

Apple iPad Features and Purchase Recommendations

Ron Mettler November 7, 2012

1. Apple has released the iPad 1 iPad 2, iPad 3, iPad 4 and the Mini iPad. There is confusion in the naming of the 3 and 4. The 3 and 4 are very similar with retina display 2048 x 1536 resolution, both have 5 MP back camera, the 3 has a .3 MP front camera while the 4 has a 1.2 MP front camera. The 3 has an A5X dual-core chip while the 4 has an A6X dual-core with quad-core graphics. Note that when purchasing, be sure you understand which model you are purchasing. The 3 and 4 are both referred as “New” iPad in many places. If you can afford it, purchase the iPad 4 with 64 GB storage either Wi-Fi only or Wi-Fi plus cellular if needed. The iPad Mini is also a good choice if you are comfortable with it. Try it out first.
2. The following table includes the latest pricing based on my shopping experience. Available from Bestbuy, Walmart, Apple.com and elsewhere.

Model No.	Wi-Fi Only			Wi-Fi Plus Cellular		
	16 GB	32 GB	64 GB	16 GB	32 GB	64 GB
iPad 2	\$399	**	**	\$529	\$400*	
iPad 3**	\$450	\$550	\$650	\$580	\$680	\$780
iPad 4	\$499	\$599	\$699	\$629	\$729	\$829
iPad Mini	\$329	\$429	\$529	\$459	\$559	\$659

- Used from CUGG member Nancy Swope
- ** Not available from Apple.com, limited availability from Walmart, Bestbuy, and maybe elsewhere.
3. My recommendation is to only purchase the iPad 4 or the iPad Mini not considering personal economics.
 4. My most frequently used built-in features which are a part of iOS6:
 - a. Email with multiple accounts (Comcast, Yahoo, Gmail) consolidated into one inbox as well as individual account inboxes.
 - b. Contacts
 - c. Messages
 - d. Camera, 5 MP plus HD video
 - e. Facetime
 - f. Notes
 - g. Reminders
 - h. Music
 - i. Clock
 - j. Calendar
 - k. Photos
 - l. App Store
 - m. Safari
 - n. Siri

5. My favorite and most used apps include:
 - a. AccuWeather
 - b. Flipboard news aggregator
 - c. Hi Calc HD Calculator
 - d. Google Chrome
 - e. Google Earth
 - f. Google Search text and voice
 - g. Audubon applications including Audubon Birds, Mammals, Southwest Nature, Trees
 - h. Gems and Minerals
 - i. Various Fotopedia apps
 - j. DMD Photostiching
 - k. Astronomy apps, Star Rover, Stellarium, Flyby, Skyview
 - l. Wikipedia
 - m. iBooks, Kindle Reader, Adobe Reader, My Library
 - n. Shopping apps, Amazon, Alibris, Newegg, Craigslist, eBay
 - o. Gaia GPS off line navigation
 - p. Utilities, Fing, Penultimate, Sys-Lite, Find iPhone
 - q. Skype, Netflix, Yelp, YouTube
 - r. Dropbox, Runkeeper
6. Many apps are free but also range in cost from \$.99 and up. The most expensive purchased app for me was Audubon Birds for \$14.99.
7. Shop for apps in the App Store. It takes practice and perseverance to find what you need. Check the Genius section in the App Store frequently.