



Unveiling the iPhone

In This Chapter

- ▶ Looking at the big picture
- ▶ Touring the outside of the iPhone
- ▶ Checking out the iPhone's applications

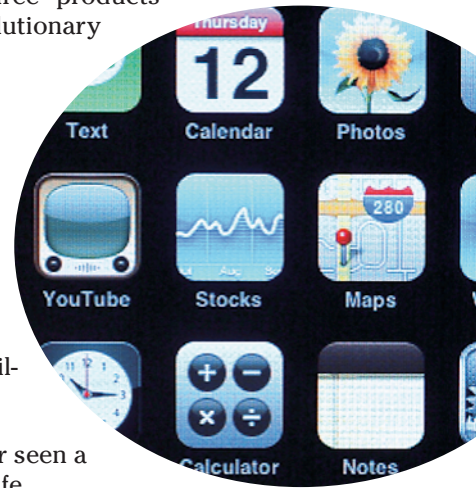
Congratulations. You've selected one of the most incredible handheld devices we've ever seen — and one that is much more than just a great wireless phone. Of course, the iPhone is one heck of a wireless telephone, complete with a capable 2-megapixel digital camera. But it's actually three awesome handheld devices in one. In addition to being a killer cell phone, it's a gorgeous widescreen video iPod and the smallest, most powerful Internet communications device yet.

In this chapter, we offer a gentle introduction to all three “products” that make up your iPhone, plus overviews of its revolutionary hardware and software features.

The Big Picture

The iPhone has many best-of-class features, but perhaps its most unusual feature is the lack of a physical keyboard or stylus. Instead, it has a 3½-inch super-high-resolution touchscreen (160 pixels per inch if you care about such things) that you operate using a pointing device you're already intimately familiar with: namely, your finger.

And what a display it is. We venture that you've never seen a more beautiful screen on a handheld device in your life.



Bob interjects:

I am rarely tongue-tied but I could barely form coherent sentences during my first encounter with a real live iPhone at Macworld Expo last January. In fact, I had to explain to the Apple executives conducting my briefing, VP of Worldwide iPod Product Marketing Greg Joswiak and VP of Worldwide Mac Product Marketing David Moody, that while I knew it was completely unprofessional for a journalist to gush and drool, I just couldn't help myself.

Another feature that knocked our socks off was the iPhone's built-in sensors. An accelerometer detects when you rotate the device from portrait to landscape mode and adjusts what's on the display accordingly. A proximity sensor detects when the iPhone gets near your face, so it can turn off the display to save power and prevent accidental touches by your cheek. And a light sensor adjusts the display's brightness based on the current ambient lighting situation. Let's see your Palm Treo or RIM Blackberry do *that!*

In this section we take a brief look at just some of the iPhone's features, broken down by product category.

What's in the box

Somehow we think you've already opened the handsome black box that the iPhone came in. But if you didn't, here's what you can expect to find inside:

- ✔ **Stereo headset:** Used for music videos and, yes, phone calls. The headset contains a built-in microphone for making yourself heard during phone calls. More on the use of this headset in Chapter 7.
- ✔ **Dock (and dock connector-to-USB cable):** When the iPhone is not being used, slip it into this handy little white home to charge it. The dock connects to your PC or Macintosh via USB through the aptly named dock connector-to-USB cable.
- ✔ **USB power adapter:** You can use the aforementioned cable to plug the iPhone into a standard power outlet.
- ✔ **Some Apple logo decals:** Of course.
- ✔ **Cleaning cloth:** Expect the iPhone to get smudges on it. Use the cloth to wipe it clean. We'd steer clear of Lemon Pledge.
- ✔ **Finger Tips pamphlet:** You'll find handy tips from Apple on using the new object of your affection.
- ✔ **Important Product Information Guide pamphlet:** Well it must be important because it says so right on the cover. You'll find basic safety warnings, a bunch of legalese, warranty information, and info on how to dispose of or recycle the iPhone. *What! We're getting rid of it already?* A few other pieces of advice: Don't drop the iPhone if you can help it, keep the thing dry, and — as with all cell phones — give full attention to the road while driving.
- ✔ **iPhone:** You were starting to worry. Yes, the iPhone itself is also in the box.

The iPhone as a phone and a digital camera

On the phone side, the iPhone synchronizes with the contacts and calendars on your Mac or PC. It includes a full-featured QWERTY soft, or virtual, keyboard, which makes typing text easier than ever before — for some folks. Granted, the virtual keyboard takes a bit of time to get used to. But we think that many of you will eventually be whizzing along at a much faster pace than you thought possible on a mobile keyboard of this type.

The 2-megapixel digital camera is accompanied by a sophisticated photo management application, so taking and managing digital photos is a pleasure rather than the nightmare it can be on other phones. Plus, you can automatically synchronize iPhoto photos with the digital photo library on your Mac or PC.

Finally, one of our favorite phone accoutrements is visual voicemail. (Try saying that three times fast.) This feature lets you see a list of voicemail messages and choose which ones to listen to or delete without being forced to take in every message in your voice mailbox in sequential order. Now that's handy!

Those are merely a few of the iPhone's excellent telephony features. Because we still have many more chapters to go, we'll put the phone coverage on hold for now (pun intended).

The iPhone as an iPod

We agree with Steve Jobs on this one: The iPhone is a better iPod than any that Apple has ever made. (Okay, we can quibble about wanting more storage.) You can enjoy all of your existing iPod content — music, audiobooks, audio and video podcasts, music videos, television shows, and movies — on the iPhone's gorgeous high-resolution color display, which is bigger, brighter, and richer than any iPod display that's come before it.

Bottom line: If you can get the content — be it video, audio, or whatever — into iTunes on your Mac or PC, you can synchronize it and watch or listen to it on your iPhone.

The iPhone as an Internet communications device

But wait — there's more! Not only is the iPhone a great phone and a stellar iPod, it's also a full-featured Internet communications device with — we're about to drop a bit of industry jargon on you — a rich HTML e-mail client that's compatible with most POP and IMAP mail services. Also on board is a world-class Web browser (Safari) that, unlike other phones, makes Web surfing fun and easy.

Another cool Internet feature is Maps, a killer mapping application based on Google Maps. You can view maps and satellite imagery and obtain driving directions and traffic information regardless of where in the United States you happen to be. You can also find businesses such as gas stations, restaurants, hospitals, and Apple stores with just a few taps.

You might also enjoy using Stocks, a built-in application that delivers near real-time stock quotes and charts anytime and anywhere.

In other words, the Internet experience on an iPhone is far superior to the Internet experience on any other handheld device.

Technical specifications

One last thing before we proceed. Here's a list of everything you need before you can actually *use* your iPhone:

- ✓ A 4GB or 8GB iPhone
- ✓ A wireless contract with AT&T (formerly Cingular)
- ✓ Internet access (required) or broadband Internet access (recommended)

Plus you need one of the following:

- ✓ A Mac with a USB 2.0 port; Mac OS X version 10.4.10 or later; and iTunes 7.3 or later
- ✓ A PC with a USB 2.0 port; Windows Vista Home Premium, Business, Enterprise, or Ultimate Edition or Windows XP Home or Professional with Service Pack 2 or later; and iTunes 7.3 or later

A Quick Tour Outside

The iPhone is a harmonious combination of hardware and software, so let's see just what it's made of. In this section we take a brief look at what's on the outside. In the next section, we peek at the software.

On the top

On the top of your iPhone, you'll find the headset jack, the SIM card tray, and the Sleep/Wake button, as shown in Figure 1-1:



✓ **The Sleep/Wake button:** This button is used to lock or unlock your iPhone and to turn your iPhone on or off. When your iPhone is locked, you can still receive calls and text messages but nothing happens if you touch its screen. When your iPhone is turned off, all incoming calls go directly to voicemail.

✓ **SIM card tray:** The SIM card tray is where you remove or replace the SIM card inside your iPhone.

A SIM (Subscriber Identity Module) card is a removable smart card used to identify mobile phones. It allows users to change phones by moving the SIM card from one phone to another.

✓ **Headset jack:** The headset jack lets you plug in the included iPhone headset, which looks a lot like white iPod earbuds. Unlike the iPod earbuds, however, the iPhone headset has a microphone so you can use it to talk as well as to listen.

The headset jack is recessed, so most third-party earphones (such as those made by Shure, Etymotic, and Future Sonics) don't work with it. Fortunately, for around \$11 (at press time), you can buy an adapter from companies such as Belkin that enables you to use just about any brand or style of earphones you like with your iPhone.

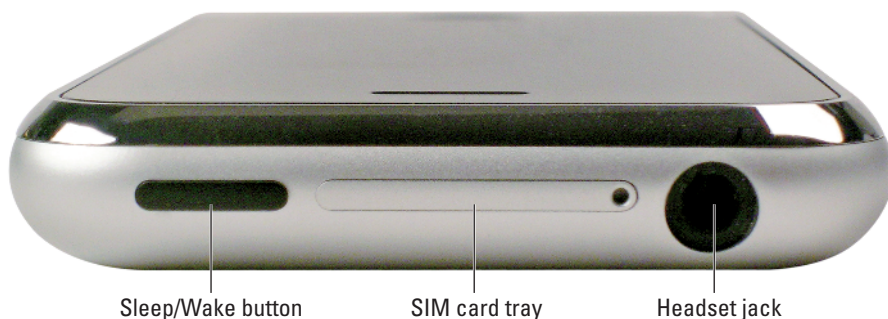


Figure 1-1: The top side of the iPhone.

On the bottom

On the bottom of your iPhone, you'll find the speaker, dock connector, and microphone, as shown in Figure 1-2:

✓ **Speaker:** The speaker is used by the iPhone's built-in speakerphone and plays audio — music or video soundtracks — if no headset is plugged in. It also plays the ringtone you hear when you receive a call.

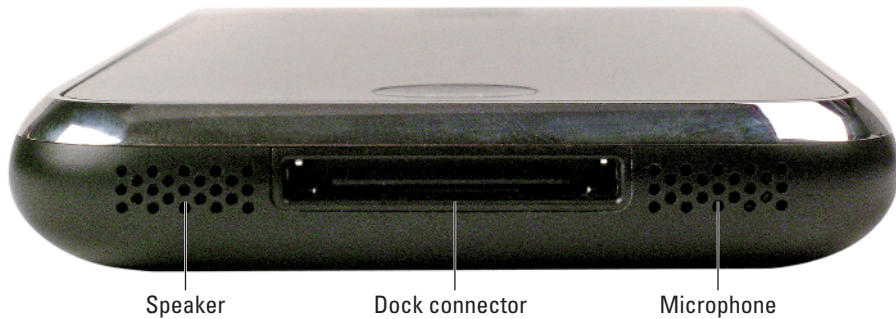


Figure 1-2: The bottom side of the iPhone.

- ✓ **Dock connector:** The dock connector has two purposes. One, you can use it to recharge your iPhone's battery. Simply connect one end of the included dock connector-to-USB cable to the dock connector and the other end to the USB power adapter. Two, you can use the dock connector to recharge your iPhone's battery as well as synchronize. Connect one end of the same cable to the dock connector and the other end to a USB port on your Mac or PC.
- ✓ **Microphone:** The microphone lets callers hear your voice when you're not using a headset.

On the front

On the front of your iPhone you'll find the following (labeled in Figure 1-3):

- ✓ **Ring/Silent switch:** The Ring/Silent switch, which is on the left side of your iPhone, lets you quickly switch between ring mode and silent mode. When the switch is set to ring mode — the up position, with no orange dot — your iPhone plays all sounds through the speaker on the bottom. When the switch is set to silent mode — the down position, with an orange dot visible on the switch — your iPhone doesn't make a sound when you receive a call or when an alert pops up on the screen. The only exceptions are alarms you set in the built-in Clock application, which do sound regardless of the Ring/Silent switch setting.



If your phone is set to ring mode and you want to silence it quickly, you can press the Sleep/Wake button on the top side of the iPhone or press one of the Volume buttons.

- ✓ **Volume buttons:** Two Volume buttons are just below of the Ring/Silent switch. The upper button increases the volume, the lower one decreases it. You use the Volume buttons to raise or lower the loudness of the ringer, alerts, sound effects, songs, and movies. And during phone calls, they adjust the loudness of the person you're speaking with, regardless of whether you're listening through the receiver, the speakerphone, or a headset.



✓ **Receiver:** The receiver is the speaker that the iPhone uses for telephone calls. It naturally sits close to your ear whenever you hold your iPhone in the “talking on the phone” position.

You should be the only one who hears sound coming from the receiver. If you have the volume set above about 50 percent and you’re in a location with little or no background noise, someone standing nearby may be able to hear the sound too. So be careful.

If you require privacy during phone calls, the headset is a better bet.

- ✓ **Touchscreen:** You find out how to use the iPhone’s gorgeous high-resolution color touchscreen in Chapter 2. All we have to say at this time is try not to drool all over it.
- ✓ **Home button:** No matter what you’re doing, you can press the Home button at any time to display the Home screen, which is the screen shown in Figure 1-3.
- ✓ **Application buttons:** Each of the sixteen buttons launches an iPhone application. You’ll read more about them later in this chapter and throughout the rest of the book.



Figure 1-3: The front of the iPhone is a study in elegant simplicity.

On the back

On the back of your iPhone is the camera lens. It’s the little circle in the top-left corner. For more on the camera, see Chapter 9.

Status bar

The status bar, which is at the top of the screen, displays tiny icons that provide a variety of information about the current state of your iPhone:



- ✓ **Cell signal:** The cell signal icon tells you whether you're within range of the AT&T cellular network and therefore can make and receive calls. The more bars you see (five is the highest), the stronger the cellular signal. If you're out of range, the bars are replaced with the words *No service*.

If you have only one or two bars, try moving around a little bit. Even moving just a few feet can sometimes mean the difference between no service and three or four bars.



- ✓ **Airplane mode:** You're allowed to use your iPod on a plane after the captain gives the word. But you can't use your cell phone except when the plane is in the gate area before takeoff or after landing. Fortunately, your iPhone offers an airplane mode, which turns off all wireless features of your iPhone — the phone, Internet access, Wi-Fi, and Bluetooth — and makes it possible to enjoy music or video during your flight.



- ✓ **Wi-Fi:** If you see the Wi-Fi icon, it means your iPhone is connected to the Internet over a Wi-Fi network. The more semicircular lines you see (up to three), the stronger the Wi-Fi signal. Once again, if you have only one or two bars of Wi-Fi strength, try moving around a bit. If you don't see the Wi-Fi icon in the status bar, Internet access is not currently available.



- ✓ **EDGE:** This icon tells you that AT&T's EDGE network is available and you can use it to connect to the Internet. If you don't see the EDGE icon in the status bar, Internet access is not currently available.



- ✓ **Lock:** This icon tells you when your iPhone is locked. See Chapter 2 for information on locking and unlocking your iPhone.



- ✓ **Play:** This icon informs you that a song is currently playing. You find out more about playing songs in Chapter 7.



- ✓ **Alarm:** This icon tells you that you have set one or more alarms in the Clock application.



- ✓ **Bluetooth:** This icon indicates the current state of your iPhone's Bluetooth connection. If it's blue, Bluetooth is on and a device (such as a wireless headset or car kit) is connected. If the icon is gray, Bluetooth is turned on but no device is connected. If you don't see a Bluetooth icon, Bluetooth is turned off. More on this in Chapter 15.



- ✓ **Battery:** This icon reflects the level of your battery's charge. It's completely filled when your battery is fully charged, and then empties out as your battery becomes depleted. You'll see a lightning bolt inside it when your iPhone is recharging.

The iPhone's Sweet Sixteen

The Home screen displays sixteen icons, each representing a different application or function. Because the rest of the book covers all of them in greater detail, we merely provide brief descriptions here.

Starting at the top left, the applications on your Home screen are as follows:

- ✔ **Text:** The Text application lets you exchange text messages with almost any other cell phone user. We've used a lot of mobile phones in our day and this application is as good as it gets.
- ✔ **Calendar:** No matter what calendar program you prefer on your PC or Mac (as long as it's iCal, Microsoft Entourage, or Microsoft Outlook), you can synchronize events and alerts between your computer and your iPhone. Create an event on one and it's automatically synchronized with the other the next time they're connected. Neat stuff.
- ✔ **Photos:** This application is the iPhone's terrific photo manager. You can view pictures that you take with the iPhone's built-in camera or photos transferred from your computer. You can zoom in or out, create slide-shows, e-mail photos to friends, and much more. Other phones may let you take pictures; the iPhone lets you enjoy them in many ways.
- ✔ **Camera:** Use this application when you want to shoot a picture with the iPhone's fine 2-megapixel camera.
- ✔ **YouTube:** This application lets you watch videos from the popular YouTube Web site. You can search for a particular video or browse through thousands of offerings. It's a great way to waste a lot of time.
- ✔ **Stocks:** If you follow the market, this application lets you monitor your favorite stocks, which are updated in near real time.
- ✔ **Maps:** This application is among our favorites. View street maps or satellite imagery of locations around the globe, or ask for directions, traffic conditions, or even the location of a nearby pizza joint. The only thing that would make it even better would be GPS.
- ✔ **Weather:** This application monitors the six-day weather forecast for as many cities as you like.
- ✔ **Clock:** This program lets you see the current time in as many cities as you like, set one or more alarms for yourself, and use your iPhone as a stopwatch or a countdown timer.
- ✔ **Calculator:** The Calculator application lets you perform addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Period.

- ✓ **Notes:** This program lets you type notes while you're out and about. You can send the notes to yourself or anyone else through e-mail or just save them on your iPhone until you need them.
- ✓ **Settings:** Use this application to adjust your iPhone's settings. If you're a Mac user, think System Preferences; if you're a Windows person, think Control Panel.
- ✓ **Phone:** Tap this application icon to use the iPhone as a phone. What a concept!
- ✓ **Mail:** This application lets you send and receive e-mail with most POP3 and IMAP e-mail systems.
- ✓ **Safari:** Safari is your Web browser. If you're a Mac user, you know that already; if you're a Windows user, think Internet Explorer on steroids.
- ✓ **iPod:** Last but not least, this icon unleashes all the power of a video iPod right on your phone.

Okay then. Now that you and your iPhone have been properly introduced, it's time to turn it on, activate it, and actually use it. Onward!