



# South Bay Apple MUG

# Macintosh

**November 2018**

A Monthly CUPFUL for South Bay Apple Mac User Group Members

## Apple Watch Series 4

The new Apple watch is out and the tech journalists are excited! Farhad Manjoo loves the new features: The new Apple Watch packs a slew of sensors to make it a truly novel kind of wearable device — something like a “Star Trek” tricorder on your body. The new watch can administer a medically accurate electrocardiogram, a test of a person’s heart rhythm that can help detect dangerous health conditions. It also detects and alerts rescue personnel to dangerous falls, a leading cause of injury, especially for older people.

One detail was particularly compelling. Apple received clearance from the Food and Drug Administration for its device, meaning that when you take your watch’s data to your doctor, there will be some basis for accepting its pronouncements.

These features suggest a new era in tech. For the last few years, “wearables” have been more of a gimmick than of any lasting utility. Apple itself has spent much time refining the watch to figure out its true purpose for people. At first, it thought of the device as a fashion accessory (the “Edition” version of the watch, which came in real precious metals and sold for \$10,000 or more, [was discontinued this week](#)). But in the last few years, Apple has hit on a mission — health and fitness — and with these latest features, the company is setting itself on a path to create a device of lasting promise in people’s daily lives. Read the complete article at <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/14/technology/the-week-in-tech-apples-watch-steals-the-show.html?>

Brian Chen loves the medical features: A few days ago, I took an EKG at USF to gain a better understanding of the implications of Apple’s new smart watch. For the first time, the watch includes an electrical heart sensor that will eventually work with an app that takes EKGs. When the EKG app, which has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration, is released this year, we will be able to place a finger on the watch’s crown to measure the electrical charges across our hearts.

## Oct 31 Meeting

### iOS and OSX Tips, by Don McAllister

The main presentation will consist of six video tips from Don:

- AirDrop 101; a safe and secure way to transfer files between Apple devices that requires virtually zero configuration.
- Finder Toolbar Customization; how you can make some simple customization to your Finder toolbar to increase your productivity.
- All About Screenshots on IOS; taking screenshots, handy annotation features, sharing, syncing screenshots from Apple Watch
- Handy Mac Keyboard Shortcuts; gives you some keyboard shortcuts to help navigate the Save and Open actions, as well as change the target location when saving your files.
- IOS-12 Stocks App; goes over the revamped Stocks app, now available on iPad as well as iPhone.
- Getting Ready for Mojave; gives you some pointers on cleaning your Mac and making a bootable backup to an external drive with SuperDuper.

Don’t miss the meeting! See page 2 for more details.

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## Welcome to the SBAMUG South Bay Apple Mac User Group

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](mailto:info@sbamug.com)

Members, friends and colleagues are invited to attend our monthly meetings (usually the last Wed. of the month). 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 visit our website [sbamug.com](http://sbamug.com)



Lomita Veteran's Hall,  
1865 Lomita Blvd, Lomita

## SBAMUG Monthly Calendar

Oct 31: iOS and OSX Tips  
Dec 12: Pizza Party

### Other Meetings:

### SBAMUG Meeting Format:

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

**7:30—7:50 p.m.** 'iSocial' – shoot the Mac breeze with others over a cookie\*

**7:50—8:00 p.m.** Announcements

**8:00—9:00 p.m.** Program

*\*Refreshments provided; donations appreciated!*

Submit suggestions for topics or speakers, or articles, ideas & original artwork for this newsletter to [pjmyerz@gmail.com](mailto:pjmyerz@gmail.com) by the last Wednesday of each month. Articles may be edited to fit space.

- 1st Wed each month – SBAMUG Core Group, 7:30 pm. Join Google+ SBAMUG community, or email: [info@sbamug.com](mailto:info@sbamug.com).
- 2nd Sat. each month - SMOG, 9AM in Costa Mesa, [ocmug.org](http://ocmug.org)
- 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., [lapug.org/](http://lapug.org/)
- Find more: <http://www.apple.com/usergroups/>

### Officers & Volunteers:

President: Kent McDonald  
VP: open  
Secretary: Wayne Inman  
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Directors at Large: Dave Nathanson, Arnold Silver, George Wilde, Joan King, Pete Myers  
PD Disk Editor: Jim Pernal  
Membership: CW Mitchell  
Member Development: Pete Myers  
Programming: Kent McDonald  
Greeter: open  
Server Director: Dave Nathanson  
Newsletter: Pete Myers, Bill Berks  
USPS Liaison: CW Mitchell  
Refreshments: Arnold Silver/Andy Paroczai

### Membership Report – 89 members!

*Please wear membership card as your name tag - you may notice your first name is in larger letters on your card - so it can be used as a name tag at the meetings.:*

### Welcome New Members:

**Thank You Member Renewals:** Joseph Donigan, Don Myers, Bob Freeman, John Jensen.

If your name is not spelled right or your expiration date is wrong, contact [cwmitchell@sbamug.com](mailto:cwmitchell@sbamug.com) for correction. Or contact CW for everything membership, dues and benefits.

Please watch for your renewal letter, then sign and date it and return it with \$35 check (in enclosed self-addressed envelope) or bring letter with payment (cash, check, PayPal) to meeting.

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## SBAMUG October 2018 Shareware

This is the October shareware article. Seven items this month. All have links to the vendor's website. Plenty of updates for the new Mac OS Mojave.

**Audio Hijack 3.5.4:** Record and enhance audio from any application. This version has updated for OS X Mojave 10.14. Requires OS X 10.11. \$59.00 <https://www.rogueamoeba.com/audiohijack/>

**Default Folder X 5.3.1:** This utility attaches a toolbar to open/save dialog boxes. Go to favorite, or recently used folders. You can also manage folder items. Mojave updates. OS 10.10+ \$34.95 <https://www.stclairsoft.com/DefaultFolderX/index.html>

**iMazing 1.0.7:** Converts HEIC photos to JPG or PNG. We talked about HEIC photos in the last meeting. While you can email them and have them convert to JPG format automatically, only high sierra and Mojave can really deal with the files themselves. So, before you hand a thumb drive of these photo to someone with an older Mac OS use this to convert them first. OSX 10.8+. Free <https://imazing.com/heic>

**MacFamilyTree 8.4.1 :** Genealogy program. This version update is optimized for Mojave. \$50.99 OS X 10.10+ Intel <https://www.syniumsoftware.com/macfamilytree>

**Superduper 3.2:** Lets you make bootable backups of your Mac's hard drive. Incremental backups. Mojave updates in this version OS X 10.10+ \$27.95 <https://www.shirt-pocket.com/SuperDuper/SuperDuperDescription.html>

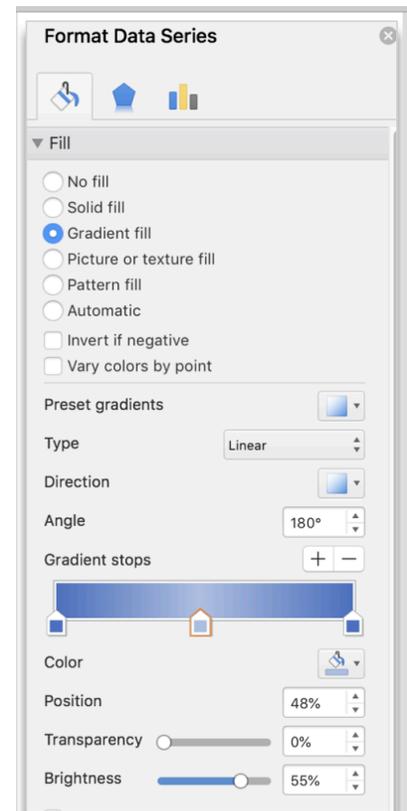
**TypeIt4Me 6.1:** Expands abbreviations as you type. Save time. OS 10.9+ \$19.99 <https://www.ettoresoftware.com/mac-apps/typeit4me/>

**VLC 3.0.4** Media player handling many types of audio and video formats. Bug and security fixes in this version. OS X 10.7.5+ <http://www.videolan.org>

See you at the October meeting.

## Bar Chart

A hundred years ago at work, Allison came out with a style of graph that looks 3D without making it more confusing. Here's the trick. Create a standard boring bar chart. Now select your bars and change the fill from solid to gradient. You want to set it to linear, with the angle at 180°. Then with the little gradient stops sliders, set the right and left to the same dark color, and change the middle one to a lighter hue of the same color. This makes the columns look like they're cylinders. You're welcome!



## Vocabulary

**Share Sheet:** An icon that allows you to select among options for sharing a document. For example, in Photos, you get these options: iCloud, Mail, Messages, Air Drop, Facebook plus others. In iTunes, there is no share sheet for music; you are not encouraged to share music with your friends. The icon looks like this



**Peer-to-peer:** In its simplest form, a peer-to-peer (P2P) network is created when two or more PCs are connected and share resources without going through a separate server computer. A P2P network can be an ad hoc connection—a couple of computers connected to transfer files (Air Drop is an example). A P2P network also can be a permanent infrastructure that links a half-dozen computers in a small office over copper wires. Or a P2P network can be a network on a much grander scale in which special protocols and applications set up direct relationships among users over the Internet.

The Apple Watch's EKG won't be nearly as comprehensive as the one produced by a traditional electrocardiograph, which hooks up to multiple parts of the body, like the one the cardiologist used on me. The watch is a single-lead EKG device, meaning it will record one angle of the heart's electrical signals — enough to collect data about arrhythmia but not to diagnose a heart attack. Still, the new Apple Watch is perhaps one of the most significant developments in wearable gadgets in years. People with heart problems can easily use the EKG app to take electrocardiograms whenever they sense something abnormal, without the rigmarole I went through. And the data can be shared immediately with their doctor, which could open a conversation about next steps, like going in for a visit or modifying treatment.

For everyone else who doesn't have a confirmed heart condition, this feature will not immediately be a selling point. "I'm not recommending it for most people as anything other than just a novelty," said Dr. Ethan Weiss, the cardiologist who took my EKG. But he added that the implications for heart research were profound. "There's all this stuff we don't know," he said. Typically, an EKG in a doctor's office provides up to 90 seconds of data. "We're only getting little snippets," Dr. Weiss said.

Much of the rest of the [Apple Watch Series 4](#) sounds boring on paper. Compared with its predecessors, the fourth-generation smart watch has a slightly larger screen and is faster at tasks like loading apps. Yet the watch's evolution from a fitness tracker into [a health-monitoring device](#) makes it vastly more interesting in the long term. Apple often sets the standard for consumer electronics, so the watch may prompt other companies to create a generation of wearable devices that help people gather information about their health conditions. In the meantime, I tested the new Apple Watch for a week and found it incrementally better than the previous version. Here are the highlights.

The most apparent changes to the new Apple Watch show up in its higher price and larger screen and case. The new models start at \$399, compared with \$329 previously. The two sizes are 40 millimeters and 44 millimeters, up from 38 millimeters and 42 millimeters. But while the case is now slightly longer and wider, it is also thinner, and the 40-millimeter model didn't feel bulkier than the 38-millimeter Apple Watch that I used in the past.

More important, the screen stretches out from one edge to the other, letting apps take up more of the watch's face. This enlarged display makes everything on the watch look better, including text.

A less obvious, though still useful, change is the watch's speed. Apple emphasized that the device was two times faster than the third-generation model, which was already zippy. The speed difference was most noticeable when using Siri, Apple's voice assistant. By simply raising the watch toward my mouth, I could speak a command like "Set a timer for 20 minutes," and the watch reacted with barely any delay. The hands-free ability to summon Siri is a feature of Apple's new watch operating system, WatchOS 5. In my

book, this is how watches were meant to be used: without having to press any buttons.

To test the watch's fitness-tracking capabilities, I wore it on a 7.7-mile hike in Pacifica, Calif. I opened the Workout app on the watch, chose hiking as a workout and paid close attention to the device's tracking of my walking distance and heart rate. Throughout the hike, I wondered about my progress. How many miles to the end of the trail? Had I gone too far and gotten lost?

The Apple Watch relieved me of anxiety by updating the distance I had hiked for every tenth of a mile. By the end of the trek, the Apple Watch said I had hiked precisely 7.7 miles. Impressive accuracy. During steep inclines throughout the hike, I glanced at the watch to check my heart rate. With past Apple Watch models, there was a delay before they showed me. But the new model, with its improved speed, updated with my current heart rate almost instantaneously.

While the Apple Watch Series 4 is a solid piece of technology and another step toward the maturity of wearable computers, I wouldn't recommend it for people who are considering a smart watch for the first time.

Here's why: \$399 is a stiff price to pay for a gadget with lightweight utility. Fortunately, Apple is selling its older [Series 3 watch](#), which I rated as a great product last year, for \$279. Now is a good time to get the older one.

I wouldn't upgrade to the Series 4 from a recent generation of Apple Watch, either, because the improvements won't feel significant. But if you bought the [original Apple Watch in 2015](#) and liked it, this will be a great upgrade. The first watch was sluggish, with limited battery life, and it no longer receives operating system updates. The Series 4 addresses all of the first-generation watch's flaws, and the speed boost will be a big step up.

If you are simply a health-conscious person, should you get the new watch? I wasn't able to test the EKG app because it is not out yet. Those with heart conditions would be wise to wait until Apple releases its electrocardiogram app this year to see if the technology works well.

It is also important to not regard the watch as a catchall device for health monitoring. Dr. Weiss said that even if the EKG app detected arrhythmia in a young person, for example, that information would not necessarily be useful because the condition might not cause a problem at a young age. Instead, it may just induce anxiety.

"What it is going to do is make you aware of having this condition, which could impact your insurance, which could impact your mental state and your state of happiness," Dr. Weiss said.

There is one demographic that may be more interested in the watch for health reasons: the elderly. Apart from the electrical heart sensor, the new watch can detect when its owner has taken a nasty fall. The feature is turned on by default for people 65 and older (based on the birth date they entered into the watch's software), and the watch will automatically call emergency services and send a message

to your emergency contact if you remain immobile for a minute after a fall.

I struggled to trigger the fall detector. In the name of journalism, I took several dives at home onto my mattress, a couch and a dog bed to try to get it to work. I also headed to a rock climbing gym, where I climbed up six walls and fell onto a padded mattress onto my side and onto my back. No dice. Last, I clambered atop the gym's tallest wall — about 17 feet high — and dropped down. When I landed, the watch vibrated and chirped. Alas, it was only a notification alerting me that someone had liked a photo on [my dog's Instagram account](#). My failure to trigger the fall detector was not necessarily a bad thing. To design the feature, Apple worked with people in assisted living facilities and movement disorder clinics to collect data about real slips and falls — not my phony ones. As for my own health, the new Apple Watch basically showed me I was getting plenty of exercise. And for those who were wondering: Dr. Weiss pronounced that the heart activity from my EKG was normal. Read all of Brian's thoughts at <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/19/technology/personaltech/apple-watch-series-4-review-health.html>

Allison Sheridan suggests 10 reasons to get a new Apple Watch:

**1 – Missed Calls:** Before I had an Apple Watch, I often missed telephone calls that I really wanted to catch, all because my phone was in my purse. I keep the iPhone's mute switch enabled for a couple of reasons. One is because if we're using my phone to play podcasts in the car and I do any typing on the phone (as the passenger), the keyboard clicks drive Steve bonkers. While I do things intentionally to drive Steve bonkers (like wearing garishly clashing colors), I try not to while he's driving.

If my purse wasn't over my shoulder, I would never feel the vibration of the phone so I'd miss calls. Now the call comes up on my Apple Watch. If it's Lindsay or Kyle or Steve or Pat, I can tap to answer the call from my watch while I fumble around in my purse looking for my phone to take the call properly. I never miss calls I want to take.

With Apple Watch 4 having speakers that are twice as loud, I might just stay on my Apple Watch for more calls. It's really not that bad on the older models but this will be a big improvement.

**2 – Calls I Want to Miss:** But I don't think it's actually catching calls I wanted that's extraordinary about Apple Watch, it's the calls I don't want to take that make the Apple Watch so wonderful. Today we all get so many robocalls. But with Apple Watch I can glance at my wrist and see that it's no one I know and I can tap the hangup button immediately. The whole process takes maybe 2.5 seconds if I go really slow, and I didn't have to dig my phone out of my purse (or pocket if I had pockets).

The iPhone oddly does not display a hangup button when you get a call. The only way I know to hang up (which my son Kyle had to teach me) is to hit the power button. I don't

know why we don't get a hangup button until we're on a call on iPhone. So the Apple Watch is actually significantly easier to use to skip a call.

**3 & 4 – Notifications:** Just like phone calls, the Apple Watch excels at receiving notifications. I get notifications mostly from Telegram and Messages and it's wonderful. It's wonderful for two reasons.

The best part of having notifications on your wrist is not so you can read and respond to every notification. It's the ones you don't want to respond to immediately. Let's say you and I are having a lovely lunch. If I get a notification of a message on my phone, it lights up, and I'll pick it up, possibly hold it in front of my face completely interrupting our conversation.

And that's even if it's one I don't want to deal with. But if I get a notification on my wrist, I can tilt my arm a smidge, and with a brief glance see that it's something I can delay till later and look right back at you. For all you know I just checked the time.

The second best feature of notifications on your wrist is being able to respond quickly with voice dictation to the ones you do care about. I exercise a couple hours a day, so I'm often walking the neighborhood and I get notifications of things to which I do want to respond. Bart and I have carried on extensive conversations while I'm on a walk. I'm not sure why, but the voice dictation on Apple Watch is better than on iPhone which is better than on Mac. Doesn't make sense but there you are.

**5 – Creating Reminders:** I never used the Reminders app until I got the Apple Watch. I find that I often think of something I want to do but I'm on one of my silly walks. Sometimes it's a reminder to send a note to the SMR Podcast guys about how they were wrong on the podcast, but sometimes I realize I forgot to answer someone that's awaiting a response from me.

Just today I was on the elliptical when I remembered that I forgot to respond to Steve Davidson when he asked for an audio recording/editing application for iOS for a review he's going to do for us next week. I lifted my wrist, said, "Hey S Lady! Remind me to answer Steve Davidson about recording software for the iPad at 1:15 pm today."

About 80% of the time the S Lady actually works for me on my walks, with the 20% loss being because my morning walk/run is along the beach and the cellular service near giant bodies of water is problematic. As I said, the dictation is surprisingly accurate, but with a reminder, if it gets the gist of it, that's enough to trigger my memory at the allotted time.

I'm also fond of using geolocation for my reminders. Adding "when I get home" to the end of the reminder will trigger it shortly after my arrival home. By the way, adding "when I get home" to the end of Reminders on the Mac doesn't work. Why is Apple Watch talking to iPhone smarter than my powerful Mac?

I know I could create these reminders using S Lady on my iPhone, but it's so much easier to do on Apple Watch. I don't have to pull my phone out of my Spibelt where I carry it while exercising, or pull it out of my purse when I'm in

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the car, or have to clean off my hands if I think of something while making lunch. It's faster and easier and really accurate to use Apple Watch to create Reminders.

**6 – Receiving Reminders:** I guess I should mention that you can also choose to get alerts from Reminders on Apple Watch. By default, Apple Watch mirrors the notifications for your iPhone so in theory, if you have notifications on the phone you'll get them on your wrist. I say "in theory" because I don't think I get that many alerts on my Apple Watch. Just on Saturday I completely forgot my recording with Bart for Programming By Stealth and I don't remember getting a notification on my Apple Watch. However, when he pinged me using Telegram that I was 7 minutes late, I did get that notification on my wrist. My phone was nowhere near me as we were busy moving out of our bedroom in preparation for the next phase of our bathroom remodel.

I've just changed my settings for Reminders and Calendar in the Apple Watch app to "Custom" and have taken the defaults, so I'll be watching to see if I start getting my reminders there.

**7 – Triggering HomeKit Automations:** HomeKit isn't the easiest thing to deal with but when you get things working it's pretty fun. In a Herculean effort, I created an automation called "It's Showtime" that tells my Lixt light strip on the mantle to turn on with a blue color, and tells my iDevices switch to turn off which mutes our landline telephone and if it's cold out it will tell my ecobee thermostat to shut off the central heating. When I'm ready for the show, I simply raise my wrist and say, "Hey S Lady, It's Showtime" and my lights come on and the phone is muted and the heater stops making noise. When the show is over a simple raise of my wrist and I tell her Showtime is over, and my lights go off and the phone comes back on and I can be warm again.

I know, I could do it with my iPad or iPhone but my watch is right there on my wrist. Some devices don't respond terribly quickly so I have to resort to my phone and that irritates me. My August Smart Lock has to go through Bluetooth to talk to its dedicated WiFi hub and then over WiFi to talk to the Internet. That double jump seems to take a while, especially if you throw some S Lady into the mix. I pull out my phone, find the August app and tap the door lock/unlock button which just uses Bluetooth directly to the lock. It's much faster than all that S Lady, Bluetooth, WiFi chatter. So the Apple Watch doesn't always solve the problem.

**8 – Exercise Notifications:** You know I'm a fanatic about working out, but one thing I don't find super useful is the Apple Watch notifications of my friends' exercise habits. I'm not saying I don't enjoy them, but they're not useful. I love seeing how much my friend Pat works out now. I find it entertaining to see Bart finish a workout at 2 in the morning his time. I love seeing Steve finish a workout ... when it's way after the exercise and I know he forgot to stop the workout. So fun to tease him about that.

I still wish the Apple Watch workout notifications offered more smack talk messaging. I know, I could hit the microphone button and dictate something snotty like the message I just sent to Dr. Garry, "Your longest move streak yet. How long was it, 3 days?" But there aren't any built-in

lines like that. They say things like "Way to go!" and "I'm proud of you!" I did see one that said "Yawn." So they are trying at least.

**9 – One Timer:** I have one thing I have to do every day that is to be done for at least 12 minutes. I put the Timer app as a complication on my watch face with it set to open at the Custom option with 12 minutes selected. I tap the complication once, hit start and I'm done. I know I could use S Lady to do that, but since I have these complications it's super easy and quick. And it works 100% of the time.

People are annoyed that S Lady is so limited that she can only keep track of one timer. But for me I must have that one timer to be there when I need it and to act on my request quickly and the Apple Watch makes it much easier than using a phone or even a kitchen timer.

**10 – Metrics to Exercise:** I've saved the best for last. It's a song you've heard me sing many times, and that's the fact that Apple Watch helps me stay fit. A couple of years before I retired I lost 10 pounds. The same exact 10 pounds I'd lost pretty much every year for the last 30 years. I was already exercising every day, but I did something different. I wore a Fitbit to count my steps and started dragging people on a mile or two long walks around our work campus when they wanted some of my time. At the time my goal was 10,000 steps and I started meeting that goal.

When Apple Watch came out, I learned even more with the calorie and step counting in the workout app. I learned which exercises would help me meet goals of calorie burn that would match how much I wanted to eat and drink each day. I had counted calories so many times before (and it worked to take the weight off) but I didn't have the other side of the equation.

I look down at my wrist in the early afternoon to find out how far of a walk I will do that day. If I ran in the morning, I know I can safely only go about a mile and a half to burn my 660 calorie goal. If I did the elliptical at the gym, which burns fewer calories, I'm going for the full 3-mile walk to the park and back, or maybe to my friend Ron's house where the path has great hills.

Like so many of you out there, I've learned that if I inefficiently carry things up and down stairs, I burn more calories. Park farther away? More calories. Getting instantaneous feedback with actionable information right on my wrist has allowed me to keep those 10 pounds off for the last 7 years.

**Bottom Line:** Apple Watch doesn't make you get rid of anything (except your pretty watch) but it does make you need to pull out your phone far less often, it allows you to be less rude when checking messages, and it helps you to become more healthy if you choose to act on the information it gives you. Now, all we need is it to tell us our cholesterol, blood pressure, blood sugar...

<https://www.podfeet.com/blog/2018/09/9-reasons-to-get-an-apple-watch/>

Also, Allison has done an in-depth analysis of the size of the new watch. She writes: Apple has accomplished something

continued on page 7

Apple Watch, from page 6

really extraordinary in the physical design of the Series 4 Apple Watch. They have managed to give us a far bigger display area in a watch that is barely larger than it was in the previous generations.

Read much more on this at <https://www.podfeet.com/blog/2018/09/apple-watch-s4-s3-size-comparisons/>

## What to Do When Your Phone or Tablet Won't Charge, by Whitson Gordon

If your phone just stops charging, even when it's plugged in, it doesn't mean it's time to shop for a new one. Here are a few simple steps you can take before calling the pros or opening your wallet.

### Try Another Cable or Wall Adapter

Let's start with the obvious: your cable or wall adapter could be damaged, resulting in a bad connection that leaves your phone deprived of power. If you have another charger lying around, try a different cable, adapter, and even a different wall outlet. If your phone charges fine after swapping those out, you know one of them is probably the culprit, and can start doing some detective work to narrow it down.

In some cases, you may just be using the wrong charger — not all adapters are rated for the same power delivery. (The wall adapter that came with your old e-reader probably won't charge your new iPad Pro, for example.) In that case, you just need to make sure you use the right one for the right device.

In other cases, you may have a cable or adapter that doesn't work at all, and it's destined for the garbage can (or the e-waste center, if you're feeling environmentally friendly). Cable failures happen from time to time, but they happen a lot more with cheap, no-name products, so try to stick to well-known and respected brands. It's tempting to buy cheap chargers from the checkout line at the drugstore — especially when Apple sells theirs for a hefty \$40 a pop — but don't skimp. Cheap chargers are not only unreliable, but can even be a fire hazard in some cases, so go with [a trusted company](#) like [Anker](#) if you want to save a little money.

### Plug It Into a Wall (Not a Computer, Power Strip, or USB Hub)

While we're at it, make sure you plug your device directly into a wall outlet. Plugging your device into a computer (or a USB hub meant for computers) may not provide enough juice for your device to charge. Even if your USB hub has a dedicated AC cable plugged into the wall, the ports themselves may not be rated for the level of power delivery your device requires.

This is more common with tablets (which require more power to charge at a decent rate), but it can happen with phones too on certain USB hubs. If you're plugged into a power strip, take the charger out and try plugging it into a wall too, since you never know when a power strip's port might die. The fewer links in the chain between your phone and the wall, the better.

### Check the Charging Port for Lint or Bent Contacts

It sounds silly, but charging problems can often be something as simple as a dirty charging port. When your phone lives in your pocket, it's bound to pick up a little dust and lint, and every time you plug in your cable, you pack that lint in a little tighter. Eventually it may prevent the cable from connecting securely in the charging port. If you have a USB-C device, the "tab" in the center of the port may also be a little bent, causing similar problems.

Thankfully, both issues can be solved with a simple toothpick. Stick it into the port (lightly, lest you risk breaking the tip inside your phone) and try to grab any dust or debris that has accumulated inside. If you have a bent tab, gently bend it back toward the center and try plugging your phone in again. You may be shocked to find that a little toothpick surgery was all you needed to bring back its full charging capabilities.

### Stop Using the Phone While It Charges

If your phone says it's charging but the battery indicator barely seems to move, it could be because you're using your phone too much while charging it. You won't likely notice this if you're just browsing Facebook, but if you're playing games, using turn-by-turn navigation, or running some other power-hungry app while plugged in, your phone can discharge as quickly as it charges.

So if you're having problems, try plugging in your phone and letting it sit for a while. If the battery percentage increases normally, it's likely that nothing's wrong with your device — you just need to charge it during low-usage periods. And don't worry about putting it in Airplane Mode or turning it off — that will only shave a few minutes off the charging time. Just try to charge it when you aren't actively using it.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/05/smarter-living/>

## App Time

**Focos** (rated 4.6 of 5): A step into the future of computational photography and light-field cameras, bringing DSLR-like photography to your dual-camera iPhone, with beautiful bokeh effects usually achievable only with professional large aperture cameras. Free, with in-app purchases. iOS 11+.

**Measure**: An **augmented**-reality app that works as a virtual ruler to measure **length** or distance using your iPhone's camera. Turns your iOS device into a tape measure. Enables you to quickly gauge the size of objects, and can automatically provide the dimensions of rectangular objects. Free, iOS 12.



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\_\_\_\_\_

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Current level of Mac expertise

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