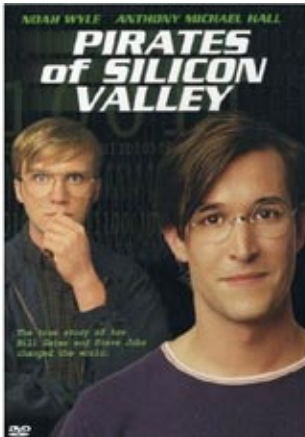


## February



For our program this month we will be showing Pirates of Silicon Valley. Based on the book by Paul Freiberger and Michael Swaine, it portrays Apple's Steve Jobs (played by Noah Wyle) and Microsoft's Bill Gates (played by Anthony Michael Hall)

with a pointed sense of the cultural divide between the hip, self-absorbed Apple cofounder and the brilliant alpha geek behind Microsoft's eventual software empire

### Upcoming Meetings



Business Meetings are now Virtual (See Forums)

Main Meeting  
Wednesday, February 10th

### Quick Find Index

General club information	<a href="#">Page 2</a>
Review: Canon Pixma MP560	<a href="#">Page 3</a>
Mac Documentaries	<a href="#">Page 5</a>
Digital Media Keyboard 3000	<a href="#">Page 6</a>
Print to PDF: Reducing the Fat	<a href="#">Page 7</a>
Review: My New Mac (SL Edition)	<a href="#">Page 8</a>
Mac 911	<a href="#">Page 9</a>
Appeal Over iPod Hearing Loss	<a href="#">Page 11</a>
Forms	<a href="#">Page 12</a>
Auction items	<a href="#">Page 12</a>

### ApplePickers Main Meeting

We usually meet the second Wednesday of each month, 6:30-7:00 p.m. social time, main meeting 7:00-8:45 p.m. at the [Fishers Library](#). 5 Municipal Dr. just north of 116th St. in Fishers. Visitors are always welcome to come and join us.



### West Side Senior SIG

We would like to start a Special Interest Group (SIG) for seniors. The group would meet on the West Side during daylight hours. If you are interested, please contact [Dick Bowers](#) by e-mail or call 317-280-1841.

### Mac ProSIG

Each month, Apple Representative Greg Willmore hosts the Mac Programmer's SIG. You should email Greg at [willmore@apple.com](mailto:willmore@apple.com) for specific information. Location varies.

### Final Cut Pro User Group

The INDYFCPUG meets the fourth Tuesday of each month from 7:00-9:30 p.m. Since the location may vary, please be sure to check their [website](#).

## ApplePickers Officers

President	Vacant	<a href="mailto:president@applepickers.org">president@applepickers.org</a>
Public Relations	Gareth Souders	<a href="mailto:pr@applepickers.org">pr@applepickers.org</a>
Past President	Bob Carpenter	<a href="mailto:bobc@applepickers.org">bobc@applepickers.org</a>
Secretary	Irv Haas	<a href="mailto:irv@applepickers.org">irv@applepickers.org</a>
Treasurer	Ron Beechler	<a href="mailto:ronb@applepickers.org">ronb@applepickers.org</a>
WebMaster	Steve Johnson	<a href="mailto:webmaster@applepickers.org">webmaster@applepickers.org</a>

## Newsletter Production

Editor this month	Bob van Lier	<a href="mailto:bobv@applepickers.org">bobv@applepickers.org</a>
Editor next month	Randy Marcy	<a href="mailto:randy@applepickers.org">randy@applepickers.org</a>
The Review Guru	Irv Haas	<a href="mailto:irv@applepickers.org">irv@applepickers.org</a>

## About the ApplePickers

ApplePickers is a not-for-profit educational organization. We are made up of volunteers who donate their time for the community advancement of computing. We are in the business of giving away information. All are welcome to join and we encourage you to get involved. Contact anyone mentioned above or write to: ApplePickers, P.O.Box 20136, Indianapolis, IN., 46220

Remember that ApplePickers is here to help you. This help comes from our many members who give of their time and talents to the group. Please help us to help you by giving something in return.

Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and may not be construed as the official views of the ApplePickers MUG.

## Newsletter Information

We welcome members' contributions to the newsletter. Submission deadline is the 20th of the month. Please send articles to the editor for that month. Randy is the editor next month. ApplePickers accepts a member's classified ad free of charge once every 6 months. Business ads are also accepted. Email [pr@applepickers.org](mailto:pr@applepickers.org) for more information, or visit our website: [www.applepickers.org](http://www.applepickers.org)

Advertisement rates are as follows:  
Business card size - 3" x 2.5" \$60 per 6 months  
Quarter page size - 3.75" x 5" \$100 per 6 months

All advertisement requests must be approved by the board prior to inclusion in the newsletter. Full color or grayscale ads have the same price. We request that your ad be "camera ready" art. 300dpi is preferred. Email ads to either newsletter editor.

## ApplePickers Message Boards

Come and join us at the ApplePickers' new Message Boards! Ask questions, read other ApplePickers member's postings. See gossip and news and special announcements. The ApplePickers Message Boards are a valuable and useful member benefit! Free subscriptions for ApplePickers members. To join point your browser of choice to [www.applepickers.org](http://www.applepickers.org), and click on the Forum tab on the top of the website. If you need an account or lost your password, please E-mail Bob van Lier at [bobv@applepickers.org](mailto:bobv@applepickers.org).

## Club Benefit

As a benefit to our members, we offer the ability to have your own @applepickers.org e-mail address. If you are interested in setting up an ApplePickers email address for yourself, please send an e-mail request to [Bob van Lier](mailto:Bob van Lier) and give us the address you wish to have and whether you just want a forwarding account or a regular e-mail account.



# REVIEW: Canon PIXMA MP560 All-in-One

By Irv Haas  
The Review Guru

**M**ost multifunction printers these days have all the basic features to copy, scan, and print in one device. Currently more consumers demand such a device that is also wireless. Canon has finally entered this field by offering the **Canon PIXMA MP560 All-in-One**.

This printer has many features that printer buyers have been looking for including 5-color ink printing, convenient borderless 8-1/2 x 11" printing and memory card slot support. Its sleek design (when closed) lets the user open up a flip panel that includes a 2" LCD screen.

The wireless operation enables you to place the unit anywhere in your house that is accessible to your router. If space is a problem, this is the ideal solution. If your computer is in your den, place the printer in your bedroom without wires—no problem!

The wireless standard for this printer is 802.11b/g. However, Canon has also made 802.11n compatible with this unit as well.

## Printing Features

The MP560 offers a multitude of printing options. Check these out:

- Auto Duplex Print
- Auto Photo Fix II,
- Borderless Printing
- Calendar Print

- Document Printing
- ID Photo Print,
- Photo Index Sheet
- PictBridge connectivity
- Photo Direct Print (Memory Card/Camera/USB Flash Memory)
- Photo Printing, Template Print

## Memory Card Slots

The camera memory card slots on the printer are a nice benefit. It gives you the advantage of inserting your camera's flash memory and printing directly in order to bypass your Mac.

Memory cards supported are: SD™, Memory Card, SDHC™, MultiMediaCard®, MultiMediaCard® Plus, CompactFlash® Card,

Microdrive®, Memory Stick®, Memory Stick PRO™, Memory Stick Duo™ and Memory Stick PRO Duo™. The following can be used with the addition of a special adapter sold separately: miniSD™ Card, miniSDHC™, microSD™ Card, microSDHC™, RS-MMC™, Memory Stick Micro, xD-Picture Card®, xD-Picture Card® (Type M), and xD-Picture Card® (Type H).

## Scanning

This Canon MP560 includes a scanning feature. Just place your original on the flatbed and scan it into your Mac. You can use the Canon software or elect to scan from *System Preferences*.



## Installation

Canon offers step-by-step instructions in its *Getting Started* manual. You have the option of Mac or Windows USB connectivity or Mac or Windows wireless network connectivity.

The main problem with the Canon MP560's installation is the time it takes to install. It takes 5 minutes alone just to align and calibrate the unit (it does it automatically).

Your next task is to decide whether you want to hook up this device with a USB or wirelessly. Since I wanted a wireless setup I elected that option. The wireless installation was easy as well. It automatically searches for your router and when it finds it, it asks you for its passkey. Once you input this information, Canon directs you to a wireless network confirmation page. When you see your router and necessary IP addresses, you are finished.

Your next step is to install the included CD. on your Mac When you insert the CD disc, a message comes up asking if you want to check for newer drivers. The answer should always be yes unless this is a brand new printer that was just released.

Since this model has been on the market for a few months, I opted to check the Internet. On Canon's site, there were 9 different driver downloads—enough to make a user's head spin.

On my first try, I couldn't get the printer to work wirelessly. I called Canon technical support to get to the root of my problem. They told me I selected the wrong drivers. There was a new one I should have selected (number 4 on the list of 9!). Once I downloaded those drivers, the printer worked flawlessly. The newest drivers were only 10 days old! Whether you use Snow Leopard or earlier Mac OS X versions, can make a major difference.

## Specifications

- ✓ **Capacity:** Up to 125 sheets
- ✓ **Black Speed:** Up to 26 ppm
- ✓ **Color Speed:** Up to 39 ppm

- ✓ **Connectivity:** Wireless, Ethernet, USB or Bluetooth®
- ✓ **Operating Systems:** (Mac) OS X v. 10.3.9 or later (Windows®) XP or later
- ✓ **Duplex printing:** Yes
- ✓ **Scanning resolution:** Optical up to 48090 dpi, Enhanced up to 19,200 dpi
- ✓ **Size:** 17.8 x 14.5 x 6.3 in (w x d x h)
- ✓ **Weight:** 24.1 lbs.

## Speed Issues

Canon does not focus on print speed with the MP560. It just says up to 26 ppm (pages per minute) without being more specific.

Here are my print tests:

**Data:** (page of database records) 38 seconds just 3 seconds slower than my laser printer and hp Officejet

**Letter:** (one page letter) 27 seconds, 6 seconds slower than my laser, 4 seconds slower than my Officejet.

**Internet Page:** (one internet color page) 1 min. 38 seconds, 56 seconds slower than laser, 17 seconds slower than Officejet.

AS you can see, the print speed was slower than other printers, but this is not Canon's focus with this model.

## Print Quality

The print quality varied with the MP560. Overall, the print was very sharp, but did not have the saturated look of the other printers.

With the color Internet page, the MP560 was clearly the winner. It had less contrast with better color than either of the other two test printers.

I printed 8x10 color photos on photo paper and was disappointed with the color. Although it was extremely sharp, the colors lacked the proper shading. Red came off as orange-red, for example.

## Manuals

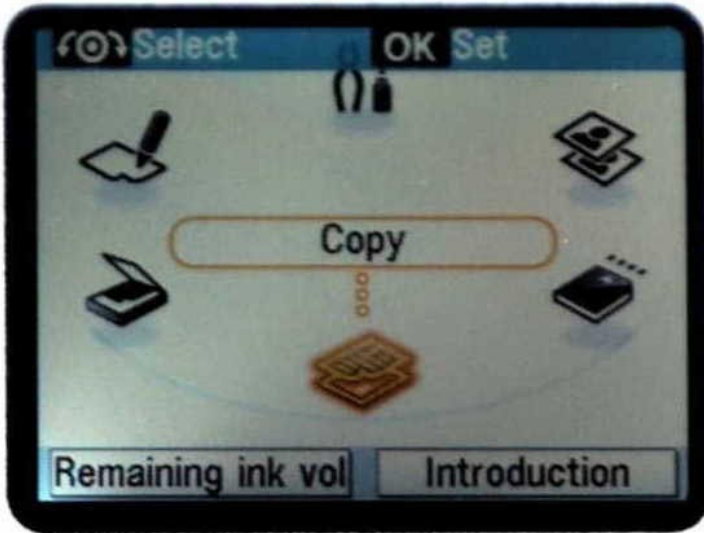
Canon only includes a *Getting Started* manual with this model. However if you need a complete manual or a help guide, they are both available for free on Canon's web site.

## Evaluation

The Canon PIXMA MP560 is a very competent printer. Although its list price is \$149.99, there are

discounts around, bringing the cost under \$100 in some cases. You can find a wireless printer under this price point, but perhaps not with the features included with this all-in-one.

This multifunction (no fax included) is loaded with features and may be more than you need. But at this price point, it may not make much of a difference.



## Mac Documentaries Showing Online and Off

by Adam C. Engst

Looking for some Mac-related movie viewing? Last year's documentaries "[MacHEADS](#)" and "[Welcome To Macintosh](#)" were both screened at Macworld Expo in January 2009, but, being small independent films, haven't been shown in many theaters. However, if you weren't at Macworld Expo, and haven't had a chance to see them on DVD in the meantime, you're not out of luck. (And yes, I appear in "MacHEADS" a couple of times, with lots of other familiar faces from Macworld Expo).

["MacHEADS" has aired a few times on CNBC](#), including repeat showings this past weekend. ["Welcome to Macintosh" also ran on CNBC](#) this month.

If you didn't catch the movies on CNBC, SnagFilms, a site dedicated to providing free streaming access to documentaries, now carries both "[MacHEADS](#)" and "[Welcome to Macintosh](#)," so you can watch them any time you want.

Similarly, the TV site [Hulu has "MacHEADS,"](#) and Netflix subscribers can also stream "Welcome to Macintosh."

© Reprinted from TidBits 11Jan2010 through [CC license](#)

# REVIEW: Microsoft Digital Media Keyboard 3000

By Irv Haas  
The Review Guru

If you like mice that feature multiple programmable buttons, you may want to consider the wired **Microsoft® Digital Media Keyboard 3000**.

Microsoft has finally got its act together by producing an ultra-thin keyboard with multiple media functions that work for the Mac as well as the PC. At a price of \$29.99, this keyboard seems like a real bargain when compared to Apple's \$49.99 without the specialty functions. Check out some of these:

## Programmable Buttons

This keyboard has 5 programmable buttons marked 1-2-3-4-5 that can be used for just about anything including opening applications, documents or just about any file that's on your Mac. However, these keys cannot do operations such as cut and paste. They are designed exclusively for opening files and applications

## Media Center Functions

This Keyboard 3000 lets you control *iTunes* directly with play/pause, forward track, reverse track or stop.

No programming is required for this feature. One you install the software with the included CD, it recognizes your Mac and programs accordingly.

## Specialty Keys

- Magnify/Reduce Buttons -- The lower left side of the keyboard features two buttons that let you magnify or reduce that web page you are currently visiting.
- Flip Button – Switch between open windows with just a click
- Taskbar – Easily access programs in the taskbar with convenient keyboard hot keys.

There is one negative with the keys on this keyboard. It includes a *Windows Start* Button that takes the place of Apple's *Option* button. With Macs, this button doesn't start anything. When the user presses it, it functions as an *Option* button on most other keyboards.

## Function Keys

Like Apple's keyboard, this keyboard also features function keys. Apple offers 19 while Microsoft offers 12. Most of the function keys are marked with icons that perform specialty functions such as those enumerated above. Of course, the key question is how many of us really need 19 function keys?

Some of the marked functions are:



- Open File
- Close File
- Envelopes
- Check Spelling
- Save File
- Help

With most other keyboards, you can program the Function buttons to perform many of the same tasks.

## Installation

This is the really easy part—just install the drivers and restart. When restarting is complete, you can connect the keyboard.

When you are installing the drivers, the CD automatically checks Microsoft's website to make sure that there are no newer drivers available. Most manufacturers do not offer this feature which should be required.

[Continued on Page 11](#)

# Print to PDF: Reducing the Fat

by: Bob van Lier

One of the many features promised, and to some degree delivered in OS X, was the ability to print/save any file you were working on as a PDF file, Adobe's ubiquitous portable document format. This was a great boon to us Mac users who regularly share documents with our Windows colleagues. The problem was that the PDF files produced by OS X were rather large — significantly more so than if the same file had been distilled through Adobe's Acrobat Professional. What's more, OS X gives you very little control over the document's features. In fact, up until OS 10.5, embedded links (URLs) did not carry through to the PDF file that was produced. You also can't incorporate bookmarks, or chapters into OS X produced PDF files, but you can add encryption and passwords. Nevertheless being able to produce PDF files from the print dialog box of nearly anything (See below for exception) was a significant selling feature in OS X. In this article I will describe several alternative methods to produce PDF file which you may wish to learn more about.

## CUPS-PDF

The CUPS-PDF printer driver can generate a PDF file with just one click. It looks to your computer just like another printer. The key advantage I've found with CUPS-PDF is that you can print filled in pdf forms. Normally, if you try to save completed PDF forms you'll get a warning that this is not allowed. I like to keep completed forms so I know what I've sent without having to scan the paper. An installer for the CUPS-PDF installation can be found at [codepoetry.net](http://codepoetry.net), however the current installer doesn't quite work for Snow Leopard. This is because Snow Leopard is very particular as to where printers can write files. You can find the changes that need to be made in an article posted at [codeweavers.com support](http://codeweavers.com/support). Codeweavers makes CrossoverMac that we demoed a few months ago, and they too saw the value of having a printer driver that produces PDF files. Output qual-

ity with CUPS-PDF is very good, but files are large. Sometimes these files are larger than that produced by the built-in "Save as PDF", and sometimes they are smaller; it depends a lot on the nature of the document you are "printing". CUPS-PDF also has a nasty habit of embedding multiple copies of fonts like Leopard used to, so check your output in Adobe Reader (Files>Properties>Fonts). Preview lacks the ability to show embedded fonts.

## Using Quartz Filters

Another way to get smaller pdf files is to apply a quartz filter to the output. You can create a special quartz filter using the ColorSync Utility and then call it from a service that you've created with Automator. Open the ColorSync Utility, click the Filters menu button and then the plus symbol at the bottom to create a new filter. Name the filter, then click the reveal triangle on the right side to bring up a menu. Choose "Add Image Effects Component," then "Image Compression". This will add a new drop-down titled "Mode:" set to Automatic. Change "Automatic" to "JPEG" and set the quality to whatever you want. I have it set to minimum. Although you might think it would devastate text images, I find the images perfectly readable at 100% magnification. Save this filter and then startup Automator and create a new workflow. Drag in the Action "Copy Finder Items" with the dropdown set to Desktop. Then drag in "Apply Quartz Filter to PDF Documents" and select the filter you just created from the dropdown. Save the workflow to ~/your\_name/Library/PDF Services folder. Items in this folder will be visible from the PDF dropdown in the lower left corner of any Print dialog box. This approach is particularly good if your document has a lot of high resolution images which would make for a very large file if you just did a save PDF. If you're just creating a pdf with images and some text, and you want to mail them the document, this is a good way to go.

*[Continued on Page 10](#)*

# REVIEW: My New Mac (Snow Leopard Edition)

By Irv Haas  
The Review Guru

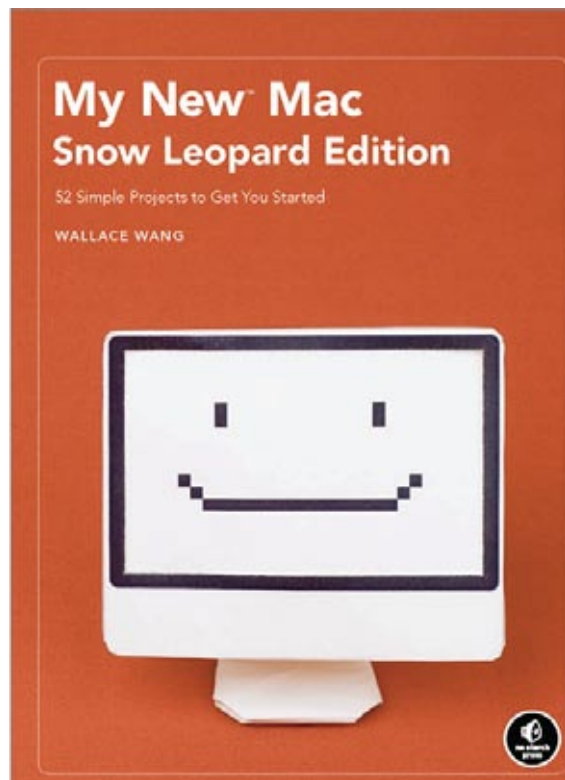
If you want to know everything about your Mac and the new features in Snow Leopard (OS X 10.6), check out David Pogue's Missing Manual book on the subject. However, if you are new to the Mac and just want to know the basics of Snow Leopard and how it works with your Mac, read **My New Mac: Snow Leopard Edition** by Wallace Wang, (2009, No Starch Press, \$29.99, 481 pages).

Unlike most other Mac books, Wang divides his book into 54 projects that aid you in learning about your Mac.

Wang offers this information in an easy to understand language. Check out part of his introduction:

"...That's why this is a different kind of computer book. Instead of babbling about every possible feature and command and then hoping you'll find an actual use for that information, this book teaches you how to do something fun and useful with your Macintosh right away.

With most computers, the biggest problem is just getting them to work. With a Macintosh, the biggest problem is figuring out all the different ways you can put your computer to work for you. People often use a Macintosh for years just to write letters or send email and then suddenly discover that they could have also been using that Macintosh to organize and edit photos, watch DVDs, or make their own CDs containing their favorite songs."



## Project Examples

He offers samples that range from elementary to advanced levels and present easy to follow techniques. Here is just a small sampling:

- **Project 12:** Controlling Your Macintosh With Hot Corners
- **Project 17:** Slapping Parental Controls On Your Kids
- **Project 21:** Never Forget a Birthday Again
- **Project 23:** Ripping and Burning an Audio CD
- **Project 33:** Typing Foreign Languages
- **Project 39:** Creating an electronic Clipping Service
- **Project 45:** Making eMail Look Pretty
- **Project 53:** Encrypting Your Data

## Evaluation

Wang's *My New Mac: Snow Leopard Edition* is certainly not for advanced users. It is aimed at beginning and intermediate Mac fans. Many books try to cover too many topics. However, Wang focuses on a few key issues that most of us need help with from time to time.

There is no need to study detailed manuals when this book is just what you may need.

*Although the price of the book is \$29.99, ApplePickers members can get up to a 35% discount by using discount code DSUG when ordering directly from O'Reilly. Ordering one book will get you 30% off, buy 2 or more will get you 35% off and any order over \$29.99 will qualify for free shipping.*



## Cures for a crusty keyboard

Reader Marcie Phipps seeks to clean up her act. She writes:

I have an old keyboard that I love, but its keys are sticking due to built up dust and gunk. Is there a way to clean it?

This is a common question and with it come solutions both tried-and-true and controversial. Starting with the tried-and-true:

The first step in cleaning a keyboard is to unplug it, grab a can of compressed air (found at any electronic supply store), and blast air around the base of the keys in the hope of dislodging whatever's gumming up the works. Do this holding the can of compressed air upright. Flip the can upside down and there's some danger that you'll squirt propellant into the keyboard.

Turn the keyboard over and give it a good shake in the hope of removing the gunk you've loosened. While in this position, blast it a few more times with the compressed air. If a key remains unresponsive after this treatment, gently pry it up with a small flathead screwdriver and clean its post with a slightly damp cloth.

Now, the controversial:

If the keyboard is so filthy that it appears to be a lost cause--as it might after a major coffee, soda, or Mai Tai spill--put it in the dishwasher. Place it in the top rack, dial the dishwasher to a rinse only setting, don't put soap in the thing, and run it through. Remove the keyboard and let it drain, with keys down, until it's completely dry-- this could take a couple of days.

This is controversial because some keyboard manufacturers suggest that you not do this as they won't guarantee that the keyboard will survive the ordeal--particularly if you hit the keyboard with really hot

water, detergent, and flying cutlery.

Speaking from personal experience, I've done this with a beloved Matias TactilePro keyboard that I'd given up for dead (this is the perfect condition under which to conduct this experiment). I'm happy to report that not only did it survive, it works perfectly (and is a whole lot nicer to look at than it once was).

## E-mail and the advantages of deception

Reader Gary Campbell expresses a concern about his privacy along these lines:

When I visit some Web sites I'm asked to provide an e-mail address. I'm concerned that this will lead to more spam. Any suggestions?

A couple, yes.

Despite what you learned in Sunday school, your first best option is to lie. When asked for an e-mail address for no apparent good reason, feel free to enter [joeblow@example.net](mailto:joeblow@example.net) and smack the Return key. With luck, the Web site will take this as the goods and let you get on with your business.

Regrettably, this technique doesn't work as well as it once did. Increasingly, you're asked to submit an e-mail address and then the asking body sends you a link to whatever you've requested via e-mail. If the address you submit is no good, you don't receive the message, and you can't get the thing you were after.

That doesn't mean, however, that you must offer your primary e-mail address. I've created a couple of free Google and Yahoo addresses for exactly this purpose. When asked for an e-mail address that I know will result in an activation message, I plunk in one of these addresses. I then check that account for the activation e-mail and then ignore the account until I next need it. (Meaning I don't include it in a schedule that automatically checks my e-mail.)

If you want to get very fine with this, you can create a new account for each place you visit. For example, if you must submit your e-mail address to Company X, create a new Google account for [joeblowcompanyx125@gmail.com](mailto:joeblowcompanyx125@gmail.com). Should you receive spam at this address, you have a reasonable idea of who's responsible. At that point you can complain or swear off that company in the future.

If you have a MobileMe account you can create up to five alias addresses. Messages sent to these aliases are forwarded to your primary MobileMe address. So, for example, when dealing with the famed Company X, create an alias for [joeblowcompanyx125@me.com](mailto:joeblowcompanyx125@me.com). After you've received Company X's activation e-mail, delete the alias. Any future messages sent to this account won't go through as it's now a dead address.

*Macworld Senior Editor Christopher Breen is the author of "Secrets of the iPod and iTunes (6th edition)," and "The iPod and iTunes Pocket Guide (4th edition)" both from Peachpit Press*

and

*"Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard Essential Training (video)" from [lynda.com](http://lynda.com) Find Chris' books at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and [www.peachpit.com](http://www.peachpit.com). Get special user group pricing on Macworld Magazine! Subscribe today at [www.macworld.com/useroffer](http://www.macworld.com/useroffer)*

### Print to PDF using Multivalent

[Multivalent](#) is a suite of open source Java apps that includes support for compressing PDF files amongst a number of other things. I gained a renewed interest in creating smaller PDFs (and writing this article for the newsletter) when I came across a [recent post](#) at [MacOS X hints](#). The initiator of the thread described a one line shell script that can be embedded into an Automator workflow if you installed the Multivalent.jar file in a path where Java can see it. Other commenters to the post describe slightly different places to put the jar file, and one provided a well-documented Applescript so that you're asked where to place the file and what you'd like to name it. The initial one line shell script prevents any fonts to be embedded so that Adobe Reader or Preview will substitute one of its 14 core fonts. My personal feeling is that if I've used a special font in my document, I want that reflected in the PDF output otherwise I'd just use a standard font which won't be embedded anyway, so I took the "-noembed" switch out of the script. The resulting files are only slightly larger (approximately 25Kb per embedded font) and look like I want them. Multivalent also doesn't embed redundant copies of fonts like CUPS-PDF and older versions of OS X. That's one of a number of things fixed under the hood of Snow Leopard. URL links also come through properly, something that was only fixed in Leopard and beyond.

### Conclusion

There are a number of ways to reduce the size of PDF files that employ freeware. Each has some advantages and disadvantages depending on the document's characteristics (fancy fonts, embedded images etc). There are also a number of shareware programs that claim to reduce file size, but in my opinion none are as good as that which comes out of Adobe's Acrobat Professional. But at \$499 for the Adobe software, I can afford a little extra disk space.

## Apple Wins Appeal Over iPod Hearing Loss Lawsuit

by Doug McLean

Over three years ago we covered Apple's unofficial reaction to a pending class-action lawsuit regarding potential hearing damage caused by the iPod (see "[iPod Update Offers Maximum Volume Setting](#)," 3 April 2006). The case, Birdsong et al. v. Apple Inc., has recently been reviewed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The review affirmed an earlier appeal court's 2008 decision to reject the suit and relieve Apple of responsibility for any possible hearing loss caused by using an iPod.

The plaintiffs, Joseph Birdsong and Bruce Waggoner, had claimed the design of Apple's earbuds - intended to sit deeper in the ear canal than traditional headphones that rest on the outer ear - combined with a lack of volume meters or noise-isolating capabilities, posed serious risks to a user's hearing. The court disagreed, ruling that the plaintiffs failed to show the iPod is dangerous, or that they had endured any serious hearing damage.

Judge David Thompson wrote in his opinion, "The plaintiffs do not allege the iPods failed to do anything they were designed to do nor do they allege that they, or any others, have suffered or are substantially certain to suffer inevitable hearing loss or other injury from iPod use... At most, the plaintiffs plead a potential risk of hearing loss not to themselves, but to other unidentified iPod users."

Birdsong and Waggoner had sought for Apple to provide them with financial compensation, research on hearing damage in iPod users, overall improved safety of the iPod, and redesigned headphones.

Apple did in fact respond to the concern back in 2006 by releasing a software update to the iPod that enabled users to set a maximum volume for the device and by publishing a [set of guidelines](#) regarding iPods and sound levels.

In the end, if the music is too loud, just turn it down.

## Keyboard Continued

Of course, you can skip the driver installation if you do not plan on using the specialty/function keys. The keyboard will work with most Macs without them, but then what is the point of buying this keyboard and ignoring its multiple specialty key features?

### Conclusion

Although I found the media features admirable to control many functions that computer users want, there are many alternatives to this programmability. A mouse with several buttons (5 or more) can perform many of these functions. Since my hand is usually on the mouse most of the time, having to remove it to hit a keyboard button seems like overkill.

The only negative of this keyboard is its touch. It has the traditional mushy feel of previous Microsoft keyboards, especially when compared to the scissor-cut feel of Apple's keyboards.

But for someone who doesn't care about the feel of a keyboard, the Microsoft® Digital Media Keyboard 3000 is a bargain for \$20 less. What more can you ask of a keyboard?



© Reprinted from TidBits 11Jan2010 through [CC license](#)



**Application for Membership**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Additional Family Members \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email (Required) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ New Member (Single/Family \$25)

\_\_\_\_ Renewal

I prefer to receive my newsletter:

\_\_\_\_ Via email notice (download from our website)

\_\_\_\_ As an email attachment

Mail your application along with a check for \$25 made payable to ApplePickers to:

ApplePickers  
PO Box 20136  
Indianapolis, IN 46220

**Membership has its' benefits.  
An ApplePickers membership offers the following benefits, plus many more:**

- The ability to view and post on our message boards.
- The ability to have your own email address - \_\_\_\_@applepickers.org
- The ability to place a free ad every 6 months.
- The ability to participate in all club raffles and auctions



**Starbucks Coffee Company**  
96th & Masters  
7205 E 96th Street  
Indianapolis, in 46250

**Beth Weber**  
store manager  
☛ Coffee Master

317/595-5574 Direct Line  
starbucks.com/jobs

♻️ Printed on 100% recycled paper, 100% post-consumer material.



**Up for Auction:**

1. HP Photosmart Premium Wireless All-in-One
2. Microsoft Digital Media Keyboard 3000
3. My New Mac: Snow Leopard Edition
4. Logitech Anywhere Mouse MX