

January Program**Winter Break****HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

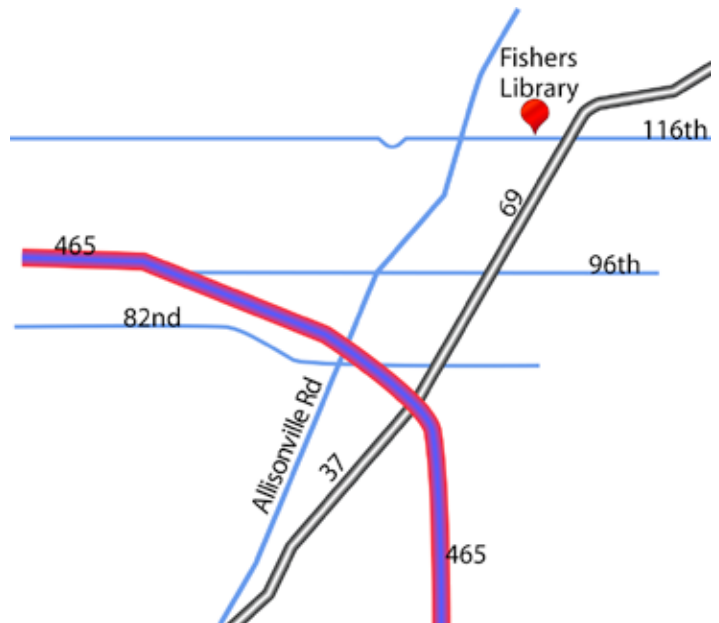
We are taking a break this January so there will not be a meeting. Catch us next month on the 1st Wednesday of the month.

**Upcoming Meetings****Main Meetings
February 5th****Business Meetings are now
Virtual (See Website Forums)****Quick Find Index**

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ApplePickers Main Meeting

We meet the first 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.

**ApplePicker's 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

The third Monday of each month, Apple Representative Greg Willmore hosts the Mac Programmer's SIG. You should email Greg for specific information. willmore@apple.com 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. Bob 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 e-mail 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: HP Color LaserJet Pro 200 (M251nw)

By Irv Haas - The Review Guru

No one can dispute the quality of today's color laser printers. They produce great quality output at speeds and prices that get better every year. The **HP Color LaserJet Pro 200 (M251nw)** is the latest example of this phenomenon.



This printer is designed for the home or small office user that wants crisp laser printing at a lower cost per page than what inkjets offer. Although this laser printer is listed at \$329.99, many retailers are selling it for \$199.99 with online vendors selling it for even less.

Compared to my previous printer the LaserJet Pro 400 (M451dw), this printer is very similar in features but priced much lower. The Pro 400 typically sold for around \$450, so what do you get for substantially less money?

Features

Wireless Printing lets you print from your iPhone, Mac or PC, iPad or other mobile device directly to this printer.

3-1/2" Touchscreen lets you make settings and view configurations directly

Multiple Connectivity lets you connect by Ethernet LAN, USB cable, USB flash drive or wireless (above)

Installation

Normally, you would insert the included CD that comes with the printer. But the M251nw includes a sheet that indicates that the CD is only valid for 10.6 or 10.7. Later operating systems are not included.

The solution is quite simple. Just connect the printer to your Mac and go to System Preferences and go to Printers and Scanners and click the + sign to add your printer.

What could be simpler? Certainly not the Windows installation!

A caveat. I did have to repeat this process twice—once with the USB cable attached and once without it for wireless operation.

Print Speed

The quality of the printouts were just excellent for a laser printer. If you have to have pristine printout, use a quality inkjet printer. These printers are made for color gradations that laser's cannot match. But they have come close in recent years as the LaserJet Pro 200 series can attest.



My previous printer, which the LaserJet 200 Pro series is replacing, is the 2 year old HP Laserjet Pro 400. This printer had a print speed of 21 ppm (pages per minute). The 200 series has a print speed of 17ppm, so it would appear that printing speed would be close.

One word of caution, however. Although it took about 18 seconds for a Word document to print. it took close to nearly 1-1/2 minutes for an Internet page.

Toner Cartridges

One of the negative considerations in buying a color laser printer is the cost of toner cartridges. The LaserJet Pro 200 series comes with a set of 4-starter cartridges (black, cyan, magenta and yellow).

If you run out of toner, you need to replace the starter cartridges with full cartridges that provide up to 1600 pages (black) and 1800 (color). Manufacturers like to save money by *not* giving consumers full toners when they buy their machines.

Full cartridges for the 200 Pro series are about \$67 for black, \$86 for black high yield and \$85 for each of the 3 color cartridges. A set of new cartridges could cost either \$322 or \$341 depending on whether you elect the standard or high yield black cartridge. Keep in mind that these are list prices only and discounts are common for toner cartridges.

With these figures, your cost is 5 cents per page. Other laser printers offer more reasonable prices. Of course, getting a discount on the cartridges would lower your price-per-page substantially.

But the good news is that a laser printer's toner cartridge is still cheaper than an inkjet cartridge that gives you only 500 copies for about \$35.

Of course, if you really want to save money, you should purchase a black laser printer that would lower your cost to less than .03 per page. These can often be found under \$100. No one said color laser printing was cheap!

Manual Duplex Printing

My previous printer offered automatic duplex printing (printing on both sides). The M251nw only does manual duplex printing.

You have to do 3 steps in order to do duplex printing:

- 1) Print odd pages
- 2) Reverse page order
- 3) Reinsert printed pages into the paper tray
- 4) Print even pages

Only a mechanical device is added to produce printing on both sides. My HP Officejet printer that sells for a similar price point includes duplex printing.



Negatives

Although this printer has significant features, it does have some drawbacks.

The lack of duplex printing mentioned above is just one drawback. It would not have cost HP much to add this feature.

The cost of toners is just another negative. To replace a set of toners in a lower-priced laser printer for nearly \$350 seems excessive.

Print speed is another concern. Although [Continued on Page 12](#)

Review: Panasonic Lumix DMC-ZS25 Digital Camera

By Irv Haas - The Review Guru



The ZS25 has other benefits as well. It has a light sensitivity of up to 6400 iso, impressive for a digicam. The continuous shooting speed is up to 5 fps (frames per second) in full frame and up to 10 fps in cropped modes.

Although list price is \$299.99, you can buy this camera online for as little as \$179. Refurbished models can be had for as little as \$150. The DMC-ZS25 comes in black or silver and pricing is different for each one.

Basic Features

The MP resolution of 16 is amazing for a camera this small. This is not an important concern for most enthusiasts unless you are into making large prints. The ZS-25 also lets you select lower resolutions if you prefer.

This lens is unusual for a camera of this size with its wide-angle lens. The LCD screen size of 3.0" is huge for a camera of this size. You won't have any problems viewing your images on this screen. On most cameras of this size, with such a large screen, they offer small control buttons.

If you are in the market for a small but powerful 16MP digital camera with a wide-angle 20X zoom and a 40X Intelligent Zoom look no further than the **Panasonic Lumix DMC-ZS25 Digital Camera**.

This camera demonstrates how far camera technology has come in both features and pricing. This camera is a 16 megapixel (MP) compact with a Leica lens featuring a 20X optical zoom and a 40X Intelligent Zoom in a slim body.

If the 20X zoom is not enough, Panasonic offers what it terms Intelligent Zoom that uses digital zoom technology with a minimum deterioration of image quality. The 20X optical zoom virtually extends to a 40x zoom equivalent. Its 35mm equivalent is an impressive 24-480mm.

This model is one of Panasonic's travel zoom series. Specifically, it has many features most users would need while traveling in a slim case without the high-end features and prices. The ZS25 omits such features as Wi-Fi, GPS mapping, touchscreen and 1080p video with stereo sound. That does not mean that this model is without basics. You can select optional aspect ratios and lower resolutions besides the 16.2 default, for example.



The ZS25 uses a Leica lens common on many Panasonic models. Your images will be extremely sharp with this lens.

Memory

Like most digital camera, the ZS54 uses memory cards to store photos. This Panasonic uses the standard SD cards, SDHC (High Capacity, or newer SDXC (extended capacity) cards for storing photos. The ZS25 comes with 90MB of internal storage that will yield 510-20 photos depending on resolution.

With an SD card, you can expect up to 1530 photos on one 2GB card. With larger capacity SD cards, your number could go up to 12,350.

Technology Features

Panasonic has provided a lot of technology in the ZS25. Check out some of these:

- ✓ **IA (Intelligent Auto) Mode** provides you with the best shooting options when you are undecided by pressing the *IA* button.
- ✓ **Optical Image Stabilizer** lets you take photos on the fly to reduce hand-shake making for steadier shots
- ✓ **HD Movie Recording** lets you record 1080p motion images in HD (1920 x 1080 pixels) in Motion JPEG format
- ✓ **4X Optical Zoom/Up to 20X Extra Optical Zoom** to get even closer to your subjects. See explanation above
- ✓ **Mini HDMI** port for connecting to a TV
- ✓ **Panorama Shooting** lets you create a wide-angle shot using multiple images.
- ✓ **Recharge from a USB** port or use the camera's AC adapter (included)

Specifications

Size: 4.13" x 2.32" X 1.13" (w x h x d)

Weight: .426 lbs. (with card & battery) .377 lbs. (without card or battery)



Evaluation

All cameras have pluses and minuses. You just need to find one you can live with.

I found very few problems with this camera. Its small size (just over 1" thick) with large LCD worked just great. The photos produced looked fine. The only drawback is that when you make 8 x 10 or larger prints, they don't have the extreme sharpness you would expect with a DSLR camera. But with standard-size prints, they looked excellent.

Negatives were very few. Primary complaint common to similar compact cameras are their small buttons make it hard to operate with normal to large fingers.

The DMC-ZS25 uses a Panasonic proprietary Lithium ION battery. Finding these could be problematic compared to standard "AA" batteries that other manufacturers use. The good news is that this battery is fully charged in 90 minutes.

Another drawback is Panasonic's omission of a viewing lens. Yes, the camera has a nice 3"-inch LCD, but with light changing, it would be nice to occasionally look through the viewfinder as well.

The camera comes with 90GB of installed memory that is great for starters. This camera also comes with an SD card of 16GB, more than you would get with other cameras!

For well under \$300 (and even less as a refurbished model) the ZS25, would make a primary camera for someone new to digital photography or as a backup camera for an experienced photographer. Sure, you can spend more for a digicam, but not one loaded with these extras.



Editor's Note: More information about this camera can be found at PhotographyBlog.com.

Conclusion

The Panasonic Lumix DMC-ZS25 is hard to beat for someone looking for a slim digital camera with high technology features. Although there are cameras out there with lower quality specs, the ZS25 can take exceptional pictures when compared to more expensive models. First



News from ZDNet & Elsewhere

BlackBerry's in the news with a lawsuit against Ryan Seacrest's company Typo Products. Seems that Typo wants to bring a BlackBerry-style keyboard case to the iPhone. Read more at ZDNet

First came Apple, then came Microsoft. Now Samsung Galaxy may soon start opening stores. Rumor has it that even Google is getting into the act.

Here is an 11 minute [video](#) on how SSD's are coming to the rescue in today's green environment.

Are you thinking about getting a new [MacPro](#) or just want to more about the Not-Box? Here is a first look and teardown of Apple's new high tech baby.

Religious fanatics are a pain, but what about those [tech religions](#)? Are you a fanboy?

Widespread GPU Issues with 2011 MacBook Pros

By Josh Centers - Tidbits

TidBITS reader Andrew Roazen has alerted us to a widespread problem with the discrete graphics processors in 2011 models of the 15-inch and 17-inch MacBook Pro that causes graphical glitches and system freezes. Because they lack discrete graphics, the 13-inch MacBook Pro models aren't affected. Three Apple Support Communities forum threads on the issue have over 850,000 views and more than 4,400 replies.

Symptoms reported by owners of both early and late-model 2011 15-inch and 17-inch models of the MacBook Pro include:

- Display artifacts
- Left and right halves of the display being swapped
- Blue screens
- System freezes

YouTube user MrWojzilla has made an [example video](#) showing severe artifacts on his early 2011 MacBook Pro.

Causes and Solutions -- The issue seems to be isolated to the AMD Radeon HD graphics chipsets (the 6490M, 6750M, and 6770M) in these MacBook Pro models. Interestingly, previous — back to 2007 — and subsequent MacBook Pro models instead used Nvidia chipsets for the discrete graphics processor.

A temporary workaround is to force the computer to switch to the integrated Intel HD 3000 graphics chip using Cody Krieger's free [gfxCardStatus](#) utility, which also shows you which graphics chip is in use at any given time. The integrated graphics are slower, but consume less power (see "[Improve MacBook Pro Battery Life with gfxCardStatus](#)," 21 February 2011).

Many forum posters believe that lead-free solder — which is environmentally friendly but makes for weaker connections — is the source of the problem. Improper use of lead-free solder is blamed for the Xbox 360's "[red ring of death](#)" issue, which caused a substantial number of unit failures.

Unfortunately, since the AMD chip is attached to the logic board, the safest solution is to have the logic board replaced by an Apple Store or an Apple Authorized Service Provider. Reports from users price out-of-warranty repairs by Apple at \$320 for a flat-rate depot repair, which involves shipping your computer away, and around \$500 for a faster in-store repair. Either way, be sure to make a complete back-up of your data beforehand in case Apple decides to replace the computer entirely.

Another reported solution — if you're desperate, technically adept, and a little crazy — is to try reflowing the solder connection yourself with a heat gun, as [illustrated by Geoff Hill](#) at the Make Stuff/Do Stuff blog. Here's to the crazy ones.

We hope that Apple acknowledges this widespread problem and issues a recall for affected customers.

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Editor's note: We bought my wife a MacBook Pro back in 2011 and she had blue screen after blue screen. We took it to the Apple Store two days later about the problem and they just gave us a new one.

Unfortunately she still has that problem at time. Now we may know why.



Files United: The Missing File Manager for iOS 7

By UGN-InfoManager

Munich, Germany – Zuhanden GmbH, a developer of productivity apps with more than 4 million downloads, has announced the release of Files United, what it calls, “the ultimate file manager app for the iPhone and iPad.” Play media, view images or open documents. Designed specifically for iOS 7.

Enjoy your content:

Enjoy all your digital content from one app. The app gives you access to your documents, images, music and videos. **Files United** has a document viewer for files such as **PDFs** and **Microsoft Office documents**. You can also view images, play your mp3s or watch videos with the in-built players. In addition, you can password-protect **Files United**, so that your documents can only be viewed by you. Files United file manager supports the following formats: **Powerpoint, Excel, Word, Images, Web Files, Audio, Video** and **Zip Files**.

Access your cloud storages:

Access remote files from your cloud storages, such as **Dropbox, Google Drive, Box.com, SugarSyncor Skydrive**. **Files United** connects to all your content seamlessly. There is no need to download or mail documents to your **iPhone** or **iPad** anymore. Rather than occupying valuable storage on your device, **Files United** intelligently caches your files for viewing. Of course you can also store them locally in case you need your files to be available offline.

Manage your files:

Files United features a super clean and intuitive user interface specifically designed for **iOS 7**. **Files United** supports the following file management tasks: Creation of new folders, tagging favorite files, copying and moving documents, opening files in other apps for editing, print documents, rename files, zip and unzip, email files.

Device Requirements:

iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch
Requires iOS 7.0 or later
Universal Application
7.6 MB

Pricing and Availability:

Files United 1.0.1 is priced at **\$4.99** USD (or equivalent amount in other currencies) and available worldwide exclusively through the App Store in the Productivity category. **Files United** is a universal app, so you only have to pay once and can enjoy it on your iPhone as well as iPad.

Files United 1.0.1: <http://filemanager-app.com/>
Purchase and Download: <http://georiot.co/37ZL>
YouTube Video (Demo): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=moom6zn3udE>



Files United

File Manager
for iOS 7



Best Games of 2013

By UGN_InfoManager & MacLife

MacLife has posted its opinion of the best games for the Macintosh OS X and for the best Free iOS games for 2013.

On the Mac, they say that the following were the 10 Best:

Gone Home (\$19.99) is an atypical and wholly uncommon first-person experience. There's no shooting or really action of any kind — just a deserted mansion loaded with secrets to uncover.

Rayman Origins (\$19.99) heralds the cartoonish lead's triumphant return to 2D platform action after many years spent exploring the third dimension — and he's got friends in tow.

BioShock Infinite (\$39.99) swaps the haunting underwater dystopia of Rapture seen in previous entries for the dazzling Columbia, a floating city in the grip of a racist dictatorship. It sets the stage for an amazing first-person shooter campaign...

Fez (\$9.99) is a game built around secrets, but its biggest one is exposed early on. While it might seem like a retro-fabulous 2D platformer, a quick click of a button or key spins the world 90 degrees, completely reorienting the paths and challenges that surround your little character.

XCOM: Enemy Unknown — Elite Edition (\$49.99) does the tactical classic serious justice, delivering a meaty, entertaining sci-fi strategy experience that's tense and surprisingly emotional.

Mark of the Ninja (\$14.99) presents its shin obi simulation in a gorgeous 2D plane, but feels no less rich or flexible an experience, with numerous paths and options to choose from.

Papers Please (\$9.99) As a border agent for a fictional Eastern Bloc country in 1982, you'll scrutinize passports, but your decisions carry more weight than simply whether or not someone is allowed in. With the ability to accept bribes and overlook faulty information, the choices can have significant ripple effects.

Rogue Legacy (\$14.99) tasks you with fighting your way through a castle, and death may come quickly... Rogue Legacy's humor keeps the crushing challenge from souring the fun.

Bit.Trip Presents... Runner 2: Future Legend of Rhythm Alien (\$14.99) generates side-scrolling running and jumping challenges from supremely simple platform genre building blocks, and manages to be both accessible and intensely tough — and extremely gripping and exciting all the while.

PixelJunk Monsters Ultimate (\$19.99) might be a latecomer on Mac, but this nearly six-year-old tower defense classic still carries its weight as one of the best in the genre.

See the full article with screen shots and more detail at: http://www.maclife.com/article/gallery/10_best_mac_games_2013

There is also a list of the best free games.

Editor's Note: Mac gaming is expanding. All of these games are also available on the PC

Tech Predictions for 2014!

The Joy of Tech™
by Nitrozac & Snaggy



Microsoft will evolve to become your **great** grandfather's computer company!



Elon Musk will travel to Mars, but return after only a week because it reminds him too much of Winnipeg!



After its founders read "A Silent Spring" Twitter devotes its time to saving endangered birds, so the real tweets will never stop!



Hackers will have stolen so much of our personal information, they'll make a business selling it back to us!



**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**

standard documents print out in less than 20 seconds, why should Internet documents take over a minute longer to produce?

Conclusion

The real benefit of the LaserJet Pro 200 series is that it prints great quality color prints, nearly rivaling inkjets. The downside is print speed is slow especially when compared to more expensive color lasers or even most black lasers.

Yes, a color laser is more expensive than black laser printers. But if you need color in your printouts, your cost per sheet will be below that of an inkjet printer you are used to and you will gain a speed advantage. With a laser printer you don't need to replace a cartridge every 300-500 copies!

Like everything else, buying a color laser printer is a personal decision. Only you can weigh the pros and cons of such a purchase. However, with the price of color lasers coming down, a printer like the Color LaserJet Pro 200 series look more attractive than those beasts of just a few years ago.

Editors' note: Also check out [PC Magazine](#) for their review of this printer.

Name _____
Additional Family Members _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email (Required) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> New Member (Single/Family \$25)
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal (\$25)
I prefer to receive my newsletter:
<input type="checkbox"/> via email notice (download via web)
<input type="checkbox"/> 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