



I LOUNGE'S **100** ESSENTIAL IPHONE APPS OF **2009**

As of late 2009, there are roughly 100,000 applications in Apple's App Store - a staggering number given that the Store is less than a year and a half old. Unfortunately, most of the releases are junk. That's the reason for this section of the Buyers' Guide: which apps are actually worth purchasing given all the filler out there?

On the pages that follow, you'll find the **100 iPhone apps our editors consider essential** across many genres, selected based on sheer utility, interface design, and value. These are the apps we actually use and love, not just ones that seemed cool for three days before fading into obscurity. We focused on titles that were initially released in complete form, and leaned towards apps that were released or substantially updated in the last year. Any overlap between these and last year's picks shows just how critical an app remains a year later; the almost entirely new list shows just how much has changed.



Balance

A relatively powerful free tool to manage your checking or savings account, capable of exporting to your computer. **FREE**



Bento

A polished personal database app that works alone or with Mac Bento to manage your projects, bills, customer lists, and other important tasks. **\$5**



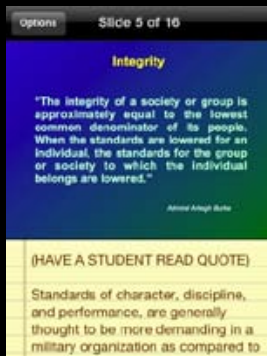
iBank

Track the status of your bank account's balances, along with categorized and itemized listings of your spending; optionally syncs with Mac iBank. **\$5**



Jaadu VNC/RDW

Access your Mac or PC from iPhone/touch, either in full screen or zoomed in. Uses Wi-Fi/3G/EDGE, and permits you to watch a machine in use. **\$25**



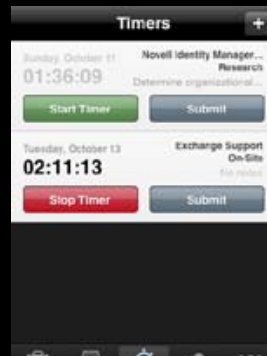
Keynote Remote

Users of Apple's Keynote can now see slides and presentation notes on the iPhone or touch, while controlling the slideshow using swipe gestures. **\$1**



LogMeIn Ignition

Access your Mac's or PC's monitor from the screen of the iPhone or touch; also troubleshoot friends' machines. Simple and powerful. **\$30**



MiniBooks

Log time spent working, create invoices, and track payments directly from your device. Requires a FreshBooks account; free version's for 3 clients. **\$15**



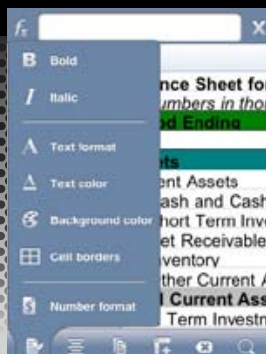
OmniFocus

A pro-grade, Mac-syncing task management tool. Shows action items, stores text/voice notes, and pushes notifications to your calendar. **\$20**



Pennies

A simple, beautiful budgeting tool that helps you determine how much of your monthly cash is left, tracking and saving expenses by category. **\$3**



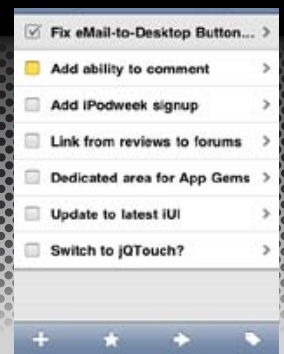
QuickOffice

Go beyond just opening Word and Excel documents; QuickOffice lets you edit them from the iPhone/touch, albeit with some limits. **\$10**



scanR Biz Center

Cool tool turns your 3GS camera into a scanner and fax machine with free faxing to 220 countries; can also archive, SMS, and email scans. **\$25**



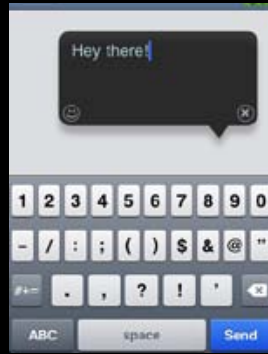
Things

A project, to-do, and note manager par excellence, Things helps you create and track things that need to get done, and syncs with Macs. **\$10**



AIM

Forget SMS. AIM receives instant messages at any time you're on cell or Wi-Fi networks; the \$3 app adds a wide keyboard and removes ads. **FREE**



BeeJive IM 3

Though expensive, this best-of-class instant messenger supports many networks, picture and voice messaging, plus a nice UI. **\$10**



Facebook

The official app of the top social network evolved into a powerful tool for reading, posting, and sharing photo and video content. Addictive. **FREE**



Memento

An inexpensive tool to transform your photos into postcard-styled, fancy emails with 19 different templates for common holidays. **\$1**



Skype

Make phone calls from an iPod touch with a mic; get cheaper international calling rates for iPhones, too. Skype-to-Skype calls and the app are... **FREE**



TweetDeck

This multi-pane Twitter account manager makes re-tweeting, picture sharing, and group creation easy, helping to manage key tweets. **FREE**



Tweetie 2

Monitor, search, and participate in Twitter, across multiple accounts, plus photosharing, geotags, URL shrinking, and a very smart UI. **\$3**



Twitterrific

Alternating with Tweetie as best overall Twitter app, this free client creates a single "see it all" timeline for everything; filter it as needed. **FREE**



Evernote

Whatever form you want to record notes in - text, photos, voice - Evernote creates, stores, geotags, and then syncs them with PCs or Macs. **FREE**



Voice Memos

Replacing earlier recorders, Apple's great app is included in OS 3.0, letting you record voices, then edit clips and send via e-mail or MMS. **FREE**



CoPilot 8 GPS

The best overall in-car GPS for iPhone users has added better voice prompting and more locations to its simple UI. Decently priced. **\$35**



Zipcar

An awesome tool for the metro shared car service, letting you locate and book cars from wherever you are, then unlock them on arrival. **FREE**



Feed Me!

Basic math, color, and matching skills are taught as you touch to feed a little monster correct answers to spoken and on-screen questions. **\$2**



Old MacDonald

An interactive music book for kids based on the farm story, complete with touch-activated animals and cheerful, multi-lingual audio. **\$2**



Wheels On The Bus

Another beautiful music book, this multi-lingual, interactive take on the kids' song lets young users touch to make a bus + passengers move. **\$1**



BigOven

Though it depends on an Internet connection, this 160,000-recipe archive can be incredibly useful when you need to make a meal, with options. **FREE**



Cocktails+

Still the best cocktail database we've seen; offers 2000+ drink recipes and contemporary tips from masters, plus citations to sources. **\$3**



myStarbucks

The chain's issues aside, this app's tools for store location, browsing foods /drinks, and customizing nutrition info are as good as any we've seen. **FREE**



Tips

Designed to be simple and easy to read, this tip calculator can optionally split your bill, round up, and store your normal tip range and party size. **\$1**



Urbanspoon

Find reviews and listings for local restaurants; now lets you submit reviews, still includes "nearby" and slot machine-style restaurant locaters. **FREE**



Weber's On The Grill

Useful for BBQ fans, Weber's offers 250 recipes, plus 40 rub/sauce recipes, grilling tips, a shopping list, and a timer; photos really help. **\$3**



Whole Foods Recipes

A recipe book for health-conscious cooks, complete with sorting by dietary need, a Whole Foods store locator and current specials. **FREE**



Yelp

Best in big cities, this restaurant and business rating and lookup tool now lets 3GS users see nearby business info on the video camera. **FREE**



AirCoaster 3D

A cool demo of iPhone OS 3-D ability, this lets you ride in a virtual coaster above or below tracks, play a game, and create your own courses. **\$1**



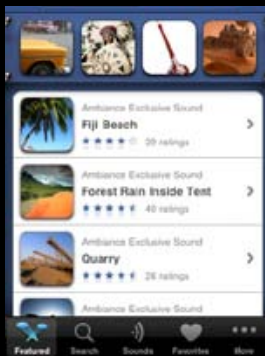
iZen Garden

Japanese relaxation; a sand garden that you fill with your choice of 100 objects, then rake while hearing soothing bells or other sounds. **\$3**



Pocket God

Staggeringly ambitious due to roughly bi-weekly updates, this app lets you play god, manipulating an environment, pygmies, and more. **\$1**



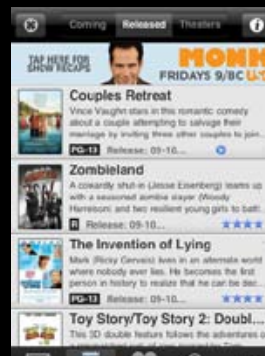
Ambiance

Updated with a new UI and 500 different sounds that can play in the background, this is our favorite overall ambient noise maker. **\$1**



EyeTV

Enables users to watch live or recorded TV from an Intel Mac with Elgato's EyeTV hardware and software, streaming via Wi-Fi, plus more. **\$5**



i.TV

Complete TV listings for 7 days, plus movie listings, ticket and TV show purchasing, and now TiVo recording control; best as a TV guide. **FREE**



Now Playing

Not flashy, this app is a great movie lookup tool, with theater, upcoming, and DVD/Blu-Ray films listed, plus buying and Netflix options. **FREE**



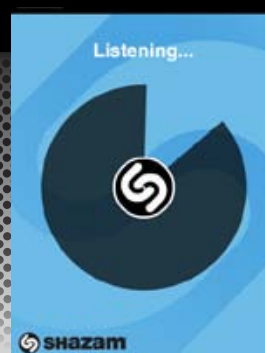
Pandora Radio

Like Slacker, Pandora streams "radio" stations similar to your favorite songs/artists, but stretches a little more in choosing tracks. **FREE**



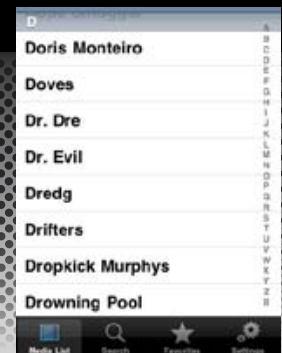
Remote (Apple)

Great for Apple TV users and solid for iTunes, Remote browses and controls a library using Wi-Fi, adding keyboard and navigation. **FREE**



Shazam

Hold iPhone or a mic'd touch up to a speaker, let it "hear" the song, and Shazam will tell you the name and artist, offering purchase links. **FREE**



Simplify Music 2

Using EDGE/3G or Wi-Fi, stream DRM-free music from up to 30 of your or your friends' music libraries, wirelessly, using PC or Mac iTunes. **\$6**



Sketches

Touch your way to artwork on the iPhone/iPad touch screen, using skill and/or pre-drawn objects, shapes, and text. A fun way to draw. **\$5**



Slacker Radio

Think Internet radio, on demand; you tell Slacker which artists or songs you like, and it creates "stations" full of similar tracks. Works well. **FREE**



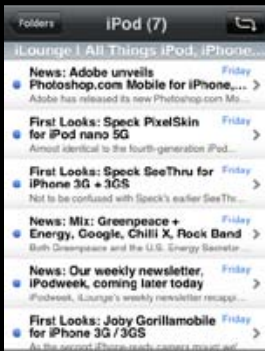
TuneWiki

Get lyrics for the songs you're listening to - in 40+ languages - overlaid as subtitles on top of album artwork, plus global Top 50 lists, and more. **FREE**



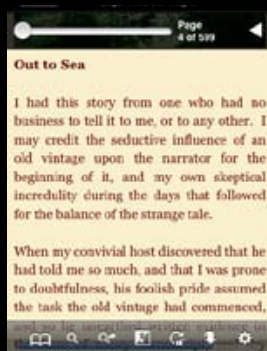
vTuner Radio

Inexpensive and well-designed, this Internet Radio app tunes 7,000 well-picked, reliable stations from all over; streamlined goodness. **\$2**



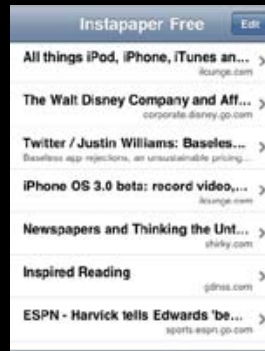
Byline

An RSS news reader with the ability to sync with Google Reader and store content for reading in its own browser when you have no web access. **\$4**



eReader

With 100,000 available books, this is one of several highly competent eBook downloading and reading apps, with a Cover Flow mode. **FREE**



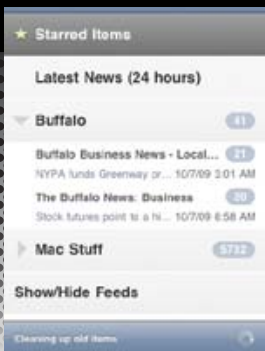
Instapaper

Save web pages to your iPhone or touch for reading when you're not on cell or Wi-Fi networks; \$5 version adds folders and "dark" mode. **FREE**



Kindle for iPhone

Download over 350,000 full books, magazines, and other publications from Amazon, and read on the iPhone, albeit in black and white. **FREE**



NetNewsWire 2

Manage a huge variety of RSS news feeds via this app, which syncs with a desktop app and/or Google Reader, sorting by chosen categories. **FREE**



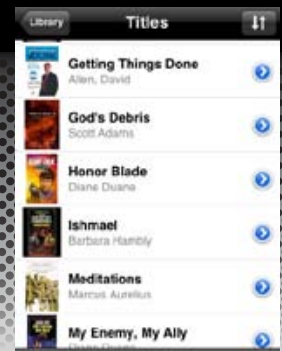
Newsstand

A beautifully designed RSS/newsreader app; syncs with Google Reader and shares via Twitter, e-mail, and other apps. Works in widescreen. **\$5**



NPR News

Fuses text and audio reporting from National Public Radio into an easy, ad-supported app with access to live NPR radio from across the U.S. **FREE**



Stanza

50,000 free books and 50,000 paid books can be downloaded from Stanza into this app, which also reads PDF, eReader, and other book formats. **FREE**



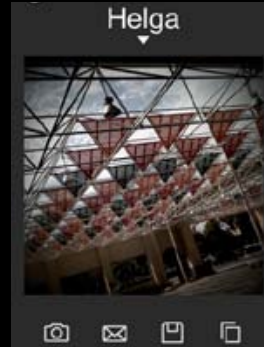
Air Photo

Print photos directly from your iPhone or touch to a printer on your Wi-Fi network; does as much as is possible given the photos' resolution. **\$3**



Best Camera

Fourteen different filters, hand-selected for value, can be applied to photos with this app, which then can Facebook, Tweet, or email the images. **\$3**



CameraBag

Ten different classic cameras are emulated with the effects here, enabling you to recreate Polaroid, old newspaper, and Infrared photos. **\$2**



Flickr

A breezy, attractive front end for the popular photo-sharing service, complete with uploading, searching, and contact-monitoring tools. **FREE**



Mobile Fotos

An early, great Flickr browser that now uploads and displays videos via Flickr as well, integrates with Twitter, + multiple accounts. **FREE**



Pano

Use your iPhone camera to create huge, 16-photo panoramic images, even saving full-res results. Stitch photos with a semi-transparent interface. **\$3**



PhotoCalc

Going beyond depth of field calculations, this app helps serious photographers judge flash and sunlight impacts on their shots. **\$3**



PhotoFrame

The best overall clock app we've seen, PhotoFrame provides an easy to read digital clock with the calendar date, plus a photo slideshow. **\$1**



PhotoGene

A powerful photo-fixing tool with crop, straighten, sharpen, color-tweaking, framing and emailing features, all at full 2MP/3MP resolution. **\$3**



QuadCamera

Four or eight shots are taken in sequence by the iPhone's camera, then composed into a single shareable image with six effects. A fun toy. **\$3**



TiltShift

Processes your photos with blur, color, and brightness to create more dramatic-looking images, focused only on one spot. Saves in high-res, too. **\$3**

There's more!

Visit iLounge.com for our iPhone Gems and Weird + Small Apps roundups, which offer a weekly look at new, exciting, and not-so-exciting apps for the iPhone and iPod touch!



Aeroweather

Useful for pilots and serious travelers, this free app provides detailed information that can be used to predict weather issues for flights. **FREE**



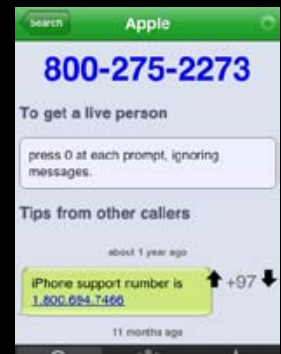
Clinometer

A slope and level measurement tool that uses the accelerometers in iPhones/touches with smart precision-checking safeguards built in. **\$1**



Delivery Status

Regardless of origin, JuneCloud's app monitors where your packages are, displays them cleanly, and syncs with your computer. **\$3**



Dial Zero

If you need the customer service telephone number for a business, this app has it, even including ones that aren't widely known. **FREE**



Dictionary.com

A searchable 275,000-word dictionary with 80,000-word thesaurus, all stored in-app so that no Internet connection is needed. Truly great. **FREE**



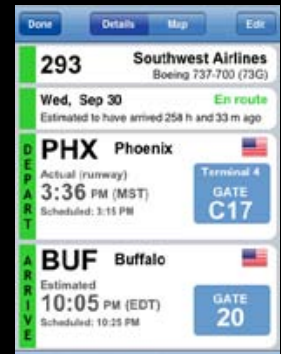
ESPN ScoreCenter

Virtually every major sport's scores are tracked in near-realtime with this app, which lets you create custom scoreboards to check with one tap. **FREE**



FlightTrack

Track flights early or in progress, complete with weather maps and gate info. Pro version figures out flights from e-mailed itineraries. **\$5/\$10**



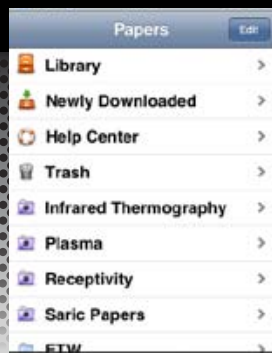
Flight Update

Store your current and upcoming trips in this smart app, which monitors gates, calculates layovers, and helps find alternate flights. **\$5/\$10**



MyPantone

A pocket reference tool to help designers check colors and make smart combinations; auto-detects colors, roughly, from iPhone camera. **\$10**



Papers

Students and researchers using scientific journals will find Science's library, an archive of research papers, and search engines inside. **\$10**



StarMap

The best of the many planetarium apps we've tried; helps you actually find constellations in the sky, and 3GS users get compass support. **\$12**



Units

Crossroad Studios' app makes converting units exceptionally easy, lagging only in updating currencies. A very useful tool with a clean UI. **\$1**



Weather Channel

Adds hourly, 10-day and local video forecasts, weather alerts, traffic cameras, and severe weather advisories to iPhone or touch. **FREE**



Where To?

Combined with iPhone's or touch's location finder and Google Maps, this app provides an easy point-of-interest finder, sorted by categories. **\$3**



White Pages

A reverse phone number lookup, plus people and business searches, aided by a smart city-predicting text entry tool. Better than a phonebook. **FREE**



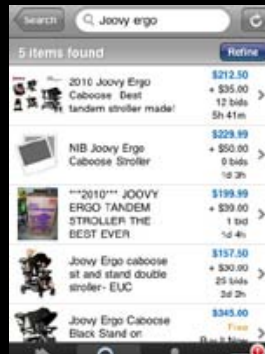
Wikianion Plus

Access the whole of Wikipedia, complete with in-page searching, dictionary look-ups, and font scaling. Also great, its free version can't save. **\$5**



Amazon Mobile

Online shopping is easy with this app: iPhone's camera is used to ID real-world items and sell them in one click. Awesome, powerful, simple. **FREE**



eBay Mobile

Monitor, maintain, and bid on auctions with this streamlined eBay utility, which has email, search, and ends soon notifications. **FREE**

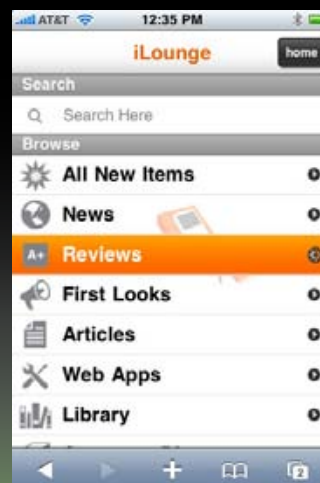


Shopper

As the easiest shopping list creator and manager we've seen, Shopper lets you re-use common items and share lists in realtime via iPhone. **\$1**

It's Not An App + Not In Our Top 100: Check Out iLounge Mobile!

We wouldn't include our own iPhone/iPod touch-formatted interface in this list, taking the place of some worthy third-party app, but iLounge Mobile was developed as a web app to provide a clean small screen way to access our content when you're not near a computer. Text is boosted, photos formatted to fit the screen's width, and links to our major site sections - plus search - are all found on the main page. Just visit iLounge.com/mobile to view the site!





1Password

A single program that safely holds all your passwords and wallet items, also logs you into secure websites with just a tap from this app. **\$5**



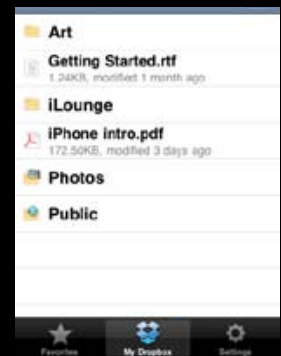
AppBox Pro

The 18 tools here are like a grab bag; one or two - such as a battery estimator, ruler, flashlight, or unit converter - will come in handy. **\$2**



Bump

Share your contact information with other iPhone/touch users by opening app + bumping hands. This is the billionth downloaded app. **FREE**



DropBox

Paired with PC, Mac, or Linux, offers free 2GB or paid 100GB storage spaces to sync and view files online, or save files directly to a device. **FREE**



FileMagnet

By contrast with DropBox, FileMagnet pulls Office, PDF + other files directly from your PC or Mac for display on iPhone/touch, no "cloud" required. **\$5**



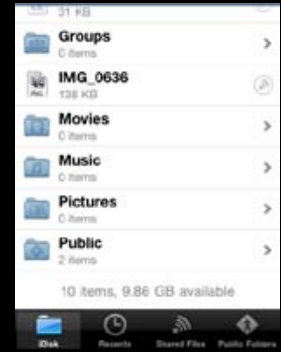
Geocaching

Get a leg up on the global treasure hunt using this tool, which tracks nearly 900,000 caches around the world, using GPS and hints to help you. **\$10**



iStat

Go beyond the simple battery meter to monitor iPhone/touch hours of life for different tasks, and background processes that are running. **\$1**



MobileMe iDisk

With a \$99/yr. MobileMe account comes 20GB of online storage; iDisk lets you access, play the files, and share with others from iPhone/touch. **FREE**



Prowl

PC or Mac Growl notifications can now be sent directly and instantly to your iPhone via Push, so you can track many programs at once. **\$3**



Snatch

It's a wireless trackpad, keyboard, and remote control for iTunes, Photoshop and more, highly customizable and now PC/Mac-friendly. **\$4**



SplashID

Though it's limited in coverage to specific and larger cities, this survey-compiling guide to restaurants, bars, and hotels. **\$10**



WeightBot

One of two great UI'ed apps from Tapbots, this helps you track your weight and BMI against a goal you set, password protected for safety. **\$2**

App + Game Report Card.

With over 1,000 app reviews since the App Store opened, iLounge's iPhone Gems and Weird + Small Apps columns focus on covering the most noteworthy releases, favoring quality and value over marketing hype.

Book Readers, Mapping + Reference

Ben Kabez/Mobiata FlightTrack	A-
Crossroads Solutions Units	A-
Dictionary.com Dictionary.com	A-
Fictionwise eReader	A-
Jeff Hamilton Sportacular	A-
JuneCloud Delivery Status touch	A-
Silverware Software Flight Update	A-
TheMacBox Units	A-
UpNext UpNext 3D NYC	A-
Amazon Kindle for iPhone	B+
Phonex Comm. Yubisashi China	B+
Phonex Comm. Yubisashi Japan	B+
Phonex Comm. Yubisashi Spain	B+
TapBots ConvertBot	B+
ApogeeDev Equivalence	B+
Edovia Linguo	B+
Google Inc. Google Earth	B+
Inkling Technology Flight Executive	B+
Swiss Development Translator	B+
Avantar YellowPages	B
Codedifferent CompareMe	B
Edovia Currencies	B
Hongtao Guo WeDict	B
Hongtao Guo WeDict Pro	B
Mass. Torregiani Weather Machine	B
Oil Price Information Service iGas	B
Whitepages.com WhitePages Mobile	B
Zillow.com Zillow	B
Adam Leonard People	B-
Ethan Allen Package Tracker Lite	B-
TranCreative Software WordBook	B-
Yellowpages.com YPMobile	C+
Ethan Allan Package Tracker	C
Jamcode GasBag	C
SplashData Flight Tracker	C
NibiruTech Flight	C-
TrackMyShipments TrackMyShip.	C-
TrackMyShipments TrackMyShip. Lite	C-
MacEnvy iTrack	D

Clock Applications

Chilli X PhotoFrame	A-
Emerald Seq. Emerald Chronometer	A-
Core Coders Clock 3D	B+
DAVA Consulting Clock	B+
Scott Lawrence Nixie Clock	B+

Uniqlo Uniqlock Season 5	B+
Chilli X NightTime Plus	B
GoldenPlum Bikini Times Clock	B
GoldenPlum Bikini Times Clock Lite	B
F Nayeri Nixie Tube Clock	B
Gamerpig.com TalkingClock	B
Kensington Rise & Shine	B
Rock Cottage Industries CoolClock	B
Scott Lawrence LlamaClock	B
Vela Design Group VelaClock	B
Exedria iFlipClock Plus	B-
Uniqlo Uniqlock 1.0	B-
Alexander Valys Sol: Daylight Clock	C+
Larva Labs Photo Flip Clock	C+
Chilli X StarTime	C-
BottleCube PhotoCLOCK	D

Drawing

LateNiteSoft Sketches	A-
Gotow.net NetSketch	B+
Josiah Larson iDoodle2 lite	B+
inXile Entertainment Line Rider iRide	B
Josiah Larson iDoodle2	B
Steve Sprang Brushes	B
Swakker LLC Swakker Doodle	B
Alterme Inc. Paint	B-
Big Stone Phone iGraffiti	C+
Hansol Huh TypeDrawing	C+
Squires Studios Squiggles	C+
MobilityWare Finger Paint	C
miniMusic No.2	C
Pencil Busters DoodleIt	C-
Y Lau Blackboard	C-
IMAK Creations ColorTilt	D-
IMAK Creations ColorTouch	D

Edutainment

Duck Duck Moose Old MacDonald	A-
Duck Duck Moose Wheels on the Bus	A-
Duck Duck Moose Itsy Bitsy Spider	B+
Edutainment Resources Feed Me!	B+
Stepworks The Little Red Hen	B
Trillard Mental Maths	B
Mother Goose Apps Itsy Bitsy Spider	B-
FrogDogMedia Brave Monkey Pirate	B-
TouchTomes Battle of Waterloo	D

File Storage

Magnetism Studios FileMagnet	A-
Veiosoft DataCase	A-/B+
Olive Toast Files	B+
Apple MobileMe iDisk	B
Not So Soft Software Caravan	C-
Regal Media TouchFS	C-
Pixio MobileFinder	F

Finance

Connor Wakamo Balance	A-
Design by a Knife Pennies	B+
Ractor QuickBank	B+
SplashData SplashMoney	B+
Deskescape Budget	B
James Narrin MyMoney	B
Adamcode Spend Lite	B
Adamcode Spend	B-
Jeff Hale Accountr	C+
Catamount Software PocketMoney	C
Quantum Quinn Day Bank	C
Simpsonics Finance	C
Digiot Pocket Lint	C-
Gladding Development Ledger	C-
Threedef Bankarama	F

Food & Drink Apps

BigOven/Lakefront Software BigOven	B+
CondeNet Epicurious Recipe/Shopping	B+
Skorpiostech Cocktails	B+
Wanderspot Urbanspoon	B+
Anything Honest Free Foodle	B
Inkling Tech. Partners Wine Steward	B
OpenTable OpenTable	B
Soarzone Yum Cha Dim Sum	B
Standandcount.com SushiTime	B
Yelp Yelp	B
Bay Apps Global Eater	B-
Buster McLeod Locavore	B-
Cuttlefish Industries Don't Dial	B-
Fitplanet GoodFoodNearYou	B-
Netwake iDrinkSmart	B-
Miniature Entaste Food & Wine Pairing	C+
Handmark Zagat to Go '09	C
Oasys Mobile iShotMachine	C
Zero/Hilton Lee Chinese Food Menu	C
Blue Sky Internet FoodMenus	C-

Who Can You Trust? Whether they're published on paper or found on the Internet, reviews are subject to fraud and other misleading practices; from games that critics haven't actually played to products they're being paid to say nice things about, the differences between a true "review," a rated recital of features, and marketing hype disguised as analysis have become harder to spot. iLounge reviews are written by hard-working specialists who have covered similar products for years: musicians review music applications, photographers review photo apps, and gamers review games, all without developer or advertiser interference. Agree or disagree with our conclusions, you can trust that we'll present you with the details, imagery, and advice you need to make your own choices.

ViaMichelin NYC Michelin Guide	C-	Bump'ny Company Bump'ny	C+	Tricky Software Armado	B
<u>Games - Cards, Dice + Gambling</u>		Cramzy Chippy	C+	Electronic Arts Pandemonium	B-
Freeverse Burning Monkey Casino	A-	ibis Shuffle Ball	C	iD Software Wolfenstein 3-D Classic	B-
Mike Sedore Solitaire Forever	A-	Nimblebit Moondrop	C	IUGO Mobile Spy Bot Chronicles	B-
Ambrosia Software Mondo Solitaire	B+	Studio Lidell Slippy Feet	C	IUGO Mobile Ent. Toy Bot Diaries E. 1	B-
Amplified Cookie Bonus Solitaire Free	B+	EA/8 Lb. Gorilla Zombies & Me	C-	Pangea Software Bugdom 2	B-
Apple Texas Hold 'em	B+	Nexx Studio Idiot Test 3	C-	Solus Games Funky Punch	C+
Chris Miles iSlots	B+	Spinapse Smackarooni	C-	Artificial Life iDroidsMania	C
Gameloft Uno	B+	Visionaire Design Run From Hell	C-	HD Publishing Magnetic Joe	C-
Digital Smoke Solitaire City	B	CSA Applications Luigi Vs Pac	F	Namco I Love Katamari	C-
Fullpower Tech. MotionX Poker	B	Toy Kite Software iSamurai	F	FBS Software Ricky	D+
Gameloft Platinum Solitaire	B	Hands-On Mobile Kitten Cannon	F	Capcom Mega Man II	F
MobileAge Blackjack 21	B	<u>Games - Driving and Racing</u>		<u>Games - Flying and Space Flying</u>	
Smallware Sol Free	B	Firemint Real Racing	A	Laminar Research X-Plane 9	A
Sniderware Eric's Solitaire: Klondike	B	2XL Games 2XL Supercross	A-	Laminar Research X-Plane Extreme	A
24x7digital Aw Craps!	B-	2XL Games ATV Offroad	A-	Laminar Research X-Plane Airliner	A-
Amplified G. Cookie Bonus Solitaire	B-	Firemint Real Racing GTI	A-	Laminar Research X-Plane Helicopter	A-
Karma World Card Tower: HouseCards	B-	Resolution Aqua Moto Racing	B+	Funsuma Games StarPagga	B+
Red Mercury Acid Solitaire Collection	B-	Resolution Dirt Moto Racing	B+	Handmark Hellfire	B
Electronic Arts Boggle	C+	Atod Fastlane Street Racing	B	Paramount Top Gun	B
Seahorse Soft. Pyramid Solitaire Lite	C+	EA Need For Speed Undercover	B	Plasq Pharos IV: Assault	B
Smallware Solebon	C-	Fishlabs Burning Tires 3D Lite	B	Plasq Pharos IV: Assault Lite	B
Smallware Wee Spider Solitaire	C-	Fishlabs Volkswagen Polo Chall. 3D	B	Wretched Games Venger	B
Seahorse Software Pyramid Solitaire	D+	Gameloft Ferrari GT Evolution	B	GameResort Biplane	B-
ASD Soft ASD Roulette	D	Handmark Phaze	B	GLU Mobile Glyder	B-
Cliff Maier Demon Solitaire	D	Pangea Software Cro-Mag Rally	B	Horsham Online Zone Warrior	B-
Cliff Maier Las Vegas Solitaire	D	Resolution Aqua Moto Racing Lite	B	Pangea Software Nanosaur 2	B-
Griffin 5 Card Touch	D	Cobra Mobile Low Grav Racer	B-	Resolution Int. Clusterball Arcade	B-
Griffin Lucky 7 Slots	D	Freeverse Days of Thunder	B-	Rocking Pocket Blue Skies Air Force	B-
Mike Orr Solitaire CAO	D	Freeverse Moto Chaser/Motoracer	B-	BootAnt BiiPlane	C+
MobilityWare Freecell	D	Freeverse SlotZ Racer	B-	Philipp Luftentsteiner Zero Chance	C+
MobilityWare Pyramid	D	Justin Smith Enviro-Bear 2010	B-	espressoSoft Star Smasher	C-
MobilityWare Solitaire	D	Polarbit Raging Thunder	B-	Makayama Media Flight Stunts	D+
PosiMotion Solitaire Top 3	D-	Vivendi Crash Bandicoot Nitro Kart 3D	B-	Hunter Research and Tech Mission 22	D-
<u>Games - Casual Action</u>		Gameloft Asphalt 4 Elite Racing	C+	Posimotion Apache Lander	F
Jelly Biscuits Volcano Planet	A-	Race to the Moon Synth Racing (iSR)	C+	<u>Games - Game Show/TV Show</u>	
iBright Studios TightWire	B+	RedLynx Monster Trucks Nitro	C+	Ludia The Price is Right	A-
Lousy Games Water Toy	B+	Chillingo Space Bikers	C	Capcom Who Wants/Millionaire Lite	B
Makeshift Games Chuck the Ball	B+	Handmark GTS World Racing	C	Gameloft 1 vs. 100	B
Makeshift Games Chuck the Ball Lite	B+	PolarBit Wave Blazer	C	Capcom Who Wants to Be Millionaire	B-
Semi-Secret Software Canabalt	B+	I-Play Fast and Furious Pink Slip 3D	C-	Gameloft TV Show King Online	B-
StaticPhobia Cupid's Flick	B+	Tiny Utopia Formula Racing	D+	Marc Ecko Dexter The Game	B-
Valuewave Maya/Reve SpotDifference	B+	Audi Audi A4 Driving Challenge	D	I-Play Deal or No Deal: Million Dollar	C+
Ziconic AirCoaster: Game Mode	B+	Decane Big Fun Racing	D	Electronic Arts American Idol: Game	C-
Dreamhive Animation Squish Squash	B	System Software Zero-4 Racer	F	Gameloft CSI: Miami	D+
Game Creators Touch & Go!	B	System Software Zero-4 Racer Lite	F	<u>Games - Music</u>	
IUGO Mobile A.D.D. Lite	B	<u>Games - Fighting, Platform + Sandbox</u>		Paramount Saturday Night Fever	A-
LED Co. Tissue	B	Gameloft Assassin's Creed: Altair's Ch.	A-	Smule Leaf Trombone: World Stage	A-
Veiled Games Up There	B	Gameloft Hero of Sparta	A-	Tapulous Tap Tap Coldplay	A-
Bolt Creative Pocket God	B-	Ngmoco Rolando	A-	Gameloft Guitar Rock Tour 2	B
Epicore SWIRL	B-	Ngmoco Rolando 2: Golden Orchid	A-	Tapulous Lady Gaga Revenge	B
GameResort Flip Cup	B-	Touch Foo Soosiz	A-	Tapulous Tap Tap Dance	B
Giuoco Piano Touches	B-	Gameloft Gangstar: West Coast Hustle	B+	Tapulous Tap Tap Revenge	B
Global Net Value ClashPuzzle	B-	GLU Mobile Cops & Robbers	B+	Tapulous Tap Tap Revenge 2	B
Jelly Biscuits Squashem	B-	Illusion Labs Sway	B+	Tapulous Tap Rap Revenge 3	B
Majic Jungle Soft. Duck Duck Duck	B-	Pangea Otto Matic: Alien Invasion	B+	Electronic Arts/Harmonix Rock Band	B-
Matt Johnson Prairie Chute	B-	Tiger Style Spider: Bryce Manor	B+	Konami Dance Dance Revolution S	B-
Monobyte Touch Touch Shapes	B-	Gameloft Blades of Fury	B	Konami Dance Dance Rev. S Lite	B-
ROOT9 Yetisports Pingu Throw	B-	Gameloft Castle of Magic	B	Tapulous Nine Inch Nails Revenge	C+
Spielhaus/Nicolinux Need 4 Cheese	B-	IUGO Mobile Toy Bot Diaries Ep. 2	B	Resolute Games ThumStruck Free	C-
Try This Networks Tap of the Dead	B-	Robert Casperson Bionic Surfer	B		

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<u>Games - Puzzle/Board/RPG (Non-Action)</u>			
Gameloft My Word Coach	A	Candy Cane Fuzzle	C
Gameloft Platinum Sudoku	A	Carrie Segal Colorific	C
Lonely Star Software Quordy	A	Houdah Software ACTSudoku	C
Gameblend Studios WordJong	A-	Imre Biro imPuzzleble	C
Little White Bear Studios TanZen Lite	A-	Kevin Kozan Satori Sudoku	C
MobileAge Shanghai Mahjong	A-	Magnetism Studios Tile Sudoku	C
Ambrosia Software Aki Mahjong	B+	Maverick Soft. Yulan Mahjong Solitaire	C
Electronic Arts Clue	B+	Monobyte Color Ninjutsu Puzzle	C
Electronic Arts Monopoly	B+	On-Core V1: Sudoku, Wordfind, PF	C
Gameloft Brain Challenge	B+	RedMadRobot Battleships by Pen	C
Gameloft The Oregon Trail	B+	Ambrosia Software Mr. Sudoku	C-
Hudson Soft Nikoli Sudoku Vol. 1	B+	Freeverse Big Bang Sudoku	C-
Little White Bear Studios TanZen	B+	Mighty M. Good Games Sudoku (Free)	C-
Midnight Martian Moonlight Mahjong	B+	OutOfTheBit Sudoku Pro	C-
Midnight Martian Moonlight Mah. Lite	B+	Peltd Software Battle at Sea	C-
Brian Wuster Tangrams Lite	B	Jirbo iMahjong	D+
Candy Cane Fuzzle Lite	B	Mutant Piano Software ChartFight	D+
Dreamship Triazle	B	Rod Bowkett Cubismo	D+
Electronic Arts Sudoku (Num-pre)	B	Sans Pareil Kamicom Sudoku	D+
Electronic Arts The Game of Life	B	Trivial Technology Trivial Sudoku	D+
Electronic Arts Wolfenstein RPG	B	WhiteNile Systems KillerSudoku	D+
EpicTilt ESPN Cameraman	B	Jason Linhart Enjoy Sudoku	D
Ian Marsh Hanoi	B	Surf Shack Soft. Surf Shack Sudoku	D
Ibis TatamiBall	B	Mighty Mighty Good Games Sudoku	D-
IVRealms KuGon	B	eLogicpuzzles tSudoku Plus	F
J2sighte Guess!	B	John Moffett iFish	F
Little White Bear Studios Zentomino	B	Junpuusha Shovel De Touch	F
Manta Research Cubes Lite	B	Shekhar Yadav Sudoku	F
Martin Demers Blue Block	B		
Mofongo Studios Copy Cat	B	<u>Games - Puzzle/Maze (Action)</u>	
Monobyte Territory	B	Elias Pietila Wooden Labyrinth 3D	A
Nonverbal Monospace	B	Games4Touch Touch Physics	A
Nonverbal Monospace Lite	B	MythPeople Azkend	A
Phase2Media Sudoku Classic	B	Backflip Studios Ragdoll Blaster	A-
Phase2Media Sudoku Unlimited	B	Electronic Arts Tetris	A-
Artificial Life iSink U	B-	Gameprom The Deep Pinball	A-
Brian Wuster Tangrams	B-	Hassey Enterprises Galcon Labs	A-
Bric Entertainment Photo Hunter	B-	Mobigames Edge	A-
Ian Marsh Hanoi Plus	B-	MythPeople Dragon Portals	A-
Stairways Software Derzle	B-	Ngmoco MazeFinger	A-
Sunsoft Mahjong Solitaire	B-	VGViews Tatonic	A-
Bumpkin Bunny MangaTiles	C+	Area/Code Entertainment Drop7	B+
Cellular GmbH Fishtank Manager	C+	Bootant BiiBall 3D Lite	B+
Electronic Arts Scrabble	C+	Chillingo Zen Bound	B+
Gameloft Chess & Backgammon Class.	C+	Demiforce Trism	B+
RightSprite Sudoku.MD	C+	FunGyre aMaze! Lite	B+
Spawn Studios Magnetrox	C+	Hudson Soft Aqua Forest	B+
Spawn Studios Magnetrox Lite	C+	Jirbo MarbleMash (Free)	B+
Spinapse Duffle	C+	Munkyfun Ivory Tiles	B+
Alexandre Minard SudokuManiak	C	Ngmoco Topple	B+
		PopCap Games Peggle	B+
		Ponos Puzzle Prism	B+
		Skyworks Mental Blocks	B+
		Wasted Pixel Gemmed!	B+
		Bootant BiiBall 3D	B
		Capcom BombLink	B
		Codify Labyrinth	B
		Codify Labyrinth Lite	B
		Couch World Games Shards	B
		Couch World Games Shardsette	B
		Digital Choc. Tower Bloxx Deluxe Free	B
		Firemint Games Flight Control	B
		Fuel Games Lifeboat	B
		FunGyre aMaze!	B
		Gameloft Bubble Bash!	B
		Gameloft Diamond Twister	B
		Games4Touch Touch Physics 2	B
		Glu Games Space Monkey	B
		Hassey Enterprises Galcon	B
		Hondune Countdown: DownToZero	B
		Hudson Soft Bomberman Touch	B
		InXile Ent. Fantastic Contraption	B
		Jirbo MarbleMash (Paid)	B
		Jseuss Software Pegs in Space	B
		Luga/TwoPixels Fingeric	B-
		MumboJumbo Luxor	B
		Muteki Corp. The Battle of Pirate Bay	B
		Ngmoco Dr. Awesome	B
		No Monkeys Green Fingers	B
		Noah Witherspoon Tris	B
		Plaid & Pin Rockchinko	B
		Plaid & Pin Rockchinko 3GS Edition	B
		Publisher X Hydro Tilt	B
		Secret Exit Spin - The Silhouette Game	B
		Taito Bust-a-Move	B
		Zach Gage Unify	B
		A.C.R.O.N.Y.M. Sky Babes vs. Fly Boys	B-
		Chilingo Toki Tori	B-
		Digital Choc. Tower Bloxx Deluxe 3D	B-
		Electronic Arts Spore Origins	B-
		Freeverse Plank	B-
		Hudson Soft Crayon Physics Deluxe	B-
		Kevin Calderone Trace	B-
		Ngmoco Topple 2	B-
		Nissho Creative Fire Art Garden	B-
		Pangea Enigmo	B-
		Pattern Making Co. Radius	B-
		PlayCreek StoneLoops! of Jurassic	B-
		PopCap Games Bejeweled 2	B-
		Ponos Puzzle Prism Lite	B-
		Sega Super Monkey Ball	B-
		Tag Games Rock'n'Roll	B-

How Do We Rate iPhone Apps and Games? **A and A-** rated games and apps are "Highly Recommended" - titles we'd suggest that virtually any user consider worthy of a download, with only minor issues. **B+ and B** rated games and applications are "Generally Recommended." Users should consider checking these programs out, but should be aware of potentially big issues that may impact their initial appreciation or long-term enjoyment of what they're getting. **B-** rated software receives our "Limited Recommendation;" these games are only for hard-core fans of the genre, and apps for people who are desperate for the functionality. All **C** rated titles are "Okay." We wouldn't recommend or recommend against getting them. All **D** rated titles are "Demo-Quality." We actively disliked them. Finally, **F** rated titles are "Offensively Bad," or in rare cases, dangerous; we wish they had never appeared.

Namco Star Trigon	B-	Bootant BreakTouch/BlocksTouch 3D	D+	R-U-On Shadowland: Shades of Black	D+
Bitforge Orbital	C+	Namco Pac-Man	D+	Digital Pocket Galaktagon	D
Calvin Rien Ion Charge	C+	Bokan Technologies GalaxyImpact	D	Fernlighting Cube	D
Field System/Route24 Newtonica	C+	Dromsynt SquareBall	D	Ketara Software SpaceX	D
Matthew Gillingham Petri	C+	Konami Frogger	D	MASQ Interactive iSniper	D
Pangea Antimatter	C+			MASQ Interactive iSniper Lite	D
Pangea Enigmo 2	C+	<u>Games - Shooters</u>		LawlMart Duck Hunt	D
React Games Archon Classic	C+	Modern Combat: Sandstorm	A		
Robert Blackwood Pachingo	C+	Affogato Isotope: A Space Shooter	A-	<u>Games - Sports/Table Sports/Pinball</u>	
Robert Blackwood Pachingo Lite	C+	Alley Labs Meteor Blitz	A-	Gameloft Let's Golf	A
Rustcycle Nano	C+	Cobra Mobile iBomber	A-	Acceleroto Air Hockey	A-
Andy Qua Cube Runner	C	Gameloft Siberian Strike	A-	Electronic Arts FIFA 10	A-
Atlas U.S.A. Droplitz	C	Geppetto iYamato	A-	Electronic Arts Tiger Woods PGA Tour	A-
Electronic Arts Snood	C	Infinite Dreams Sky Force Reloaded	A-	Freeverse Flick Sports Fishing	A-
The Iconfactory Frenzic	C	John Kooistra Blue Defense!	A-	Gameloft Midnight Bowling	A-
On-Core Classic Pachinko	C-	John Kooistra Blue Defense! Lite	A-	Gameloft Real Soccer/Football 2009	A-
Q Ent. Lumines - Touch Fusion	C-	Ngmoco Dropship	A-	GLU Mobile Mini Golf Wacky Worlds	A-
Q Ent. Lumines - Touch Fusion Lite	C-	Red Knight Arrrr! Pirates vs. Aliens	A-	Iconfactory Ramp Champ Halloween	A-
Nigel Williams TouchCris	D+	Taito Space Invaders Infinity Gene	A-	Matmi Monster Pinball	A-
Sega Columns Deluxe	D+	Capcom Resident Evil: Degeneration	B+	Red Knight Games Hoopster	A-
Macer Software TetoTeto!!	D	Chillingo Inkvaders	B+	Skyworks Arcade Bowling Lite	A-
		Freeverse Warpack Grunts	B+	Celeris Virtual Pool Mobile	B+
<u>Games - Retro Arcade-Style</u>		Gameloft Wild West Guns	B+	Electronic Arts Madden NFL 10	B+
Digital Ch. Brick Breaker Rev. 3D	A-	iD Software Doom Resurrection	B+	Freeverse Flick NBA Basketball	B+
Digital Ch. Brick Breaker Rev. 3D FREE	A-	IndieAn Heavy Mach	B+	Freeverse Flick Sports Bowling	B+
Gameloft Block Breaker Deluxe 2	A-	John Kooistra Blue Attack!	B+	Gameloft Real Soccer/Football 2010	B+
Robot Super Brain GloBall	A-	SkyVu Battle Bears	B+	Gameprom Wild West Pinball	B+
Atari Interactive Centipede	B+	SkyVu Battle Bears Free	B+	GameResort Downhill Bowling	B+
Atari Interactive Missile Command	B+	Meridian Alive 4-ever	B+	GLU Mobile Super K.O. Boxing 2	B+
Atari Interactive Super Breakout	B+	Capcom Resident Evil 4 Mobile Ed.	B	Graveck 10 Balls 7 Cups	B+
Bootant Break Classic / BlocksClassic	B+	Chillingo Circuit_strike.one	B	Iconfactory Ramp Champ	B+
Flying Dino Orbitu	B+	Chillingo iDracula - Undead Awak.	B	NaturalMotion Backbreaker Football	B+
Flying Dino Orbitu Lite	B+	Chillingo Vector Tanks	B	Sea Lion Air Hockey! Fingertip Sports	B+
Galcon.com Cosmic Nitro	B+	Eric Tong 2079	B	Cowboy Rodeo Pinball Dreams	B
RoundThird Interactive Radial 50	B+	EpicForce iFighter	B	Cowboy Rodeo Pinball Fantasies	B
RoundThird Interactive Radial 50 Lite	B+	EpicForce iFighter Lite	B	Electronic Arts NBA Live by EA Sports	B
Steph Thirion Eliss	B+	Eurocenter DinoSmash Online	B	Eurocenter Adrenaline Golf Online	B
Discovery Comm. Cannon Challenge	B	Gameloft Brothers in Arms: Hr. Heroes	B	Eurocenter Adrenaline Pool Online	B
Disney Breakspin	B	Hands-On Mobile Prey Invasion	B	FlipSide5 Touch Hockey	B
Namco Galaga Remix Lite	B	Konami Metal Gear Solid Touch	B	Fuel Industries Vans SK8: Pool Service	B
Namco Pac-Man Remix	B	Mediatonic Must.Eat.Birds	B	Gameloft Midnight Pool	B
PlayFirst Diner Dash	B	Mika Mobile Zombieville USA	B	Gameloft NFL 2010	B
Rude Scotsman Vector Blaster	B	Mika Mobile Zombieville USA Lite	B	Gameloft Real Tennis 2009	B
Storybird Space Buster/Ikanoid	B	Namco Time Crisis Strike	B	Handmark Down 4 The Count	B
THQ Wireless De Blob	B	Studio Radiolaris Radio Flare Lite	B	Iconfactory Ramp Champ Voyage PackB	B
Binary Square Space Out	B-	Triple-Q Turn Turn Tank	B	IUGO Freeballin'	B
Hudson Soft Puzzloop	B-	Chillingo Minigore	B-	MLB.com MLB World Series '09	B
Metismo Vektrax	B-	Gameloft Terminator Salvation	B-	Sean McNamara Air Hockey Pro	B
Namco Galaga Remix	B-	Geppetto iNinja	B-	Skyworks Arcade Hoops Basketball	B
PlayerX Pang Mobile	B-	Handheld Games SurrounDEAD	B-	Skyworks Arcade Hoops Basket. Lite	B
Sony Pictures Q*Bert Deluxe	B-	HyperDevbox Japan ExZeus	B-	Skyworks 3 Point Hoops	B
Taito Arkanoid	B-	Rocking Pocket Games Blue Skies 3GS	B-	Skyworks 3 Point Hoops Lite	B
THQ Star Wars: The Force Unleashed	B-	Electronic Arts Star Trek: Mobile	B-	Skyworks World Cup Ping Pong	B
Lazrhog Games rRootage	C+	Studio Radiolaris Radio Flare	B-	Telecom Market Solutions Hit Tennis	B
Pangea Software Billy Frontier	C+	AQ Interactive Glandarius	C+	Vir2L Studios Base Jumper	B
PHD Gaming Alien Invasion	C+	Konami Silent Scope	C+	Blackish Age of Curling	B-
Digital Legends Entertainment Kroll	C	Paramount Shooter - Movie Game	C+	Chillingo Touch KO	B-
Namco Dig Dug Remix	C	Hands-On Mobile Alaskan Hunt	C-	Gameloft Derek Jeter Real Baseball	B-
NeonSurge SolarQuest	C	Source IT Software Zombie Mansion	C-	Realtech VR Iron Fist Boxing 3rd Strike	B-
Chillingo Tank Ace 1944	C-	Coresoft Super Sniper	D+	Skyworks Arcade Bowling	B-
Jean Pierre Martineau Stellar Blaster	C-	Makebari SpaceWars Deathmatch	D+	ZEN Studios ZEN Pinball: Inferno	B-
Namco Ms. Pac-Man	C-	R-U-On Shadowland: The Sniper	D+	ZEN Studios ZEN Pinball: Rollercoaster B-	B-

Handheld Games TouchSports Tennis	B-	Electronic Arts Yahtzee Adventures	C	iVerse Star Trek Countdown	B
Jeremy Lazarus Beer Pong Challenge	B-	Portable Zoo Letter Bug	C	Justin Stahl The Typography Manual	B
Lazrhog Neverputt ME	B-	Serendipitous Atomic Blink Lite	C	Luga Moments	B
Perpetual FX Galactic Bowling	B-	Sudo Labs Word Jolt	C	M.O.C. Interior Design Mark On Call	B
Publisher X Beer Bounce (Quarters)	B-	Marc Abramowitz Word Nerd	C-	Oceanhouse Media Bowls	B
SGN iBowl	B-	Serendipitous Games Atomic Blink	D+	Politepix 3 Numbers	B
Skyworks Field Goal Frenzy	B-	HappyAppy Word Whirl	D	PokitLint.com Lifeminder	B
IUGO Mobile Ent. Shaky Summit	C+			Snappy Touch Flower Garden	B
Longtail Studios TNA Wrestling	C+	<u>GPS Applications</u>		Ttursas Perfect Balance Harmony	B
Nuclear Nova Software GL Golf	C+	ALK Tech. CoPilot Live 8 N. America	B-	Warner Bros. Ent. Watchmen	B
Sauce Digital Killer Pool	C+	Sygyic Mobile Maps US	B-	Zerohachi SNS Contact	B
SGN iGolf	C+	Fullpower MotionX GPS Drive	C+	Against The Grain MiValue	B-
Gamevil Baseball Superstars 2009	C	Navigon MobileNavigator N. America	C	A. Bozzelli Persona - Avatar Creator	B-
Gamevil Baseball Superstars 2009 Lite	C	TomTom Int'l Tom Tom U.S. & Canada	C	Apps That Rock TalkMail Pro	B-
Illusion Labs Touchgrind	C			Appy Entertainment Appy Newz	B-
Nicoteam AirHockey	C	<u>Instant Messengers</u>		Blimp Pilots Distant Shore	B-
Personae Studios Air Hockey	C	Beejive IM	B+	Bottle Rocket Wings	B-
PosiMotion Pool	C	AOL AIM	B	Code Line Comm. Color Expert	B-
Chillingo Par 72 Golf (II)	C-	AOL AIM Free	B	Danilo Campos Tallymander	B-
Chillingo Vegas Pool Sharks Lite	C-	Palringo Lite	B	Grind Vision Got2Go	B-
Finblade Ernie Els Golf 2008	C-	Yahoo! Messenger	B	JNS Global Consulting iTrackVacaTime	B-
Full Control Smack Boxing Lite	C-	Agilemobile.com Agile Messenger	B-	Jon D G-Push Mail	B-
Namco Alpine Racer	C-	Shape Services IM+ with Twitter	B-	Kim Chi Studios Get Wise 'r Die Tryin'	B-
Namco Alpine Racer Lite	C-	Shape Services IM+ Lite	B-	Kray WallCalendar	B-
TheWay 300 Bowl	C-	Fuze Messenger	C+	Max Voloshin IQ Test	B-
Finblade Tennis Slam	D+	Nimbuzz	C+	Mendelini Glance	B-
Global Net Value FreeThrow	D	CallWave WebMessenger	C	o2 Creative Sol. Ghostly Discovery	B-
Global Net Value iHoop	D	twenty08 MobileChat	D	Pocket Pixels Cholesterol Coach	B-
Sauce Digital Killer Pool Lite	D			SportsTap SportsTap	B-
UI Magic Force Archer	D	<u>Internet Radio & Radio</u>		Synium Software vCarder	B-
Random5 iTiltPinball	D-	NPR/Bottle Rocket NPR News	A-	TheMacBox Lightsaber Unleashed	B-
Subrb Fist of Fury Boxing	D-	Pandora Media Pandora Radio	A-	Tres Penguins Fozy	B-
Chillingo Beach Volleyball	F	Slacker Radio	A-	Extrant, Inc. iCeCream	C+
		Last.fm Last.fm	B+	j2sighte A Doodle Flight	C+
<u>Games - Strategy/Tower Defense</u>		Weather Underground WunderRadio	B+	Jeff Maynard Entrepreneur	C+
Critical Thought GeoDefense Swarm	A-	AOL AOL Radio	B	R.Cloud Software Digit Defenders	C+
IUGO Zombie Attack!	A-	Appsolute vTuner Radio	B	Rupa Pub. rupa eCard - I Love You	C+
Electronic Arts SimCity	B+	Normsoft Pocket Tunes Radio	B	AppMobi SpinSlide	C
PolarBit Iron Sight	B+	Oogli ooTunes Radio	B	Artificial Life BMW Z4 Express/Joy Lite	C
Sillysoft Games Lux Touch	B+	VisuaMobile allRadio	B	Boiled Goose Anaglyphs	C
Subatomic Studios Fieldrunners	B+	Griffin iFM Radio Browser	B-	Indy Associates NY Lie Detector 800	C
Neptune Studios 7 Cities TD	B	Nullriver Tuner Internet Radio	B-	Karma World 0to60	C
Ngmoco Star Defense	B	BluMediaLab StreamItAll Radio	D	Magenta Studio Year of the Ox	C
Xpressed/JavaGround UniWar	B	Clear Channel iHeart Radio	F	InterScape iKnow	C
Silverlode Interactive Saga Catapult	B-			NeverBored Studios ThreadBound	C
Squiddle Games Besieged	C	<u>Miscellaneous</u>		Occiptal RedLaser	C
		Apple Remote	A-	SCI Ohmz	C
<u>Games - Word Games</u>		Pantone myPantone	A-	Spinapse Way No Way	C
Imangi Studios Imani	A-	Skype Inc. Skype	A-	Spookies Gender Changer	C
Frybread Software Word Search	B+	Apple iPhone OS 3.0	B+/B	VOKAL Interactive iDecide Pro	C
Ngmoco Word Fu	B+	Enormego FML	B+	Wildcat Mobile CardPuppy	C
Plastic Games Cipher	B+	Frozen Ape Tempo	B+	08 Inc. PixelContact	C-
SkyZone Extreme Hangman	B+	Ivan Kerpan & Lebed GlobeMaster	B+	40Cozy Pour1out	C-
SkyZone Extreme Hangman Lite	B+	NextWave Solutions Cablink	B+	Alatto Technologies Defuser	C-
Vadim Spivak Wordle	B+	scanR scanR Business Center	B+	Andreas Kostuch myXident	C-
99 Games Online Wordsworth	B	The Omni Group OmniFocus	B+	Avantar AirYell	C-
Digicide Pyrus	B	Wirus Tick Talk	B+	Heads Up Software My Little Eye	C-
MobilityWare Word Warp	B	100 Proof Software Yo Mama	B	Jeff Maynard Porsche Archive	C-
Spindrift Software Wordtouch	B	Apps That Rock TalkMail Lite	B	Mail Point BabyPhone	C-
HappyAppy Word Whirl Free	B-	Chilli X PlaySafe	B	Spendthrift Studios Blockit!	C-
PopCap Games Bookworm	B-	Daisuke Nogami Puppet Animation	B	e-Lips Trendz	D+
Digicide Lexitron	C	Griffin Technology FAIL Maker	B	G-Monkey Productions iBacon	D+

Inversity inTouch Address Book	D+
LivingImage PlayPix 3 Snaps	D+
Ab2labs Face Fun	D
Anitello Anitello	D
Front Pocket Med. Ask Happy Buddha	D
Ideasforiphone Kleenex Lotion Tissue	D
Lonely Duck Motorcycle Engine	D
Smashart AirPhones	D
SonicMule Sonic Boom	D
TLR-Newmedia Earworm	D
NBC Battlestar Galactica Cylon Detect.	D-
Hulabreaks JunkSword	D-
Global Net Value iJellyfish	D-
PokitLint Team Up	D-
Ichikaku Slot Japan!	D-
Jon Davis Traffic Control	D-
Zarko Bizaca Green Machine	F
Global Net Value CardMagic	F
The Directors Bureau Say It! Bar Ed.	F

Mouse + Trackpad

Hoofien Snatch	A-
R.P.A. Tech Air Mouse	B+
Edovia TouchPad	B
HLW iTap	B
Jens Henneberg WinRemote	C
Mbpowertools WiFiTouchPad	C
Pearworks PearPad	C-
Qwasi QwasiPad	C-
Sensim Pad v. 1.0	F

Movies + TV

Cyrus Najmabadi Now Playing	B+
Flixster Movies	B+
xTeo Trailers Lite	B-
Avantar Showtimes	C+
xTeo Trailers	C
Avantar OneTap Movies	C-
k5Software KickScreen Movie Trailers	C-

Music Makers

Intua BeatMaker	A
Benjamin McDowell True Drums	A-
MooCowMusic Band	A-
MooCowMusic Guitarist	A-
MooCowMusic Pianist	B+
Frontier Design Group Guitar	B+
Benjamin McDowell Beat Loop	B
Inedible Software Air Guitar	B
Smule I Am T-Pain	B
Magnus Larsson Bedrum	B-
Newforestar NESynth	B-
Pixel Narr. Game Show Soundboard	B-
Pure Profit BtBx	B-
Smaga Bakery myBalloon - Blow, Play	B-
iZotope iDrum	C+
Afrim Kacaj Tingalin	C+
George Talusan Cat Piano	C
PawPaw Farm Idol	C
Yonac miniSynth	C

Yonac Thereminator	C
Pakl PaklSound1	C-
Opal Limited Bloom	D
Stefan Welebny Synthesizer	D
Frnk Singing Cat	F

Newsreaders (RSS)

Mayor Justin Manifesto	A-
omz:software Newsstand	A-
Marco Arment Instapaper Free	B+
NewsGator NetNewsWire	B
Prime31 Web Design Feeds	B
Marco Arment Instapaper Pro	C+
Sebastian Schimansky sebNews	C-
Tuomas Artman Web Feeds	C-
Phantom Fish Byline	D+
Gregory Desmaziers iRSSFeeds	D
Steve Polyak SimpleRSS	D
VirtueSoft.com azRSS Newsreader	D
Boris Klaydman iRSS	F

Photography - Editing + Taking

Hendrick Kueck ColorSplash	A-
Omer Shoor Photogene	A-
Tiffen Company Photo fx	A-
Audibles PhonoCam	B+
Bitwerkz f/8 DoF Calculator	B+
Originate Labs PanoLab	B+
SPmobile RealCamSP	B+
Takayuki Fukatsu QuadCamera	B+
Zest Prod Photoboard	B+
CodeGoo Camera Genius	B
John Moffett Collage	B
Jump Associates Pix Remix	B
Nevercenter CameraBag	B
SPmobile RealCamLE Free	B
Sudobility Night Camera	B
Alazar GmbH & Co. Picoli	B-
Kei Kusakari DeliCam	B-
Stormtap Studios Photo Resize	B-
Boreal-Kiss MixPhotos	C
Intellicore ImageTouch	C
Intellicore ImageTouchLite	C
Nick Drabovich Magic Touch	C
Weburban LLC GritPix	C
Weburban LLC HiCon	C
Weburban LLC GothPix	C
DataMind Srl Jade	D

Photography - Sharing

XK72 Mobile Fotos	A-
Sudobility Air Photo	A-
Connected Flow Exposure 1.1	B+
Hewlett-Packard HP iPrint Photo	B+
Stolen Bases/WYWH Postcards	B+
William Fleming Klick	B+
Martin Gordon FlickUp	B
appMobi PhotoBeamer	B-
Connected Flow Exposure Prem. 1.1	C+
SoundSpectrum Fotomatic	C+
Flektor MoPhoTo	C
AirMe Inc. AirMe	D

Recorders - Audio

Griffin iTalk Recorder 1.0.1	B+
Web Info Solutions Note2Self 1.0	B+
Zarboo SpeakEasy Voice Recorder 1.0	B+
Peerium Audio Recorder	B
Jott Networks Jott for iPhone	B-
nFINITY QuickVoice Recorder	B-
Patrick O'Keefe VoiceRecord	B-
Retronyms Recorder	B-
Simple Touch Software iRecorder	B-
Red Rock Software Recordifier	C
Sophiacom YouNote	C
GarSoft VoiceNotes	C-
T. Ashley Software EccoNote	C-
Verge23 Voice Memos	D

Relaxation

Matt Coneybeare Ambiance	A-
Random Ideas iZen Garden	A-
Random Ideas iZen Garden Lite	A-
Nicoteam Earth3D	B+
Signs Studios aSleep	B+
The Blimp Pilots Koi Pond	B+
SimpleTouch Software Meditator	B
Underworld Ent. Chill Unlimited	C+
Chilingo iChillout	B-
Chilingo iRelax-Ambient	B-
Chilingo iRelax-Electonica	B-
Freeverse Tranquility	B-
Trileet Attaining Zen	B-
Jiyuka.com Jiyuka	C+
Lingon i Korg Meditation Timer	C+
Hog Bay Software Bubbles	C
Innobytes ZaZen	C-
Fractal Softworks Zenscape	D
Peerium Zen Garden	D
ILM Informatique iRelax	F
Tulsi Mayala Petal Pond	F

SMS/MMS Applications

Inner Fence Infinite SMS	B+
Michael Schneider SMS Touch	B-
Phase2 Media Fetch My MMS	B-
TwinPekes Software Freedom SMS	B-
Inside Root Media Fetch MMS	C
Stefano Barbato NoTap SMS	C-
BoCoSoft Free Texting (SMS)	D
Hook Mobile Multimedia Messages	D

Social Networking

Facebook Inc. Facebook	A-
Brightkite.com Brightkite	B+
MySpace.com MySpace Mobile	B+
Loopt, Inc. Loopt	C+
Pelago Inc. Whrrl	C-

Tip Calculators

Kudit Tips	A-
Neutrinos TipTotaler	A-
iHarwood Meal Splitter v2	B+
Made with Bananas Tiptap	B+
Manta Ray Software Tippet Split	B+

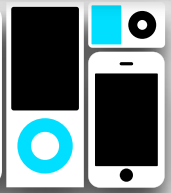
TightApps Separate Checks 2.0	B+	Virtual Lighters	
Vault 13 Studios Int'l Tip Calc.	B+	SonicMule Sonic Lighter	B+
Carlos Perez Tip	B	Ubermind iLightr - Virtual Lighter	B
Catamount Software CheckPlease	B	bam4 Freebird	B-
Palasoftware iTrip	B	iQueue iConcert	B-
Tap Tap Tap Tipulator	B	Michael Boldt ConcertBuddy	B-
Pascal Mermoz mTip	B-	EZone.com CrazyLighter - Gold	C+
Paul Blackwell TipOut	B-	Mobile Logic Encore	C+
BAMsoft TipCalc	C+	Moderati Virtual Zippo Lighter	C+
Apical Studios TipSY	C	Sony David Cook's Light On Lighter	C
Lars Bergstrom Split the Bill	C	DoApp myLighter	C-
PureBlend Software BigTipper	C	My Edge Software Lights!	C-
Ryan Rowe TipStar	C	iPocketApps iFlame MECB	D
Abel Duarte Tipper	C-	Ken Torimaru QuickLight	D
Charles Ying Tip Calc	C-	Chillingo Lighter	D-
Charles Ying Tipper	C-	Apps4Life Lighter - Multi Color Flame	F
IncisiveGeek TipCalc	C-	Thaddeus Cooper Flametastic	F
Mobile Logic Tip Master	C-		
Houdah Software ACTGratuity	D+	<u>Wallet Apps</u>	
Polkapps DutchTab	D+	Ilium Software eWallet	A
Raphael Salgado Tipster	D+	SplashData SplashID	A
Spare Change Software QuickTip	D	Agile Web Solutions 1Password	B+
TapeShow Gratuity	D	mSeven Software mSecure	B+
Uncouth Software Simple Tip Calc	D	GEE! Technologies LockBox	C+
Justin Jeffress TipBuddy	D	Samurai Code Monkey Secret Safe	C+
Shekhar Yadav Tip Calculator	D	Bookshelf Apps SecretBook	C
Siddharth Ram Tipper	F	ClownWare Firebox	C
		GEE! Technologies LockBox Pro	C
<u>Twitter Applications</u>		Triple Creeks Studio SecureNotes	C
Atebits Tweetie	A-	Michele Balistreri Cards	C-
Kazuho Okui Twitterfon/Echofon	A-	NormSoft Mecreets Password Manager	C-
Iconfactory Twittrific	B+	Phnsft Safe	C-
Mac65.com LaTwit	B	Software Ops LLC My Eyes Only	C-
Nambu Network Nambu	B	Absolute Apps Passwords	D
Takuma Mori NatsuLion	B	Prometoys Ltd. Saphir	D
Tapulous Tweetsville	B	Teliience.com Passwords	D
Big Stone Phone Twittelator	B-	Aziz Uysal iSecret	F
Schmap GeoTwitter	B-	Craig Lurey Keeper	F
Tapulous Twinkle	B-	HINZ Steuerungs ME iWebLogin	F
Airglow Studios QuickTweet	C	Hon Cheng Muh NotePadLock	F
Eric Allam Twitfire	C	Thomas Kilmer Passwd	F
Glucose Fastweet	C	tibSys SARL Coffre Fort	F
Glucose Fastweet 2K	C		
Mustache Summizer Free	C	<u>Wikipedia Apps</u>	
Patrick Quinn-Graham JustUpdate	C	Robert Chin Wikipanion	A
Up To Speed Statuso	C	Robert Chin Wikipanion Plus	A
Wizag Twitter Trend	C	Satoshi Nakagawa Wikiamo	A-
Zumobi Network Ziibii	C	Keishi Hattori Eureka	B+
Big Stone Phone Twittelator Pro	C+	Veveo Wiki Tap	B
Guillaume Jarysta-Dautel GeoTwitt	C+	Next Mobile Web Quickpedia	B-
Naoki Hiroshima Gyazickr	C+	Red Rome Logic Kiwi	C+
Popvox Twitversation	C+	Hampton Catlin iPedia Wiki-Encyclo.	C
10to1 Oak	C-	SplashData InfoPedia	C
Kei Noguchi iTweets	C-	Wapedia Wapedia Mobile Wiki	C
Mere Complexities Ltd. Twitterlink	C-	SMG Qwikipedia	C-
MotionObj SimplyTweet	C-	NextAroundYou WikiPDA	C-
Raizlabs GPSTwit	C-	Steam Heavy Industries Encyclopedia	D
Takuma Mori Tweeter	C-	Sven Schramm Look Up Wikipedia	D
Iconfactory Twittrific Premium	D		
Mustache Summizer Pro	D		
Joggame Tweetion	D-		

Having Trouble Finding A Specific Title?

The App Report Card's organization is pretty straightforward, except for "Games - Casual Action," which includes a number of mini-games of various types, and "Miscellaneous," a catch-all category for apps that didn't fit anywhere else. Check those sections, and if you still can't find what you're looking for, search the iLounge.com web site. We try to cover as many important apps as possible, but with roughly 100,000 in the App Store, it's impossible to review them all.

Why's That Buggy App Rated So Low or High?

While the App Store's free update policy has benefits - features and bug fixes can be added to existing apps at any time - the consequence has been that many developers initially release buggy and/or unfinished apps, then try to fix them or add things later. In addition to everything else, our reviews take stability into account, but it's a moving target: some apps that ran just fine under iPhone OS 2.0 suddenly stopped working after the 3.0 update. Given how many apps and updates are added every day, there's no way to predict how stable a given version will be - some completely stable apps develop unexpected hanging or crashing bugs following updates, and occasionally, developers actually remove features that contributed to a high rating. Use our Report Card as a guide to what's good (B-rated) and great (A-rated), but cautiously check App Store reviews for comments on stability.



THE IPOD + IPHONE BUYERS' GUIDE



Which iPod or iPhone Should You Buy?

Every year, Apple describes its new lineup as its best ever, and in one sense, that's true: every year's iPods and iPhones improve in some ways from their predecessors. But as the third-generation iPod shuffle amply illustrates, Apple sometimes drops important features merely for the sake of thinning products or boosting profit margins; the rapid growth of the iPod touch, iPhone, and App Store also raise important questions about the wisdom of buying Click Wheel or screenless iPods at this time. With overviews and ratings of every current model, this section of our Guide will help you make an informed decision as to what's right for you today, and in the future.



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The iPod + iPhone Family.

With 39 different models to choose from, including color and capacity variations, the iPod and iPhone family has something for everyone. Our top picks going into 2009 are the iPod nano, iPod touch, and iPhone 3GS. On the following pages, we'll explain why; here, we show their unique specs.

iPod shuffle



1.8" x 0.7" x 0.3"

iPod nano



3.6" x 1.5" x 0.24"

iPod classic



4.1" x 2.43" x 0.41"

Purpose	Music & Data Storage	Sport-Ready Media Player	High-Capacity Media Player
Price	\$59-\$79	\$149-\$179	\$249
Capacity	2GB-4GB	8GB-16GB	160GB
Colors	6	9	2
Weight	0.38/0.61 Ounces	1.28 Ounces	4.9 Ounces
Screen	None	2.2" / 376x240 / 204ppi	2.5" / 320x240 / 163ppi
Music	10-14 Hour Battery	24-32 Hour Battery	36-42 Hour Battery
Photos	None	Yes	Yes
Games	None	3 + iTunes Downloads	3 + iTunes Downloads
Videos	None	5 Hour Battery	6 Hour Battery
Rating	C	B+	B
Summary	Smaller isn't always better, as the control-less new shuffle proves; it's the family's weakest performer, but also the cheapest.	Apart from its lack of new games and low capacity, the new video camera- and FM radio-laden nano is a no-brainer, great for fitness and solid for music, videos, and fashion thanks to 9 colors.	Great capacity and a strong battery are undercut by an aging feature set and weak game support. Now of value only to users who need to carry huge libraries without having a great screen.

iPod touch



4.3" x 2.4" x 0.33"

iPhone 3G



4.5" x 2.4" x 0.48"

iPhone 3GS



4.5" x 2.4" x 0.48"

Touchscreen Wi-Fi Media Player

\$199-\$299-\$399

8GB-32GB-64GB

1

4.05 Ounces

3.5" / 480x320 / 163ppi

30-39 Hrs. (8GB) / 30-32 Hrs.

Photos: Yes

Games: iTunes Downloads

5-6 Hr. (8GB) / 6-7 Hr. Battery

A- (8GB) / B+ (32GB/64GB)

Priced to move, the 8GB touch is faster than the iPhone 3G, lacking mostly its camera and calling features; the 32/64GB touches are faster still and add other frills. Video, Wi-Fi, and cheap games are big draws.

Touchscreen Media Phone

\$99 Plus Contract

8GB

1 ●

4.7 Ounces

3.5" / 480x320 / 163ppi

24-29 Hour Battery

Yes

iTunes Downloads

7 Hour Battery

B

It's the iPod touch, plus a cell phone and a pricey two-year contract. So-so battery life, a decent camera, and a fragile plastic shell take away from an otherwise great multifunction device.

Touchscreen Media Phone

\$199-\$299 Plus Contract

16-32GB

2 ●●

4.8 Ounces

3.5" / 480x320 / 163ppi

29-30 Hour Battery

Yes

iTunes Downloads

8-10 Hour Battery

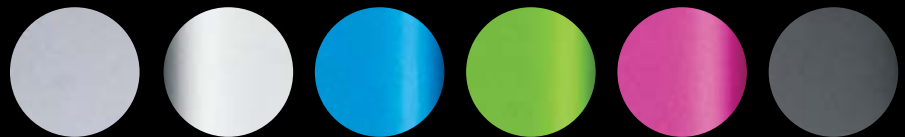
B+

Faster and packing a better still and video camera than iPhone 3G, the 3GS otherwise feels like a small, iterative upgrade, but has Nike+ and more capacity. Apple's best iPhone to date.



iPod shuffle

2-4 GB - 10-14 Hour Battery - Music - Data - \$59-\$99 US




The original 2005 iPod shuffle wasn't Apple's most impressive design, but it was daring - a cheap, dead simple, wearable iPod without a screen - and followed up by a smaller, metallic version with a shirt clip rather than a necklace. In early 2009, Apple released the third-generation shuffle, which became even tinier by dropping the integrated volume and track controls, leaving only a power switch. Now, you're supposed to use two buttons on the earphones to change volume, and repeatedly press the third button to stop, start, change, and skip within tracks. Want to use your old earphones? Buy a \$20 adapter with controls built in.



Crazy? Too hard for grandma to figure out? Maybe. The new iPod shuffle certainly isn't for everyone, but it adds VoiceOver - the ability to speak the titles of songs and multiple playlists - so it's a little more powerful than its predecessor. Some runners will like its small size and limited features; others, including us, strongly prefer the new iPod nano, which adds Nike+ compatibility and a dozen other advantages.

As of now, the iPod shuffle comes in six colors: silver, charcoal black, blue, green, and pink anodized aluminum versions are available everywhere in 2GB (\$59) and 4GB (\$79) capacities, while a "Special Edition" 4GB model in highly scratchable stainless steel is sold only at Apple Stores for \$99. Our advice would be to pass on this one, which we continue to believe is the least user-friendly iPod ever released.

iLounge rating 



Five of the six iPod shuffles have matte aluminum bodies, contrasting with the polished stainless steel shirt clips on back. The sixth model is entirely stainless steel and weighs more.



The green, blue, and pink shuffles are less intense than the colors of this and last year's iPod nanos, with lightly faded tones, while the black and silver versions are identical to the 2007-2008 nanos.



Apple includes a pair of three-button remote control-laden earphones and a USB charge/sync cable with every shuffle; it can't play through earphones and charge at the same time.



The only control on the shuffle is a switch that goes from "off" to ordered or shuffled playback modes. Its lack of screen and other controls makes it smaller than any iPod; the nano is thinner.



Apart from its low pricing, the shuffle's obvious advantage is size. Barely larger than its earphones, it is easy to attach to a jacket, and the most likely to be accidentally lost or laundered.





iPod shuffle-specific Accessories: Cases and More



B | Scosche
\$30 | **TapStick**

TapStick places the shuffle's buttons where they should have been - on the device's front surface. Using rubber for the buttons and so-so plastic for a shell that covers most of the shuffle's body, leaving the clip usable, TapStick is pricey given that a shuffle's only \$59, yet it's the only small button case around. More adapters are found in our earphone guide.



B+ | Incipio
\$14 | **Feather**

Sold in three-packs, Feather's the thinnest iPod shuffle case around - under 1mm - and uses colorful, soft-touch matte plastics to shield all but the top and back clip of the shuffle. One set includes purple, blue, and pink, while the other has black, white, and red. Though the colored finishes aren't as fancy as the new colored shuffles, these can be swapped.



B- | SwitchEasy
\$9 | **ChocoShuffle**

Nichey and a little too expensive, ChocoShuffle is a rubber case in the shape of a bite-sized candy bar (or Ex-Lax) with a hole on the top for the shuffle's headphone port and mode switch, and two more in the back to let the rear clip poke through. Three colors are sold separately: white chocolate, dark brown milk chocolate, and an odd pink.



B-
\$16

Dexim Shu-Lip USB Adapter

Instead of using Apple's USB cable for the shuffle, Shu-Lip is a silver metallic dock that extends the iPod by about an inch from your computer, for charging and syncing. It offers space savings, but is Apple's free cable really too big?

iPod shuffle Accessories: Cases and More



B
\$14

Incipio Lab Series Cases

With textures ranging from Lego block to cookie, candy bar and bone, Incipio's Lab cases are fun picks if you have a sense of humor about your shuffle, covering the front, back, and bottom while leaving the top and back open. Loop is our favorite of the group, effectively making the shuffle keychainable or attachable to a necklace. They're sold in packs.



B+
\$20

Core Cases Alum. Jackets

Before Apple sold multi-colored shuffles, Core's Aluminum Jackets gave users three thin but solid colored metal shells in "AM" (bright) or "PM" (mature) color schemes that could change the iPods into your choice of colors - PM even includes a chrome version like the \$99 shuffle. Even today, the colors remain smart picks, and a good value for fashion.



B
\$99

H2O Audio Interval

H2O has waterproofed iPods for years, and its latest Interval does the trick for third-gen shuffles, even integrating blue buttons into its otherwise glossy black case. Excellent Surge earphones are also built in. But the price is even higher than the prior shuffle Interval, and the case is much bigger, though still designed to mount on swim goggles. A good start.



iPod nano

8-16 GB - 24-32 Hour Battery - Music - Photos - Videos - Games - Data - \$149-179 US



If it wasn't for the growth and importance of the App Store, it would be easy to call the fifth-generation iPod nano the family's all-star member: the new model received a 640x480 video camera, FM radio, microphone, speaker, pedometer, and slightly bigger screen in late 2009, all taking it from "that's pretty cool" territory into "wow, what *can't* that thing do?" discussions. After adding all those features to last year's movie, photo, video, and game playing nano, Apple kept the 8GB model's \$149 price the same, and dropped the 16GB \$199 model down to \$179. Not bad.

But is it great? It's close. The new nano preserves the prior dull knife shape, using smoother, glossier polished aluminum and slightly tweaked colors that some people will like more than others. Its camera makes only decent videos, and doesn't take still pictures. Then there's the whole iPod touch thing: is it really wise to buy a Click Wheel iPod right now?

You'll need to decide for yourself whether you can live with something that lacks for iPhone OS apps, games, and Wi-Fi features. If you're mostly interested in music or want something really small with pretty strong battery life for audio and video playback, this is a very solid pick.



iLounge rating **B+**



The nano's new nine colors (top of right photo) are very similar to last year's (bottom), except for the darker pink, purple, green, and blue versions, and the car paint-like glossy finish on each body.



As before, you get starter earbuds, a plastic adapter for docks and speakers, and a USB cable. Three games are included: Maze, Klondike, and Vortex. Few games have been released recently.



The 2.2" diagonal screen is wider than on last year's nano, offering more space for menu options, and to display multiple special effect previews at once when you're about to record videos.



Music playback has the same big album art as last year, but with slight layout changes. Apple's built-in radio interface looks nicer than the one that appeared with prior nano accessories, as well.



In addition to Nike + iPod Sport Kit support, the new nano has a pedometer built in to track your footsteps, and a microphone that can record voice memos, just like iPhones and the new iPod touch.





iPod nano-specific Accessories: Cases



A- | SwitchEasy
\$20 | **CapsuleThins**

Simple, cleanly designed, and highly protective, CapsuleThins are transparent hard plastic shells that show off the colorful fifth-generation nano bodies while shielding almost everything from scratch damage. A smoke black version hides everything except for the Click Wheel, permitting the screen to shine through whenever it's turned on.



B+ | Griffin iClear
\$25 | **Sketch + Shade**

An alternative to totally clear protection, iClear Sketch and Shade cases mix transparent plastic with translucent black patterns. Shade fades from a black bottom to a clear top, and the Sketch versions have art and patterns that wrap around from front to back to add additional style to a nano, while letting its body coloration peek through.



A- | Aquarius
\$12 | **iJacket nano**

For years, virtually every iPod has received its own iJacket - a soft plastic shell with an included film screen protector and integrated Click Wheel coverage. The new nano's versions follow in the same mold, offering highly detailed and colorful artwork that continues through the Wheel; iJacket's only problem is that you'll have to hunt for it online.



iPod nano Accessories: Workout Gear + More


B
\$20 | **Speck
PixelSkin**

Updated from the fourth-generation nano, the rubber grid-backed PixelSkin now has a rear cutout for the fifth-gen camera; it's presently available only in black, but if it follows last year's trend, up to 10 colors may be sold. No screen or Click Wheel protection is included.


A-
\$29 | **Apple iPod
nano Armband**

Nearly identical to last year's iPod nano Armband, Apple's official workout accessory has a matte Click Wheel cover and clear screen shield, covering all of the nano except for tiny parts of its bottom, and offering a Velcro tab that works with or without the Nike + iPod Sport Kit. The armband is sized for any bicep, and breathable; it's a nice, simple design.


A-
\$13 | **SwitchEasy
Cubes for nano**

As the latest novel design from SwitchEasy, Cubes is an alternate take on Speck's PixelSkin, with Chiklet-shaped alternating-toned blocks on its back. Available in five colors, each with a hole in the back for the nano's video camera, Cubes is a fun, soft rubber case alternative to the many thin and clear ones other companies have released.


A-
\$29 | **Nike + iPod
Sport Kit**

Still the top runner's tool for iPods, Nike's Sport Kit works with the current nano, touch, and iPhone 3GS. Offering voice feedback, plus tracking of calories, miles, or minutes burned in a session, it saves and uploads run data to the NikePlus web site. Dead simple and accurate enough for the price, you'll need Nike+ shoes or a sneaker pocket to use it.



iPod classic

160 GB - 36-42 Hour Battery - Music - Photos - Videos - Games - Data - \$249 US

Every year, pundits guess that the iPod classic will be discontinued, yet it's still around. And why not? There's still a place for a high-capacity hard disk-based iPod, given the music and video storage needs of hard core users. But Apple continues to make clear that it doesn't care about this model: capacity aside, virtually nothing else has changed since its 2007 introduction. Today, even the iPod nano makes it look like an antique.

On the plus side, the classic has more storage space and battery life than any other Apple pocket device: 160GB for \$249 is \$1.56 per Gigabyte, versus \$24.88 per Gig for the 8GB iPod touch; it has several extra hours of audio run time and at least one extra video hour. You give up some of iPod touch's screen size and thinness.

But you lose a lot more than that. The classic's interface, features, and silver or charcoal colors haven't changed, and it has no apps, no Wi-Fi, and very little prospect of additional games. Buy it only if you need the space or use an old FireWire charger; it'll still work.



iLounge rating **B**



The 160GB iPod classic comes in silver or dark gray colors - not black, like the 2007 iPod classic - though all classic models share the same easily scratched, polished steel back. The top has a headphone port and Hold switch, while the bottom has a Dock Connector that works with virtually all the same accessories as the iPod nano, plus FireWire chargers. Like last year's 120GB classic, the new 160GB model supports top-mounted microphones and remote controls, and has voice recording software built in. It comes packed in a cardboard box with a plastic Dock Adapter, USB cable, and remote-less iPod Earphones.



Again, virtually nothing has changed from 2008's iPod classic interface to 2009's: you're presented with a split screen that features scrollable menu text on one side and floating art from your audio, video, photo, and game collections on the right. If you prefer to browse music by album art, you can use a Cover Flow mode that's not quite as useful as the ones in iTunes, the iPod touch and iPhone. Apple includes a Genius automatic playlist creator in this model, as well as the ability to sync Genius Mixes created by iTunes. A search feature, video, photo, and game playback all remain just as they were in earlier classic models; the classic and nano play the same games, but not iPhone/iPod touch games.





iPod classic-specific Accessories: **Cases + Film**



A-
\$20 | **PDO
TopSkin**

Budget-priced by iPod classic case standards, TopSkin offers literally comprehensive protection, plus a detachable included wrist strap and ratcheting belt clip. Made from silicone rubber, TopSkin comes in four colors - clear, black, red, or blue - and features nicely textured sides to make the polished metal classic body easier to grip. A great value.



B+
\$17 | **ShadesCases
Shades**

Different from virtually every other case we've tested, Shades are two-tone, one-piece plastic skins that fit iPod classics like gloves, providing transparent screen and Click Wheel visibility while coloring everything else in a translucent color, with smoke black or sparkling clear as neutral alternatives. They look and feel inexpensive, but they're novel.



A-
\$35 | **iSkin
eVo4 Duo**

Pricy but the best of all worlds, eVo4 Duo combines one of six colored metallic plastic hard front plates with a rubber body and detachable belt clip, collectively offering nearly complete iPod classic protection and versatility. Like Remix Metal, eVo4 Duo makes your classic look very cool, but doesn't compromise on port protection or style.



Multi-iPod Accessories: Designs Created for Multiple iPod Models



A-
\$25

Griffin Wave Case

Still one of our favorite designs, Wave mixes two different-colored, frosted interlocking rear shells with a clear face protector. Visually one of the nicest classic cases out there, Wave's bottom comes off to guarantee full add-on access; it works well with silver or black.



B+
\$35

Marware **Sport-suit Convertible**

Released for almost every past iPod model, the Sportsuit Convertible combines an armband, neoprene and clear plastic iPod case, detachable belt clip, and - only for the classic - an optional shell-like front face cover. Marware's case design provides superb iPod coverage, and though the glossy face protector looks a little wet, it'll keep classic dry.



A-
\$25

SwitchEasy CapsuleClassic

Like the iPod nano version, the clear or smoke black CapsuleClassic either lets the color of an iPod classic shine through, or obscures everything except the Click Wheel until the screen turns on, shining through the black plastic. SwitchEasy includes a bunch of frills in the package, including a headphone port adapter and protective film.



A-
\$30

Power Support Crystal Jacket

Hard plastic cases are common, but Power Support's Crystal Jacket stands out thanks to its built-in rear video stand - a feature that other cases don't do as well on the classic - as well as the company's unique 3D Wheel Film, one of the only protectors of the complete Click Wheel, including its center button. An extra back without the stand is included.



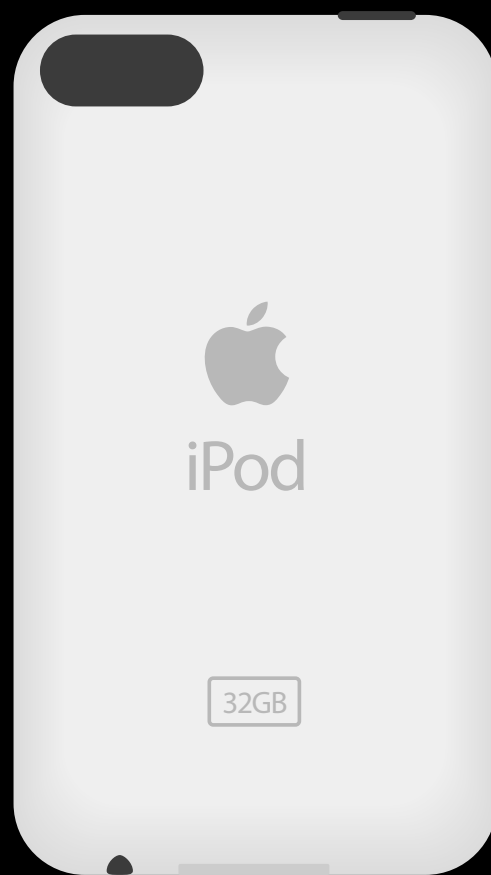
iPod touch

8-32-64 GB - 30-39 Hour Battery - Music - Photos - Videos - Games - Internet - \$199-\$299-\$399 US

From the outside, Apple's three iPod touch units look and sound nearly identical: similar 3.5" 480x320 touchscreens, clean audio, and decent speakers. But on the inside, they're different: the \$199 8GB model is the same as last year's, while the \$299 32GB and \$399 64GB versions pack new processors and more memory, enabling them to load apps and web pages faster. Eventually, the two high-end versions will also offer better in-game graphics, just like the iPhone 3GS.

But that's "eventually," and apart from capacity, the differences between the new and old touch models are small, waiting on Apple and developers to unlock them in the future. Nestled inside the new touch is an 802.11n wireless chip, unusable for the moment, and very few games actually use the new graphics features of the 2009 touch and 3GS. Apple added Voice Control and mic-equipped earphones to the new touch, but left out a video camera due to last-minute problems.

For the time being, the 8GB iPod touch is the iPod family's best overall "starter" pick due to its great features and low price. The higher-end versions are better for power users.



iLounge rating **A-/B+**

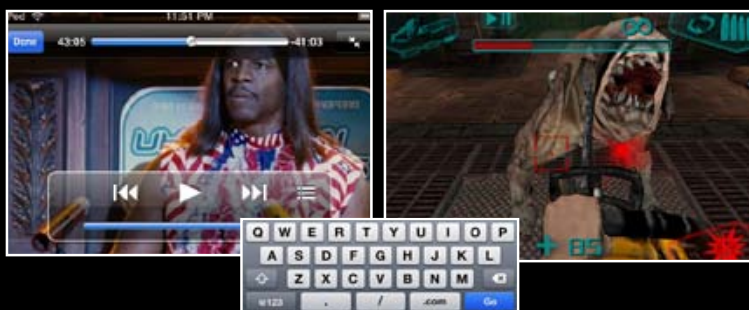
iPhone OS 3.1's Inside

iPhone OS 3.1 for the iPod touch includes a Voice Memo recorder, integrated Nike+ run tracking, and stereo Bluetooth wireless audio support. You still get beautiful album art, good e-mail, fast web browsing, and direct-to-device app downloads, too.



Switch to Widescreen Mode

Flipping iPod touch on its side lets you watch videos, play games, and browse music with Cover Flow. iPhone OS 3.1 lets virtually every app use a wide on-screen keyboard that's easier to type on if your fingers are too big for the vertical version.



Changes in 32/64GB Models

The two top touch models gain 2 hours of extra video time (nearly 8 total) but run for fewer hours of audio (roughly 31). They add Voice Control to let you speak music playback commands, and Accessibility options for the visually disabled.



One Difference in Pack-Ins

Every touch includes a USB cable and a plastic Dock Adapter; the 8GB model includes standard Earphones, while the others pack in the newer Earphones with Remote + Mic.



Accessories You'll Need or Want

Since touch has a scratchable back, you'll need a case or film to keep it safe. Both versions support remotes and microphones, as well as virtually all Dock Connecting add-ons since 2007.





iPod touch-specific Accessories: Cases and Armbands



A- | DLO
\$20 | **VideoShell**

Priced just right, VideoShell looks like a plain clear hard plastic case from the front, but its back has a novel, slide-out video stand built in. With protection for most of the iPod touch's body, including flim for the screen, VideoShell lets you show off the device and enjoy the benefits of either horizontal or widescreen reclined access without a dock.



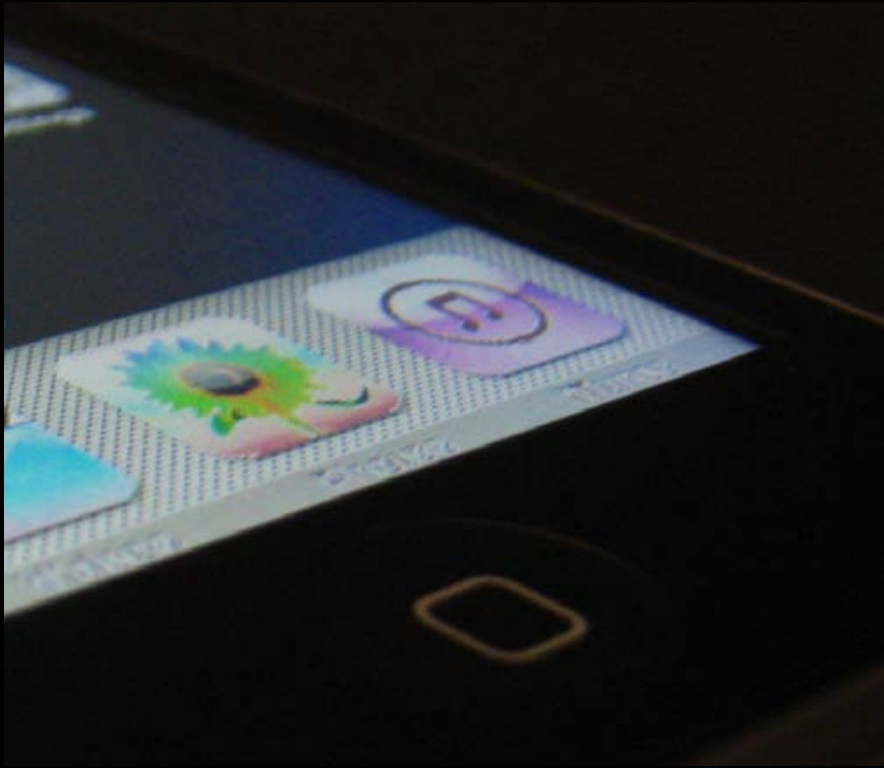
A- | Speck
\$35 | **CandyShell**

Also available and equally excellent for iPhones, CandyShell uses a soft rubber inner lining, a hard M&M-like outer shell, and protective screen film to provide almost complete protection for the iPod touch. Initial contrasting color choices offered early in its life have been supplemented by more neutral and appealing tones in late 2009; a great pick.



A- | DLO
\$30 | **Action Jacket**

Though we're less enamored with the nano version, Action Jacket for touch has the right combination of a neoprene case and detachable armband. A fully protective clear plastic screen shield helps to cover almost all of touch, save its bottom corners and oddly, the Sleep/Wake button. Don't need the armband? Use the case solo with the included belt clip.



Multi-iPod Accessories: More Armbands and Top Batteries



B | Incase Sports Armband \$35

Also sold for iPod nano 4G, Sports Armband is a soft and attractively designed neoprene armband with a fully clear face panel and a 17-inch armband - more than enough length for small- to medium-sized biceps. Though the iPod touch version is only sold in black, the smaller, 15-inch armband nano version is also available in a blue and gray color scheme.



A- | Belkin Sport Armband \$25

Making a good armband isn't hard: protect as much as possible given what people actually need during workouts. Available for iPod touch (\$25) and nano (\$20), Belkin's neoprene Sport Armband does a good job: save for holes for insertion and port access, it covers literally everything. Small pockets can hold gym keys and cash inside, too.



A- | H2O Audio Amphibix \$80

Though expensive, Amphibix offers completely waterproof armband protection for any iPod or iPhone, without requiring you to buy a different version for every new model; you can even wear it in a pool. Headphones are sold separately, but also excellent.



A- | Just Mobile Gum + Pro Batteries \$40-60

If you need more iPod or iPhone power, the gum pack-sized Gum and Gum Pro are the rechargeable portable batteries we'd pick. Gum lets you recharge the original power-hungry iPhone 1.5 times, while Pro doubles that capacity - you could recharge an iPod nano roughly 10 times with Pro. You supply the iPod-to-USB cable, it does the rest.



iPhone 3G

8GB - 24-29 Hour Battery - GSM Phone - Music - Photos - Videos - Games - Internet - \$99* US

When Apple redesigned the first iPhone to be cheaper and faster, the result was the iPhone 3G, a glossy plastic-bodied device with very similar specifications - 3.5" touchscreen, integrated 2.0-Megapixel still camera, microphone and speakerphone features - but three key changes: global 3G data and calling network compatibility, a GPS chip, and lower battery life for calling. It was a better device in some ways, but surely iterative, and with compromises; the next year's model would surely be better.

That's what happened with the even faster, more capacious iPhone 3GS (see following pages), but Apple kept around the black 8GB iPhone 3G and lowered its price to \$99 - an aggressive, attractive entry point to the iPhone family. Though nothing has changed from the 2008 version save the new iPhone OS 3.1 software, the iPhone 3G remains great for calls - except in heavily congested urban areas - offers iPod-rivaling AV quality, and provides data, map, and camera access anywhere, not just indoors. If you're willing to sign a pricey, two-year contract, it offers great convenience; if not, the 8GB iPod touch offers almost as much without strings. We'd be inclined to wait for the inevitable 2010 sequel, but it's tempting for the price.



iLounge rating **B**

iPhone 3G Versus iPod touch

Except for Nike + iPod support, the iPhone 3G offers everything in the \$199 iPod touch, plus:

Cell Phone. iPhone 3G makes calling and text messaging easy, utilizing contact info, a large dialing keypad, and simple conference calling.

Microphones. One each on the phone and included earphones, for calling and recording.

3G/EDGE Data. Access the Internet (and data-rich apps) anywhere, not just at Wi-Fi hotspots.

GPS. A chip can pinpoint your location with a blue dot on the included Google Maps, but doesn't give you turn-by-turn driving directions.

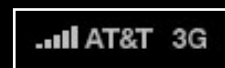
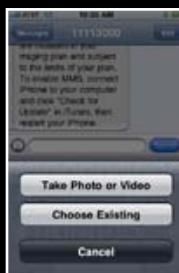
Camera. A 2.0-Megapixel sensor takes nice pictures outdoors but tends to blur in dim light, has no zoom, and limited focusing range.

Speakers. The ear speaker works well for calls; the bottom one is louder than iPod touch's.

Battery. iPhone 3G gets two hours of extra video and gaming time, if doing nothing else.

Adapter and Tool. 3G includes all of touch's extras, plus a wall adapter and SIM eject tool.

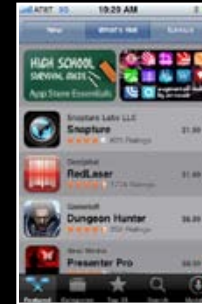
SMS/MMS. Cellular text, multimedia messaging.



iPod, Widgets, Apps and Games

iPhone 3G offers all the same music, video, podcast and photo functionality found in the iPod touch, displaying art, pictures, and movies on its 480x320-pixel screen.

It runs the same downloadable apps and games, yet 3G's ability to access the Internet from anywhere means that every feature - including the web browser, Stocks, Maps, and the App Store - can be used when you're traveling, and even in the middle of phone calls. This means that a handful of Internet-dependent apps, including turn-by-turn GPS navigators, only work on the iPhone 3G/3GS, not the iPod touch, though they're expensive to use internationally.



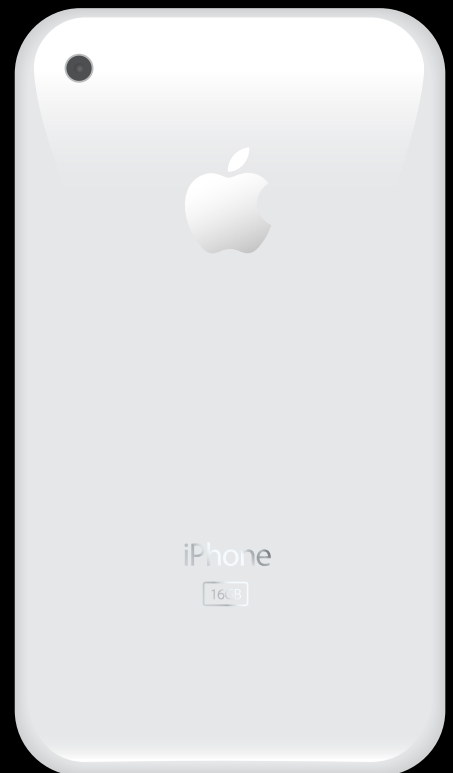


iPhone 3GS

16-32 GB - 29-30 Hour Battery - GSM Phone - Music - Photos - Videos - Games - Internet - \$199*-\$299* US

Apple has said that the “S” in the iPhone 3GS name stands for “speed,” referring to one obvious improvement over 2008’s iPhone 3G: apps and web pages load faster, games run smoother, and the interface feels a little zippier. They’re not huge changes, but they do improve the experience. A bigger deal is the new 3-Megapixel camera with video recording and trimming capabilities. Now, you can record movies, edit them, and send them from wherever you are via e-mail or MMS, a feature that no other iPhone or iPod offers. And all at the same \$199 (16GB) or \$299 (32GB) prices as last year.

There’s no doubt in our minds: if you’re new to the iPhone world and can’t wait for whatever Apple has planned in 2010, the \$100 premium over the iPhone 3G is worth paying for the 3GS’s numerous added abilities (see next page), all of which fall into the “quality of experience” category. That said, the 3GS’s plastic body is still easily damaged, and it offers anemic battery life given how many things you’ll want to do with it: a mere 5 hours of talk time can be sliced in half by video recording, game playing, or GPS-aided use of maps, forcing you to stay near a charger or keep a spare battery pack around. It’s a great device, except for its longevity.



iLounge rating **B+**

iPhone 3GS Versus iPhone 3G

The iPhone 3GS adds new features to iPhone 3G: **CPU, GPU and RAM.** iPhone 3GS loads apps and web pages noticeably faster than the iPhone 3G, and supports superior graphics in games.

New Camera. 3GS has a 640x480 video camera and 3-Megapixel autofocus still camera for superior detail, though colors are still so-so.

Magnetometer. A compass to let you know your current orientation on maps and in some apps.

Oleophobic Screen. The screen is coated to resist finger and skin oils, but scratches easier.

Voice Control. Make phone calls, change songs by holding the Home button and speaking.

Accessibility. Like the 2009 iPod touch, 3GS can zoom, invert colors, or speak on-screen text.

Battery + Meter. Modestly better audio/video run time, plus a percentage meter to track life.

Capacity and Colors. Storage space goes up by 2x or 4x; white or black bodies are available.

Nike + iPod. Like the iPod touch, iPhone 3GS has integrated wireless support for the Nike+ Sensor, letting you track and upload your runs.



Untapped Potential?

Though Apple sells the iPhone 3GS with better hardware than the iPhone 3G, several of its key capabilities are not exploited by current software. Developers have shown game demos with dramatically better graphics than iPhone + 3G versions, but very few have been released; the compass feature, touted as a possible game and app-enhancer, has seen little use and unreliable results in Apple's own Maps program. Tethering, or the ability of the faster iPhone 3GS (and slower 3G) to serve as a wireless modem for your computer, is blocked by AT&T. Future software upgrades and new apps may or may not unlock 3GS's power.



Understanding iPhone 3G + 3GS: Key Features

There's a lot more to learn about how iPhone 3G and 3GS perform. Here's what you need to know.

Bluetooth

Both iPhones support monaural Bluetooth headsets and stereo Bluetooth streaming to speakers and earphones. iPhone 3G supports Bluetooth 2.0 and 3GS supports 2.1, which can improve battery life and performance when used with certain recent Bluetooth accessories.

EDGE/3G

iPhone 3G and 3GS support four different cell standards (GSM, EDGE, UMTS 3G, HSDPA 3G), letting both operate or roam (at high cost) on cell networks in almost every country in the world. iPhone 3GS supports 7.2Mbps HSDPA for speedier data rates in some cities/countries.

Memory

The 8GB iPhone 3G has 7.25GB of usable space for contacts, music, videos, apps, and photos, while the 16GB 3GS actually has 14.6GB, and the 32GB 3GS has 29GB. We strongly prefer having the extra space, given the 3GS's video recording feature and the growing value of new apps.

Wi-Fi

Both iPhones can use 802.11b or 802.11g networks to get faster Internet speeds than 3G, using less power for data features, and still permitting you to use the phone at the same time. Neither supports more recent 802.11n networks; a new Wi-Fi chip in the iPhone 3GS appears not to be n-unlockable.

Understanding iPhone 3G + 3GS: Gotchas

You won't see these details in Apple's marketing materials - they'll surprise first-time many users.



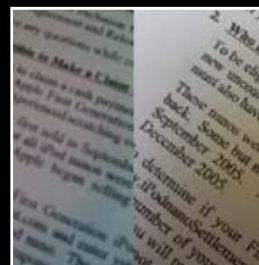
Battery

Expect sub-five-hour phone and data run times when you're on a 3G network, and plan to recharge mid-day if you call or use apps a lot. Audio is around 29 hours on each, with video at roughly 8 hours.



Body

Both iPhone 3G and 3GS are made from a glossy plastic that shows fingerprints and hairline cracks. Black shows smudges more than white, while white shows more cracks, and is only available for 3GS models.



Camera

Don't expect either iPhone to replace your real camera, but the 3GS's autofocus capability (right) produces sharper still shots, and its video camera creates very viewable and listenable movies.



Older Accessories

Neither iPhone 3G nor 3GS charges when used with older speakers such as Bose's original SoundDock and iPod Hi-Fi; both are recommended for use only with iPhone-specific 2008-2009 add-ons.

Understanding iPhone 3G + 3GS: Buy Now, Pay Later Pricing

The "low" hardware price is only half of the story, and by contrast with the first iPhone, it's deceiving.

Pricing	AT&T (U.S.)	O2 (U.K.)	Softbank (Japan)	Egypt (Mobinil)
8GB iPhone 3G	\$99 New customer price	£97 US ~\$155	¥0 US ~\$0	3,800EGP US ~\$690
16GB iPhone 3GS	\$199 New customer price	£185 US ~\$295	¥11,520 US ~\$129	4,640EGP US ~\$843
32GB iPhone 3GS	\$299 New customer price	£274 US ~\$436	¥23,040 US ~\$258	5,130EGP US ~\$932
Minimum Monthly Data Service Charges	\$30 Unlimited data	~£29 /18 mo. Unlimited data ~US \$46/month	¥5,705+ Unlimited data ~US\$63/mo, 24mo.	250EGP 300MB data ~US\$45/month
AppleCare	\$69	£59	¥7,800	N/A
Battery Repair	\$86	£62	¥9,800	~\$100
Total 8GB Cost	\$888	~\$1,077	~\$1,599	~\$690
Total 16GB Cost	\$988	~\$1,217	~\$1,728	~\$843
Total 32GB Cost	\$1,088	~\$1,358	~\$1,857	~\$932

Unlike iPods, paying for an iPhone only starts with the initial purchase of the device, which in some countries can cost as little as nothing for an 8GB model (Japan), or nearly \$1,000 for a 32GB unit without a contract (Egypt). You then have to pay monthly service fees that vary substantially between countries. Except in countries such as Egypt, where you buy the handset and have no obligation to pay for ongoing service, most of Apple's data service providers require 18- or 24-month contracts, so you must add \$720 in data fees for AT&T, \$828 for the U.K.'s O2, or \$1,512 for Japan's Softbank; Egypt's Mobinil charges a ransom for the phone and offers less impressive data service at prices comparable to the U.K.'s. None of these prices include the cost of voice minutes, which you'd buy with any phone. SMS and MMS messages may or may not be extra, depending on territory; they start at \$5/month in the U.S.

There are some potential hidden costs, too. Apple's warranty only lasts for a year, after which you'll have to pay either a battery replacement fee - outrageously priced relative to most phones - or in some countries, a still pricey AppleCare warranty plan instead. Our total costs above assume AppleCare where available. Otherwise, you'll have to buy a new phone or seek third-party repairs if your iPhone 3G or 3GS dies before your contract ends.

There's no doubt that the iPhone 3G and 3GS add a lot of on-the-go Internet convenience that an iPod touch lacks; you'll need to decide whether it's worth paying hundreds of dollars more for that data access, as well as the features mentioned on the prior pages, and having to share a battery between your phone and your iPod. Some users may be better off with an iPod touch and a separate phone.



A | SwitchEasy
\$15 | **Colors**

Still the budget case to beat for iPhone 3G/3GS, Colors combines nearly complete protection with 10 different color picks and a very reasonable price. The "jellybean" style Home button cover is unique, adding a second color to the case body.



iPhone 3G + 3GS Accessories: Cases + Film



B+ | DLO
\$25 | **HybridShell**

Two different cases from DLO now share the HybridShell name: the cool clear case with rubber dots shown above, and a new version with a black rubber badge in the center of the back, a black bezel guard in front, and a clear hard plastic body everywhere else. Both cases are highly distinctive, quite protective, and let your iPhone be seen, accented.



A- | Otter
\$50 | **Defender Series**

More protective than any other iPhone 3G/3GS case, Defender offers a combination of a three-layer shell (clear hard screen and camera plastic, a hard frame, and a rubber outer case) with a detachable belt clip holster. It's the only dedicated case that keeps the iPhone 3G safe from dirt and water splashes - not submersion - as well as accidental drops.



B+ | Power Support
\$15 | **Anti-Glare Film**

Japan's Power Support makes two types of Film for both iPod touch and iPhone 3G/3GS: one that's crystal clear and makes it impossible for anyone to see that you're protecting the screen, and this one, that's matte finished to prevent light from glaring off the surface into your eyes. Which you'll prefer is a personal choice, but each has two pieces per pack.



iPhone 3G + 3GS Accessories: Cases, Bluetooth, and Car



A-
\$25+

SwitchEasy CapsuleRebel

Visually unique and very substantially protective, CapsuleRebel is a 3G/3GS case with a hard plastic spine and a softer plastic case inside; a variant called CapsuleSerpent with a diamond-textured spine is also available. A great pick for users who pocket their iPhones and don't plan to pull them in and out of cases; the clear version is especially cool.



A-
\$70

Aliph 2008 Jawbone

Even better than its newer follow-up Jawbone Prime, Aliph's 2008 version of Jawbone has world-beating noise cancellation technology in a stylish textured plastic earpiece. Packed with wall and USB chargers, it runs for four hours of talk time, letting you take calls even in a convertible at 50MPH. Other headsets run longer, but this sounds better.



A-
\$100

Scosche solChat 2

As our current top iPhone speakerphone pick, the \$100 solChat 2 prompts you with voices, lets you use your voice to control the iPhone 3GS, and offers strong sound quality in both directions. A solar panel on the back and a car charger help you keep it going after 12 hours of talk time, a little less than Contour's competing SurfaceSound Compact.



Apple TV

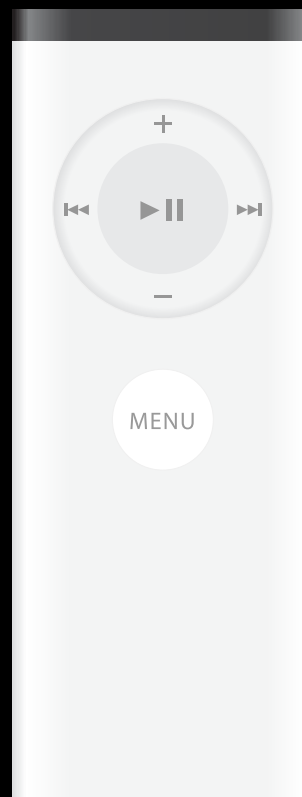
160 GB - Music - Photos - HD Videos - YouTube - \$229 US

Nearly three years after its release, Apple TV is the black sheep of the Apple media player family - a device that gets little attention and even less praise.

Originally designed just to let an HDTV play music, videos, and photos from a PC or Mac with iTunes, Apple TV today can wirelessly download high- or standard-resolution movies, TV shows, and music on its own from the iTunes Store, and store them on its 160GB hard drive. It outputs high-definition 720p videos with 5.1-channel surround sound, grabs photos from Flickr and MobileMe, and streams both YouTube videos and Internet Radio. It comes with a very simple six-button remote, which can now be replaced by most universal remotes, an iPod touch, or an iPhone.

With all those features, why isn't Apple TV more popular? Two reasons: limitations and problems. It can't record anything, and won't play many videos unless you're willing spend time and effort to convert them to one of Apple's two chosen formats. It appeals largely to people who buy their media from the iTunes Store, or want movie rentals at video store prices.

All but ignored by Apple in 2009, Apple TV received a new user interface in late October - probably its last hurrah for a while. It's a fun toy for iTunes addicts, but not a device we'd recommend enthusiastically to the masses.



iLounge rating **B**



Apple TV is sold in a threadbare package with only three components: the 160GB unit, a power cord, and a six-button remote control. You supply the audio and video cables yourself, connecting them to the unit's back. Inside the Apple TV chassis is a super-stripped-down Macintosh computer designed largely to connect to your home wireless 802.11b, g, or n network, then transfer content either from your computer or Apple's iTunes Store servers to its hard drive. You can't connect a keyboard or a mouse to the device, but you can use an iPhone or iPod touch as a keypad.

Though it's designed to be used wirelessly, Apple TV can be connected to a network with an Ethernet cable for substantially faster sync speeds. Its rear also includes HDMI AV, component video, stereo analog audio, and optical audio ports; these cables are sold separately for \$20-30 each. There's a USB port, but it can't be used for input or add-ons.



Apple TV's version 3.0 interface mimics Sony's PlayStation Xross Media Bar, running a bar across the center of the screen that lets you select from Movies, TV Shows, Music, Podcasts, Photos, YouTube, and Internet Radio options, playing content stored on its hard drive or streamed from Internet sources. It can also send audio wirelessly to Apple's AirPort Express routers, and with Apple's free Remote application (shown, bottom right) use iPhones or iPod touches as remote controls. Music plays on TVs with large album art against a black background, while videos take up as much of the screen as possible. Version 3.0 includes support for iTunes LPs - pricey albums with extra digital liner notes, photos, and videos - and iTunes Extras, essentially DVD-style interfaces and featurettes for movies. Very little iTunes content is offered in LP or Extra format.

