

Mac | iPad | iPhone |  Watch

2GB OF FREE
DOWNLOADS

iCcreate™

GET CREATIVE WITH
YOUR **iPhone X**

OVER
50
PAGES OF 
TUTORIALS



KICK-START 2018 WITH APPLE



Create new
iCloud events
Set up a shared
family calendar

Get fit with your **iPhone**, make your **Mac**
run faster and get the most out of **iOS** apps!



**TIME TRAVEL
WITH YOUR
APPLE WATCH**

**MANAGE YOUR
APPLE TV STORAGE**

**10 WHATSAPP
SECRETS**

**CREATE YOUR OWN
iPhone RINGTONES**



 **MUSIC**

How to master Apple's
audio streaming service

EDIFIER®

INSTANT CLASSIC

R1280DB | Active bookshelf speaker



All iCreate readers will get an exclusive 10% off for a limited time only with coupon code

EDIFIER10

Visit www.edifier.com/uk

R1280DB



Black



Brown

 EdifierGlobal  @Edifier_Global  @Edifier_Global

www.edifier.com

Welcome

iCreate 181

“You’re in the right place to learn how to get the most out of your Apple devices”



An exciting new Apple year is upon us and if you were lucky enough to receive the gift of an Apple product over the holiday period then you are in the right place to learn how to get the most out of your new device. In fact, you may be heartened to learn that you can use your iPhone to help you get fighting fit for the year ahead and this month we reveal all of the best built-in features and third-party apps to help you do just that.

We also showcase Apple Music, the brilliant subscription service that lets you stream over 40 million songs, dip into expertly-curated playlists and share music more easily than ever with your family and friends. And, as the coming months are likely to be packed full of exciting events, we thought we’d demonstrate just how easy it is to create an iCloud-powered calendar that you can share amongst family members that they can all edit and add to – it’s the perfect way to keep everyone together. All that plus the usual tutorials to get the most out of iOS 11 and macOS High Sierra should set you up well for 2018!

Ryan Butt Editor

Meet the experts



Roland Waddilove

This month Roland has had Mail on his mind as he showcases the best new features to land in Apple’s premier email suite courtesy of macOS High Sierra.



Shaun McGill

This month, Shaun has been burning off seasonal timber with his iPhone and he shares all of the built-in features and third-party apps for best helping you get in shape.



George Cairns

Our creative expert provides a round-up of useful tips for Final Cut Pro X to help speed up your workflow and he also shows you how to travel through time in iMovie.

[Facebook](#)
iCreateMagazine

[Twitter](#)
@iCreateMagazine

[Instagram](#)
icreate_mag

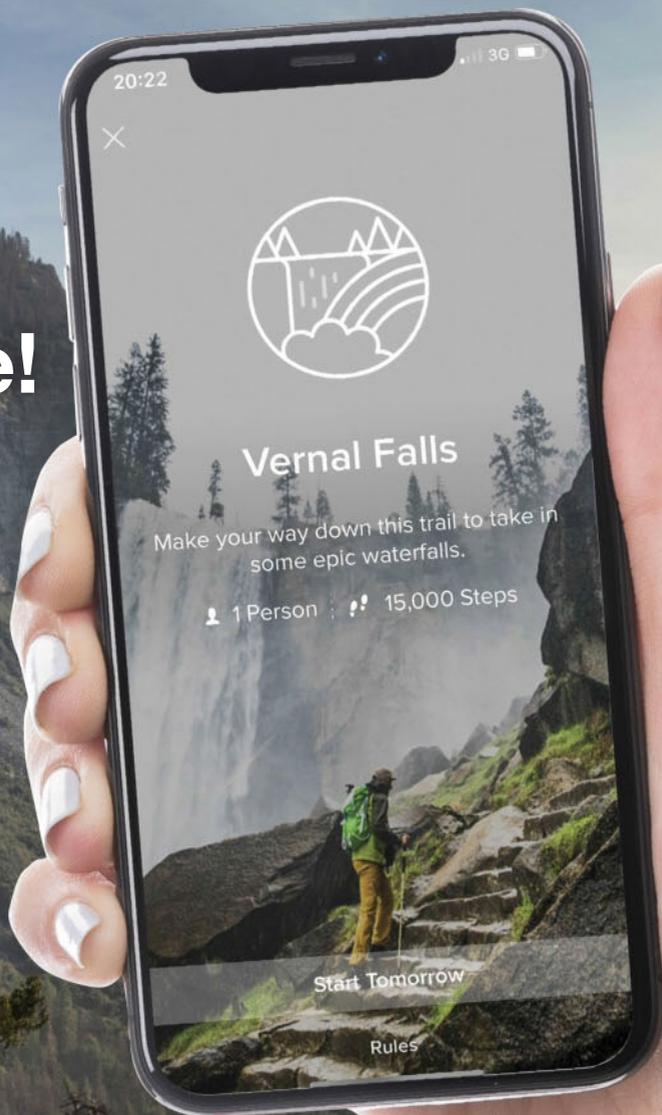
[Email](#)
icreate@futurenet.com

Contents...

Discover the creative treats in store this month

14

How to get fit with your iPhone!



Love
iCreate?
Subscribe
today
36

06 FileSilo

The only way to get all your creative resources

Free font

Stunning font to get creative with

Expert video guides

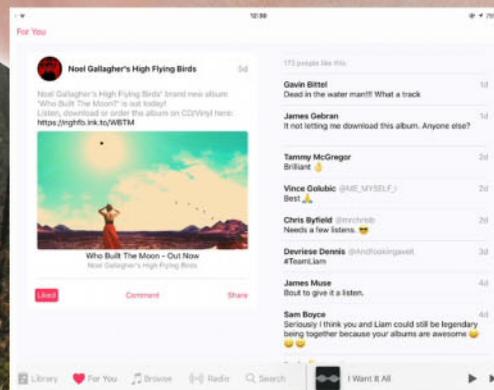
Walking you through new features

Stock video

Royalty-free clips for project use



www.filesilo.co.uk/icreate

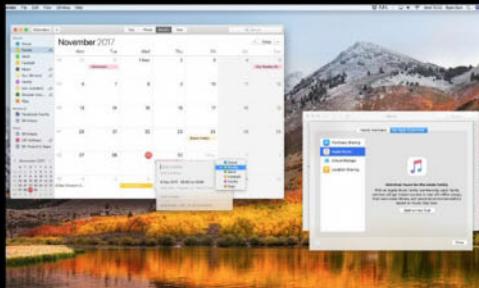


54 Learn how to get the most out of Apple Music

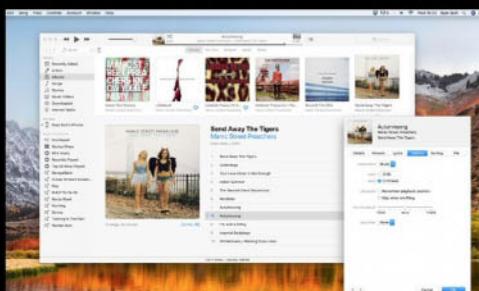
Tutorials

Get more from your devices

Visit the **iCreate** online shop at www.myfavourite-magazines.co.uk for back issues, bookazines & DVDs



46 Set up a shared family calendar for 2018 using iCloud



52 Create new ringtones for your iPhone from any song in iTunes

62 Discover the best creative apps for your brand-new iPhone X



26 Photos

- How to counteract colour casts to reveal true colours



28 iMovie

- Create freeze frames, action replays and slow-mo effects



30 Final Cut Pro X

- Improve your workflow with our expert editing tips



32 GarageBand

- Master the built-in Drum Designer feature



34 Logic Pro X

- Get to grips with Logic's Automation system



38 macOS

- Speed up your Mac
- Use your Mac with a Wi-Fi hotspot
- Automatically transcribe audio
- New features in Mail
- How to create a shared Family Calendar
- Manage your Mac storage
- 10 lesser known Siri tricks
- Create a new ringtone



62 iOS

- The best creative apps for your iPhone X
- Enjoy iPhone X-enhanced Clips effects
- How to cancel unwanted subscriptions
- Ways to conserve your iPhone data
- How to watch YouTube videos in the background
- 10 secret WhatsApp features



74 watchOS

- Travel back and forth in time with your Apple Watch!
- How to manage all of your Watch notifications



78 Apple TV

- How to manage your Apple TV's storage

Also this month...

Features, reviews and expert advice

08 Trending News

Full report on how Apple is looking to push medical boundaries in the year ahead

10 5 Things

Find out what we discovered this month, including the worrying macOS High Sierra security breach

12 5-Minute Projects

Tips on how to get more out of your macOS and iOS apps and settings

80 Genius Bar

Fix your common Apple problems with our resident Apple Genius

98 Time Machine

Take a trip down memory lane with classic Apple hardware

The iCreate reviews

The latest kit gets the iCreate treatment

86 BenQ PD3200Q 32"

Design Monitor

87 Edifier C2V Gaming

Speakers

88 Q Acoustics QM2

Soundbar

89 Audio-Technica ATH-

CKR75BT Headphones

90 Edifier R1280DB

Multimedia Speakers

92 Accessories

94 MindNode 5

96 Tacoma

Free with your magazine

Instant access to these incredible free gifts...

Beautiful Mac desktops

Kit macOS out with some stunning wallpapers



Exclusive video tutorials

Discover how to get more out of your devices



Tutorial project files

All the assets you'll need to get creative



All of this is yours...

- Over 15 minutes of expert iOS and macOS video guides from MacMost
- This issue's creative tutorial files to follow along with
- Royalty-free fonts
- Stock video clips to enhance your video-editing armour
- Stunning new wallpapers to brighten up your Mac desktop

Log in to www.filesilo.co.uk/icreate

Register to get instant access to this pack of must-have creative resources, how-to videos and tutorial assets

Free for digital readers too!
Read on your tablet, download on your computer





The home of great downloads – exclusive to your favourite magazines from Future Publishing

- Secure and safe online access, from anywhere
- Free access for every reader, print and digital
- Download only the files you want, when you want
- All your gifts, from all your issues, in one place

Get started

Everything you need to know about accessing your FileSilo account



01 Follow the instructions on-screen to create an account with our secure FileSilo system. Log in and unlock the issue by answering a simple question about the magazine.



02 You can access FileSilo on any computer, tablet or smartphone device using any popular browser. However, we recommend that you use a computer to download content, as you may not be able to download files to other devices.



03 If you have any problems with accessing content on FileSilo, take a look at the FAQs online or email our team at the address below.

filesilohelp@futurenet.com

An incredible gift for subscribers



Subscribe today & unlock the free gifts from more than 45 issues

Access our entire library of resources with a money-saving subscription to the magazine – that's more than 500 free resources

Over 12 hours of video guides

The very best walkthroughs around

More than 30 templates

For Pages, Numbers, Keynote and more

Over 100 amazing fonts

Improve your designs with fantastic type



Head to page 36 to subscribe now

Already a print subscriber?
Here's how to unlock FileSilo today...

Unlock the entire iCreate FileSilo library with your unique Web ID – the eight-digit alphanumeric code that is printed above your address details on the mailing label of your subscription copies. It can also be found on any renewal letters.

More than 500 reasons to subscribe



#Trending

Apple set to push medical boundaries in 2018

The new Apple Heart Study launches to identify irregular heartbeats, the biggest cause of strokes in the US



If you're a big fan of Apple's launch events, you could be forgiven for wondering if they meander on for too long, especially when the clock ticks past the two-hour mark and you're still waiting for the big 'one more thing' announcement. The first half hour is always a bit

indulgent, when CEO Tim Cook takes us through some figures to show how well his company is doing. Sometimes, though, Apple hides a few hidden gems in those early stages.

They might not have the razzmatazz of a new iPhone reveal or a long-awaited Mac refresh, but these hidden gems really should make headline news. Apple is

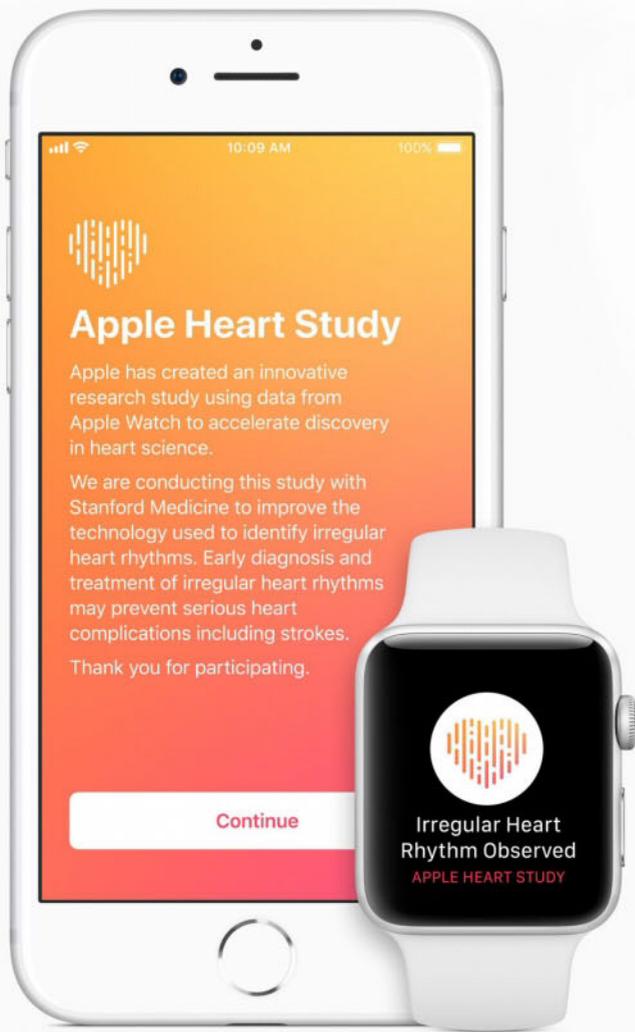
“Doctors can use the iPhone and Apple Watch to produce insights into conditions like autism and Parkinson's disease”

doing amazing things in medical science, for example, partnering its products with some huge names in the medical world to show that technology really can be a power for good.

Apple's ResearchKit, a software tool used by developers to create apps that conduct medical studies, has already revolutionised traditional medical study. Doctors around the world



Apple has been partnering its products with some huge names in the medical world...



The app uses Apple Watch's heart sensor to collect data and will notify users who may be experiencing atrial fibrillation

can use the iPhone and Apple Watch to produce insights and discoveries about conditions like autism and Parkinson's disease. To date, the ResearchKit and CareKit platforms have been used by over 500 researchers and more than three million participants. And now the Cupertino tech giant has launched a new app, Apple Heart Study, a first-of-its-kind research study using Apple Watch's heart rate sensor to collect data on irregular heart rhythms and notify users who may be experiencing atrial fibrillation (AFib).

An irregular heartbeat is the leading cause of a stroke and leads to 130,000 deaths and

countless other hospitalisations each year in the US. The problem is, most sufferers don't even know that they suffer with the condition – and that is where Apple and its amazing smartwatch come in.

"Every week we receive incredible customer letters about how Apple Watch has affected their lives, including learning that they have AFib. These stories inspire us and we're determined to do more to help people understand their health," says Jeff Williams, Apple's COO. "Working alongside the medical community, not only can we inform people of certain health conditions, we also hope

to advance discoveries in heart science."

The technology that enables the Apple Watch to be a monitor for AFib is spectacular. To calculate heart rate and rhythm, Apple Watch's sensor uses green LED lights that flash hundreds of times per second and light-sensitive photodiodes to detect the amount of blood flowing through the wrist.

"Light-sensitive photodiodes detect the amount of blood flowing through the wrist"

From your Watch? Yes, really. The sensor's unique design gathers signals from four different parts of the wrist, and when combined with powerful software algorithms, Apple Watch isolates heart rhythms from any other type of noise. The Apple Heart Study app uses this technology to identify an irregular heart rhythm.

The app (you must be over 22 to take part and live in the US) collects the sensitive data in the background, recording how many days you've been involved in the study and how many heart rhythm contributions you've supplied. This will depend on how active you are during the day, so Apple Heart Study may take more than one contribution throughout the day. If an irregular heartbeat is detected, you will receive a notification, as well as a free consultation with a doctor who is part of the study and an electrocardiogram patch for further monitoring.

Apple is partnering with Stanford Medicine throughout this breakthrough trial. Stanford believe that the trials like this could have a huge impact on the future of medical science – and given the sheer volume of likely participants, it's hard not to agree. "Through the Apple Heart Study, Stanford Medicine faculty will explore how

technology like Apple Watch's heart rate sensor can help usher in a new era of proactive health care central to our Precision Health approach," says Lloyd Minor, Dean of Stanford University School of Medicine. "We're excited to work with Apple on this breakthrough heart study."

Open-source software tools like ResearchKit and

apps like Apple Heart Study do not have a business model, and Apple should be applauded for that. Born out of a wish to make a difference to society, they are not a money-making tool or a public relations spin. Whether Apple products can help cure diseases and transform medicine for forever is another matter. Only time will tell, but rest assured, Apple is doing a lot of good in the field of medical science and it will continue to do so into 2018 and beyond.

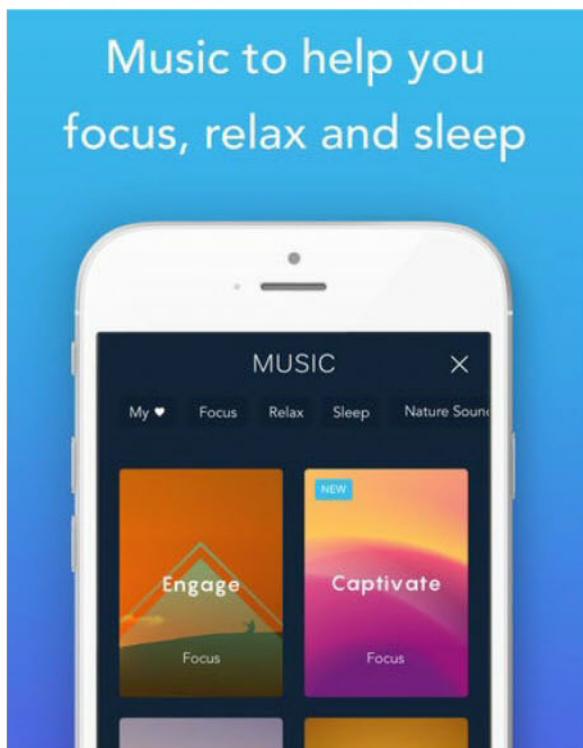


Apple Watch uses a combination of flashing LED lights and light-sensitive photodiodes to calculate heart rate and rhythm.

#Trending



Things we learned this month



Apple reveals most popular downloads in 2017 [Apple](#)

 Apple has unveiled its end-of-year charts, revealing the most popular apps, music, movies, TV shows, books and podcasts across the App Store, Apple Music, iTunes, iBooks and Apple Podcasts. On Apple Music, *More Life* by Drake was awarded Album of the Year, while Ed Sheeran's *Shape of You* won Best Track honours. Mindfulness app Calm was the 2017 iPhone App of the Year, while image editor Affinity Photo landed the iPad prize. *Moana* was top iTunes movie, and *Game of Thrones* walked away with the TV honours. Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* was the most read book.



Apple and (RED) announce record fundraising [Apple](#)

 Celebrating a record year of fundraising, Apple and (RED) announced on World Aids Day that they have raised over \$30 million for the Global Fund in 2017. This equates to 144 million days of ARV medication that prevents the transmission of HIV from mothers to their unborn

babies. "Apple's commitment to the AIDS fight is unparalleled. It's not just the \$160 million raised for the Global Fund that has impacted many millions of lives, it's their ability to bring heat, awareness, energy and eyeballs to keep this issue front and centre," said Deb Dugan, CEO, (RED). "Their support cannot be underestimated."



Security bug hits macOS High Sierra



Apple was forced to send out an emergency fix for macOS High Sierra users after it emerged that there was a serious security flaw where anyone was able to access locked settings and sensitive data using the username 'root' and no password, and subsequently bypass the login screen. No older versions of macOS or OS X were affected.

The security bug gained high profile attention, including from Edward Snowden, who commented: "Imagine a locked door, but if you just keep trying the handle, it says, 'oh well,' and lets you in without a key."

"Security is a top priority for every Apple product, and regrettably we stumbled with this release of macOS," Apple says. "We greatly regret this error and we apologise to all Mac users. Our customers deserve better." An update has subsequently addressed the issue.

"Security is a top priority for every Apple product, and regrettably we stumbled with this release of macOS"

Free coding lessons at all Apple Stores [Swift Playgrounds](#)



Apple had another big month of coding news, offering thousands of free Hour of Code lessons, introducing a new educational challenge in its Swift Playgrounds app and adding new teacher resources to its Everyone

Can Code initiative to help teach Swift, Apple's easy-to-learn programming language. For the fifth year, Apple Stores hosted daily coding sessions in celebration of Computer Science Education Week, introducing the basic principles of coding to young people all over the world. Students over the age of 12 were even invited to use the new feature in Swift Playgrounds that lets you build and customise a digital robot. In our youth we had to make do with Bigtrak...



Amazon Prime arrives on Apple TV

[Apple TV](#)



It was announced several months back but Amazon's entertainment subscription service Prime has finally been made available for Apple TV, and is now supported in over 100 countries. You can now watch Prime Original Series like *The Grand Tour* and *The Marvelous Mrs Maisel*.

"Amazon Prime Video is one of the most eagerly anticipated apps to come to Apple TV, so we're excited to bring all of that great content to customers," says Eddy Cue, Apple's senior vice president of Internet Software and Services. The long-awaited Apple TV app has also gone live, giving fans in the US a seamless way to keep track of their favourite teams and games in real time.

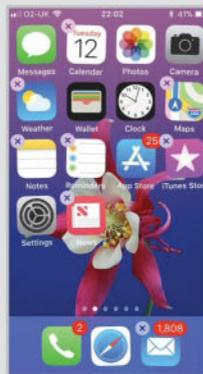
5 MINUTE PROJECTS TO TRY TODAY

This month we thought we'd celebrate the Dock – that strip of icons at the bottom of your Mac or iOS screen that provides quick and easy access to all of your essential apps. On iOS your Dock remains an ever-present regardless of which home screen you are on and on Mac you can customise it to appear when you want, where you want on the screen and apply additional special effects when you minimise windows or open apps. All hail the Dock!



1 Move apps to your Dock

The Dock is an ever-present on all of your iPhone home screens, so it makes sense to have your most-used apps in pride of place there. Here we show you how to add and remove apps from your iPhone Dock.



1 Press and hold

To start making changes to your iPhone Dock, simply press and hold on any app icon for a couple of seconds and then the app icons will begin to shake on the iPhone screen.



2 Drag and drop icons

When the app icons are shaking, press and hold on the one you would like to add to the Dock and then drag it in. You can have a maximum of four apps in your Dock.



3 Click to finish

Once an icon has been added to the Dock, drag it left or right to order the apps and then when you have finished click the Home button. Repeat the process to remove apps.

2 Using Split View on iPad

The iPad was the device that benefited most from the iOS 11 update as advancements were made to the touchscreen interface to make it more akin to a laptop. Here we show you how to use Split View from the Dock.



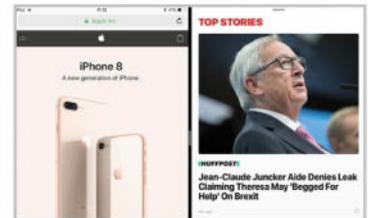
1 Drag and drop

Press and hold on an app icon in your Dock and then drag it up to the far-left on the main home screen – a black area will appear for you to drop it into, after which it will fill half the screen.



2 Drag a second app icon

Keeping the first open app in place with one finger, you can then drag a second app up to fill the vacant space on the right, after which both apps can be viewed side by side.



3 Make adjustments

If you want to adjust how much space each app gets on your screen, simply press and hold on the screen divider and then drag it left or right. It's a fabulously intuitive system.

3 Customise your Dock

Unlike your iOS devices, your Mac Dock has its own dedicated settings in System Preferences. By going there you will be able to adjust the size, the magnification of the app icons and much more to make it your own.



1 Open System Preferences

Go to System Preferences > Dock and then click and hold on the Size slider to adjust the size of the Dock as it appears on your desktop. You can also click to magnify the app icons.



2 Dock positioning

You can actually position the Dock where you actually want on your desktop, such as the side – simply click 'Left', 'Bottom' or 'Right' and the Dock will be placed accordingly.



3 Special effects

Other options apply to the effects that occur when you minimise windows to the Dock ('Scale' or 'Genie') or open apps from the Dock. You can also hide the Dock when not in use.

ON SALE NOW!



Google Pixelbook **Your next laptop!**

T3

SMARTER LIVING

UPGRADE YOUR SMART HOME

- Next-gen AI speakers tested
- Top picks for home control
- Perfect multi-room audio

6 AIRPOD KILLER EARBUDS

The best true wireless 'phones



NEW!

Cinema-spec 4K upgrades
Theatre-level projection and Dolby Atmos audio at home



MIRRORLESS CAMERA SHOOTOUT

Gorgeous lightweight snappers for taking amazing photos without the DSLR bulk

TESTED!

All-screen OLED Android phones go head-to-head

Google Pixelbook **Your next laptop!**

T3

SMARTER LIVING

UPGRADE YOUR SMART HOME

- Next-gen AI speakers tested
- Top picks for home control
- Perfect multi-room audio

6 AIRPOD KILLER EARBUDS

The best true wireless 'phones



NEW!

Cinema-spec 4K upgrades
Theatre-level projection and Dolby Atmos audio at home



MIRRORLESS CAMERA SHOOTOUT

Gorgeous lightweight snappers for taking amazing photos without the DSLR bulk

TESTED!

All-screen OLED Android phones go head-to-head

WIN!

A PORTABLE HI-RES MUSIC PLAYER

EBIKES VS. PEDAL POWER

Man takes on motor in our off-road race



Available at WHSmith, myfavouritemagazines.co.uk or simply search for 'T3' in your device's App Store

SUBSCRIBE TODAY AND SAVE!
www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk/T3





GET FIT WITH YOUR iPhone

How to use iOS to improve your fitness, burn off that fat and get in shape for 2018

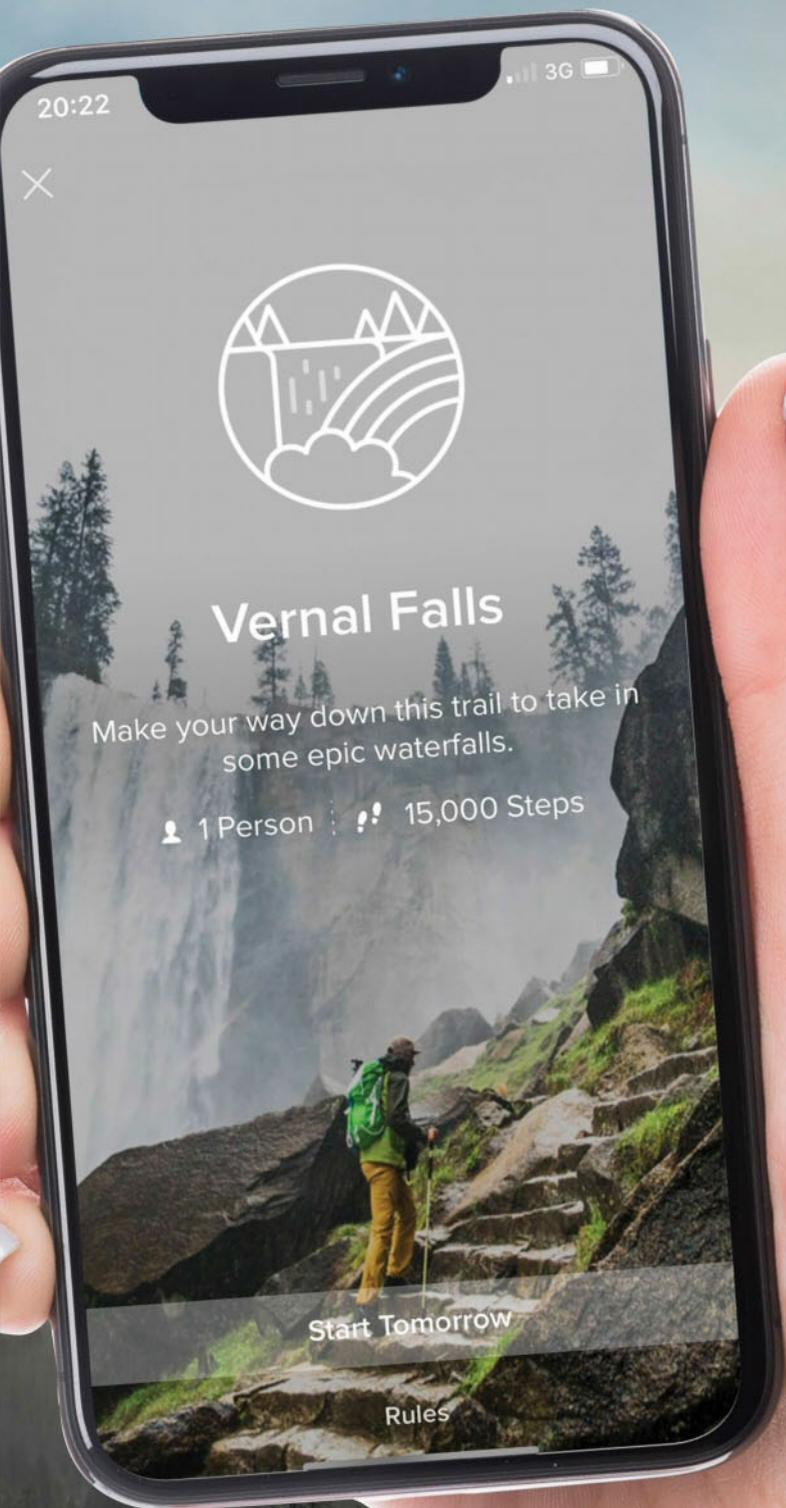
Just a few years ago the best we could hope for when trying to lose weight or get fitter was to be able to track how many steps we took each day. Simple fitness trackers offered a way to focus on movement, but the reality was that they could not help in a way that offered real-world benefits to the individual.

Over time that has changed and we now have smart watches and fitness trackers that can monitor sleep, heart rates, calories expended and consumed, and even the exact routes you take on a daily basis. This level of tracking is extremely useful, but it would be of little consequence without the ability to analyse the data and to view the trends and improvements on a larger screen. This is where the iPhone comes in because all of the major fitness

organisations make trackers that are compatible with it and there are apps that push the limits of what we thought possible not so long ago. It all comes together in Apple's Health app which is a dashboard for every important aspect of your health and it works to produce a detailed and understandable view of how you are improving and ultimately how fit you are. There is virtually no important area that is not covered and with some knowledge and a couple of accessories you really do have everything you need to lose weight, get fitter and improve your lifestyle.

When it comes to deciding what will work for you among the myriad of options available, try not to just look at Apple products. You should take your time to see what's out there and also check with

friends to gauge their experiences. There is no one accessory or software solution that works for everyone so be realistic with your goals and then make an informed decision, which we hope to be able to help you with. We will take you through the benefits of the latest trackers and also show you how to track specific health points with a focus on offering advice that should translate into real benefits to your health. The iPhone and the Health app, however, are integral to monitoring fitness and there is no doubt that these two are able to work with multiple solutions to produce what is likely the very best tool for the job available today. Remember though, you will need to put the effort in as well because all of the tracking in the world will not work without perseverance on your part.

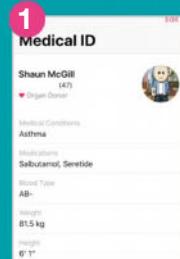


HOW TO SET UP APPLE HEALTH

The Apple M-series coprocessors that are built into the later iPhones are designed to work in a similar way to fitness trackers when it comes to monitoring your movements. When paired with Apple Health, you actually have a basic fitness tracker for free that can track the important health data you need.

1. Your Medical ID

Tap the 'Medical ID' icon at the bottom of Health and enter as much information as you can. When someone finds your phone in an emergency, they can view it.



2. Four main areas

Under 'Health Data' you will see four areas that are tracked. Tap each icon to see what is needed to track your health and fitness.



3. Track your steps

Once you have allowed Health to track your motion, your steps will be shown in 'Activity'. Remember that you may not always be carrying your phone with you so some may be missed.



4. Choose your sources

In 'Sources' you can see which trackers are used to add data to Health. Some may need intermediary apps, but we will show you how to set those up as well.



5. Check everything

With access granted for Health to monitor a third-party tracker, you will be able to monitor sleep, your heart rate and a whole host of other important data every day.



“The iPhone and the Health app are integral to monitoring fitness”

Get fit with your iPhone

Monitor your entire body

Certain fitness companies, such as Fitbit, offer apps that let you monitor way more than just the steps you're taking each day.

From calorie output to exercise to your exact heart rate, you now have the ability to monitor your fitness in just one app and

it takes just seconds to keep every section updated, so you can keep on top of it even during the busiest of days.

● Count all activities

The Fitbit trackers count the distance you travel, the floors you climb, the minutes you exercise and the calories you expend to give a complete view of your general activity levels. The iPhone app displays them all cleanly.

● Drink to live

You can also input your water intake at regular intervals throughout the day. This is an area that few consider when they are busy, but water intake is vital when losing weight and improving your overall fitness.

● In the heart

When choosing a wearable to work with your iPhone, we would advise you to ensure that it includes a heart rate monitor. This is needed to accurately track calories expended and your sleep over time.

● Sleep tight

The advanced trackers found in many smart watches and fitness products can track your sleep patterns. You need enough sleep to power through your exercises.

Give Health permissions

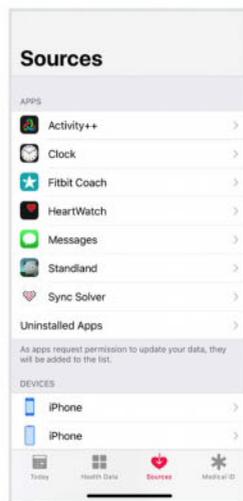
Health is focused on collecting your data which can come directly from the iPhone's processors or from other apps to help build up a general picture

of your health. This means that some permissions will be required to allow it to work as you need it to, but the process to do this is incredibly easy.



1 Capture the motion

Go to Settings> Privacy>Motion & Fitness and enable 'Health'. Also enable 'Fitness Tracking' at the top of the screen to capture all possible data points.



2 Manage health apps

Tap the 'Sources' icon and then a listed app to find out what access it currently has. Most will likely ask for permissions as soon as they are installed.



3 Manage your data

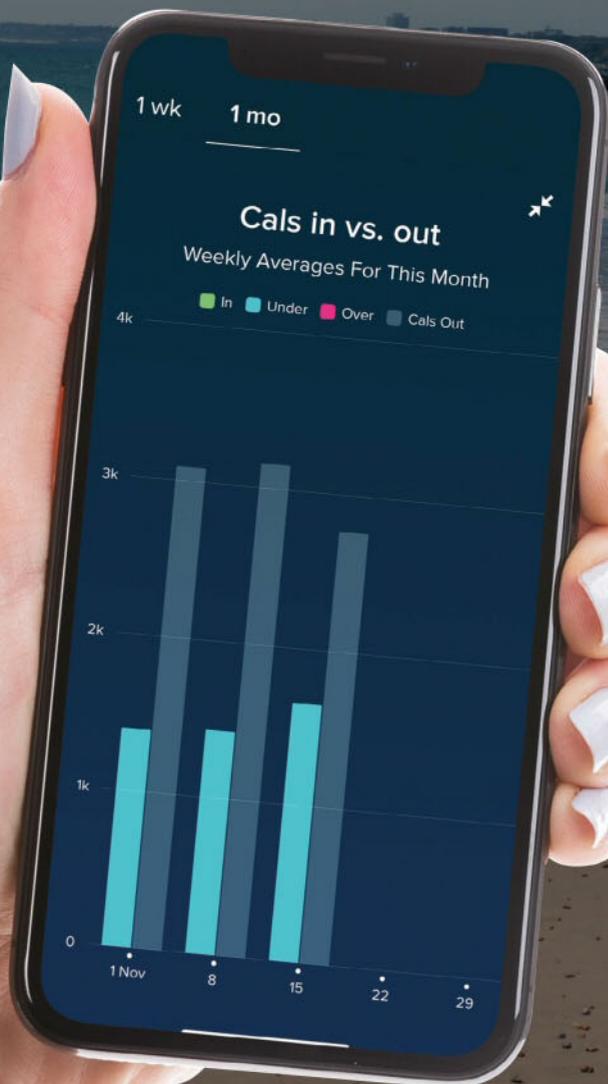
Go to 'Sources' again and scroll down to see all connected devices. Check the data that is stored and delete if you have any concern about what is held here.



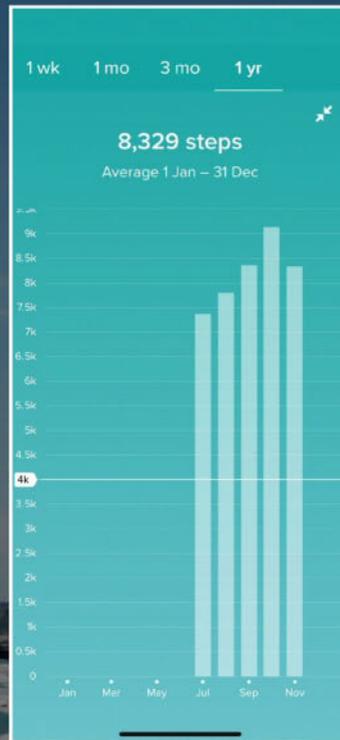
Trends are key to success

Most fitness apps and trackers offer huge amounts of data that can be used to track activity, your heart rate and everything else, but it is important to understand that the numbers themselves are not the main factor. It has been proved that different trackers provide different results for the same people and there really is no way to avoid this until the technology becomes

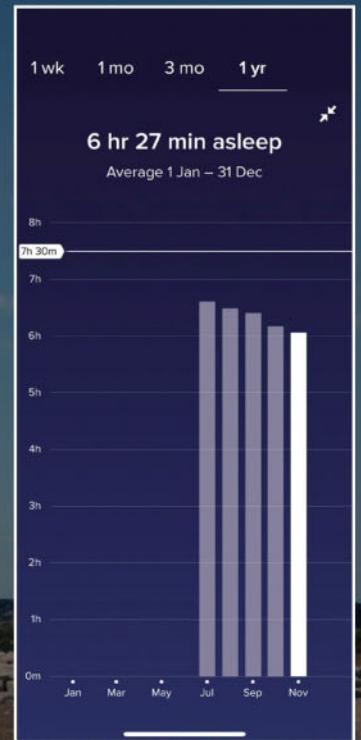
foolproof. However, when you are looking to lose weight or improve your fitness it will be the trends that matter the most. Whether a tracker is extremely accurate or only vaguely so, it is highly likely that it will track in the same way over time. This means that you can aim to improve in key areas and the results will offer enough encouragement to give you the impetus to keep going.



3 In and out
The visual nature of the graphs within many fitness apps means you can easily understand how your diet changes over time and how it effects your weight loss or gain.



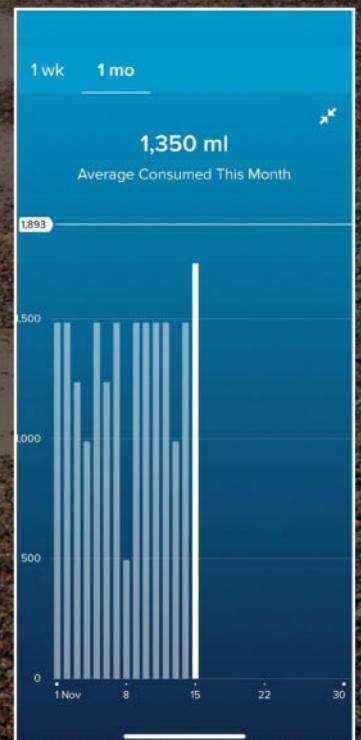
1 Step it up
It takes time to build up your daily activity to the point that it feels normal, but a simple look at your growing movements will help you see how it is benefiting your health.



2 A close eye
The trends can also highlight areas, such as sleep or eating, where your health is potentially declining. Check the data and consider the factors contributing to the decline.



4 Easy visuals
Apple has taken the idea of tracking trends to a new visual level, letting you see successes in an instant. Notice how the rings stand out on days when all have been closed.



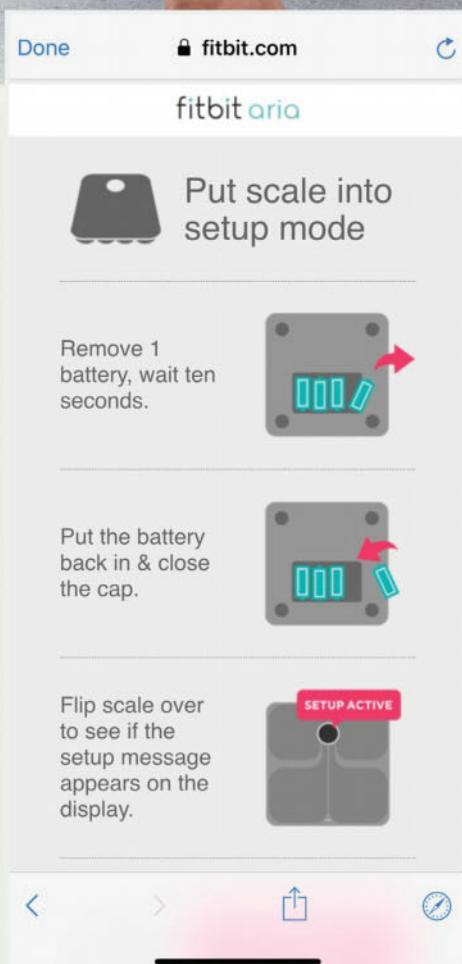
5 Let it happen
Enter water and food consumption and let the app do the rest. Over time you will see a buildup of your activities and diet so you can see how you are improving.

Get fit with your iPhone



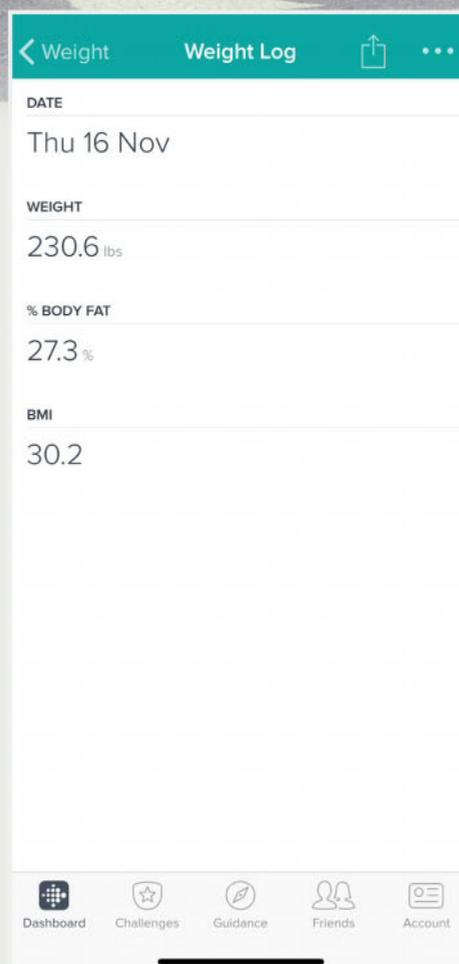
Track your weight accurately

Historically we have relied on mechanical scales to gauge weight, but these are starting to give way to digital scales that can connect to Wi-Fi and then to an iPhone using a fitness app. The Aria scale from Fitbit is a very good example because it is easy to set up, even easier to use and the results embed perfectly into the Fitbit app.



1 Set it up

Go to fitbit.com/scale/setup and follow the instructions to set up the Aria scale. You should be up and running in minutes provided you have an active Wi-Fi connection it can connect to.



2 Weigh yourself

When you weigh yourself with bare feet, the scale will measure your weight, body fat percentage and your BMI. The results will be automatically logged within the Fitbit app on your iPhone.



3 Check the trend

Over time, this stat could become the most important to you as it evidences exactly how well your fitness regime is progressing. It's informative and offers much encouragement to help you reach your goals.

Track every beat

We are already at the point where the heart rate trackers in modern devices can display potential problems purely because they are tracking you all of the time. Whether you want to understand how it copes under stress or if unusual blips occur, you can have some extra peace of mind at a relatively low price.

1. A simple app

If you try an app such as HeartWatch and wear an Apple Watch you will be able to easily check your heart's historic activity. The ranges are important for general health tracking.

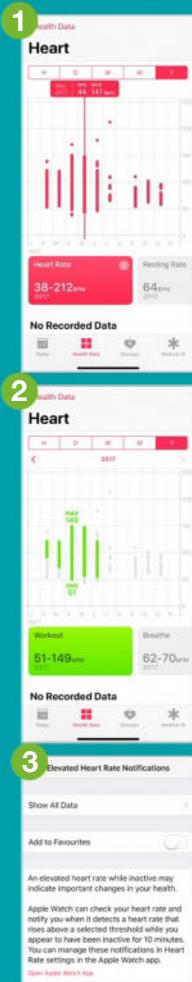
2. Workout rates

The app can also track your workout rates and display them in a timeline. These are just as important and especially so when checking your heart fitness.

3. Timely alerts

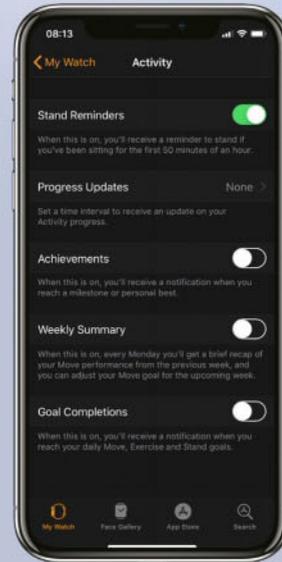
You can also set the app to alert you to elevated heart rates. The cost of the Watch and app is a small price to pay for potential life-saving benefits.

“The app can alert you to elevated heart rates”



Set up a new tracker

When setting up a new fitness tracker or smart watch, you need to ensure that the goals you set are realistic and that the specific questions are answered as accurately as possible. It is tempting to give yourself easy goals and to tweak the settings in your favour, but that could result in a lack of progress so be sensible and the rewards will come to you.



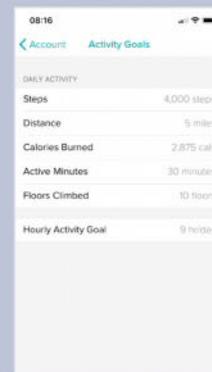
1 Reasonable reminders

Most trackers send fitness reminders throughout the day and the Apple Watch in particular can be relentless in this area. When you first set up the device, go to the Watch app and then select 'Activity' at which point you can choose which reminders to enable and how often they should appear.



2 Set goals

In the Activity app on the Apple Watch press hard on the screen and a new menu appears. Tap 'Change Move Goal' and set the calories you want to expend each day. Set an achievable amount.



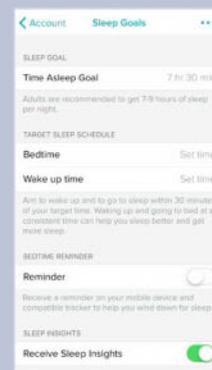
3 Consider your lifestyle

Take time to think about your movements today and add goals that slightly stretch them. You will then need to tweak them to higher levels as your activity levels improve.



4 Weight loss

The balance between aiding progress and feeling discouraged can be narrow when you want to lose weight. Set a reasonable weight loss goal and then change it as your target comes closer.



5 Big picture

Goals for sleeping and some other areas can go up and down on a daily basis. Think about the long-term view. It doesn't matter if you only have five hours sleep one night if the average for that week is a lot higher.



Get fit with your iPhone

Monitor your calories with the Fitbit app

A fitness tracker when married to an advanced app can really help you to understand how the calories you take in and expend affect your

body. It won't take long to be able to use the data to make the adjustments you need for weight loss and improved fitness.

● Visual indicators

The graphs will help you to judge your calorie intake and expenditure compared to previous days in the week. When you tap the arrows at the top, you can see a much deeper overview of your dietary habits.

● What you eat

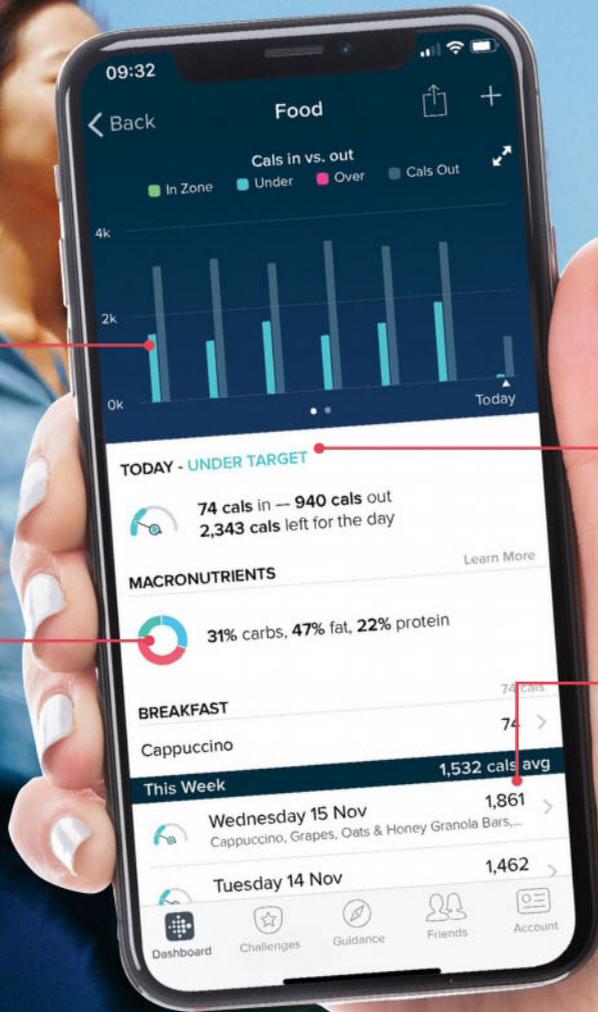
With accurate input, the Fitbit app can also show you how much fat, protein and carbs you are eating. Try to keep a healthy balance for the best possible results over time. You will feel much better for it.

● Set your targets

Input the amount of weight you want to lose and the app will try to work out what you need to eat to help you achieve your goal. It's a constant reminder of what you need to do to become lighter and fitter.

● The numbers

The numbers always tell the truth and success is simpler than you may think. If you expend more calories than you take in there is no reason why you should not lose weight over extended periods.



Keep the Apple Watch running

We are already at the point where the heart rate trackers in modern devices can display potential problems purely because they are tracking you all of the

time. Whether you want to understand how your heart copes under stress or if unusual blips occur, you can have extra peace of mind for a relatively low price.

1 Almost 24 hours

An Apple Watch can easily get you through the day, but what about the night? In our tests you can charge an Apple Watch for 30 minutes mid to late evening and it will run until the same time the next day.

2 Don't do everything

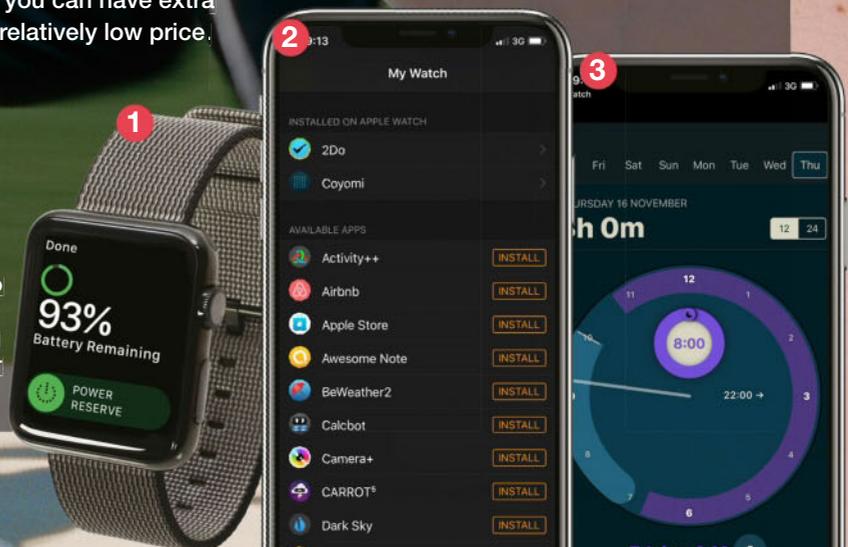
Try to limit the number of apps you have installed on your Apple Watch and it makes sense to do the same

with notifications. Just because it is available does not mean that you need to over-complicate the Watch experience.

3 Track your sleep

With sensible charging you should be able to use an app like AutoSleep to track your sleep as well as your activity. Potentially, the Apple Watch can be a fully-fledged fitness tracker that competes with the very best.

“Potentially, the Apple Watch can be a fully-fledged fitness tracker”



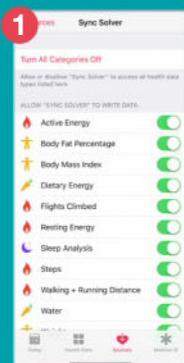


Sync Fitbit with Apple Health

Apple Health, as we have explained, is designed to give you a full overview of your health and fitness, but it does not natively work with third-party products. There is, however, an app that can help which will allow you to automatically export your Fitbit data to the Apple Health app. It's a simple solution that works very well.

1. Offer the permissions

Go to the App Store and download Sync Solver. When you open it you will be asked to allow some permissions in Apple Health. Make sure you enable all of them.



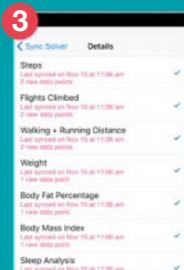
2. Time to sync

When you synchronise, all of the data stored in your Fitbit app will be sent to Apple Health so that you can get a wider overview of your progress. Simple.



3. Check it out

At any time you can check the historic syncs within the app. It is very reliable and should work as expected every single time without any problems.



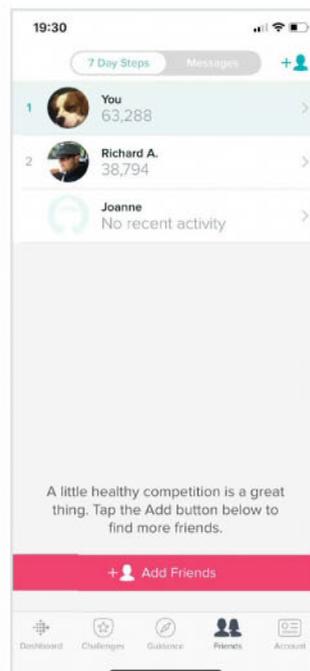
“Sync Solver exports your Fitbit data to the Apple Health app”



Challenge your friends

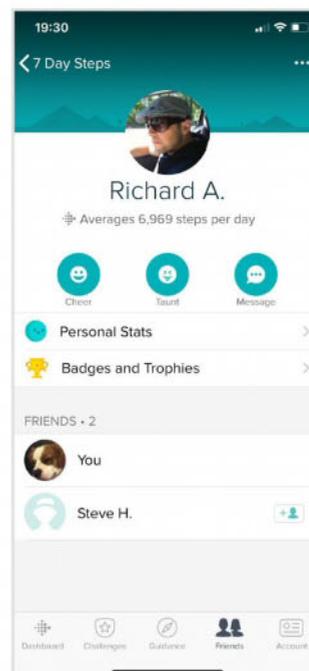
One sure fire way to put some spark into your new fitness regime is to challenge friends to see who can do the most exercise each day. Thankfully the Apple

Watch and Fitbit solutions offer lots of options in this area and setting up the challenges is very simple. It could be just what you need to succeed.



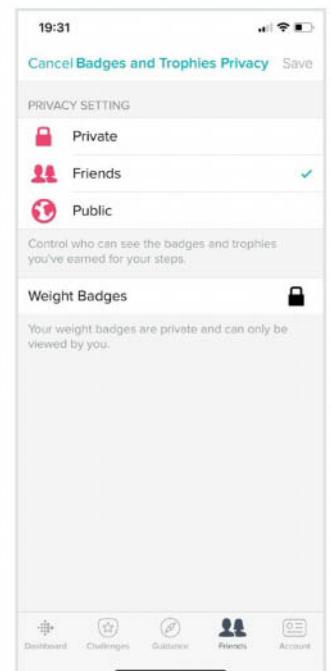
1 Build a group

Provided you know people using the same fitness platform, there will be an option to add friends from within the challenges section. Simply click and wait for your invite to be accepted.



2 Real-time competition

You will be able to view their stats in real time which should give you the impetus to push that bit harder. However, try not to overdo it just to win the competition.



3 Set your privacy

The ability to choose exactly what your friends can see will be available. They will need some stats to challenge you, but you do have the ability to customise the settings.

Get fit with your iPhone

The 5 best fitness trackers

The iPhone is so popular that almost every fitness tracker and smart watch on the planet is compatible with it. The level of compatibility, however, varies and making the choice of which is best is far from an easy decision. Hopefully we can make the process a little easier for you by highlighting the highs and lows of the best available.



1 Apple Watch

We obviously have to start with the Apple Watch which is designed to work with the iPhone for many different tasks. It will help inspire you to get fit thanks to the superior sensors and intuitive fitness ring system that plays on the emotions. You will need to use third-party apps for some tracking, though.

2 Fitbit Ionic

Fitbit's latest attempt at a smart watch ticks all of the boxes in terms of tracking your heart, your activity, calorie intake and all of the areas you need to monitor to get really fit. Practically, it works very well, but the 'Marmite' design and lack of third-party apps do limit it in comparison to the Apple Watch.

3 Nokia Go

If you are looking for a less expensive tracker that still manages to track exercise, general activity, sleep and even swimming, the Go from Nokia is a decent choice. The style is very basic and there is no heart rate monitor, but the eight-month battery life is a definite advantage over much of the competition.

4 Fitbit Charge 2

Fitbit dominates the fitness tracker industry in terms of the number of products available and the Charge 2 offers all of the tracking sensors you will need. When paired with the comprehensive app it offers all you need, but perhaps lacks a little when it comes to excitement and flexibility of usage.

5 Garmin vívoactive® HR

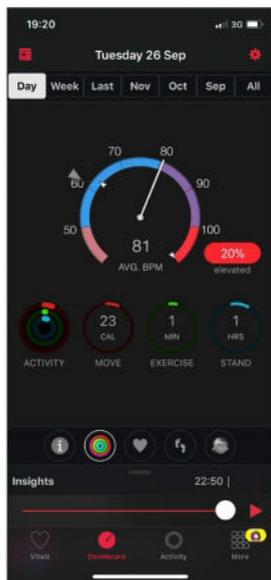
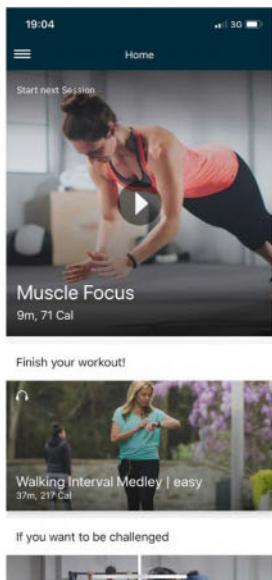
This is the power user's fitness watch which is capable of tracking all kinds of exercise on the high-resolution colour screen, with an eight-day battery life for good measure. The aesthetics are ideal for those who like the fitness look, but a fashion accessory it is not.

5 best fitness apps

Your fitness tracker or smart watch will come with all of the software you need to keep it connected and synchronised with your iPhone, but you can expand

the range of tracking with apps that will take your fitness regime to a whole new level. Here we aim to highlight some of the best that you may not be aware of.

“Expand the tracking with apps that take your fitness regime to a whole new level”



Fitbit Coach
Fitbit Coach is designed to help you tone all parts of your body and to raise your general level of fitness using exercises that require no extra equipment. If you have a few spare minutes each day you will benefit from the short workouts in as little as a month. The app works best when used with a Fitbit tracker.

Activity++
When using an Apple Watch it can take a few taps to gain a decent overview of how your movements and fitness are changing, but with Activity++ you get to see everything in a much wider view. It feels familiar in every way, but for some users it can make all of the difference to understanding complex health data.

HeartWatch: Heart & Activity
Few apps offer such a potentially useful set of data as HeartWatch. You can see how your heart is beating when asleep, when waking up, during a workout and just going about your business. It offers the kind of results that can have hugely positive effects on all aspects of your life. It requires an Apple Watch to work.

MyFitness Pal
Limiting food intake to healthy amounts is of course crucial in getting fit. MyFitnessPal is likely the best tool to help you manage your calorie intake each day thanks to the efficient way it works and the clever way it presents the data back to you. It can offer all of the inspiration you need when dieting.

Sleep Cycle alarm clock
As you may know, sleep is vitally important for giving you the energy to get fit and for your general health, but it's not as simple as just trying to get as much as possible. This app will wake you in your lightest sleep phase within a specified time frame and should help you to start your day in the most positive way possible.

Get fit with your iPhone

Hybrid solutions

When you attach a device to your body it immediately becomes jewellery for many people. This is why traditional watches can cost so much and why the brand is so important. To reflect this, you can keep track of your fitness using traditional products that take advantage of modern technologies to keep you stylish and fit at the same time.

1 The Fossil Q hybrid watch

The Fossil Q hybrid watches work with an iOS app to monitor your sleep and steps during the busiest or lightest of days. They will also notify you when calls and messages come in, but still manage to retain the traditional functionality of a real watch and with no battery charging for good measure.



2 Fitbit Flex 2

The Fitbit Flex 2 is so small that it can be worn as a pendant as well as on the wrist with the use of an inexpensive accessory. You still get activity and sleep tracking in a swim-proof form with the ability to go five days in between charges as well. It also works perfectly with the iPhone of course.



3 Montblanc e-Strap

If you want to continue wearing a watch that is important to you, but still want to track your fitness you could wear a tracker on the other wrist. For added elegance, however, you could use the Montblanc e-Strap which will track your activity and provide iPhone notifications within a completely traditional look.



The future of fitness tracking

The technology employed in the fitness tracking sector has improved exponentially in the last few years and we are now in a position where the most important areas of general fitness can be tracked with great accuracy. Many of the devices are almost invisible when worn and they come with battery performance that also makes them practical to use even when you are away from power for an extended period of time.

Apple is generally considered to be at the forefront of health and fitness development, despite the fact that Fitbit makes more dedicated trackers than any other company. ResearchKit is a framework that lets iOS developers create tools that can be used for medical research. The data that is produced can be used for studies and research which will potentially lead to groundbreaking developments in the future.

HealthKit is another tool that third-party developers can use to allow the reading and writing of their data to Apple Health. This gives the user the ability to view all of their health and fitness data in one place, and will once again grow to build up a repository of information that can be useful for doctors and anyone else in the medical profession.

As the developments continue, we can reasonably expect for our blood to be monitored by a non-intrusive tracker or watch and with that will come the early detection of a variety of potential illnesses. Heart monitoring could reach the point where preventative alerts will be sounded way before the worst happens and the potential to track other areas such as our eyes, hearing and almost anything else feels within reach.

You will likely be able to use bespoke fitness and diet plans directly from your iPhone based on what the sensors see and preventable health issues could become a thing of the past as the technologies continue to improve and gain accuracy. We are just at the start of the health and fitness technology revolution and Apple, and by association the Apple Watch and iPhone, are well placed to lead the field into the future.



Don't chase the numbers

In what is still a fledgling industry, there have been many tales of how people use fitness trackers and many of them have been negative. It is easy to get caught up in a new fitness regime and believe that the tracker or smart watch will somehow prove to be the key to success, but that is far from the case.

Around 95 per cent of your fitness and weight loss will come from you and a continual understanding of what 'you' need to do to achieve your goals. These trackers, and by association the iPhone, are designed to feed you information that you can use to improve yourself over long periods of time and as much thinking as physical exercise is needed to truly get to where you want to be.

Here are some top tips that you should follow to succeed when monitoring your fitness and weight:

Don't set your goals too high or low. Think carefully about what you do today and aim for a steady improvement over time.

Never ever cheat. It is easy to skip adding food you have eaten or to add an exercise you have not done just to get to a target on your phone, but that is ultimately pointless. If

you let the numbers become your main goal you are much more likely to fail – always think about what you are doing in the real world and not what's on your iPhone screen.

Look for trends, not just numbers. If you are eating too much and eat less each day that is a good thing, and if you move around more each day that will offer benefits in the long run. Provided you are improving in the key areas you will be healthier and fitter even if it takes a lot of time.

Enjoy the experience. Temper the craving to enable every single notification and to interact with your fitness app multiple times

a day. It is there to feedback your progress, not to become a chore.

Don't just pick the first tracker or smart watch you see. Try a few on and see which ones offer the features you need and the look you are happy with. Bear in mind that you may be wearing it for a long time to come.

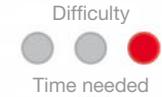
Think long term. Tracking your fitness and letting apps guide you could become the single most important thing you do with your iPhone. Potentially, you could be happier and healthier, and live longer. Good luck!

“Don't set your goals too high or low – aim for a steady improvement”



Counteract colour casts

Overcome cold or orange colour casts to reveal a subject's true colours



Download available



Your camera has to work hard to capture accurate colours in different lighting scenarios. Daylight has a cold colour temperature which can result in blue colour casts. Artificial indoor lighting has a warmer colour temperature that can tint the subject orange and create unflattering skin tones. Your camera will attempt to perform an Auto White Balance operation to produce true colours. However this may not always be successful (especially if you're shooting in mixed lighting conditions). If colour casts or tints are still present in your picture then you can manually warm up or cool down a shot using the Photos app's powerful White Balance tools.



Create more accurate colours

Perform a white balance operation for better colours



Eyedropper
The White Balance panel's eyedropper enables you to sample an area that should be a neutral grey (such as on the swan's shaded wing). It will then warm up a cold blue colour cast until it's a neutral gray. This White Balance operation creates more accurate colours in the rest of the scene.

Mixed lighting
The direct sunlit subjects in this scene have very warm colours due to the low angle afternoon sun. However, subjects in the shade can look too cold and blue (as was the case in our unprocessed start image).

Colour temperature
Different light sources (and even sunlight at different times of the day) have different colour temperatures. This can add colour casts to photos. You can manually warm up or cool down a photo's colours using this slider.

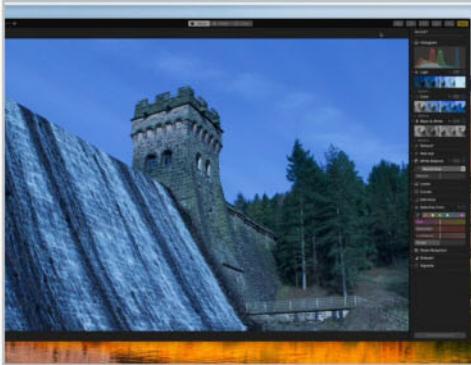
Tint
As well as colour casts, some photos can suffer from a magenta or green tint. To counteract a green tint, drag this slider right towards the magenta end of the scale. To reduce a magenta tint, drag this slider left towards green.

Knowledge base
White Balance
Your camera's Auto White Balance setting will analyse white or grey objects in the scene for colour casts. If the white looks cold and blue then the camera will warm up the image to create neutral whites or greys, banishing any colour casts in the process. If whites look too orange the camera cools down the shot to create more natural colours.



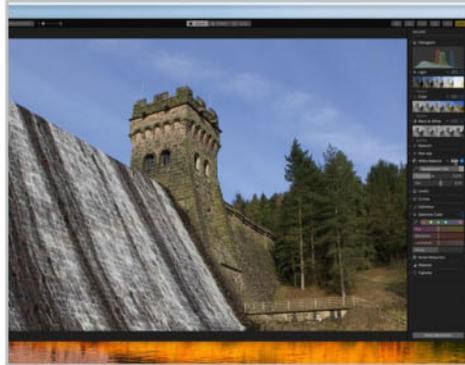
The colour temperature of light is measured in degrees Kelvin. That's the scale you'll see in the White Balance panel's temperature slider in Photos.

Step-by-step How to overcome colour casts



1 Import start file

Go to File>Import and browse to our supplied Cast_start01.CR2 image. Click 'Review for Import' then double-click on the imported shot's thumbnail and click the 'Edit' button.



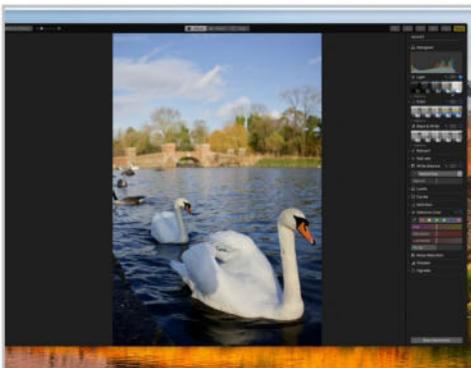
2 Auto White Balance

This shot is too cold and the whites are looking blue. As the shaded subject is evenly lit you can restore true colours by clicking the White Balance panel's 'Auto' button.



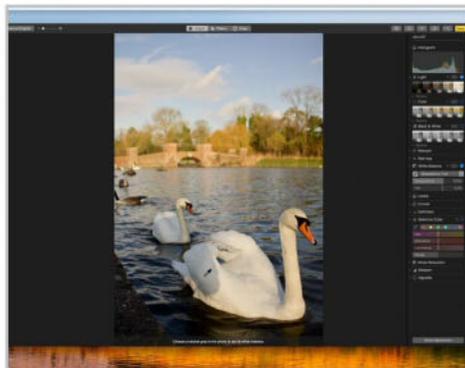
3 Colour temperature

The Auto White Balance operation sets the Temperature slider to 5,076 – the colour temperature of midday sun. This creates more natural colours for this lighting scenario.



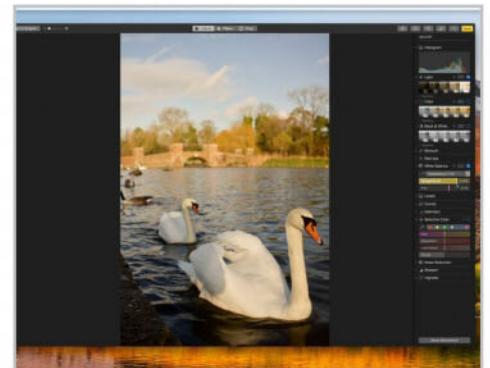
4 Mixed lighting

Click 'Done'. Import Cast_start02.CR2. Boost the Light slider to brighten it. This file has a mix of warm sunlight and cold blue shadows, so Auto WB will be less effective.



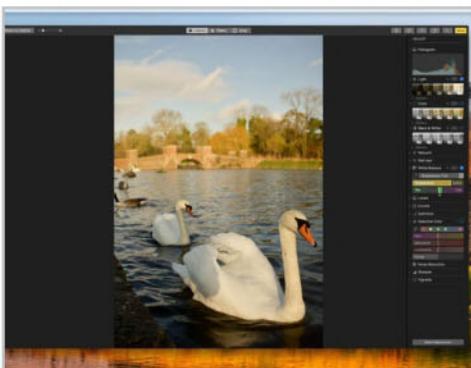
5 Take a sample

Set the White Balance to Temperature/Tint. Select the eyedropper. Click the eyedropper on a swan's cold shaded wing. The tool warms up the sample to remove cold blues.



6 Golden hour lighting

The shadows on the swan are now free from the cold colour cast. To accentuate the warm 'golden hour' lighting, manually drag the Temperature slider up to around 8,000.



7 Tackle tints

Incorrect White Balance operations can add green or magenta tints (and blue or orange casts). To remove hints of green drag the Tint slider left towards magenta. Click 'Done'.



8 Orange skin tones

Import Cast_start03.CR2. The skin is too orange. We could drag the Temperature slider left to cool it down. Or we can prioritise the White Balance for skin tones.



9 Use White Balance

Set the White balance dropdown to 'Skin Tone'. Choose the Eyedropper tool. Click the eyedropper on the man's face to sample his skin and cool it down to a more natural hue.

Playing with time

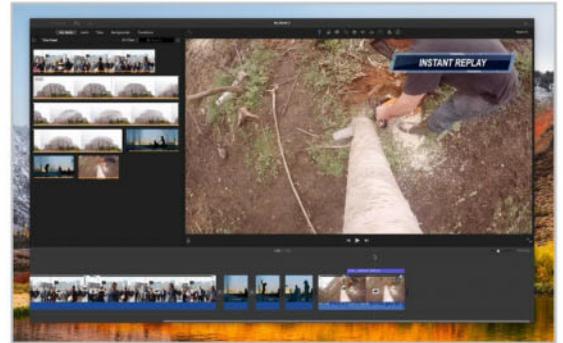
Create freeze frames, action replays and dramatic slow-motion effects



Download available



By default our digital devices record video in real time but iMovie enables us to take control of time in a variety of creative ways thanks to its Speed tools. We can slow down time to experience action in a new way (such as seeing someone create a splash as they jump into the pool). iMovie enables us to highlight key moments with camera-flash style freeze frames, adding texture to a wedding video as a bridesmaid catches the bouquet, for example. Sports fans can use menu presets to quickly replay a goal – complete with TV sport show-style action replay captions. We'll also show you how to experience nature in a fresh way by creating a time-lapse sequence.



Retiming tools

Fine-tune and customise speed changes



Modify

The Modify menu provides alternative ways to freeze or retime your footage. You can also summon a cool Instant Replay option or reverse time with the Rewind command.

Hare and tortoise

Sections of a clip that have been speeded up are indicated by a hare icon. Sequences that have been retimed to slow down the action feature a tortoise icon. Freeze frames feature a hand icon.

Frame boundary

In this clip we've slowed down the footage and then frozen a specific frame for a second. By dragging the frame boundary icon left you can make the action freeze on an earlier frame.

Need for speed

Click here to access retiming tools that enable you to speed up or slow down selected timeline footage by a range of preset increments. The Speed dropdown menu also enables you to freeze the action at the playhead.

Customise speed

All timeline clips that have been retimed using the Speed tools will feature a custom speed handle. Drag this handle left to speed up the clip or right to slow it down by a custom increment.

Knowledge base

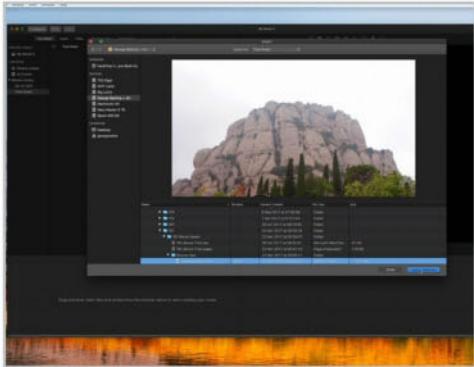
Retime in camera

To create a slow-motion sequence iMovie needs to add extra frames of footage to your retimed clip. This will cause the slow-motion shot to play back quite jerkily. For a much smoother slow-motion sequence shoot the footage using your iPhone's Slo-Mo mode. This mode uses a higher frame rate that produces smoother slow-motion.



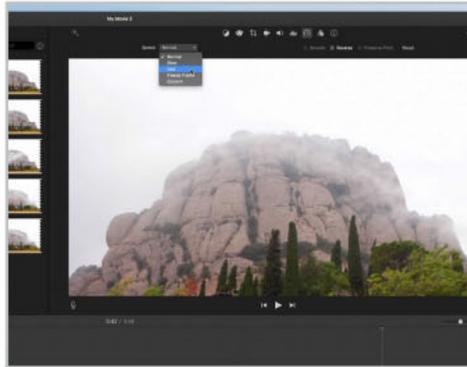
To create fast-moving clips without having to retime the footage in iMovie, shoot a sequence using your iPhone's time-lapse mode.

Step-by-step Retime your footage for creative results



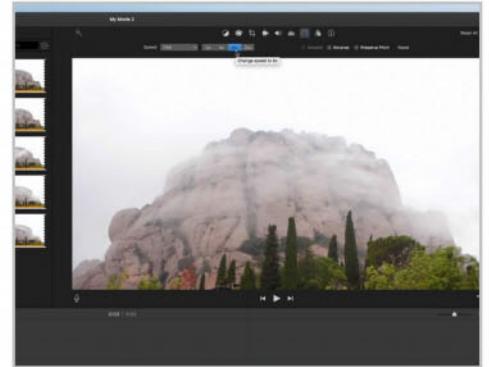
1 Import clips

In the My Media panel, click on 'iMovie Library'. Choose File>New Event from the menu. Label the event Time. Click 'Import Media'. Browse to our supplied start clips.



2 Speed it up

Drag the 46-second mountain clip into the timeline. Click on the Speed icon. Set the Speed dropdown to 'Fast'. This doubles the speed of the clip so it lasts 23 seconds.



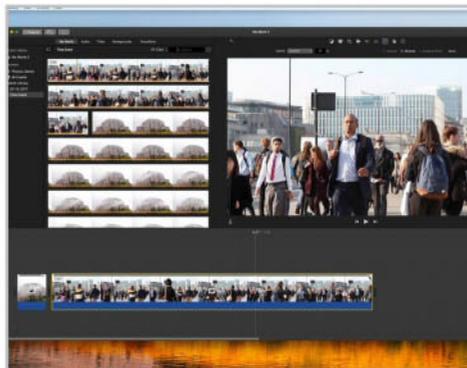
3 Go faster

Next to the Speed dropdown menu you'll see incremental buttons such as 2x, 4x and so on. Click the 8x button to create fast flowing time-lapse clouds in a shorter 5 second clip.



4 Take it slow

Drag the pedestrians clip into the timeline. Click on Speed and set the dropdown to Slow. Choose a speed such as 50% to take the rush out of rush hour.



5 Custom speed

Both retimed clips in the timeline now have a custom speed handle at their top right. Drag left to speed up the clip by a custom increment. Drag right to slow down the clip.



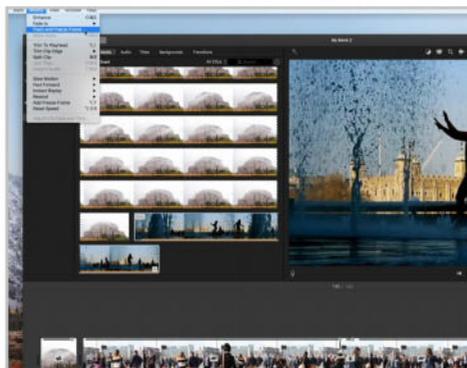
6 Freeze a frame

Drag the playhead until the tourist stops to take a snap on her phone. Go to Speed and set the dropdown to Freeze Frame. Two seconds of the timeline becomes frozen.



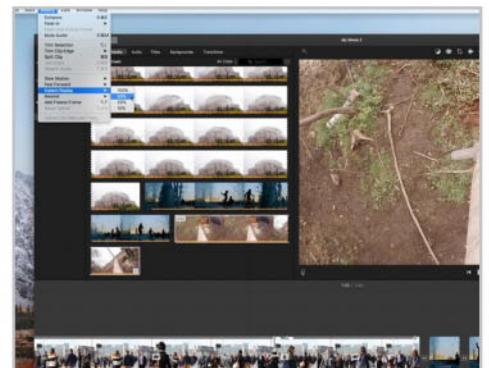
7 Change freeze duration

This two-second freeze frame is indicated by a hand icon in the timeline. The duration can be adjusted using the custom speed handle. Drag it left for a shorter freeze.



8 Freeze flash

Drag the FreezeFlash start clip into the timeline. Scrub the playhead until the child is reaching upwards. Choose Modify>Flash and Freeze Frame to add a photographic effect.



9 Instant replay

Add Action Replay start to the timeline. Go to Modify>Instant Replay and choose a speed. A copy of the clip will replay with a sports-style caption and at the chosen speed.



Professional editing tips

Speed up your editing workflow with our top tips, tricks and techniques

Difficulty

Time needed

15

Editing can be a time-consuming business, but Final Cut Pro X is packed full of ways to speed up your workflow. This month we're going to explore ways to manage complex projects more effectively, using tools such as colour-coded roles and Smart Collections. We'll demonstrate how to take the tedium out of repetitive tasks such as grading a series of similar shots, and we'll throw in some useful keyboard shortcuts to help you manage large projects. This tutorial will also help you avoid the common pitfalls that video editors may encounter – such as seeing a 'missing media' thumbnail in your project instead of a clip or photo.



Work more efficiently

Organise and edit with these tools and tips

● Get Smart
Smart Collections automatically gathers clips together according to certain properties. If you tell Final Cut to analyse clips as they are imported it will attempt to create extra Smart Collections based on shot size and people.

● Copy and paste
After changing a clip's audio, colour and even composition you can copy the adjustments and paste them onto another clip. By using the 'Paste Attributes' command you can select which attributes will be adjusted on the target clip.

● Extend the Inspector
If you have a lot of adjustments to tweak you can double-click at the top of the Inspector and it will expand to fill the right of the workspace. This saves you the hassle of having to scroll up and down to adjust various properties.

● Timeline Index
The Timeline Index helps you manage complex timelines that are cluttered full of assets. You can focus on specific colour-coded audio roles while collapsing other roles into narrower colour bars for a less cluttered timeline. Here we're focusing on sound effects.

● Knowledge base
Consolidate media
A missing file icon can appear if your Final Cut Pro X project is linked to files on an external drive that isn't currently attached to your Mac. If you move an imported clip to a different location on your Mac then it may vanish from your project. To avoid this happening choose File>Consolidate Library Media. This will copy all external project files into your Final Cut Pro Library.





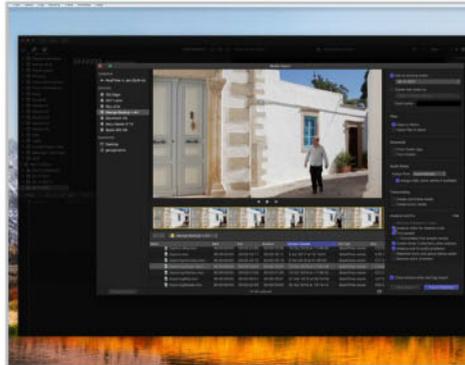
Morph fluidly between an interviewee's jarring jump cuts with the drag and drop Flow transition – best with footage from tripod-mounted cameras.

Step-by-step How to improve your workflow



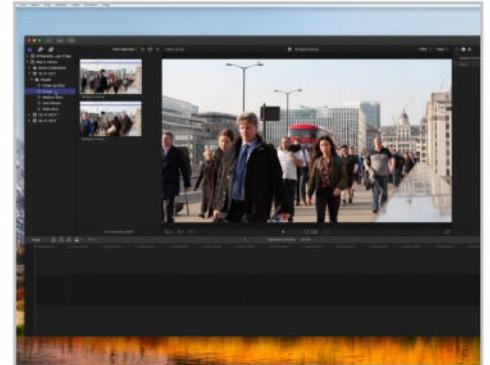
1 Under one roof

When importing assets, click 'Copy to library' in the Media Import window. This stops media disappearing if the original source file changes location or is unavailable.



2 Import and fix

In the Import Media window, tick the 'Analyze video for balance colour' box. This will help counteract colour casts and fix audio problems as you import your assets.



3 Smart Collections

In Import Media, tick 'Find People and Create Smart Collections after analysis'. This creates Smart Collections that can display people clips by shot size and by number of people.



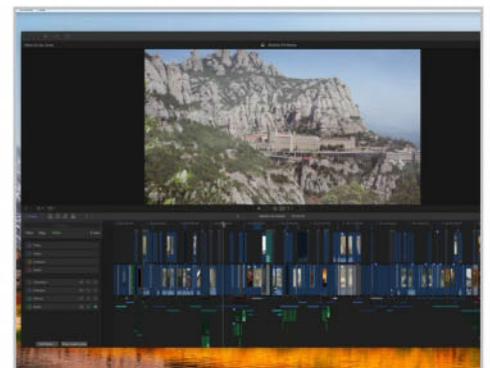
4 Use custom roles

Each asset is assigned a colour-coded role. Choose Modify>Edit Roles. Create custom roles and assign them a colour. This helps you locate assets in the timeline more quickly.



5 Timeline Index

In a cluttered timeline you can focus on specific audio roles and collapse other roles into colour bars. Go to Index, click Roles and click the adjacent circle to focus on a role.



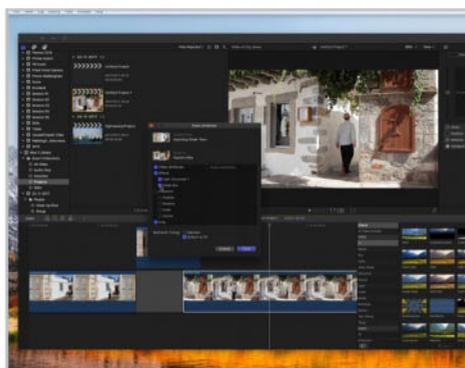
6 Faster navigation

To zoom out and see the entire timeline press Shift+Z. To jump to the next marker press Ctrl+' and to a previous marker Ctrl+;. Press fn + the back arrow key to jump to the start.



7 Make some space

Select tool lets you reposition clips without leaving gaps. To move a clip while creating a black space press P to activate the Position tool. Drag the clip. Press A to return to Select.



8 Copy and paste

After adjusting properties such as cropping and colour, choose Edit>Copy. Choose another clip and select Edit>Paste Attributes. Tick the attributes you want to transfer.



9 Faster edits

After selecting a clip or range in an Event, press W to insert it directly into the timeline at the playhead. Or press Q to add the clip on a separate layer as a floating cutaway.



How to use Drum Designer

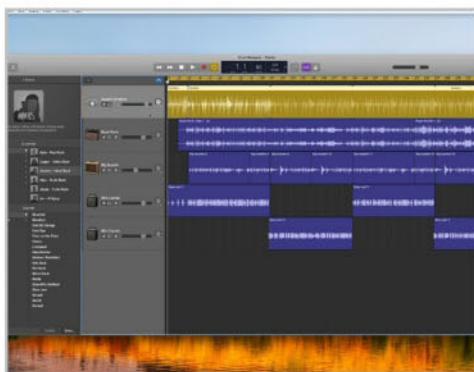
Discover how percussion levels can be adjusted via a special plugin



When you start a new GarageBand project finding a rhythmic groove can take time. Thankfully the growing roster of Drummer players is a huge help for instantly adding intelligent percussion patterns that organically follow other tracks or performances. These virtual players span a myriad of genres and use their different drum kit types in various ways, all of which can be customised. In this guide we'll look at a control element that lies behind the usual Drummer Editor – the Drum Designer. This useful Smart Controls panel defines more acutely the volume or attack levels for each element of a Drummer's kit, toggling them on or off and also applying any additional plugin effects.



Step-by-step Get to grips with Drum Designer



1 Acoustic Drummer

To start, have at least one yellow Drummer track selected within your project featuring a real kit-playing player. In this instance we're using Anders from the Rock category.



2 Smart Controls

Rather than click the Editors button to open the Drummer Editor, view the Smart Controls via the adjacent button top left or with the B key shortcut, showing the Drum Designer.



3 Solo and cycle

From here it's useful to solo the track via the headphone button in the header, cycle the Drummer regions in the project timeline and press play to preview adjustments.



4 Drum levels

Each drum element from kick (bass) to percussion has a dial that quite simply sets the volume of that kit piece within the output of the Drummer track's selected pattern.



5 Toggled off

Regardless of which kit pieces are played within the Drummer pattern, each element is turned on here. Clicking the adjacent lit button actually switches that element off.



6 Electronic instead

Those Drummers playing electronic kits show a vastly different set of synthesizer controls instead. The same principle applies however, with dials for each virtual element.



To view acoustic Drum Designer controls, you need a natural kit-playing Drummer track selected before clicking Smart Controls or pressing 'B'.

Designer detailed

Acquaint yourself properly with the wood-clad Drum Designer panel found within Smart Controls

● Drum Designer plugin

The Drum Designer is actually a plugin found within the inspector of the Smart Controls panel for any actual kit-playing Drummer. Extra plug-ins listed in the box below will add controls such as compression or effects.

● Compression controls

Compression is an extra track plugin often applied to Drummer by default and is useful for making drums tighter and punchier. These extra controls turn it on or off while also adjusting the amount applied.

● Effects selectors

These effects controls often vary Drummer to Drummer, reflecting any extra plug-ins applied in the inspector. Usually they adjust general drum tone, brightening or deadening, along with adding 'Room' reverb for more natural ambience.

● Knowledge base

Some natural balance

The real value of the Smart Controls for natural kit or electronic Drummer tracks is in balancing the performance. Adjusting the volume or attack of a kit part, whether it is drum, hi-hat, cymbal or percussion, is useful for emphasising those hits, strikes or fills within a pattern. This is worth remembering as an advanced customisation technique for achieving a more natural result.

● Drum Kit Designer

Also often labelled as 'MIX' this set of six dials and toggle buttons sets the level of each piece of featured kit, enabling elements to be switched off entirely or raised and lowered in volume.

Picking kit parts

Most commonly, the kit parts or the drums being played are defined within the Drummer Editor (E) panel. Here you'll find a visualisation that doubles as drum kit controls for toggling on or off elements of the kit itself, before the sliders and knobs dictate the number of fills.

Obviously this will determine what the Drum Designer within Smart Controls can do, so in the following steps we'll take a look between the two panels at how one dictates to the other and observe the impact.



1 Helping hands

First we'll show the Drummer Editor on our selected Drummer track in our project. Here we will click on the 'hand' percussion icon to add handclaps to the pattern. To add enough audible fills, we have the slider set to two.



2 Percussion power

If we switch back to Smart Controls and the Drum Designer knobs, we can adjust the applied handclap percussion selection. Raising the level right up will elevate and emphasise its volume in the pattern, whereas dialling it back quietsens it.



Automation Quick Access

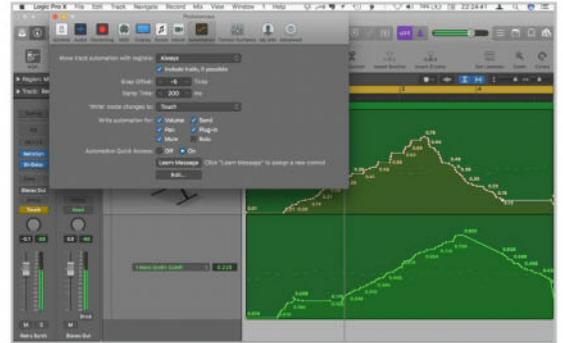
Logic Pro X contains a handy hidden feature for intricate programming

Difficulty
 ● ● ●

Time needed
 10

Download available

Logic's track automation system is very powerful, allowing you to record and play back dynamic changes to almost any soft synth or audio effect parameter within the app, whether it's opening a synth's filter during a build, say, or increasing the amount of effect on the vocal. Versatile and easy to use as it may be, Apple's engineers have come up with a simple, yet little-known trick called Automation Quick Access (AQA) to further simplify the process. With AQA enabled, you can designate any single hardware control on your MIDI controller – a knob, fader or even the modulation wheel – to write automation for whatever parameter you have selected.



Access all areas

Speed up your mixing process with Automation Quick Access (AQA)

● Toolbar trick
You can set an AQA on/off button to appear in the toolbar by choosing 'Customize Toolbar' from the View menu and checking the AQA checkbox.

● Learn Message
Click the 'Learn Message' button to assign a new, different controller to use with Automation Quick Access.

● Edit Assignment
Click 'Edit' to access Logic's Controller Assignments window, in which you can assign a new controller manually.

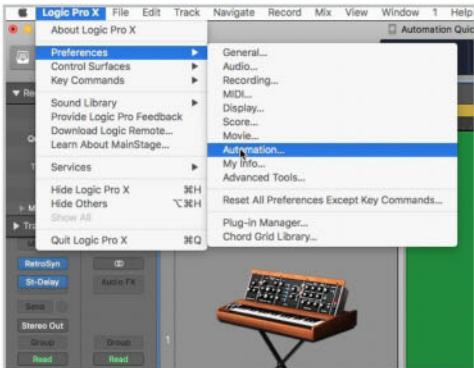
● Knowledge base
Faders vs knobs
Faders usually work best for AQA, as they transmit MIDI messages with a defined range of values, perfect for writing automation data. The type of endless encoder knob found on many MIDI keyboard controllers is less up to the task, but the modulation wheel will also work quite well if there are no other controllers available on your connected MIDI keyboard.

● Touch mode/Read mode
Use Touch mode to make changes to the automation data, and Read mode to play the changes back.



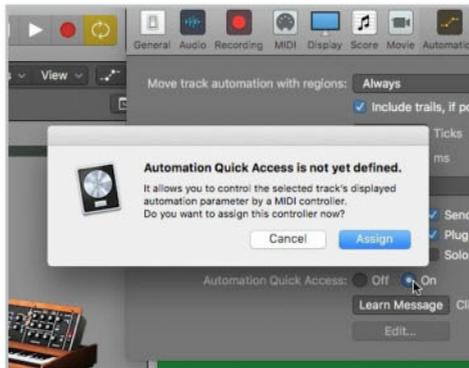
Use the 'Toggle AQA' key command (Ctrl+Option+Cmd+A) to switch between using the mod wheel for AQA and regular mod wheel duties.

Step-by-step Using Automation Quick Access



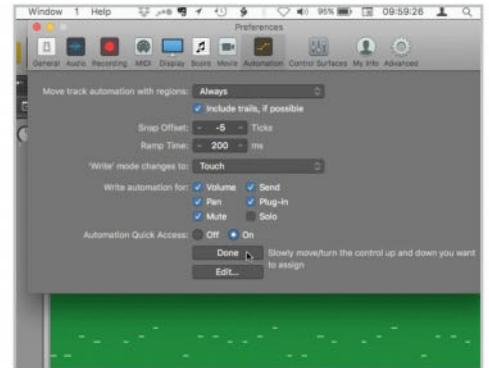
1 Express a preference

Begin by selecting Preferences>Automation from the Logic Pro X menu. You should find that the Automation Quick Access option (AQA) is disabled by default.



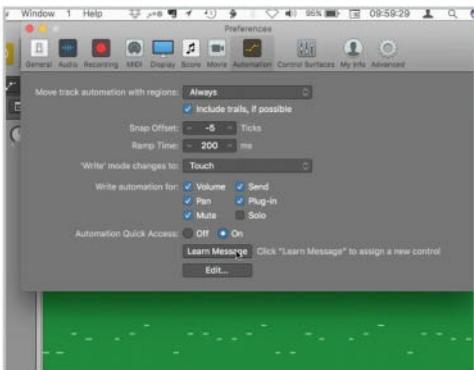
2 Click AQA button

Click the 'On' button to enable AQA. A dialogue window opens asking you to assign a controller. Faders tend to work better than endless encoders for this.



3 Assign of the times

Click the 'Assign' button and carefully move the designated hardware controller on your MIDI keyboard through its full range of motion.



4 Done deal

Click the 'Done' button and it changes to 'Learn Message'. The selected controller is now your designated AQA controller, and the AQA switch should now be on.



5 A for automation

Let's put AQA to work with a basic sequence played by Logic's RetroSynth instrument. Click the 'A' key on your keyboard to enable track automation.



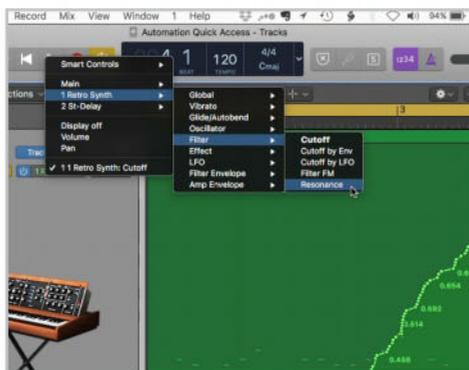
6 Select parameter

From the parameter submenu, select Filter>Cutoff. This will bring up the appropriate automation curve for this parameter in the track's automation lane.



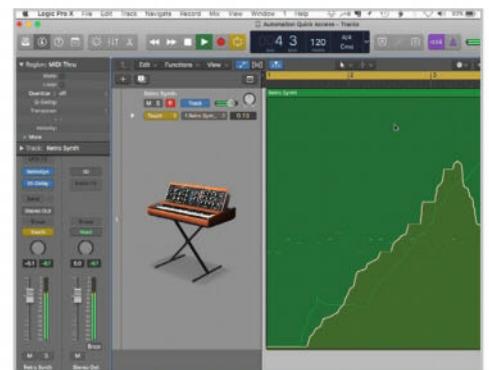
7 Write away

In the track header, switch the channel's automation mode to 'Touch' and hit Play. Using your controller, write in a pass of filter cutoff automation similar to that shown here.



8 Resonance

Now let's select a different parameter to automate – let's go for Filter Resonance this time. Arm the track for writing by switching from 'Read' to 'Touch' mode once more.



9 Write again

Now you can use the same controller as before to write in the automation data for your filter resonance. It will control whatever the current parameter is on the active track.



Subscribe and save 20%*

Every issue, delivered straight to your door



Never miss an issue

13 issues a year, and you'll be sure to get every single one



Delivered to your home

Free delivery of every issue, direct to your doorstep



Get the biggest savings

Get your favourite magazine for less by ordering direct

What our readers are saying about us...

"Great magazine, very user friendly"
Chrissy Thornton via Facebook

"@iCreateMagazine #iCreate a magazine that any #Macuser should have"
@Matthew680827 via Twitter

"Love your magazine!!"
Harrison Britton via Facebook

Pick the subscription that's right for you



Subscribe and save 20%

- ✓ Automatic renewal – never miss an issue
- ✓ Pay by Direct Debit

Recurring payment of £36.35 every six months, saving 20% on the retail price



One year subscription

- ✓ Great offers, available world-wide
- ✓ One payment, by card or cheque

A simple one-off payment ensures you never miss an issue for one full year. That's 13 issues, direct to your doorstep



Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Originator's reference
7 6 8 1 9 5

Name of bank

Address of bank

Account Name

Postcode

Sort Code

Account no

Please pay Future Publishing Limited Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Future Publishing Limited and, if so, details will be passed on electronically to my Bank/Building Society. Banks & Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account

Signature

Date

UK £72.70 (saving 20% on the retail price)

Europe €110.09 USA \$135.45

Rest of the world \$135.45

Pay by card or cheque

Pay by Credit or Debit card

VISA Visa MasterCard Mastercard AMERICAN EXPRESS Amex

Card number

Expiry date

Pay by Cheque

I enclose a cheque for

£

Made payable to

Future Publishing Ltd

Signature

Date

Your information

Name

Address

Telephone number

Mobile number

Email address

Postcode

Please post this form to

iCreate Subscriptions, Future Publishing Ltd, 3 Queensbridge, The Lakes, Northampton, NN4 7BF, UK

Please tick if you want to receive any communications from Future and its group companies containing news, special offers and product information.

Order securely online

www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk/ICR/PS17



Speak to one of our friendly customer service team Call **0344 848 2852**

These offers will expire on Wednesday 31st January 2018

*Prices and savings are compared to buying full priced print issues. You will receive 13 issues in a year. You can write to us or call us to cancel your subscription within 14 days of purchase. Payment is non-refundable after the 14 day cancellation period unless exceptional circumstances apply. Your statutory rights are not affected. Prices correct at point of print and subject to change. Full details of the Direct Debit guarantee are available upon request. UK calls will cost the same as other standard fixed line numbers (starting 01 or 02) and are included as part of any inclusive or free minutes allowances (if offered by your phone tariff). For full terms and conditions please visit: bit.ly/magtandc Offer ends 31/01/18

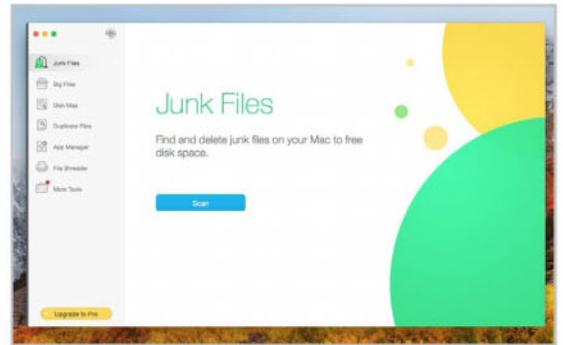


Speed up your Mac

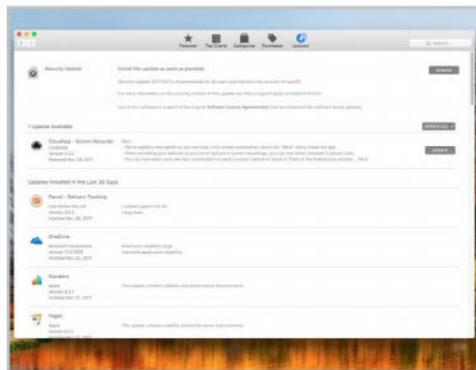
Does your Mac feel sluggish? Here are some tips for turbo-charging it!



Over time the efficiency of our Macs tends to dip and they become sluggish. There are numerous reasons for this; perhaps you have recently updated your Mac operating system and the efficiency of some of your apps is suffering as a result; or maybe you have too many apps open that you just don't need? It may just be that your hard drive is congested with junk files that you don't know you can simply delete. Whatever the reason for the downturn in overall performance, there are quick and easy fixes that you can carry out that won't cost you a bean. Here we guide you through some and recommend a good, free app for decluttering your Mac's hard drive.



Step-by-step How to speed up your Mac



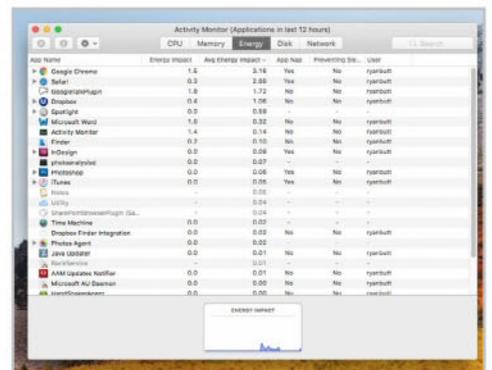
1 Update your apps

Outdated apps in newer operating systems can prove to be glitchy and sluggish, so launch the App Store, click on 'Updates' and update every app that you can.



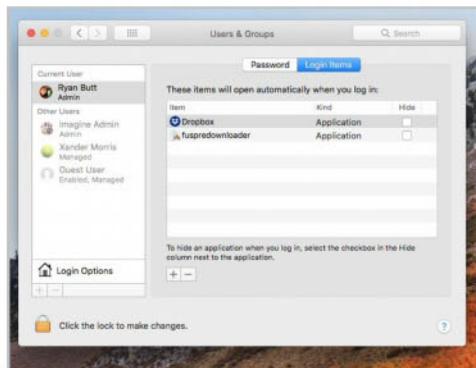
2 Check Activity Monitor

Launch Activity Monitor, select View> Windowed Processes and click on 'CPU' to check the biggest drainers on your Mac and consider quitting anything you don't need.



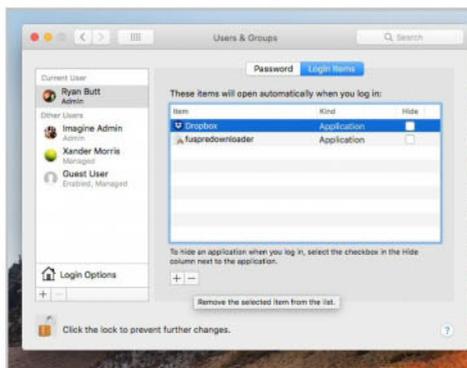
3 Check Energy

If you are using a laptop, while in Activity Monitor, click on 'Energy' to see which apps drain the most energy from your battery. If power is getting short, close unused apps.



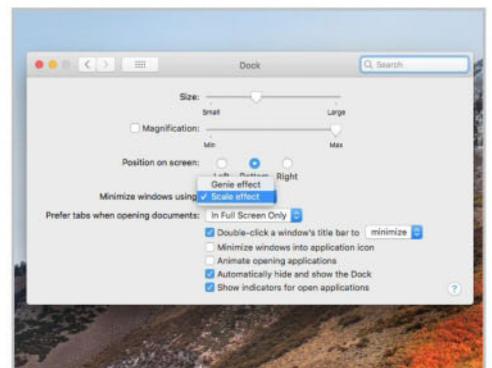
4 Turn off startup items

Your Mac may be sluggish due to an array of open apps that booted up at startup. Go to System Preferences>Users & Groups, click on your name and click on 'Login Items'.



5 Disable apps

If you see apps that you don't need open, click on the padlock icon and enter your administrator's password, click on the app name and then click on '-' underneath.



6 Disable visual effects

The macOS has visual effects that slow down older Macs when running the latest operating systems. Go to System Preferences>Dock and uncheck boxes such as 'Magnification'.



Keep your apps up-to-date by going to App Store>Preferences and ticking 'Automatically check for updates' and the sub-categories relating to it.

Optimise your Mac

Quick ways to improve performance

● Check for updates

Apps performing sluggishly may be an indication that they are simply out of date with your new operating system. Go to the App Store and click on the 'Updates' tab to see if any newer, more stable versions of the app are available.

● Use Activity Monitor

Activity Monitor is a very useful app for helping you monitor various aspects of app usage. For example, you can see which apps use the most memory, present the biggest drain of your MacBook battery, etc.

● Disable the flashiness

Visual effects are common in Mac operating systems – snazzy ways to present basic actions, such as minimising windows. Go to System Preferences>Dock and you will be able to turn off many of these effects.

● Knowledge base

Minimising windows

When trying to reduce the number of visual effects that your Mac uses in order to eradicate slowdown, go to System Preferences>Dock, as per 'Step 6' and then change the 'Minimize windows using:' option from 'Genie Effect' to 'Scale Effect' for a much more straightforward, less CPU-intensive transition effect. Every little helps!

● Simple Dock

Processing power is used every time you call up your Dock if it isn't an ever-present on your screen. You should also disable things like 'Animate opening applications' and 'Minimize windows into application icon'.

Get an app

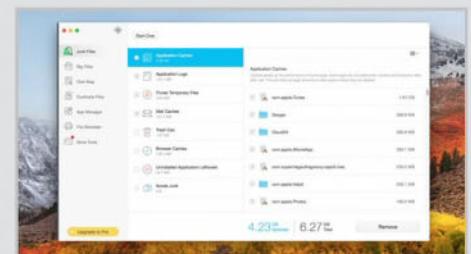
There are also plenty of apps available to help defrag and declutter your Mac and speed up the performance and one of our favourites is Dr Cleaner: Disk, Mem Clean. A free version of this app is available from the App Store and, when launched, it will operate as a neat little menu bar item that you can click on to get a performance overview of your Mac. This app is also very good at identifying useless files on your Mac and deleting them to free up space.

"Plenty of apps help defrag and declutter your Mac"



1 Start optimising

With Dr Cleaner installed, click on the menu bar item and then click on 'System Optimizer'. In the window that appears, ensure you are in the 'Junk Files' section and then click on 'Scan'. The app will now search for superfluous files.



2 Delete clutter

Once the scan has been carried out you will be able to see all the junk files on your Mac and how much space they take up. Review the list and then consider dumping the lot of them to free up space and improve your Mac's overall performance.

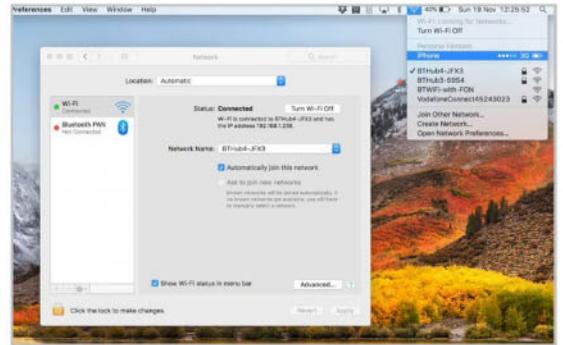


Use your Mac with a Wi-Fi hotspot

Using a Wi-Fi hotspot is the next best thing to a MacBook with a SIM card slot



There are many advantages to using your own mobile connection with your Mac. Firstly, you will be able to connect anywhere there is a mobile signal. 4G is fast enough to power through the most demanding of tasks and you are less likely to suffer from contention where others are using the same Wi-Fi connection. Also, you can be assured of better security than when using a public connection. Using random Wi-Fi hotspots is never a good idea and particularly so because in all other areas macOS is very secure so it makes no sense to put that at risk. We will now demonstrate how easy it is to run a speedy connection on your Mac no matter where you are.



Step-by-step Connect your Mac anywhere



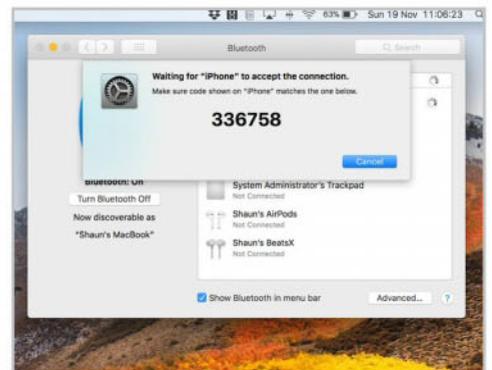
1 Connect to Wi-Fi

Connect to Wi-Fi as you normally would and you should see your iPhone, or other phone, listed within the possible connections. Simply click on it to start the process.



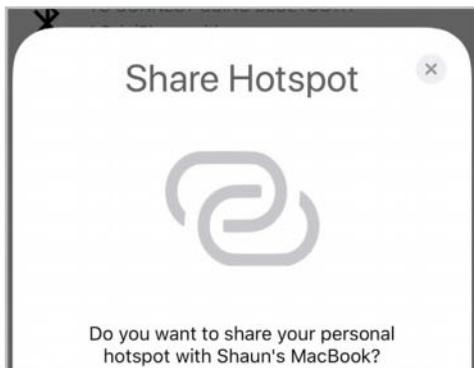
2 Enable the hotspot

On your iPhone, go to Settings>Personal Hotspot and then tap the 'Personal Hotspot' icon at the top to make the hotspot active. This is required to start the connection.



3 Input security code

When you click on the 'iPhone' listed in the Wi-Fi list, you will see a new panel appear with a security code that needs to be input. This is a one-time only process.



4 iPhones see everything

The iPhone should prompt you to share the connection the first time and this will negate the need to enter a password at all on your Mac. The setup will then be complete.



5 An active connection

While the hotspot is active and being used by your Mac you will see a blue marker at the top of the iPhone screen. You will always know when it is active and using data.



6 Use as normal

You will be able to use the Mac through the iPhone as normal – it should feel no different to using a standard Wi-Fi connection, even when viewing complex websites.



You can use your phone as normal while your Mac is tethered to it, but you may see a natural reduction in network speed.

A simple setup

A couple of clicks to connect

“A password will be set within the hotspot to ensure that your connection remains secure”

Stay secure

A password will be set within the hotspot to ensure that your connection remains secure and that no one else can connect to it if their computer detects it. Make it truly secure.

Wi-Fi Password

Bluetooth connections

Your Mac can connect to your iPhone via Bluetooth as well meaning that you have multiple options to ensure a safe and reliable connection at all times. It should work every single time.

Wired connections

If you run into problems, you can connect your iPhone to your Mac using USB for troubleshooting purposes or for the fastest possible mobile connection. It will be even more secure.

True mobile Wi-Fi

When you click on the Wi-Fi icon at the top you will see your iPhone listed provided it is Wi-Fi and/or Bluetooth-enabled. It is there to connect to in an instant.

Knowledge base

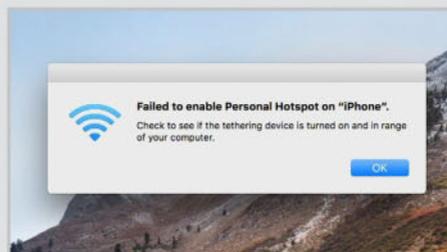
Cover the bases

You will need to ensure that tethering is available on your mobile contract and that you have enough allowance to do so without having to constantly worry about going over your limit. Some mobile providers will seriously limit tethering so you may need to shop around to find a deal that works best for you and your Mac.

Troubleshooting connections

You may come across problems when you initially try to connect with your iPhone, but don't worry about this too much because there are some very simple steps you can take to get the connection going and they will almost always work. Apple has worked hard to ensure that the wireless side is reliable now and you really should not see many problems at all, even with the first connection.

Here we highlight some easy steps you can take to fix any potential problems...



1 The failed connection

An alert will display if your Mac cannot connect to the iPhone or if the hotspot is not active on the iPhone. Try turning the iPhone off and on fully and if that does not help, you can reset network settings.



2 Test the connection

You should also try connection to your iPhone via Bluetooth or using a USB cable just to make sure that the two devices can see each other. If these work, the Wi-Fi hotspot connection should work as well.

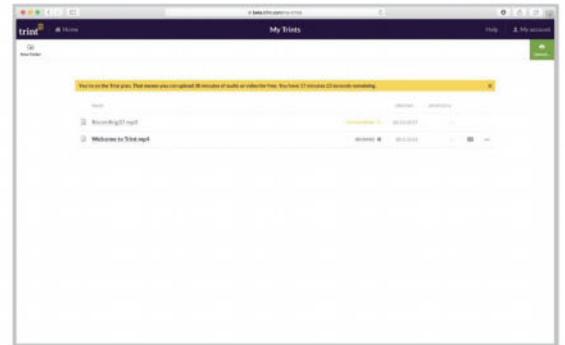


Automatically transcribe audio

Transcribing audio is a pain but Trint gives you a head start by using artificial intelligence



If you've ever needed to transcribe audio, then you'll know what a hassle it can be. It can consume hours of your time as you try and decipher what someone is saying. So when we saw a service that claims to speed up the process using artificial intelligence, we jumped at the chance to try it. Trint allows you to upload MP3, MP4, M4A, AAC and WAV audio along with MP4, WMA, MOV and AVI video and it speedily transcribes them all. In truth, the result isn't anywhere near 100 per cent accurate so you'll still have a fair bit of editing to do but the good news is the editing facilities are very good. There's also a 30-minute trial so you can try it out for yourself without penalty.



Step-by-step Upload and transcribe audio files



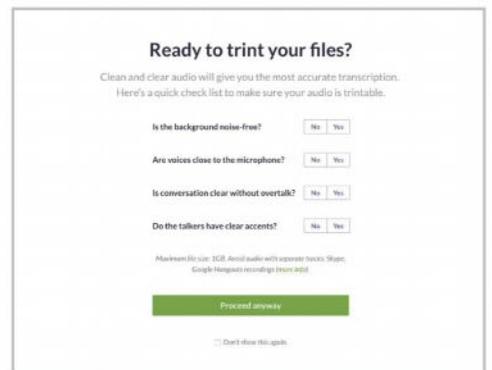
1 Sign up

Visit <https://trint.com/> and click 'Start Free Trial Now'. Simply input your details and a password before confirming the email and filling in a basic three-question survey.



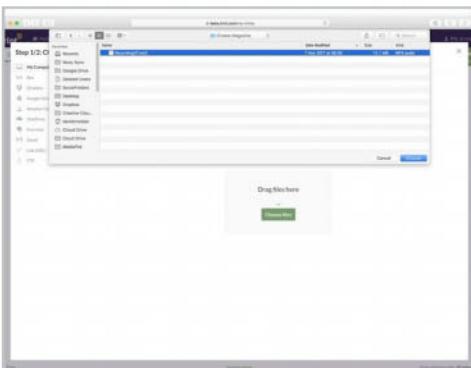
2 Upload a file

Trint runs within the browser so you'll find yourself looking at the main Trint screen. To start uploading an audio file, click the Upload button in the top-right corner.



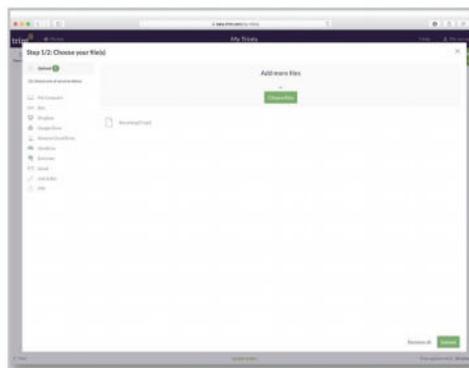
3 Complete check list

Trint will work better if the background is noise-free, the voices are close to the mic, there is no overtalk and the accents are clear. But you can also click 'Proceed Anyway'.



4 Select a file

Click the location of your file in the left-hand menu (you can grab files from your computer, cloud storage services, links and FTP). Now find your file and click 'Choose'.



5 Begin transcribing

It's also possible to drag files to the screen and you can add more than one too (bear in mind the free trial allows a maximum of 30 minutes). When you're done, click 'Upload'.



6 Select a language

Choose a language and click 'Continue'. The file will now upload and begin transcribing. Once it's complete, a Ready prompt appears. Click the filename to see the transcript.



Worried that someone might be able to access your audio and transcriptions? Trint promises that your files will be kept fully secure.

Edit your transcription

Trint makes a fair few errors during the transcription process so you will need to go through and rectify these



● Insert speaker names

If more than one person is talking, it's a good idea to identify them. Click any one of these arrows to add the name of the speaker of each chunk of text.

● Play back audio

Click anywhere on your transcription and select the Play button to listen to your recorded audio from that spot. You can also press the rewind button to go back five seconds: click it twice to go back ten.

● Control the speed

At the bottom of the screen is an option to speed up or slow down the playback. Double-speed allows for the quick checking of a transcript. Half-speed makes editing easier.

● Highlight text

It is possible to highlight sections of the text. Doing so shows you the timestamps for the selection. You can also choose to play only the highlights.

● Knowledge base

Saving your audio transcriptions

When you have finished with your transcription, you can export it. Click the 'Export' button in the top-right of the screen and you can choose from a variety of formats including Microsoft Word, JavaScript/HTML, subtitles and captions and EDL for use in video editing suites. You can also choose to export the highlights only as a Word doc.

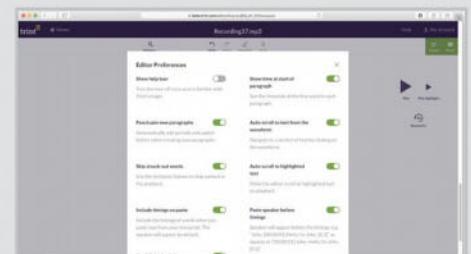
How to alter the editing preferences

Arguably the most useful function of Trint is its editing function since it cleverly allows you to jump to any point in the text, listen to what is being said and make any necessary amendments. Even if the automatic transcription is a tad gobbledegook, we found this was still faster than transcribing from scratch. To make life even easier, though, Trint also has a list of editor preferences which you can toggle on and off.



1 Click on Preferences

Open a transcription within Trint and click the Preferences button at the bottom of the screen. You will then see a window containing eight key preferences. Each one has a toggle button next to it which allows you to turn the functions on or off.



2 Make a choice

Go through each option, deciding if the function suits your needs. Click 'Close' and the preference changes will take immediate effect. You can also click 'More Shortcuts' at the bottom of the screen to view time-saving key presses.



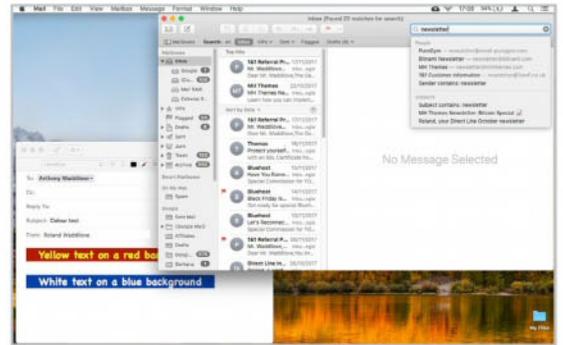
Mail

New features in Mail

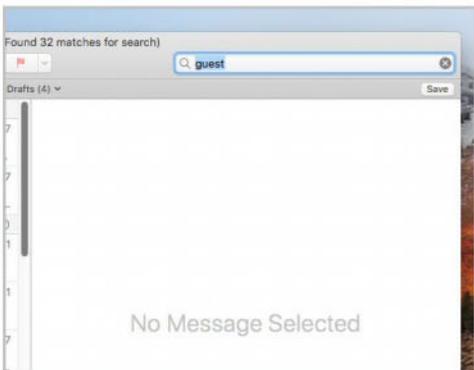
Discover and master the great new features in the Mail app for macOS High Sierra



When macOS High Sierra was released, Apple made a few tweaks to the Mail app. It was a great email client already, so there aren't any major changes. However, there are several improvements to existing features that make dealing with email messages easier. The use of trackpad gestures is handy for example and we show you how to use this and configure it. There have been some useful changes to the search facility, which now makes it easier to find messages you are looking for – a bit of AI (artificial intelligence) puts the most likely results first for example. The content of email messages can also be more brightly coloured now that the background of text can be set.

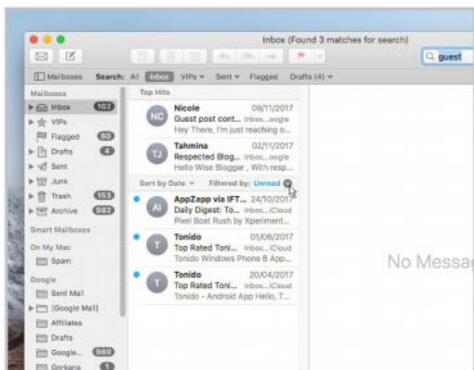


Step-by-step Try Mail's new features



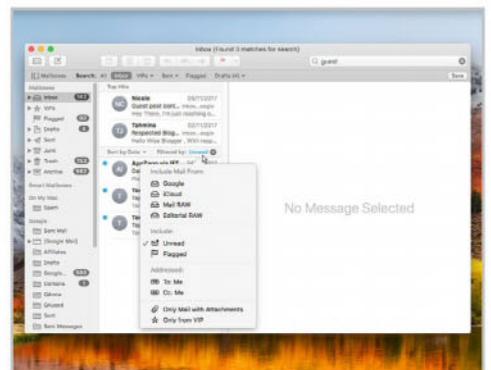
1 Top hits

Finding emails is now easier. Enter a search term and in the results is a 'Top Hits' section. By analysing your emails, Mail shows what it thinks you are looking for first.



2 See unread emails

Click the tiny icon in the header above the main results and the messages are filtered to show just the unread ones. There is also an option to sort the results by date.



3 Filter search results

Click the 'Unread' link and a number of filters are displayed. For example, results can be filtered by email account, unread, flagged, only from VIPs and only with attachments.



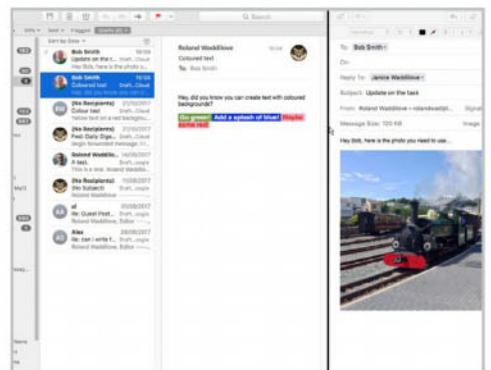
4 Enable split view

Another tweak to Mail is split view, which divides full-screen view to show Mail and messages. Go to Mail>Preferences and tick the split view option on the General tab.



5 Customise spaces

This step may be necessary on some Macs – it was on ours. Open Mission Control in System Preferences and tick 'Displays have separate Spaces'. Weird, but essential.



6 Use split view

Click the green window button to go full-screen. Double-click an email to open it or create a new message and it opens on the right. Click and drag the vertical divider.



Let the mouse hover over the dividing line between an email header and the email body to show a secret toolbar.

Mail's new features

Colour your emails and search better

● Top Hits

When a search is performed, a small number of items appear in a Top Hits section here. They are what Mail thinks are the messages you are most likely looking for based on your previous interaction.

● Colour your messages

There is a new option to set the background colour of text when writing emails. Select some text, then click this colour chip in the toolbar to show the palette and click a colour.

● Remove text colour

There does not appear to be an option to remove colour from text, but there is actually a special colour in the palette. Click this one with the line through to remove the background colour.

● Swipe away

You can clean your inbox by swiping left over an email and it can either be deleted or archived in one gesture. Choose which action you want to perform in Mail Preferences.

● Knowledge base

Archive your emails

Clearing your email inbox is a liberating experience and it can be done with gestures. As shown in the tutorial and annotated image, swiping over a message will delete it or archive it depending on the Preferences setting. Where do archived emails go? The archive is simply a folder in the Mail sidebar. Use it to store messages you don't need to keep in your inbox, but which you don't want to delete.

Use trackpad gestures

The Mail app responds to trackpad gestures and you'll find that these can make dealing with your emails much faster. A two-finger swipe up or down the trackpad is a standard gesture for scrolling up and down. However, you may not have realised that you can also swipe left and right with two fingers. This gesture, borrowed from the iPhone, performs actions that can be customised by going to Mail>Preferences>Viewing>Discard messages into. The options are either Trash or Archive.



1 Move messages

Use one finger on the trackpad to move the mouse pointer and position it over an email preview. Then hold two fingers down and swipe left to reveal a Trash icon. (You can switch this to Archive in Preferences.)



2 Read/unread messages

Position the mouse over an email and then swipe right to reveal a blue icon. Tap on this to toggle between read and unread status. Swipe halfway and tap or swipe all the way to apply the action immediately.



Create a shared family calendar

Keep your family organised with a shared calendar through iCloud Family Sharing



Now that a new year is upon us, we'll all want to start making plans for the months ahead – such as birthday parties and gatherings to bring scattered family members together. It can be tiresome planning such events and making sure everyone gets notified... but not with Apple's iCloud Family Sharing feature. Once you set this up and add family members, you will automatically create a family calendar that all connected family members have access to on their Macs and iOS devices, and when you create new events they will be instantly notified. What's more, they can edit events, add in additional details and even delete them – the flexibility is flawless.

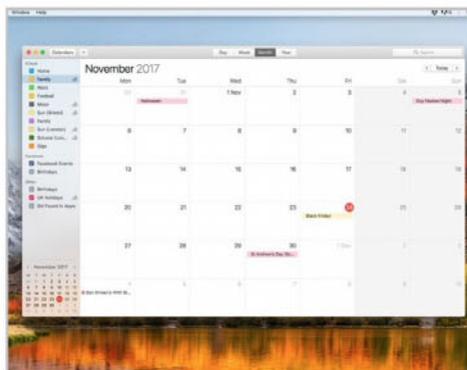


Step-by-step How to set up your calendar



1 Set up Family Sharing

Go to System Preferences>iCloud, click on 'Set up Family Sharing' and go through the initial setup. Once set up, a 'Family' calendar will be shared with all connected members.



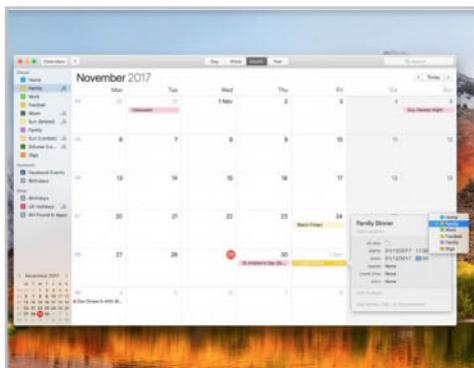
2 Open Calendar

Open Calendar app and click on 'Calendars' in the top-left corner to display all your calendars. The 'Family' calendar should be in this list. Make sure it is enabled.



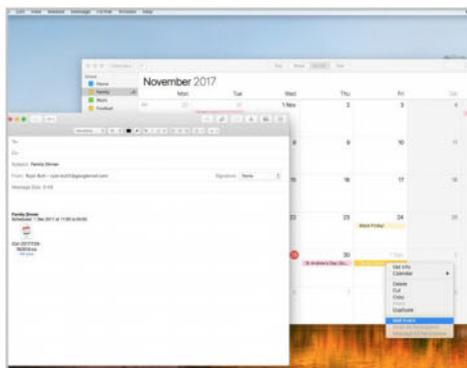
3 Create an event

Click on '+' to create a Quick Event on the current day, or right-click on a different day and choose 'New Event'. Give the event a title and then set the 'start' and 'end' times.



4 Choose calendar

Double-check that you have selected the Family calendar for the event by clicking on the dropdown arrow in the top-right corner of the event box and ensuring it says 'Family'.



5 Mail out event

If you wish to share your event with people not attached to your Family Sharing right-click on the event and choose 'Mail Event'. The event will be applied to a new Mail draft.



6 Get notified

Once the event has been created in the Family Calendar, everyone who is connected to that calendar will receive a notification on their Mac or iOS device.



Go to Calendar>Preferences>Alerts and ensure 'Show invitation messages in Notification Centre' is ticked to be sure you don't miss family event alerts.

Sharing calendar events

Using iCloud to connect the family



Other iCloud perks
Through Family Sharing you can also share purchases from the App Stores and you can also get an Apple Music family membership that provides access to over 40 million tracks for up to six family members.

Sharing storage
You can also share iCloud space through Family Sharing. It seems that everyone soon eats through their free 5GB allocation, yet 200GB is far too much for most of us – so it makes sense to share all of that space amongst the family.

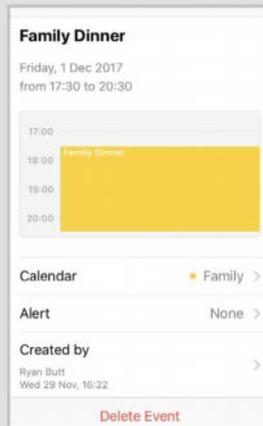
Your Family calendar
When you set up Family Sharing, all family members that you add will be automatically connected to a shared 'Family' calendar. When new events are created they are then relayed to all family members.

Creating events
After adding all of the required information into a new Family calendar event (such as times, location, etc) it will instantly be shared to all connected family members and they will receive notifications on their devices.

Knowledge base
Family default
You can make your shared Family calendar your default calendar by going to Calendar>Preferences and then clicking on the 'General' tab. Here you will see an option called 'Default Calendar' – click on this and then choose 'Family' from the list. Hey presto, you need never miss an important family gathering again!

Monitoring family activity

Another useful aspect of the Family calendar is that you can monitor the activity of family members through the calendar and all connected family members can edit events created in the Family calendar. For example, if an event has been created and shared (as it automatically is) then other family members are able to change details of the event and even delete it if it is no longer applicable. Family members will also receive notifications of the changes, as we will demonstrate here...



1 Deleting events

If a family member receives notification of a new event and then checks the details of the event on their device, they will have the option to edit the details or delete it if it is no longer applicable. Tap on the 'Edit' or 'Delete Event' options respectively.



2 Monitor activity

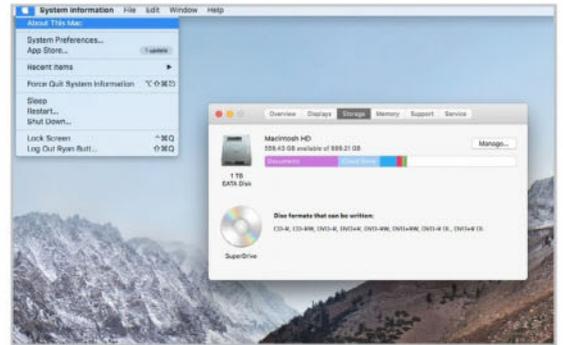
Any changes will be relayed to other connected family members. If using a Mac you will be able to click on the invitations icon in the top-left corner of the Calendar app interface and, if someone has deleted an event, you'll be notified here.

Manage your Mac storage

Master the storage management tools within Apple's latest OS



Storage remains as fundamental as ever in computing and in an era of photos, videos, music and apps we all crave more. Despite pocketing devices boasting the sort of GB capacity that would have made Deep Blue blush, this fervent file retention now sprawls online – a move with useful implications for desktops too. With macOS High Sierra, Apple has recognised this increasing storage flexibility by including custom management tools for decluttering your system drive. Useful for improving performance, not least clearing room for more stuff, the features embrace iCloud and iTunes and can be tweaked to the max. So in this guide we take a closer look...

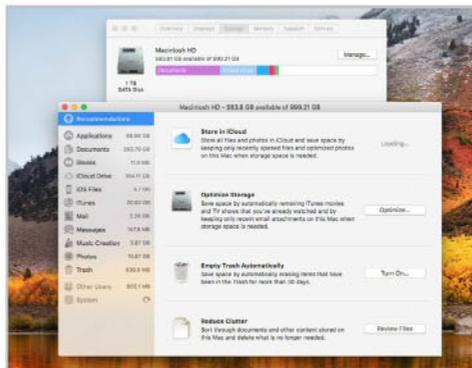


Step-by-step Using macOS High Sierra's management tools



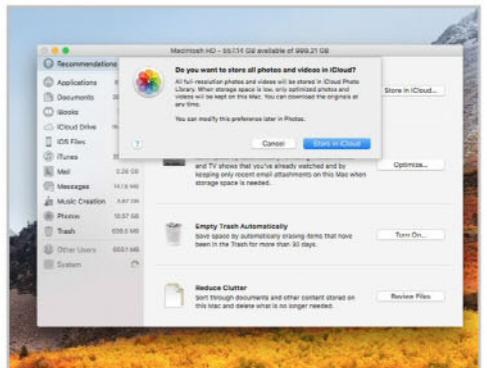
1 About This Mac

From the macOS desktop navigate to and select Apple>About This Mac from the main Finder menu bar. You should see the 'About' dialog showing the Overview tab.



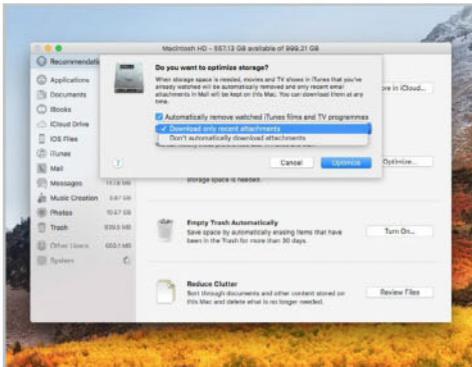
2 Storage tab

Click 'Storage' to view connected devices. A colour-coded bar shows how the hard drive is populated, but click 'Manage' to the right to show the Recommendations box.



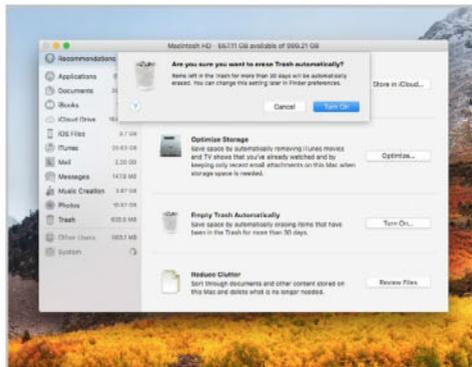
3 iCloud Storage

Click the first button to transfer your photos and videos to the iCloud Photo Library and save space by keeping optimised versions on the Mac. You can re-download them later.



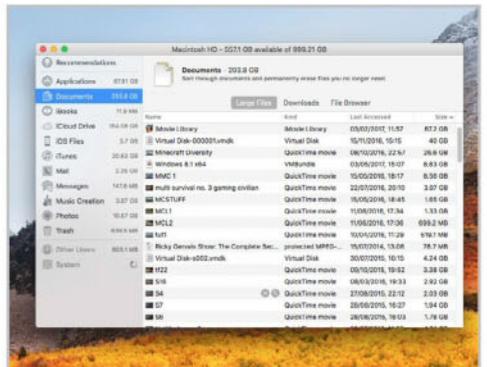
4 Optimize options

Click 'Optimize' and checkboxes toggle automatic removal of watched iTunes videos and a choice between downloading new email attachments or none at all.



5 Trash talking

The third button is useful if you often have a brimming Trash basket. Turning this feature on will automatically erase those files that have been trashed for over 30 days.



6 Reduce clutter

Click 'Review Files' to show the Documents item. Large Files and Downloads are shown ordered by size for selection and deletion, while File Browser offers folder navigation.



Hover your mouse over the drive percentage bar in Storage to view pop-up tool tips indicating how much disk space each section of files occupies.

Unboxing macOS storage

We pick apart the key components and tools within High Sierra's management utility

● Recommendations and file types

The first item shows the Recommendations pane by default, containing the main four button-based controls. Below this are listed the various stored file types, iCloud and programs you can view to make more direct changes.

● Knowledge base

Downloadable content

The manage storage utility allows a number of files to be deleted that you can always download again. One such selection is Music Creation, where GarageBand's Sound Library can be removed completely and easily re-installed through the app. Just like Mail attachments and iTunes content, these files can grow very large and are useful to lose when clearing significant space quickly.

● Store in iCloud

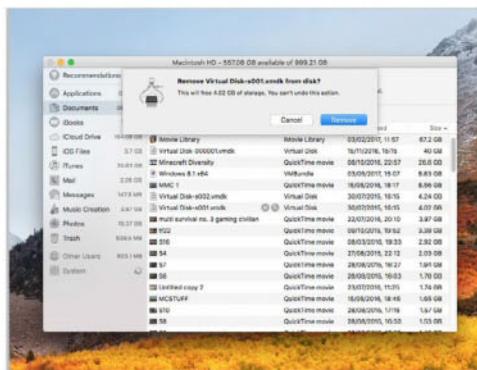
This option automates the shifting of all file and photo storage onto iCloud instead of local system drives. Only recently accessed documents and those optimised photos, etc are kept on your Mac to maximise space.

● Optimize Storage

Click this button to take actions such as removing any locally downloaded iTunes videos once watched, such as TV episodes and feature films. Things like only your most recent email attachments will be retained.

● Trash & Clutter

Turn on this to toggle the automatic erasure of trashed items after a 30-day period. The Review Files button then shows redundant files or content that can be manually deleted to remove clutter.



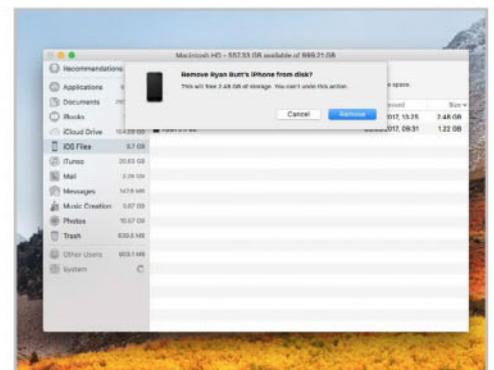
7 Deleting files

If a little cross icon shows as you hover over a listed file, you can click this to choose the file for permanent deletion or the magnifying glass to view within Finder.



8 Applications view

Under Applications, you can again view installed apps by size and delete as desired. Clicking the 'Open Applications' button opens the folder within a Finder window.



9 iOS Files

Aside from the other items, iOS Files is useful for identifying old device backups and iOS installers. They can simply be deleted in the same way, using the cross icon.



10 lesser known Siri tricks

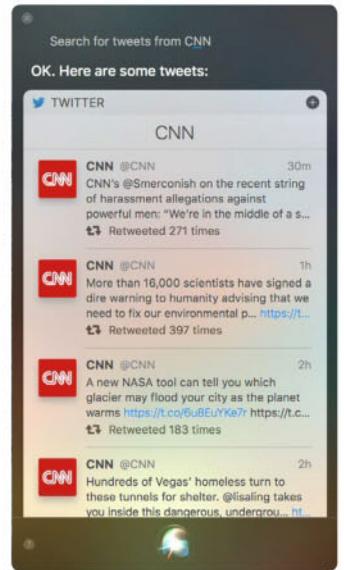
Siri can be just as useful on a Mac as an iPhone

Siri on the Mac can be a hugely advantageous feature if you use your Mac a lot. It enables you to quickly check for answers to questions and to effectively have access to all of the information the internet has to offer. You can add reminders, create calendar entries and message others using just your voice, but there are many other features within Siri that you may not be aware of. It is only when you look below the surface that you realise just what Siri can do and we hope to give you some pointers on where to start. You can take these examples as just the tip of the iceberg because the deeper you look into Siri's features, the more useful things you will find. For more serious tasks, Siri works even better on the Mac than it does on the iPhone.

“You can add reminders, create calendar entries and message others using just your voice”

1 Search for tweets

Provided you have a Twitter account linked in macOS you will be able to ask Siri to search for tweets by a user name or look for those related to a particular subject. It is much more efficient than using Twitter directly. An excellent feature.



2 Manage your Mac

Diving into Settings and clicking a few options is not a huge hardship, but it may seem so after you have used Siri to perform the same actions. You can ask Siri to interact with many parts of your Mac and the results are quite surprising when you first try to use them.



Every situation covered

Siri is in tune with you and your Mac

Seeing it all

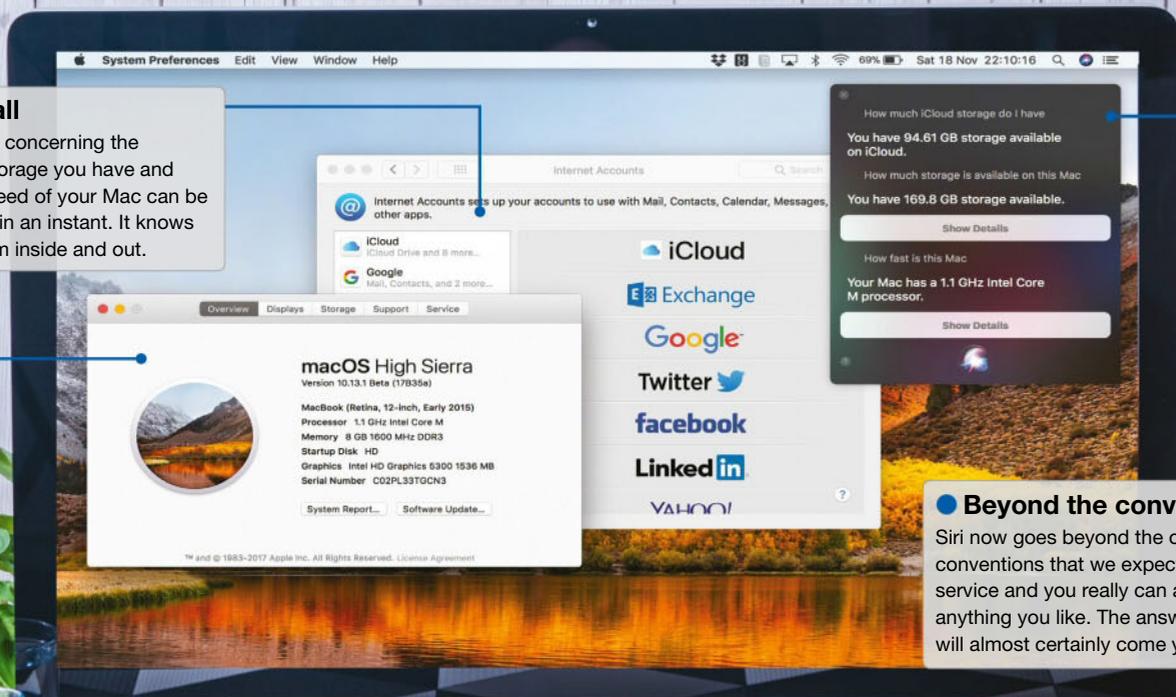
Simple questions concerning the amount of free storage you have and the processor speed of your Mac can be answered by Siri in an instant. It knows your entire system inside and out.

In the system

Siri is able to work with your Mac and let you do many things such as open apps and change settings that would otherwise require entering various screens to accomplish. It's a big time saver.

Beyond the conventions

Siri now goes beyond the original conventions that we expect of the service and you really can ask almost anything you like. The answers you need will almost certainly come your way.



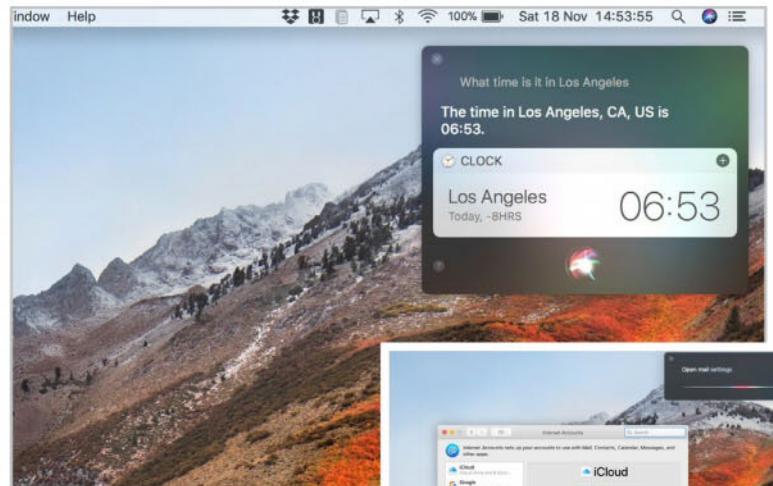


3 What's that song?

Siri can offer the same benefits as Shazam on a Mac without the need to even have the app installed. If a song is playing in the background you can ask Siri, "What is this song?" and your Mac microphone will listen and then magically present all of the details you need.



With the imminent release of HomePod, you can expect Siri to grow in stature and usefulness in the near future. It's improving all the time.



7 Ask almost anything

Try to avoid any preconceptions as to what Siri is able to offer and try asking for anything you like. Of course Siri cannot cover every possible use, but you may be surprised at the variety of uses it can offer. You can ask for the time in another country, for example.



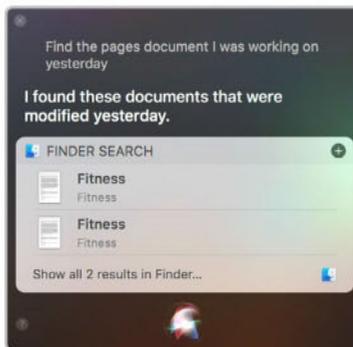
9 Control your apps

To make changes to the way apps behave, you can ask Siri to open the settings for the app in question which is much easier than searching for the screens you need to access. You can also open apps using Siri and almost use your Mac hands-free for many everyday tasks.



8 Use the time

Siri uses natural language in ways that you may find hard to believe at times. Ask Siri to find a document you were working on yesterday by simply including the related app in the question. A list of file matches will appear which can be clicked to open immediately.



10 Get instant help

If you run into problems with your Mac or any Apple product you can ask Siri for help. For example, stating that you have forgotten your Apple ID password will be answered with the link you need to go to for help. It's like having your own personal support representative.

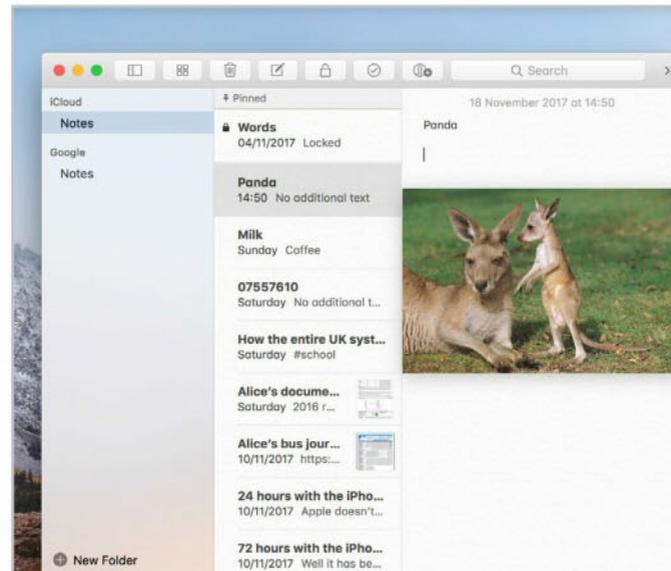


4 Access system information

Siri is also embedded in a Mac in a way which means that it has access to the system data you need. You can ask how much storage you have left on your Mac and even how much iCloud space you have available. The results are presented in an instant.

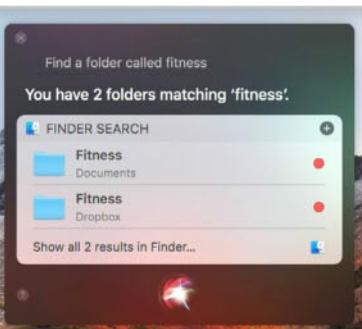
6 Save media results

If you ask Siri to display images of an object or an animal, you will be given a set of results derived from a standard internet search. You can then click on any image and drag it to the Notes app or many other apps and use it for your own purposes. Very clever integration.



5 File and folders

As your time with any Mac grows so will the number of files and folders stored on it. This can make finding specific items tricky, but again Siri can help. Ask Siri to find any file or folder by name and clickable results will be presented. Siri really can do so much.



Create a new ringtone

Fashion your own ringtone out of an iTunes track



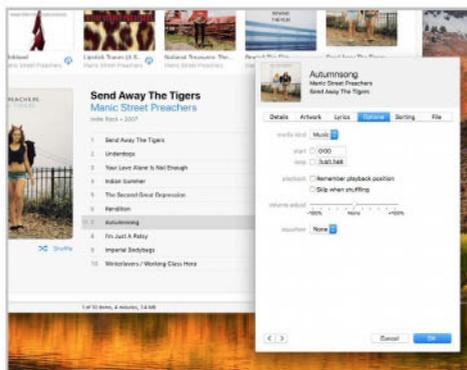
As you are probably aware, there is a whole wing of the iTunes Store dedicated to ringtones for your iPhone. However, if the tone you want isn't available or you simply want to save money and create your own version then you can do this relatively easily in your Mac's iTunes app. All you have to do is right-click on the song you want to use, choose the 'Get Song Info' option and then set the start and end points of the track to essentially 'trim' it down to a tone-friendly size that can be looped as your phone rings. We will guide you through the process in more detail now, but it is a handy way to create quick and easy ringtones that you can even gift to friends and family.

Step-by-step How to make your own ringtones



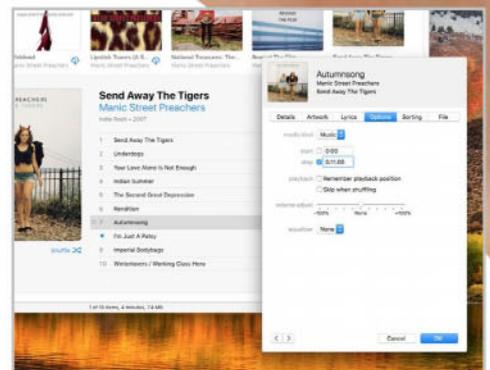
1 Select a song

Go to your iTunes library and select the song that you would like to use for your ringtone. Once done, right-click on the song and then choose 'Song Info' from the menu.



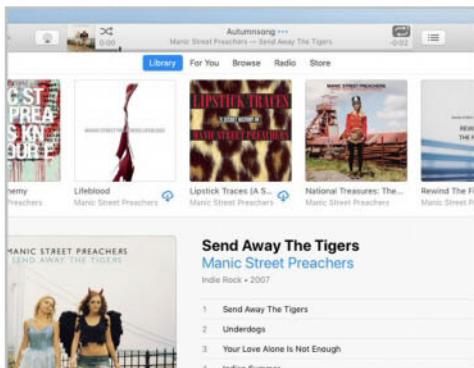
2 Select start/end times

In the Song Info window, click on 'Options' and you will see 'Start' and 'Stop' options – these help you define the section that you would like to use for your ringtone.



3 Enter times

If you want to use the beginning of the track as your ringtone then you only have to tick the 'Stop' box and enter the time to stop in the field next to it.



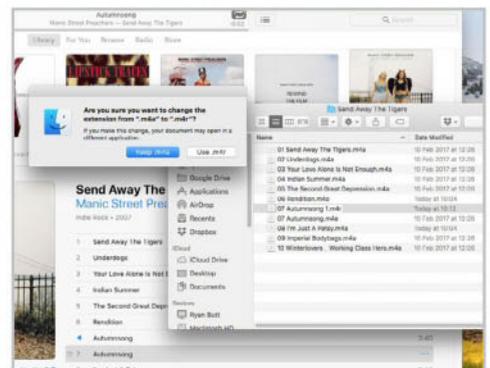
4 Loop song

Once you have defined your timestamps, click 'OK' and then loop the track (click the icon to the right of the playback window twice) to see if it works as a ringtone.



5 Convert the track

When you are happy with how well the track meshes together when looped, highlight it and then go to File>Convert>Create AAC Version. iTunes will now duplicate the track.



6 Delete parameters

Go back to the original track, right-click and choose 'Get Song Info' and click 'Options'. You can now remove the timestamps to revert the track back to normal length.



Remember you can also change the way the track sounds by right-clicking on it and choosing Get Song Info>Options and then selecting an equaliser.

Ringtone knowhow

Make a tone out of any track

Loop the new track

In order to find out if your chosen song section works as a ringtone, click on this button twice (so that the '1' is displayed in the top-right corner) and then play the track to loop it.

Copy to your iPhone

When you are happy with how your ringtone sounds, you will need to change the file extension and then copy it to your iPhone. Simply connect it and click on this icon to get started.

Start and end

By selecting the 'Start' and 'Stop' points of your song you will essentially be 'trimming' it down to a ringtone-friendly length that can be looped. You can select these points under the 'Options' tab.

Choosing a song

You can turn any song from your iTunes library into a funky ringtone. When you find a track to use simply right-click on it and then choose 'Get Song Info' to get started.

Knowledge base

Deleting the edited track

When you have finished copying your ringtone you should delete the shortened track from your iTunes library. To do this, right-click on the track and choose 'Delete From Library'. However, if you haven't yet copied the song then it is important to only delete the track from your iTunes library, not your Mac hard drive – so when you see a message asking if you want to move the file to the trash, click 'Keep File'.

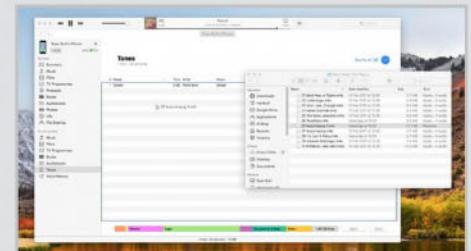
Sync the ringtone

Now that you have created the ringtone, you will need to get it onto your iPhone. First of all, right-click on your newly trimmed track and choose 'Show in Finder'. You should now be able to see the track in a Finder window (it will be in the same album folder as the other tracks from the same album, probably with a '1' after its name). Click on the name of the new track and then edit the last three letters of the file from .m4a to .m4r. Confirm the prompt and connect your iPhone.



1 Go to 'Tones'

Once your iPhone is connected, click on the iPhone logo in the iTunes app (next to the content menu in the top-left corner of the interface) and then, in the sidebar, under 'On My Device', click on 'Tones'.



2 Drag and drop

You can now simply drag and drop the ringtone that you have created from the Finder window to the Tones screen in iTunes. Once it has copied, eject your iPhone and then go to Settings>Sounds>Ringtone and select it.

EVERYTHING YOU CAN DO WITH APPLE MUSIC

Quick close

To get back to the previous screen when listening to a track, you can tap the arrow in the top-left of the iPhone screen, but it's quicker to just swipe down on the album cover.





When you are asked to choose artists at the start of the Apple Music experience, you'll automatically subscribe to them in Connect.

The complete guide to Apple's audio streaming service

Apple has always been passionate about music. In the years since the launch of iTunes and the iPod, Steve Jobs and, more recently, executives like Eddy Cue, have played everything from Coldplay to Foo Fighters during demos of new products. Jobs was famously a huge fan of Bob Dylan, and arguably, Apple has done more than any other company to help the music business progress, adapt and stay relevant in the 21st century – and Apple Music has been instrumental in this.

First launched in 2015, this music streaming service gives any iPhone, iPad, Mac, PC or Android user access to a massive selection of songs to stream and download. The service offers a free three-month trial for everyone, during which you can listen to almost any track in the iTunes library, and download for offline listening. You'll have access to millions of songs, and the service will provide you with personal recommendations from people who know and love music – so your playlists won't just be a random collection of songs, but a curated list of tracks that sound great together and tell a story. There's also a worldwide radio station called Beats 1 – bringing the latest tracks and interviews

with top artists, and playing 24 hours a day. With studios in Los Angeles, New York and London providing around-the-clock listening, you'll find that there's always something to listen to if you don't fancy diving in and browsing the catalogue manually.

Since launch, Apple Music has been tweaked and refined to become even more user-friendly, and new features such as your own personal profile let you find, connect and share music with your family and friends more intuitively. In this feature we'll show you how to get the most from Apple Music, and why it's well worth the monthly investment after those initial three months are up.



“There's always something to listen to if you don't fancy diving in and browsing the catalogue manually”

Apple Music

£9.99/\$9.99
per month
(single user)
£14.99/\$14.99
(family account)

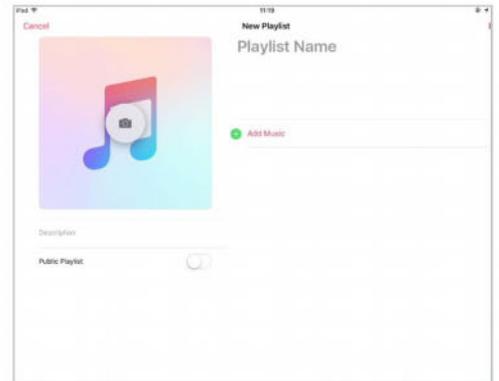
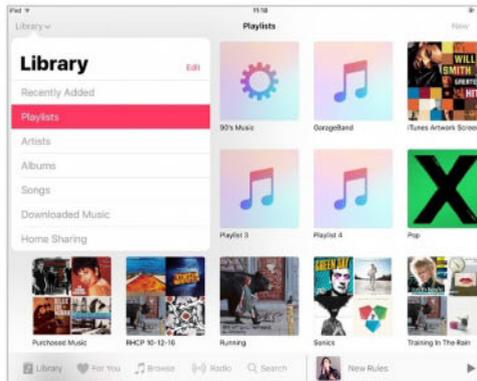
Get access to over 40 millions songs to stream or download from iTunes, along with music recommendations, an always-live radio station and a line to the stars.

Discover new music

Get recommendations for awesome new tracks to try

Because you now have access to over 40 million songs, it's probably about time you started making some playlists with all the new tracks you can listen to. And thanks to the iCloud features within iTunes and Apple Music, any playlists you create will also be synced between your devices – so the next time you pick up your iPhone or iPad, you'll be able to listen to the playlist you made on your Mac without any fuss. It's a brilliant system that takes advantage of the fact that all the songs are streamed – but of course you can download any songs you like to your Mac if you want to access the playlist when you're not on Wi-Fi, too.

Step-by-step Create your first playlist

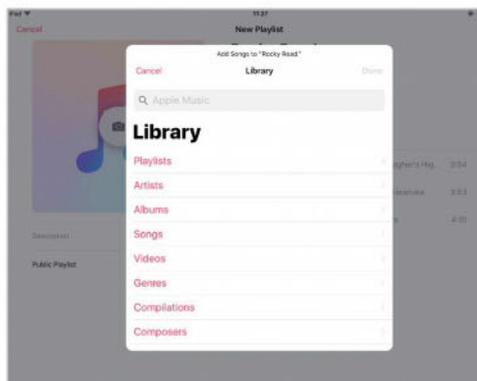


1 Create a new playlist

Tap on the 'Library' tab and then tap on the arrow in the top-left corner of the screen and choose 'Playlists' from the dropdown menu and tap 'New' in the top-right corner.

2 Set up the playlist

You can now tap on the generic 'Playlist Name' text to rename it, make the playlist public (more later) and start adding music by tapping on the green '+' icon.

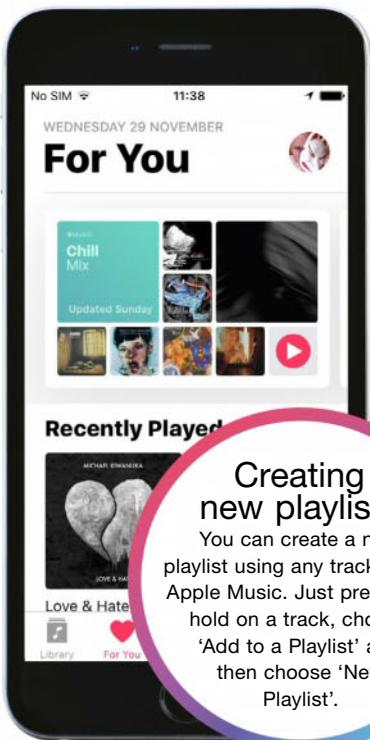


3 Adding tracks

You can add songs from your own library or tap keywords into the Apple Music search field to find and add tracks from the sprawling online library.

4 iCloud syncing

Any playlists that you create on any of your devices will be automatically synced to the other devices without you having to lift a finger.



Creating new playlists
You can create a new playlist using any tracks from Apple Music. Just press and hold on a track, choose 'Add to a Playlist' and then choose 'New Playlist'.

Build your own radio station

Customised radio stations are a big part of Apple Music – you can use a song or an artist to create a curated station full of recommended tracks, sort of like a Genius playlist but hand-picked from 40 million songs on iTunes, not just those in your library. In our tests we found the service to be much more accurate to our tastes than a service such as Spotify.



1 Set the base

To start your radio station, you'll first need to find a base to build it around. You can choose either a single track or a favourite artist – both will get you started.



2 Start a station

Tap the ellipsis button next to the song or artist, then choose 'Create Station'. Apple Music will load up a station and play you a track based on your artist or song of choice.



3 Refine the choices

If a song pops up that you really love and you want to hear more songs that are similar, you can tap the Star icon on the left and choose 'Play More Like This'.



There are a selection of pre-made stations that you can listen to within the Radio section – and they'll be updated regularly by Apple.

Control Apple Music with Siri

Use your voice to control your music collection

You can tell Siri to play the biggest songs from a specific year – for example, you can say:

“Play the top songs from 1995”

and you'll instantly get the top chart hits from there.

You can ask Siri to play a specific playlist, or a specific radio station, too – just say:

“Siri, play my Superorganism radio station”

You can even ask Siri to create a station based on any artist or track.

If you want to listen to a specific track, you can just request it; but Siri is smart, so you can say:

“After this song play Holy Mountain”

and the track will be added to the Up Next list.

If you really love a song you're listening to and want to make sure you can listen to it even without a data connection, just tell Siri to:

“Add the new Noel Gallagher album to my library”

If you love a song that's popped up while you're listening, tell Siri:

“Play more songs like this”

and Apple Music will note that you like it and proceed to add similar songs to your playlist.

If you're just not sure what it is you're listening to and you don't want to mess about touching your screen, simply ask Siri:

“What am I listening to?”

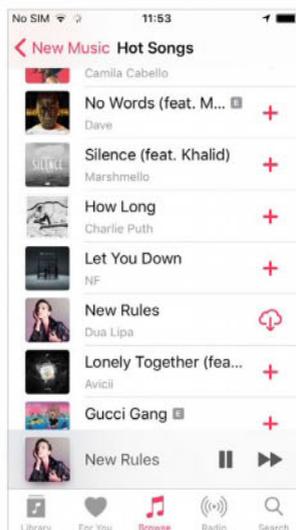
and you'll instantly be told what track is currently playing.



Save albums for offline listening

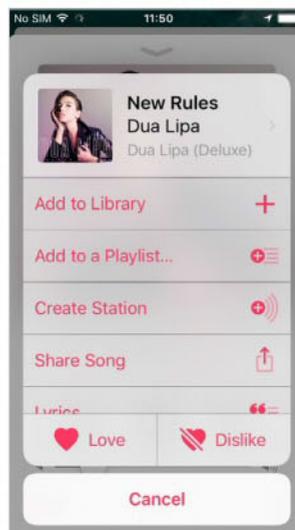
Download songs to your iPhone for listening anywhere

For the most part, Apple Music is a streaming service that enables you to listen to tracks through an internet connection, so for the majority of time none of the music is actually stored on your device; it simply plays from the cloud. But as an Apple Music subscriber, you are able to download any of the 40 million available songs to all your devices, so if you leave a Wi-Fi zone, or want to save some data on your iPhone contract, you can still enjoy your favourite tracks whenever you want.



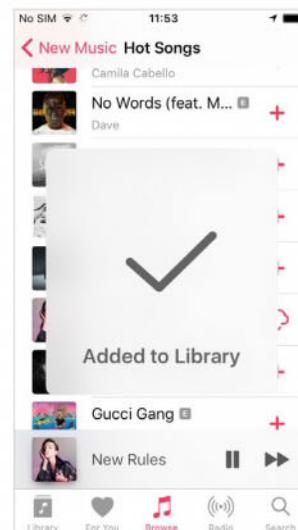
1 Find a track

Go to the 'Browse' section and search for tracks that you would like to listen to offline. When you find one, tap the '+' icon next to it to add it to your Library.



2 Alternate method

Alternatively, if you are listening to a track, tap on the playback controls to go full-screen then tap the '...' icon and choose the 'Add to Library' option.



3 Track added

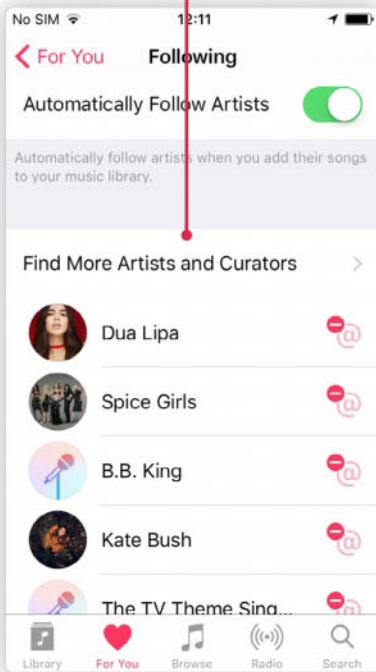
You will then receive a visual notification that the track has been downloaded and added to your library. You can also delete tracks in much the same way.

Connect with your favourite artists

Get updates from the artists you love

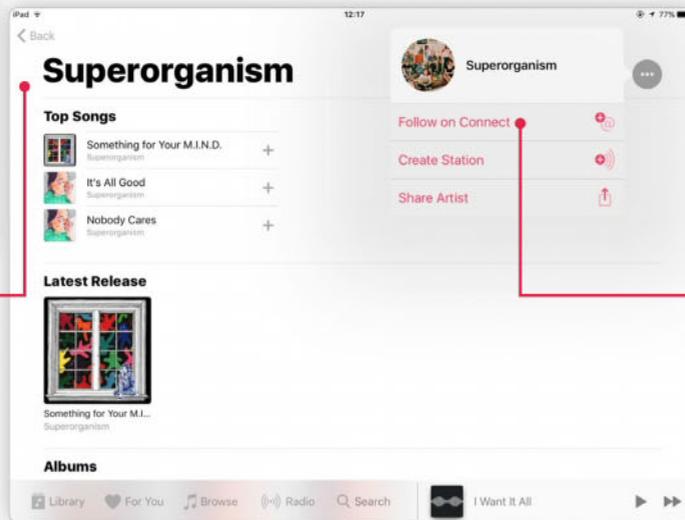
● How to connect

You will connect with artists simply by adding their music to your Library (as long as the option is enabled), but you can also manually follow artists by tapping on 'For You', scrolling down to the 'Connect Posts' section then tapping Follow>Find More Artists...



● Artist info pages

If you type the name of an artist into the Search field then you can access a main artist page by tapping on their name in the search results. This page will list their Apple Music output and you can scroll down the page to find out more information about them and see similar artists.

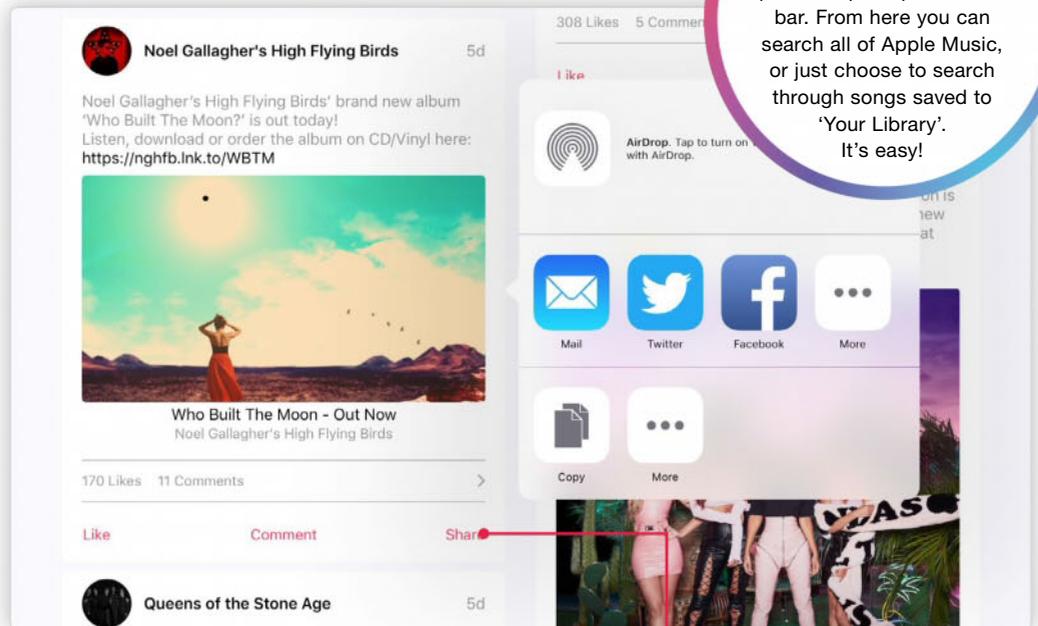


● Share the story

When you scroll down to the Connect Posts section within 'For You', all of the latest posts from the artists that you follow will be listed. Under each post will be options to 'Like', 'Comment' and 'Share'. If you tap the latter option then you will be able to share the story via Mail, Twitter, Facebook or other selected mediums.

● Choose to follow

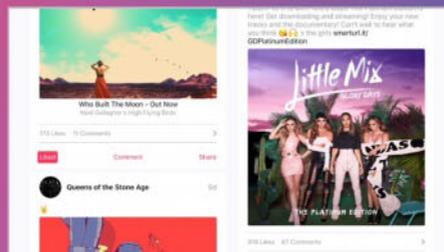
You can also choose to follow a particular artist from their info page. Simply tap on the '...' icon in the top-right corner and then a pop-up menu will display several options including 'Follow on Connect' – tap this and they will be added to your feed, accessible in 'For You'.



Leave likes and comments

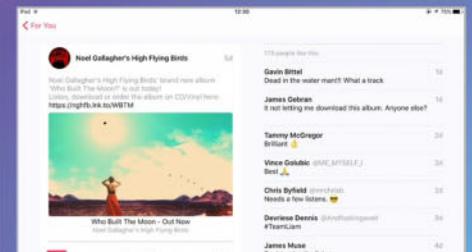
When an artist posts a new status, photo or video, it isn't a one-way conversation. Artists can share what they've been doing, but Connect is all about keeping you in touch with musicians and sharing your feedback and excitement with them. With this in mind, Apple has made sure that you are able to Like and Comment.

“Connect is all about keeping you in touch with musicians and sharing your feedback”



1 Like it

If you like what you see, you can literally like what you see. Click the 'Like' option to like a status or artist – you will be able to see how many likes the post has got in total above.



2 Make a comment

You can also share more detailed thoughts – click the 'Comment' option to open the Comments section and you will be able to add your own and read all of the others.



Click or tap on the Search button and you'll instantly be presented with a list of trending searches, so you can see what's popular.

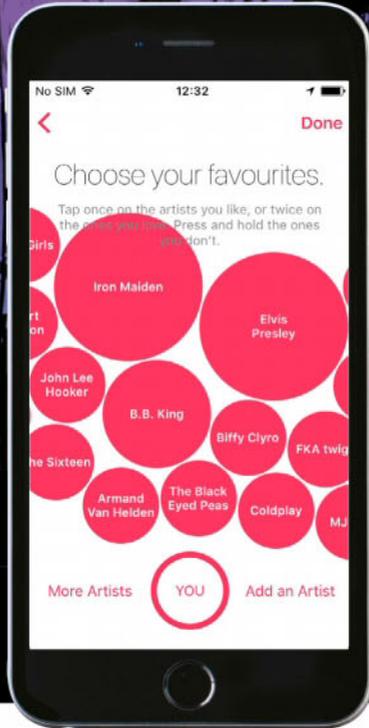
Personalised for you

Access a customised music selection with Apple Music

Get music recommendations

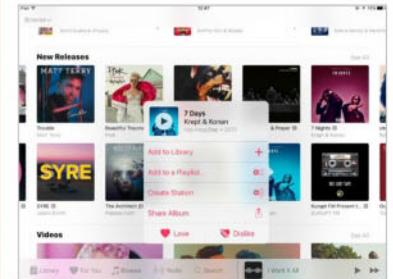
One of the brilliant things about Apple Music is that it will help you find new music that you'll love, based purely on what you already listen to. When you tell the app what genres and bands you like, Apple Music will make suggestions based on those choices – and they're suggestions from people who are real music experts.

Your feedback, even if you don't like a song, will help to make the suggestions in Apple Music even better – but the system will also pay attention to what you play. Even if you don't specifically choose a music genre, if you listen to it a lot you'll start getting recommendations to match it.



Share music with the world

You can now share your music unlike ever before with Apple Music – whether you're sending playlists to friends on Facebook or posting an album that you love on Twitter.



1 Share music

No matter what you're listening to, you can share it. Just long-press on a song or album and a menu of options will appear.

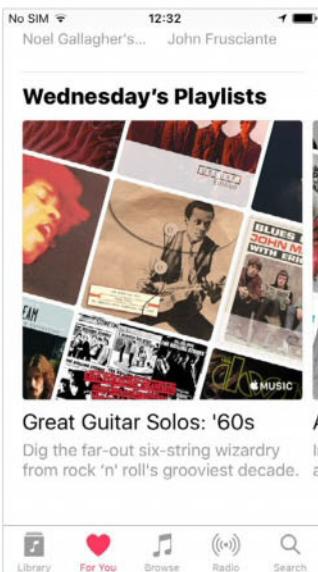


2 Sharing options

Choose the 'Share Song' or 'Share Album' option from the menu and the usual methods of sharing will be presented. Tap one, eg Twitter, and you will share in-app.

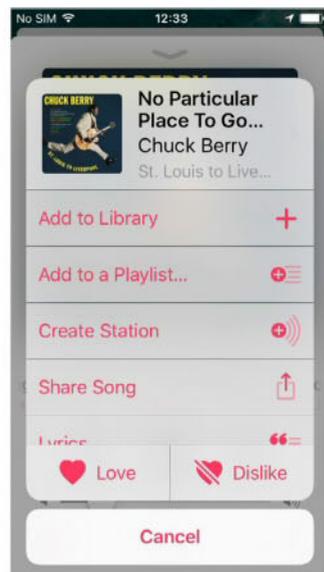
Manage curated playlists

Find and refine playlists to get what you want



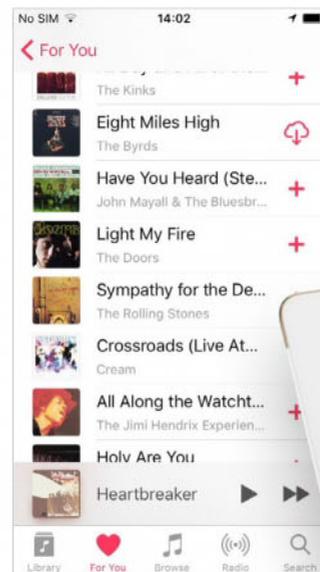
1 Choose a playlist

In the 'For You' section, you'll find a range of suggested playlists from the Apple Music team, as well as from trusted names like Rolling Stone, Pitchfork and Mojo.



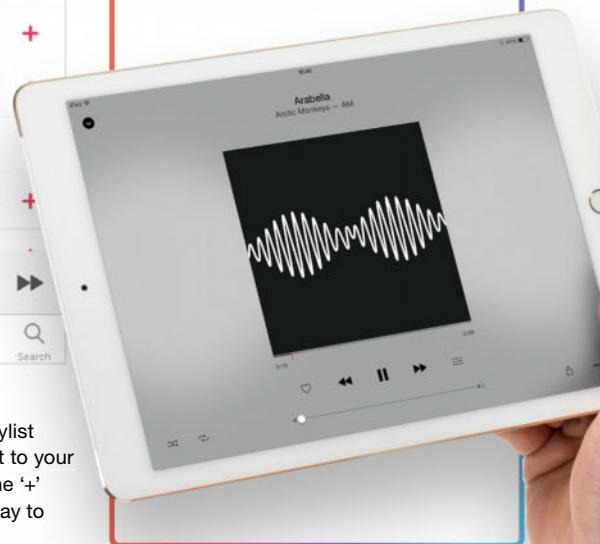
2 Love it

Choose a playlist to start listening. If you like a particular song, tap 'Now Playing' at the bottom of the screen, then tap the '...' icon followed by the heart to 'love' it.



3 Add tracks

If you like a song from a playlist then you can instantly add it to your own library by tapping on the '+' icon next to it. It's a great way to discover new music.



Create a music profile

The easy way to connect with others and share your favourite music

The Music/iTunes app in iOS 11 and macOS High Sierra has added a new profile feature that lets you better connect with your family and friends through Apple Music and see what

everyone else is listening to. Creating a profile makes you identifiable and findable to family and friends and lets you easily share playlists and the music that you are currently listening

to. Once you have set up your personal profile, which we will guide you through here, you will then be able to click on the '...' icon within your profile and share it with other people.



Internet Radio

In the iTunes 12.7 interface the 'Internet Radio' section has been added to the sidebar in Library so that you can access your favourite iTunes radio stations more easily.

1 Click 'For You'

After updating iTunes to version 12.7, launch it and click on 'For You' at the top of the interface. You should now see the 'Start Sharing with Friends' flash in the top-right corner – click on this.

2 Get Started

Now click on 'Get Started' on the pop-up and you can enter information into your own personal profile. Your name should already be entered so add a username to accompany it.

3 Add a photo

Click on the round photo icon and then select a location to obtain an image from in the left-hand column. Choose 'Camera' and you can take a new picture through your Mac's camera.

4 Choose who follows

By clicking 'Next' your details will be checked and if your username/handle is already in use then you will have to enter a different one. Next, choose who can view your activity.

5 Find and follow friends

You will be invited to sign into your various social media accounts to find people you know and tailor your iTunes notifications. Once you have finished, click 'Done'.

6 Good to go

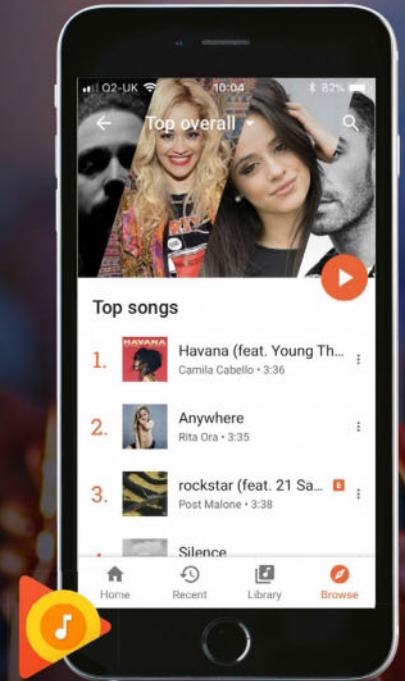
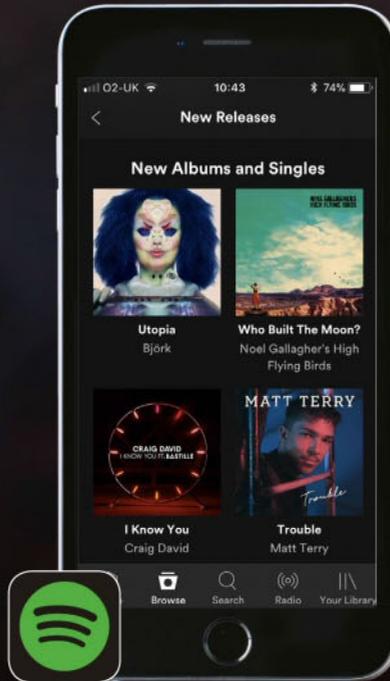
Your iTunes profile will now be all set up and whenever you click on the 'For You' tab, it will display your profile information along with the music that you have recently listened to.



When people 'follow' you in Apple Music, click on their profile pictures to see what they have been listening to recently.

Which streaming service is right for you?

Pick the perfect streaming service for your tastes



Apple Music

£9.99/\$9.99 per month
£14.99/\$14.99 per month (family plan)

+ Three months free

Every iPhone, iPad or iTunes user can get a free trial of Apple Music for three months, which is completely unlimited. This means you can listen to all the music you want for 90 days without having to pay up – and at the end if you decide to take the plunge, all your settings and choices will remain in place.

+ Get it anywhere

Thanks to the power of iCloud, all your choices will be synced to all your devices. So if you create a new playlist or radio station, it will appear instantly on all your other devices. And with an Android app also available, even those without iPhones can enjoy the power of the Apple Music library.

+ All the family

One of Apple Music's biggest advantages is the ability to share a subscription with up to six family members. If you already have Family Sharing set up within iCloud, when you start an Apple Music subscription they will also get all the benefits for just £14.99/\$14.99 a month.

- Audio quality

The only downside of Apple Music compared to competitors is that the audio quality is slightly lower when streaming. While Google Play Music and Spotify offer 320Kbps quality, Apple Music is just 256Kbps AAC audio.

Spotify

£9.99/\$9.99 per month,
then £5/\$4.99 per extra user

+ Playlist perfect

One of Spotify's biggest strengths comes in its playlists. Spotify is built around playlists, and creating them is incredibly simple. When you create a playlist, it will be synced across all of your devices, so no matter what device you're using, the tracks you want are always available.

+ Beat-matching

One of Spotify's brilliant, and relatively new, features is its ability to track the number of steps you're taking per minute when you go for a run with your iPhone. It can track the beats, and match tracks to your speed, giving you a smooth rhythm when you're exercising.

+ Free with ads

Spotify is the only one of these three that offers completely free listening to the full library – as long as you're willing to listen to an ad every now and then. You can sign up for an account for free, and don't have to pay a penny unless you want ad-free listening (and Spotify's other benefits).

- No music videos

While Google has YouTube integration, and iTunes has the Connect section to show off the latest music videos from your favourite artists, Spotify sadly doesn't offer any music videos at all. You'll have to make do with the other options built into the app and head to YouTube for ad-supported music videos.

Google Play Music

£9.99/\$9.99
per month

+ Free curated radio

Google Music requires a monthly subscription, but Google recently announced that anyone will be able to use its curated radio stations for free. These function much like Apple's – pick a song or artist and the app will create a station for you. An ad or two will play, then you can start listening.

+ iTunes compatibility

You can use a small Google plug-in on your Mac to sync all of your iTunes music to Google's cloud storage. The tracks will then be added to your library, and you'll be able to access all your tracks through Google Play Music on your phone or other device – no more iTunes required!

+ YouTube Music Key

Along with your monthly subscription to music, you will also unlock YouTube Music Key. This enables you to play millions of music videos for free, and keep their music playing in the background while you do something else on your phone, or even play offline.

- Trial minimum

This is where Google comes last; while Spotify offers a 60-day trial and Apple's three-month trial period beats even that, Google's trial is just a measly 30 days. This means that you only get a month of free music to decide whether or not you want to continue with the service and shell out for the monthly cost.

Get Creative with your iPhone X

You can create magnificent things with an iPhone X

Creative computing has for a long time been the domain of the desktop with the requirement for powerful processors and large screens being paramount in the minds of many creative people. Computing has grown in power and shrunk in size over the past decade, however, and the iPhone X is the culmination of Apple's ambitions which have reached the level where you can create a variety of things in the palm of your hand without the hardware ever getting in the way. The results are entirely professional and look like they have come from a powerful desk computer, but most of all app developers have given you all of the tools and ease of use you need to build anything from scratch in a variety of imaginative ways. You may be surprised at what is available.



1 Professional home videos

iMovie is an iconic movie editor from Apple which when utilised on the powerful and capacious iPhone X is capable of letting you create professional-quality movies and trailers with little knowledge required. The end results are almost always better than you may expect.

2 Create a logo

Logo Maker-Logo Creator takes the process of creating a logo for a website or any other project and makes it as simple as can be. You are offered a variety of designs within the large iPhone X display to gain context and then you can add your personal touches. Child's play.

Make music anywhere

Tap, test and play with Medly

Moving instrumentation

You can use these tabs to move parts of the song and to change instruments as required. The multiple layers come together well to help you build complex and beautiful music on your iPhone.

The background

Using this simple icon you can change the tempo of your track, the key, scale and much more. Create the track first and then make these adjustments later for a more rounded effect.

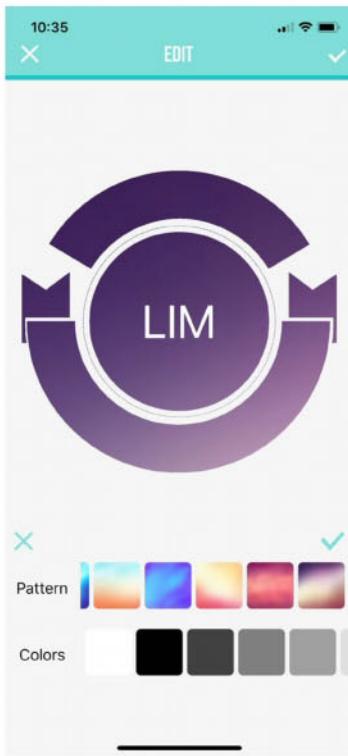
Tap to place

Simply tap on the grid to place a new note. You can then move it, elongate it and continue to add notes using just your hearing to understand what should go where. It really works.





The vast majority of iOS apps will offer 95 per cent of what their Mac equivalents offer, only in a smaller and more touch-centric manner.



3 Develop stunning images

Pixelmator is a professional-grade image editor that offers a selection of powerful tools including special brushes, artwork capabilities and layer management within an interface which suits the large iPhone X screen perfectly. For stunning images, this is the best tool.

4 Capture perfect moments

The iPhone X camera is pretty special, but it is designed to allow the simplest experience. If you download Manual, however, you can control the shutter, ISO, focus and exposure compensation and then save the photos in RAW PNG. Your photos will look better than ever.



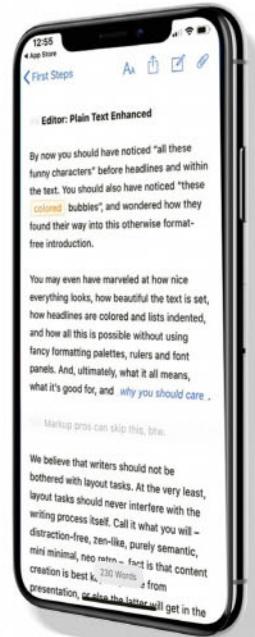
5 Sketch and paint

Who would have thought that you could create original artworks from just your phone screen? Well, download Adobe Photoshop Sketch and you will be amazed at how powerful the tools are and how easy they are to use on an iPhone X. It's a mini canvas that's always with you.



6 Write a novel

Ulysses is a subscription-based service and app which lets you write novels, essays and longer pieces in one place. You can create eBooks from your work and most importantly you get to work in an environment which takes away all of the visual distractions instantly.



7 Make sweet music

There are countless music creation apps on the App Store, but Medly is a good example of a tool that works particularly well on the iPhone X. The big layout lets you visually see the scope of your tracks and the actual creation process is set perfectly for originality.



9 Build a website

Weebly lets you build and update a website on just your iPhone X. You can design everything using drag and drop and then create an online store to monetise your online presence. The results look professional and could potentially start a lucrative venture for you.



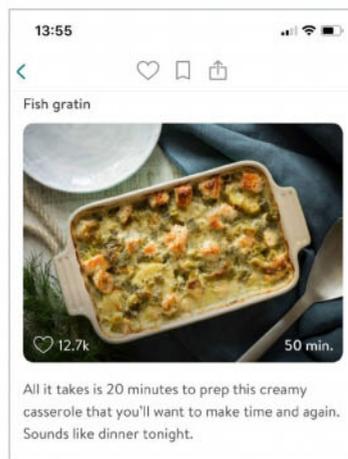
10 Create anything

The more you search, the more creative apps and uses you will discover for your iPhone X. From presenting beautiful quotes, which Quote Maker is perfect for, to doing almost anything else with images, music, art and text, there will be many solutions available to you.



8 Cook beautiful food

With Kitchen Stories you can learn new recipes and cook beautiful food in minutes using the simple and very well-presented instructions. You can then take the ideas and experiment to educate yourself in the ways of offering new and delicious meals every single day.



Enjoy iPhone X enhanced Clips

Clips lets you express yourself in many ways and with the iPhone X you can take things even further

Difficulty

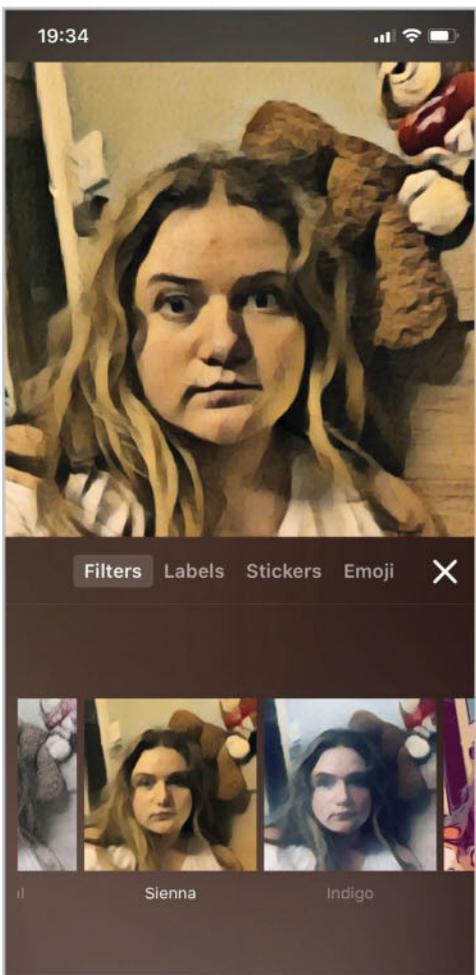
 Time needed

10

Apple developed Clips to take special effects in social videos to a whole new level and there is no doubt that the app achieved that instantly. However, this has now been taken even further with the launch of the iPhone X and some dedicated special effects that are truly spectacular when time is taken to create them, and which take full advantage of the camera capabilities in Apple's flagship phone. Here we're going to take a closer look at what's now possible in Clips...



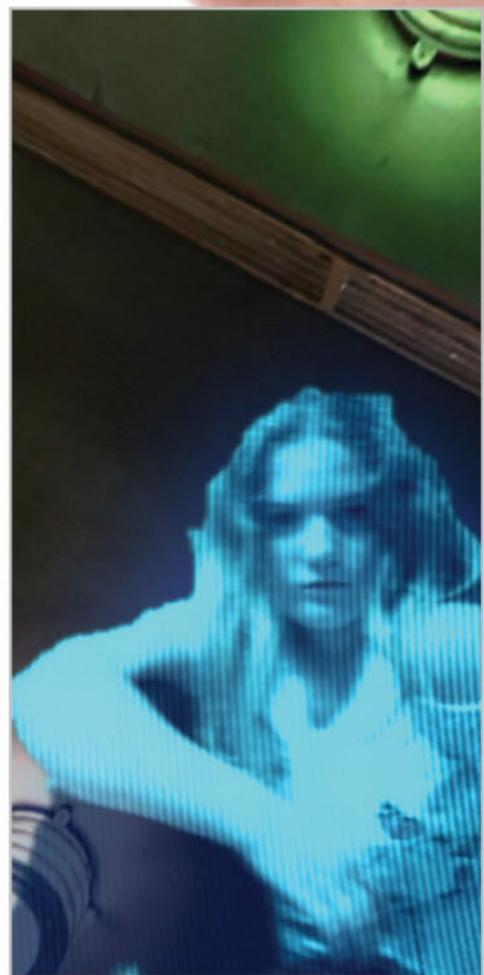
Step-by-step Share your virtual world



1 Use the classics
 When you open and mess around with the features within Clips, you should take some time to experiment with the filters on offer. There are many options to play with.



2 Add some extras
 You can also add emojis, stickers, labels and have the app automatically subtitle what you are saying within the video clip. The end results are impressive.



3 Be somewhere else
 If you are using an iPhone X, tap 'Scenes' and scroll through the options on offer. For some, such as 'Mega-Destroyer', you will see your face with a green screen effect.



Live Titles are particularly enticing. As you speak you will see the words printed onscreen in the exact font you want to use.

A visual feast

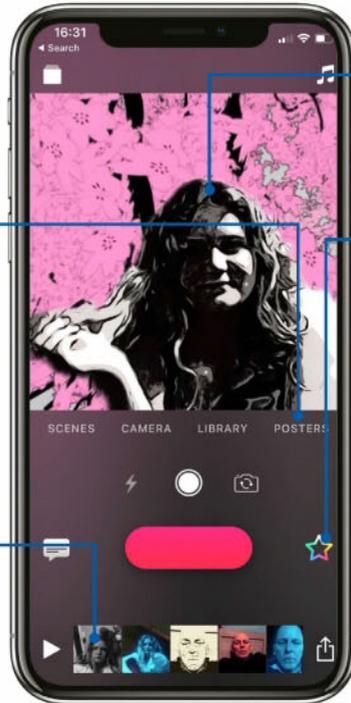
Complex features simplified

● Simplicity works

Just because you have an iPhone X does not mean you need to use Scenes every single time. The 'Posters' offer a selection of entertaining backdrops to work with.

● Just one clip

Try to only create one clip at a time to keep the experience positive and timely. There are more than enough tools to make each clip unique.



● Real-time previews

Everything you do in Clips is displayed in real time so that you can be sure the end result will be worth sharing. It really is great fun to use.

● Static media

The static media works well to offer a contrasting clip that will appeal on multiple levels. Use the features that work with the subject matter of the clip.

● Knowledge base

In the detail

There are typical Apple touches throughout Clips. It can recognise who you share videos with most often, and even who is in the clip so that they will be presented first for the quickest possible sharing experience. The entire focus is on creation and as such it is a perfect example of Apple usability.



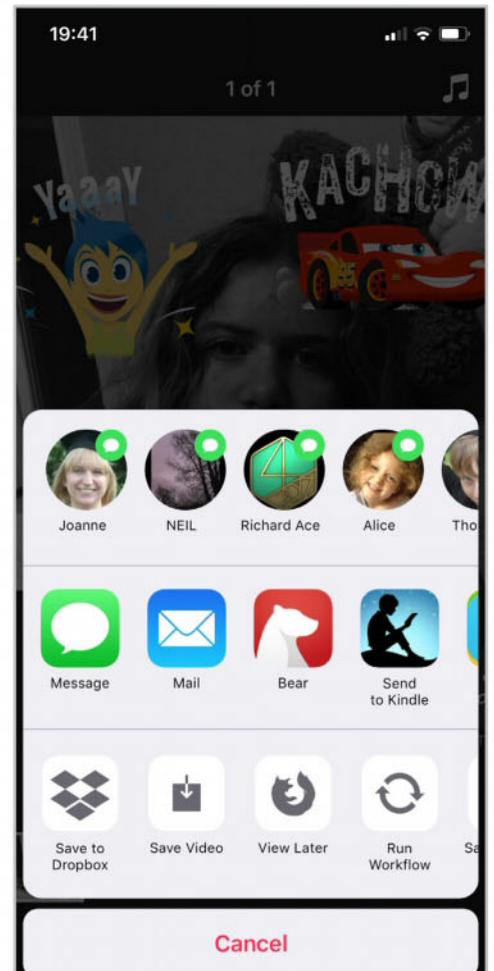
4 Step back

Unlike most videos you make with Clips, you will need to step back a bit using scenes to let the background work in context. Some scenes look extremely realistic.



5 360 degrees

Remember that these scenes offer a full 360 degree experience so try to move around while capturing a clip. It will make the video much more fun for the viewer to watch.



6 To the limit

Anyone can share video clips on any social network. Clips is there to let you use your imagination to create something unique so don't be afraid to experiment a little.



Settings



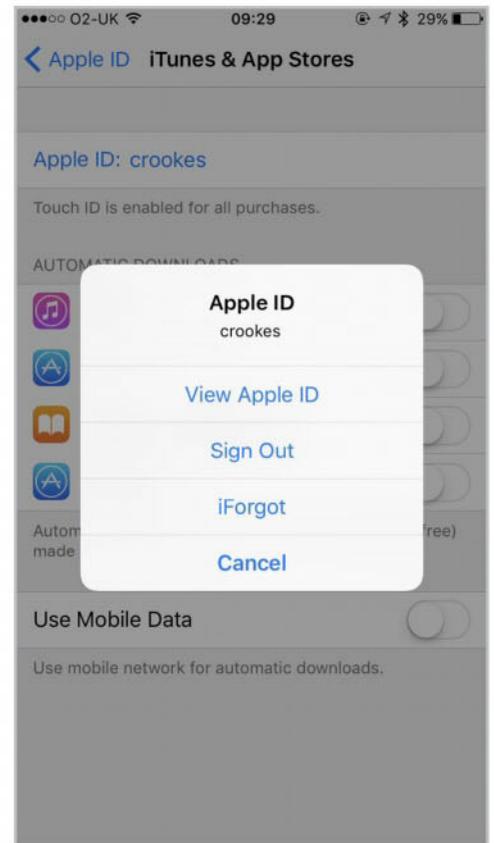
Review and cancel your subscriptions and memberships

Are you paying monthly for services that you are not using? Apple lets you manage and cancel them



Many of you will have taken out a subscription to a service only to find you don't use it that often. You really should cancel any you're not taking full advantage of – here we'll show you how to amend your Apple Music, Spotify or Apple News subscriptions, for instance, while putting a stop to little read newspaper subs and ongoing payments to apps. Don't hesitate. Some subscriptions renew if you don't cancel within 24 hours of the renewal date, forcing you to pay for that extra period.

Step-by-step View and cancel your subscriptions



1 Open Settings app

In order to view your subscriptions and make amendments to them, you first need to go to the Settings app and click your name which you'll find at the top of the main screen.

2 Select App Store

Tap the entry for iTunes & App Store. On the next page, you need to tap your Apple ID. Make sure it is the ID associated with the subscriptions that you want to manage.

3 View Apple ID

A pop-up window associated with your Apple ID will now appear. Select the option 'View Apple ID' at the top and sign in either using your password or using your Touch ID.



If you change your mind after cancelling a subscription, find it in the expired section, tap it, and reactivate by selecting a payment option on the screen.

How to manage your subscriptions

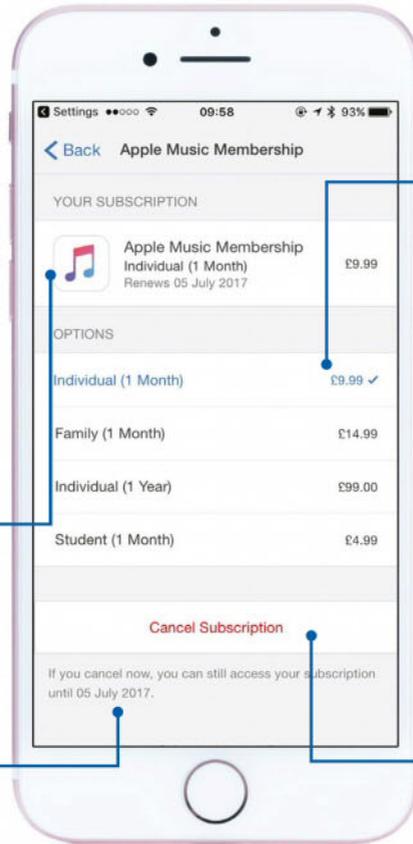
It pays to keep an eye on your subscriptions to avoid paying or overpaying for underused services

● Viewing subscription details

At the top of the Settings page for each subscription or membership, you will see details of your current terms. Here, for instance, we see we have a monthly subscription to Apple Music at £9.99.

● Note the date

The date will tell you when your actions will take place. Change the payment tier and it will come into effect after that day. Cancel and you'll be able to access the sub until that day.



● Payment tiers

You may decide you want to keep the membership but move to a different tier of payment. If this is the case, then you can select a different option here.

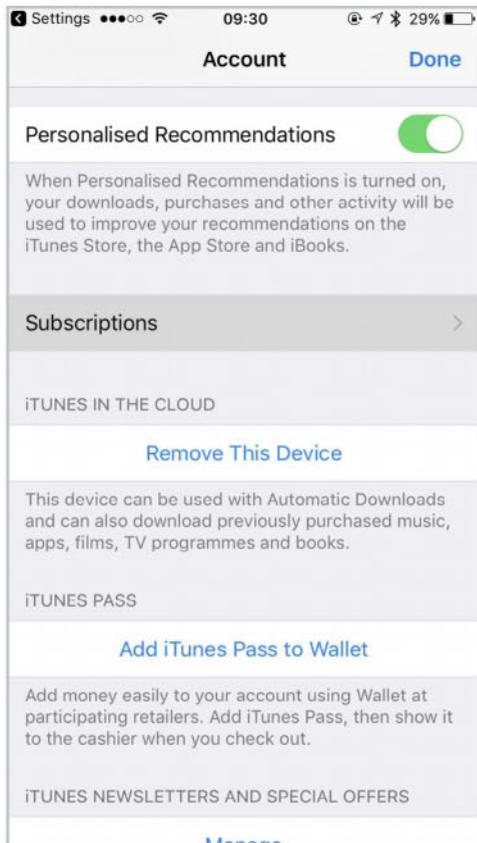
● Knowledge base

Subscriptions not showing?

You may not see details of some of your ongoing subscriptions. Perhaps you were expecting to see Netflix appear but it's nowhere to be seen. If this is the case, then it's more than likely you will have signed to the service direct rather than through iTunes or an app. In that case, you will need to go to the company's website, log in and cancel or amend from there.

● Cancel subscriptions

As we noted in the main tutorial, you can click 'Cancel', in which case you will be bringing the current subscription to an end.



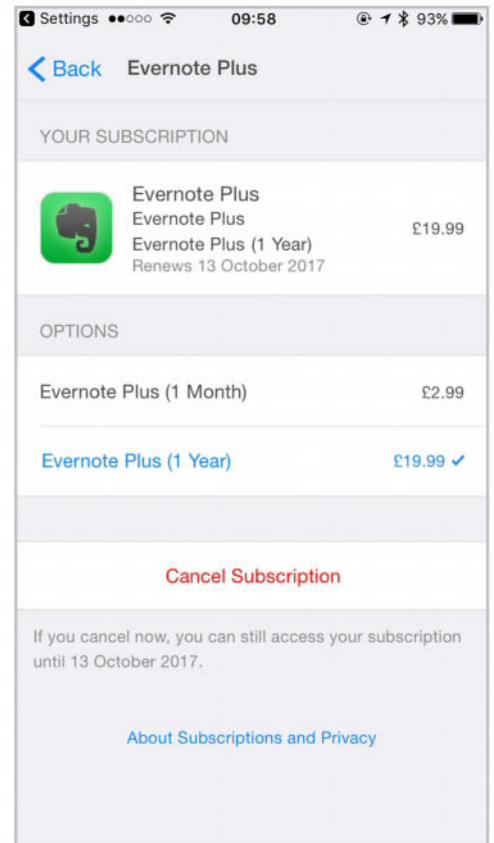
4 Go to Subscriptions

This next page details information associated with your Apple ID. In order to view your subscriptions and memberships, scroll down and select the entry marked 'Subscriptions'.



5 Check your subs

You can now see any subscriptions that you have active along with any that have expired. It is possible to resubscribe to lapsed subs and cancel those you don't want any more.



6 Select a sub

By tapping on a subscription, you can view its current terms and see any available payment tier options. Tap 'Cancel' to bring it to an end. It will then appear under Expired.



Settings

Preserve your iPhone roaming data

Is your mobile data being eaten up far too soon? Then take these quick and easy steps for making it last longer



Many of us are on mobile phone contracts that only permit a finite amount of roaming data usage a month, and if you use up this allocation then you will either have to purchase more or do without roaming data altogether for the rest of the month. Thankfully there are many ways in which you can make adjustments to your iPhone settings to help preserve your data allowance and make it stretch further, such as disabling push notifications and background app refresh. Rather annoyingly, many of the options and settings that eat into your mobile data are enabled by default and lay tucked away deep within the Settings app so that they are easily missed.

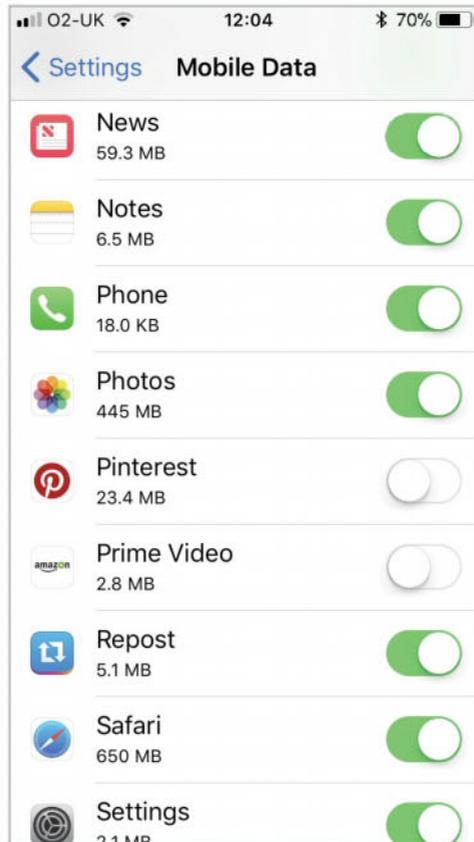


Step-by-step Save your roaming data allowance



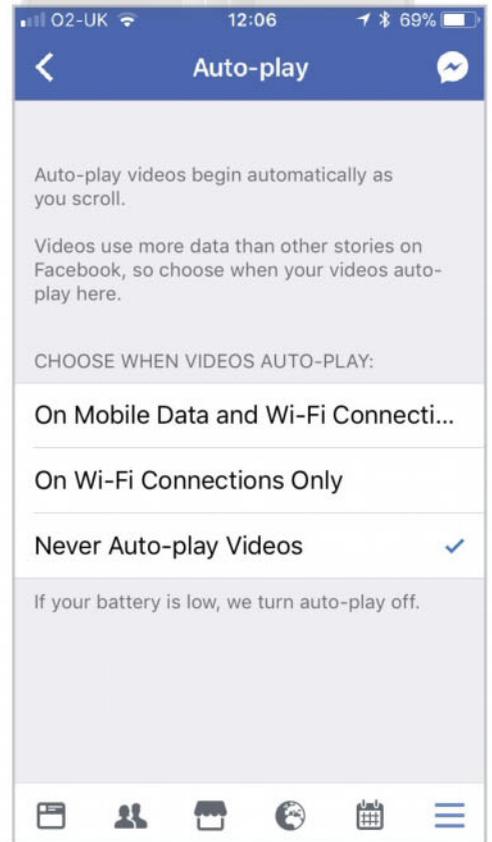
1 Disable Wi-Fi Assist

Go to Settings>Mobile Data and scroll down to see if the 'Wi-Fi Assist' feature is on. This utilises your mobile network if your Wi-Fi coverage is poor so be sure to turn it off.



2 Stop apps

Listed in the Mobile Data section in Settings are all of the apps that use mobile data. If you are getting close to your limit, go through the list turning off all non-essential apps.



3 Turn off Auto-Play

Facebook has a feature that auto-streams videos as you scroll through your timeline. In the app, go to Settings>Videos and Photos and change to 'Never Auto-Play Videos'.



Twitter and Instagram also have Auto-Play options so open up the respective apps' settings and disable them to preserve your roaming data.

Mobile data tips

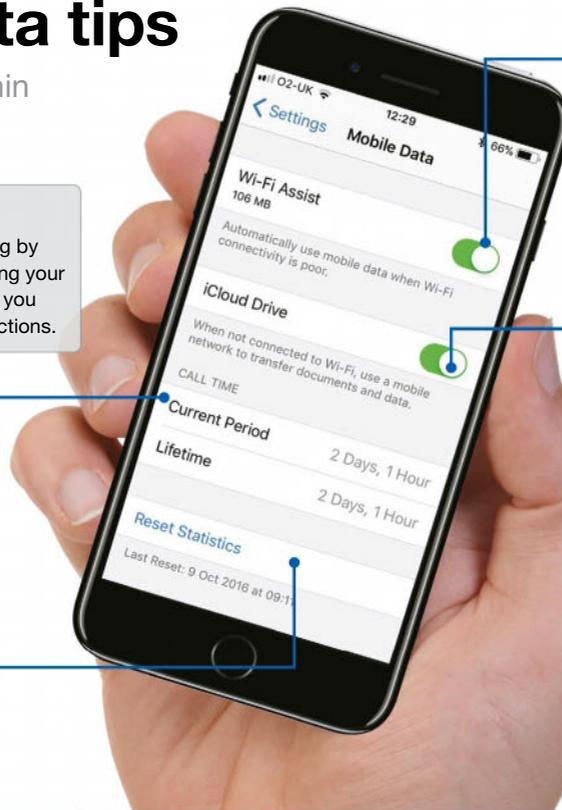
Options to be aware of within your Mobile Data Settings

● Monitor data usage

Keep tabs on how much data you are using by going to Settings>Mobile Data and checking your current period to get an idea of how much you are using, then you can start making restrictions.

● Reset data

It is good practice to get into the habit of resetting your mobile data statistics (preferably on the day that your data allowance resets) to accurately monitor your usage.



● Wi-Fi Assist

This pesky option can be extremely detrimental to your data as it calls on mobile data to strengthen the signal of poor Wi-Fi coverage. Just turn it off and move to find better Wi-Fi coverage!

● iCloud Drive

If you are short on data then forget about using iCloud Drive while out and about. Turn off the option here and make sure you turn off options such as Photo Stream too.

● Knowledge base

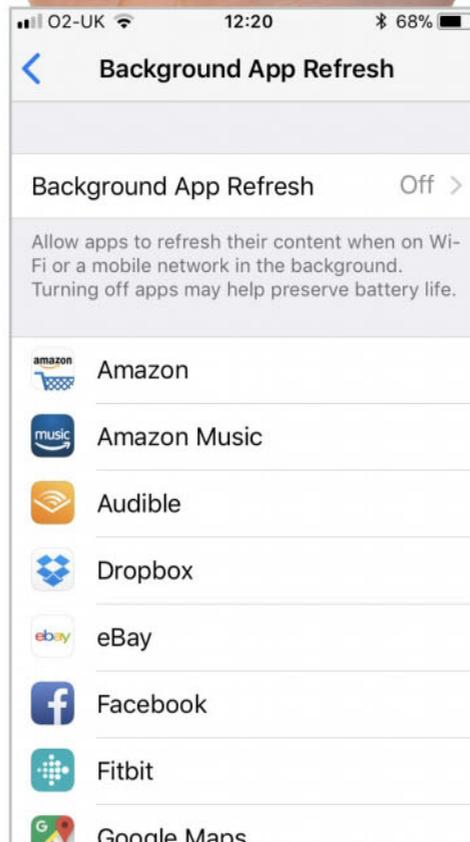
Use Reading List

Many of us use up mobile data by reading stories on the web during work commutes. However, if you get up five minutes earlier, access your favourite news site, tap on the stories that you want to read and then hit the share button, you can then use the 'Add to Reading List' option to store offline versions of the stories.



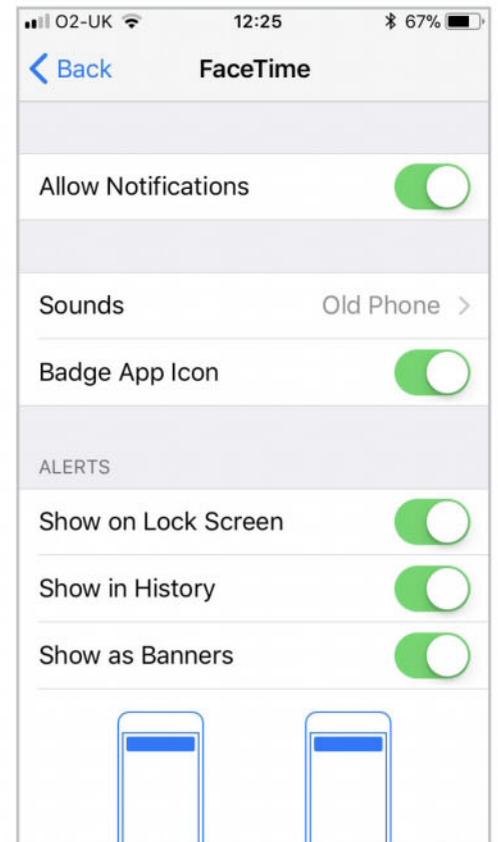
4 Stop fetching mail

Having your iPhone automatically search for new emails can consume your data. Go to Settings>Accounts & Passwords>Fetch New Data and turn off 'Push'.



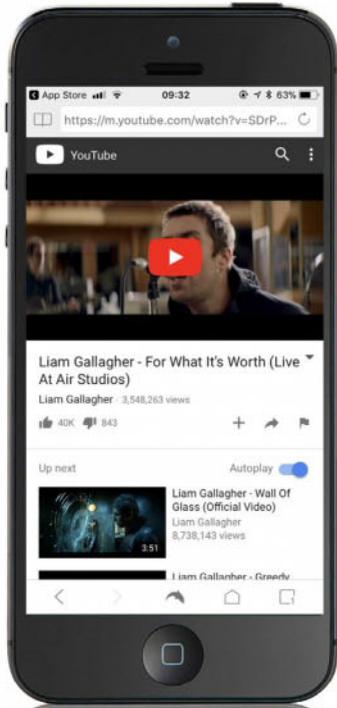
5 Stop apps refreshing

You also don't want apps refreshing content in the background. Go to Settings>General>Background App Refresh and either turn it off completely or limit it to key apps.



6 Turn off Push Notifications

Take measures to stop your apps from sending you needless notifications. Go to Settings>Notifications and you can determine which apps notify you and how.



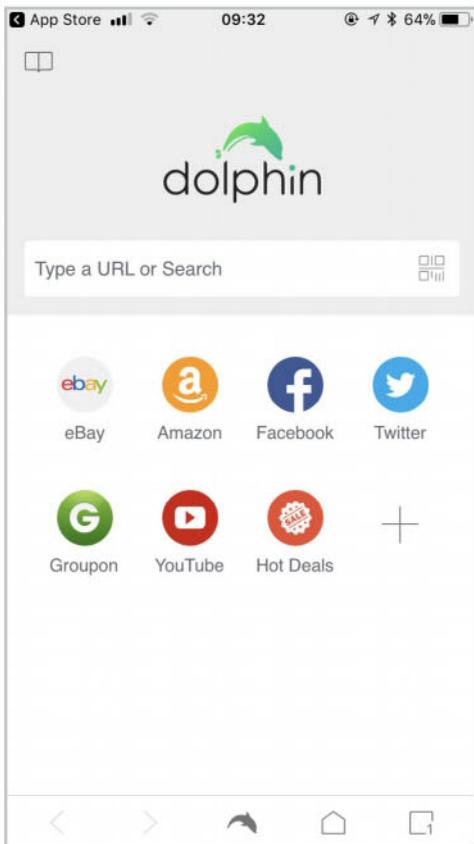
Play a YouTube video in the background

You are able to play songs from YouTube while you get on with other tasks on your iPhone or iPad



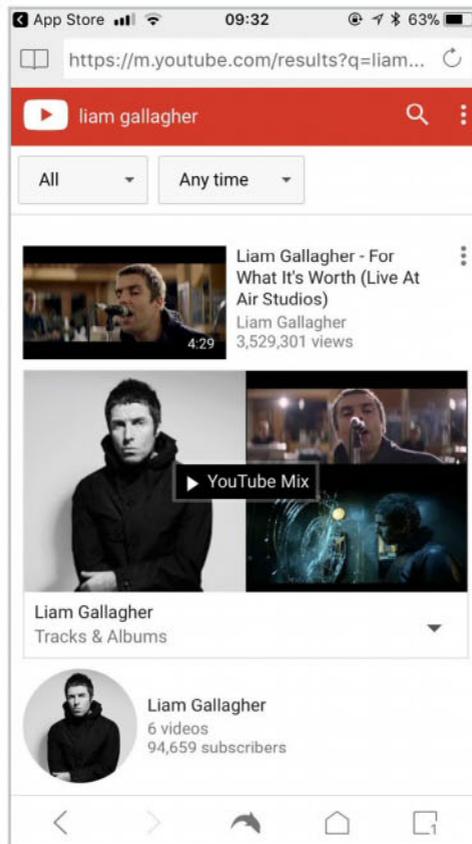
YouTube has a streaming service that, among other things, lets you play the audio of any video in the background of a mobile device. The downside is you have to pay for the service and, while it is available in the US, it hasn't yet reached the shores of the UK. The good news, however, is that there is another way to stream music in the background on your iPad and iPhone. What's more, this method is free. To get it to work, you must download the Dolphin Browser. That's because the technique used to work with Safari but Apple patched it away. It means there's every chance pressure will be placed upon Dolphin to do the same. Until that day, though, you can stream away and do other stuff, which is music to our ears.

Step-by-step Listen to songs via YouTube



1 Download Dolphin

The ability to play YouTube videos in the background of an iDevice only works via the Dolphin browser app. Install it from the App Store (search Dolphin Browser) and open it.



2 Visit YouTube site

Type **youtube.com** into the address bar and decline any attempts to take you to the YouTube app. Now search for a song and tap it. When you're ready, press Play.



3 Background play

Press the Home button (or swipe on iPhone X). View the Control Centre by swiping up and you'll see the name of the song. Tap Play to resume the song in the background.

Special offer for readers in **North America**



Subscribe today for \$135!*

FREE
resource
downloads
in every
issue

“The ultimate creative companion for all Mac, iPad and iPhone users”



Offer
expires
31 Jan
2018!

Order hotline **+44 (0) 344 848 2852**

Online at www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk/ICR/USA2

*Terms and conditions This is a US subscription offer. You will be charged \$135.45 for an annual subscription. Prices and savings are compared to buying full priced print issues. You will receive 13 issues in a year. You can write to us or call us to cancel your subscription within 14 days of purchase. Payment is non-refundable after the 14 day cancellation period unless exceptional circumstances apply. Your statutory rights are not affected. Prices correct at point of print and subject to change. Full details of the Direct Debit guarantee are available upon request. UK calls will cost the same as other standard fixed line numbers (starting 01 or 02) and are included as part of any inclusive or free minutes allowances (if offered by your phone tariff). For full terms and conditions please visit: bit.ly/magtandc Offer ends 31/01/18



10 must-know WhatsApp secrets

Things you probably never knew you could do in the popular messaging app

WhatsApp is a brilliant free app that makes it quick, easy and free to communicate with other people, regardless of what smartphone platform they are using. In WhatsApp you can conduct group chats, send media and much more besides, but even hardcore WhatsApp users probably don't know the full extent of what you can do with it – so we figured it was high time we delved a little deeper to unearth some meaty secrets.

Here we show you how to change your chat background, how to save dates, how to bookmark messages and even how to disable those infernal blue ticks... so read on to become a true WhatsApp genius!

“You can have group chats, send media and more, but even hardcore users may not know the full extent of what you can do”



1 Hide the blue ticks

Enabled by default, the blue ticks show everyone else that you have read the message – but if you don't reply instantly it can cause resentment. To hide the blue ticks go to Settings>Account>Privacy and then turn off the 'Read Receipts' option. They are always sent for group chats, though.

2 Hidden text formatting

If you want to place more emphasis on certain words then you can bold them out or add italics or strikethroughs. To make a word appear in bold, simply add a "*" either side of it (eg: *star*), to italicise a word place an underscore ("_") either side and for a strikethrough add a '-' either side.

Your WhatsApp settings

Essential things to know

Starred messages
When you press and hold on a message and tap the star icon it will be saved to this very section. Great for key info and handy dates, all of the messages you 'star' will be listed here.

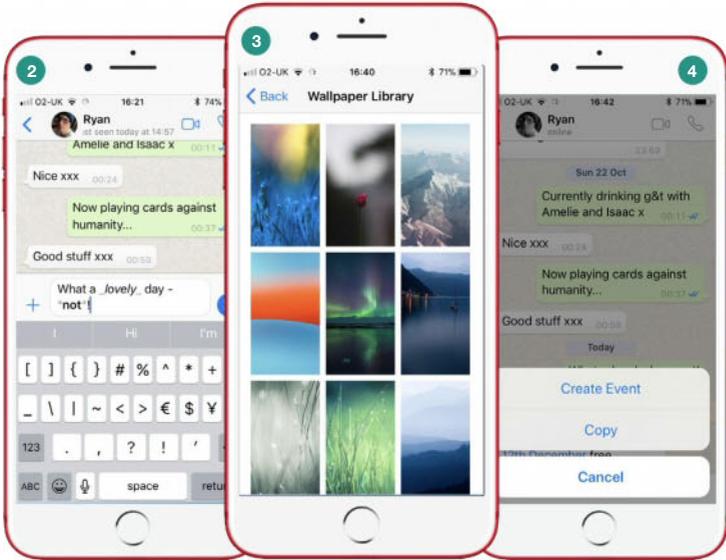
Chat options
This is where you go to change your chat wallpaper and back up your chats. Also, it is worth noting that photos shared on WhatsApp are shared to your Camera Roll by default, so you can disable that here too.

Data and Storage Usage
If your iPhone operates on a strict data limit then it is worth tapping on this option to limit all media downloads to Wi-Fi only, thus preserving your data for more important things.

Account info
This is where you will find various options relating to Privacy, Security and more. You can disable the read receipts (blue ticks), share your location and block contacts in the Privacy section.

Knowledge base
Broadcast messages
If you want to send the same message to a group of friends without it being an actual group chat (and everyone being privy to everyone else's responses) then you can by going to Chats>Broadcast Lists>New List and then adding in the various contacts. Any messages you then send to the group will appear as though you have sent it to them individually.

If your message has a blue tick then press and hold on it and swipe to the left. You will then see the exact time it was read.



3 Change your chat wallpaper

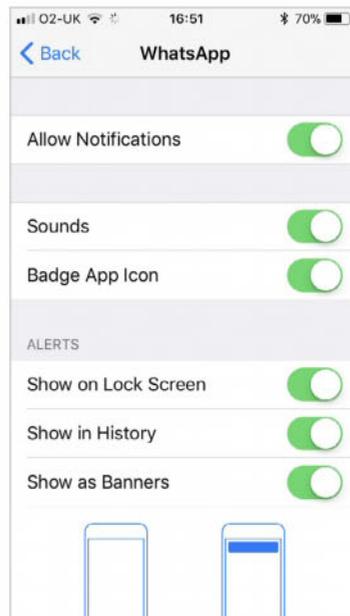
If you fancy sprucing up your WhatsApp chat backgrounds then go to Settings>Chats and tap on the 'Chat Wallpaper' option. You will then be able to peruse different options from the Wallpaper Library or choose a solid colour. If you want to get really personal then tap on 'Photos' and pick one from your gallery.

4 Save dates

Certain aspects of WhatsApp are woven into iOS 11. For example, you can send WhatsApp messages using Siri and, if someone sends you a date, you can add it to your Calendar app. To do this, simply press and hold on it and the 'Create Event' option will appear – tap on this and then give the go ahead for WhatsApp to access your Calendar.

6 Hide previews

If you are showing someone something on your iPhone then the last thing you want is for a rude WhatsApp message preview to appear onscreen! Luckily, as with the Messages app, you can turn this off by going to Settings, then Notifications>WhatsApp and either turning off Notifications or scrolling down and setting 'Show Previews' to 'Never'.



5 Preserve your data

If you are on a limited data plan and don't want WhatsApp media eating into your precious data allowance then it's a good idea to go to Settings>Data and Storage Usage, and then under the 'Media Auto-Download' section you will be able to switch between 'Wi-Fi and Cellular' or just 'Wi-Fi' for your media downloads.



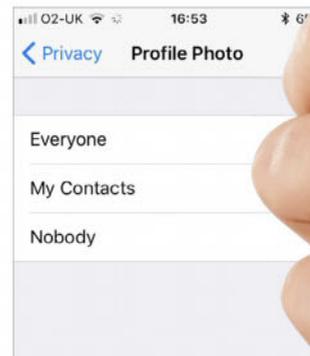
7 Bookmark your important messages

If certain WhatsApp messages contain important details that you would like to remember then simply long-press on the specific message and then tap on the star icon. This will bookmark the message so that you can jump to it quickly and easily by going to Settings>Starred Messages.



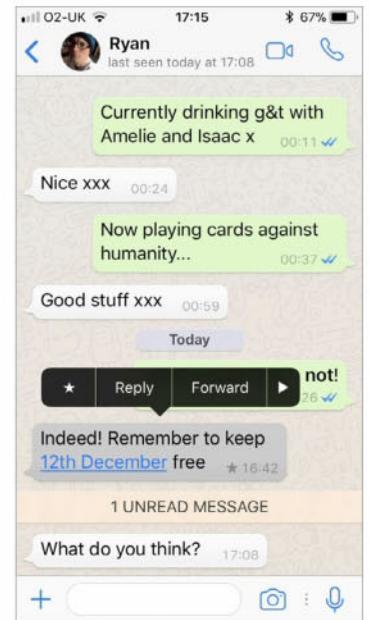
8 See recent chats

You can see when you have unread messages from WhatsApp contacts without opening the app thanks to iOS 11. Swipe right from your Home screen, scroll through your widgets and then tap 'Edit'. You can now add the WhatsApp 'Recent Chats' widget by tapping the green '+' icon. You can then swipe right from your Home screen to access it.



10 Hide your profile picture

It may be that you have been added to a new group and you don't want everyone included to be able to see your profile picture, but you can turn it off quickly and easily enough. Just go to Settings>Account>Privacy and then tap on the 'Profile Photo' option.



9 Access quick features

In iOS 11 you can also access quick features of WhatsApp using 3D Touch. If you have an iPhone 6s or above then you can press down hard on the WhatsApp icon and access key features such as Recent Chats, Camera, Starred Messages and more. Tap an option to jump straight in.





Travel back and forth in time on Apple Watch

Want to see what lies ahead or what has gone past? Forget time machines and check your Watch instead



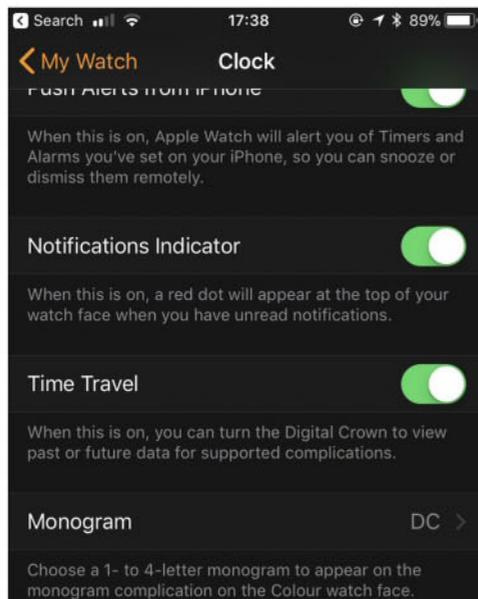
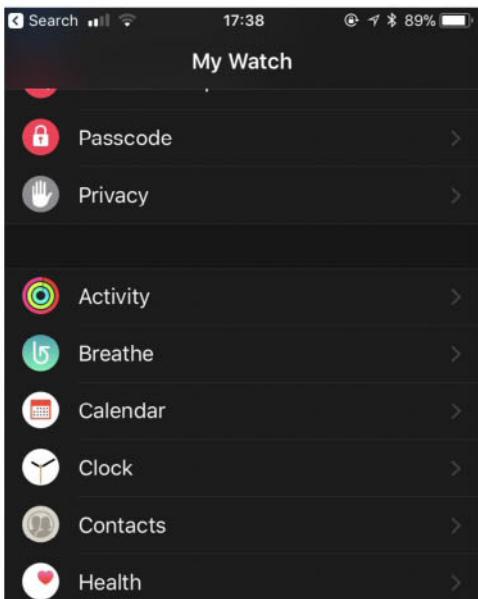
Your Watch is capable of many things: making and receiving phone calls, checking messages, playing music and keeping an eye on your health. But did you know it was also capable of time travel and that all you need to do is twist the Digital Crown back and forth to achieve it? We're not pulling your leg either.

Now, there are limitations of course: you're not about to turn Marty McFly and physically go back to the future. What you can do, however, is move the time and date forward and back on your Watch. Anything that would have been displayed at those times will then be shown.

This is great for seeing what's in store in terms of your calendar events, reminders and weather. You can also look at what has gone by in the recent past. There is even a chance for some fun thanks to a neat little feature that lets you interact with the phases of the moon or the position of the sun and planets. Here's how it works...



Step-by-step Activate and use Time Travel



1 Open Watch app

The Time Travel option is turned off by default. To activate it, you must first open the Watch app on your iPhone and tap the 'My Watch' icon at the bottom of the screen.

2 Select Time Travel

Scroll down the screen until you reach the list of apps installed on your Watch and tap 'Clock'. You'll now see an option for Time Travel. Tap to ensure this is turned on.

3 Grab your Watch

Turn your attention to your Apple Watch and go to your Watch face. It will display the current time. But, as long as it allows it, you are ready to go back and forth in time.



When you are done going back and forth in time, just press the Digital Crown and the watch face will go back to the present.

See the phases of the moon

Time Travel is a particularly effective and fun feature when you are using the Astronomy watch face



● Going forward

Turn the Digital Crown forward and you'll see how many hours or days ahead you are by simply looking at this indicator in the bottom-left corner.

● Earth rotation

As you go back and forth, note the exact time top-left and also marvel at how the Earth rotates and shows the position of the Sun through its depiction of light and dark.

● Select Astronomy

For this to work, you need to select the Astronomy watch face. You will find this by pressing and holding on your watch face before swiping left or right. Tap to select it.

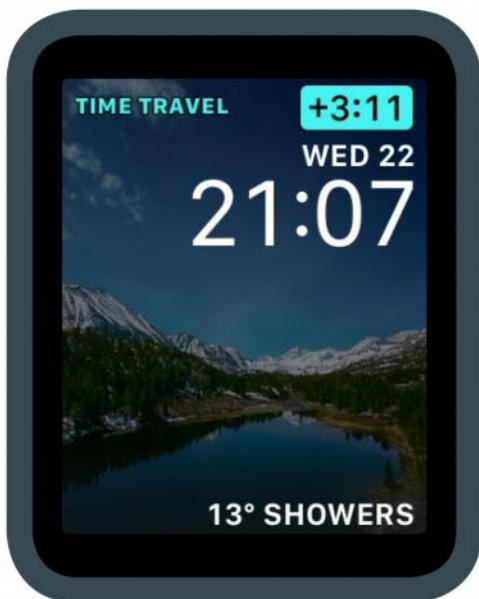
● Moon and planets

Before you touch the Digital Crown, this bottom-right space will show the Solar System. Tapping it will let you see the changing position of the planets. A button bottom-left will also let you see the future phases of the moon.

● Knowledge base

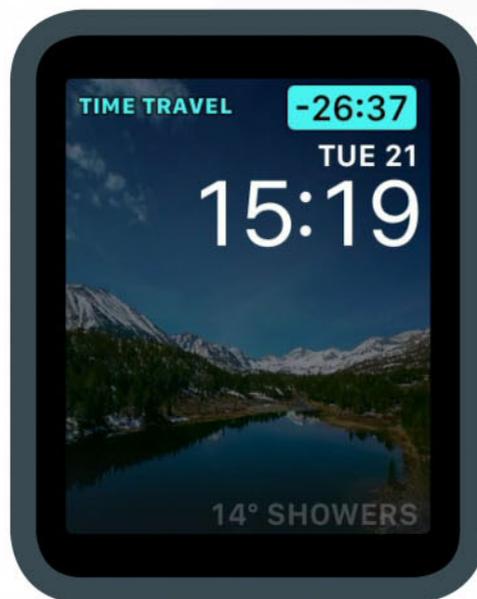
Selecting a perfect watch face

Not all watch faces work with Time Travel and some are also more ideal than others. So figure what you want to do with it and then ensure your clock face has that particular complication. For example, if you want to be able to cycle back and forth in time to view your calendar, make sure the Calendar complication is available and active.



4 Turn the Crown

We are going to attempt to go forward through time. To do this, turn the Digital Crown forward. The screen will tell you how far you've gone and display the future time.



5 Go back in time

To go back in time – virtually at least – you will need to turn the Digital Crown in the opposite direction: that is, backwards. Again the screen shows the adjusted time.



6 View the Complications

If there is any information within the supported complications, whether it's calendar events, weather or reminders, these will show as you go back and forth.



Manage your notifications on Apple Watch

Stop your wrist from buzzing too often by altering the notification settings of the apps on your Watch

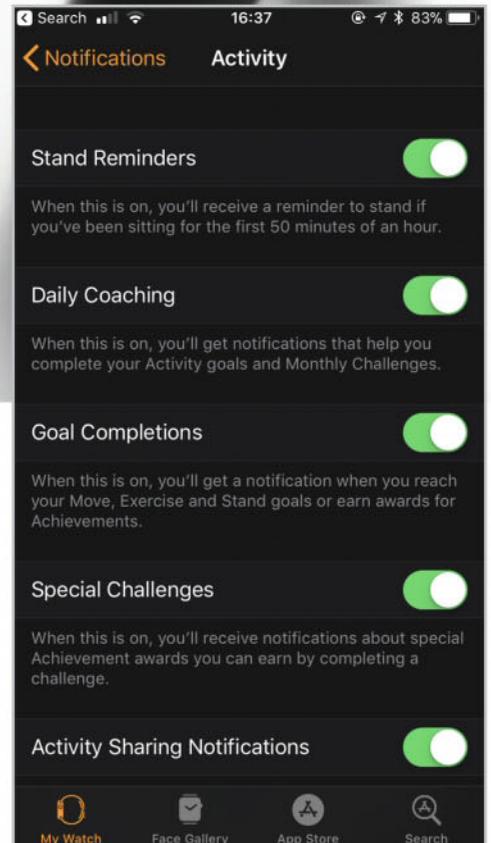
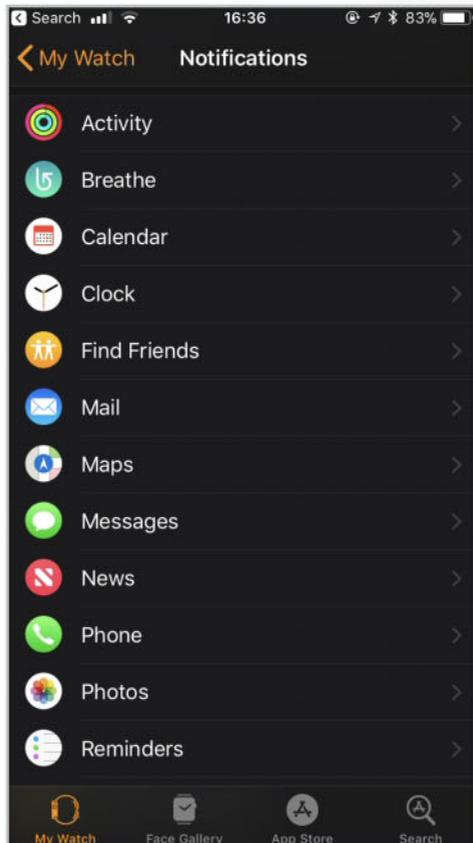
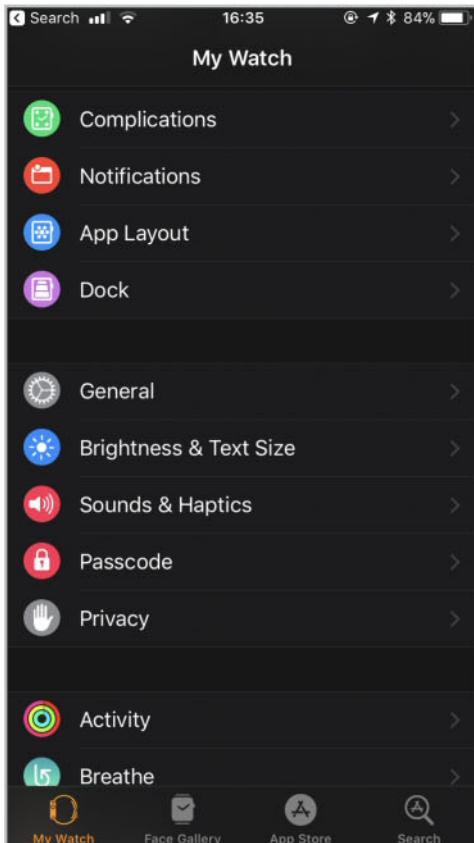


Your Apple Watch is meant to keep you informed. That means you are told when any phone calls, emails or texts are arriving on your iPhone and it is why you are alerted to notifications from the various apps you have installed. But that's not to say the alerts can't become a nuisance.

Every app on your Watch lets you turn off the notifications, but what if you want to tailor the alerts to better suit your needs? Here things get trickier since the built-in apps have customisation options but the third-party apps do not. For these you need to decide if you can do without their alerts.



Step-by-step Customise your notification settings



1 Launch Watch app

If you want to manage your Apple Watch notifications, you need to do so within iOS. Open the Watch app on your iPhone, select the My Watch tab and tap 'Notifications'.

2 Adjust built-in apps

The screen is split into two app sections. The first caters for apps that are built into watchOS such as Breathe, Mail, Maps and Clock. The second lists third-party apps.

3 Select an app

Let's deal with the built-in apps first. Select an app (we've chosen Activity) then view the list of potential notifications and switch the green sliders 'off' to deactivate.



Having problems seeing notifications? They won't appear if your iPhone is unlocked, if your Watch is locked or if you have Do Not Disturb turned on.

Hide the content of notifications

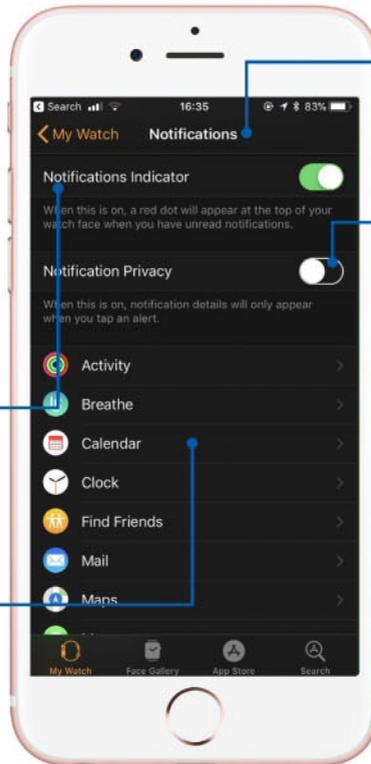
Ensure that alerts are for your eyes only by preventing them from showing their content as you raise your arm

Stop backup encryption

Want to hide the fact you've received a notification at all? You can go as far as removing the red dot on the watch face simply by swiping this switch to turn it off.

Tailor your calendar

Since the Calendar app can bombard you with notifications, you may want to pay particular attention to it. Tap it here to customise alerts such as upcoming events and invitations.



Notification page

All of your notification settings are on this page which you can reach in the Apple Watch app on your iPhone by going to My Watch>Notifications.

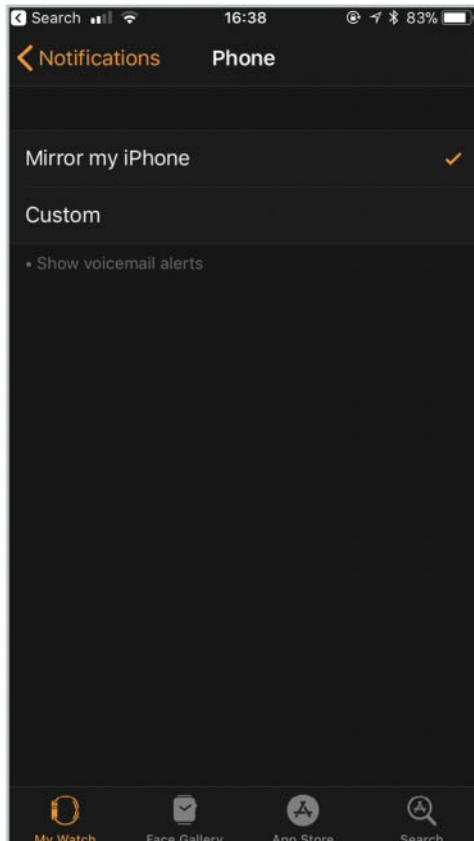
Notification Privacy

By moving this switch to green, the only thing you will see when you receive a notification is the alert itself. The content of it won't show, hiding sender details or text, for instance.

Knowledge base

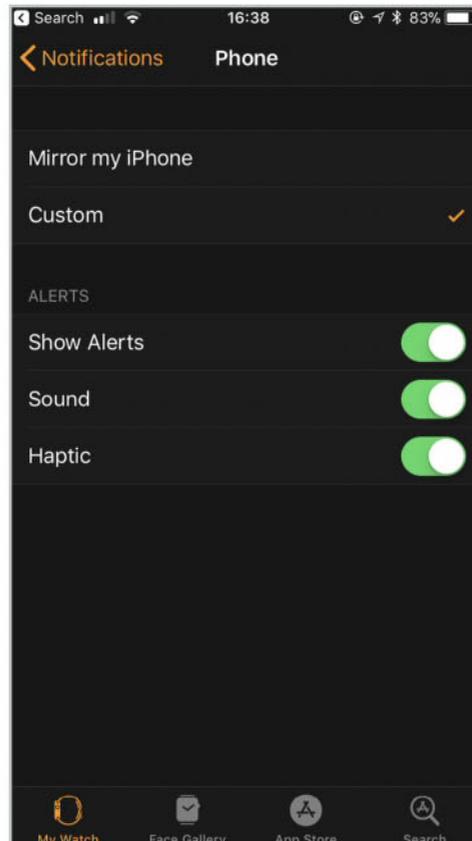
Customising third-party alerts

You can't customise Watch alerts for third-party apps. By default they mirror your iOS alerts and can only be switched off (there's no way of having different alerts on your Watch to those on your iPhone). But you can make a useful tweak by going to the Settings app on iOS, tapping Notifications and selecting an app. By turning off sounds, you can prevent the Watch from making a noise or vibrating when an alert arrives on the Watch screen.



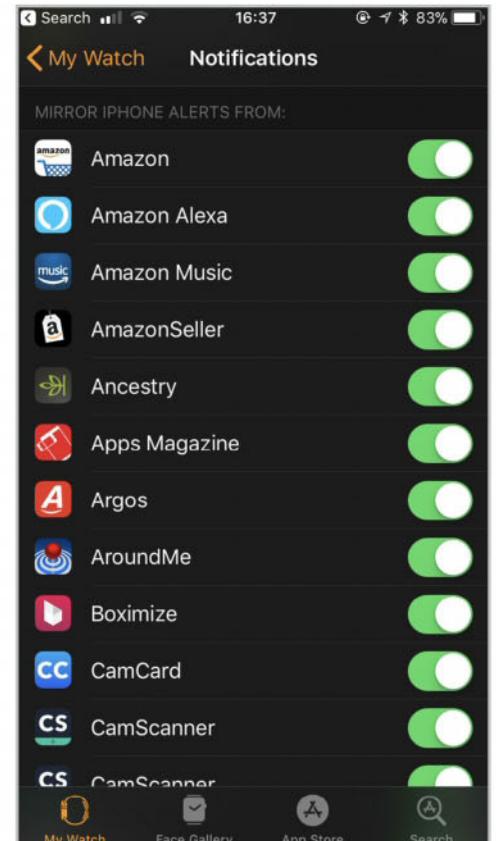
4 Customise notifications

Most built-in apps have two main options: Mirror my iPhone (mimicking whatever notifications are set up in iOS) and Custom. Choose the latter to make bespoke changes.



5 Alter the alerts

As before, move the green sliders to 'off' for the options which appear. Typically you can choose not to show alerts and decide if you want sound or haptic notifications.



6 Third-party apps

With third-party apps, you can only stop notifications from mirroring the alerts received on your iPhone. Go down the list and switch them on and off with the green sliders.

Manage your Apple TV storage

Worried that your apps are eating away at your Apple TV's storage space? Then here we show you how to identify the worst offenders and remove them



Apple has taken a couple of steps to maximise the amount of storage space you have on your Apple TV. Firstly, it only stores apps on your device: video and music are always streamed. It has also placed a 200MB limit on the apps you download, meaning data beyond that is stored in iCloud to be retrieved when needed and removed locally when finished with.

This is a great move but it can present you with a problem. If you don't have enough space on your device, then that extra data can't be downloaded in the first place. Ensuring there is plenty of room is therefore rather useful but how do you discover how much space each of your apps is taking up so that you can prune them more effectively? By delving into Settings, of course, as we show you here.



“Apple has placed a 200MB limit on the apps you download, meaning data beyond that is stored in iCloud”

Step-by-step Clear space on Apple TV



1 Open Settings app

In order to see how much storage space is being used by each of your installed apps, you must start by launching the Settings app on your device and selecting 'General'.



2 Find Usage section

Scroll down the screen until you almost reach the bottom. There you will see the option 'Manage Storage' within a section marked Usage. Select this to open your list of apps.



3 View your apps

The list shows every app you have installed from the App Store together with how much space they are taking up. Each is ordered according to size, with the largest at the top.



Remember, you are only able to remove apps that you have installed. Apple's stock apps can't be deleted.

Check how much space is left

Apple TV tells you how much space your apps are using but it doesn't tell you how much space is left. For that you must buy a third-party app

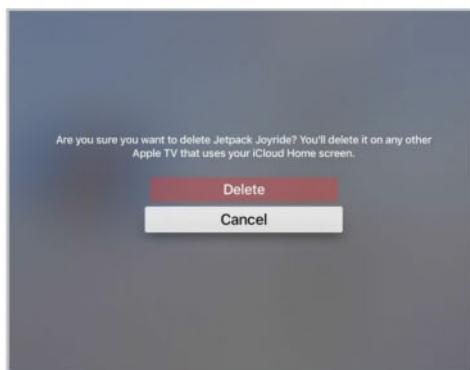
Free Space
You can also see how much space you have to play around with. This is useful if you download an app that needs lots of additional resources.

Download tvStorage
We found two apps that tell you how much space remains on your device: TV Storage Info and tvStorage. Both cost 99p/99c but we went for the latter.

Used Space
The tvStorage app lists how much space you have used while also showing you what it equates to as a percentage of your overall system.

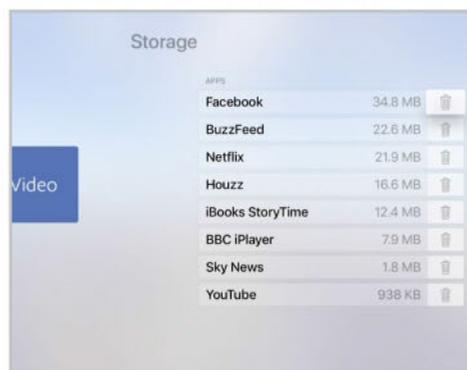
Total Space
This is a nice reminder of which Apple TV you went for: 32GB or 64GB. We can't help but feel that Apple should be including all of this info in Settings, though.

Knowledge base
Home screen deletion
Apps can also be deleted directly from the Apple TV home screen so if you spot an app that you never open you don't have to open the Settings app to remove it. Instead, select the app before pressing and holding on the remote's Touchpad. The app will begin to wiggle. You can now press the Play/Pause button and select 'Delete'.



4 Identify unwanted apps

Look at the apps and identify those you rarely open. Select the trash icon next to an app you don't want to keep and confirm you wish to remove it by selecting 'Delete'.



5 Repeat the process

The app will be removed along with any other app that uses your iCloud Home screen. If you wish, you can now find another unwanted app and do the same.



6 Reinstall an app

Don't worry about deleting apps. If you make a mistake or decide you want it back later, just go to the App Store. Previously bought apps can be downloaded again for free.

Genius Bar



Our Apple devices and the software on them are some of the finest products on the planet, but even they have their moments. We're here to give you expert advice and get you back up and running in no time

Contact us today

Facebook
iCreateMagazine

Twitter
@iCreateMagazine

Instagram
icreate_mag

Email
icreate@futurenet.com

Glossary

The place to come for key terms made easy to understand

3D Touch

Touchscreen technology first introduced with the iPhone 6 and 6s Plus that lets you access new features depending on how hard you press down on the screen.

4K

This is a new type of TV and monitor standard that is replacing HD and is so-called because it will have around 4,000 horizontal pixels. Although actual resolutions vary, the most common is 3840x2160.

Apple Script

Easy-to-learn macOS programming language created by Apple to help automate programs.

Bluetooth 4.0

This incorporates a low-power standard which means that it can be activated and left on without causing a significant drain on your iPhone's battery. Also applies to AirDrop.

Go to your Safari Preferences to enable the hidden Develop menu...

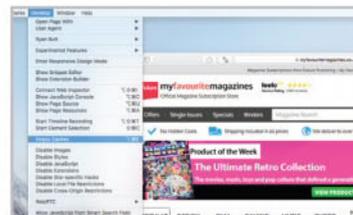


I have heard that there are secret menus and options hidden away in Safari. How can I access these? Sean O'Grady



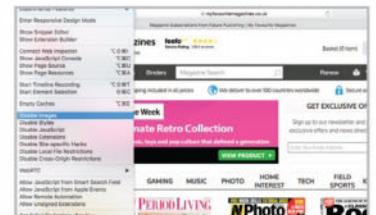
1 Go to Preferences

Click on the 'Safari' menu and then choose 'Preferences'. Click on the 'Advanced' tab and then tick the option marked 'Show Develop menu in menu bar'.



2 Fix websites

In the new Develop menu you will discover a wealth of new options, including one to 'Empty Caches', which is handy for when you're having problems with a site.



3 Disable images

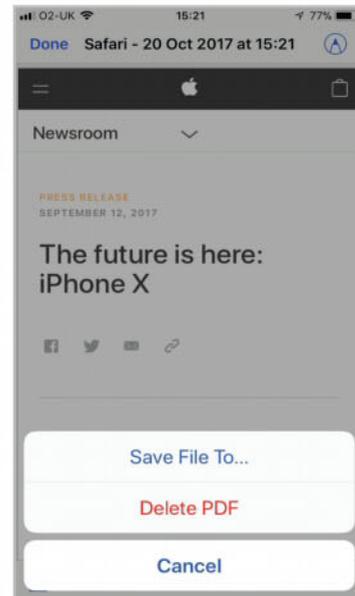
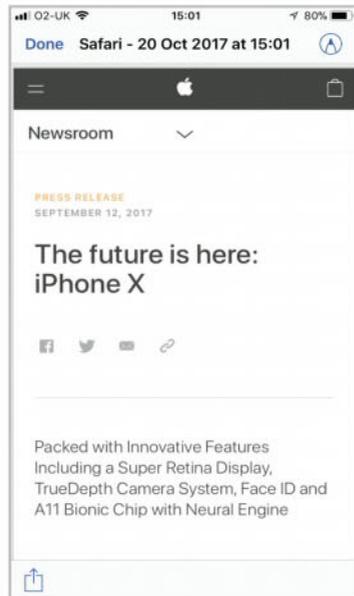
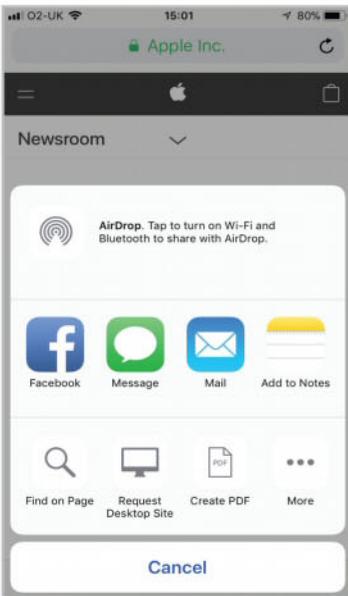
You will also find other options, such as one to 'Disable Images'. If you regularly visit image-heavy sites then enabling this option is a good way to speed them up.



Remember that you can annotate PDFs on your iPhone. Just tap on the pen icon at the top of the screen and you can go to town marking them up.



I have heard that it is possible to save iPhone websites as PDFs, which would be good for my portfolio. How do I do this? Tim Binns



1 Tap to share

Open Safari on your iPhone and navigate to the page that you want to share. Once it is displayed, tap the share button at the bottom of the screen.

2 Swipe to options

When the share options are displayed, swipe to the left over the bottom row of icons and choose the 'Create PDF' option. The page will show as a PDF.

3 Save the page

When you are happy, tap 'Done' and two options will appear, one to delete the PDF and the other to save it. Tap to save and then choose a destination for the PDF.

Apple Expert

The one-stop column for Genius advice

I seem to remember hearing that iOS 11 would automatically decrease the size of photos and videos that you capture on your iPhone to free up more storage space. However, so far I haven't really noticed much difference. Why is this?

The new HEIF/HEVC format isn't actually applied to your images by default. Instead you have to go to Settings>Camera>Formats and then tick the 'High Efficiency' option. Staying with the 'Most Compatible' format option will continue to use JPEG/H.264 formats.

Since updating my iPhone to iOS 11 it is having trouble connecting to my Bluetooth headphones. What can I do to rectify this problem?

Try going to Settings>Bluetooth and tapping on the blue circle icon next to your previously paired headphones. Now tap 'Forget This Device' and then try reconnecting. If that doesn't work, go to Settings>General>Reset and then select the 'Reset Network Settings' option. In doing this all Bluetooth connections will be forgotten by your device. Now try reconnecting to see if this resolves things.



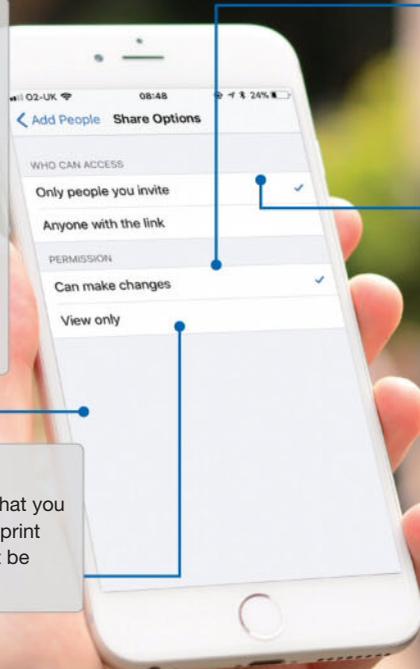
I would like to share documents from my iOS 11 Files app – how do I go about doing this? Mandy Suttcliffe

● Sharing files

In your Files app, navigate to the document that you would like to share and then press and hold on it until a menu appears above. From the menu, tap the 'Share' option and then on the next screen you should see the option to 'Add people' in the lower row of icons. Add the details of the people to share with and then tap 'Share Options' to get to this screen of options.

● View only

This option still allows the people that you are sharing the documents with to print the document out, but they will not be allowed to make any changes to it.



● Allow for changes

By selecting 'Can Make Changes', all of those permitted by you to access the document will be able to edit and print it.

● Granting access

If you select this option then only the people you invite can access your document by signing into iCloud using their Apple IDs. The other option allows anyone with a link to access it.

Apple Expert



The one-stop column for Genius advice

My Mail app is constantly showing that it is downloading messages in the activity pane. This has been going on for a few weeks. Is there any way to stop this?

Start off by clicking on the 'Window' menu bar item within the Mail app and select 'Activity'. This will bring up an activity monitor that will show if any messages are currently downloading. If this is clear then it may be time to rebuild and reindex your Mailbox. Start off by clearing your Junk and Trash mailboxes and then click on the 'Mailbox' menu bar item within the Mail app and select 'Rebuild'. You will need to do this for each mailbox and the process can take hours, rendering your Mac less responsive than usual. As a last resort, you can try reindexing your mailboxes. To do this, quit the Mail app and then hold the Option key and in Finder choose Go>Library. Now navigate to Mail/V2/MailData and remove any file that begins with 'Envelope Index' and place it in a separate folder on your desktop. Now relaunch the Mail app and it will build new Envelope Index files. This takes a bit of time but should fix the problem eventually.

How can I create a new, custom face for my Apple Watch? I want to use one of my own photos... Carrie Newman



Select your photo

Open up your Photos app and navigate to the image that you would like to use, then tap on the Share button and swipe through the bottom row of sharing options until you see 'Create Watch Face'. Tap this.

Photos face

You will be presented with two choices – select the 'Photos Watch Face' and your chosen image will be displayed full screen. You could also try going for the 'Kaleidoscope Watch Face' option for something a bit out of the ordinary...

Other options

You will also see various other options on the page relating to your custom watch face, such as positioning the time display. Select 'Top' or 'Bottom' to help ensure no key detail is obscured.

I bought my elderly mother an Apple Watch to help her stay safe as I heard that it can send out an emergency alert if she has a fall or gets into trouble. How is this done?

Diana Campbell

All your mother has to do is hold the button on the side of the watch and the Power Off screen will appear that displays the 'Emergency SOS' option. If the button is continuously held down then the watch will automatically call the emergency services and send out details such as current location. The connected iPhone will also contact any emergency contact numbers.

I know for a fact that there are hidden symbols that I can type on my Mac but I have no idea how to access them. Is there any way to see all of the characters that I can type without having to resort to trial and error? Craig Rand

There certainly is. Go to System Preferences and click on the Keyboard pane. Under the general 'Keyboard' tab of options you will see one called 'Show keyboard and emoji viewers in menu bar'.



Click to enable this and then whenever you need to type a symbol, click on the keyboard menu bar item and choose 'Show Keyboard Viewer'.

Hold down the command keys to see the many symbols...



Don't forget that to make an emergency call on your Watch you can press and hold the side button and drag the Emergency SOS slider to the right.



Is it possible to call numbers on my Apple Watch that aren't listed in my contacts database? Fiona Moore

● Access keypad

With watchOS 4, Apple has introduced a keypad that lets you dial a new number and make phone calls from scratch. It's easy to use.

● Input numbers

If you need to input an extension then all you need to do is tap the relevant numbers and they will be sent to the phone system dialled.

● Swipe up

You can activate the keypad whenever you are on a call by swiping up from the bottom of the Watch screen and tapping 'Keypad'.

● Extra keys

The keypad that appears when you are on a call will include two extra keys – star and hash – to help you navigate through automated systems...



➤ **RENT** the latest Apple equipment by the day, week or month.

➤ The **LARGEST STOCK** of Mac kit for hire in the **UK**.



Hire Intelligence



Call today on **0345 600 7272**



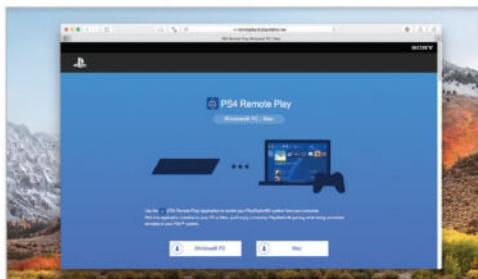
visit our website today www.hire-intelligence.co.uk



I have heard it is possible to play PlayStation 4 games on my Mac – can you please tell me how as I regularly have to surrender use of the TV? Duncan Hill

It is indeed possible, but you will need to download the PS4 Remote Play app from the web to do so. Once you have downloaded the app the setup process can take a few minutes and involves connecting your PS4 controller to your Mac via USB and then pressing the PlayStation

button on the controller to turn on your PS4 system and pair it with the app on your Mac (so make sure that your PS4 console is in range of the controller). When the setup process is complete you will be able to access your PS4 interface on your Mac and play games as usual.



1 Download the app

Go to <https://remoteplay.dl.playstation.net/remoteplay/lang/en/index/html> and then click on 'Mac' to download the PS4 Remote Play app.

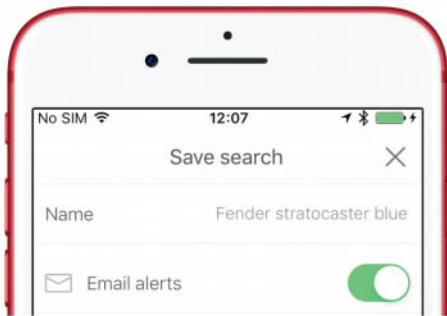
2 Set it up

Launch the app and you will be asked to connect your PS4 controller to your Mac via USB. Do so and then sign into your PlayStation account when asked.

3 Start playing

Once the setup process is complete you will be able to access your PlayStation 4 interface through the app on your Mac desktop and start playing games.

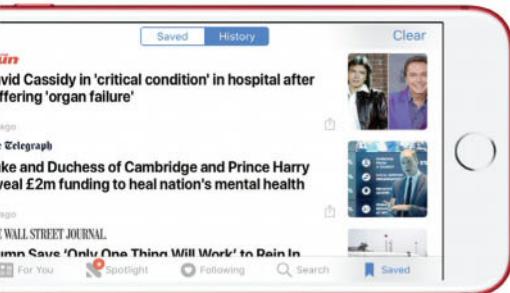
Genius Bar



Turn on 'Email alerts' and 'Phone alerts' to ensure you never miss an item on eBay...

I am always on the lookout for vintage items on eBay but hate the thought of missing out on something. Is it possible to get alerted whenever an item of interest is listed? John Gross

Certainly. In the eBay app, start off by performing a search for the items that you want to get alerts for and then, when all possible matches are listed, tap on the 'Save' option at the top of the screen. You will then be able to type in a custom name for your search and if you enable the 'Email alerts' and 'Phone alerts' options you will be notified whenever new items that match the criteria are listed on eBay.



I was trying to show a friend a news story that I read through the News app on my iPhone a while ago but I can no longer find it. Is there a way to go back to stories that I have read previously? Sarah Jones

There certainly is. Open your News app and then tap on the option marked 'Saved' at the bottom of the screen – even if, to your knowledge, you have never saved a news story. On this screen will be two tabs at the top: 'Saved' and 'History' – tap on the latter and there will be a list of all of the news stories that you have tapped on.



I was recently gifted an Apple Watch and I would like to make it more secure by adding a passcode. How would I go about doing this? Becky Tomkins

1 Open the app

Making your Apple Watch more secure is all done through the Watch app on your iPhone. Open this app and then tap on 'My Watch' for a list of options relating to security.

2 Unlock with your iPhone

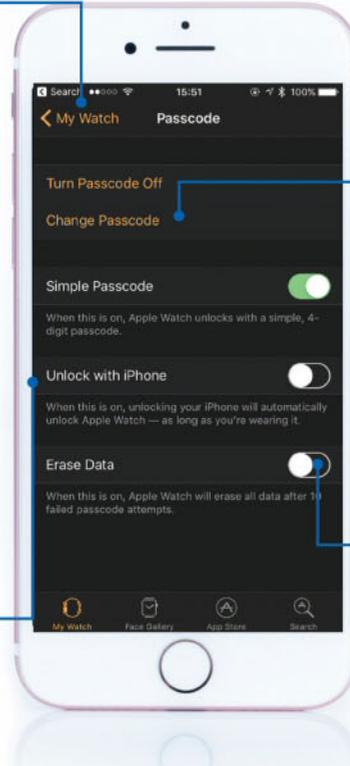
For greater convenience you could have your Watch unlock whenever you unlock your iPhone. If this appeals to you then simply slide this option to the 'On' position and it will take effect immediately.

3 Change your Watch passcode

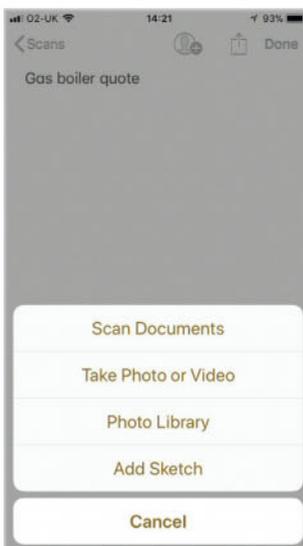
There's always the chance that someone can look over your shoulder as you tap in your passcode so it's worthwhile changing it every so often. Tap on this option to do just that.

4 Erase data

How many chances to crack open your device will you give a would-be thief? If you turn on this option then they will get ten attempts at your passcode before all of the data on the Watch is erased.



I have heard that it is possible to quickly scan documents in iOS 11. How is this done? Michael Perry



1 Open Notes

Open your Notes app and then create a new note and type a description of the document you are about to scan. Then press '+'.



2 Scan the doc

From the menu that appears, choose the 'Scan Documents' option. Then point your camera at the doc and follow the instructions.



3 Crop and save

When the document is scanned, crop out any unwanted background and then tap on the 'Save' option in the lower-right corner.



After creating an invisible folder, click the name to rename it and press space three times to give it an invisible name. Remember where you put it!

Apple Expert



The one-stop column for Genius advice

How do I turn on private internet browsing in Safari on my iPhone?

In Safari, tap on the tabs icon in the lower-right corner to display all open Safari tabs. Next, tap on 'Private' in the lower-left corner (the interface should go dark) and then tap the '+' icon to open a new private tab. To disable this, tap the tabs icon, close the private tab and then tap 'Private' (the interface should go light).

I have only had my iPhone 7 for six months but already my fully-charged battery is dying in about two hours. How can I prevent this?

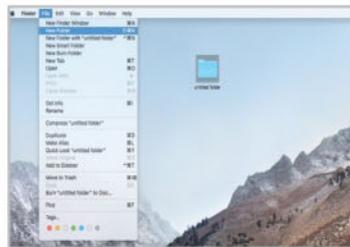
On your iPhone, go to Settings>Battery and you will be given a rundown of what apps and services have been draining your iPhone's battery. You may also have certain apps open that refresh in the background, so check out the settings for apps such as News and then turn off the 'Background App Refresh' options.

How do I find out the serial number for my new iPhone?

Go to Settings>General and you will see an option at the top of the page called 'About'. Tap on this and all of the important facts and figures about your iPhone will be listed.



A colleague told me you explained how to create an invisible folder on your desktop last issue. I tried to find it but my newsagent had sold out – can you please share it again? Paul Yeo



1 Create a folder

Create a new folder on your desktop by going to File>New Folder or press Shift+Cmd+N. Call it what you want for now.



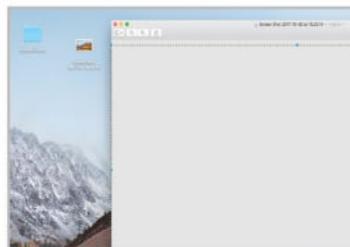
2 Take a screenshot

Now take a quick screenshot of your desktop by pressing Shift+Cmd+3 and then double-click to open it.



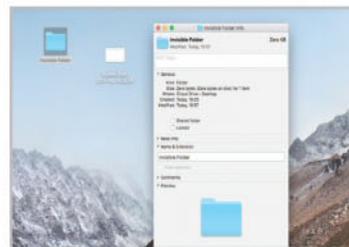
3 Delete the image

When your screenshot has opened in Preview, press Cmd+A 'Select All' and press Delete to make the image blank.



4 Copy and paste

Click on the blank screenshot and press Cmd+A again to highlight the space and then press Cmd+C to copy it.



5 Get folder info

Now click on your new folder and press Cmd+I to 'Get Info'. In the window that appears, click on the thumbnail at the top.



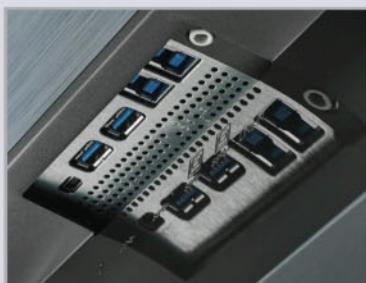
6 Paste image

With the folder thumbnail selected, press Cmd+V to paste the blank image over the top, thus making your folder invisible.

Reviews



The supplied puck controller lets you switch modes easily and you can also map other commands to the buttons



Connectivity to the PD3200Q includes DVI, HDMI, DisplayPort, Mini DisplayPort and USB...



The monitor also supports SD/MMC type cards and accommodates audio-in, though the speakers aren't great...



BenQ PD3200Q Design Monitor

£439/\$459

Key features

2K QHD High Resolution • 100% Rec.709 and sRGB colour space

Learn more

benq.com

Available from

amazon.co.uk

Boasting a 32-inch 2K display complete with BenQ's Vertical Alignment (VA) panel technology to provide higher contrast and deeper blacks, the PD3200Q is a great bit of kit if you need to delve into detail. The sRGB and Rec.709 colour space can be viewed from a wide angle and the monitor also comes with an impressive array of modes for professional designers and photographers.

The Darkroom mode adjusts the brightness and contrast of images giving clarity and greater sharpness, ideal for working in darker, post-processing conditions. On the other hand, CAD/CAM mode provides greater contrast on lines and shapes, which is perfect for designers, architects and illustrators. The supplied puck controller lets you switch between the modes quickly and easily and you can also map additional functions to the

buttons, such as brightness and contrast – it is flexible to a variety of requirements and setups.

The PD3200Q monitor is finely crafted to provide the optimum in comfort and design. The display itself slots easily on the sturdy stand, on which it can be raised, lowered, tilted and pivoted into a myriad of positions – even vertically. The flicker-free, low blue light screen also means that you can burn the midnight oil on a pressing project without feeling general fatigue and eye-strain as a result.

At nearly £500, the PD3200Q is a serious outlay, but the features and the crystal 2K QHD 2560x1440 display more than justify it, especially if you need to see every ounce of detail. The only downside is the built-in speakers (they really shouldn't have bothered).

Verdict

A serious monitor for professionals, the PD3200Q is perfect for connecting your MacBook to and then exploring unparalleled levels of detail in design and photography. Absolute gold!



Edifier C2V Multimedia Speakers

£112.99/\$119.99

Key features

36 Watt output • Distortion Control • RCA and AUX inputs

Learn more
edifier.com

Available from
amazon.co.uk

If you're after a wire-free, clean and versatile audio setup then look away now because Edifier's C2V multimedia speakers may be the most wired monstrosities you are ever likely to see. That said though, they don't come with Bluetooth connectivity and aren't designed to be a focal point in the living room – these are speakers for gamers in bedrooms. This is probably just as well because hardcore gamers tend to live nocturnal lives in dimly-lit conditions, where the C2Vs' repellent looks become obscured by shadows.

This 2.1 speaker system features a 6.5-inch subwoofer paired with two satellites, each equipped with a 3-inch midrange and 3/4-inch tweeter, all connected to a central amplifier. Admittedly the sound produced, though not

ideal for music, is perfectly suited to games of all genres, as you can quickly adjust the controls on the amp to suit your needs – racing, adventure, shooting, the sound can be quickly configured to really bring your games alive and the volume ramped up to make your room shake.

It's just a shame that the build isn't up to the sound standard. The bow-tie-shaped amplifier is ghastly and feels incredibly cheap and the supplied remote feels like it dropped out of a Christmas cracker. The woofer and satellite speakers are better made in comparison, but they don't look great. For all the benefits of being able to quickly tweak the sound configuration to suit the game, we would rather just opt for an alternate setup that looks as good as it sounds.

Verdict

Not brilliant for music with limited connectivity and they look absolutely hideous with wires spewing forth from everywhere! However, get over the tacky looks and they handle game noises relatively well.



On the whole, the C2V multimedia speakers aren't likely to turn any heads with their naff design...



The connection ports are in short supply on the C2Vs, limited to just RCA and AUX-in ports for mainly gaming...



Controls and an easily-grippable dial on the amp let you quickly change the sound to suit the game

Q Acoustics M2 Soundbase

£299/\$299

Key features

80 Watt output • HDMI, Optical and USB • Bluetooth 4.0

Learn more

qacoustics.co.uk

Available from

amazon.co.uk

While we understand that the traditional design and dimensions for sound bars are for positional purposes and wall-mounting, that doesn't disguise the fact that the majority of them are just plain ugly. Aesthetically-speaking then, Q Acoustics' M2 Soundbase is much more to our liking as it looks more like an authoritative sound platform than a chunky bar.

Beneath the hood is a powerful 80W amp, subwoofer and the real star of the show, Q Acoustics' unique Balanced Mode Radiator (BMR) driver units. These essentially turn the entire room into a listening 'sweet-spot' by dispersing the sound 180 degrees around the area – but obviously positioning is key to obtaining this effect. The M2 unit itself can be positioned

under your TV or slotted easily into a cabinet to take audio prominence within the main room of your home and the minimalistic design gives it a premium, classy look despite the relatively cheap asking price.

The M2 utilises Bluetooth 4.0 as one of its many connection methods and pairing it with your Mac or iOS device simply requires you to tap the standby button on top of the unit until the surrounding light flashes the colour that corresponds to the connection method (in this case blue, obviously). With further connections for HDMI, Optical, USB and standard AUX, the M2 is a versatile beast that can slot easily into any home setup. Highly recommended if you want great sound without splashing out obscene amounts.



A simple set of controls on top of the unit let you switch through the various sources, including Bluetooth and HDMI



The included remote control feels a little cheap compared to the quality of the main unit, though it does the job...



The M2 is a versatile sound system and connections include Bluetooth, HDMI, USB, Optical and AUX-in

Verdict

A sleek, premium-looking unit that radiates rich sound around the room. In fact, the quality of the audio produced here exceeds that of bars nearly twice the price, making this a definite contender.



ATH-CKR75BT Wireless Headphones

£149/\$159

Key features

Qualcomm aptX and AAC codecs • Bluetooth 4.1

Learn more

eu.audio-technica.com

Available from

amazon.co.uk

When producing a pair of wireless Bluetooth earphones, it is the norm that a long battery life should be of paramount importance.

Unfortunately, the ATH-CKR75BT headphones by Audio-Technica do not offer this. One full charge, which takes five hours, only provides the user with seven hours of uninterrupted listening; barely sufficient for a day out. In addition to this, the pair of earphones are not the most attractive wireless options out there by any means. A bulky unit with a clip attached sits directly in the middle of the cable that joins the two earphones together, rendering the set extremely difficult to keep subtle and discreet when out and about. The joining wire is also flimsy and feels as if it can be easily broken or damaged. Despite this, each individual

earphone is sleek, aesthetically pleasing and fits comfortably in your ear.

Moving onto sound quality; the ATH-CKR75BT Wireless Headphones are a mixed bag to say the least. For relaxed, casual listening these earphones are relatively good. Each sound has a softness about it which makes the listening experience enjoyable. However, there is an obvious humming fuzz noise in the background as soon as the earphones switch on until they are turned off. The on-wire controls work fairly well with the standard volume and play/pause options. Unfortunately, however, when you use these controls to change the volume there is an overwhelming 'beep' noise that distracts from the song you're listening to.

Verdict

Decent only for relaxed listening, the unattractiveness of the headphones adds to the disappointingly long list of drawbacks. There are many better and cheaper alternatives to these earphones on the market.



The headphones feature in-line smartphone controls with a mic for managing music and calls



The earphones are constructed out of lightweight machine aluminium to reduce unwanted resonance...



The cable-clip can be attached to clothing for security and stability when out and about...



Edifier R1280DB Multimedia Speaker

£119.99/\$129.99

Key features

42 Watt output • Bluetooth 4.0 • Optical and Dual RCA inputs

Learn more

edifier.com

Available from

amazon.co.uk



You can adjust the EQ using the controls located on the active/powered speaker for treble, bass and volume



Connections include Optical, Coaxial, RCA/AUX and, of course, Bluetooth – and pairing is quick and easy



The speakers look best when you remove the slightly tacky facias to expose the goodness behind...

With Optical, Coaxial and RCA/AUX connectivity, Edifier's R1280DB active bookshelf speakers have the versatility to slot into any audio setup. However, as Apple users, it is the ease with which we can pair our Macs and iOS devices to them that is of prime importance. Mercifully, after powering the unit on it is simply a case of tapping the Bluetooth button on the supplied remote and they become instantly discoverable, enabling you to connect within seconds.

The speakers measure in at 5.75 x 9.5" and comprise of 4-inch bass units and silk dome tweeters, and you can manage the EQ thanks to onboard controls (located on the active/powered speaker) that let you adjust the treble, bass and volume. Available in either black or natural wood, the speakers look best without their somewhat

naff-looking facias, but these easily detach to expose the pulsating, booming goodness behind.

For the price, we really have to applaud the sound quality that the R1280DBs produce. With the volume set far too high when we initially turned them on, we were quite taken aback by the power that they produced – without noticeable buzz or distortion, it has to be said – and once we had lowered the output and tweaked the treble and bass controls we were able to achieve highly pleasing sonics for a variety of different styles of music. Like Edifier's R1010BT speakers, these are perfect for connecting up to vinyl turntables for a great silky sound.

Certainly if you are on the hunt for a bargain set of decent-sounding bookshelf speakers then these come highly recommended.

Verdict

With a great contemporary design and a decent sound, the R1280DB speakers are an absolute steal for the price. Sure the remote is cheap tat and the facias are hideous, but everything else here hits the spot!



BUILD A BETTER WEB

www.creativebloq.com



web designer

Available from all good newsagents and supermarkets

ON SALE NOW

Industry interviews | Expert tutorials & opinion | Contemporary features | Behind the build

DESIGN INSPIRATION



PRACTICAL TIPS



BEHIND THE SCENES



STEP-BY-STEP ADVICE



INDUSTRY OPINION



BUY YOUR ISSUE TODAY

Print edition available at www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk

Digital edition available for iOS and Android

Available on the following platforms



[facebook.com/webdesignermag](https://www.facebook.com/webdesignermag) twitter.com/webdesignermag

Accessories



Saga Backpack

£59.95/\$59.95

stmgoods.com

This attractive backpack is designed to hold a 15" laptop and has a suspended tech cell to keep your computer away from the impact zones. It also has plenty of compartments to carry the rest of your daily essentials and a reverse bucket opening provides quick and easy access to your gear.

The Saga is available in four colours (including the regal-looking Royal Purple, pictured here) and the spongy straps and carry handle make it a comfortable travelling companion.



Adonit Pro 3 Stylus

£25.99/\$23.99

adonit.net

Wallet-friendly styluses don't come much more responsive than Adonit's Pro 3. Available in four colours (Black, Silver, Rose Gold and Midnight Blue), this lightweight piece of digital stationery is fashioned out of aluminium, has etchings on the shaft for improved grip, and also comes with a magnetic cap and a precision disc on the nib to create an accurate contact point on the screen. Highly effective for writing and drawing on your iPad.





Flex Arc Wireless Neckband Earbuds

£34.99/\$34.99
zagg.com

Lightweight and very flexible to your needs, iFrogz's Flex Arc in-ear headphones come with a neckband with two weighted tips to keep it in place on your shoulders. One of these tips houses a simple set of controls for controlling your music and answering calls. Protruding from the neckband are two super-skinny cables leading to a pair of attractive earbuds. Each earbud houses an 8mm driver and the rear ends are magnetic so that they clip together when not in use. They produce good sound and noise-cancelling tech blocks out everything else.



Augmented Reality Gun

£19.99/\$19.99
prezzybox.com

As AR apps are all the rage at the moment, this wooden accessory helps you take the experience a step further and setting it all up is simple. After inserting two AAA batteries into the compartment on the underside of the gun, you can then scan a QR code to download the AR Gun app, hold the trigger to fire up the gun and then while away the hours blasting away spacey things layered over a live camera feed on your iPhone (that snaps snugly into the clip on top of the gun). Great fun for a little while.



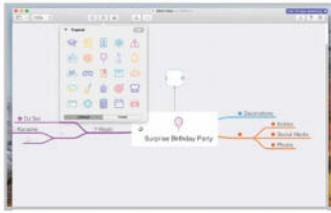
BoomBar+

£39.99/\$49.99
kitsound.co.uk

Available in five different colours, KitSound's BoomBar+ wireless speaker is very portable (a sturdy loop band makes it easy to attach to a belt or rucksack) and very easy to pair with your Mac or iOS device (just turn it on and it can be discovered immediately). Of course, it's very rare in the titular portable speaker market to experience a sound quality that's really worth crowing about but, for its size, this produces plenty of volume. The unit comes with a microUSB charge port and AUX-in.

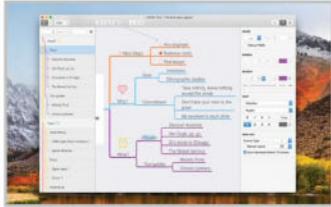


Reviews



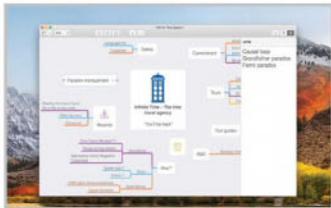
Start mapping

Thoughts can be added with a double-click and you can also illustrate with a stock menu...



Formatting tools

Click on the paintbrush icon to reveal a menu of formatting options and styles to apply



Adding notes

You can add side notes to your mind maps by clicking on the list icon in the top-left corner



MindNode 5

£38.99/\$38.99

Requirements

macOS 10.12 or later • 64-bit processor • 22.1MB

Learn more

<https://mindnode.com>

Available from

Mac App Store

If you have a naturally scrambled mind that struggles to form cohesive thoughts then MindNode 5 is perfect for helping you get all of your ideas down into some sort of structure. Your map starts with a single word or phrase and you can add illustrative art from a stock menu, check-list tick boxes to each node and even your own photos. If you then hover your cursor to the side of your initial word, a '+' icon will appear that you can click on to add a connecting word, and so on until your map starts to take shape...

You can add as many connecting words as you want and then branch off from them into sub-menus to gradually map out even the most complex of thought processes. It's very intuitive to use and you can really go to town styling up your mind maps thanks to a formatting menu. In fact, the interface is so similar to Apple's own iWork apps (Pages, Numbers and Keynote) that

you'll soon get the hang of things here if you are familiar with the interface of those apps. Other icons allow you to add extra lists of notes to your maps and share them with other people, and by clicking on the themes icon in the top-left corner you can change your canvas colour and pick a different node style for your map. The only thing missing is some sort of menu bar functionality so that you can access and add to your maps when inspiration strikes.

Although the app is free to download, the trial only lasts for two weeks, thereafter the full suite of options will cost you £38.99 to unlock. Despite being a useful tool for planning projects and uncluttering your mind, we do feel that the asking price is a little too steep. While we applaud how well the subject matter has been realised and implemented, we're not convinced that there is enough here to warrant the high cost.

"You can map out even the most complex of thought processes"

Verdict

An intuitive and well-realised suite of tools for mapping out your mind. After two weeks though it struggles to justify the price.



net

PRINT & DIGITAL EDITION



TRY OUR
DIGITAL
MAG FOR
FREE!

Discover the no.1 choice for web designers and developers. Each issue is packed with the latest trends, technologies and techniques, plus exclusive video tutorials. Don't miss it!

PRINT: myfavouritemagazines.co.uk/NETMAG16

iPAD: netm.ag/net-ipad-uk OR netm.ag/net-ipad-us



Reviews



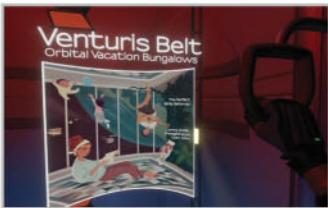
Ghosts of the past

Watch holo recordings and piece together the mystery surrounding the Tacoma crew's fate



Dead pool

You can interact with seemingly anything – you can even shoot some pool if you have the time...



Atmospheric surrounds

The visuals were provided by the same team that created BioShock DLC, which explains the similarities

“A gripping and, at times, very emotional story that you can't help but get completely immersed by”



Tacoma

£19.99/\$19.99

Requirements

macOS 10.6.6 or later • 64-bit processor • 2.68GB

Learn more

<https://tacoma.game>

Available from

Mac App Store

An investigation into the fate of the crew members onboard a space station, Tacoma is a unique and gripping adventure game that makes you feel utterly unnerved the moment you enter the stricken vessel. The deserted passageways and rooms hold many ghosts of the past in the form of holo recordings of pivotal moments that you can play back to see what information and possible clues they may hold. This is where the game takes a detour from the usual point-and-click adventures because these recordings chart the conversations and movements of numerous people within the same scene and concentrating on someone in one area may mean that you miss something vital at the very same moment in another area. You have the ability to fast forward and rewind these

holo tapes but the real beauty of the game soon becomes very apparent – you actually have to think for yourself and approach it like a proper, fully-fledged investigation.

As you traverse the barren space station, you can pick up and examine inanimate objects, consult your AR interface for additional information and interact with pretty much anything. It's good to know that there is no combat in the game as that suggests that you are free from confrontations that, coupled with the detachment and isolation you feel when playing, would probably have sent you over the edge. Instead there is just a gripping and, at times, very emotional, story being played out from the past that you can't help but get completely immersed by.

Verdict

Once you settle in, Tacoma won't take you very long to complete, but the five or so hours of gameplay on offer deserve to be savoured and played at a casual pace.



TIME TO STEP OFF THAT TREADMILL

With so many demands from work, home and family, there never seem to be enough hours in the day for you. Why not press pause once in a while, curl up with your favourite magazine and put a little oasis of 'you' in your day?



PRESS PAUSE
ENJOY A MAGAZINE MOMENT

To find out more about Press Pause visit:
pauseyourday.co.uk

Time Machine

Apple TV



Apple TV

Release date
January 9, 2007

- Intel Pentium M CPU • 256MB memory • 40 or 160GB storage • Connectivity: Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, Ethernet, HDMI, Optical audio • OS: Apple TV Software 3.0.2 (based on macOS 10.4 Tiger)

Original price

£199/\$299

Price now

£30/\$30

Originally unveiled as iTV in September 2006 (the 'i' being synonymous with other Apple products such as the iMac and iPod), the threat of legal action from the terrestrial broadcast network with the same name prompted Apple to re-christen its digital media player for its roll-out the following January. Initially requiring a Mac or PC running iTunes to sync and stream content from, a major software update in January 2008 set the device free to operate as a standalone console that users could download and install apps on, dip into the dense pool of movies and TV shows in the iTunes Store, and stream them to their HD TVs via HDMI. With no integrated controls, Apple TV could only be controlled via the titular remote that shipped with it but, mercifully, the later release of the Apple TV iOS app meant that you no longer had to search high and low for it when it inevitably went missing down the side of the sofa.

For Mac, iPad and iPhone users
iCreate

Future Publishing Limited
Quay House, The Ambury, Bath BA1 1UA

Editorial

Editor **Ryan Butt**
ryan.butt@futurenet.com

Art Editor **Briony Duguid**
Production Editor **Catherine Hood**
Group Editor-in-Chief **Graham Barlow**
Photographer **Neil Godwin**

Contributors

Mark Billen, George Cairns, David Crookes, Shaun McGill, Philip Morris, Roland Waddilove, Dave Clews and Isaac Garg

Cover images

Relevant photography, icons and imagery courtesy of Apple Inc.

Photography

Relevant photography, icons and imagery courtesy of Apple Inc.

Advertising

Digital or printed media packs are available on request.

Commercial Sales Director **Clare Dove**
clare.dove@futurenet.com
☎ 01225 442244

Advertising Director **Richard Hemmings**
richard.hemmings@futurenet.com
☎ 01225 687615

Account Director **Andrew Tilbury**
andrew.tilbury@futurenet.com
☎ 01225 687144

Account Director **Crispin Moller**
crispin.moller@futurenet.com
☎ 01225 687335

International

iCreate is available for licensing. Contact the International department to discuss partnership opportunities.

International Licensing Director **Matt Ellis**
☎ +44 (0) 1225 687515
matt.ellis@futurenet.com

PRINT SUBSCRIPTIONS & BACK ISSUES

Web www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk
Email contact@myfavouritemagazines.co.uk
Tel **0344 848 2852**
International **+44 (0) 344 848 2852**

Circulation

Head of Newstrade **Tim Mathers**

Production

Head of Production US & UK **Mark Constance**
Production Project Manager **Clare Scott**
Advertising Production Manager **Joanne Crosby**
Digital Editions Controller **Jason Hudson**
Production Manager **Vivienne Calvert**

Management

Managing Director **Aaron Asadi**
Editorial Director **Paul Newman**
Art & Design Director **Ross Andrews**
Head of Art & Design **Rodney Dive**
Commercial Finance Director **Dan Jotcham**

Printed by

William Gibbons, 28 Planetary Road, Willenhall WV13 3XT

Distributed by

Marketforce, 5 Churchill Place, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5HU
www.marketforce.co.uk Tel: 0203 787 9001

We are committed to only using magazine paper which is derived from responsibly managed, certified forestry and chlorine-free manufacture. The paper in this magazine was sourced and produced from sustainable managed forests, conforming to strict environmental and socioeconomic standards. The manufacturing paper mill holds full FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certification and accreditation

Disclaimer

All contents © 2018 Future Publishing Limited or published under licence. All rights reserved. No part of this magazine may be used, stored, transmitted or reproduced in any way without the prior written permission of the publisher. Future Publishing Limited (company number 2008885) is registered in England and Wales. Registered office: Quay House, The Ambury, Bath BA1 1UA. All information contained in this publication is for information only and is, as far as we are aware, correct at the time of going to press. Future cannot accept any responsibility for errors or inaccuracies in such information. You are advised to contact manufacturers and retailers directly with regard to the price of products/services referred to in this publication. Apps and websites mentioned in this publication are not under our control. We are not responsible for their contents or any other changes or updates to them. This magazine is fully independent and not affiliated in any way with the companies mentioned herein.

If you submit material to us, you warrant that you own the material and/or have the necessary rights/permissions to supply the material and you automatically grant Future and its licensees a licence to publish your submission in whole or in part in any/all issues and/or editions of publications, in any format published worldwide and on associated websites, social media channels and associated products. Any material you submit is sent at your own risk and, although every care is taken, neither Future nor its employees, agents, subcontractors or licensees shall be liable for loss or damage. We assume all unsolicited material is for publication unless otherwise stated, and reserve the right to edit, amend, adapt all submissions.

ISSN 1740-2786



Future is an award-winning international media group and leading digital business. We reach more than 57 million international consumers a month and create world-class content and advertising solutions for passionate consumers online, on tablet & smartphone and in print.

Future plc is a public company quoted on the London Stock Exchange (symbol: FUTR).
www.futureplc.com

Chief executive Zillah Byng-Thorne
Non-executive chairman Peter Allen
Chief financial officer Penny Ladkin-Brand
Tel +44 (0)1225 442 244



Next issue...
iCreate 182, on sale 1 February 2018

LOSE YOURSELF IN A WORLD OF

Vinyl

FIND YOURSELF IN
OXFAM'S ONLINE SHOP

oxfam.org.uk/shop



OXFAM

Lease an Apple Mac!

Cheaper than your daily coffee

- Including accidental damage cover
- Upgrade when you want
- Own at the end
- 3 years service



 **iMac**
with Retina display

21" FROM **£2.15** +VAT PER DAY



 **MacBook Pro**

13" FROM **£2.20** +VAT PER DAY

Discover the benefits of leasing computers for business at
www.hardsoft.co.uk Email info@hardsoft.co.uk

HARDSOFT
Established for over 25 years

 **Authorised Reseller**