



On Saturday April 3, I bought a 16 GB iPad from Voelker Research: <http://www.voelker.com/> (5026 N. Academy Blvd) located at the Union and Academy intersection on the southwest side of the street. Call: (719) 528-5596 (they are a SMMUG sponsor). My observations thus far:

1. It's gorgeous. The screen's look and feel seems like a miniature iMac as I don't have a portable
2. One of the first things I wanted was a case to protect my iPad. So I went to the Macsuperstore and Best Buy but they didn't seem to have an Apple carrying case. I finally settled at Best Buy on a "incase" black carrying case specifically made for a 10.2 inch portable. It was \$32.00 which is about \$3.00 more than an Apple case iPad case (\$39), but it seems less obvious and maybe less tempting for a mugging then carrying it around in a larger case specifically made for it.

BTW: An ear bud or headphone doesn't come with the iPad. But an "Apple In-Ear Headphones with Remote and Mic" is available on the Apple site and costs \$79.00. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/y1fg3js> for iPad info and accessories. I don't remember if an ear bud came with the iPhone or iPod touch - if so, maybe that might work with the iPad. I would check it out before you use though.
- My iPad cost so far is: \$499 for the 16 GB Wi-fi version, \$99 for AppleCare to extend the warranty to two years (not three like a computer), tax \$44.25, carrying case \$35.43. Total thus far: \$677.68. If it had been the Wi-Fi + 3G version it would have cost \$130 more plus a few more \$ in taxes.
3. I won't be carrying around my iPod touch anymore. However, I will still keep it current and backed up as needed in case something happens to the iPad (very and extremely doubtful).
4. When I first plugged in the iPad, it said that the last time the iPad was plugged in was the previous day. That's was incorrect. It was the last time I had plugged in the iPod touch for back-up/syncing.
5. If you don't want to copy anything over from your iPod touch or iPhone, then create a new iPad when it asks. If you do copy over items from your iPhone or iPod touch, it copies apps in an alphabetical listing.
6. On a 16 GB iPad, the amount of disk space you have before adding new items is about 14.02 GB. Right now I have about 2.5 GB free. Guess I'll have to be more careful on what I put on it.
7. There are no instructions with the iPad on how to use it. If you have previous experience with apps you've used on an iPhone or iPod touch that will help immensely. It's entirely possible that I haven't reviewed or seen all the instructions and videos out so far on how to use the iPad. I imagine someone will come out with "iPad, the Missing Manual" or something similar. I intend to buy it. I Googled it ("iPad, the Missing Manual") and came up with 14,900 results. So now I get to choose a good book. *[NL Editor note: Apple's iPad manual can be accessed/downloaded from their web site at: http://manuals.info.apple.com/en_US/iPad_User_Guide.pdf]*
8. There is a semi-humorous movie on <http://www.youtube.com/>: "Hitler responds to the iPad". There are several covering different subjects. Sometimes there is some rather ADULT language in the text.
9. Some of the apps act different on a iPad then they do on a iPod touch. I never had an iPhone so I can't comment there. Sometimes the screen display of an app acts differently in portrait or landscape mode. When using Safari, you don't have the option to do "Private Browsing" like you do on a portable or a desktop. So you should check out each app for changes.
10. When using an app not specifically made for the iPad, it shows just the same size it would for an iPhone or iPod touch. When you choose the 2x in the lower right corner, the app doesn't seem to pixilate too badly. Maybe that's dependent on the app. I expect most if not all iPhone/iPod touch apps will be updated within the next 30 or so days to be just for the iPad.
11. Pricing in the App store is higher for some of the apps.

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12. When you plug in the iPad and sync/back it up using iTunes the iPad shows under the iTunes "Devices" section. When looking at the "Apps" tab under "Library" the list of applications now shows: "iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad Apps", "iPhone and iPod touch Apps", and "iPad Apps".

13. My first recharge was at 43%. Battery usage seems to be very accurate; I had used the iPad for around 5 hours and the percent remaining showed around 50%. When you have it plugged in to a USB port, the iPad does not charge; at least mine doesn't. When recharging, at the 1 hour point it was up to 69% charged. After 2 hours it was up to 92% charged. It took 2 hours 24 minutes to get to 100%. There is a problem with the displaying of how much % shows. When it showed 100% I unplugged it - it then showed 98%. I did this 2 times and it showed 98% each time. I then plugged it into the keyboard and it shows "not charging". When recharging, the normal desktop screen is blacked out and you have to hit the button at the bottom of the screen. I will set up an iCal event to remind me to fully draw down the battery and recharge it at least once a month.

14. It's beautiful, but I digress slightly and I hate to repeat myself.

15. I took a picture from my built-in iSight camera on my 24" iMac of me holding up my iPad. If you notice the printing (Sync in Progress) on the iPad screen was backward. You must then use an application to flip the picture horizontally to read text normally.

16. Overall, I like it. Who knows, maybe after one year I'll get the Wi-Fi + 3G version and sell my Wi-Fi version for \$200.

On CBS this morning on Sunday Morning (April 4th) at 0700, they estimated 700,000 iPads were sold. At a minimum of \$499 that means at least \$349,300,000 was taken in for this quarter. We'll find out in April 2010.



Here is a Q&A email session I had with a fellow SMMUG member:

Q: Can you read/write PDFs? I have downloaded free text versions of books that I would like to (eventually) read on the iPad. I could save them as PDFs or (if need be) buy the Pages app and read them as text. But PDFs would be my preference.

A: I emailed a pdf to myself and then saved it to the iPad. I don't know if the iBook app will read pdf's. I even went to the iPad User Guide brought it up on the iPad and saved it as a pdf. [Added later: You can also put your PDF Library on the iPad using the [GoodReader](#) app. FYI: GoodReader currently has an introductory price of \$0.99 and it will also read MS Office, iWork '08/'09, HTML & Safari webarchives, High resolution images, Audio and Video files.]

Q: Is it easy bringing documents & apps onto the iPad from a Mac computer-or is it a hassle? I understand that there is a USB cable that can be used for connecting the two?

A: The only problem I had when bringing apps from my iPod touch to the iPad is the web apps and that was very minor. This was covered in one of my first several iPad comments. Some of the Apple ones won't transfer. i.e. Stocks. But there are better ones and FREE at that out there.

Q: How large is the typical iPad app? I read somewhere that they are bigger than iPhone apps and that it uses up your storage space very fast.-I was looking at all f the iPhone/iPad apps and there are a lot that look interesting. I was wondering how fast the 64 G version would fill up.

A: I don't think it's too much of a problem. Their not like the typical Apple OS X app as they don't need to take much space, no printing stuff etc. When iPhone OS 4.0 was demoed they said you could have 2,260 (I think that many) apps in folders etc. It's real easy to add stuff (photos, movies etc) via iTunes and delete them later to save space. I haven't figured out how to have my movies in iPad size format just yet. But I imagine someone will figure that out.

Q: If you have a wall plug handy, can you plug in to the wall to save using the battery or will it automatically think that you are recharging your battery?

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A: Covered in in one of my first several iPad comments. You can also plug it into a USB port, but it's much much slower.

Q: Does the battery have a memory where you must deplete the charge completely in order to get a full charge the next time (I know of batteries that if you recharge it when it is half full, it will only let you recharge that much from then on-bummer!)

A: Don't think so. I recharge daily or when it get's down to around 40 or so %. But I'll probably take it down to 0% or so once a month just for grins and giggles.

Q: I was reading the iPad manual and in it it says that when you buy an app it will automatically download and install. It also says that you can purchase from a computer and then add it to the iPad the next time you sync. So my question is, with Mac applications you can download them and then not install them until later. Is it the same with the iPad (especially if you are purchasing via you Mac computer)? I would also like to be able to burn backup copies to CD just in case I have to re-install at a later date.

A: You can buy an app and then download it to iTunes. Then the next time you sync it will copy over unless you say not to. Don't need to burn to CD as when you sync the iPad/iPhone/iPod touch it automatically back-ups the device before any changes are made. *[NL Editor note: According to an Apple Knowledgebase article (<http://support.apple.com/kb/HT1382>), if you go: iTunes> File> Library> Backup to disk> and choose "Backup only iTunes store Purchases", you can get your CD backup. BTW: It says that iTunes can backup to CD these items: Applications, Audiobooks, Games, Movies, Music, Music Videos, Podcasts, Ringtones, and TV Shows]*

As you can see-I am very interested in getting an iPad. But I am thinking that if I do, I should wait until the next version comes out. I remember how the iPhone and iPod got better with every new version and the ones who jumped in early were left behind. I don't want that to happen to me.

A: I'm going to keep this until next April. I think they'll probably add a webcam to it. Then I'll get the Wi-Fi + 3G 32 GB webcam version. I'll sell this one then.