

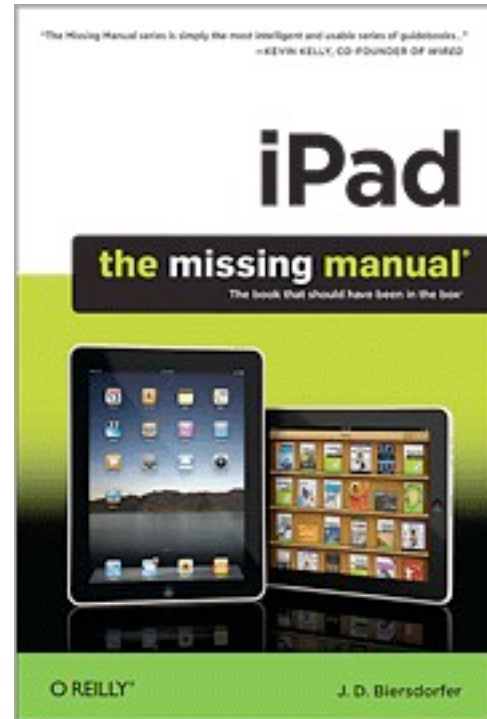
Review: iPad: The Missing Manual

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SDMUG Review by Quelda M. Wilson

The extensive features in Apple's newest creation, the "magical" iPad, deserve this new book in *The Missing Manual* series. In addition to its paperback version, *iPad: The Missing Manual* is available from the publisher, O'Reilly, in four different electronic media versions including ePub. This reviewer downloaded the ePub version to the iPad in order to read it there while exploring the very device it described.

A veteran author of books in *The Missing Manual* series, Biersdorfer, a *New York Times* tech columnist, provides clear, detailed explanations and helpful illustrations of the iPad's many features in a very readable, often entertaining way.



Experienced Apple users and iPhone users will find much of the text very elementary (e.g., "Turn the iPad On and Off" and "Find the Home Button," in Chapter One). The five chapters devoted to the multi-media iPod functions of the iPad, music, videos, audiobooks, podcasts, photos and the newest addition, books, will be very helpful to those who come to the iPad without any prior experience with Apple products. But for those who have used a Mac, an iPod or an iPhone even for a short time, they seem superfluous. Not only do all these Apple devices have an easy and intuitive user interface, but also they are similar.

Justifiably, an entire chapter is devoted to the newest feature on any Apple device, books. Helpful sections on how to find books in the new iBookstore and elsewhere, ways to make the reading experience pleasant (changing font size, searching within a book, using bookmarks, etc.) are included in Chapter 8.

Owners who rely on the iPad as a productivity tool will welcome the chapters on email, the internet, and the *iWork* apps (*Pages*, *Numbers*, *Keynote*). There are many useful explanations and tips such as "all the programs in the iWork suite can export files as PDF documents [and] can export files in their native iWork formats...[but] although Pages can export to the native Microsoft Word .doc format, Numbers and Keynote can't export their contents as Microsoft Excel or PowerPoint files. Yet, anyway." Important information to know—and not obvious.

A very helpful feature of the ebook version of *iPad: The Missing Manual* is that tapping on any entry in the Table of Contents and/or the Index takes the reader immediately to that precise point in the book.

iPad: The Missing Manual will be most valuable to those with little or no previous Apple device experience. Nonetheless, even those who have used Apple products for years will find insights and tidbits that make using the iPad a more productive and pleasurable experience.