

- » Discover what's new in iPhones and iOS 14
- » Choose the right iPhone for you and find where to buy it
- » Understand what you need to use your iPhone
- » Explore what's in the box
- » Take a look at the gadget

Chapter 1

Buying Your iPhone

You've read about it. You've seen the lines at Apple Stores on the day a new version of the iPhone is released. You're so intrigued that you've decided to get your own iPhone to have a smartphone that offers much more than the ability to make and receive calls. Perhaps you're not new to smartphones but are ready to make the switch to the ultimate in such devices. iPhone also offers lots of fun apps, such as games and exercise trackers; allows you to explore the online world; lets you read e-books, magazines, and other periodicals; allows you to take and organize photos and videos; plays music and movies, and a lot more.

Trust me: You've made a good decision, because the iPhone redefines the mobile phone experience in an exciting way. It's also an absolutely perfect fit for seniors.

In this chapter, you learn about the advantages of the iPhone, as well as where to buy this little gem and associated data plans from providers. After you have one in your hands, I help you explore what's in the box and get an overview of the little buttons and slots you'll encounter — luckily, the iPhone has very few of them.

Discover the Newest iPhones and iOS 14

Apple's iPhone gets its features from a combination of hardware and its software operating system (called iOS, which is short for iPhone operating system). The most current version of the operating system is iOS 14. It's helpful to understand which new features the latest models and iOS 14 bring to the table (all of which are covered in more detail in this book).

Apple's latest additions to the iPhone family are the iPhone 12, 12 mini, 12 Pro, and 12 Pro Max. Like their predecessors, they are highly advanced smartphones that leave competitors in the dust. Here are some of the key features of the latest iPhone models:

- » **An A14 Bionic chip:** Each of the four new iPhone models includes the new A14 chip. The truly innovative tech in these models demands a processor that can handle some heavy lifting while still being able to answer calls and retrieve email.
- » **5G:** The latest iPhones are the first to support 5G. 5G is the latest — and by far, the fastest — cellular wireless technology. 5G promises to expand the connectivity of not just our smartphones, but just about any device that supports the technology, including computers, cars, smart home devices, and so much more. 5G has the potential to change global communication, providing ridiculously fast and reliable connectivity.
- » **Splash, water, and dust resistance:** Your new iPhone 12, 12 mini, 12 Pro, or 12 Pro Max is resistant to damage caused by water splashing onto it or from dust collecting within it.



TIP

You might consider acquiring AppleCare+, which is Apple's extended warranty, currently priced at \$149 for iPhone 12 and 12 mini, or \$199 for iPhone 12 Pro and 12 Pro Max. AppleCare+ does cover up to two incidents of accidental damage, which could more than cover the cost of repairing your iPhone without it. You can also get AppleCare+ with Theft and Loss coverage for \$50 more for iPhone 12 and 12 mini, and \$70 more for 12 Pro and 12 Pro Max.

Now, you don't want to take your iPhone 12 model deep-sea diving, but it's likely to survive submersion in about six meters of water for up to 30 minutes. Mind you, these numbers have been tested in labs and aren't based on real-world conditions. In other words, if your iPhone 12 model gets wet, it's much more likely to survive the ordeal than older iPhone iterations, but it still isn't something you'd like to see happen to your expensive investment.

- » **MagSafe charging:** iPhone 12 models include MagSafe charging, which uses Apple's MagSafe technology to charge your iPhone with a magnetic connector that snaps onto the back of the device. Apple also has a series of accessories, such as cases and wallets, that are MagSafe compatible, meaning you can charge your iPhone even if has those accessories attached.
- » **Ceramic Shield:** The toughness and durability of Apple's screens just keeps getting better. Ceramic Shield was developed by Apple and Corning, and according to them, it's the toughest screen ever for a smartphone, making it four times more likely than other smartphones to survive a drop unscathed.



WARNING

Don't think your iPhone is unbreakable. Cases are still a good — no, make that a great — idea. As a matter of fact, Apple has a line of cases that not only protect your iPhone but also allow for wireless Qi or MagSafe charging.

Any iPhone model from the iPhone SE (1st generation) forward can use most features of iOS 14 if you update the operating system (discussed in detail in Chapter 3); this book is based on version 14 of iOS. This update to the operating system adds many features, including (but definitely not limited to) the following:

- » **Home screen enhancements:** Your Home screens are where all your apps are organized. iOS 14 introduces features such as App Library, the ability to hide entire Home screen pages, and enhanced widgets.
- » **Siri improvements:** Siri just keeps getting better. Siri can now speak in more languages and voices, send audio messages, and

includes 20 times more facts than in previous iterations. Siri also has a more compact presence on your screen, so the entire screen isn't taken up when using the feature.

- » **Widgets:** With iOS 14, you can now place widgets on your Home screen. Widgets are snippets of information, such as weather and calendar appointments, that are provided at a glance so that you don't have to open individual apps. Widgets were once only available on the Today screen, but now you can place them anywhere you like, and you can also customize their size and appearance.
- » **App Library:** The App Library affords you a new way to organize and access your apps, alongside the traditional way of doing so with your Home screen(s). Apps are automatically organized in the App Library according to category.
- » **Compact Calls and Picture-In-Picture (PIP):** In the "old-timey" days before iOS 14, phone calls and FaceTime calls would take up your entire screen. Now those calls only take up a small portion of your screen (if you like), allowing you to multitask while talking.
- » **Translate:** iOS 14 introduces the new Translate app. Translate allows you to carry on a conversation in 11 different languages. It also offers a mode that allows you and another person to speak to one another in your native languages while Translate instantly displays the translation for each of you. It's almost like something out of *Star Trek*.



TIP

Don't need or use all the built-in apps? You can remove them from your Home screen. When you remove a built-in app from your Home screen, you aren't deleting it — you're hiding it. This is due to security reasons that are beyond the scope of this book. However, the built-in apps take up very little of your iPhone's storage space, and they can easily be added back to your Home screen by searching for them in the App Store and tapping the Get button.

These are but a very few of the improvements made to the latest version of iOS. I suggest visiting www.apple.com/ios/ios-14 to find out more.

Choose the Right iPhone for You

The sizes of the latest iPhone 12 models vary:

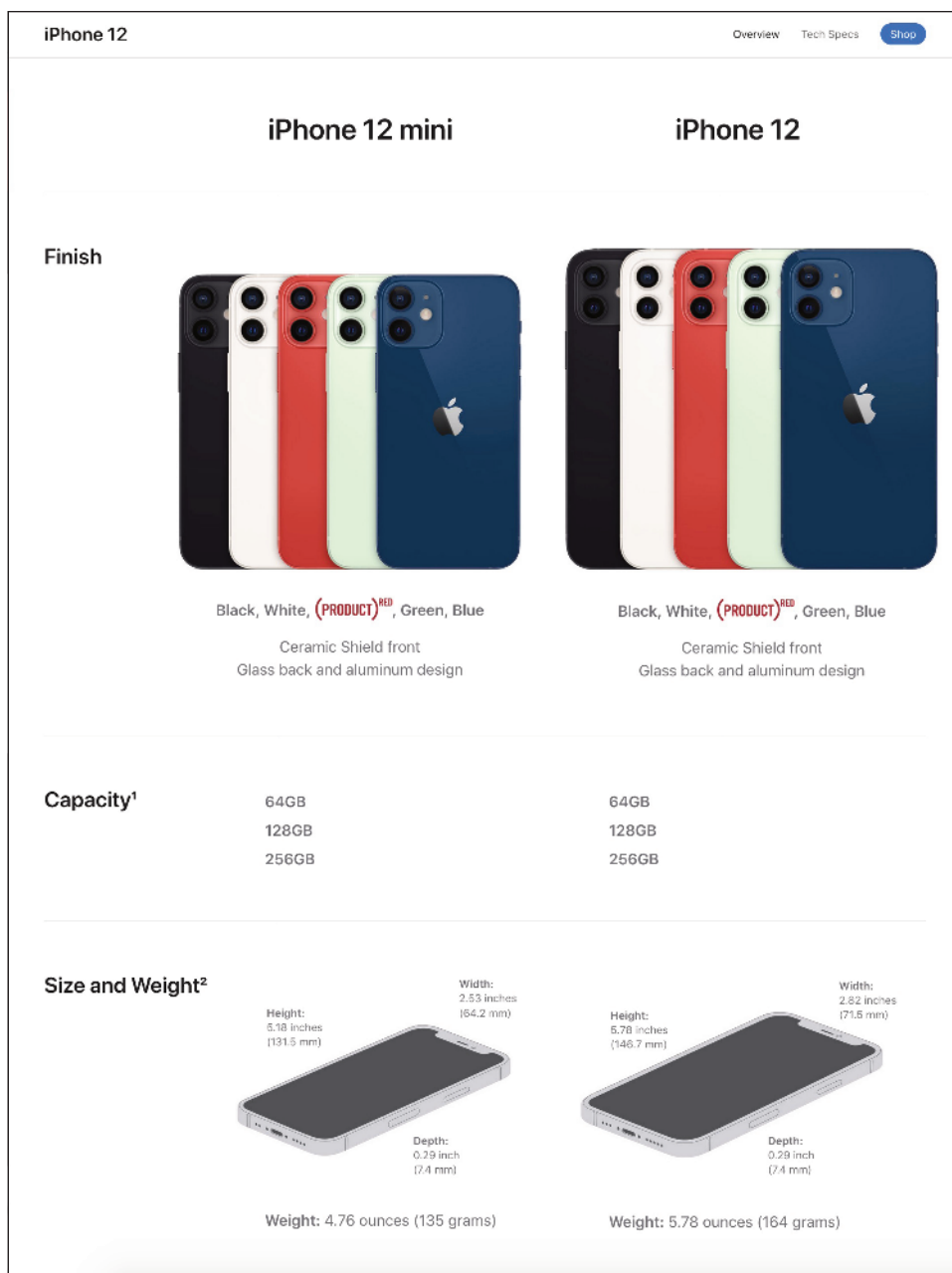
- » iPhone 12 measures 2.82" by 5.78" (6.1" diagonally) with a depth of .29 inches (see **Figure 1-1**).
- » iPhone 12 mini measures 2.53" by 5.18" (5.4" diagonally) with a depth of .29 inches (also shown in **Figure 1-1**).
- » iPhone 12 Pro measures 2.82" by 5.78" (6.1" diagonally) with a depth of .29 inches (see **Figure 1-2**).
- » iPhone 12 Pro Max measures 3.07" by 6.33" (6.7" diagonally) with a depth of .29 inches (also shown in **Figure 1-2**).

You can get iPhone 12 in white, black, blue, green, and a beautiful PRODUCT RED version. iPhone 12 Pro and 12 Pro Max both come in gold, silver, graphite, and a great-looking Pacific Blue.

Other differences between iPhone models come primarily from the current operating system, iOS 14.

Not sure whether to get an iPhone 12 model? Here are a few more key differences:

- » The battery life of the iPhone 12 Pro Max is longer than the other models. For example, audio playback time on the 12 Pro Max is rated at 80 hours versus 65 hours on the 12 and 12 Pro, with the 12 mini maxing out at 50 hours.
- » iPhone 12 Pro and 12 Pro Max have triple rear-facing cameras, providing amazing optical zoom, Portrait mode, and other features. The 12 and 12 mini has dual rear-facing cameras.
- » Screen resolution: The higher the resolution, the crisper the phone display. The iPhone 12 and 12 Pro provide 2532 x 1170 resolution; 12 mini boasts 2340 x 1080; and 12 Pro Max provides a stunning 2778 x 1284.



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iPhone 12 Pro

iPhone 12 Pro Max

Finish

Silver, Graphite, Gold, Pacific Blue

Ceramic Shield front
Textured matte glass back and stainless steel design

Silver, Graphite, Gold, Pacific Blue

Ceramic Shield front
Textured matte glass back and stainless steel design

Capacity¹

128GB	128GB
256GB	256GB
512GB	512GB

Size and Weight²

Height: 5.78 inches (146.7 mm)

Width: 2.82 inches (71.5 mm)

Depth: 0.29 inch (7.4 mm)

Weight: 6.66 ounces (189 grams)

Height: 6.33 inches (160.8 mm)

Width: 3.07 inches (78.1 mm)

Depth: 0.29 inch (7.4 mm)

Weight: 8.03 ounces (228 grams)

FIGURE 1-2

Table 1-1 gives you a quick comparison of iPhone XR, 11, SE (2nd generation), 12, 12 mini, 12 Pro, and 12 Pro Max (models currently sold by Apple). All costs are as of the time this book was written. (Some carriers may introduce non-contract terms.)

TABLE 1-1 iPhone Model Comparison

Model	Storage	Cost (may vary by carrier)	Carriers
XR	64 and 128GB	from \$499	AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile
11	64, 128, and 256GB	from \$599	AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile
SE (2nd generation)	64, 128, and 256GB	from \$399	AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile
12	64, 128, and 256GB	from \$799	AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile
12 mini	64, 128, and 256GB	from \$699	AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile
12 Pro	128, 256, and 512GB	from \$999	AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile
12 Pro Max	128, 256, and 512GB	from \$1099	AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile



TIP

One exciting pricing option is the iPhone Upgrade Program. You choose your carrier, get an unlocked phone so you can change carriers, and receive Apple Care + to cover you in case your phone has problems, all starting at a cost of \$35.33 a month (depending on the iPhone model you select). Data usage from your carrier will come on top of that. Check out www.apple.com/shop/iphone/iphone-upgrade-program for more information.

Decide How Much Storage Is Enough

Storage is a measure of how much information — for example, movies, photos, and software applications (apps) — you can store on a computing device. Storage can also affect your iPhone's performance when handling such tasks as streaming favorite TV shows from the World Wide Web or downloading music.



TIP

Streaming refers to playing video or music content from the web (or from other devices) rather than playing a file stored on your iPhone. You can enjoy a lot of material online without ever downloading its full content to your phone — and given that the most storage endowed iPhone model has a relatively small amount of storage, that isn't a bad idea. See Chapters 18 and 20 for more about getting your music and movies online.

Your storage options with an iPhone 12 or 12 mini are 64, 128, and 256 gigabytes (GB), while 12 Pro and 12 Pro Max are 128, 256, and 512 gigabytes. You must choose the right amount of storage because you can't open the unit and add more as you usually can with a desktop computer. However, Apple has thoughtfully provided iCloud, a service you can use to back up content to the Internet (you can read more about that in Chapter 4).

How much storage is enough for your iPhone? Here's a guideline:

- » If you like lots of media, such as movies or TV shows, you might need 512GB.
- » For most people who manage a reasonable number of photos, download some music, and watch heavy-duty media such as movies online, 128GB may be sufficient. But if there's any possibility you may take things up a notch in the future regarding media consumption and creation (such as the newest grandchild being on the way soon), you should probably seriously consider 256GB.
- » If you simply want to check email, browse the web, keep your calendar up to date, and write short notes to yourself, 64GB likely is plenty.



TECHNICAL
STUFF

Do you know how big a *gigabyte* (GB) is? Consider this: Just about any computer you buy today comes with a minimum of 256GB of storage. Computers have to tackle larger tasks than iPhones, so that number makes sense. The iPhone, which uses a technology called *flash storage* for storing data, is meant (to a great extent) to help you experience online media and email; it doesn't have to store much since it pulls lots of content from the Internet. In the

world of storage, 32GB for any kind of storage is puny if you keep lots of content (such as audio, video, and photos) on the device.

What's the price for larger storage? For the iPhone 12, a 64GB unit costs \$799; 128GB is \$849; and 256GB will set you back \$949. iPhone 12 mini with 64GB goes for \$699, 128GB at \$749, and 256GB for \$849. iPhone 12 Pro with 128GB is \$999; 256GB is \$1099; and the model tops out at \$1299 for 512GB. Not to be outdone, iPhone 12 Pro Max is the priciest: \$1099 for 128GB; \$1199 for 256GB; and \$1,399 for 512GB. Note that prices may vary by carrier and where you buy your phone.

Understand What You Need to Use Your iPhone

Before you head off to buy your iPhone, you should know what other connections and accounts you'll need to work with it optimally.

At a bare minimum, to make standard cellular phone calls, you need to have a service plan with a cellular carrier (such as AT&T or Verizon), as well as a data plan that supports iPhone. The data plan allows you to exchange information over the Internet (such as emails and text messages) and download content (such as movies and music). Try to verify the strength of coverage in your area, as well as how much data your plan provides each month, before you sign up.

You also need to be able to update the iPhone operating system (iOS) and share media (such as music) among Apple devices. Though these functions can be utilized without a phone carrier service plan, you have to plug your phone into your computer to update the operating system or you may also update wirelessly over a network. You need to use a local Wi-Fi network to go online and make calls using an Internet service, such as FaceTime or Skype.



TIP

Given the cost and high-tech nature of the iPhone, having to jury-rig these basic functions doesn't make much sense. Trust me: Get an account and data plan with your phone service provider.

You should open a free iCloud account, Apple's online storage and syncing service, to store and share content online among your Apple devices. For example, you can set up iCloud in such a way that photos you take on your iPhone will appear on your iPad. You can also use a computer to download photos, music, or applications from non-Apple online sources (such as stores or sharing sites like your local library) and transfer them to your iPhone through a process called syncing.

Apple has set up its software and the iCloud service to give you two ways to manage content for your iPhone — including apps, music, or photos you've downloaded — and specify how to sync your calendar and contact information.

There are a lot of tech terms to absorb here (iCloud, syncing, and so on). Don't worry. Chapters 3 and 4 covers those settings in more detail.

Where to Buy Your iPhone

You can't buy an iPhone from just any retail store. You can buy an iPhone at the brick-and-mortar or online Apple Store and from mobile phone providers, such as AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon. You can also find an iPhone at major retailers, such as Best Buy and Walmart, through which you have to buy a service contract for the phone carrier of your choice. You can also find iPhones at several online retailers (such as Amazon.com and Newegg.com) and through smaller, local service providers, which you can find by visiting <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT204039>.



TIP

Apple offers unlocked iPhones. Essentially, these phones aren't tied into a particular provider, so you can use them with any of the four iPhone cellular service providers. Though you may save a lot by avoiding a service commitment, these phones without accompanying phone plans can be pricey. But there's a trend for providers offering cheaper plans and installment payments on the hardware.

What's in the Box

When you fork over your hard-earned money for your iPhone, you'll be left holding one box about the size of a deck of tarot cards.

Here's what you'll find when you take off the shrink wrap and open the box:



TIP

» **iPhone:** Your iPhone is covered in a thick, plastic-sleeve thingy. Take it off and toss it back in the box.

Save all the packaging until you're certain you won't return the phone. Apple's standard return period is 14 days.

» **Documentation (and I use the term loosely):** This typically includes a small pamphlet, a sheet of Apple logo stickers, and a few more bits of information.

» **Lightning to USB-C Cable:** Use this cable to connect the iPhone to your computer (if your computer has a USB-C port), or use it with a USB-C power adapter (not included).

That's all there is in the box. It's kind of a study in Zen-like simplicity. Where's the charging plug? Apple now feels that just about everyone has several chargers laying around their home, so they think it's wasteful (not to mention a little cheaper) to include one in the box with every new iPhone. If you need a charger, Apple will certainly sell you one, and there are many third-party options available as well.

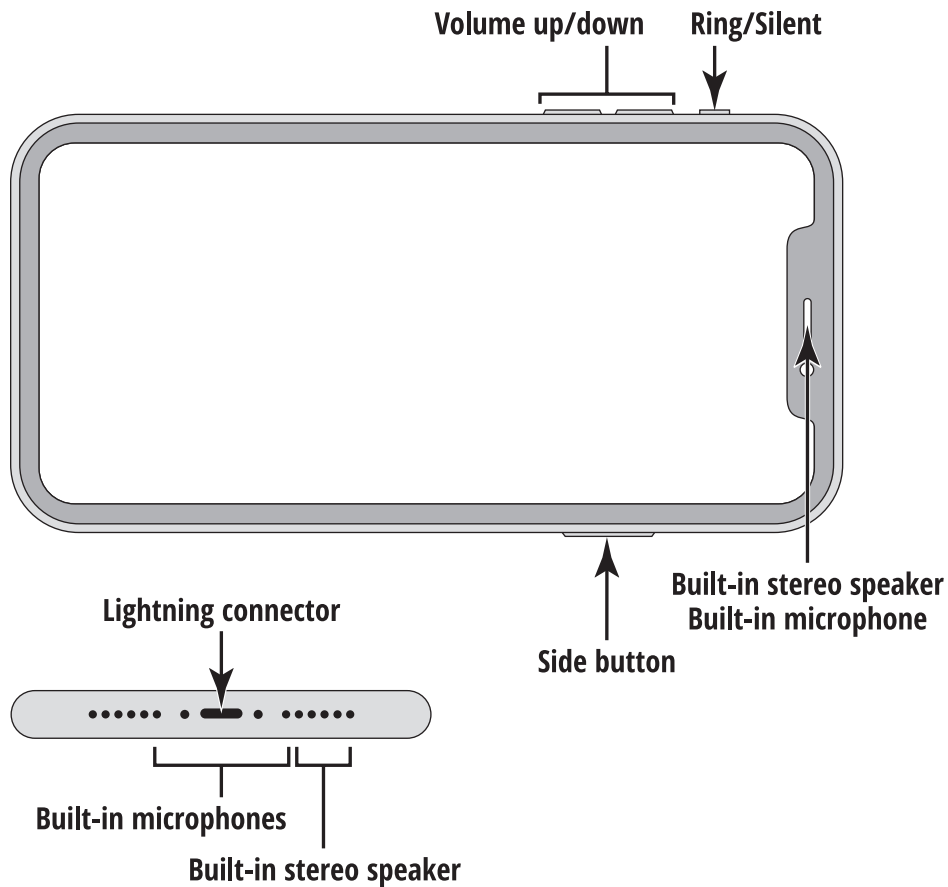


TIP

Search for iPhone accessories online. You'll find iPhone covers and cases (from leather to silicone), car chargers, and screen guards to protect your phone's screen.

Take a First Look at the Gadget

In this section, I give you a bit more information about the buttons and other physical features of the newest iPhone models. **Figure 1-3** shows you where each of these items is located on the iPhone 12, 12 mini, 12 Pro, and 12 Pro Max.



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FIGURE 1-3

Here's the rundown on what the various hardware features for iPhone models without Home buttons are and what they do:

- » **Side button:** You can use this button to power up your iPhone, put it in Sleep mode, wake it up, lock it, force a restart, power it down, and much more.
- » **Lightning connector:** Plug in the Lightning connector at one end of the Lightning to USB-C cable that came with your iPhone to charge your battery, listen to audio with EarPods (not included), or sync your iPhone with your computer (which you find out more about in Chapter 4).

- » **Ring/Silent switch:** Slide this little switch to mute or unmute the sound on your iPhone.
- » **Built-in stereo speakers:** The speakers in iPhones provide rich stereo sound and deeper bass than previous models, and are located on the bottom edge of the phone and at the top part near the earpiece.
- » **Volume Up/Down buttons:** Tap the Volume Up button for more volume and the Volume Down button for less. (You can use the Volume Up button as a camera shutter button when the camera is activated.)
- » **Built-in microphones:** Built-in microphones make it possible to speak into your iPhone to deliver commands or content. This feature allows you to make phone calls, use video calling services (such as Skype or Zoom), and work with other apps that accept audio input, such as the Siri built-in assistant.



TIP

If you have an iPhone model with a Home button, read your iPhone's documentation or visit <https://support.apple.com/iphone> to discover the hardware features specific to your device.