

# Buying accessories for your iPad



To learn more about all you can do with your iPad, check out the second edition of *iPad for the Older and Wiser* by Sean McManus (Wiley, 2012).

There are a number of accessories you can buy for the iPad, some made by Apple and some made by other companies. If you buy your iPad from a shop, you'll probably be offered one or more of the following:

- **iPad dock:** A stand for your iPad that keeps it upright while it charges. This isn't essential, and seems expensive if the main benefit is to keep your desk tidy while the iPad charges. It can also be used to hold your iPad while you're watching video on it.
- **iPad keyboard dock:** A full-size keyboard that you can plug your iPad into so it stands up, like a monitor screen. You can also charge your iPad while it's in the dock. If you typically use a keyboard-based PC, you might be tempted to get one of these straight away, but don't buy one until you've tried the iPad's on-screen keyboard. You probably won't need to add a real keyboard. Few people do. If you have a Bluetooth keyboard for your computer, you might be able to use that with your iPad too.
- **iPad USB power adapter:** You get one of these with your iPad anyway, but you could buy another so you've got one for the office and one for the home. If you buy an extra one it has a 6m cable on it, so if your tables are bizarrely distant from your plug sockets, this might come in handy.

- **iPad Camera Connection Kit:** This enables you to copy photos directly from your camera or its SD card (memory card) into the iPad. This is a useful accessory to take on holiday, so you can email photos from your iPad and view slideshows on it even when you don't have access to your computer to copy them across.
- **iPad case:** A case helps to protect your iPad. These are made by many companies but I recommend Apple's own cases, which also enable you to stand your iPad up for use as a picture frame or TV screen, or lay it on the desk at an angle that's comfortable for typing. Apple's Smart Cover also turns the iPad off when the screen is covered and starts it up again when it's opened, but it's not compatible with the first generation iPad (the one without cameras) and it doesn't protect the back of the device.
- **Screen protector:** These are plastic films you can apply to the surface of your iPad to prevent scratching. They can be hard to apply without getting air bubbles trapped between the screen protector and the screen. Apple doesn't sell screen protectors, perhaps because it believes you don't need one.
- **Cleaning cloths:** You don't need any special cloth to keep your iPad clean. You can use a glasses cleaning cloth (available cheaply from opticians).
- **Printer:** Apple uses a wireless technology it calls AirPrint, which enables your iPad to send documents to a compatible printer. Unless you plan to do a lot of printing from your iPad, I wouldn't worry about getting a printer for it. You could just send documents to your main computer and print them from there. When you next replace your printer, look out for one that also supports AirPrint, though.
- **Extended warranty/insurance:** Apple offers a one-year warranty with the iPad but you can buy an extended warranty if you want to. If you want to insure your iPad against accidental damage while in transit, you can often have it covered more cheaply under your home contents insurance policy.

You don't have to buy any of these, although the iPad case is a good investment, and the Camera Connection Kit is useful for holiday photo fun.



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Sean McManus

iPad<sup>®</sup> for the  
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Get Up and Running with Apple iPad2 and the New iPad

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