

October

**Jon Parshall from
Codeweavers will join us
through Skype and demo
CrossOver Mac**



Upcoming Meetings



Business Meetings are now
Virtual (See Forums)

Main Meeting
Wednesday, October 14th

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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.



ApplePickers Business Meeting

The business meeting is held via the ApplePickers "Virtual Business Meeting" forum topic. Any member is welcome to post in that topic stating their opinions on what the club should be doing.

Mac ProSIG

Each month, Apple Representative Greg Willmore hosts the Mac Programmer's SIG. You should email Greg at 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

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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 for more information, or visit our website: 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, 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.

NEW Information

As a new benefit to 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 and give us the address you wish to have and whether you just want a forwarding account or a regular e-mail account.



REVIEW: Brother MFC-255cw Multifunction

By Irv Haas
The Review Guru

One of the newest features in printers is wireless capability. Brother now offers a wireless all-in-one at the lowest price ever, \$99.99!

Their latest model is [Color Multifunction Center MFC-255cw](#) that combines wireless connectivity with a printer, scanner, copier and fax in one compact unit.

This multifunction is ideal for college students who desire a wireless small footprint printer to fit perfectly in a small dorm room. For families with multiple computers, having a wireless printer means you can place it anywhere in the house for everyone to share.

In last month's newsletter we reviewed the HP c7480 wireless multifunction printer priced at a remarkable \$129.99. Now Brother has come out with a wireless of their own at an even lower price of \$99.99—and this device includes fax functions that the HP did not have.

Print Speed

The Brother can handle most multifunction tasks, just don't expect miracles when compared to more expensive all-in-ones. That said, it performs admirably. Print speed is rated at up to 30 ppm (pages per minute) for black and 25 ppm for color, certainly no slouch in the speed department.

I compared the Brother MFC-255cw with the HP Officejet6500 Wireless All-in-One and found little differences except that a one-page Internet document took about 30 seconds less time to print with the Brother.

For actual speeds, check out this table:

	Brother MFC-255cw	HP Officejet 6500 Wireless
1-Page Internet	48 sec.	1 min. 20 sec.
Word Doc. (1-page)	23 sec.	23 sec.
Color 8x10	1 min. 13 sec.	1 min. 16 sec.
Price	\$99.99	\$199.99

Print Evaluation

I compared the 2 printers (above) in my test. Although the MFC-255cw and 6500 Wireless had similar print speeds, they differed markedly in output quality.

The HP was superior in both contrast and color saturation. The Brother's image looked soft due to low contrast and the color did not have the "snap" of the HP that more accurately reflected the original image.

Even though the HP had better color printing, the Brother's text printing was superior. The text had an extra sharpness close to a laser printer that the HP did not have.

Photo Capabilities

One of the most common features found on newer printers is the memory card slots. The Brother MFC-255cw includes them as well even with its low price point.

Memory card support includes: Memory Stick; Memory Stick Duo; Secure Digital/MultimediaCard; Secure Digital High Capacity Card; and xD-Picture Card and USB flash drive.

The MFC-255cw also lets you do borderless printing up to 8.5 x 14 in.

Brother's software (Brother Control Center) enables you to connect to the Internet to download all kinds of templates to create calendars, greeting cards, etc.

Copy Function

Like more expensive multifunction printers, this device also lets you make copies via a flat bed. Just put your original on the glass and your copies come out in seconds. Maximum number of copies is 99.

Keep in mind that the flatbed is the MFC-255cw's only option; there is no document feeder with this device.

Installation

Installation was extremely easy. For a wireless printer, most manufacturers ask you to hook up a USB cable to set up even the wireless functions. Brother, however, does not need the USB cable. Instead it just searches for your network. When it finds it, it asks for your password—and you're done

The remainder of the setup is done through the included CD that installs all software and drivers. When you're done, look at your *Print & Fax* section of *System Preferences* and you'll find the printer is already installed.

Keep in mind that the Mac drivers for this printer are for OS X v. 10.3.9 or later.



Dimensions

Size: 18.3" x 18.1" x 8.9"

Weight: 15.9 lbs.

Evaluation

I did not review the scan or fax functions of this multifunction since it's operation would be similar to other devices on the market. Since most users use the print and copy, I focused my remarks to those functions.

Although this printer performed all of its functions admirably, the print and copy quality was disappointing. As noted above, the photos lacked contrast and color saturation. However, the text printing was superior.

Keep in mind that there is no color LCD screen with which to examine your images before printing. Brother kept the price low by only providing a one-line text LCD screen.

As with most other printers, this device only comes

with *starter* cartridges. So plan on purchasing more cartridges very soon! Black cartridges are \$23.99 (450p) and color ones are \$9.99 (325p). You are looking at nearly \$54 for a set of 4 cartridges.

This printer only has a 2,500 monthly print run. For home use this is perfect, but definitely not for business applications. The input tray capacity is 100 sheets.

To reduce costs, the MFC-255-cw has only one paper tray. For multiple applications, this could be a problem.



Conclusion

Printer prices have come down dramatically over the last few years and this printer is a sign of this fact. To buy a wireless multifunction machine with all these capabilities is amazing at \$99.99. Although you get a lot of functions in one device, keep in mind that

the output quality may not be as good as a more expensive printer.

Remember the old adage that you get what you pay for!

For more info on this printer, go to [Brother's web site](#)

Review: LOGITECH LX8 CORDLESS LASER MOUSE

By Irv Haas
The Review Guru

If you need a state-of-the-art wireless mouse that won't break the bank, check out the [Logitech LX8 Cordless Laser Mouse](#).

The LX8 is an upgrade to its previous generation, the LX7. Although the LX8 looks similar to the LX7, it actually is a lighter mouse with a longer battery life.

It has a MSRP of \$39.95, but can be found on the Internet around \$35.

Laser Precision

This mouse offers accurate laser precision that outperforms most optical mice. Keep in mind it will not work on glass or mirror surfaces.

Check out some of the cool features of this mouse normally found on more expensive mice:

Cordless Mini Receiver

The LX8 features a mini-receiver that plugs into one of your USB ports, eliminating wire clutter on your desktop. It will work with both desktop and laptop Macs.

5 Programmable Buttons

Although many mice have controllable buttons, the LX8 has 5 buttons that can open applications, create keyboard shortcuts and more. Logitech's *Control Center* software can configure the LX8 to almost anything you want. Logitech has just updated its software to work with Snow Leopard.

Design

Logitech's design is similar to other mice on the market. But they have improved on the LX7, by providing soft rubber grips on the sides to improve control.

Installation

This process was extremely simple. Although Logitech does not provide a CD to install drivers, you need to go to Logitech's site to download their software. Keep in mind that the LX8 will work perfectly by attaching the mini-receiver. However, you will not have any of the configuration options such as button programming without the driver install. After installing the drivers, you will find

Logitech's *Control Center* in your *System Preferences* under *Other*.

The only problem I had with the installation was that the *Control Center* would not install on my Mac since it was not compatible with *Snow Leopard*. After calling Logitech customer support, they found a work around for this problem. And they admitted that a newer *Snow Leopard* update would be posted in a few days, most likely by the time you read this review.

USB Extension Stand

The package contains the mouse and most other accessories you would expect (receiver, manual, batteries, etc.). But the LX8 also includes what

they call a *USB extension stand*. This is basically the equivalent of an electrical extension cord, but tailored for USB. If you operate your mouse far from your PC, this USB extension would be worthwhile.

Specifications

Macs: OS X 10.3.9 or later

PCs: Windows® XP, Windows Vista™

Evaluation

The Logitech LX8 is a comfortable mouse and has most of the features that users demand on their mouse such as easy to handle, configurability, and inexpensive. The LX8 is one serious mouse to consider.





Dealing with a full hard drive

Reader Matthew Mitchell feels the walls closing in. He writes:

I have a 17-inch MacBook Pro with a 320GB hard drive. (Formatted it has 297GB, but who's counting?) I'm down to

70GB and I heard that a full hard drive is a slow hard drive. I went looking for files to delete and found a fair few that were either hardly ever used or never used. Are there any secret locations on my hard drive that large and disposable files could be hidden?

There's lots to talk about here.

Let's start with the capacity of your hard drive. For just about ever, hard drive manufacturers have defined a megabyte as 1,000KB. The Mac OS defines a megabyte as 1,024KB. It's for this reason that a 320GB drive (using the 1,000KB measurement convention) appears to have much less capacity, because it's being measured by the OS using the 1,024KB definition. It's been reported that this behavior will change in Snow Leopard so that OS X 10.6 will show a 320GB hard drive having exactly that capacity.

As for a full hard drive slowing down your Mac, it's true. OS X uses your hard drive to swap files out of RAM and if there's very little room to do that, your Mac needs to work harder at the job and therefore slows down. Note, however, that at 70GB your 320GB isn't there yet. Continue to leave 10 to 15-percent of your hard drive free and you should be in fine shape.

Now, let's turn to lurking files and folders. In this regard it's worth your while to download a copy of The Omni Group's free OmniDiskSweeper. This utility will tell you how much space is consumed by folders and files on your Mac. When you find something you believe you can do without, simply highlight it and click on the Delete button in the bottom-left corner

of the window.

Good places to start looking are in the /Library and ~/Library folders. For example, look in the Audio folder within the /Library folder and you'll find an Apple Loops folder that holds GarageBand's audio files, which take up many gigabytes of storage. If you don't use GarageBand, this folder can go. Similarly, iDVD's themes (found in /Library/ Application Support/iDVD) take up a couple of gigabytes of storage that you can free up if you never touch iDVD.

Because it doesn't go without saying for everyone, allow me to offer a couple of safety tips. First, don't throw out items in the System folder unless you really, really, really know what you're doing. And, more generally, don't toss out files and folders stored elsewhere on your Mac unless you know the purpose they serve. Doing so could land you knee-deep in the soup.

No, you're not infected

A reader who wishes to remain anonymous is concerned about a very scary looking website. I attempt to calm the waters.

I used Yahoo to search for something and was sent immediately to the following [redacted] site. I believe my Mac was invaded and don't know what to do!

First, relax. Your Mac wasn't invaded, infected, compromised, co-opted, or conquered. If you'd clicked through a few of those dire pop-up warnings you might have been as amused as I was to see a phony Windows Security Alert appear on a Macintosh. What you've encountered is termed "scareware"--a scam that attempts to frighten those confronted with these pages into downloading a hunk of software that will allegedly deal with the problem.

Continued on Page 11

REVIEW: Verbatim InSight™ Portable Hard Drive

By Irv Haas
The Review Guru

If you want extra memory, pick your choice: flash drives, external hard drives, internal hard drives, etc. Now Verbatim has come up with a totally new design in the [Verbatim InSight™ Portable Hard Drive](#).

This drive is smaller than a paperback book. It measures a scant 6" x 3-1/2" by 1/2" thin. It is designed to work with your laptop, but can be used with a desktop as well.

The most amazing feature of this drive is that it has an LCD display that is *always on!* Yes, even when you unplug its included USB mini-B cable, the display stays on! This feature is very handy when you need to see the available storage without hooking it up to your Mac.

The display has only two lines, the name of the drive (VERBATIM is the default, but you can name it anything you want) and the available space in Gigabytes.

How many drives have an LCD display that stays on permanently?

Like most hard drives, just drag your files into the desktop icon and you're done. What could be easier?

Installation

The InSight™ is easier than most to install, since there are no disc drivers to mess with. Just plug it in and you're ready to go:

1. Plug included USB mini-B cable into your Mac
2. Look for the icon on your Mac
3. Start saving files!
4. Name your drive (ex. Bill's External Drive). This step is optional
5. You're Done!

Negatives

When I tried to use the InSight™ for the first time, I plugged in the cable and it just read *Scanning* without loading the icon on the desktop. I realized that I plugged the cable into my keyboard and there was not enough power to load it up. I then plugged it into my Mac directly and it worked perfectly!

The InSight™ comes in 2 configurations, a 320GB model for \$99 a 500GB model for \$129.99.

When you can buy twice the memory for the same price, it would seem that Verbatim has overpriced these drives.

However, many of us like the convenience of a small, portable drive and will pay for the privilege.

The LCD display can be hard to read for many individuals with vision problems. The display is only 32 x 128 pixels in size. In real terms, the size of the text is about 1/4" in height.

Conclusion

The Verbatim InSight™ Portable Hard Drive works as advertised. Just plug in the included USB cable and you're in business. You are paying more in relation to its memory size due to the convenience factor. If you are comfortable with that, this is a great drive that truly is portable.



Review: IOMEGA® SUPER DVD WRITER

By Irv Haas
The Review Guru

If you are looking for a fast DVD/CD burner, check out the [iomega® Super DVD Writer](#).

This drive calls itself a *Dual-Format Drive*. Is it FireWire, Blu-ray or something else? No, dual format refers only to the fact that it can record both DVDs and CDs.

Speed

The chief benefit of this drive is its speed. It's rated at 22x speed for DVD+R or DVD-Rs and 48X for CD-Rs. I tested the iomega on an audio CD with a running time of 1 hour and 6 minutes. The Super DVD Writer burned the disc in 4 minutes and 20 seconds. The setting was *maximum speed* according to iTunes. This time was measured from pressing *Burn in iTunes* until the disc appeared on my desktop as finished.

I also tried it at a 12X speed and it was considerably slower.

Installation

This process was extremely simple:

1. Plug in the power cable.
2. Plug in the included USB cable.
3. You're done!

Keep in mind that this drive comes with nero8 Essentials software, however this step was not necessary when hooking the iomega to a Mac. For us Mac users, iTunes can take care of the rest.

Specifications

Macs: OS X 10.4 or later

PCs: Windows® XP, XP Professional, Windows Vista™

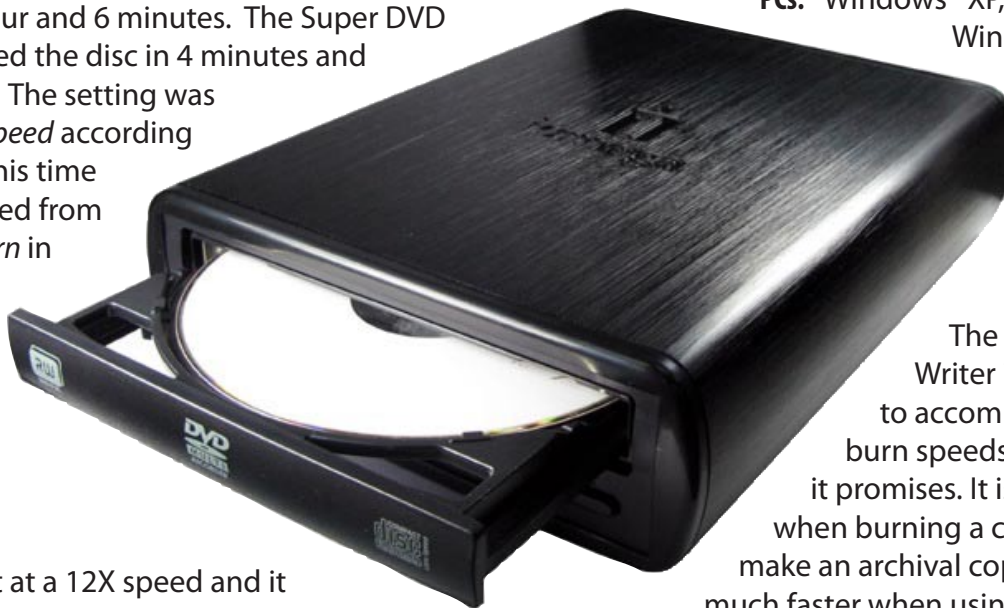
Size: 9.6" x 7.5 x 5.3"

Weight: 3.7 lbs.

Evaluation

The iomega Super DVD Writer is a newer drive to accommodate the faster burn speeds. It delivers what it promises. It is especially useful when burning a commercial CD to make an archival copy. The burn time is much faster when using an external drive with your Mac's internal one than using your Mac's internal alone

It has a MSRP of \$99.99, but can be found on the Internet for slightly less.



The iPod nano's [FM radio function](#) acts a bit like a TiVo for radio, storing up to 15 minutes of broadcasts and allowing rewind and pause, although you can't save stored audio for later listening. The iPod nano can read and display information embedded in analog broadcasts by radio stations that reveal artist and song details.

Apple uses this data with iTunes Tagging, a system it designed to work with HD Radio receivers. When you tag a song on an iPod nano (just as you can with supported radio receivers), that song's information is retrieved when you sync the iPod via iTunes. iTunes then displays a Tagged category in the iTunes Store list in the sidebar that shows the song, if it's recognized. (See "[Tag Radio Songs for Later Purchase While You Drive](#)," for more about iTunes Tagging.)

Apple offers the new iPod nano in nine colors, including black and silver. The company touted a number of environmentally sensitive features, such as the device's highly recyclable nature, and the absence of BFRs, PVC, and mercury, as well as the inclusion of arsenic-free glass.

Apple also released a minor software update for the VoiceOver feature that enables users to control playback on the iPod nano by speaking artist names and songs. The VoiceOver Kit for iPod 1.2 fixes bugs, adds variable playback rates for spoken word media, and includes support for this new iPod nano, the fifth generation.

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Mac 911 (Continued)

The chain of events goes like this: A perfectly legitimate URL is hijacked by the scammers and you're redirected to the scareware page. That page is designed in such a way that several dialog boxes pop-up, warning you that your computer is infected. Click Cancel and you'll just get more warnings and an interface that makes it appear like your computer is being scanned. If you fall for the trick and click the buttons necessary to download the offered antivirus software, you'll pay for a product that is likely a hunk of malware (and I hate to think what happens to your credit card information). This malware is bad for Windows PCs but has no effect on Macs.

Regrettably, these pages are sometimes difficult to dismiss because the constant pop-up warnings prevent you from leaving. Clicking OK may get rid of the pop-ups so that you can close the window or tab (and no, doing so won't automatically download the software to your Mac), but I faced a situation with

my wife's Mac (who was just concerned as you were) where I had to force-quit Safari to get away from the scareware page.

You can take some comfort in knowing that the search engine folks do their best to weed out this junk and that those who promote it have been-- and will continue to be--prosecuted for engaging in such malicious and scammy activities.

[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](#) Find Chris' books at [www.amazon.com](#) and [www.peachpit.com](#). Get special user group pricing on Macworld Magazine! Subscribe today at <http://www.macworld.com/useroffer>



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