FUTURE

iPad User Magazine

The ultimate iPad buyer's guide

Choose the right size and model of iPad for your needs!



8 amazing iPad apps!

- Customise your corner gestures
- Create a virtual library
- Control your iPad with your Mac

Welcome

to iPad User, your one-stop shop for getting more from your iPad!



Apple's latest range of iPads presents you with a tricky dilemma when it comes to choosing which iPad you should buy if you're in the market for an upgrade, because there are just too many good options!

It's a nice problem to have in some ways, but does leave you with something of a quandary. You could save some cash and get a basic iPad, but anybody who checks out the specs of the basic iPad can surely hear the sleek and powerful iPad Air calling their name. Or you could throw financial caution to the wind and splurge on a new iPad Pro, which can function almost like a MacBook when paired up with a keyboard and mouse. But then you're faced with the dilemma of which screen size to get - 11-inch or the much more generous 12.9-inch top-of-the-range model?

In this issue of iPad User we're going to help you unravel some of these complications and choose the iPad that actually fits your needs, rather than the one that's making eyes at you. It all starts with deciding what your main reason for buying it is. Find out more on page 4.

Elsewhere this issue you'll find 8 amazing iPad apps, a guide to using Universal Control, discover how to customise corner gestures and more!

Enjoy the issue and I'll see you next time for more from the world of Apple's best entertainment device.



Graham Barlow Editor

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iPhone User Magazine

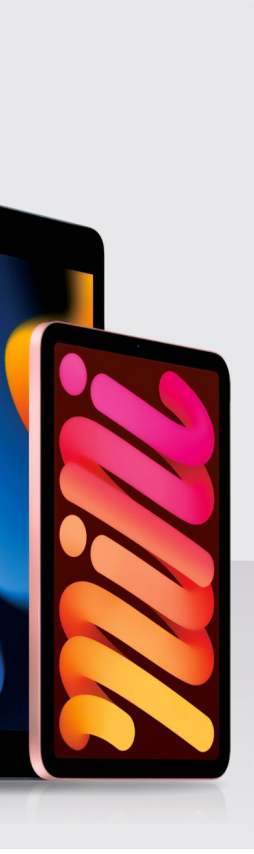


A NEW MAG FOR iPHONE LOVERS

COMING SOON



› Image credits: Apple, Inc.



The ultimate iPad buyer's guide

With a range of screen sizes and more power than ever, there's now an iPad to suit everyone's needs

Written by Cliff Joseph

When the iPad first launched in 2011, it was very much intended as a device for entertainment, rather than work, with a focus on web browsing, music, video and FaceTime. More recently, Apple has attempted to position the iPad – especially the iPad Pro – as a versatile and lightweight alternative to a laptop, providing enough graphical horsepower for serious design and video-editing work.

Last year's adoption of the M1 processor in the 11- and 12.9-inch iPad Pro – and now the 10.9-inch iPad Air in 2022 – takes the iPad into entirely new territory. A decade on from the iPad's inception, these three iPad models now provide the same levels of power as the M1-based 13-inch MacBook Pro, Mac mini or 24-inch iMac, making them a genuine alternative to a MacBook Pro or even a larger desktop Mac.

2021 saw the continuing convergence of iPadOS and macOS, with features such as Universal Control promising to make the iPad a versatile companion for your Mac. Admittedly, Universal Control only arrived with the macOS Monterey 12.3 update in March 2022, but your Mac and iPad can now share the same mouse and keyboard while you work, and even enable you to quickly drag and drop files from one device to the other.

Of course, not everyone needs a top-of-the-range iPad with M1 chip; the standard 10.2-inch iPad still provides an affordable option for entertainment and web browsing. And, for people who need to opt for an ultra-portable device, there's the iPad mini, with its 8.3-inch screen and max 297g weight.

The current iPad range really does have something for everyone, so read our Ultimate Guide to find the iPad that's right for you.

› Image credits: Apple, Inc.

Choose your size

The iPad now comes in four models with five different screen sizes

There are now four different iPad models available, ranging from the 8.3-inch iPad mini to the 12.9-inch iPad Pro. So the first thing to do when buying a new iPad is simply to decide on the screen size that you need.

The iPad mini's compact design is ideal for travelling, and the A15 Bionic chip provides plenty of power. However, the 8.3-inch display doesn't lend itself to precise graphics or video-editing work, and the small on-screen keyboard isn't ideal for typing anything longer than a few emails. It's a great option for entertainment on the go, though, from simple web browsing and ebooks, to gaming or watching a few films on a long journey.

Portable pad

If you don't need an ultra-portable design, the 10.2-inch iPad is the most affordable option. The size and weight means it's still very portable, and is great for most forms of entertainment, and it'll enable you to type up a storm in Pages, Mail or other apps. Its A13 Bionic chip is a few years old, though, and doesn't have the graphical horsepower needed for the latest games or top-level graphics apps.

The next step up in screen size is the 10.9-inch iPad Air – although this is where things get a bit tricky. The screen size and resolution of the iPad Air are very similar to those of the 11-inch iPad Pro, and both models have the same M1 chip, which provides strong performance for graphics, design and video work. However, the iPad Air is limited to 256GB storage, while the iPad Pro can go up to 2TB. The iPad Pro also includes Face ID and a Thunderbolt 4/USB 4 connector, while the iPad Air sticks with USB-C.

And, of course, the iPad Pro is also available with a 12.9-inch screen. It's the heaviest iPad of the lot, but it's still only around half the weight of an M1 MacBook Air. It has a higher screen resolution than the MacBook Air too, making it a great option for pro-level graphics work on the go.



Video values

Professional video-editing work uses a standard known as P3 – or DCI-P3 – to ensure that video files display consistent colours on a variety of different devices. Most iPad displays now support P3, so they're well suited to graphics and video work.

Aside from display resolution and storage, the screen size and weight of the iPad will play a big part in your decision process.

Display differences

The entry-level iPad has a Retina display with 2160x1620 resolution, but the latest iPad models step up to newer Liquid Retina technology. A Liquid Retina display increases the screen resolution to the point where you can't see the individual pixels on the screen anymore – up to 2732x 2048 in the 12.9-inch iPad Pro. This provides visual quality that is similar to, well, reading an issue of a magazine printed on paper.

The screen size and resolution of the iPad Air are very similar to those of the 11-inch iPad Pro

Image credits: Apple, Inc.

Which processor?

The chips in the latest iPads are as powerful as those in desktop Macs



The 12.9-inch iPad Pro boasts the M1 processor, making it a great choice for graphics work.

The CPU – central processing unit – is the heart of any computing device, providing the speed and power that it needs to perform a variety of tasks. For many years, the iPad was limited in power compared to the various desktop and laptop Macs, as the iPad's compact design simply couldn't handle the power-hungry Intel processors used in the Mac range, or the heat generated by those powerful processors either.

All that changed when Apple began to develop its own range of Apple silicon chips, starting with the M1 system-on-a-chip (SoC) used in most of the latest Macs. Apple also introduced the M1 to the iPad range with the 11-inch and 12.9-inch iPad Pro in 2021, which meant that the iPad Pro could now provide the same impressive performance as the M1-based MacBook Pro, Mac mini and 24-inch iMac. The iPad Air was also updated recently, gaining its own M1 processor in early 2022. However, the current ninth-gen iPad and sixth-gen iPad mini still have older A-series processors, so it's worth thinking about your choice of processor when choosing a new iPad.

The ninth-gen iPad is very much the affordable, entry-level option, and is powered by an A13 Bionic chip that is a few years old now. It's no weakling, as the A13 Bionic is a 6-core processor running at 2.6GHz, along with an 8-core Neural Engine that handles advanced machine learning tasks, such as the Live Text feature introduced with iPadOS 15. That's more than adequate for routine tasks such as web browsing, watching films and video, or doing some office work with Pages or Numbers. However, the A13 Bionic lacks the graphical horsepower of newer processors, so it won't be able to handle the latest 3D games, or high-end graphics or video work.

Different league

There's a similar Bionic chip in the current sixth-gen iPad mini, although the mini steps up to the more recent A15 Bionic. This is a 6-core chip running at 2.9GHz, with a more powerful 16-core Neural Engine. It's also backed by a 5-core GPU that provides extra power for demanding graphics tasks, which means that the little iPad mini can provide surprisingly strong all-round performance for such a compact device.

However, the M1 chip used in the latest iPad Air and iPad Pro is in a different league entirely, with Apple claiming that the M1 iPad Pro models provide 50% faster CPU performance than previous versions, and 40% faster graphics performance. This means that the current iPad Air and Pro provide a genuine alternative to conventional laptop and desktop Macs (such as the MacBook Air) because they're now using the very same processors as the Mac for the first time.

Put a SoC in it

The M1 processor is known as a system-on-a-chip (SoC) as it includes all the main components of a powerful computer system combined together on a single chip. The M1 processor includes an 8-core CPU running at 3.2GHz, with four of those being high-performance cores for handling the most power-intensive tasks, along with four 'efficiency' cores that can handle more routine tasks without draining the iPad's battery too much. The M1 has a 16-core Neural Engine, and also adds an 8-core GPU (graphics processing unit) to provide extra power for demanding games, graphics and video work.

> Image credits: Apple, Inc.

iPad cameras

Neglected in the past, iPad cameras have had big updates recently

While the iPad can't quite match the Hollywood ambitions of the iPhone 13 Pro, with its three cameras and telephoto lens, it's no slouch when it comes to high-quality video and photography.

The cinematic baby of the group is the ninth-gen iPad, whose rear camera provides a relatively modest 8-megapixel (MP) resolution, which only allows it to record 1080p HD video at 25-30 frames per second (fps).

However, all other iPad models can now record 4K video, with the iPad Air and iPad mini providing wide-angle 12MP rear cameras that can record super-smooth video at up to 60fps. The two iPad Pro models go one step further, providing two rear cameras – a 12MP wide-angle camera and a 10MP ultra-wide camera that provides 122° field of view. The iPad Pro also offers 2x optical zoom, while other iPads are limited to less effective digital zoom only.

The front camera on the iPad has been a little underpowered in the past – it took Apple ages to ditch the ageing 720p cameras used on many Macs and iPads – but it has had a number of improvements recently. This reflects the 'new normal', which sees many people now working from home and using FaceTime or Zoom for video calls with family, friends or work colleagues.



The rear cameras on the latest iPad models offer such a vast improvement over earlier incarnations in terms of stills and video.

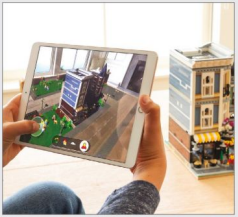
All five current iPad models now have a 12MP ultra-wide front camera to provide a good field of view for video calls. Video resolution is still only 1080p for all models, but they can all record at 60fps. The iPad Pro can also use Face ID with its front camera in order to unlock the device.

LiDAR, AR and VR

The LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) sensor used by the rear cameras of the iPad Pro and recent iPhones is a key part of Apple's grand plans for the future of AR and VR technology.

The LiDAR sensor helps to improve camera performance in low-light conditions, but it can also calculate depth within an image or scene. This is similar to the TrueDepth technology used with the front-facing camera to map the contours of your face so that you can use Face ID to unlock the iPad Pro or an iPhone.

However, the LiDAR sensor is more precise than Face ID as it uses lasers to bounce rays of light off objects and measure their distance from the camera. This enables you to shoot photos and videos that contain accurate 3D data, which can then be used in AR and VR apps – all ready for Apple's long-awaited VR headset.



The LiDAR sensor used by the rear cameras of the iPad Pro will play a significant role in Apple's AR/VR future.



Centre Stage

As well as updating the iPad's front camera to improve the quality of video calls, the current iPad range can all use Apple's Centre Stage feature too.

Centre Stage uses machine learning technology to automatically pan the camera and keep you in the centre of the image at all times. This enables you to put the iPad down and move around, perhaps while giving a presentation to colleagues or clients at work. If someone else enters the image, Centre Stage can also zoom out to make sure that both of you are kept in view.

› Image credits: Apple, Inc.

Accessories

Expand your iPad's abilities with the latest accessories and add-ons



Apple accessories come at a premium price, but they do of course work like a dream with your iPad.

As we've mentioned, the iPad is a tremendously versatile device, but most iPad owners still need to buy an assortment of cables and adaptors in order to connect the iPad to other non-Apple devices.

Apple makes its own range of cables and adaptors, with options such as its Digital AV adaptors (£49-£79) for HDMI displays and TVs proving essential for many. Apple's accessories are expensive, though, so it's worth exploring alternatives from companies such as Belkin, which makes a wide range of Lightning and USB-C adaptors that enable the iPad to work with external displays, wired Ethernet networks, and audio devices.

Just in case

Folio Cases are one of the most popular purchases for any owner of a new iPad, providing wrap-around protection for both the back panel and the front screen.

Apple has two options; the basic Smart Cover (£45-£99), or the Smart Keyboard Folio with built-in keyboard (£159-£329).

Apple cases are expensive though, and there are some great alternatives, such as the rugged Defender cases from Otterbox (£59-£89.99), or Logitech's Keyboard Folio cases with built-in trackpad (£89.95-£199.95).



Of course, many iPad owners also have an iPhone, as well as AirPods and an Apple Watch, and we've seen some great multi-charger devices, such as the BaseLynx from Scosche (£139.95) and Kensington's StudioCaddy (£125), which can charge multiple mobile devices at the same time.

Adding extra kit

Beyond basic chargers and adaptors, you'll no doubt want accessories and devices that can improve your productivity when working with an iPad. The Apple Pencil (£89/£119) has been a great success, proving popular for graphics and design work, and iPadOS now works with Bluetooth mice and keyboards, so popular models such as Logitech's MX range for the Mac will also work with the iPad too; in fact, Logitech had a feature similar to Apple's 'innovative' new Universal Control about five years ago.

It's also worth remembering that the USB-C and Thunderbolt ports used on the iPad mini, Air And Pro enable you to connect USB storage devices for backing up your work files too. And if you really want to go to town, you can buy a device such as Kensington's StudioDock (£369.99), which turns your iPad Air or Pro into a proper desktop computer, with a multi-charger for the iPad and other devices, multiple USB ports, headphone socket, SD card reader, Ethernet port, and HDMI for an external display.

Compatibility

As well as coming in five different sizes, the iPad range includes a range of connectors for charging and accessories. The entry-level iPad still has a Lightning connector, while the iPad mini and Air have USB-C ports. The iPad Pro now has Thunderbolt 4/USB 4, which still uses the oval-shaped USB-C connector, so that's compatible with many accessories that also use USB-C. However, it's essential to check the compatibility info provided by accessory manufacturers first.

Connectivity
Wi-Fi and 4G/5G

You're always online and connected with the latest iPads

Most iPad models now support the latest Wi-Fi 6 standard, with only the entry-level iPad still using the older Wi-Fi 5 (formerly known as 802.11ac). However, mobile broadband – referred to as cellular in the US – is an optional extra that costs £120-£150, depending on which model you're buying.

The iPad draws the short straw, only offering 4G LTE support for mobile broadband. In the UK, the Uswitch comparison website reports that the EE network provides the best 4G performance with average download speeds of 20-30Mbps. All other current iPad models support 5G mobile broadband, which currently provides average speeds of around 150Mbps. However, speeds vary a lot depending on your network provider and coverage in different parts of the country.

If you buy a 'cellular' iPad model then it will have a slot for a nano-SIM card that works with most mobile broadband networks. Current iPads also contain an eSIM though, which is a small chip that can work just like a SIM card in order to connect to mobile phone and broadband networks.

Ordinary SIM cards are locked to individual networks, like Vodafone or EE in the UK, so if you travel to another country, or simply want to switch to a different network, then you have to go to the hassle of getting a new SIM card to install in the iPad.

An eSIM is generally a better solution – especially when travelling – as it can work with many different mobile networks. However, not all networks currently work with eSIM technology! So you should check on eSIM compatibility before you go travelling. Find out more at apple.co/3NNhs86.



Apart from the entry-level iPad, all other models now support Wi-Fi 6.

How much storage?

Apple can be really annoying at times. The iPad, iPad mini and iPad Air all start with just 64GB of built-in storage – which really isn't enough. This means you're pretty much forced to pay around £140 to upgrade to 256GB. However, that's the maximum storage available for those iPad models, so if you need more than 256GB of storage, you'll have to pay for a top-of-the-range iPad Pro. The iPad Pro can be upgraded to 512GB, 1TB and even 2TB – although that 2TB option weighs in at almost £2,000.

But don't forget that the iPad mini, Air and Pro now have USB-C ports, which enable you to connect an external USB drive or a flash drive. It's not an elegant solution, but it's a lot cheaper than Apple's storage upgrades.



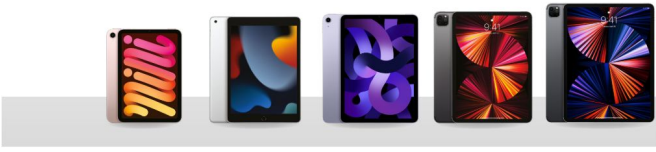
Consider what you want to do with your iPad the most. If it's editing photos and videos, plenty of storage is a must.

iCloud storage

There's one other option for adding some extra storage to your iPad – or any other Apple device for that matter.

As well as features like Hide My Email, all iCloud+ subscriptions include a certain amount of online storage too. They're not bad value either – 50GB of storage only costs 79p per month, while 200GB costs £2.49, and 2TB costs £6.99. Many apps, such as iMovie, enable you to store your work files on the iPad itself, or in iCloud. And, of course, files saved in iCloud can be shared with all your other Apple devices too.

› Image credits: Apple, Inc.



	iPad mini (6th gen)	iPad (9th gen)	iPad Air (5th gen)	iPad Pro 11in (3rd gen)	iPad Pro 12.9in (5th gen)
Colours	Space Grey, Starlight , Pink, Purple	Space Grey, Silver	Space Grey, Starlight , Pink, Purple, Blue	Space Grey, Silver	Space Grey, Silver
Screen size	**8.3 inch**	**10.2 inch**	**10.9 inch**	**11 inch**	**12.9 inch**
Display	Liquid Retina Display	Retina Display	Liquid Retina Display	Liquid Retina Display	Liquid Retina XDR Display
Display specification	**2266x1488**, 326ppi, P3, True Tone	**2160x1620**, 264ppi, True Tone	**2360x1640**, 264ppi, P3, True Tone	**2388x1668**, 264ppi, P3, True Tone	**2732x2048**, 264ppi, P3, True Tone
Price/storage (Wi-Fi only)	**64GB** £479 **256GB** £619	**64GB** £319 **256GB** £459	**64GB** £569 **256GB** £719	**128GB** £749 **256GB** £849 **512GB** £1,049 **1TB** £1,399 **2TB** £1,749	**128GB** £999 **256GB** £1,099 **512GB** £1,299 **1TB** £1,649 **2TB** £1,999
Mobile broadband (upgrade)	£140	£120	£150	£150	£150
Broadband connectivity	Wi-Fi 6/5G	Wi-Fi 5/4G	Wi-Fi 6/5G	Wi-Fi 6/5G	Wi-Fi 6/5G
SIM support	nano-SIM/eSIM	nano-SIM/eSIM	nano-SIM/eSIM	nano-SIM/eSIM	nano-SIM/eSIM
Rear camera	**12MP** Wide	**8MP** Wide	**12MP** Wide	**12MP** Wide + 10MP Ultra Wide	**12MP** Wide + 10MP Ultra Wide
Rear camera video recording	**4K** @ 24/25/30/60fps; 1080p @ 25/30/60fps	**1080p** @ 25/30fps	**4K** @ 24/25/30/60fps; 1080p @ 25/30/60fps	**4K** @ 24/25/30/60fps; 1080p @ 25/30/60fps	**4K** @ 24/25/30/60fps; 1080p @ 25/30/60fps
Front camera	**12MP** Ultra Wide, Centre Stage	**12MP** Ultra Wide, Centre Stage	**12MP** Ultra Wide, Centre Stage	**12MP** Ultra Wide, Centre Stage	**12MP** Ultra Wide, Centre Stage
Front camera video recording	**1080p** @ 25/30/60fps	**1080p** @ 25/30/60fps	**1080p** @ 25/30/60fps	**1080p** @ 25/30/60fps	**1080p** @ 25/30/60fps
Chip	A15 Bionic	A13 Bionic	M1	M1	M1
Charging	USB-C	Lightning, Smart Connector	USB-C, Smart Connector	Thunderbolt 4 /USB 4, Smart Connector	Thunderbolt 4 /USB 4, Smart Connector
Weight (Wi-Fi/Cellular)	293g/297g	487g/498g	461g/462g	466g/470g	682g/685g

›Image credits: Apple, Inc.

8 amazing iPad apps

Work, rest and play with these incredible apps for creativity, productivity and watchability



Learn an instrument

> fender.com, gibson.com

1 Fancy being a guitar hero? Guitar makers Fender and Gibson both offer apps that'll teach you to play like legends, and both have free trials – 7 days in the case of Fender and 14 for Gibson. They're both brilliant apps for teaching guitar (and in the case of Fender, ukulele and bass too), but before you hand over your card details make sure you check out GarageBand first.

GarageBand's Smart Instruments enable you to mess around with guitars, basses, pianos and synths, and if you go over to your Mac you can download free guitar and piano lessons too. If there's a specific song you'd like to learn, head over to ultimate-guitar.com where you'll find guitar, ukulele and piano tabs and often video too.



Edit, enhance and create amazing pictures

›pixelmator.com, affinity.serif.

3 The Photos app on your iPad has some great editing features. You can adjust the colours of your images, crop and adjust them and use filters to get some nice retro effects, and so on.

But if you want to get really creative with digital images, Pixelmator or Affinity Photo deserve a place on your iPad. They're both incredibly cheap – £19.49 for Affinity Photo and £4.49 for Pixelmator – and they're packed with pro-grade features for retouching, editing, enhancing and drawing all kinds of images. Both have Mac equivalents but these apps are great on iPads, especially if you have an Apple Pencil, and they're bargains considering what they're capable of.

Learn to DJ

›algoriddim.com/djay-ios

2 Fancy spinning the (quite small) wheels of steel? The excellent dJay (Free, offers IAPs) app turns your iPad into high-tech turntables, and being able to physically control the tracks with the touchscreen makes it feel even more intuitive than on the Mac. dJay makes it easy to mix, add effects and can also auto-DJ for you.



Play Xbox games

›xbox.com

4 For all the joys of the App Store and Apple Arcade, some of the best games ever made are only for PC or console. But if you have a Microsoft Game Pass subscription (from £7.99/month) you can use Microsoft's cloud gaming to play them on iPad. Cloud Gaming works on iPhone too but it's better on the iPad's bigger screen.

› Image credits: Fender Musical Instruments Corp, Pixelmator Team, algoriddim GmbH

Have a virtual movie night

5 **Want to watch a movie with family or friends but can't be together?** SharePlay, added to FaceTime in iOS 15.1, enables you to watch Apple TV or listen to music while sharing a FaceTime call. You all enjoy the same content at the same time, and you can use Messages to chat or comment by text.



Make your own beats

6 **Other music apps are available, but if you haven't already experimented with it you'll be delighted to discover GarageBand is great for making beats for any genre of music.**

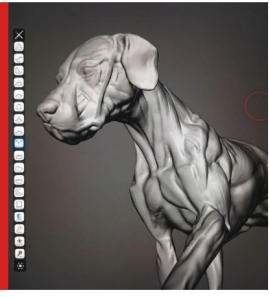
GarageBand has three options you can use, so you can build beats from pre-recorded loops; you can build beats using the Beat Sequencer; and you can build beats by using the Drummer tool, which uses samples of real musicians and enables you to pick not just what they play but how they play it too. You can choose between a collection of different drum kits and electronic drums, between different drums, and from GarageBand's extensive library of loops too. We've lost count of how many hours we've spent on GarageBand making all kinds of exciting drum tracks.

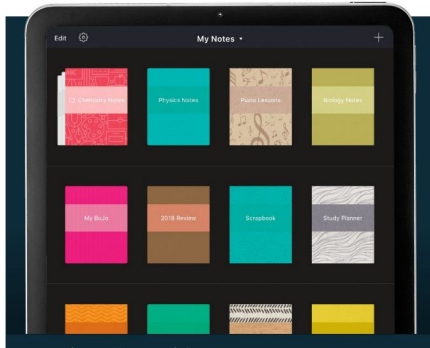
Sculpt in 3D

›maxon.net/forger

7 **Most of the artistic type apps we've looked at so far are for working in just two dimensions.**

With Forger you can use your iPad to create virtual sculptures in three dimensions. It's fun to experiment with while powerful enough for professional use, and at £1.79 a month it's really cheap for a pro-level app.





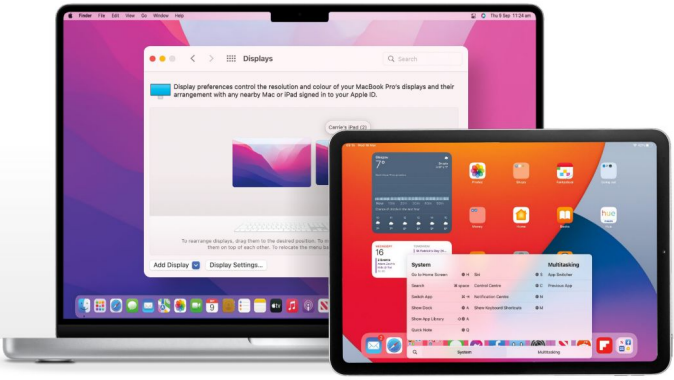
Organise all your ideas

›noteshelf.net

8 **If you're a student or just need an app that's really good for taking all kinds of notes, Noteshelf (£8.99) will help organise your ideas on your iPad.**

You can make notes by handwriting them, typing them or recording them; you can record meetings or lectures; you can mark up PDFs and presentations; and you can even search handwritten notes. It ties in with all the major cloud services and uses iCloud to sync between devices, and you can create voice notes using Apple Watch. While Noteshelf works without accessories, adding an Apple Pencil or similar stylus takes things to a new level, turning your iPad into the smartest, most flexible notepad around.

›Image credits: Maxon Computer GmbH, Noteshelf



Master Universal Control

Control everything on your iPad with your Mac

IT WILL TAKE
› 5 minutes

YOU WILL LEARN
› How to control your iPad with your Mac

YOU'LL NEED
› macOS 12.3+ and iPadOS 15.4+

It's very easy to set up Universal Control and it works brilliantly

The much-delayed Universal Control finally rocked up in March 2022. It builds on Sidecar, which can turn your iPad into an extra Mac display, but this time it keeps the iPad as an iPad: it enables you to connect an iPad or Mac and control them with the same keyboard and mouse, and you can also drag and drop between them. It feels a bit like magic.



Universal Control enables you to work your iPad just as though it was a Mac, so here we're right-clicking on the Safari icon to see all its options.

In order to use Universal Control, you'll need to take care of a few things first. The iPad or Mac you're adding must be running the latest iPadOS or macOS, which at the time of writing is iPadOS 15.4 or macOS 12.3. Your devices all need to be logged into the same iCloud account. And unless you're connecting an iPad via USB you need to have Bluetooth, Wi-Fi and Handoff enabled; those things are all on by default but you can check on your iPad in Settings › General › AirPlay & Handoff.

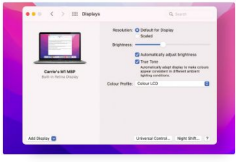
Know your limits

As we'll discover, it's very easy to set up Universal Control and it works brilliantly. But it's important to know that there are a few limitations too. Mac trackpad gestures don't currently work on iPad over Universal Control, and if you're dragging things to your iPad you need to be dragging them into an open app – so for example if you're dragging an image across you'd need to drag it and drop it onto Photos, not on the Home Screen.

Carrie Marshall

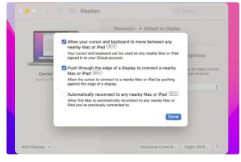
› Image credits: Ampify Music.

HOW TO Set up Universal Control



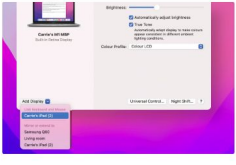
1 Select the device

With macOS 12.3 installed on your Mac, go to System Preferences > Displays. In this tutorial we'll work with a solo MacBook Pro, but Universal Control is still available if you also have an external display.



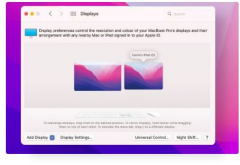
2 Choose your control

Click on Universal Control and you should see these options. For best results you'll want to ensure that the first two are both checked. This enables you to move seamlessly between devices that share the same iCloud account.



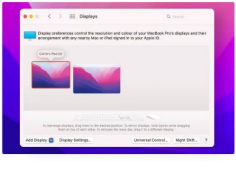
3 Add your device

Now we need to click on the Add Display drop-down at the lower left of the Displays window. This will give you a list of available devices, and it's in two sections: 'Link Keyboard and Mouse' is the one we want here.



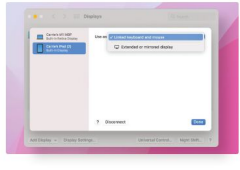
4 Move it around

The Displays window will now show two screens: your Mac's, and the iPad or Mac you've added. By default the new arrival sits to the right of the main display so to move your cursor across just keep moving to the right.



5 Relocate the device

If you'd rather have your iPad or second Mac in a different position, no problem: you can simply drag the screen position to whatever location you prefer. Here we've put our iPad to the left of our Mac.



6 Change the role

If you'd rather use your iPad as an extended display, where it acts as an extra bit of your Mac desktop instead of a remote controlled iPad, you can change its role in the same window: just click Display Settings.



Jargon buster

Handoff is Apple's technology for moving seamlessly from device to device, so you might start on your phone or iPad and continue on your Mac.

Genius tip!

In Universal Control settings, tick the 'Automatically Reconnect To Any Nearby Mac or iPad' box so you don't need to set up your device every time.



Image credits: Ampify Music.

Customise the corner gestures in iPadOS

Change the function of the corner gestures on your iPad, or even turn them off entirely

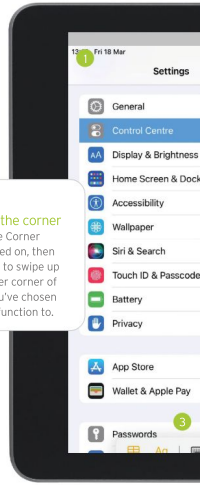
IT WILL TAKE
› 5 minutes

YOU WILL LEARN
› How to change the function of the corner gestures on iPad

YOU'LL NEED
› iPadOS 15.4

Being able to swipe from the corner of the screen to invoke the Quick Notes feature or take a screenshot has proven useful. All you need to do is swipe with your finger or Apple Pencil from the bottom-left or bottom-right corner and you can start writing and sketching, or begin editing a screenshot depending on which tool is set to appear. By default, in iPadOS 15, Quick Notes is invoked when you swipe from the right, and screenshots are taken when you swipe from the left. But what if you want them the other way around or you want just one of those features to appear from both sides? You may even want to turn the function off. With iPadOS 15.4 onwards, you can do all of this.

David Crookes



1
Swipe from the corner
If you do leave Corner Gestures turned on, then you only need to swipe up from whichever corner of the screen you've chosen to assign the function to.

HOW TO Set or turn off corner gestures ›



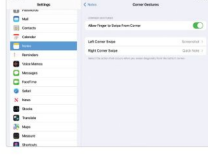
1 Launch Settings

To make changes to the corner gestures (you can turn them off or assign different functions), launch the Settings app on your iPad and tap 'Notes' from the left-side menu.



2 Tap 'Corner Gestures'

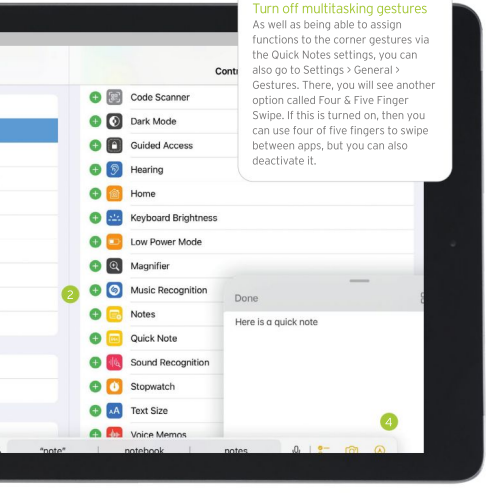
Scroll down the right-side of the screen until you reach the Quick Notes section (the corner-swipe function was designed for Quick Notes). Now, simply tap 'Corner Gestures'.



3 Turn it off

You have two main options here: you can toggle the green button at the top of the screen to turn corner gesturing off. Or you can customise what happens when you swipe.

› Image credits: Apple, Inc.



Turn off multitasking gestures

As well as being able to assign functions to the corner gestures via the Quick Notes settings, you can also go to Settings > General > Gestures. There, you will see another option called Four & Five Finger Swipe. If this is turned on, then you can use four of five fingers to swipe between apps, but you can also deactivate it.

2

Use the Control Centre

Quick Notes can also be placed within the Control Centre. If it's not there when you swipe down from the top-right corner of the screen, go to Settings > Control Centre and tap '+ Quick Note'.

3

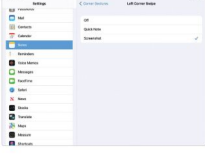
Use an external keyboard

When an iPad is connected to an external keyboard, you can press the 'Globe' and 'Q' keys together to launch Quick Notes.

4

Create a new note

If you always want to start with a new Quick Note rather than launch the last one you created, go to Settings>Notes and toggle off 'Resume Last Quick Note'.



4 Change left side

To alter the function associated with swiping from the left corner, tap 'Left Corner Swipe'. This is set to taking a screenshot but tap 'Quick Note' or 'Off' to change it.



5 Repeat for the right

Tap 'Corner Gestures' to go back and then select 'Right Corner Swipe', doing the same as before. You could, if you wish, have Quick Notes appear if you swipe either corner.



6 Try it out

Now, see if it works. If you've set the right corner to take a screenshot, for example, perform the diagonal swipe and the iPad should take a snap and present it for editing.

› Image credits: Apple, Inc.

Create a virtual library on your iPad

You can read new books for free on your iPad using your local library and the Libby app

IT WILL TAKE
10 minutes

YOU WILL LEARN
How to read new books for free on an iPad using Libby

YOU'LL NEED
An iPad



It would be easy to presume that traditional libraries are a thing of the past, but for many people, they provide a place to educate and even to socialise. If, however, you are a digitally minded person and prefer ebooks for your reading, you can actually marry a traditional library to your iPad and enjoy the best of all worlds. The only thing you need is a valid library card, which should be available for free, and then download the free Libby app at which point you can get started borrowing books digitally.

With such a large collection of books on offer you should find more than enough to keep you entertained. Libby could change the way you read books forever and it could save you a lot of money.

Shaun McGill



1

Stay entertained

Magazines can also be borrowed on the app and you can read them in a special format that improves the experience. It adds an additional, useful dimension to Libby.

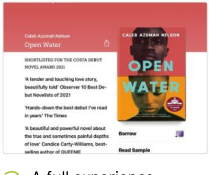
Borrow audiobooks

Audiobooks are also available in the Libby app and you can access a range of features to enjoy the content how you prefer. The ability to speed up or slow down the audio is included, alongside sleep timers and bookmarks. Libby really does have the potential to offer you the majority of the entertainment that you need.

HOW TO Borrow and read iPad books







1 Find your card

You will be asked if you own a library card when you first open the app. If needed, you will have to contact your local library to obtain a new card, which should be free.

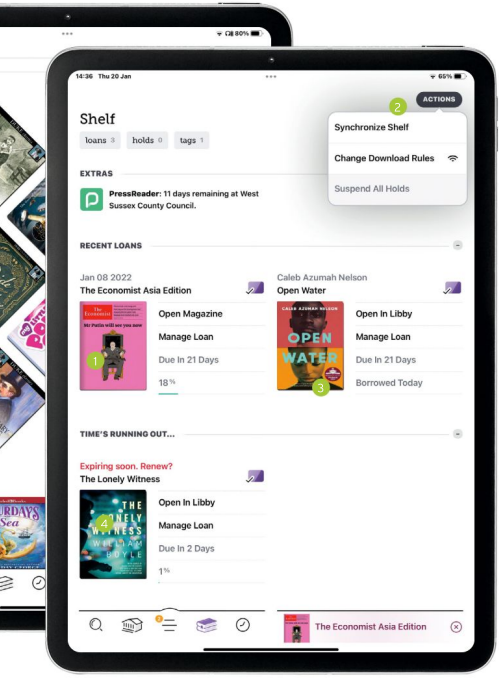
2 Browse the library

The next step, once you have validated your library card, will be to browse the available titles. There should be magazines, books and other types of content available.

3 A full experience

When you select a book you will see a full summary of what to expect, and all of the information you would see in normal online stores such as Apple Books or Kindle.

Image credits: OverDrive, Inc



2

Choose your devices

If you have Libby installed on other devices, you can synchronise reading progress and your library status automatically. You can now read anywhere you want to and on almost any device.

3

A full solution

Each book that you borrow is presented professionally and every piece of information you need is included. You can adjust the formatting to suit the way you prefer to read.

4

Timely alerts

Alerts will be sent to advise if a title is about to expire. This helps to ensure that you are reading enough and that you do so on a regular basis.



4 Borrow a book

Now click 'Borrow' to read the book in Libby. You will be shown the length of time you can borrow the book for and how many copies are available at your local library.



5 A professional experience

The reading interface and adjustable options are really useful, and easily match the features available on commercial competitors.



6 Stay informed

Magazine titles should also be available and you can choose a wide selection at one time. You will likely have up to 20 titles available to borrow in the same time period.

› Image credits: OverDrive, Inc

Pixelmator Photo 2.0

Powerful image editing, now on iPhone and iPad

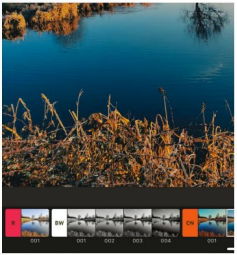
› **£6.99** › **FROM** pixelmator.com/photo › **MADE FOR** iPhone, iPad, iPod touch › **NEEDS** iOS/iPadOS 14.0 or later

Pixelmator Photo is a desktop-class image editing app from the makers of Pixelmator. Available on iPad for a while, its 2.0 incarnation is making the jump to iPhone as well.

Additionally, Pixelmator Photo is a non-destructive editing app with raw image support. Your edits aren't made to the original image, but stored in a separate file until you export a new version that has all the edits in place. It treats your original images as if they were digital negatives, without overwriting them.

In practice, what you get works rather like Lightroom on the Mac, only with extra machine learning (ML). Two ML tools present themselves immediately when you open a photo: one that "fixes" the exposure and contrast of your image, and another that increases its resolution, turning a small image into a big one without the artifacting that often comes with this operation. Does it work? Well, sort of. It makes a 10MB JPEG out of a 3MB one, but export it and zoom in 100% on a desktop app and you can see the swirls and patterns where the AI has reconstructed detail. It may work better on some images than others, though.

Elsewhere, there is AI cropping, which does a good job of identifying the subject of a photo, though it would be nice to guide it in its choice of aspect ratio. ML denoising, which attempts to remove camera noise and JPEG artifacting, is even more successful, though you have almost no control over the process. It provides a before-and-after view, and does a good job of skin, which can often be left looking like plastic in other apps.



A row of one-shot filters along the bottom allows a quick change of look.

Open the editing panel, and you get an excellent range of editing tools, from a healing brush to remove blemishes, to the Levels and Curves adjustments that can pull detail from shadows and prevent an over-bright sky from ruining an image. What it doesn't currently have is any form of masking or brushed-in adjustments, meaning when you adjust the sliders their effect is applied to the entire photo. Add this, and it will become the must-have image editor on the App Store.

Ian Evenden



The "ML" button alongside each adjustment applies it using the AI.

iPad User Magazine

VERDICT

› A powerful image editing app with potential.

★★★★☆

- ✪ Broad raw file support
- ✪ ML tools generally work
- ✪ ML up-resing is less successful
- ⊖ No masking

› Image credit: Pixelmator Team.



Total War: Medieval II

Once more into the breach, dear iPad

› **£12.99** › **FROM** feralinteractive.com › **MADE FOR** iPhone, iPad, iPod touch › **NEEDS** iOS 14/iPadOS 14 or later

iPad User Magazine VERDICT

› A big game that packs a punch

★★★★★

- ✪ Looks and sounds amazing
- ✪ Enormous tactical depth
- ⊖ Few graphics options
- ⊖ May struggle on lower-end hardware

Taking over Europe was a common pastime among royalty in the Middle Ages, it seems. They're at it again in Medieval II, which takes you from Merrie England to North Africa and Constantinople.

Total War games, with their combination of turn-based strategy and real time tactics, suit the touchscreen nicely, though they're arguably a better fit for the larger iPads. Essentially, you send armies out into an abstract map to capture territory. When they meet another army, they fight, and the game changes to a view of your army, in which you deploy units, set behavior, and take direct control to take the fight to the enemy.

It's a big game in terms of both size — 4.5GB of storage is required — and scope. It's a complete port of the Mac game minus the multiplayer, and we're promised an expansion pack down the road too. Some of the battles, particularly those in which more than two armies clash, can feel enormous, and while you can click the lock button at any time, it's not a game for a coach journey. Total War requires you to focus, and battles can go on for quite a long time.

It's not all fighting, however, with diplomacy, alliances, secret agents, and trade agreements all key to dominating the map.

A mere 15 years old, Medieval II will work on hardware going back to the iPhone 6S, and iPads as archaic as the 2014 Air and Mini. We'd recommend playing it on newer equipment — the M1 iPad Pro we played it on munching through the graphics smoothly, with occasional freezes at the end of turns when processing all the AI factions' moves. You can use a keyboard and mouse on iPad, though it cuts down on the game's portability. The streamlining tweaks made to the interface this time give it the edge over the previous release, Rome: Total War.

the bottom line. The biggest Total War yet mixes strategic scheming and bloody melee.

Ian Evenden

› **Image credit:** Feral Interactive.

Safe +

Is being "just" a password manager enough anymore?

› **£2.49 (IAPs)** › **FROM** phnsft.com/products/safe › **MADE FOR** iPhone, iPad, iPod touch Needs iOS/iPadOS 14 or later

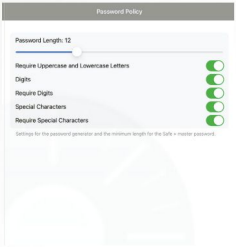
Being a password manager, and both preventing our passwords getting into nefarious hands and saving us from brain explosions as we try to recall 16 random characters just to check our email, used to be enough. Not any more. Now there's Safe +, and it's more than a password manager.

That means it backs up more, and indeed it does. It also sparks a conversation about what constitutes your most valuable data, because if you want certain things backed up, it'll cost you an IAP.

What Safe + has done is simple. It takes a couple different apps that require encryption and sticks them together, liaising with a Mac app for an Apple–only ecosystem of protection.



The main interface of the app is blank, without much hand-holding.



Passwords can be set to various levels of memorability.

So Safe + is also a secure wallet for health insurance data, images of travel documents, passports, and boarding passes. It'll hold your membership cards and store cards, even your credit cards. Spend enough on IAPs and you can securely back up your photos (free), videos, documents, and contact list.

Support for Face and Touch ID means you don't even need to remember your master password on a regular basis. A Safari Action allows you to access your encrypted data from the browser.

From the austere, blank page of the empty app you set up categories along the left–hand side, then open them to add specific items, such as credit cards, on the right. There are also templates for the most commonly–encrypted pieces of information.

Any data you put into the app is encrypted with the AES–256 algorithm, however anything you choose to share from it will be exported in unencrypted form — though you can launch Safari or the Phone app from addresses and numbers stored within it. Backup files can be made, and exported to your cloud storage via the Files app. Otherwise, Mac and iOS versions of Safe+ will sync over Wi–Fi, so your data is readily available.

More than a password manager, certainly. The IAPs aren't expensive, and the added functionality gives a sense of extra security, too.

Ian Evenden

iPad User Magazine

VERDICT

› Safe + is a great password manager and secure encryption app in one

★★★★☆

- Tough encryption
- Broad applications
- Support for Face and Touch ID
- Unwelcoming at first great

› Image credit: phnsft.



Marshall Motif ANC

Marshall brings its new noise cancellers to the table

› **£179.99** › **FROM** Zound Industries, marshallheadphones.com › **FEATURES** Active noise cancellation, touch controls, charging case, IPX5 (headphones), IPX4 (case)



The case is scratch-proof and IPX4-rated.

Mac FORMAT VERDICT

› Marshall's earbuds are packed with features, they're great to wear, and they sound fantastic (mostly)

★★★★☆

- ✪ Vibrant sound
- ✪ Wireless charging
- ✪ Weather resistance
- ⊖ Harsh at times

Marshall delivers its signature style with its new true wireless headphones – its third stab at the genre – with the Motif ANC. They're the most expensive of the bunch, but feature decent upgrades, including active noise cancelling (ANC) and a wireless charging case. Visually, they're classic Marshall fare – the case is shrouded with a mottled effect black plastic, synonymous with its legendary amps, while the earbuds – black, naturally – feature AirPod-style stems with a knurled finish, like the control knobs on its pedals.

The case is small and lightweight, with a small button for connecting the earbuds, along with a single LED for displaying the charge state. As wireless charging is built in, just place it on a Qi charger to juice it up. Alternatively, there's a USB-C port on the underside. The case feels rugged enough to sit in a bag with other items without it getting scratched – indeed, Marshall claims the case is scratch-proof. It's also IPX4-rated, which is basically splash-proof.

The earbuds have touch controls built into either side, enabling you to easily tap to pause or play, or long hold to adjust things like noise control or EQ settings. Marshall's iOS app enables you to customise the controls, and finesse other settings. The earbuds are easy to hold too, thanks to the chunky stems. In-ear, they're comfy, and easy to wear for long periods. They're also secure, so you can exercise without them coming loose. Marshall only includes three tip sizes, however, so there's less chance of a perfect fit. Neatly, when you take them out of ear they auto pause whatever's playing, and vice-versa when they go back in. An IPX5 rating means the headphones can be rinsed in water – ideal for those rainy days or sweaty workouts.

Metal matter

We were impressed with the overall audio performance of the Motif ANC – they sound sublime in the majority of tracks, with plenty of detail and lots of depth – there's a strong, though never overpowering or wobbly, low end. Perhaps ironically for a brand with its roots in rock, they perform less well for heavy metal tracks, where at times they were harsh on the ears – even at just half volume. Indeed, we found that the Headphone Level settings in iOS 15's Control Centre revealed they were triggering the safety warning when things got too hectic. The noise cancelling effect isn't huge, but works well when you're listening to music, while transparency helps to pick out ambient sounds, enabling you to stay aware without pausing tracks in busy places.

With the volume set to the midway point, and with ANC on, we got 5 hours, 17 minutes before the left headphone gave out (the right one stopped working 20 minutes later). That's impressive, given Marshall claims 4.5 hours. That rises to about 20 hours for overall usage with the charging case. We're also impressed with the recharge time – we found it took just under an hour to get the earbuds to 90%.

Nicholas Odantzis

› Image credit: Zound Industries

iPad User Magazine

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