

Chapter 1

Getting to Know Your Kindle Touch

In This Chapter

- ▶ Figuring out which version of the Kindle Touch you want
 - ▶ Becoming familiar with your Kindle Touch
 - ▶ Registering, naming, and setting up your Kindle Touch
 - ▶ Understanding the heart of your Kindle Touch: the firmware
-

Welcome to the wonderful world of Kindle reading. Getting started with your Kindle Touch is quick and easy, as you discover in this chapter. This chapter introduces the basic features of the Kindle Touch and discusses the first steps in becoming a successful *Kindler* (a Kindle user and reader). We cover some important tips to make your Kindle Touch come alive and help you understand the firmware that runs it.

Picking the Right Kindle Touch for You

The Kindle Touch has several options available to you — when you purchase your device, you need to decide which ones you want. Your choices include

- ✔ **How you connect to the Internet:** Your choices are a Wi-Fi only model (the Kindle Touch), or a 3G + Wi-Fi model (the Kindle Touch 3G).



Amazon uses different names for its Kindle Touch models. Amazon calls the Wi-Fi only model the Kindle Touch and the 3G + Wi-Fi model the Kindle Touch 3G. Throughout this book, we use Kindle Touch when referring to both models (for example, when the way you do something on the device is the same regardless of which model you own). When we need to differentiate between the two models, we do so by calling them the Wi-Fi only Kindle Touch and the Kindle Touch 3G.

✓ **Whether you want offers and ads displayed on your screensaver:** You can purchase a Kindle Touch that has special offers and sponsored screensavers, or you can buy one with non-special offers (or traditional screensavers).

Mixing and matching among these choices gives you four versions of the Kindle Touch from which to choose. The cheapest (\$99) is the Wi-Fi only Kindle Touch with special offers; the most expensive (\$189) is the Kindle Touch 3G with traditional screensavers. How do you choose?

We start with deciding on the method you use to connect to the Internet.

Deciding between Wi-Fi only or 3G + Wi-Fi

How do you decide whether you want a Wi-Fi only Kindle Touch or the Kindle Touch 3G? Good question!

The Wi-Fi only Kindle Touch requires a Wi-Fi wireless Internet connection to download content from Amazon and other sources. You may already have this set up in your home and could use this as your Wi-Fi hotspot. You can also connect your Kindle Touch to Wi-Fi hotspots in public locations, such as Starbucks and McDonald's. On the other hand, Kindle Touch 3G operates on the same cellular network as cellphones and, in essence, is available to you everywhere — in your home, office, car, and public areas such as airports, train stations, and restaurants. While 3G is widely available, there are places in the U.S. that don't have coverage. Amazon provides a coverage map which can be accessed at www.amazon.com/gp/help/customer/display.html?nodeId=200375890&#whispintl.



Be aware that there is no additional charge for the 3G, such as a dataplan that is required for a cellphone. Amazon covers the 3G costs.



In addition to 3G cellular networks, the Kindle Touch 3G can also access and utilize Wi-Fi connections when they're available and in range.

If you anticipate needing to use the wireless only when you're at home or connected to another Wi-Fi network, the Wi-Fi only Kindle Touch is a good choice. (Remember that you need to know how your Wi-Fi network is set up to connect to it — including the password.) On the other hand, if you don't have access to Wi-Fi, travel regularly, or just love the magic of being able to download an e-book in less than a minute, anywhere, any time, you may prefer the Kindle Touch 3G.

Choosing between traditional screensavers or special offers and sponsored screensavers

In 2011, Amazon came out with a new option: special offers and sponsored screensavers — in other words, advertising on your Kindle Touch. In exchange for this, Amazon discounted the price by \$40.

Reading online forums, user reaction to this change has been mixed, but mostly positive. Those who are opposed don't like having advertising on their Kindle Touch, period. On the other hand, many appreciate the discounts and special offers on Kindle e-books and accessories, as well as other products, such as clothing and electronics, that are sold through Amazon. The special offers appear as screensavers and as one small bar promoting the offer at the bottom of the Home screen. No advertising occurs inside the Kindle Touch content.

If you choose a Kindle Touch with special offers and decide you don't like them, you can unsubscribe for \$40 — the difference in the price that you paid originally. Go to the Manage Your Kindle page for your Amazon account (www.amazon.com/myk), choose Manage Your Devices, and click Edit in the Special Offers column to unsubscribe. You may re-subscribe later if you wish, but you will not receive a refund.



The \$40 will include sales tax for those states that include sales tax on Amazon purchases.

A brief history of the Kindle family of e-readers

The first Amazon Kindle became available in 2007, and sold out in less than six hours. Many users back-ordered their Kindles and waited months to receive them. The following year, when Oprah Winfrey announced on her television show that the Kindle was her “new favorite gadget,” sales skyrocketed, and again, the Kindle went out of stock. For two years in a row, the Kindle wasn’t available for Christmas purchases!

In 2009, Jeff Bezos, accompanied by author Stephen King at the press conference, announced the second generation Kindle. Also in 2009, the Kindle DX — the larger Kindle — and Kindle applications for the PC, Mac, and iPhone became available. To the joy of readers around the globe, an international version of the Kindle also came out in the fall of that year.

The third generation Kindle, known as the Kindle Keyboard, became available in 2010; it was the first Kindle offered with Wi-Fi only or 3G + Wi-Fi. A few months after it was released, Amazon started offering a version of the device with the special offers and sponsored screensavers.

The Kindle had a windfall year in 2011, with three new devices announced and released in the span of two months. The Kindle family now includes a basic Wi-Fi only model, priced at \$79; the Kindle Touch, which is the focus of this book; and the Kindle Fire, an Android tablet that came out in November.

The Kindle Touch builds on the best of the past and adds a number of new innovations — most notably, the touchscreen. Like other Kindle readers, the screen uses *e-ink* — a technology that uses actual particles of ink sandwiched between two layers of polymer to create the images you see on the screen. E-ink also allows you to read in direct sunlight. The size of the display is 6 inches; overall the size is 11 percent smaller than the Kindle Keyboard. The device weighs 7.5 or 7.8 ounces (the 3G model is a tiny bit heavier). E-book storage is 4GB (with approximately 3GB available to the user), which allows a library of approximately 3,000 e-books and other content to be maintained on the device. With minimal use of wireless, the battery charge can last up to two months based upon a half-hour of daily reading time.

With the special offers, your screensavers change periodically. Some people, even if they don't take advantage of the discounts, like the variety of pictures that are shown. The *traditional* screensavers — that is, non-special offers — on the Kindle Touch have been updated from those shown on all the earlier Kindle versions. The new screensavers show a variety of pictures but no people. Everyone seems unanimous in their delight that the pictures of the deceased authors (Agatha Christie, John Steinbeck, and so on) are gone!

Price is a consideration when deciding among these options. The best bargain is the Wi-Fi only Kindle Touch with special offers at \$99; Kindle Touch 3G with special offers is \$149. Non-special offer models cost \$139 (Wi-Fi only Kindle Touch) and \$189 (Kindle Touch 3G). Note that even with the Kindle Touch 3G, you don't have to worry about any additional fees or commitments, which you might have with a cellphone data plan, because Amazon covers those costs.

Getting to Know Your Kindle Touch

Figure 1-1 illustrates the bottom of your Kindle Touch, which is where you find the power button, headphone jack, and USB port. There is only one other button on the Kindle Touch: the Home button, the four raised bars on the bottom-front edge (see Figure 1-1). The Home button is aptly named: Whenever you press it, it takes you back to the first page of your Home screen. If your swiping, tapping, and touching has gotten you hopelessly lost within your Kindle Touch, just press the Home button to go Home.

Power modes: Sleep, on, and off

To turn on the Kindle Touch, press the Power button and then release. The first time you use your Kindle Touch, it goes through a booting process that may take a few minutes to complete. After that's done, you see the Home screen, which lists a welcome letter, the Kindle User's Guide, and two built-in dictionaries: the *New Oxford American Dictionary*

(Oxford University Press) and the *Oxford Dictionary of English* (Oxford University Press) on a brand-new Kindle Touch. If you have purchased content while waiting for your Kindle Touch to arrive, those e-books appear on the Home screen when the wireless is turned on for the first time and the e-books are downloaded. (By the way, the Kindle Touch uses the *New Oxford American Dictionary* to look up words. You can change this to the *Oxford Dictionary of English*, or any other dictionary that you might buy and load onto your Kindle Touch, by tapping the Menu button and tapping Settings. The option to change the dictionary is the last item in the list.)

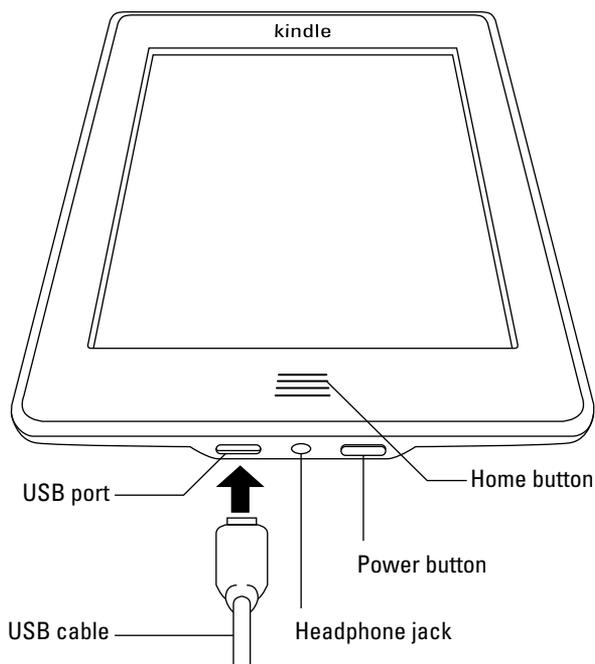


Figure 1-1: The bottom edge of the Kindle Touch.



Books will show up if the device is already registered to your account. If it's not already registered, you'll be prompted to register the device. For the Wi-Fi only Kindle Touch, the first thing that happens after the wireless is turned on is that you will have to connect to your router, so you will need the password.



When the Kindle Touch is plugged into a power source and is charging, the charge indicator light (located next to the power button) glows amber. When the device is fully charged, the light turns green.



The Kindle Touch ships with only a USB cable for charging — it does not include a plug adapter. You can purchase a plug adapter separately from Amazon for \$14.99. Other USB plug adapters, such as the one for the iPhone, are compatible with the Kindle Touch. In the absence of any of these, charge your Kindle Touch through a USB port connected to your computer.

The Kindle Touch has three modes, Sleep, on, and off:

- ✓ **To put the Kindle Touch in Sleep mode**, press the power button and release. When the Kindle Touch is in Sleep mode, a screensaver appears on the screen.
- ✓ **To turn on the Kindle Touch**, press the power button and release. You see the page that you last viewed before the device went into Sleep mode or was turned off.
- ✓ **To turn off the Kindle Touch**, press the power button and hold it until the charge indicator light blinks and the screen goes blank. This takes approximately 5 seconds.
- ✓ **To restart the Kindle Touch**, press and hold the power button for approximately 35 seconds, then release. The screen goes blank, after which the Kindle logo appears and the reboot sequence begins. You can also restart the Kindle Touch on the device by tapping the Menu button from the Home screen, tapping Settings, and then tapping Menu again. Restart is one of the menu options that appears in the list.



In general, you don't need to turn off your Kindle Touch; just put it in Sleep mode. The device automatically goes into Sleep mode after ten minutes of inactivity. The Kindle Touch uses its battery power only for page turns, so there's no difference in battery usage between entering Sleep mode and turning off the Kindle Touch.

The only time you absolutely need to turn off your Kindle Touch is when you're on a plane during takeoff and landing, when passengers are asked that all portable electronic devices be turned off.



If you turn off your Kindle Touch (or don't put it in Sleep mode), make sure you're at the Home screen. Some users have reported problems with the Kindle Touch losing your place in the book if it's turned off with the book open. This isn't an issue with Sleep mode, however, which is another reason why Sleep mode is preferred over completely turning off your Kindle Touch on a routine basis.

Navigating with the touchscreen on your Kindle Touch

Prior versions of the Kindle e-reader had a variety of buttons on the device to navigate through e-books and other content. The Kindle Touch has a touchscreen — revolutionizing how you move around the screen and in books and other content. Even if you're a seasoned Kindle owner, you need to discover some new techniques for navigation. The following is a primer to get you started.

The basics: Tap, swipe, tap and hold, pinch, and stretch

The e-ink screen on your Kindle Touch is touch-sensitive, so it can detect your finger taps and movements. This gives you an easy and intuitive way to control your Kindle Touch.

All your common uses of the Kindle Touch — opening books, turning pages, placing bookmarks, and so on — involve a handful of simple touchscreen gestures, such as finger taps and swipes. For the most part, these gestures are used consistently throughout your use of Kindle Touch. (We point out the few cases where the behavior is a bit different than you might expect.)

We begin by examining how and when you use different finger motions as well as where on the screen you use them.

Tapping

A simple *tap* is the most common gesture you use with Kindle Touch. When an onscreen button appears, for example, you tap the button to activate it. When you view a list of your e-books, tapping an e-book opens it. And when you're reading an e-book, you tap to *page forward* (display the next page), *page backward* (display the previous page), or bring up a menu of commands. The effect of tapping a book's page

depends on which part of the screen you tap; we discuss the three *tap zones* of a displayed page in the “Regions of the touchscreen” section later in this chapter.

Swiping right or left

Sliding your finger (or *swiping*) from right to left horizontally on the screen causes you to page forward. When reading a book, this is an alternative to tapping to advance the page. The motion is akin to flipping a paper page in a printed book.

Paging backward, of course, is accomplished with the reverse motion: a left-to-right horizontal swipe.



When viewing a list of books on the Home screen, a swipe motion — instead of a tap — is needed to page forward and backward. A tap on the title of a book (or other content) on the Home screen opens the item for reading.



A little experimentation with swiping shows that you need only to slide your finger a short distance. Most people don't need to change their hand position from how they naturally hold the Kindle Touch in order to swipe — or tap — to move around the pages in a book.

Swiping up or down

From within a book, swiping up on a page advances the book to its next chapter. Swiping downward, naturally, positions you back to the previous chapter. If book doesn't have chapter breaks set by its publisher, a swipe up or down has no effect.

Tapping and holding

Tapping and holding (sometimes dubbed a *long tap*) occurs when you touch the screen and hold your finger to it for a couple of seconds before releasing. In general, this causes a special action to happen, depending on what you're viewing at the time.

For example, when viewing a page of an e-book, you can tap and hold a word to bring up its dictionary definition. When viewing a list of e-books, a long tap on a particular e-book brings up a list of options for that e-book, including adding it to a collection, reading its description, or moving it to your archive of Kindle books at Amazon. If you tap and hold the

title of an e-book sample that's listed on your Home screen, you can delete it from the device. If you acquired the e-book from a source other than Amazon, you can't move it to the archive of Kindle books at Amazon — your choice is to delete it.



Depending on where you obtained a book or other content, you'll have different options for deleting or moving. The Remove from Device option means the e-book is available in your archive of Kindle books at Amazon; that is, you either purchased the e-book from Amazon or it's an archived personal document that you e-mailed to your Kindle Touch. The Delete option displays with samples that you've downloaded from Amazon and unarchived content acquired from another source.



Deleting an e-book — that is, deleting an e-book not archived with your Kindle content at Amazon — is permanent. Make sure you have a backup on your computer if you don't want to get rid of the e-book forever.



When using the onscreen keyboard, you can access variations of certain letters with a tap and hold on that letter. For example, a tap and hold on the letter “e” brings up a row of letters on the keyboard with accent marks and other diacriticals.

Pinching and stretching

When reading an e-book, place two of your fingers on the touchscreen and slide them closer together. This *pinch* motion decreases the e-book's font size. Place two of your fingers on the screen and *stretch* them farther apart to increase the font size.



The text gets bigger or smaller, in real time, as you make the stretching or pinching motion, respectively — but there is somewhat of a lag. You may find that slowly moving your fingers helps. Also, you only have to move your fingers a small distance to have font size take effect on the screen.

Regions of the touchscreen

The screen of your Kindle Touch is set up with *EasyReach tap zones* — these are designed to let you turn pages effortlessly with one finger of either hand. Figure 1-2 illustrates the tap zones and their measurements. The following list explains each zone:

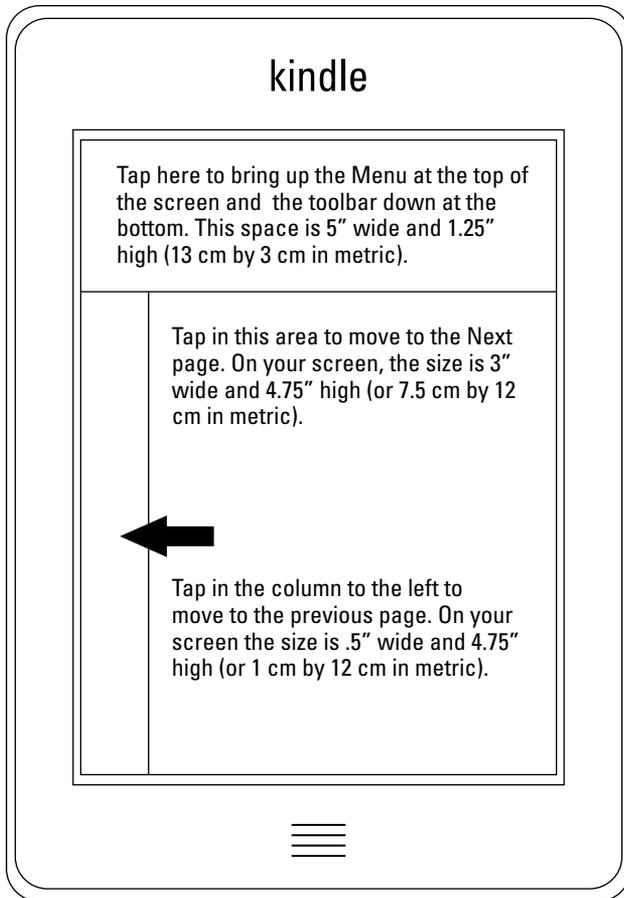


Figure 1-2: EasyReach tap zones on the Kindle Touch screen.

- ✔ The largest zone, the **central square**, is where you mainly tap. Within an e-book or e-magazine, a quick tap advances you to the next page. Within an e-book with chapter navigation enabled, a swipe from top to bottom in this zone moves you back a chapter; swiping from the bottom up moves you ahead a chapter.
- ✔ A tap on the **left column** zone takes you back one page. In our experience, the left column is the zone that takes a bit of getting used to. This zone is only half an inch wide, which means your tapping has to be precise. That

said, after you can visualize it on the screen, it's easier to remember where to tap.

- The last zone is the **top area**. A tap here brings up two toolbars. The top toolbar contains the Back button, the Kindle Store button, the Search field, and the Menu button. The toolbar at the bottom of the screen is where you find the Text button (labeled Aa), the Go To button, and the Sync or X-Ray button. Which of the latter is displayed depends on whether X-Ray is enabled in the e-book. We discuss all these buttons in the “Virtual buttons” section later in this chapter.



Within an e-book, but not on the Home screen, if you tap in the upper-right corner, you set a bookmark on the page. Tapping there again deletes the bookmark. You can also set a bookmark by tapping to bring up the toolbar, then tapping the Menu button and then tapping Add Bookmark. One tap versus three. Which is better? We leave that for you to decide.

Understanding the screens your Kindle Touch displays

Depending on where you are and what you're looking at, your Kindle Touch may have one or more screens available for viewing. The primary screen is the Home screen. The number of screens in your Home screen is determined by the amount of content on your device. Each screen can display seven or eight items, so if you have 56 items on your Kindle Touch (e-books, magazines, personal documents, and so on), your Home screen would be seven or eight pages (or screens) long. You can see the length of your Home screen in the upper-right corner where it displays Page *x* of *x*.



The Home screen on the Kindle Touch with special offers and sponsored screensavers displays seven items — one slot for content is taken up by the small special offer banner at the bottom of the screen.

An e-book may have hundreds of screens. The actual number varies from e-book to e-book, depending on its length. Within an e-book, the number of screens varies depending on what size font you read with and how many lines display on the screen.

At the bottom of the screen are some indicators of where you are in the book. On the bottom-right, you see a percentage for how far along you are in the e-book. To find out the total length of the book, tap the top of the screen to bring up the top and bottom toolbars. At the very bottom of the screen, you see the total length of the book in locations and (if enabled for the book you're reading) pages. All Kindle books have locations as a measure of their length and are calculated as bits of information encoded in the file. Locations typically number in the thousands in an e-book compared to hundreds of pages for a traditional book.

Having the actual page number (and not just locations) is a feature that was implemented in early 2011. The page number corresponds to the page number in the printed book. If the book exists only in e-book format, it doesn't have page numbers at the bottom of the screen.



For e-books that display page numbers, you may be curious as to which version of the printed book matches those page numbers. You can find this out by going to the "Product Details" for the Kindle e-book on Amazon. The matching print edition displays as the Page Numbers Source ISBN. "Product Details" can be found between the Editorial Reviews and Customer Reviews on the page for the Kindle book at Amazon.



When you open an e-book, a small bar displays at the top of the screen, listing the book's title, the Wi-Fi or 3G indicator (if wireless is turned on), the battery charge meter, and the time. When you turn the page, this bar disappears. Bringing up the toolbars makes this information reappear. Note that the location numbers and percentage of progress through the book always displays at the bottom of the screen.

Charging

On the bottom of the Kindle Touch is the USB port for the charging cable (refer to Figure 1-1). This is a standard micro-USB. Notice that the charging cord has a micro-USB on one end and a standard USB on the other. Plug the micro-USB into the Kindle. The standard USB can be plugged into your computer or into the plug adapter, which is plugged into an electrical wall socket. As we note earlier, the Kindle Touch doesn't ship with a plug adapter. You must purchase this

separately. The Kindle Touch is compatible with other chargers, such as the one used for the iPhone; it's also compatible with the plug adapter that came with earlier generation Kindles (Kindle 2 and Kindle Keyboard).



The initial charging of the Kindle Touch takes about 4 hours. After that, charging via USB and computer takes about 3 hours. Charging with the Kindle plugged into an electrical socket is usually shorter, about 1 to 2 hours.



The battery charge meter is in the upper-right corner of the Home screen. We recommend recharging the battery when it has about a quarter of a charge remaining. You don't need to "top off" the battery on a daily or weekly basis.

You can read and use your Kindle Touch while it charges. When the Kindle Touch is plugged into an electrical socket, the display doesn't change. However, when the Kindle Touch is plugged into the USB on the computer, you see the following message:

If you want to read or shop on your Kindle while continuing to charge over USB, please keep the USB cable attached, but eject your Kindle from your computer.

If you want to read on your Kindle Touch while it's connected to your computer, eject the device via the operating system but leave it physically connected (or plugged in) to the USB port. To eject your Kindle Touch:

- ✓ **In Windows 7, Vista, and Windows XP:** Either left- or right-click the Safely Remove Hardware icon in the lower-right corner of the taskbar and choose Eject Amazon Kindle. The screen returns to whatever was open previously.
- ✓ **In Mac OS X:** Press ⌘-E. You can also drag the Kindle icon from the desktop to the trash can, or choose File⇨ Eject.

The headphone jack

On the bottom of your Kindle Touch, between the USB port and the power button, is the headphone jack (refer to Figure 1-1). Use this if you want to privately listen to an audiobook or while having books read to you through the Text-to-Speech feature. (The Kindle Touch also has speakers on the back at the bottom of the device, so headphones aren't required.)

The Kindle Touch doesn't have a volume button. To change the volume, tap the top of the screen to bring up the top toolbar, tap the Menu button, and then tap Turn On Text-to-Speech. A touch-sensitive volume control displays; tap it to adjust. If you're listening to an audiobook, the volume control displays on the page that contains the audiobook information which shows when you open the audiobook and it starts playing.

Virtual buttons

The Kindle Touch has two physical buttons on the device: the Power button and the Home button, which we've discussed already. Buttons that were on earlier versions of the Kindle, such as Back and Font, are incorporated as virtual onscreen buttons that you tap or fields into which you can enter information. The virtual buttons, which we discuss in the following sections, are illustrated in Figure 1-3.

Back button

The Back button is the left-pointing arrow (←) and is the first button on the top toolbar. The Back button is similar to the Back button on a web browser: It lets you retrace your steps on the Kindle Touch. In some instances, the Back button acts like the Home button; for example, if you open an e-book from the Home screen, read a few pages, and then press the Back button, you return to the Home screen — not the previous page you looked at.

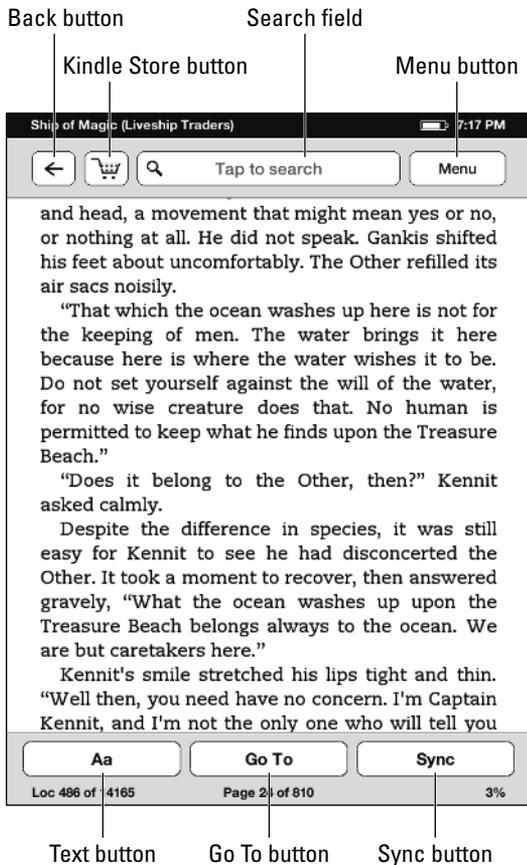


Figure 1-3: The top and bottom toolbars illustrating the virtual buttons of the Kindle Touch.

In an e-newspaper or e-magazine, however, the Back button has a very different action — it returns you to the article listing or the front page. E-newspaper and e-magazine content is sorted by articles or sections listings that you scroll through to select what you want to read. After reading an article, the Back button brings you back to the listing, not your Home screen.

In our personal experience, we use the Back button rarely when reading an e-book, but all the time when reading newspapers and magazines.

Kindle Store button

Next to the Back button is the Kindle Store button (it looks like a shopping cart). Tapping this button takes you to the Amazon Kindle Store. If wireless isn't turned on, you're prompted to activate it.



If you have a Wi-Fi only Kindle Touch and are not in an area with a Wi-Fi hotspot, you can't connect to the Kindle Store.

Search field

When you tap in the Search field, an onscreen keyboard appears. Type whatever you want to search for. A drop-down list lets you search My Items, Kindle Store, Wikipedia, or the Dictionary. Within an e-book, you can also restrict your search to just the e-book. Searching the Kindle Store or Wikipedia requires that Wi-Fi be turned on and connected.

Menu button

The Menu button is probably what you tap most often when using your Kindle Touch. We discuss specific uses of the Menu button throughout this e-book — turning on and off the wireless, finding the settings on your device, or reading annotations and notes. If you're wondering how to do something, no matter what it might be, tap the Menu button as your first choice. To close menus that appear onscreen, tap the X in the upper-right corner of the menu.

Text button

On the bottom toolbar, the Text button is labeled Aa. A number of useful features (see Figure 1-4) are accessed by pressing the Text button. Menu choices available from the Text button include

- ✓ **Style:** When you tap this option, you can make the following style settings:
 - *Font Size:* Change the text size. You can choose from eight sizes.
 - *Typeface:* Tap Regular, Condensed, Sans Serif to select your typeface.
- ✓ **Spacing:** When you tap this option, you can make the following spacing settings:

- *Line Spacing*: Tap Small, Medium, or Large to adjust the line spacing.
- *Words Per Line*: Change the number of words displayed per line. Your options include Fewest, Fewer, or Default.

Close the menu by tapping the X in the upper-right corner.

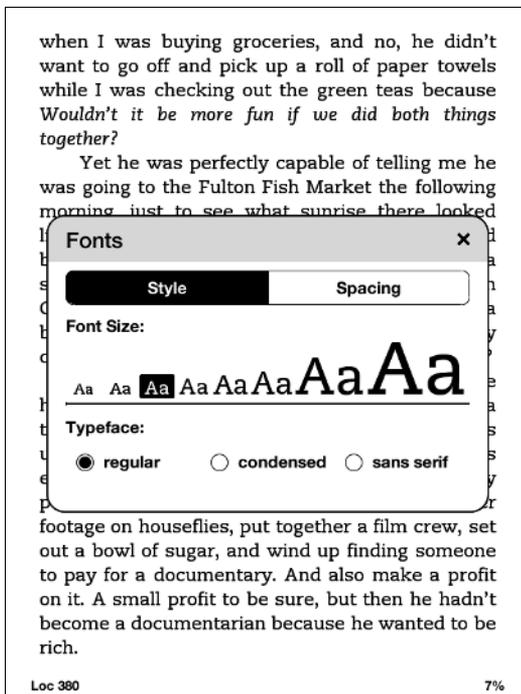


Figure 1-4: Press the Text button to change the font style and spacing.

Go To button

Tapping the Go To button on the bottom toolbar brings up a menu that allows you to quickly navigate through an e-book. You can go to the Cover, the *Beginning* (the first page of the first chapter), the Table of Contents (from here, tap and move to individual chapters), the *End* (the very last location in the book), or a specific page or location.

Sync or X-Ray button

The last button on the bottom toolbar is either Sync or X-Ray. *Sync* allows you to sync to the furthest page read. This is useful if you read an e-book on more than one device, such as your Kindle Touch and a smartphone. *X-Ray* displays if that feature is enabled in the book you're reading. Tapping X-Ray brings up a list of words or characters that appear in the page, chapter, or book along with a frequency graph.



If X-Ray is enabled in the book you're reading, you can still sync to the furthest page read. Just tap the Menu button — Sync is the third option in the list.

The Kindle display

Part of what made the Kindle so groundbreaking when it was introduced was that it was one of the first widely available commercial e-readers to use e-ink in its screen display. E-ink was first conceptualized by scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Media Lab; the e-ink corporation spun off and was founded in 1997.

E-ink is fundamentally different from an LCD screen, such as laptop, smartphone, and computer screens. With e-ink, thousands of microcapsules of ink are held between two layers of polymer. Reversing the electronic charge changes the capsules from positive to negative, which changes the color from light to dark and, ultimately, results in the display on the screen.

E-ink requires very little power, which is why the Kindle battery can hold a charge for up to a month if wireless is used minimally. E-ink isn't backlit, which is less fatiguing for your eyes; it also more closely mimics paper to enhance the reading experience. The drawback is that you need an external light source to read on the Kindle. On the plus side, you can read in bright sunlight without any glare.

Warning: The Kindle screen is delicate. Placing heavy objects on top of your Kindle, especially those with sharp edges, can damage the screen to the point that it's unreadable. Dropping your Kindle can also break the screen. Because of this, many people use covers and screen protectors to protect their Kindles. (See Chapter 5 for more about covers and other accessories.)

Toolbars in periodicals

Within a periodical, such as an e-newspaper or e-magazine, the toolbars are a little bit different, as shown in Figure 1-5. The top toolbar still contains the Back button, Search field, and Menu button, but it has two additional buttons:

- ✓ **Periodical Home button:** Displays the list of sections with photographs, as shown in Figure 1-5.
- ✓ **Sections and Articles button:** Displays a hierarchical, text-based section and article listing, as shown in Figure 1-6. At the bottom of the screen are navigation buttons.

Periodical Home button



Figure 1-5: The top toolbar of *The New York Times*.

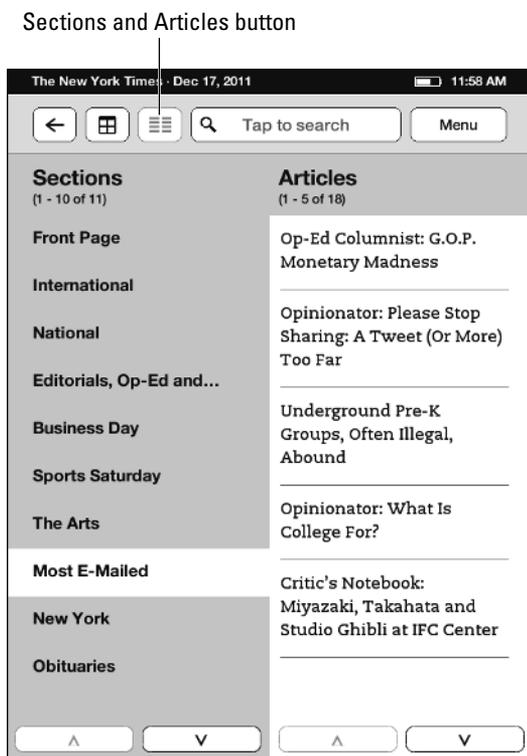


Figure 1-6: *The New York Times* displaying its text-based Sections and Articles listing.



If you want to change the font size while reading a periodical, use the stretch/pinch motion. Stretch your fingers apart to enlarge the font, or pinch them together to make it smaller. Both of these actions are done on the touchscreen.

Making Your Kindle Touch Come Alive

After you open the box, you're ready to get started with your Kindle Touch and make it come alive. To do so, register your Kindle Touch, give it a name if you want, and set it up to receive e-mail. We describe each of these steps in the following sections.

Registering your Kindle Touch

If you bought your Kindle Touch for yourself through Amazon, it's delivered to you already registered. However, if you bought the Kindle Touch from a store (such as Target, Staples, or Best Buy) or received it as a gift, you need to register it.

You can register your Kindle Touch from the device itself or through your account at Amazon via your computer. The key piece of information you need when registering via a computer is the serial number, which can be found on the box or on the Device Info menu.

To register your Kindle Touch using the device, follow these steps:

- 1. Make sure the wireless is on by tapping the Menu button and then selecting Turn On Wireless.**
- 2. Once the wireless is on, tap Menu again, tap Settings and then tap Registration.**
- 3. Enter your Amazon login credentials (your account e-mail and password).**

The Kindle Touch inputs its own serial number, so you don't need to enter it.

- 4. Tap Submit to finish registering your Kindle Touch.**

That's it! You can now buy books and other content from Amazon and have them delivered wirelessly to your Kindle Touch.

To register your Kindle Touch from your Amazon account on your computer, follow these steps:

- 1. Go to www.amazon.com.**
- 2. Click the Your Account link in the upper-right corner.**
- 3. From the main account page that appears, scroll down to the Digital Content section and then click the Manage Your Kindle link.**
- 4. If prompted, enter your e-mail address and password, and then click the Sign In Using Our Secure Server button.**

5. In the Serial Number text box, enter the serial number and click the Register a New Kindle button.

That's it! You can now buy e-books and other content and have them delivered wirelessly to your Kindle.

Naming your Kindle Touch

Naming your Kindle Touch is not required, but it's a way to be creative and make your Kindle uniquely yours. By default, your Kindle Touch is named *[Your Name]'s Kindle*. Its name appears in the upper-left corner of the Home screen. Similar to registering, you can change the name from the device or your Amazon account.

To change your Kindle Touch's name from the device, follow these steps:

1. Tap the Menu button, tap Settings, tap Device Options.
2. Tap Device Name and enter a new name for your Kindle Touch using the on-screen keyboard that appears.



Some Kindle Touch owners use their name and phone number as their Kindle Touch's name. That way, if they misplace their Kindle Touch and a kind-hearted soul finds it, their name and contact information prominently displays on the Home screen.

3. Tap the Save button to complete the process.

To change the device name via your Amazon account on your computer, follow these steps:

1. Go to www.amazon.com.
2. Click the Your Account link in the upper-right corner.
3. From the main account page that appears, scroll down to the Digital Content section and then click the Manage Your Kindle link.
4. If prompted, enter your e-mail address and password, and then click the Sign In Using Our Secure Server button.

5. Click on **Manage Your Devices** on the left side of the screen.

Your Kindle Touch appears on the list of registered devices.

6. Click **Edit** next to the Kindle's name and then type a new name in the dialog box that appears.

7. Click the **Update** button.



You can also add personal information or a message, such as “This Kindle Touch belongs to [your name]. If found, please call xxx-xxx-xxx.” To do so, follow these steps:

1. **On the Kindle Touch, tap the Menu button, tap Settings, and then tap Personal Info.**
2. **Use the onscreen keyboard to enter the information.**
3. **Tap Save to complete the process.**



Note that when you “name” your Kindle with your name and phone number, it appears on the Home screen. If you include it in the personal information, it only appears on the Personal Info section of the Settings menu and won't be readily apparent to anyone who might happen to be looking at your Kindle Touch.

Setting the e-mail address on your Kindle Touch

Your Kindle Touch has an e-mail address, and with it, you can send personal documents to your device. If you buy books and don't want to sideload them to your Kindle Touch via the USB cable, you can simply e-mail them to your Kindle Touch. When you turn on wireless, any documents you e-mail to the device download and appear on your Home screen. (For more about loading your own documents on the Kindle Touch, see Chapter 4.)

The default Kindle Touch e-mail address is derived from the name on your Amazon account, followed by @kindle.com. You might want to change the e-mail address to something that's easier to remember or corresponds to the name you've given your Kindle Touch. To view your Kindle Touch's e-mail

address, tap the Menu button and then tap Settings. The Send-to-Kindle E-mail option is the last item on the list. To change your Kindle Touch's e-mail address, you must do so from your Amazon account on your computer. Follow these steps:

1. **Go to** `www.amazon.com`.
2. **Click the Your Account link in the upper-right corner.**
3. **From the main account page that appears, scroll down to the Digital Content section and then click the Manage Your Kindle link.**
4. **If prompted, enter your e-mail address and password, and then click the Sign In Using Our Secure Server button.**
5. **From the left-hand menu, choose Personal Document Settings.**
Your Kindle Touch and its associated e-mail address appear.
6. **Click Edit and input a new address.**
7. **Click the Update button to save.**

To send an e-mail to your Kindle Touch, you need to approve your own e-mail address and any others that might send content to your device. This can be done only through your Amazon account, not from the Kindle Touch.

To approve an e-mail address so it can send content to your Kindle Touch, follow these steps:

1. **Go to** `www.amazon.com`.
2. **Click the Your Account link in the upper-right corner.**
3. **From the main account page that appears, scroll down to the Digital Content section and then click the Manage Your Kindle link.**
4. **If prompted, enter your e-mail address and password, and then click the Sign In Using Our Secure Server button.**

5. From the left-hand menu, choose **Personal Document Settings**.

The list of approved e-mail addresses is in the center of the screen.

6. Click on **Add a new approved e-mail address**. Enter the e-mail address you want to approve in the dialog box that appears. Click **Add Address** when the information is complete. Repeat these steps to add and approve additional e-mail addresses.

The approved addresses are listed in the table in the center of the screen, with the option to delete them on the right (if you later choose to do so).



Many e-book retailers allow you to set up your account so that purchases you make are e-mailed automatically to your Kindle Touch. In essence, this mimics the wireless delivery service that Amazon offers. If you want to take advantage of this, make sure to add the e-mail address of the e-bookseller to your approved list of e-mail addresses.



If you use 3G to receive documents on your Kindle Touch 3G, Amazon charges \$.15 per megabyte (within the U.S.) and \$.99 per megabyte for Kindle Touches outside the U.S. The latter applies to a U.S.-registered Kindle Touch owner who's traveling outside the country, as well as non-U.S.-based Kindle owners. Transferring documents via Wi-Fi is free.



You can set the maximum document charge at your Amazon account. The range is \$0–\$49.50. The default maximum charge is \$2.50. To change the amount, go to Personal Document Settings in your Amazon account and choose the option to edit the Whispersnet Delivery charge (which can be found above the table of approved e-mail addresses).

Setting up your Wi-Fi

By default, all versions of the Kindle Touch include Wi-Fi; 3G is an additional option. If you have a Wi-Fi only Kindle Touch, you need to set up Wi-Fi to receive e-books and content wirelessly. If you have a Kindle Touch 3G, you don't have to set up Wi-Fi to receive content — 3G works automatically without any additional setup. Still, if you have a Wi-Fi hotspot in your home or office, you probably want to go ahead and get it working, just for convenience.



If you send documents to your Kindle Touch 3G via e-mail using 3G, there is a charge. Documents transferred via e-mail using Wi-Fi are free. Another good reason to set up Wi-Fi!

To set up Wi-Fi, you need to know whether the network is password-protected. This is probably the case in your home or office; Wi-Fi hotspots in public locations, such as Starbucks and McDonald's, are generally not secured with a password.

To add a wireless network, follow these steps:

1. Make sure wireless is on by tapping the Menu button and then selecting Turn On Wireless.

2. Tap the Menu button again and then tap Settings.

Wi-Fi Networks is the second item on the list. See what networks (if any) the device has found.

3. Tap Wi-Fi Networks, and in the menu that appears, select the network you want to connect to.

If the network you want to connect to requires a password, enter it in the Wi-Fi Networks dialog box that appears.

4. (Optional) Manually enter a Wi-Fi network in the dialog box by following these steps:

a. At the bottom of the Wi-Fi Networks box, tap Join to enter another Wi-Fi network. A dialog box named Enter Wi-Fi Network will appear, along with the on-screen keyboard.

b. Enter the network name and if applicable, the password using the onscreen keyboard.

c. At the bottom of the Enter Wi-Fi Network dialog box, tap the Advanced button.

You can advance through a series of screens using the up and down arrows. Each screen allows you to enter information relating to the network including connection type, IP address, and security type.

d. When all the necessary information has been entered, tap the Connect button to join the network.



The wireless indicator displays in the upper-right corner of the screen next to the battery charge meter. The wireless indicator is visible from the Home screen, and you can see it every time you bring up the toolbar within an e-book. Icons you may see that relate to the wireless connection include

- ✓ **Wi-Fi:** The Kindle Touch is connected to a Wi-Fi network. Next to the words Wi-Fi is a fan with bars indicating the strength of the Wi-Fi connection
- ✓ **3G:** The Kindle Touch 3G is connected to a 3G network. This applies only to the Kindle Touch that includes 3G + Wi-Fi.
- ✓ **1X:** The Kindle Touch 3G is connected to a network via EDGE/GPRS (the predecessor to 3G in cellular network delivery). This applies only to the Kindle Touch 3G.

Understanding Kindle Touch Firmware

At the core of your Kindle Touch is a small computer, complete with hardware, software, and a built-in network platform. The software that runs the Kindle Touch is its firmware. *Firmware* is the core that controls how the device works — everything the Kindle Touch does is controlled by the firmware.

Amazon periodically updates the firmware for the device. Generally, firmware updates fix minor bugs and glitches that may not be apparent to the casual user. However, occasionally a major upgrade or new feature is added. For example, with firmware update 2.5, Amazon added the ability to sort e-books into collections, a feature that had been repeatedly requested by users.



To find out which version of the firmware your Kindle is running, from the Home screen, tap the Menu button, tap Settings, and then tap Menu again. Tap Device Info from the menu that appears. The firmware version is listed, along with the serial number, and space available (in megabytes). The Kindle Touch is the fifth generation of the devices that have been produced, so the firmware version begins with 5.

The firmware on your device may be updated automatically and not require any action from you. If an update is available, Your Kindle Touch will download it when you turn on the wireless and connect to a network. If you notice a screen that says *Your Kindle is Updating*, this is what's happening.

If you're curious whether a more current update is available, you can check at Amazon:

- 1. Go to www.amazon.com and choose Kindle from the menu on the left side of the page and then choose **Manage Your Kindle** from the drop-down menu that appears.**
- 2. On the taskbar near the top of the screen, click the **Kindle Support** link and then click the **Kindle Software Updates** link on the left side of the screen.**
- 3. Instructions are included at the site for how to determine if you need to upgrade the Firmware and if so, how to download and manually update your Kindle Touch, if you want.**



You don't have to manually update your Kindle Touch. Necessary updates happen automatically through the wireless. Just be aware that if the screen looks different or if you find new features, the device probably went through an automatic update.

