



iBook FAQ

Overview

Q. What did Apple recently announce about iBook?

A. iBook now features digital video capabilities via a new FireWire port, AV port, and iMovie digital video editing software. The powerful new iBook models are also faster and more friendly, come in new exciting colors, and continue to be the world's best consumer portables. Apple has also made the iBook more affordable, with prices starting at just \$1,499 (manufacturer's suggested retail price).

Q. What are the key features of the new iBook?

A. There are two new iBook models ready to meet the needs of both novice and more advanced users. The iBook comes in Indigo and sports a faster 366-megahertz PowerPC G3 processor with 256 kilobytes of level 2 cache, 64 megabytes of SDRAM, 8 megabytes of video memory, a larger 10-gigabyte hard disk drive,¹ a 24x-speed (maximum) CD-ROM drive, fast 10/100BASE-T Ethernet, a 56K V.90 modem,² and a 12.1-inch SVGA TFT color display. A USB port and a FireWire port are included for added expandability.

The new iBook Special Edition in Graphite features a faster 466-megahertz PowerPC G3 processor with 256 kilobytes of level 2 cache, 64 megabytes of SDRAM, 8 megabytes of video memory, a 10-gigabyte hard disk drive,¹ a new 6x-speed (maximum) DVD-ROM drive, 10/100BASE-T Ethernet, a 56K V.90 modem,² and a 12.1-inch SVGA TFT color display. A USB port and FireWire port are standard.

Each new iBook is ready for AirPort wireless networking and comes with a lithium-ion battery, power adapter and power cord, RJ-11 modem cable, 30 days of free Internet service through EarthLink, and a variety of Internet, productivity, and entertainment software, including the Mac OS, QuickTime, iMovie 2, AppleWorks, Microsoft Internet Explorer, Microsoft Outlook Express, Netscape Communicator, Acrobat Reader, Palm Desktop, FAXstf, Bugdom, and Nanosaur.³

In addition, you can order a custom-configured iBook in Key Lime from your authorized Apple reseller or the online Apple Store.

Q. Has Apple improved the performance of iBook?

A. Yes. The iBook Special Edition has the fastest processor ever included in an iBook: the 466-megahertz PowerPC G3.

Q. Has Apple improved graphics performance in iBook?

A. Yes. All iBook models are now equipped with the ATI RAGE Mobility 128 graphics accelerator chip and 8 megabytes of SDRAM video memory. iBook also supports Accelerated Graphics Port (AGP) 2X graphics, enabling the video system to use main memory when rendering 3D images for optimum imaging quality.



Q. What about storage?

A. Apple has increased the standard hard disk drive capacity from 6 gigabytes to 10 gigabytes in each new iBook model.¹ A 20-gigabyte drive is available as a build-to-order option. If you do need more storage, you can easily expand the computer's capacity by adding a USB or FireWire Zip drive or external hard disk drive.

Q. Can I upgrade a previous iBook to the new iBook?

A. No. Today's iBook is an all-new design with enclosure modifications and a new logic board.

Design

Q. How durable is the iBook?

A. iBook was designed to spend a lot of time traveling in a backpack, a briefcase, or anywhere you want to take it. The design eliminates I/O port doors and other parts that can snag and break off. The durable iBook has a unique rubber overmolding that's up to four times thicker than plastics used in other notebook computers.

Q. What input/output connectors does iBook have?

A. iBook models include one USB port, one FireWire port, an RJ-45 Ethernet connector; an RJ-11 connector for the built-in modem, an AV port for "big-screen" viewing of movies on virtually any TV or for connecting headphones, and a power adapter port.

Q. Does iBook have a PCMCIA slot?

A. No, but it does come standard with 10/100BASE-T Ethernet capability and a 56K V.90 modem²—the two most common uses for PCMCIA slots in notebook computers. Also, the iBook has an internal expansion slot for an AirPort wireless networking card. For even more external expansion capability, you can use the high-speed USB and FireWire ports.

Memory

Q. How much memory can be installed in iBook?

A. A maximum of 320 megabytes. iBook models come with 64 megabytes of SDRAM pre-installed on the logic board and feature one open memory expansion slot in which you can add up to a 256-megabyte SO-DIMM. The iBook also accepts a 32-, 64-, or 128-megabyte, 44-pin, 1.35-inch DRAM SO-DIMM that is PC100 compliant.

Q. How do I expand the memory?

A. The iBook design makes it easy to expand memory. You access the memory slot by removing the keyboard, the AirPort Card if one is installed, and the RAM shield. Only an ordinary tool, such as a Phillips-head screwdriver, is needed.

Q. Do PowerBook computers use the same kind of memory as iBook?

A. Yes, they do. So PowerBook SO-DIMMs that are no taller than 1.35 inches and are PC100 compliant also work in the iBook.



Display and Graphics

Q. Can you connect a television or projector to iBook?

A. Because iBook supports composite video output and presentation mirroring capabilities, you can connect virtually any television or projector to the iBook AV port using the included AV cable.

Q. Can the SDRAM video memory be expanded?

A. Because video memory is embedded in the graphics chip, it cannot be expanded. However, 8 megabytes of SDRAM is more than enough to support millions of colors and to run the most popular games much faster than most notebook computers.

Desktop Movies and iMovie

Q What is iMovie?

A. iMovie was the first digital video editing application specially designed so beginning movie-makers could create compelling digital movies using existing digital video footage. iMovie 2 is the next generation, complete with all the features of iMovie plus new tools that give you even greater control and creative freedom.

iMovie lets you transfer video clips to and from your digital camcorder, edit and arrange them into story lines, enhance them with professional-looking transitions and animated onscreen titles, and even add music and visual effects. You can view your finished movies onscreen, publish them to the web, email them to friends and family, or save them back to your camcorder to watch on TV.

Q. How does iMovie work?

A. Connect your FireWire-equipped digital camcorder to your iBook. iMovie can then capture your video footage as digital clips on your hard drive. With these clips you can create your own Desktop Movies.

Q. What are the advantages of DV (digital video) over traditional analog video?

A. DV image resolution is higher, providing superior image quality. Also, digitally stored images retain their quality when transferred into the computer. Inside your iBook, video files are kept in the same format, making editing easier and ensuring the best quality possible.

Q. DV files can be large. Can I store my movies on the iBook hard drive?

A. Yes. The DV format uses 3.8 megabytes of storage per second, so one minute of video requires about 200 megabytes of disk space. Each iBook comes equipped with a spacious 10-gigabyte hard drive (20 gigabytes in the build-to-order option), so there's not only plenty of space for the Mac OS, applications, and documents, but also enough left over for making movies. Most home movies are only about 5 to 10 minutes long and so require only 1 to 2 gigabytes of hard disk space. If you do need more storage, you can easily connect high-capacity FireWire hard drives. Your camcorder can also be used to store movies with no data loss. Simply re-record them onto the camcorder's tape and read them back into the computer later for editing. Since videotapes can be purchased for as little as \$10, this is a pretty inexpensive way to add DV storage.



Q. What accessories are required to make movies with iBook?

A. Except for a camcorder and a FireWire cable, each iBook includes everything you need to make movies: a built-in FireWire port, preinstalled iMovie 2 software, and enough processing power, RAM, and disk storage to get you started.

Q. How can I tell if my camcorder is compatible with iMovie 2?

A. The easiest way is to look for the FireWire symbol on your camcorder's video input/output port (also called the IEEE 1394 port or i.LINK port). You can also check the iMovie website at www.apple.com/imovie for an up-to-date list of camcorders supported by iMovie 2.

Q. Can I use my existing nondigital video footage with iMovie?

A. If some of your favorite video "moments" have been recorded in older formats such as VHS, Hi-8, or 8mm, you can convert them to DV using a special converter box such as the Sony Media Converter, then transfer your converted video to iMovie via the FireWire connector. To find out more about the Sony Media Converter, visit our website at www.apple.com/imovie/gear.

FireWire and USB

Q. The iBook now comes with both FireWire and USB. What are they used for?

A. USB (Universal Serial Bus) is great for lower-speed input devices such as keyboards, mice, and joysticks, as well as low-capacity removable storage devices such as Zip, SuperDisk, and floppy drives. FireWire lets you connect higher-speed multimedia peripherals such as video camcorders, hard disks, CD-RW drives, and so on. Each technology offers convenient "hot plug" capability, eliminating any need to turn off or restart the computer when attaching a new peripheral. For easy setup, iBook simplifies things by featuring automatic configuration, no device IDs or terminators, and simple-to-use cables. USB can support up to 127 devices per computer, and FireWire supports up to 63 devices. Each technology is a cross-platform industry standard that provides its own bus power, enabling peripherals to be even simpler.

Q. Can the FireWire peripherals used on an iMac also be used on an iBook?

A. Yes. FireWire (or IEEE 1394) is an industry-standard technology, and any peripherals developed to that specification are compatible with iBook.

Battery

Q. What battery technology is used in iBook, and what is its life between charges?

A. iBook employs a lithium-ion battery rated at 50 watt-hours. With iBook power conservation functions selected, it has a battery life of up to 6 hours, depending on configuration and use.

Q. Does the battery charge while iBook is asleep?

A. The battery charges while the system is asleep and the AC adapter is plugged in. While the system is in sleep mode or shut down, it takes approximately 2 hours to recharge the battery. When the computer is running, the battery charges in about 4 hours.



Setting Up and Using the Internet

Q. How has Apple improved the Internet setup experience with the new iBook?

A. With iBook and Apple Setup Assistant, it's quicker and easier than ever. You can unpack your iBook, set it up, and start surfing the web in 10 minutes or less. Setup Assistant can also sign you up for iTools, Apple's free suite of Internet services, and can configure the optional AirPort Base Station to get you on the Internet wirelessly.⁴

Q. Will Setup Assistant create a new Internet account or use the one I already have?

A. Setup Assistant is intelligent and can create a new Internet account or use an existing account. It knows how to connect to the Internet using AirPort, an Ethernet network, a DSL or cable modem, or a traditional V.90 dialup modem. If you're a new user, Setup Assistant can even help you sign up for 30 days of free Internet service from EarthLink.

Wireless Networking

Q. How can I add AirPort wireless networking to iBook?

A. It's easy. You need just two things: an AirPort Card and an AirPort Base Station.

Q. Can I install AirPort myself?

A. Yes, and you can have it operating in minutes. Simply follow the included instructions, plug the AirPort Card into the appropriate slot in your computer, and run the AirPort Setup Assistant software. Setup Assistant will walk you through the process and automatically configure your computer for AirPort. Or, if you'd like, an authorized Apple service provider can install AirPort for you. You can also purchase the iBook with an AirPort Card preinstalled from the online Apple Store.

Q. What is the AirPort Base Station?

A. Similar to the base station of a cordless telephone, the AirPort Base Station connects right to your phone line. The AirPort Base Station comes with an Ethernet connection, too, so you can connect it to a cable modem, DSL line, or Ethernet network.

Q. What is the range of an AirPort network?

A. AirPort typically sends and receives within a radius of about 150 feet—even through walls.⁴

Q. Can I transfer files between iBook and other Mac systems equipped with AirPort if I don't have an AirPort Base Station?

A. You can transfer files or play multiplayer games directly between AirPort-enabled computers. Simply use the AirPort Control Strip module to select direct computer-to-computer communications. Depending on their surroundings, the computers will be able to communicate within about 150 feet of each other.⁴



Q. How much does it cost to add wireless capability to my iBook?

A. The AirPort Card has a suggested retail price of \$99, whether you order it as part of your initial iBook configuration or buy it separately later. The AirPort Base Station has a suggested retail price of \$299. AirPort Base Station software comes free with the AirPort Card. Both the AirPort Card and the AirPort Base Station can be purchased from an authorized Apple reseller or through the online Apple Store.

Q. Does iBook support IrDA (infrared communications) capability?

A. The iBook does not support IrDA capability. Instead, it comes with built-in Fast Ethernet capabilities and provides optional AirPort wireless local area network access.

Keyboard

Q. Does the iBook trackpad support “tap, double-tap” functionality?

A. Yes. You can activate it through the Trackpad control panel.

Q. What can the programmable function keys do?

A. These keys help simplify common, everyday tasks performed on the computer. Once programmed, a single key can be pressed to launch a browser, an email application, or any other frequently used application or server. You can even program a function key to execute an entire AppleScript script.

Q. How do I set the programmable function keys?

A. It's very easy. Just open the Keyboard control panel in the Apple menu. Or, if the keys have not been programmed yet, simply press one of them to bring up a dialog box that will lead you to the Keyboard control panel.

Q. Can I secure the Keyboard so that retracting the two latches will not allow easy access to computer memory and the AirPort Card?

A. An optional Keyboard locking mechanism provides additional security for iBook. To activate the Keyboard lock, locate the Num Lock LED key between the F4 and F5 keys on the Keyboard. The round LED light in the middle of the Num Lock LED key is actually a small, translucent retaining screw. Turning the screw allows you to secure the keyboard.

Sound

Q. Does iBook have a built-in microphone?

A. No, but it's easy to connect an external USB microphone.

Q. Can I add external speakers to iBook?

A. Yes. You can connect them to the iBook via the AV port or the USB port, depending on the speakers' design. The AV port can also be used for composite video output to an external television or projector.



CD-ROM and DVD-ROM Drives

Q. Can the DVD-ROM drive play audio CDs?

A. Yes. The AppleCD Audio Player application is preinstalled in iBook as part of Mac OS 9. It includes all of the familiar controls on most consumer CD players, including a playlist that allows you to identify titles and tracks by name. Because CD audio tracks are read through the drive's digital data port, you get digital-quality sound featuring a sonic image that's wider and deeper than ever before.

Q. Are the CD-ROM and DVD-ROM drives removable?

A. No. The drives are built into the system.

Q. Can I use iBook to play DVD movies on my television?

A. Yes. iBook has a new AV port that allows DVD movies to be played on almost any TV that has a composite video input port.

Q. Can the DVD-ROM drive read DVD discs created on other computers?

A. The DVD-ROM drive is intended to play back DVD videos and read DVD-ROM titles. While it can read CD-RW discs, it cannot read recordable DVD media such as DVD-RAM. Refer to Mac Help on your iBook or the Apple Technical Information Library at www.apple.com/support for complete disc compatibility specifications.

Build-to-Order Systems

Q. Is iBook available through the Apple Store?

A. Yes. Build-to-order options include additional SDRAM (64 megabytes), a 20-gigabyte hard disk drive, and an AirPort Card and AirPort Base Station.

Q. Can I custom-configure my own iBook?

A. Yes. Apple now offers you the option to custom-configure your own iBook in the exclusive new color, Key Lime. You can order an iBook in Key Lime with either a 366-megahertz or 466-megahertz PowerPC G3 processor, a 10-gigabyte or 20-gigabyte hard disk drive, and a CD-ROM or DVD-ROM drive. Of course, this custom configuration comes fully loaded with these standard iBook features: 64 megabytes of SDRAM, 8 megabytes of video memory, 10/100BASE-T Ethernet, a 56K V.90 modem, a brilliant 12.1-inch SVGA TFT color display, and both USB and FireWire ports.

¹ For hard drive capacity measurements, 1GB = 1 billion bytes; actual formatted capacity less.

² Actual modem speed lower; speed depends on connection rate and other factors.

³ Most applications are preinstalled. Some applications require the use of an included CD-ROM. Product contains electronic documentation. Backup software is provided on CD-ROM.

⁴ Wireless Internet access requires AirPort Base Station and Internet access (fees may apply). Some ISPs are not currently compatible with AirPort, including America Online. Range may vary with site conditions.

For More Information

For more information about iBook, visit
www.apple.com/ibook.