails adventure in which you fight numerous one-on-one battles as you tour the God King's castle. Battles play out like the fights in Nintendo's classic Punch-Out! series: you have access to a block button and two dodge buttons, and you'll have to successfully learn and manoeuvre enemy attack patterns.

Likes Cinematic design, console quality
Dislikes 'On-rails' gameplay, graphics suffer on iPad

Air Penguin

Company Gamevil **URL** www.gamevil.com **Price** 69p

★★★★½



Navigate your penguin form ice floe to ice floe, tilting your iPhone to make sure he lands safely. Flick your phone hard enough and you can make the penguin swerve around dangerous swordfish and sharks. The tilt controls are challenging to master and can become frustrating, but there are a lot of nice touches here. We're impressed.

Likes Decent challenge, nice background and sound effects
Dislikes Potentially frustrating

Mirror's Edge for iPad

Company Electronic Arts **URL** www.ea.com/ipad **Price** £2.99

★★★★★



Mirror's Edge casts you as a 'runner' in a dystopian future, where the only way to fight the oppressive government is to leg it round the city jumping from roof to roof, and climbing up and down buildings. Essentially a futuristic free-running simulation, Mirror's Edge offers simple but engaging gameplay and lush visuals.

Likes Simple gameplay with polish and great production
Dislikes Short, pricey, inside levels can be frustrating

Zen Bound

Company Chillingo **URL** www.chillingo.co.uk **Price** £1.99

★★★★★



Zen Bound is an exciting title in that it simply wouldn't work on any other platform. It's a puzzle game in which you have to wrap rope round a wooden shape. You use the iPhone's accelerometer and touch screen to cover the shape in rope. Once you've covered 70 per cent of the shape, you're on to the next level. Engrossing.

Likes Innovative controls, challenging, great visuals and audio
Dislikes Slow pace may not appeal to gaming junkies

Starfront – Collision

Company Gameloft **URL** www.gameloft.co.uk **Price** £2.99/£4.99

★★★★★



If the game's name doesn't already ring a bell, the gameplay certainly will. Each of the 20 missions follows a narrated story. The gameplay is typical of real-time strategy games. You'll mine minerals to construct buildings and train armies to accomplish your objectives, and before you know it you'll be completely hooked.

Likes Easy-to-use controls, 20 challenging missions
Dislikes No iPad version

Cut The Rope

Company Chillingo **URL** www.chillingo.co.uk **Price** 69p

★★★★★



Cut The Rope is a brilliant physics game that utilises the touchscreen control system perfectly. The idea is to feed sweets to a little monster called Om Nom, who lives in various boxes. Sweets dangle from ropes, and you have to swipe them to set off the physics puzzles. Maddeningly addictive and endlessly amusing – 59p well spent.

Likes Addictive gameplay, clever puzzles, surprisingly complex
Dislikes None

Modern Combat: Sandstorm

Company Gameloft **URL** www.gameloft.co.uk **Price** £2.99

★★★★½



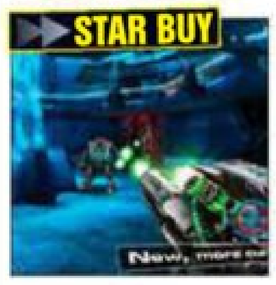
With Modern Combat: Sandstorm, the first-person shooter genre on the iPhone takes a massive step forward, then trips over its shoelaces. Graphics, controls and combat gameplay are all top-notch, but it sadly also suffers from sync issues, bugs, terrible dialogue and a rushed plot. It's still the best of its kind on the platform, though.

Likes Fantastic control scheme, great visuals
Dislikes Dreadful voice acting, infrequent check-points

N.O.V.A. 2

Company Gameloft **URL** www.gameloft.co.uk **Price** £4.99

★★★★★



With its story of alien-human warfare and various intergalactic mysteries, N.O.V.A. 2 doesn't break new ground in terms of plot for an FPS. But it takes advantage of iPhone 4's gyroscopes, allowing you to look around by just moving your phone, as if it were a window into the game's reality. Gameplay consists of selecting a weapon and shooting.

Likes Innovative controls, great production
Dislikes Depth of field could do with more detail

Space Invaders Infinity Gene

Company TAITO **URL** www.taito.com **Price** £2.99

★★★★★



Within seconds of firing up this unique version of Space Invaders and blowing away a few lines of encroaching aliens, it starts evolving – eventually resembling the bullet hell of Ikaruga. Infinity Gene is easily the iPhone/iPod touch's best shooter – it has classic Space Invaders gameplay coupled with a uniquely changing gaming backdrop.

Likes Varied gameplay, great visuals
Dislikes Can feel a bit stop-start

Grand Theft Auto: Chinatown Wars

Company Rockstar Games **URL** www.rockstargames.com **Price** £6.99

★★★★½



Bringing the GTA world of violence, cops, drugs and guns to your Apple handheld, Chinatown Wars is a lot deeper than most App Store games. Experienced GTA hands will notice that it pretty much matches the PSP and DS versions, which makes the iPhone version's £6.99 price tag an absolute steal.

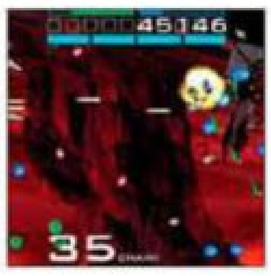
Likes Plenty of missions, good story, difficulty means longevity
Dislikes Controls can be fiddly and awkward, camera issues

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Assault Squadron

Company Chillingo **URL** www.chillingo.co.uk **Price** 69p



Assault Squadron is an old-school shooter, harking back to the golden age of arcade gaming – it's a vertical-scrolling action game with great graphics, intense gameplay, and just the right amount of explosions. It's challenging and engaging to play, and its oppressive trance soundtrack creates a fun factor that makes it a must-have.

Likes Good soundtrack and gameplay
Dislikes Very challenging

The Magic Labyrinth

Company Kiddinx **URL** iphone.avatarlabs.com **Price** £1.99/£3.99



The Magic Labyrinth is based on the popular German board game of the same name. This iPhone/iPod touch port features beautiful artwork along with a challenge to tease your brain – you must work your way through the labyrinth and collect symbols, but there's a catch: the walls are invisible.

Likes Wonderful artwork, addictive
Dislikes Gameplay may be too simple for some

Galaxy On Fire 2

Company Fishlabs **URL** www.galaxy-on-fire.com **Price** £6.99

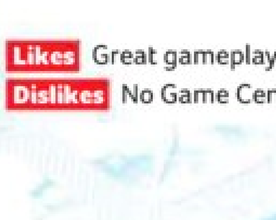


Galaxy On Fire 2 puts rip-roaring space combat in the palm of your hand. If you liked the old space trading and shooting game Elite, then you'll be familiar with the format – travel the galaxy buying and selling goods, and shoot down enemies while you fly between planets. It just falls short of full-on console gaming, but it's a fun throwback.

Likes Amazing visual effects, deep gameplay
Dislikes Memory-hungry, recommends a reset before you play

Blades of Fury

Company Gameloft **URL** www.gameloft.co.uk **Price** £2.99

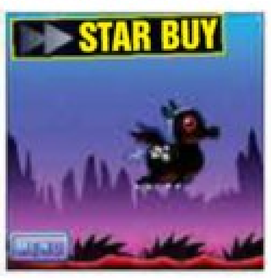


Dedicated followers of fighting games will recognise the debt Blades of Fury owes to some console classics, but it's still a top fighting title. The multiplayer function is perhaps the game's biggest selling point – Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity allow you to battle foes wirelessly. Intuitive controls and great graphics, too.

Likes The first decent multiplayer fighting game, great graphics
Dislikes Controls can be clunky, voice acting and plot is woeful

Unpleasant Horse

Company 4th & battery **URL** www.4thandbattery.com **Price** Free



You're a cute little horse with wings and a bad attitude. Occasionally a bird will fly by; you need to steal their feathers to stay afloat. Also flying among the clouds are other horses... so you hop on to their back and push them into the meat grinders waiting below. That's all there is to it: just good, wicked, pony-pulverising fun.

Likes Great gameplay, fun sense of humour
Dislikes No Game Center integration

Squareball

Company Drömsynt **URL** www.dromsynt.com **Price** 69p



Combine Pong, Breakout and a horizontally scrolling platform game and you might end up with something a bit like Squareball. 'Drag' the landscape left and right, and collect green blocks to complete stages, avoiding holes and hazards. It's insanely difficult, but if you can master it Squareball is a joy to play.

Likes Brilliant design and controls, unique
Dislikes Extremely challenging

Predators

Company Chillingo **URL** www.chillingo.co.uk **Price** 69p



Licensed games have a tendency to be a bit rubbish, but Predators – an action game modelled on Robert Rodriguez's movie – offers just the right mix of authenticity, well-rounded gameplay and over-the-top violence. One interesting twist is that the game has you playing as one of the aliens, so your job is to slay the people.

Likes Responsive controls, long-lasting gameplay
Dislikes Rather gruesome – not one for the kids!

Warfare Incorporated

Company Spiffcode **URL** www.warfareincorporated.com **Price** 69p

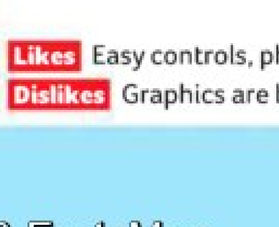


This is a classic real-time strategy game for PDAs, and now it's been translated for the iPhone. It's along the lines of Command and Conquer, in that you send off troops to make you money on the battlefield and then build up your fortresses for combat. The control system is surprisingly effective, and the gameplay engaging.

Likes Fantastic controls, excellent mission scenarios
Dislikes Functional graphics

The Sims 3 Ambitions

Company EA Mobile **URL** www.eamobile.com **Price** £1.99



Many people have learned how to interact with real people thanks to The Sims games, and while this iPhone version isn't a complete touchscreen reinvention, it is as addictive as ever. Add in a few new additions, such as the first ever opportunity to make baby Sims and a few new career paths and you've got a strong addition to the series.

Likes Addictive gameplay, now you can start a Sims family
Dislikes Not the complete reinvention we were hoping for

Super Stickman Golf

Company Noodlecake **URL** www.noodlecake.com **Price** 69p



This highly addictive game sees you play as the titular Super Stickman. There are three course packs to choose from: Classic offers 16 beginner courses; Super includes eight intermediate ones; and Expansion has five painfully advanced offerings. Each course includes nine holes, so there's a lot of gameplay packed into this game.

Likes Easy controls, physics feel right
Dislikes Graphics are basic

THREE OF THE BEST: Side-scrollers

Tiny Wings

Company Andreas Illiger
URL www.andreasilliger.com
Price 69p

TINY TEMPTER

Press the screen and the little bird stops flapping his wings and zips down the slope; release it and the flapping resumes, giving him the ability to soar through the air. The idea is to gather momentum and fly for a few glorious seconds. It's a simple idea, but Tiny Wings is sneakily challenging and frighteningly addictive.



Earth Defense Force

Company DotEmu
URL www.dotemu.com
Price £1.49

SNES CLASSIC

DotEmu has brought the classic SNES game to the iOS. Like many arcade games, this fast-paced horizontal shooter is easy to learn, yet hard to master, and features HD retro graphics and 16-bit sound. Choose between an iPhone-adapted mode or classic arcade-style – in the former, drag your finger across the screen to move your fighter.



Sonic The Hedgehog 4 Episode 1

Company Sega
URL www.sega.co.uk
Price £4.99

SUPER SONIC

Sega has been trying to mimic the success of the first three Sonic titles for years, but it wasn't until it went back to the side-scrolling basics that the game returned to form. Mega Drive fans won't be disappointed.



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THREE OF THE BEST:

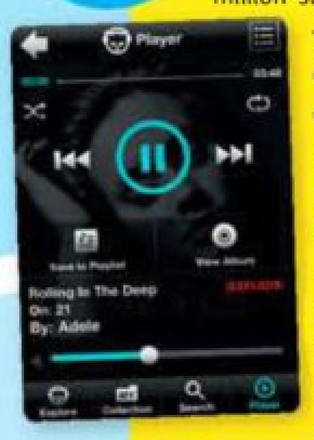
Music streaming services

Napster

Company Napster
URL www.napster.co.uk
App price Free
Subscription €10 per month

★★★★★

TUNES ON THE GO



Napster offers the ability to stream tracks from its 15 million-strong catalogue, which it claims covers every genre. Users can create their own personalised playlists, choose from ready-made radio stations or get recommendations, and a Napster library can be accessed from an iPhone using the free app.

Spotify

Company Spotify
URL www.spotify.com/uk
App price Free
Subscription €10 per month

★★★★★

HITS THE SPOT



Spotify allows users to listen to 13 million tracks on their iPhone via the £10-per-month Spotify Premium service. Tracks can be stored locally, which means you can listen to them even when you haven't got a web connection, or if you don't want to waste 3G data, and although the iPhone app is limited to a bitrate of 160kbit/s, music via Spotify tends to sound better than the tracks you've ripped into iTunes.

TuneIn Radio Pro

Company Synsion Radio Technologies
URL www.tunein.com
App price 69p
Subscription Free

★★★★½

RADIO STAR



Rather than playing specific tracks or artists, TuneIn Radio Pro streams – and lets you record – radio stations from around the world. We wish it was easier to browse for shows and stations, and bitrates are variable. But at just 69p for the ad-free Pro version of the app and no monthly subscription fee, this service is a great addition to your iTunes collection.

Apps

Animation Creator HD

Company Red Software **URL** www.red-software.com **Price** €1.49

★★★★½



Hand-drawn animation on a digital device may seem a bit backward, but that's what you get from Animation Creator. The workflow is the same as in the real world – you draw a frame, then repeat with slight changes. It supports 'onion skinning', which allows you to see the previous frame under the current frame.

Likes Supports onion skinning, good range of tools
Dislikes Misses out on features found in the iPhone version

Google Places STAR BUY

Company Google **URL** www.google.com/mobile/places **Price** Free

★★★★½



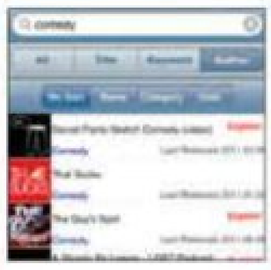
This app is a customisable, easy-to-use method of searching your iPhone for nearby pubs, bookshops and other types of business. Select a category and the app displays nearby results, along with their distance and direction. It also shows them on an integrated map, but sometimes it takes you to the Maps app instead, which can be mildly annoying.

Likes Enormously informative, clean interface, easy to use
Dislikes Sometimes having to flip between this app and Maps

iCatcher! STAR BUY

Company Joeisanerd **URL** www.joeisanerd.com **Price** €1.49

★★★★½



iCatcher makes it easy to search for podcasts you never knew existed. It lets you download or stream podcasts on your mobile device using 3G or Wi-Fi, and lets you easily search for obscure podcasts, combing through RSS feeds and non-Apple sites. You can sort search results by name, creator, category and the date of the last release.

Likes Great user experience
Dislikes You can't download one episode – series downloads only

WeatherPro

Company MeteoGroup **URL** www.weatherpro.eu **Price** £2.49/£2.99

★★★★★



Unashamedly one of our favourite and most used apps. WeatherPro picks up where Apple's built-in Weather app leaves off and keeps on running – it offers dewpoints, 'feels like' temperatures, wind speed and direction, pressure, humidity, a week's forecast, sunshine hours, rainfall, chance of rainfall... you get the idea. Superb.

Likes As much detail as you could ever need, responsive UI
Dislikes Radar not available worldwide, satellite detail level low in US

FTP On The Go

Company Headlight Software **URL** www.ftponthego.com **Price** £4.99

★★★★½



This essential tool for web designers on the go enables multiple FTP servers to be bookmarked and accessed. Text files can be downloaded, edited and replaced, and backups taken. You can also preview files in the app. It lets you store and share files on your iPhone or iPod touch, and share files over a web browser.

Likes Lots of options, built-in browser
Dislikes Can't work with multiple files with identical names

Djay

Company algoriddim **URL** www.algoriddim.com **Price** 69p/€13.99

★★★★★



Djay allows you to use your iTunes music library to create amazingly professional-sounding audio recordings – just scratch out some tunes and throw together a playlist for parties – while facilitating smooth transitions between songs. Ideal on the iPad's interface – cue up songs on the two turntables, and add scratches and blends.

Likes High-quality sounds, streams to Apple TV or AirPort Express
Dislikes Not as fully featured as the Mac version

ReaddleDocs

Company Readdle **URL** readdle.com **Price** €1.99

★★★★½



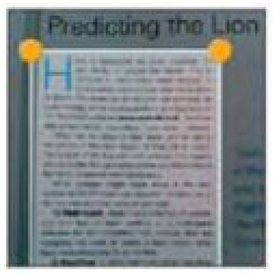
ReaddleDocs is an impressive app: it's a file editor and PDF reader, you can sync with Dropbox, Google Docs, MobileMe, FTP and SFTP servers, and it offers access to loads of other services and document types too. The iPad version is somewhat easier to get your head around than the iPhone version, thanks to the large screen.

Likes Read and edit documents on the go, works with cloud services
Dislikes Can't quite edit all file formats

ABBYY TextGrabber STAR BUY

Company ABBYY **URL** www.abbyy.com **Price** €1.19

★★★★★



TextGrabber can use the iPhone's camera to take pictures of text in documents such as books or magazines. It then reads the photo and converts it into an editable text file. The app is easy to use; simply tap to focus and then take the picture. We found TextGrabber's OCR function quick and accurate, and this is a handy timesaver.

Likes Accurate and easy to use, good timesaver
Dislikes Not iPad-compatible

FlipTime

Company omletworks **URL** omletworks-en.blogspot.com **Price** 69p

★★★★★



This full-screen iPod/iPhone clock app resembles those old-school flip boards that were once a familiar sight at train stations and airports. The app packs in more than just retro eye candy, though – you also get a calendar, a choice of backgrounds, and the ability to set multiple alarms. It's a handy app that looks cool, too.

Likes Looks great and works a treat, alarm clock is handy
Dislikes No snooze functions for alarms

TonePad

Company LoftLab **URL** www.tonepadapp.com **Price** Free

★★★★★



Superficially similar in appearance to Yamaha's TNR-i app (priced £11.99), TonePad is a fantastic musical toy. It constantly loops, playing notes that you light on a grid by touch. Sharing, editing, and saving options exist, and the 69p 'Pro' version can export your creations as ringtones. It's simple, relaxing and easy to use.

Likes An untaxing and distracting app, easy to use
Dislikes Only one included sample set

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Propellerhead ReBirth

Company Propellerheads **URL** www.rebirthapp.com **Price** €10.49

★★★★½



Essentially, ReBirth is a suite of sequencers: loop-playing machines that let you draw in musical notes while they're playing. It's easy to get started, and sound quality is great. The knobs and buttons are a bit fiddly, but if you want to produce electronic music with your iPad this is one of the few essential apps.

Likes Great sounds, simple to get started, AudioCopy support
Dislikes No high-res export, interface too detailed for touchscreen

CoPilot Live UK & Ireland

Company ALK Technologies **URL** www.copilotlive.com/uk **Price** €19.99

★★★★★



Among the cheapest sat-nav apps on the App Store, CoPilot Live is also one of the finest. For your £19.99 UK map pack (£37.99 for the whole of Europe) you get full seven-digit postcode search, as well as weather reports for your destination, and a choice of 2D and 3D map views. It also does speed camera warnings and alerts.

Likes Great price, full postcode search, handy features
Dislikes No show-stopping problems

Find My iPhone

Company Apple **URL** www.apple.com/uk **Price** Free

★★★★★



As its name suggests, this app is good for one thing: finding your iPhone. Once set up it's a breeze to enter your username and password, tap your device, and find it on a map. You can use the app to send a message to your lost phone, remotely lock your device, or erase all your data so nobody gets their hands on it.

Likes Easy to set up, shows location of your lost iOS device
Dislikes Better integration with maps would be a bonus

LogMeIn Ignition

Company LogMeIn **URL** secure.logmein.com **Price** €20.99

★★★★½



Clocking in at £20.99, LogMeIn Ignition is clearly more than your usual iPhone app. It lets you access your computer's screen on your iPhone remotely, and it's a pretty amazing experience. Sure, you have to do an awful lot of scrolling on that little display, but it has the potential to be very handy indeed. An iPad version is available, also priced at £20.99.

Likes Ability to access your home or office computer anywhere
Dislikes Requires remote computer to be turned on, no file transfers

Facebook

Company Facebook **URL** www.facebook.com **Price** Free

★★★★★



Still the social-networking standard, Facebook is a phenomenon, and now that it's available for the iPhone you'll be checking your messages and updating your status every five minutes. The app lets you send and receive messages, search, request and approve friends, and even chat live over any of the iPhone's networks.

Likes Loads of functionality, clean interface, live chat works well
Dislikes Doesn't have full functionality of the desktop site

Sketchbook Mobile

Company Autodesk **URL** www.autodesk.co.uk **Price** €1.49

★★★★½



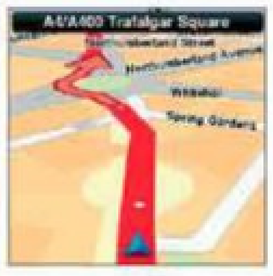
Sketchbook Mobile is a drawing app that excels in skilled hands. The various tools are easy to access, and it's a really fun app to use. It gives you 10 layers of undo, and can zoom to 2,500 per cent for fine detail work. You can also paint on layers – six layers are supported on the iPhone 4 and 3GS, or three on the 3G.

Likes Layers and undo support, export to Photoshop, easy to use
Dislikes Fiddly to change brush sizes

TomTom Uk & Ireland

Company TomTom **URL** www.tomtom.com **Price** €49.99

★★★★½



TomTom is the best known name in sat-nav technology, so the iPhone version was hotly anticipated. It largely delivers, too – TomTom's IQ Route technology, which calculates the best route based on the time of day as well as all the usual factors, is included. A very solid sat-nav performer that's been updated to support multitasking.

Likes Updated for iOS 4, excellent maps and clear instructions
Dislikes One of the pricier sat-nav options

Twitterrific for Twitter

Company The Iconfactory **URL** www.twitterrific.com **Price** Free

★★★★½



Twitter has taken social networking to a whole new level, and at the moment there are hundreds of apps that let you tweet on your iPhone or iPod touch. Twitterrific is one of the App Store's best Twitter facilitators, as it provides integration with twitpic.com, so you can take a photo and upload automatically.

Likes TwitPic integration, simple yet powerful interface
Dislikes Single tweet view is a waste of time, no tweet filtering

Things

Company Cultured Code **URL** culturedcode.com **Price** €6.99/€13.99

★★★★½



Things is a handy task manager that aims to help you get stuff done at work and at home. It has a desktop counterpart for the Mac, and the iPhone (and iPad) versions sync with the Mac version to keep you up to date. It has a simple way of noting down to-dos, and lets you sort them into order later. Very handy.

Likes Simple to use, desktop add-on, powerful
Dislikes Quite expensive, especially if you also get the Mac version

CameraBag

Company Nevercenter **URL** www.nevercenter.com **Price** €1.49

★★★★½



A collection of nine photo filters to give the iPhone's camera a boost, CameraBag lets you add preset edits to your snaps. You can apply settings to a new photo taken via the CameraBag app, or apply filters to photos already in your photo library. The effects are high quality, and add a bit of fun to iPhone photography.

Likes Excellent-quality effects, easy to use
Dislikes Advanced effects can be inflexible

THREE OF THE BEST: iWork for iPad

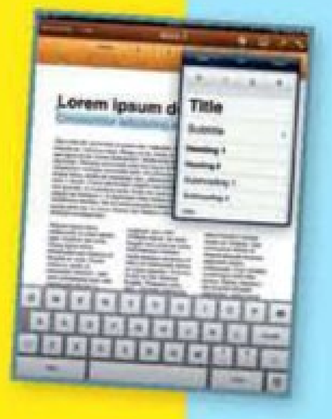
Pages

Company Apple
URL www.apple.com/uk
Price €6.99

★★★★½

LOST FOR WORDS

Apple's word-processing app makes the easiest transition to the iPad, and after its 1.1 update it works a lot better in landscape mode. Pages works best with the keyboard dock, as the onscreen keyboard is functional but a chore to use. It'll be a lot more realistic to write documents when multitasking is enabled on the iPad.



Numbers

Company Apple
URL www.apple.com/uk
Price €6.99

★★★½★

CLEAN SHEETS

Spreadsheets are made a lot easier by Apple's Numbers application on the Mac. Whereas Microsoft Excel is a chore to learn, Numbers is a breeze. However, on the iPad, it has a steep learning curve, thanks to a raft of contextual functions. It's no match for the desktop version, but potentially useful nonetheless.



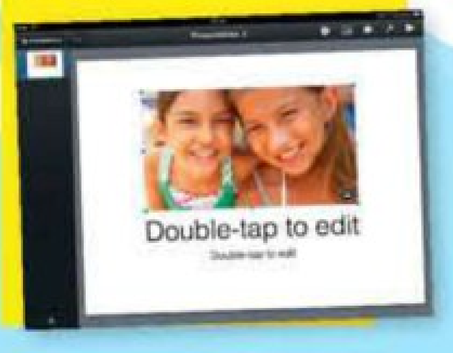
Keynote

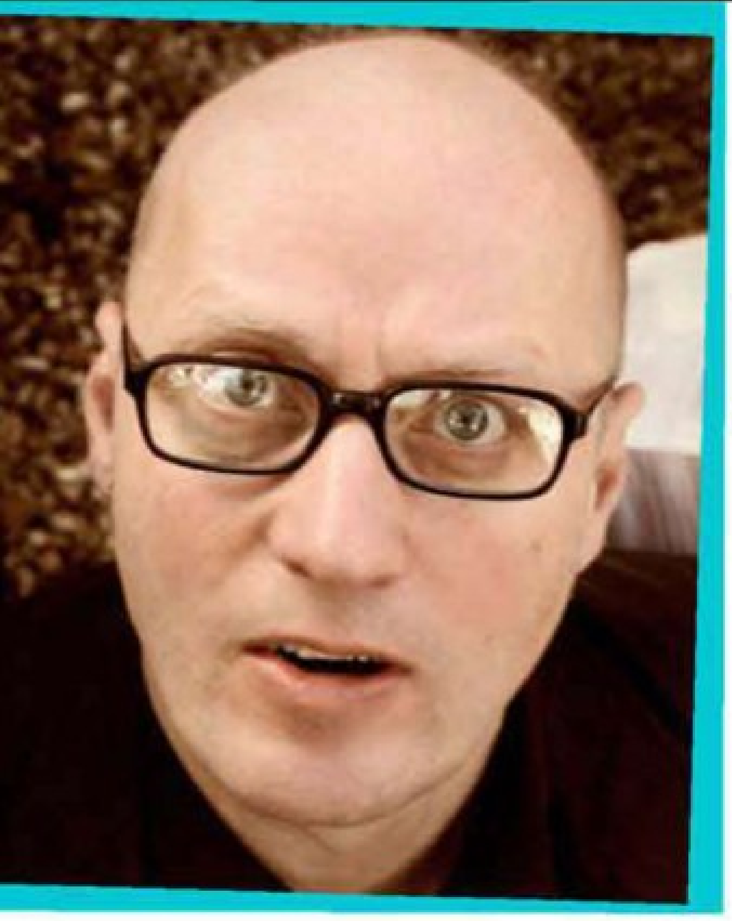
Company Apple
URL www.apple.com/uk
Price €6.99

★★★½★

SLIDE AWAY

Keynote, Apple's answer to PowerPoint, is an intuitive presentation application on the Mac, but the iPad version suffers as a result of being stripped down a little too much. From a slide-design perspective, the iPad's touchscreen is perfect, and the app flashes up guides and rulers for maximum polish on your designs. However, there are problems with importing fully featured presentations from the Mac.





Adrian Edmondson

Punk comedian turned folk star

The writer, director, actor, Comic Stripper, Young One and now folk-punk warrior gives us a quick guide to his career highlights, from comedy and theatre to jamming with Motörhead

By Jo Kendall

What technology do you find indispensable?

I travel around a lot. I used to take huge amounts of stuff – laptop and printer – but now the iPad has replaced most of that. My favourite app is Songify: you speak some words into it in a metronomic way and it turns them into a song. We have a lot of fun with that.

When did you start making music?

I was 14 and I got a guitar. I always had bands – it was the mid-70s and if there had been a dosser's course in music I would have subscribed to that, but there wasn't, so I did drama and played about with music on the side.

What music did you play with your bands?

We had a lot of prog in our school and a lot of rock music. Our band covered Free, Bad Company and Elton John at his rockiest. Then punk came along when I went to university and that was far too exciting.

> **"Punk made us feel we didn't have to follow what had gone before – we could do our own thing"**

What's your favourite punk album?

Never Mind The Bollocks. It was the noise we'd all been waiting for. There had been a lot of poncing about in rock music, lyrics that meant very little to anyone, and punk was fresh.

That attitude is where your comedy came from.

Yeah, Rik Mayall and I met at uni and we watched the explosion from the sidelines. We didn't immediately say, 'Ooh, there's an idea', but we were affected by it. Punk made us feel we didn't have to follow what had gone before – we could do our own thing.

And were you absorbed into a scene?

No, we had to start a scene! We set up a night in a pub in Manchester. Then we moved to London and set up the Comedy store. That's when more people started appearing and we formed the Comic Strip.

Of course music was always in the mix, like your spoof metal band Bad News, who were actually invited to play Donington Monsters of Rock in 1986...

Ah, that was an affectionate thing. Bad News was quite human and everyone in the music business really liked it. We ingratiated ourselves with a lot of bands and they all started giving me guitars – Jeff Beck, Eric Clapton. We even jammed with Motörhead.

Your drama course eventually came to good use with straight acting in Holby and so on.

I still do a bit of that, and films and plays. Rik and I did Waiting For Godot in the 90s. We thought it was the funniest play ever written. The audience didn't.

How did you start your latest venture, The Bad Shepherds?

I was with the re-formed Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band. I bought myself a mandolin, and started to play things I really liked – punk songs. Neil Innes from the Bonzos said, what you need are folk musicians. So I found some. We've been together three years.

It's amazing how heavy you can make a mandolin sound. I tell people I play thrash mandolin.



Band Ade

The Bad Shepherds' First Farewell Tour starts 27 October. See *www.thebadshepherds.com*

Adrian's 10 most-played tracks



1. **The Lunatics Have Taken Over The Asylum – Fun Boy Three**
   It's such a great lyric. Songs from that era were so adult – folk protest songs.
2. **Our House – Madness**
   Always comes across as a novelty song but it's extraordinarily poignant.
3. **Hewlett – Planxty**
   One from the 70s folk masters.
4. **Didn't Leave Nobody But The Baby – Emmylou Harris, Alison Krauss and Gillian Welch**
   It's something we sing in the van. We're big on harmonies.
5. **In Tall Buildings – John Hartford**
   Fantastic songwriter, and Gillian Welch does a great version of this too.
6. **Let England Shake – PJ Harvey**
   I've always been a fan. I've played this album through and through.
7. **You Don't Like Me – They Might Be Giants**
   Such brilliant lyrics – I wish I could write like this. It's what I strive for!
8. **Sylvia – Focus**
   From my prog rock past. I put this song on loud when I want to clear my head.
9. **Lady Of The Sea – Seth Lakeman**
   I love seeing a man just standing, scrubbing away at a fiddle. He's very buff and he has blue eyes but I won't hold that against him.
10. **Next – The Sensational Alex Harvey Band**
    It's a Jacques Brel song, just great. I was once asked to write a show based around Brel, but I'd rather leave the experts to interpret him.

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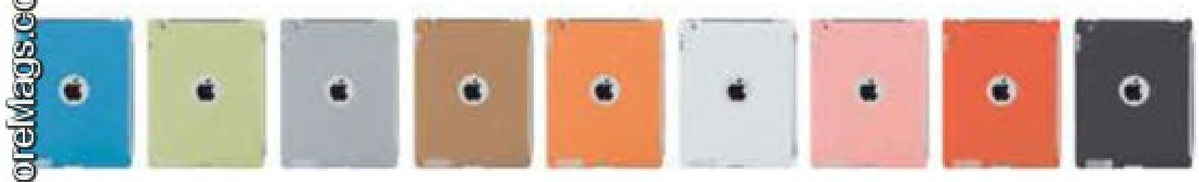
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We got your day & back covered night





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Back Covers for iPad 2



NEW HyperShield "Glow in the Dark"
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