



South Bay Apple MUG Macintosh

November/December 2013

Monthly CUPFUL for South Bay Apple Mac User Group Members

Crowdsource Your Next Vacation With These 8 Sites

By Matt Petronzio, Mashable, 8/22/13

The days of planning your vacation through faceless, text-only travel reviews are over. No more sifting through countless guides for desired cities; no more scrolling through generic tips on travel websites that may or may not have been planted by PR.

Travel is an exciting, interactive and visual experience — and planning a trip should be, too. You've already successfully incorporated social and digital media into your life, using networks such as Pinterest, Instagram and Facebook for real-life suggestions. Now it's time to use those same connections to get the most out of your dream vacation.

We've rounded up eight websites that help you plan your next trip through crowdsourcing — tools that you and your fellow world travelers can use to upload pictures and information from your trips, as well as browse through real-time recommendations to get a feel for a prospective destination.

1. [Triptease](#). One of Triptease's goals is to have users "rethink travel," and its refreshing and responsive social interface helps you do just that. Keeping in mind that digital design is moving in an increasingly visual direction, and that the best part of returning from a trip is sharing those photos your friends will inevitably drool over, Triptease allows you to write, share and browse reviews with a focus on stunning imagery. It also operates on a real-name basis, highlighting the humanity behind travel recommendations.

The platform emphasizes quality; you won't find dull lists or negativity — only the best experiences that will turn into necessities on your itinerary. Triptease also invites hotels and businesses already established in the travel industry to set up special accounts to engage customers.

2. [Find My Itin](#). Choosing a destination is the fun part, but once you purchase a plane ticket and book your stay at a hotel, you'll need to plan out the details of your trip. Even if you're a wayward traveler, a general itinerary can help ensure you make the most of your time without getting overwhelmed.

***** REMINDER *****

Next meeting - December 11th

Join the fun!
Open Forum and Pizza!

It's our annual
"White Elephant" Raffle

Bring your gently-used items, wrapped
We're also raffling off a new Apple TV, Back-up Drive, and more!

Find My Itin lets you tap into crowdsourced itineraries from people around the world to help inspire your trip, whether you're spending five days in Kyoto, relaxing for three days in Phuket or scrambling to explore Angkor Wat in two days.

3. [AFAR](#). AFAR is a multi-platform travel media brand, best known for its award-winning magazine of the same name. AFAR.com is essentially a travel guide that hones in on individual experiences you'll love, from places to eat to shopping destinations, landmarks and activities.

You can find valuable articles from local experts with high-quality images, specific directions and relevant suggestions for other things to do. Perhaps the coolest part is that for each region of the world listed on AFAR.com, there's a section for questions and answers, so you aren't left guessing in a foreign place. *Continued on page 5.*

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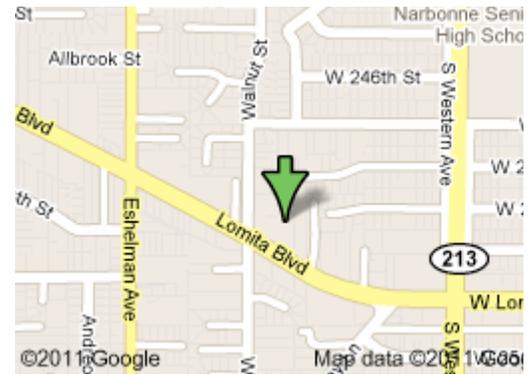
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Meetings: Lomita Veteran's Hall,
1865 Lomita Blvd, Lomita
Mail: PO Box 432, Redondo Beach, CA
90277-0432
Phone: (310) 644-3315
Email: info@sbamug.com
Website: <http://www.sbamug.com>

Welcome to the SBAMUG South Bay Apple Mac User Group

Members, friends and colleagues are invited to attend our monthly meetings. The \$35 annual membership dues entitle you to receive this monthly newsletter by mail or online, plus many more benefits (page 8). To become a member or get more info please check our website.



Lomita Veteran's Hall,
1865 Lomita Blvd, Lomita

SBAMUG Monthly Calendar

December 11: Open Forum, Pizza, Raffle (November Meeting Cancelled)

January 29: iOS 7 or Mavericks (OS X 10.9)

****Read this newsletter online (active hyperlinks!) at <http://www.sbamug.com/newsletter.html>****

SBAMUG Meeting Format:

6:30—7:30 p.m. Questions & Answers and Sharing:
Everyone is welcome, beginners encouraged

7:30—7:45 p.m. 'iSocial' – shoot the Mac breeze
with others over a cookie

7:50—9:00 p.m. Announcements and Program

***Refreshments provided; donations appreciated!*

Submit suggestions for topics or speakers, or articles,
ideas & original artwork for this newsletter by the last
Wednesday of each month. Articles may be edited to fit
space. Submit to: ptownsend@sbamug.com

Other Meetings:

- 1st Sat. each month – SBAMUG Core Group, 10 a.m.
Join Google+ SBAMUG community, or email:
info@sbamug.com.
- Special interest groups (SIGs): Ask at the meetings or
email: info@sbamug.com
- Last Sat. each month - Northrop Grumman-Ham Radio
& Computer Swap Meet, 7--11:30 a.m. Meet at SE
corner of Marine/Aviation Blvd, Redondo Beach
- Los Angeles Portable Users Group: Mac OS X, iPhone,
iPod, MacBook, etc., <http://www.lapug.org/>

Officers & Volunteers:

President: Arnold Silver VP: Vacant
Secretary: Wayne Inman Treasurer: CW Mitchell
Directors at Large: Dave Nathanson, Margaret Wehbi,
Pam Townsend, LJ Palmer
PD Disk Editor: Jim Pernal Membership: CW Mitchell
Programming: Vacant Greeter: Vacant
Server Director: Dave Nathanson
Newsletter: Pam Townsend, Pete Myers, Bill Berks
USPS Liaison: Don Myers
Refreshments: Member contributions

Membership Report – 121 members

Please wear membership card as your name tag

Thank You Member Renewals: George Griffiths,
James Pousson, Al Tucker, Clarence Baisdon, Gus
Morfis, Kathleen Spearman, Lynne Handy, Richard
Zigrang.

Contact cwmitchell@sbamug.com if your name is not
spelled right or your expiration date is wrong. When
you receive your renewal notice, please sign & date it,
then return it with your payment. If it comes in the mail
it will have a self-addressed envelope for return.

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PD-CD JIM PERNAL NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013 – PUBLIC DOMAIN CD

Nine items as we get ready for turkey day. Fair number of updated programs for the new Mavericks OSX 10.9.

1Password-4.0.5.zip Utility program that primarily stores all your passwords and works with most major browsers. Also has a strong password generator and anti-phishing. Intel 64 bit OSX 10.8.4 or higher. Shareware \$49.95

ccc-3.5.3.zip Carbon Copy Cloner. Backup and cloning program. Updated for OSX 10.9 but will work back on OS X 10.6 Intel macs. Shareware \$39.95

CocktailME.dmg This is the OS X 10.9 Mavericks only utility to clean, repair and optimize your system. As usual you can tweak a good number of things too! Shareware \$14.00

enolsoft-chm-view.dmg Some vendors are convinced that every computer and mobile device only runs the windows OS and that distributing documents on Microsoft .chm “help” files is a good idea. If you need to read these files, this program will let you. Has zoom and tabbed browsing. OSX 10.6 or higher Intel only. Shareware \$19.00

gc8_build1366.dmg This graphic utility program never seems to stay long without an update. This version adds bad pixel removal feature, and of course tweaking for OSX 10.9. OSX 10.6.8 + Intel. Shareware \$39.95

MacFamilyTree 7.1 Demo.dmg Genealogy program. Adds a new Website support controls, and direct SFTP uploads. Intel OS X 10.7.5 higher. Shareware \$49.95

macsfancontrol.zip Fan control program. Lets you monitor and control fan speeds in your mac. Claims to work with temperature sensors on 3rd party hard drives so you are not stuck with the fans on full blast. Intel OSX 10.6 or higher. Freeware

Pacifist_3.2.2.zip Opens up the .pkg package installers that programs use to extract and install individual items. Great for grabbing an older version of an Apple supplied program from a previous version of the OS. Intel OS X 10.6.8 or higher. Shareware \$20.00

SeaMonkey 2.22.dmg Do it all web browser. Has email, IRC chat, HTML editing, and a newsgroup client in addition to being a web browser. Intel OS X 10.6 or higher. Freeware.

CD for this month will be at the December 11 meeting, labeled as the November-December CD. See you at the December meeting as there is no November meeting. Jim Pernal, PD Editor

App of the Month

MyScript Calculator

Solve math problems by writing on your screen *CNET Reviews 1/10/13*

Myscript Calculator is an app for both iOS and Android that lets you perform mathematical operations with freehand writing of expressions on your touch screen. This app won the Mobile App Showdown award at CES 2013 and after some time spent using it, it's easy to see why.

The good: MyScript Calculator has amazing handwriting recognition, letting you write math expressions on screen that the app solves instantaneously. Free.

The bad: There's no way to resize the viewing area once you've written in an expression, so it's difficult to add on to a problem once your handwritten problem fills up the screen.

The bottom line: If you would like to go back to your early days of learning math using pencil and paper, this app lets you relive those moments, writing math expressions naturally while delivering solutions immediately.

Continued on page 5.

SBAMUG ELECTIONS

December 11th - Candidates

Officers:

President: Arnold Silver

Vice President: Open

Secretary: Wayne Inman

Treasurer: CW Mitchell

Directors at Large: Dave Nathanson, Margaret Wehbi, Pam Townsend, LJ Palmer

Be a Volunteer/Share a Position:

PD Disk Editor: Jim Pernal

Membership: CW Mitchell

Programming: Vacant , Greeter: Vacant

Server Director: Dave Nathanson

Newsletter: Pam Townsend, Pete Myers, Bill Berks

USPS Liaison: Don Myers

Refreshments: Members donate

Volunteers are always needed. Email Arnold Silver, silverrpv@sbamug.

Tech Savvy: What to do before upgrading to Mavericks

By Chris O'Brien, Los Angeles Times, 10/23/12

If you own a MacBook laptop or a Mac desktop computer, then Apple's decision to make OS X Mavericks available as a free download may have you itching to upgrade. What's not to like about free, right?

And there are certainly some nice goodies that would make this a worthwhile update. There's a fresh, new look along with potentially longer battery life. And along with new features such as iBooks, some stalwarts like Safari, Maps and Calendar all get some snazzy improvements.

But before you hit the download button, there are a few things you might want to know about Mavericks and your own machine. First, you'll want to check that your Mac or MacBook is actually compatible. Chances are that it is, since Apple seems to be trying to make it as widely available as possible.

Still, Apple's official list of machines that can run Mavericks is as follows: iMacs bought as far back as mid-2007; MacBooks as old as the late 2008 aluminum model or newer; MacBook Pro models from mid to late 2007 or newer; MacBook Air models from late 2008 or newer; Mac mini models from early 2009 or newer; Mac Pro from early 2008 or newer; and Xserve from early 2009. If, like me, you have a PowerBook 520c at home, you are out of luck.

One tip for people who have some of the oldest machines that are still eligible: You might want to wait just a few weeks before installing Mavericks and check to see what kind of experience people are having with it.

In my house, we installed iOS 7 right away on our iPhone 4 causing it to seriously slow down. And once you update, it's hard to unwind it. Now one family member quietly resents me and seethes every time she uses her iPhone. So a little patience might save some anxiety later.

Once you've checked your hardware, it's time to check your software. Apple says you can upgrade to OS X Mavericks directly if you're running Snow Leopard (version 10.6.8), Lion (10.7) or Mountain Lion (10.8).

If you're running a version of Snow Leopard older than the 10.6.8 version, then you have to update to the latest version of Snow Leopard before you can install Mavericks.

If you're still running Leopard (10.5) — meaning you haven't updated in six years and probably aren't reading this from your cave in the Himalayas where there's no Wi-Fi — then you have to buy Snow Leopard first, which will cost \$19.99.

Next, you'll want to back up all of your data, which you should be doing on a regular basis anyway. If you're not, take five minutes to feel a deep sense of shame.

Now pick your head up and get started with the backup. You can do this using an external hard drive. Or you can use an Apple feature called "Time Capsule." To find it, go to "System Preferences" and then click on "Time Machine." From there, choose "Select Disk" and then pick your Time Capsule from the list.

Now you can go to the App Store and download and then install Mavericks. This next part can take an hour or more, depending on your Internet connection speed and the speed of your machine. So certainly don't try to do this when you're in a rush or you'll get frustrated.

Once Mavericks is up and running, it's time to check all the new goodies.

The first thing to notice is that, like iOS 7 on Apple's mobile devices, Mavericks discards a lot of the old design elements that were used to mimic real-world items, such as the fake leather texture on apps like the calendar and address book.

Perhaps one of the most important changes, according to Apple, is one that may not be immediately obvious. The company says that for many MacBooks, Mavericks offers so many new energy efficient features that it could add up to an extra hour of battery life.

Next is iBooks, which was created three years ago for the first iPad. But it's taken until now for Apple to allow you to read the e-books you buy through the Apple store on your Mac.

The Apple Maps app has also been updated to make it easier to search for directions on your Mac and then send them to your iPhone. In the upper left-hand corner there's a new share button to let you do this.

The Safari Web browser also gets an interesting update with a new sidebar that lets see your list of bookmarks and reading list. But it also allows you to add your social media accounts from Twitter and LinkedIn and will generate a list of links that your friends have posted on those services. There's more to discover, of course. But it's time to get out and explore on your own.

<http://articles.latimes.com/print/2013/oct/23/business/la-fi-tech-savvy-apple-mavericks-20131024>

To Flash or Not to Flash

Excerpted from OS X Mountain Lion Pocket Guide By Jeff Carlson

After discovering that the leading cause of Safari crashes was Flash content, in 2010 Apple stopped including Adobe's Flash software on new Macs. If you want Flash, you have to download and install it. When you visit a web page that uses Flash for video or interactive content, you'll see a message saying that you need the latest Flash Player to view it.

Do not install Flash. It is a security vulnerability and causes crashes. It uses so much processing power it frequently makes the fans in my Mac blast at full speed. Install Google Chrome, which includes Flash but keeps it contained within its own application space. When you encounter a website that really needs Flash (and the number of those is declining), you can switch browsers from Safari to Chrome. Or install the ClickToFlash Safari extension.

If you already have Flash installed system-wide and want to remove it, follow the steps found at **Daring Fireball**. You won't regret it.

Crowdsourc, continued from page 1

4. [Stackla](#). Stackla is slightly different from the other choices on this list. It's actually a curated social media hub, somewhat reminiscent of [RebelMouse](#), allowing you to collect, view and share content from your social media networks and RSS feeds. It can be used for anything — events, campaigns, etc. — but it's especially useful if you and a group of your friends are planning a trip and want to collaborate on ideas. It's simple to aggregate content based on hashtags and other social metrics.

To understand just how useful Stackla can be for crowdsourced tourism, check out [#SpottedByLocals](#), a campaign that Tourism Victoria (Australia) launched in May 2013. Understanding that many tourists want to know what locals — not other tourists — like to do in the area, Tourism Victoria tapped into the value of user-generated content and had local celebrities post visual content with the hashtag [#SpottedByLocals](#). Soon, members of the general public began posting their own content, and it continues to be updated.

5. [Gogobot](#). Based on recommendations from friends and insider tips from travelers around the world, you can use Gogobot to plan the perfect trip. The mobile app, available for free on iOS and Android, makes it easy to share where you've visited and explored with the tap of your smartphone screen. You can even send digital postcards to friends while you're there.

The site itself helps you find hotels based on trusted reviews, and you can ask for travel advice by posting in the extended Gogobot network.

6. [Trippy](#). Trippy describes itself in its tagline as "a community of travelers helping each other travel better," and it does so by allowing you to collect and share travel ideas with friends by connecting your existing social accounts. Browsing friends' suggestions, the team behind Trippy posits, solves the problem of receiving untrustworthy and irrelevant travel content.

In early 2012, Trippy underwent a Pinterest redesign— that is, boards of photos to which you can pin images from around the web. Now, Trippy has returned to an invite-only stage, "opening its doors" soon, but you can get in line now by signing up via Facebook or email.

7. [Under30Experiences](#). Crowdsourced tourism doesn't only have to entail getting inspiration from others' images. If you're putting your travel ideas in the hands of strangers, why not take it a step further and actually travel *with* them?

Under30Experiences offers trips that expose ambitious young adults to various parts of the world. Anyone under the age of 35 can apply for once-in-a-lifetime opportunities, and 30 people are chosen for each trip. Under30Experiences makes it clear that it's not a travel company, but rather an *experience* company. Trips include Costa Rica, where you can explore jungles, volcanos and mountains while learning about organic food production, and Nicaragua, where you can learn how to surf and play soccer with local children.

8. [Geeks on a Plane](#). Similar to Under30- Experiences, Geeks on a Plane provides invite-only "tours" around the world — all you need to do is fill out an application. Organized by accelerator 500 Startups, Geeks on a Plane combines travel and technology by bringing together entrepreneurs, investors and executives to learn about burgeoning global tech markets. Each trip is part travel experience, part networking event.

Program attendees can expect to meet startup teams, geeks and investors while learning about the latest tech trends in several cities, traveling via plane, train or automobile. Past trips have included India (Bangalore, Mumbai, New Delhi), the Middle East (Istanbul, Tel Aviv, Amman, Dubai) and Eastern Europe (Moscow, Tallinn, Zagreb, Berlin).

<http://mashable.com/2013/08/22/crowdsourced-tourism/>

Solve math problems, continued from page 3

The simple-looking interface mimics the look of graph paper. In the top right of the screen you have buttons for undo and redo, and a trash to clear the screen completely. In the upper left you can open a menu where you can access the settings with options for setting the number of decimal points the app displays, switching to left-handed input, and other things. But it also has an interesting setting called palm rejection; when turned on, the app will ignore the part of the hand that touches the screen, useful for those who naturally rest their hand on the writing surface when drawing numbers with a stylus.

Perfect for math students or anyone who wants to make a quick calculation, MyScript Calculator converts hand-written numbers and symbols into clear notation, then shows you the solution to a math expression instantaneously. Not only can you add, subtract, multiply, and divide; you also can solve trigonometric functions by writing sin, cos, tan, and the degree of the angle on the screen. The app supports surprisingly complex expressions, letting you add exponents, draw the radical symbol for square roots, draw a line to divide by another number, and so on. You can continue to add to each mathematical expression or erase parts of it until you get it exactly right.

The app also lets you solve for variables using a question mark. This means you could write "6 (6+1) + ? = 50" and MyScript Calculator will replace the question mark with the correct answer.

The one problem I had was that you can't resize the display once the numbers have been written and recognized. With the ability to add more math expressions at any time, it seems like there should be a way to resize the area with a pinch-to-zoom gesture so there is room to add more variables.

In my initial testing of this app, I was amazed at how well it understood and converted free handwriting, but once I tried more complex expressions, I was blown away by just how powerful MyScript Calculator really is.

http://reviews.cnet.com/software/myscript-calculator/4505-3513_7-35567916.html#

How to send greeting cards from your iPhone

By Rick Broida, CNET, 11/12/13

Until recently, I was a fairly regular customer of Apple's Cards app, which allowed me to choose any photo in my Camera Roll, add it to a greeting card for just about any occasion, write a personalized message, and get it printed and mailed to the recipient(s) of my choice -- all for just a few bucks.

Convenience, thy name is Cards. Or so it was, until Apple quietly pulled the plug back in September. Thankfully, there are alternatives. Apps like CleverCards, Ink Cards, and JustWink Greeting Cards give you Cards-like options for creating and mailing real-world greetings, and often with a lot more selection than Apple's app ever offered. Here's a rundown of worthwhile picks:

CleverCards: Designed to send both real and digital cards, CleverCards requires you to sign in via Facebook or create an account before you can even use it. If that's a turn-off, read on - the other two apps don't force you through that hoop.

However, if you're willing to link CleverCards with your Facebook account, you'll find it clever indeed: The app shows your friends' upcoming birthdays, complete with profile photos of each person for easy perusal. Tap a person, choose a card, and you're off to the races.

You can also create a new card for any of the usual occasions (graduation, inspiration, and so on) and send cards to people who aren't Facebook friends. CleverCards charges \$2.99 and up for printed, mailed cards, but also allows you to send unlimited digital versions free of charge.

Ink Cards: This app offers a fairly mammoth selection of cards across a wide range of categories, but they're not greeting cards in the traditional sense. Rather, they're customized postcards, with a message and/or photo on the front side and optional secondary message (and mailing address, natch) on the back.

That's not necessarily a bad thing, and indeed Ink Cards is the cheapskate's choice at just \$1.99 per printed, mailed card. (I suppose it's also the environmentalist's choice, as there's no envelope headed to a landfill.) Each one comes on heavy, glossy, 5x7-inch stock. And after you send your first card, your second one is free.

JustWink Greeting Cards: Here's an app for customizing actual greeting cards from the folks at American Greetings. Interestingly, the selection is somewhat seasonal: right now you can order Thanksgiving and Hanukkah cards, but there's nothing yet for Christmas, Valentine's Day, etc.

JustWink also has traditional categories like Birthday, Thanks, and Congrats, along with some nontraditional ones: LGBT; Thnx, Soldier!; and Sh*t Got Real. Whatever category you choose, browsing is admirably simple: Just tap a card, then swipe it open to read the inside. After you've made your selection, you can add a photo, a personalized message, and even a handwritten signature -- a great touch. You can also send digital cards via e-mail, Facebook, or even text message if trying to get in under the wire.

Why You Should Care About Twitter

By Alyson Shontell, Business Insider, 9/21/13

Twitter has a problem. Most people you know aren't on it. They don't understand what it's for, or why there's a need to tell strangers what they're thinking every moment of the day. Just because Twitter hasn't gone mainstream yet doesn't mean it won't. Here's why Twitter is a big deal, and why most people overlook it.

It's hard to know what to do with Twitter when you first sign up. Do you write something? Do you follow someone?

In general, there's a long learning curve associated with Twitter. For anyone who needs to build a personal brand, be it a writer, a celebrity, or a company's CEO, the Twitter learning curve is shorter. You tweet, people follow, and your network grows. But, in the grand scheme of things, the amount of people who need to self promote is small. So it takes longer to grasp the true, non-promotionary need for 140-character status updates.

Which, according to Twitter, is this: "The fastest, simplest way to stay close to everything you care about. Twitter is the fastest way to spread thoughts. The kind of thoughts that have global impacts.

For example, if you're a person who is witnessing a major event in real-time, you can express what's happening faster than any news outlet can report it. Even if you don't have many followers, all you need is one person to see it and pass it on.

In addition to global news, Twitter is the fastest way to learn about local news. Your city's police departments, and restaurants probably have accounts. You can follow them to get updates.

Another powerful – and sometimes dangerous – aspect of Twitter is its ease of use. Anyone can make a 140-character message and, because it's so easy to write one on the fly, users are often candid.

The fast-paced nature of Twitter has left traditional news outlets scrambling to verify rumors. Twitter makes everyone in the world a source.

Twitter is for early adopters of news. If you want to be late to everything in life, keep reading newspapers.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/why-you-should-care-about-twitter-2013-9> (Edited for space.)

Of course, you can always take a more creative approach to your mailed greetings. For example, I recently sent someone a batch of Polaroid-style snapshots courtesy of Printic. The total cost was about the same as a card, and the photos are better suited to refrigerator mounting and other permanent homes.

http://howto.cnet.com/8301-11310_39-57611943-285/how-to-send-greeting-cards-right-from-your-iphone/

A Note from Pogue: The iPad Mini Review

By David Pogue, 11/15/13

The story so far: I've left the New York Times to start a new consumer-tech site at Yahoo. We'll open for business in a few weeks; in the meantime, I'll continue to post my columns—right here on Tumblr.

You know about “tl;dr,” don't you? It's Internet shorthand for “too long; didn't read.” In the old days, you'd say that about a comment you found too wordy. These days, you might add it to the end of your *own* comment to preface a one-line summary. Example: “tl;dr: Three architecturally challenged pigs have a run-in with an aggressive wolf.”

So here's my tl;dr summary of the new iPad Mini: It's fantastic. It's the tablet I'd buy right now. (If I could, that is. It's sold out everywhere.)

Now, the new iPad Mini isn't the same concept as the original Mini at all. When the first iPad Mini debuted alongside the fourth-generation iPad, the Mini felt cheaper, ran slower, and was cursed with a duller display than the full-size iPad.

Apple's second Mini, however, is almost identical to the new iPad Air. Same processor, same guts, same jacks, same front and back cameras. Same features, same battery life (10 hours, truly), same improved WiFi range and signal strength. Same gorgeous glass-and-metal construction, same caressable curved back edges, same color choice (white front/silver back, or black front/gray back).

And then the big story: Same *screen*. Oh, it's smaller, all right: 7.9 inches diagonal instead of the iPad Air's 9.7. But it's exactly the same number of pixels, smaller and packed in closer together. Same image, slightly smaller and crisper. As you'd guess, as a result, the new Mini screen is incredibly sharp: text, graphics, apps, photos. Everything looks so sharp, you could cut Ginsu knives with it.

What's ingenious about that Apple move (adopting a compact version of the same exact screen) is what it does for apps—which, you could argue, is the reason you buy a tablet in the first place. All 475,000 iPad apps run identically on the full-size iPad and the Mini. No software company has to come up with different versions. No layout changes, as you'd see on other tablet types (cough *Android* cough).

In any gadget, you want a bigger screen when you're *using* it, but a smaller one when you have to *carry* it—and the Mini's smaller size makes it a candidate for a purse or coat pocket.

The only times you'll wish for the magnified image of a full-size tablet: when you're watching a video, and occasionally when an app's controls seem a little smaller than usual.

To me, the Mini's carryability advantage easily outweighs those circumstances. (Besides: When the tablet is 16 inches from your face, the movie you're watching fills enough of your field of view. When you're home, \$95 buys you an Apple TV that puts the iPad's audio and video on a big-screen TV, wirelessly.)

Apple says that itty-bitty pixels require greater brightness to look good, and that drains the battery faster. To keep the Mini at 10 hours of juice, Apple had to give it a bigger battery, which makes it 7 percent heavier and slightly thicker than the

How to exchange money using just an e-mail

Square, the free mobile app and hardware that turns a smartphone into a cash register, lets users send and receive money as easily as sending an e-mail. Square Cash can be used between friends, say as a way of paying back a buddy for picking up the tab last night.

You simply send an e-mail to the recipient, with cash@square.com cc'ed and the payment amount as the subject line. That user will receive an e-mail prompting them to link a credit card to their account. The recipient enters a debit card number once, and the account will be associated with their e-mail afterward. There's also a Square Cash app for iOS devices and Android.

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/10/16/tech/web/square-cash/index.html> Credit CNN Tech, Doug Gross, 10/16/13

original Mini (by three tenths of a millimeter, for you caliper-wielding types). You'd notice it, but only if holding the original Mini in your other hand for comparison.

That's not the only Mini drawback. The new Mini, like the iPad Air, has mediocre cameras and no flash. The stereo speakers are so close to each other (at the bottom of the iPad), you don't get any stereo separation at all. It's basically very clear mono.

And of course, we have to talk about the elephant in the checking account: The new Mini is *more* expensive than the original one—it's now \$400 instead of \$330. That's a weird step in electronics, where things usually get less expensive over time. It's even weird for Apple, which traditionally keeps price the same but improves features.

The Mini costs at least \$100 more if you want more storage, and another \$130 if you want the version that can get online anywhere using the cellphone network. (Tip: If that's the one you want, for heaven's sake get it from T-Mobile. You'll get 200 megabytes a month of *free* Internet service forever. With Verizon, for example, the least expensive cellular plan is \$30 a month.)

Those prices are risky in an age when other tablets' prices keep falling. Google's Nexus 7, for example, has a similarly amazing screen and great battery life—and it costs only \$230.

Then again, the Nexus's body is made of plastic, and its screen is about one-third smaller than the Mini's. The screen is wider and shorter than the Mini's—a better fit for movies (the Mini shows black letterbox bars), but a slightly goofy shape when upright (in portrait orientation).

Above all, the apps for Android tablets aren't anywhere near as good, or as plentiful, as iPad apps. In phones, the Android app selection has caught up—but not in tablets.

So there you have it. The new iPad Mini is gorgeous. It's super fast, it makes available the world's best library of tablet apps and accessories, and its screen is the sharpest any iPad has ever had.

And it's pricey. tl;dr: Apple is still Apple, pursuing polish and perfection, no matter the cost.

<http://poguelman.tumblr.com/>

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