

Unveiling the iPhone

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Congratulations. You've selected one of the most incredible handheld devices we've ever seen. Of course, the iPhone is one heck of a wireless telephone, but it's actually *four* awesome handheld devices in one. In addition to being a killer cell phone, it's a gorgeous widescreen video iPod, a decent 2-megapixel digital camera (original iPhone and iPhone 3G) or 3-megapixel camera/camcorder (iPhone 3GS), as well as the smallest, most powerful Internet communications device yet.

In this chapter, we offer a gentle introduction to all four devices 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: 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.



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:** Use this headset for music videos and, yes, phone calls. The headset contains a built-in microphone for making yourself heard during phone calls.
- ✓ **Dock connector-to-USB cable:** Use this handy cable to sync or charge your iPhone. You can plug the USB connector into your PC or Macintosh to sync or plug it into the USB power adapter, which is described next.
- ✓ **USB power adapter:** Use this adapter to recharge your iPhone from a standard AC power outlet.
- ✓ **Some Apple logo decals:** Of course.
- ✓ **Cleaning cloth:** Expect to get smudges on the iPhone. 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.
- ✓ **SIM eject tool:** Use this tool instead of a bent paper clip in the event you need to eject your SIM card. There's even a handy diagram showing how to use the SIM eject tool inside the little black folder the tool is affixed to.
- ✓ **iPhone:** You were starting to worry. Yes, the iPhone itself is also in the box.

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 in response to the current ambient lighting situation. (Let's see your Blackberry do *that!*)

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

The iPhone as a phone and digital camera/camcorder

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 eventually will be whizzing along at a much faster pace than you thought possible on a mobile keyboard of this type.

The 2-megapixel (iPhone and iPhone 3G) or 3-megapixel (iPhone 3GS) digital camera is accompanied by a decent photo management application, so taking and managing digital photos (and videos on iPhone 3GS) is a pleasure rather than the nightmare it can be on other phones. Plus, you can automatically synchronize iPhone photos and videos with the digital photo library on your Mac or PC. Okay, we still wish the iPhone camera took better photos and shot better video but it is still much better than most other phone cameras.

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 deal with 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 (and camera) 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 almost any that Apple has ever made. (Okay, we can quibble about the iPod Touch or wanting more storage.) You can enjoy all 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 came 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, but 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, with support for Microsoft Exchange ActiveSync. (For more on this topic, see Chapter 11.) Also on board is a world-class Web browser (Safari) that, unlike on other phones, makes Web surfing fun and easy.

Another cool Internet feature is Maps, a killer mapping application based on Google Maps. By using GPS (3G or 3GS hardware) or triangulation (on the original iPhone), it can determine your location, let you 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, pizza restaurants, hospitals, and Apple stores with just a few taps. And the Compass application (3GS only) not only displays your current GPS coordinates but also orients Maps to show the direction you're facing. Let's see your Nokia do that!

You might also enjoy using Stocks, a built-in application that delivers near real-time stock quotes and charts any time and any place, or Weather, another built-in app that obtains and displays the weather forecast for as many cities as you like.

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:

- ✓ An original iPhone, iPhone 3G, or the new iPhone 3GS
- ✓ A wireless contract with AT&T (formerly Cingular) in the U.S.
- ✓ An iTunes Store account
- ✓ Internet access (required) — broadband wireless Internet access recommended

Plus you need *one* of the following:

- ✓ A Mac with a USB 2.0 port; Mac OS X version 10.4.11 or later; and iTunes 8.2 or later
- ✓ A PC with a USB 2.0 port; Windows Vista or Windows XP Home or Professional with Service Pack 2 or later; and iTunes 8.2 or later

A Quick Tour Outside

The iPhone is a harmonious combination of hardware and software. 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 that you can talk as well as listen.



The headset jack on the *original* iPhone is recessed, so most third-party earphones (such as those made by Shure, Etymotic, and Future Sonics) won't work with it. However, you can buy an adapter (starting at around \$11) from companies such as Belkin that enables you to use just about any brand or style of earphones you like with your iPhone. Fortunately, Apple listened to customers. The iPhone 3G and 3GS don't have a recessed headset jack and don't require an adapter.

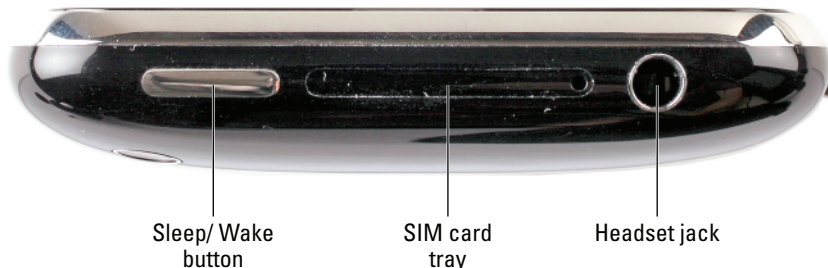


Figure 1-1: The top side of the iPhone 3G and iPhone 3GS looks like this.

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.

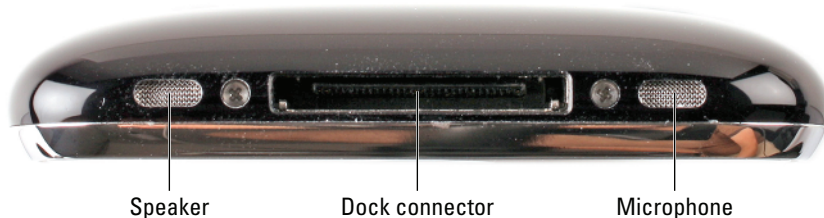


Figure 1-2: The bottom side of the iPhone 3G and iPhone 3GS looks like this.

- ✓ **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 sides and 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 to silent mode 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 of the iPhone or press one of the Volume buttons.



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

- ✓ **Volume buttons:** Two Volume buttons are just below 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, the buttons 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 included Apple headset (or an optional Bluetooth headset — as discussed in Chapter 13) 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 19 (iPhone and iPhone 3G) or 20 (iPhone 3GS) buttons launches an included iPhone application. You'll read more about these applications later in this chapter and throughout the rest of the book.

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 your wireless telephone carrier's 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 walking 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 cellular, 3G, GPRS (General Packet Radio Service), and EDGE networks, Wi-Fi, and Bluetooth — and makes it possible to enjoy music or video during your flight.



- ✓ **3G:** This icon informs you that the high-speed 3G data network from your wireless carrier (that's AT&T in the United States) is available and that your iPhone can connect to the Internet via 3G.



- ✓ **GPRS:** This icon says that your wireless carrier's GPRS data network is available and that your iPhone can use it to connect to the Internet.



- ✓ **EDGE:** This icon tells you that your wireless carrier's EDGE network is available and you can use it to connect to the Internet.



- ✓ **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. If you have only one or two semicircles 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.



Wireless (that is, cellular) carriers may offer one of three data networks. The fastest is a 3G data network, which, as you probably guessed, is available only on the iPhone 3G and iPhone 3GS. The device first looks for a 3G network and then, if it can't find one, looks for a slower EDGE or GPRS data network.

Wi-Fi networks, however, are even faster than any cellular data network — 3G, EDGE, or GPRS. So all iPhones will connect to a Wi-Fi network if one is available, even if a 3G, GPRS, or EDGE network is also available.

Last but not least, if you *don't* see one of these icons — 3G, GPRS, EDGE, or Wi-Fi — you don't currently have Internet access.



- ✓ **Network Activity:** This icon tells you that some network activity is occurring, such as over-the-air synchronization, sending or receiving e-mail, or loading a Web page. Some third-party applications also use this icon to indicate network or other activity.



- ✓ **VPN:** This icon shows that you are currently connected to a virtual private network (VPN).



- ✓ **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 at all, Bluetooth is turned off. Chapter 13 goes into more detail about Bluetooth.



✓ **Bluetooth headset battery:** This icon displays the battery level for your optional Apple iPhone Bluetooth headset (suggested retail price \$99) if you have one and it's currently paired with your iPhone.

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



✓ **TTY:** This icon informs you that your iPhone is set up to work with a teletype (TTY) machine for those who are hearing- or speech-impaired.

You need an optional Apple iPhone TTY Adapter (suggested retail price \$19) to connect your iPhone to a TTY machine.



The iPhone's Nifty Nineteen or Terrific Twenty

The Home screen offers 19 (iPhone and iPhone 3G) or 20 (iPhone 3GS) icons by default, each representing a different built-in application or function. Because the rest of the book covers each and every one of these babies in full and loving detail, we merely provide brief descriptions here.

To get to your Home screen, tap the Home button. If your iPhone is asleep when you tap, the unlock screen appears. Once unlocked, you'll see whichever page of icons was on the screen when it went to sleep. If that happens to have been the Home screen, you're golden. If it wasn't, merely tap the Home button again to summon your iPhone's Home screen.



Three steps let you rearrange icons on your iPhone:

1. **Press and hold any icon until all of the icons begin to “wiggle.”**
2. **Drag the icons around until you're happy with their positions.**
3. **Press the Home button to save your arrangement and stop the “wiggling.”**

If you haven't rearranged your icons, you'll see the following applications on your Home screen, starting at the top left:

✓ **Messages:** The Messages application lets you exchange text (SMS) and multimedia (MMS) messages with almost any other cell phone user (as

described in Chapter 5). In any event, 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 took with the iPhone's built-in camera or transferred from your computer. You can zoom in or out, create slideshows, 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 2 (iPhone and iPhone 3G) or 3-megapixel (iPhone 3GS) 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.
- ✓ **Weather:** This application monitors the six-day weather forecast for as many cities as you like.
- ✓ **Voice Memos:** New in iPhone OS 3.0, this handy little application turns your iPhone into a convenient handheld recording device.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **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.
- ✓ **iTunes:** Tap here to access the iTunes Store, where you can browse, preview, and purchase songs, albums, movies, and more.

- ✔ **App Store:** This icon enables you to connect to and search the iTunes App Store for iPhone applications you can purchase or download for free over a Wi-Fi or cellular data network connection.
- ✔ **Compass (iPhone 3GS only):** Kind of like having a magnetic needle compass inside your iPhone, but better.
- ✔ **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 and, if you work for a company that grants permission, Microsoft Exchange accounts, too.
- ✔ **Safari:** Safari is your Web browser. If you're a Mac user, you know that already; if you're a Windows user who hasn't already discovered the wonderful Safari for Windows, 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!