

Getting to Know Your First iPad

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What Can I Do with This Thing?

The iPad is a blank slate (so to speak), whose uses are limited only by your imagination...

On Novel Uses for a Coke Bottle

From *The Gods Must Be Crazy!* (1980):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gCQIGiXfoJA>

A Brief Meditation on Towels

From *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams (Random House, 1979), pp. 24–25:

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy has a few things to say on the subject of towels.

A towel, it says, is about the most massively useful thing an interstellar hitchhiker can have. Partly it has great practical value. You can wrap it around you for warmth as you bound across the cold moons of Jaglan Beta; you can lie on it on the brilliant marble-sanded beaches of Santraginus V, inhaling the heady sea vapors; you can sleep under it beneath the stars which shine so redly on the desert world of Kakrafoon; use it to sail a miniraft down the slow heavy River Moth; wet it for use in hand-to-hand combat; wrap it round your head to ward off noxious

fumes or avoid the gaze of the Ravenous Bugblatter Beast of Traal (a mind-bogglingly stupid animal, it assumes that if you can't see it, it can't see you—daft as a brush, but very very ravenous); you can wave your towel in emergencies as a distress signal, and of course dry yourself off with it if it still seems to be clean enough.

More importantly, a towel has immense psychological value. For some reason, if a strag (strag: nonhitchhiker) discovers that a hitchhiker has his towel with him, he will automatically assume that he is also in possession of a toothbrush, washcloth, soap, tin of biscuits, flask, compass, map, ball of string, wet-weather gear, space suit etc., etc. Furthermore, the strag will then happily lend the hitchhiker any of these or a dozen other items that the hitchhiker might accidentally have "lost." What the strag will think is that any man who can hitch the length and breadth of the Galaxy, rough it, slum it, struggle against terrible odds, win through and still know where his towel is, is clearly a man to be reckoned with.

Hence a phrase that has passed into hitchhiking slang, as in "Hey, you sass that hoopy Ford Prefect? There's a frood who really knows where his towel is." (Sass: know, be aware of, meet, have sex with; hoopy: really together guy; frood: really amazingly together guy.)

How to Think about Your iPad

- It's not a computer. *Repeat until you believe.* That's (mostly) a good thing!
- The saying is true: "There's an app for that." (You might need *more* than an app for some things...)
- Whatever it is, if you can't do it with an iPad, you're probably not thinking creatively enough :-).
- For best results, take it with you everywhere (conditions permitting).

What The iPad Is Not

iPad as chopping board (YouTube)

Keyboard Tips

- To split the keyboard, drag up on the bottom-right key. Drag down to un-split.
- In split mode, you can type on “phantom” keys on the inside of each row.
- Swipe up on comma key to type an apostrophe.
- (As on iPhone) Type two spaces and it turns into a period and a space.
- (As on iPhone) Touch and hold letters to see accented variants; also works with some punctuation and special keys.
- Bluetooth and USB keyboards also work—and give you access to many common keyboard shortcuts.

Apps (Just About) Everyone Should Have

- Apple (free)
 - ▶ [iBooks](#)
 - ▶ [Find My Friends](#)
 - ▶ [Find My iPhone](#)
- Apple (paid)
 - ▶ iWork ([Pages](#), [Numbers](#), [Keynote](#)—\$9.99 each)
 - ▶ [iPhoto](#) (\$4.99)
 - ▶ [GarageBand](#) (\$4.99)
- [Dropbox](#) (free)
- [Kindle](#) (free)
- [1Password Pro](#) (\$14.99) • [Mac version](#) (\$49.99)
- Twitter client—I like [TweetBot](#) (\$2.99)
- RSS client—I like [Mr. Reader](#) (\$3.99)

- [GoodReader for iPad](#) (\$4.99)
- [PDFpen](#) (\$9.99)
- [Skype](#) (free)

Books You Might Find Useful

By Joe Kissell:

- [Take Control of Working with Your iPad](#) (a bit dated, but an update will be coming in a couple of months) (\$15)
- [Take Control of Mail on the iPad, iPhone, and iPod touch](#) (\$10)
- [Take Control of iCloud](#) (\$15)

By Macworld Editors:

- [iPad Starter Guide](#) (Third Edition), \$1.99

By Tonya Engst:

- [Take Control of the iPad](#) (\$15—but free to you!)