



The iPad Project Book

Stuff you can do with your iPad

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DENNIS R. COHEN
LISA L. SPANGENBERG

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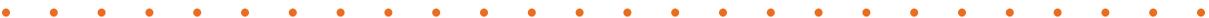
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Michael and Lisa: *For the late Vinton Dearing, who would be astonished to see what computers can do with text today.*

Dennis: *To my wonderful wife, Kathy, who might love her iPad even more than I love mine (hard to believe, but possible). Also to our kids, grandkids, great-grandkids, and four-legged family members (especially Spenser and Maggie).*



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For more information about the authors—and about all things iPad—see their Web site at www.ipadprojectsbook.com.



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Contents

Introduction

ix

CHAPTER 1 Living in the iPad

Information Syncing Project	2
View your sync settings	3
Sync contacts	6
Sync calendars	7
Sync mail settings	8
Sync notes and bookmarks	9
Apply your sync settings	10
Wireless Syncing Project	11
Get a MobileMe account	12
Go from computer to cloud	13
Cut the cord	15
Go from cloud to iPad	16
Simple Security Project	18
Fasten the passcode lock	19
Protect the young and the restless	21
Search and recover with Find My iPad	23
Mail Management Project	26
Add contacts	27
Draft an email	34
Subscribe to calendars via email	35
Manage your mailboxes	36
Contact and Calendar Management Project	44

Sort your contacts	45
Set a calendar	46
Hear calendar alerts	48
Use Time Zone Support	49
Get directions	51

CHAPTER 2 Working and Playing in the iPad

File Management Project	54
Email files to yourself	54
Transfer a file from a computer	60
Import files into the iPad	62
Export files from the iPad	64
Use Dropbox	67
Use Documents To Go - Office Suite	69
iPad Chef Project	72
Find recipes with Epicurious	72
Find recipes with BigOven Lite	80
Create a recipe scrapbook	87
Party Project	98
Use Notes to make lists	98
Make a shopping list	101
Create your invitations	104
Handle the responses	118
Flash Card Project	119
Get your apps in gear	119
Translate some words and phrases	121
Collect some illustrations	123
Create your flash-card deck	125
Vacation Planning Project	132
Pack your apps	133
Set up a trip with TravelTracker	134
Find flights with KAYAK	141
Add flight information to your itinerary	146



CHAPTER 3 Music, Books, and Movies on the iPad

Music Syncing Project	152
Sync everything	152
Sync artists and genres	154
Make and sync playlists for your iPad	156
Create a playlist on your iPad	161
Manage your music by hand	163
Create and Convert E-Books Project	164
Make your own PDFs	165
Convert existing e-books	166
Movie and TV-Show Syncing Project	178
Sync movies	179
Sync TV-show episodes	183
Streaming Internet Video Project	187
Get the software	188
Use the ABC Player	190
View the video stream	194
Streaming Your Video Project	196
Get Air Video	197
Introduce your iPad to Air Video Server	199
Play your content	203
Watching Television Project	206
Get the software, hardware, and app	207
Converting Video Project	213
Acquire HandBrake and VLC	214
Convert and transfer your media	215



Introduction

We saw our first iPad in a theater in Hollywood, California, in the summer of 1968. It appeared in the movie *2001: A Space Odyssey*, and the iPad (called a Newspad in the Arthur C. Clarke novel on which the movie is based) made its debut when astronaut Dave Bowman used it to view the news while having a horrific-looking meal of puréed space food. We didn't want any of that food, but boy, did that Newspad look appetizing.

It took only 42 years (interesting number, 42) for the iPad to make it from Hollywood to the Apple Store.

Even more entertaining than the movie was the consternation and confusion among technology pundits when the iPad was announced in 2010. Very few of them could figure out what the device was *for*, and all too many of them were convinced that it wouldn't be popular.

The iPad turned out to be very popular, and the public immediately figured out what it was for.

What the iPad Is For

What *is* the iPad for? It's for fun. It's for work. It's for convenience. It's for doing whatever a legion of app developers can make a sleek, bright, big-screen, handheld, touch-driven device do—reading books, playing games, looking at photos, looking up at the stars, doing budgets, sending and receiving email, browsing the Web, reserving plane tickets, watching movies or TV, listening to music, writing novels or sonnets, drawing pictures, and so on.

What This Book Is For

A better question is: What is this *book* you're reading for? It's for showing you how to take advantage of your sleek, bright, big-screen, handheld, touch-driven device.

We call it *The iPad Project Book* because we present this information in the form of projects: simple tasks that you can complete in a few minutes each and that reveal much of your iPad's hidden splendor.

Some projects walk you through basic procedures, like getting your music synced between your computer and your iPad. Other projects help you do fun and useful things with your iPad, like planning a vacation and getting flight reservations.

We've divided the book into the following three chapters:

- **Living in the iPad.** This chapter contains projects that help you perform basic tasks on the iPad, such as syncing your contacts and calendars, setting up security, and handling your mail.
- **Working and Playing in the iPad.** This chapter shows you how to do stuff, such as plan a party or a vacation, and make stuff, such as create a deck of flash cards for learning another language.
- **Music, Books, and Movies on the iPad.** This chapter contains projects for navigating the various e-book applications you can put on an iPad; putting music, movies, and videos on the iPad; and creating e-books to read on your iPad.

This book only scratches the surface of what you can do with your iPad. After all, it's a magical device, and there's a lot you can do with magic.

A Note About Conventions

Unlike most computer books, this one is short on technical terminology and conventions. Still, there are a few things you need to know.

To begin, even though the iPad works with both Windows PCs and with Macs, all the authors are Mac users. Therefore, the screen shots we provide from computers are from Macs. PCs and Macs are looking more alike all the time, however, so we don't think these screen shots will be a problem for our Windows-using readers.

Also, we tend to use Mac terminology, referring to *dialogs* instead of *dialog boxes* and *pop-up menus* instead of *drop-down lists*. We're sure that you can figure things out, and we do note when Windows and Mac instructions differ (fortunately, fairly seldom).

Sometimes, we say things like "Tap Settings > General > Network." This is a shortcut way of saying, "Tap the Settings app. When Settings opens, tap General, and then, in the General screen, tap Network." Again, we're sure that you can figure this out.

Finally, you need to know a few basic iPad action terms:

- **Tap.** This means touch your finger to the screen and then quickly lift it.
- **Tap and hold.** This means touch the screen and *don't* lift your finger.
- **Swipe.** This means touch the screen and quickly drag your finger up, down, left, or right. (We tell you the direction in which to drag.)

And now, with that out of the way, on to the projects.

3

Music, Books, and Movies on the iPad

In the preceding chapter, we take issue with the conventional notion that the iPad is just a media-consumption device. We think we prove our point.

Nonetheless, the iPad really is a delightful media-consumption device if you want to use it as one. The trick is getting the media you want on it, when you want it, and in the form that you want it.

This chapter shows you those tricks. We show you how to sync music and video between your computer and the iPad. We show you alternative ways to get video on your iPad. We show you where to obtain e-books and which apps you can use to read them. We even show you how to make and modify e-books for your iPad.

Our philosophy is this: If you're a consumer, you owe it to yourself to be the best consumer that you can be.

Music Syncing Project

Difficulty level: Easy

Software needed: iTunes

Additional hardware: Mac or PC

When Apple announced its iPad at the beginning of 2010, one of the most common criticisms that pundits aimed at the device was “It’s just nothing but a giant iPod touch!”

As if that were a *bad* thing.

In fact, though, this facile critique has some basis: Setting aside the iPad’s unique capabilities, it does have much in common with the iPod touch. In particular, your iPad has a built-in iPod that you can use to play the many thousands of songs your iPad can hold.

To act in its secret identity as a giant iPod touch, however, your iPad needs songs to play. If you’re among the ever-shrinking number of souls who’ve never had an iPod—or even if you have one but find the whole music-syncing thing to be mystifying—this project shows you how to get the songs that you want, by the artists that you want, in the styles that you want, from your iTunes Library onto your plus-size iPod touch.

Sync everything

If you have a relatively small iTunes Library (that is, one that can fit easily into your particular iPad’s storage space), deciding what music to put on your iPad is simple: Just put your whole Music library on the device, and don’t worry about it. Even the smallest-capacity iPad has ample room to hold several thousand songs.

note

Apple provides a ballpark estimate of about 250 songs per gigabyte. Going by that estimate, a 16 GB iPad can store 4,000 songs and still have a third of its storage space left for documents, pictures, apps, and other stuff.

Assuming that your Music library fits on your iPad, getting it there is just a few clicks and a sync away.

Syncing your Music library to your iPad:

1. Connect your iPad to your computer.
2. Launch iTunes.
3. In the Source list on the left side of the iTunes window, select your iPad.
4. Click the Music tab at the top of the main pane of the iTunes window.

The contents of the Music tab for your iPad appear, with the main syncing options laid out at the top (**Figure 3.1**).

Figure 3.1 The main music syncing options for your iPad.



5. Select the Sync Music option, and then, below it, select Entire music library.
6. (Optional) Select Include music videos.
Keep in mind that each music video takes up considerably more space than a typical song. But if you have the space (see the nearby sidebar), why not?
7. Click the Apply button in the bottom-right corner of the iTunes window.
iTunes begins copying your entire Music library to your iPad. Depending on the size of the library and the speed of your computer, this process can take several minutes, so be patient; you have to do this only once. When you add more songs to your iTunes Library, only the additional songs will be copied to your iPad the next time you sync.

Making Smaller Songs to Save Space

Songs can be stored in various formats, some of which take up more space than others do. To conserve iPad storage space, do the following

1. With your iPad selected in iTunes' Source list, click the Summary tab.
2. Near the bottom of the tab, select the option titled Convert higher bit rate songs to 128 kbps AAC (**Figure 3.2**).

This option increases the time that it takes to sync your music, because iTunes must convert every song that isn't in 128 Kbps AAC format as it syncs. Also, the process slightly reduces the sound quality of the synced songs on your iPad. But unless you have very-high-quality speakers or headphones attached to your iPad (and very good ears), you won't be able to tell the difference in the converted songs' sound quality.

Figure 3.2
The options at the bottom of the Summary tab.

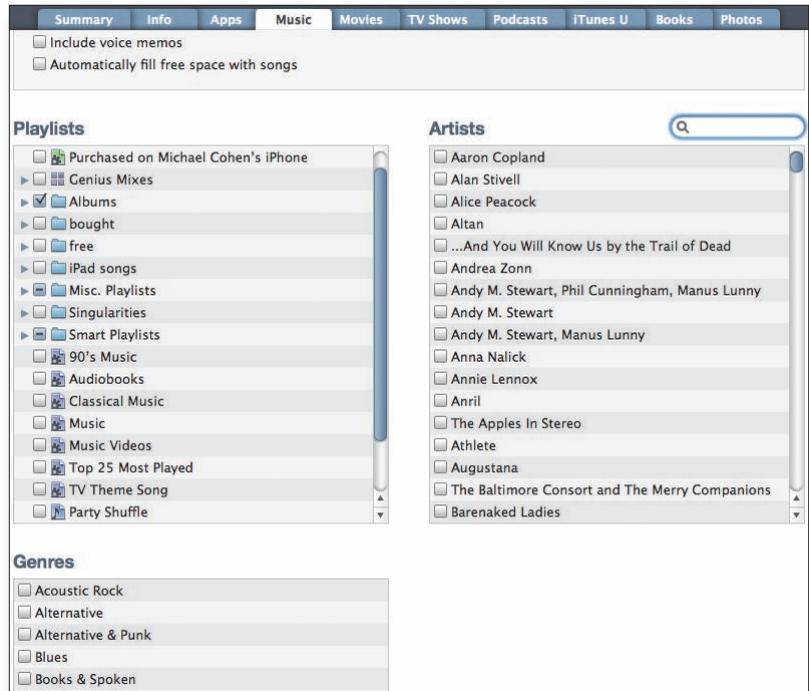


Sync artists and genres

If your iTunes Music library is too large for your iPad, or if you just don't want to copy the whole thing, you can narrow down which songs get synced in several ways. One of the easiest ways is to choose your favorite musical artists and musical genres, and then sync only the songs that match your choices.

iTunes presents the artists and genres associated with your songs in the music syncing tab for your iPad, right below the main music-syncing options (**Figure 3.3**). You use the check boxes in these lists to select your favorites.

Figure 3.3 The Music syncing tab lists your Music library's artists and genres so that you can choose which ones to sync.



Syncing selected artists and genres to your iPad:

1. Follow steps 1- 3 of “Syncing your Music library to your iPad” earlier in this project.
2. Select the Sync Music option, and then, below it, choose the radio button titled Selected playlists, artists, and genres.

The Playlists list, the Artists List, and the Genres list become accessible so that you can check or uncheck items in them.

We'll ignore the Playlists list for now, because we cover it in the next section of this project.

tip

If some of the items in the Playlist list happen to be checked, you can easily uncheck all of them so that they don't interfere with this part of the project. To do so, hold down the Command (Mac) or Ctrl (Windows) key, and click one selected check-box item to deselect everything in the list. Similarly, clicking an unselected check box with the key held down selects every item in the list. This technique, by the way, works with almost every list in iTunes that has check boxes.

3. In the Artists list, select the artists whose songs you want to sync with your iPad.

tip

If you have a lot of artists listed, you can type part of an artist's name in the search field above the Artists list so that it shows only artists that match what you typed.

4. In the Genres list, select the genres that you prefer.

note

iTunes uses the genre assigned to the song from the iTunes Store (if it came from there) or from the music vendor from which you obtained the song. It also uses information from an online database when you rip a CD to add its songs to your Music library. You can modify this information if you like; see the iTunes Help topic “Editing Song and CD Information” to learn how to do this.

5. Click Apply in the bottom-right corner of the iTunes window.

iTunes syncs the songs that match your artist and genre selections to your iPad, and removes any songs from your iPad that don't match your selections.

Make and sync playlists for your iPad

Some people who spend a lot of time with iTunes delight in arranging their songs in all sorts of ways by using iTunes' playlist features. Many other people, however, find playlists abstract and confusing, and shy away from them as though they were a nest of snakes.

If you're comfortable with playlists, simply skip to “Selecting and syncing playlists” later in this project. The rest of you, read on.

Playlists are actually quite simple: They're lists of one or more songs. That's it. They don't contain any actual songs—just references to songs. That's the part that seems to confuse people, because in iTunes, the act of adding songs to a playlist looks very much like copying the actual songs. It isn't. When you add songs to a playlist, you're simply adding *references* to those songs, as **Figure 3.4** illustrates.

Figure 3.4 It may look like we're copying four songs into a playlist, but we're really copying references to those songs.



Think of a room full of people. You can make a list of everyone in the room, and you can make another list of, say, just the left-handed people in the room. The people themselves aren't cloned and embedded magically in your lists; the lists contain only references to the people. The people themselves stay in the room where they were all along.

Similarly, when you add a song from your iTunes Music library to a playlist, the song itself isn't copied to the playlist; it stays where it is, in your Music library. You can add the same song to as many playlists as you like, just as you can add the same person to as many lists as you like, but no matter how many times a person is added to a list or a song is added to a playlist, only one physical person or only one actual song is involved.

When you sync a playlist from iTunes to your iPad, iTunes checks the songs that are already on your iPad. If a song in the playlist is already there, iTunes doesn't copy it to your iPad; if it isn't, iTunes copies the song to your device. That way, you can sync as many playlists to your iPad as you want, and even if the same song appears in all those playlists, only one copy of that song goes from your Music library to your iPad.

Playlists appear in the Source list on the left side of the iTunes window. Over time, you may find that you've made dozens of playlists. You can shorten the Source list by creating folders where you can store various playlists.

When you sync playlists between iTunes and your iPad, you can choose individual playlists, folders full of playlists, or individual playlists inside folders.

note

When you check a folder of playlists in iTunes and sync that playlist folder to your iPad, all the playlists inside that folder are synced to your iPad. The original version of the iPad software doesn't display the playlists on your iPad in folders; instead, the playlists on the iPad appear in a single long list. The iOS 4 version of the iPad software, however, does allow playlist folders on your iPad, and it keeps the playlists in their folders just as they are in iTunes.

In the following tasks, you create a folder for the playlists that you want to have on your iPad, create a playlist inside that folder, add songs to that playlist, and then sync everything. When you have these steps down, you can go through your iTunes Library at leisure and create playlists and folders for your iPad to suit your needs and desires.

Making a playlist and playlist folder in iTunes:

1. In the iTunes Source list, click Music.

All your music in iTunes appears in a list (**Figure 3.5**).

Figure 3.5 The Music library lives near the top of the Source list.

**note**

Before you can create a playlist or a playlist folder, iTunes must be displaying content from one of your libraries.

2. Choose File > New Playlist Folder.

A folder appears in the Playlists section of the Source list with its title selected, ready for you to edit it (**Figure 3.6**).

Figure 3.6 A new playlist folder awaiting its new name.



3. Type a folder name, and press Return (Mac) or Enter (Windows).

For this task, type **iPad songs**. When you press Return or Enter, the folder is renamed. If your Playlist section contains other folders, they appear in alphabetical order, and the newly named folder moves to its correct alphabetical position among them.

4. Click the new folder to select it and then choose File > New Playlist.

An untitled playlist appears inside the folder, ready for you to rename it.

5. Type a new name for the playlist (whatever name you like), and press Return or Enter.

Now that you've successfully created a playlist inside a folder, you can add songs to it. You can add songs to a playlist whether that playlist is in a folder or not, of course, but putting playlists inside folders makes it more convenient to sync them with your iPad. In this project, you're using only one playlist, but you can use the folder you just created to contain all the playlists destined for your iPad.

tip

You can drag any playlist in the Source list onto a folder to put it in the folder, and you can take a playlist out of a folder by dragging it to the left edge of the iTunes window.

Adding songs to a playlist:

1. Click Music in the iTunes Source list.

All the content in your Music library is displayed in the main pane of the iTunes window.

2. Click a song to select it.

You can select multiple songs by Shift-clicking. If your iTunes Library is displaying songs by album cover in iTunes' grid layout, you can select the album by clicking its cover. (To view your Music library in grid layout, choose View > as Grid.)

3. Drag the song to the playlist to which you want to add it.

The song is added to the playlist (refer to Figure 3.4 earlier in this project).

tip

You can delete a song from a playlist at any time. First, click the playlist to see its contents; then select the song and press the Delete key. Don't worry—the song is still in your Music library.

Now that you have a playlist folder and a playlist to play with, you can sync them with your iPad.

Selecting and syncing playlists:

1. Follow steps 1-3 of “Syncing your Music library to your iPad” in the first section of this project.
2. If they aren't already selected, select the Sync Music option and, below it, Selected playlists, artists, and genres.
3. In the Playlists list, select a playlist folder.

The Playlists list displays folders before individual playlists, so chances are that your iPad songs folder for this project is near the top, as shown in **Figure 3.7**.

Figure 3.7 Adding a playlist folder for syncing.



4. Click Apply in the bottom-right corner of the iTunes window.

iTunes syncs your new playlist, along with any other items selected in the three lists in the music syncing tab (refer to Figure 3.3 earlier in this project).

Get Smart

Aside from playlists and playlist folders, iTunes provides smart playlists. When you make a smart playlist (by choosing File > Smart Playlist), you specify the conditions that a song must satisfy to be in that playlist. You could specify all songs with the word *Love* in their titles that have been added to your iTunes Music library in the past year, for example. Whatever songs match those conditions end up listed in the smart playlist. If you add a new song to your Music library that satisfies the smart playlist's conditions, it ends up listed in the smart playlist too.

You can sync smart playlists with your iPad, which is why we're bringing the whole topic up. Consult iTunes Help to learn more about smart playlists.

Create a playlist on your iPad

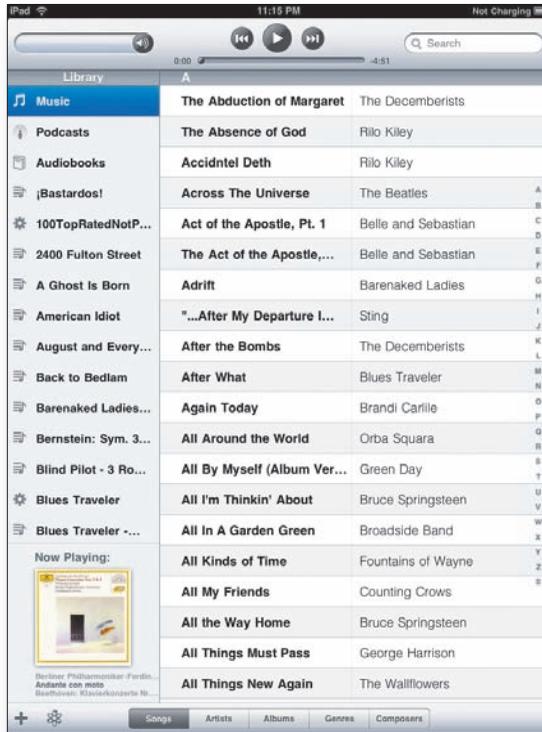
While we're on the subject of playlists, we should point out that you can make a playlist on your iPad, using any of the songs, artists, albums, and genres there. Any playlist that you make on your iPad syncs back to iTunes, where you can modify it and then sync it back to your iPad.

Making a playlist:

1. Tap the iPod app's icon on your iPad to open it.
2. Tap Music at the top of the Library column.

Your Music library appears in a list (**Figure 3.8** on the next page).

Figure 3.8 The iPod on the iPad.



3. At the bottom of the screen, tap Songs; then, in the bottom-left corner, tap the plus (+) icon.
A New Playlist dialog appears.
4. Enter a name for your playlist, and tap Save.
We entered the name **From iPad**, but you can use any name you like. When you tap Save, your iPad displays the songs that it contains in alphabetical order and instructs you to add songs to the playlist.
5. Swipe through the list of songs, tapping the ones you want to add to your new playlist.
As you tap a song's title, it turns gray, indicating that it's been added.

tip

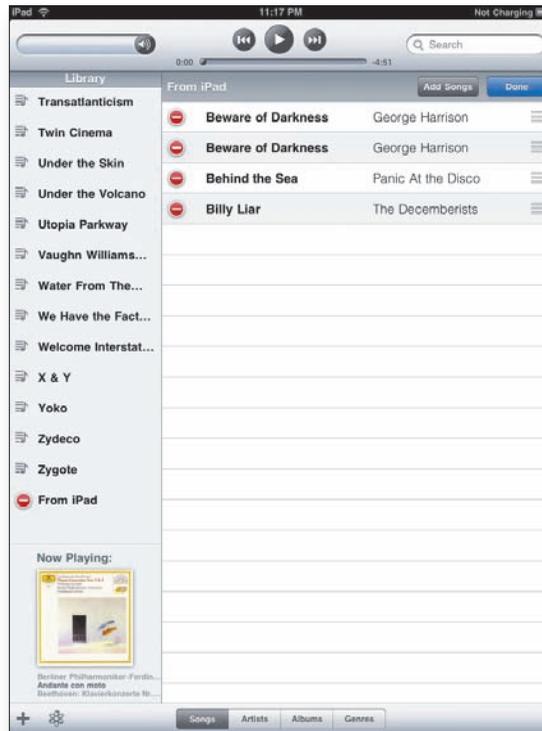
You can use the search box at the top of the screen to find the songs you want. You can also use the buttons at the bottom to add albums, artists, genres, and composers.

6. Tap the blue Done button.

Your new playlist appears (**Figure 3.9**). Now you can tap any song to delete it from the playlist (such as the duplicate song shown in the figure) or tap the playlist in the Library column to delete the whole thing.

7. Tap Done again.

Figure 3.9 A new iPad playlist awaiting final approval.



Manage your music by hand

Some people like total control of every single item on their iPads, preferring to add and remove songs manually rather than rely on syncing. If you're one of those people, this last section and iTunes' Manually manage music and video option are for you.

The aforementioned setting allows you to drag songs, albums, playlists, videos, and TV shows from your iTunes libraries directly to your iPad's Source list, but it stops iTunes from syncing any of these items

automatically. If, for example, you have iTunes set to automatically sync movies you haven't finished watching (not covered in this project, but see the **Movie and TV-Show Syncing Project** later in this chapter), that syncing capability is disabled when you choose the Manually manage option. Manually really does mean manually.

Managing music manually:

1. Connect your iPad to your computer.
2. Launch iTunes.
3. Select the iPad in the Source list.
4. Click the Summary tab in the main iTunes window.
5. In the Options section at the bottom of the tab, select Manually manage music and videos (refer to Figure 3.2 earlier in this project).
6. Click Apply in the bottom-right corner of the iTunes window.

Create and Convert E-Books Project

Difficulty level: Intermediate

Software needed: calibre (free)

Additional hardware: Mac or Windows PC

When Steve Jobs introduced the iPad, the feature that created the most buzz was iBooks. Shortly thereafter, Apple announced that iBooks would be free, but iPad purchasers would have to download and install it from the App Store. Some people took this as a cynical attempt to use iBooks as a loss leader and get people into the App Store; the more forgiving considered it to be a way for Apple to spend more time honing iBooks' performance and functionality. Either interpretation is surely plausible (and both may be).

Initially, iBooks supported only an e-book format known as ePub, but the first update to the iBooks app added support for PDF documents. With the wealth of PDF content (user manuals, government documents, books, theses, and so on) available on the Internet and on software CDs and DVDs, your iBooks library can be a repository for significant

quantities of reference materials in addition to the books you purchase (or get for free) from the iBookstore.

Make your own PDFs

PDF support greatly simplifies the process of putting your own content on the iPad. Using a third-party PDF-creation tool or Mac OS X's built-in printer support for writing PDF files, converting your documents to PDFs is a simple matter of opening them and choosing the right printer or print option. Drag the resulting PDF into iTunes and sync your iPad to make the PDF accessible on the go.

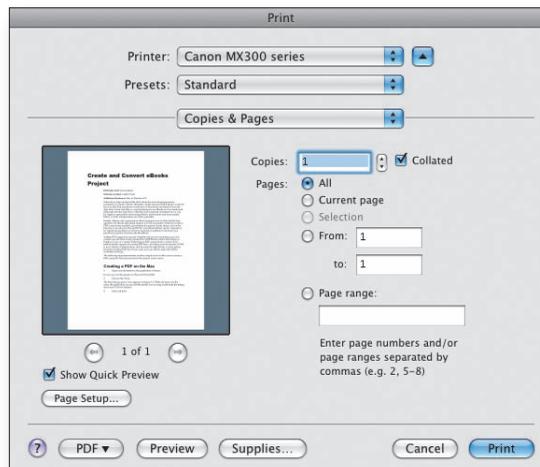
The following task demonstrates just how simple it is for a Mac user to create a PDF, using the Microsoft Word document for this project as the source.

Creating a PDF:

1. On your computer, open the document in your application of choice.
For this example, we're using this project file in Microsoft Word 2008.
2. Choose File > Print.

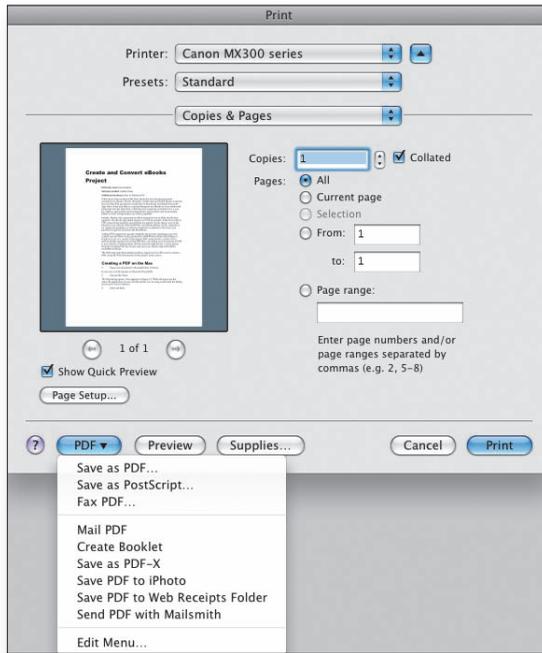
The Print dialog opens. Ours appears in **Figure 3.10**. Although the basics will be the same, the application and printer you're using could make the dialog sport more or fewer features.

Figure 3.10 Use the Print dialog to create PDFs.



3. Click and hold the PDF button in the bottom-left corner to display the PDF menu (Figure 3.11).

Figure 3.11 The PDF button displays a menu that includes a Save as PDF item.



4. Choose Save as PDF.

A Save as dialog appears, letting you name your PDF and specify where it should be saved.

Now you have your PDF, and if you want to, you can drag it into iTunes for syncing to your iPad.



Microsoft doesn't provide built-in PDF generation in its OS, but Windows users do have a free solution: CutePDF Writer (www.cutepdf.com/products/cutepdf/writer.asp). You'll need to install the free Ghostscript package; the Web page has links and instructions.

Convert existing e-books

During the era of the word-processor and spreadsheet wars, every software developer employed proprietary formats to store its data on disk.

Users wanted conversion capabilities so that they weren't locked into a single provider and so that they could reuse content in other applications. Open formats, such as RTF for word processing and DIF or SYLK for spreadsheets, provided a least-common-denominator conduit between applications.

When e-book readers started appearing, the Tower of Babel re-emerged, with every producer of a reader employing its own proprietary (and occasionally secretive) document format. To name just a few, Amazon's Kindle uses AZW; Microsoft Reader uses LIT; Palm's eReader uses PDB; Mobipocket uses PRC and/or MOBI; the Nook, iPad, and several others use EPUB; and Sony Reader uses LRF. There are still more formats, and some devices can read formats other than their preferred format.

In the e-book world, the open formats are ePub and PDF (unless you consider HTML, plain text, and RTF to be e-book formats). ePub is a standard developed by the International Digital Publishing Federation. All these formats either include digital rights management (DRM) functionality or support extensions for DRM capability.

tip

For more info on DRM, see the “Copy Protection and DRM” sidebar in the Streaming Your Video Project later in this chapter.

note

Adobe employs ADEPT, a proprietary DRM capability in ePub documents. We're amused by the name of an open framework that has been reverse-engineered to circumvent this DRM: INEPT.

In our opinion, the current best-of-breed format converter is an open-source project named calibre (www.calibre-e-book.com). The calibre software is free and available for Linux, Mac, and Windows, with only cosmetic variations appropriate to the platform differentiating the versions. If calibre were only a conversion utility, it would be great, but the application offers so much more. It also searches the Internet for meta-data (publisher, publication date, genre, and so on), fetches newspaper and magazine content (such as articles from *The Economist*), and provides a viewer to let you read your e-books on your computer, to name just a few of its capabilities. The thrust of this project, though, is converting your e-books to ePub format for reading on your iPad, so let's get started.

E-Books for Your iPad

The Kindle lit the fuse, but the iPad lit up the sky. E-books have suddenly become the hottest topic in publishing, and almost every publisher now has an e-book publishing plan.

You can get a variety of e-book reader apps for your iPad, including Apple's iBooks, Amazon's Kindle, Barnes & Noble's eReader, and Lexcycle's Stanza. Here's the rub: Except for Stanza, each app is tied to one specific online bookstore, and you have to use that app to read your purchases from that store on your iPad.

Here's where and how to get books for the preceding e-book readers:

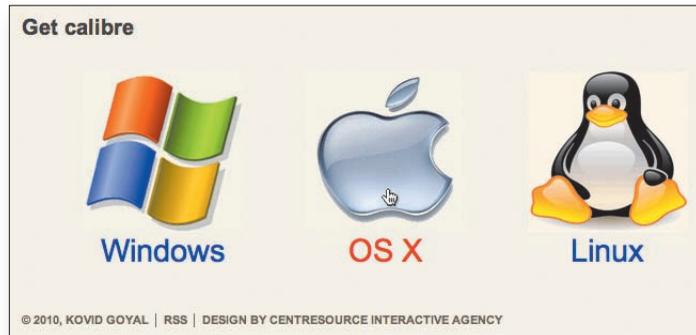
- **iBooks.** Tap the app's Store button to browse the integrated iBookstore. For iBookstore purchases, you use your iTunes Store account (which contains your credit-card information). Purchased books download to iBooks immediately. If you delete a book on your iPad (or on an iPhone that has the iBooks app), you can download it again for free.
- **Kindle.** Tap the Shop In Kindle Store button in the Kindle app, and it opens Safari on your iPad. When you purchase a book from the Kindle Store, it's sent immediately to the Kindle-compatible device you specify. (First, of course, you must register each of your Kindle-compatible devices with the Amazon Web site.) If you have a Kindle Reader app on your PC, on your iPhone, and on your iPad, for example, you choose which device gets the book first. Don't worry, though: You can download purchased Kindle books to the other devices from within the app on each of those devices. Also, you can always download deleted books again.
- **eReader.** This app acts like a hybrid of iBooks and Kindle. You tap Add Books to browse the bookstore from within the eReader app, but when you select a book, eReader opens Safari for you to make your book purchase. When you purchase a book, it appears immediately in your eReader library. Note, however, that it isn't *really* there until you actually tap the book's cover to open it, at which time it downloads to your iPad. Barnes & Noble also provides a book-lending feature, so you can lend a book to a friend or family member for a limited time.
- **Stanza.** Like eReader, Stanza lets you browse available books. Unlike the other apps, however, it provides access to several online bookstores. Because Stanza works with different bookstores, the process of getting a purchased book into the app can vary from store to store. You can browse the Fictionwise bookstore from within Stanza, for example, but when you tap a book to buy it, Stanza opens Safari for you to make your purchase. When the book is purchased, you can download it from within the Stanza app and unlock it (with your credit-card number) so that you can read it.

Stanza is the only e-book app that uses the file-sharing feature in iTunes, so you can drag books between your iPad and your computer. You can also share books between your computer and iPad wirelessly. Notably, Stanza is compatible with a much wider range of e-book formats than any of the other e-book apps. See the last task in this project for more details on using Stanza.

Getting and setting up calibre:

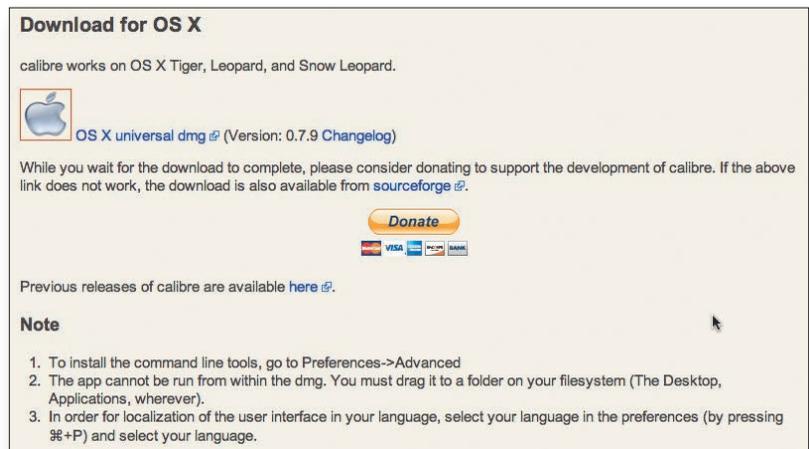
1. Navigate to www.calibre-e-book.com/download.
2. Select your operating system (**Figure 3.12**).

Figure 3.12 Click the icon for your OS to download the correct version.



The site takes you to the download page for your OS (**Figure 3.13**).

Figure 3.13 Read the directions, and click the Download button.



3. Click the download link (in our case, OS X universal dmg).

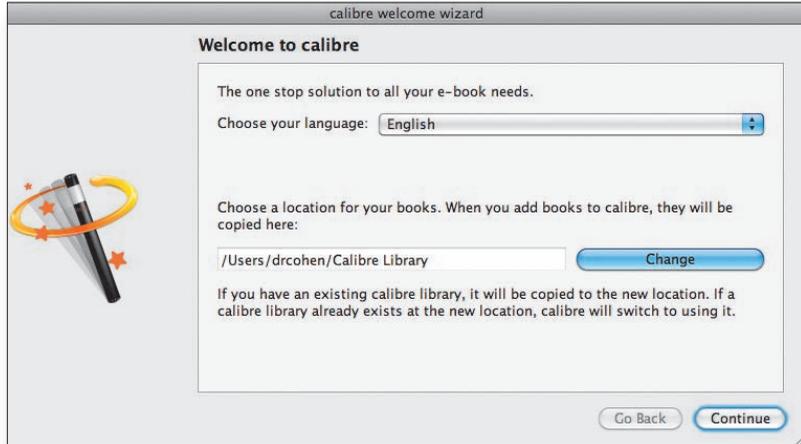
Your browser starts the download. Depending on your OS and your settings, you may be asked what to do with the download (open it, save it to disk, and so on).

4. If the software doesn't install automatically, run the installer or (in Mac OS X) drag the calibre icon to your Applications folder.

5. Launch calibre.

The welcome wizard greets you (**Figure 3.14**).

Figure 3.14
The welcome wizard walks you through calibre's setup process.



- 6. Choose your language from the pop-up menu (unless the default is what you want).
- 7. (Optional) If you don't like the default storage location offered for your books, click the Change button, and specify a new location in the Open dialog that appears.
- 8. Click Continue when you're ready for the next step.
- 9. Select the manufacturer of your e-book reader and the device you use (**Figure 3.15**); then click Continue.

Figure 3.15 Let calibre know that Apple manufactures your e-book reader.



note

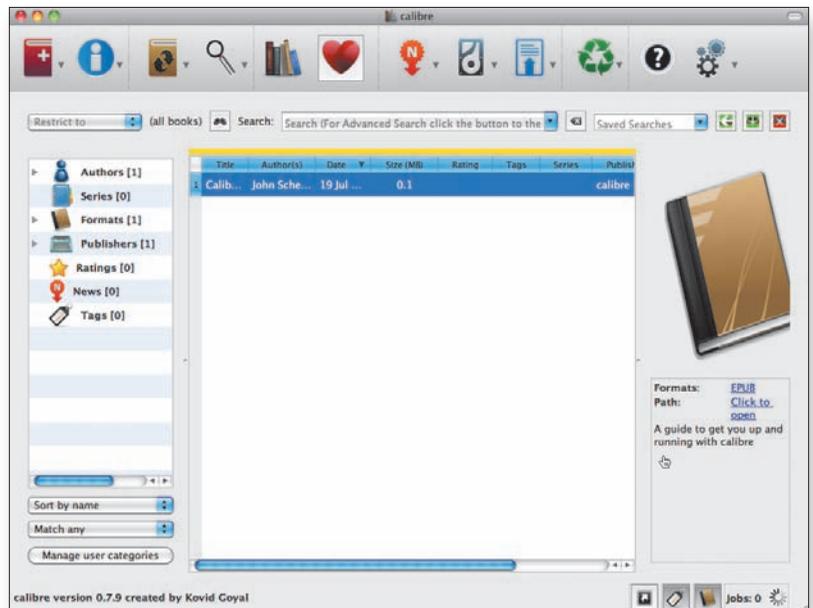
If you use Stanza on your iPad (yes, we know that the dialog shown in Figure 3.15 mentions only the iPhone and iPod touch), you can turn on the content server and—so long as calibre is running and you're in range of your wireless network—access your computer-based book collection directly from your iPad. We provide a Stanza task later in this project and describe the Content Server there.

A congratulatory message appears, offering you access to tutorial videos and an online user manual. If you want to become a calibre power user, check them out. The folks behind calibre have done a superb job of demonstrating and documenting this (amazingly) free product's features and functionality.

10. Click Done.

calibre starts running, presenting a window that looks like **Figure 3.16**. The software starts you out with *Calibre Quick Start Guide*.

Figure 3.16 calibre is ready for use.



Assuming that you have some e-books available in formats other than ePub, you're ready to start adding them to your calibre library and converting them to ePub for your iPad, as we show you how to

do in the following task. For this task, we’re going to add Tess Gerritsen’s mystery *Vanish* (the fifth book in her Rizzoli & Isles series, which is now seeing life on the TNT cable network). Our copy is in LIT format.

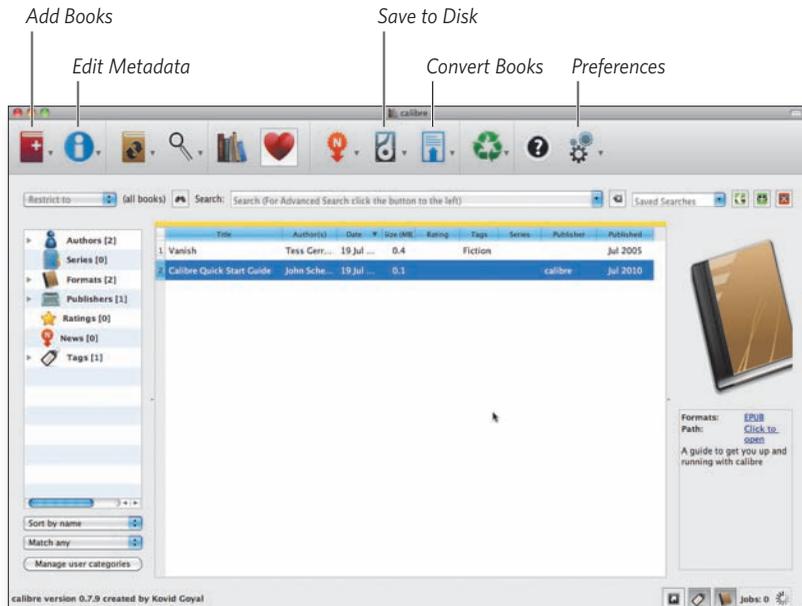
note If you don’t have any non-ePub books, you can acquire them (sometimes for free) at several Internet locations. For the sci-fi fans among you, the Baen Free Library (www.baen.com/library/defaultTitles.htm) is a wonderful resource, even though you can actually specify the format you want, which removes the need to convert.

Adding and converting books:

1. Click the Add Books button at the far-left end of the calibre toolbar.
2. In your OS’s Open dialog, navigate to and select a book; then click Open.

The book is added to calibre’s library list (**Figure 3.17**).

Figure 3.17 The book you selected is now in your calibre library.



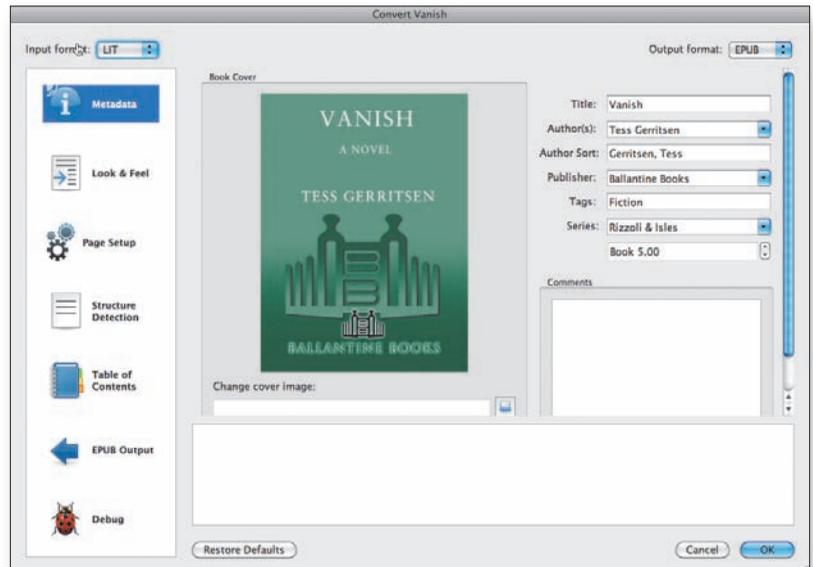
tip

If metadata is missing (as Publisher is in this example), click the arrowhead next to **Edit Metadata**, and choose **Download metadata and covers** from the menu that appears.

3. Click the Convert Books button.

The conversion dialog appears (**Figure 3.18**).

Figure 3.18 The conversion dialog has multiple panes; the Metadata pane is selected here.



4. Make any changes you desire in the metadata.
5. Click Page Setup in the list on the left side of the page.
6. Choose iPad in the Output Profile list.
7. Click OK.

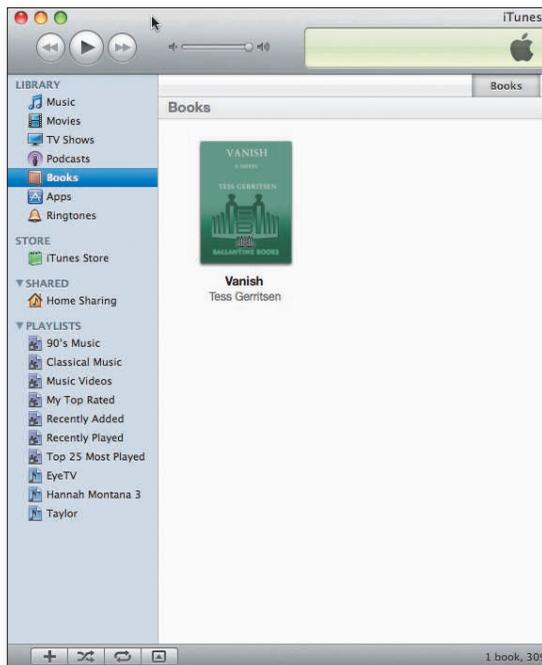
calibre performs the conversion. You can see the progress indicator spinning away in the bottom-right corner of the window, with a Jobs label (no relation to Steve).
8. Click the Save to Disk button (refer to Figure 3.17).
9. In the Open/Choose dialog that appears, select a destination directory.

In the Finder (Mac) or Windows Explorer, calibre opens a window showing the directory you specified.

10. Open the folder for the author and then open the title folder.
11. If iTunes isn't running, launch it.
12. Drag the EPUB file from the title's folder into the Library section of the iTunes Source list.

Your book is now in the Books section of your iTunes Library, ready for your next iPad sync (**Figure 3.19**).

Figure 3.19 Your converted title is in iTunes, ready to sync to your iPad.



tip

Alternatively, if you don't have iTunes running, or if you aren't into dragging and dropping, click the arrow next to the Send to Device icon and choose Connect to iTunes from the menu that appears.

iBooks isn't the only e-book reader available in the App Store. In fact, it isn't even the only free e-reader. Amazon distributes a free Kindle Reader, for example, and the open-source Stanza eReader is also available (see the "E-Books for Your iPad" sidebar earlier in this project). Stanza in particular plays very nicely with calibre, and if you've completed the task in this section, you've set up calibre with the iPad as your e-reader, so calibre is all ready to beam content to Stanza on your iPad.

Sending content to Stanza:

1. Open calibre's Preferences dialog by clicking the rightmost button on the toolbar (refer to Figure 3.17 earlier in this project).
2. In the list on the left side of the dialog box, select Content Server.
3. If the Server isn't running, click the Start Server button to start it.

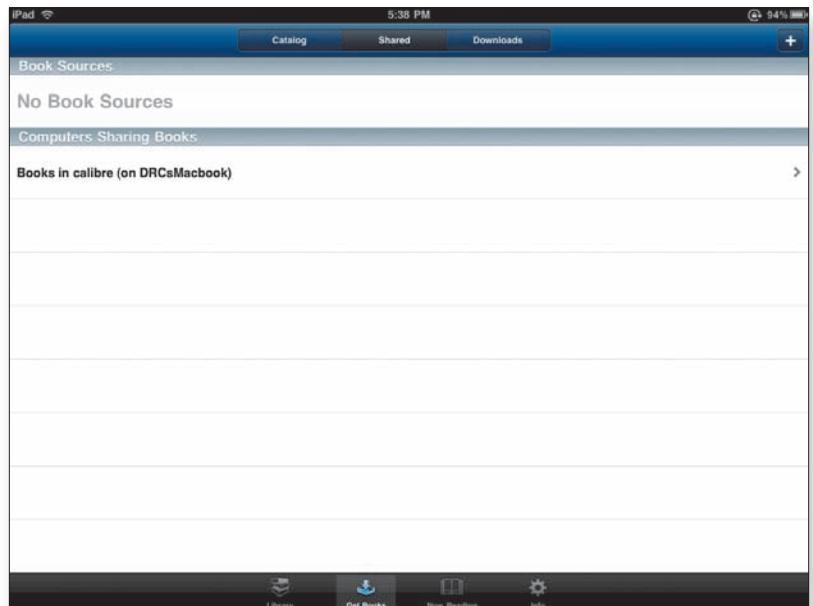
tip

We select the Run server automatically on startup check box to avoid this step.

4. On your iPad, launch the Stanza app by tapping its icon.
5. Tap Get Books at the bottom of the Stanza screen.
6. Tap the Shared tab at the top of the screen.

A screen similar to the one shown in **Figure 3.20** appears, listing any sources or servers set up to share books to Stanza. In our example, the source is the calibre application on Dennis's MacBook.

Figure 3.20 Tap the calibre server's entry in Stanza on your iPad.



7. Tap the server from which you want to receive content.

A list appears, letting you select how you want to sort the books: By Newest, Title, Ratings, Publishers, Series, Authors, News, or Tags. (You can read about the last two options in calibre’s user guide.)

8. Choose a sort option.

We’re choosing By Series to see a list of series that are available and how many books are available in each series—for this example, just the one we created with the conversion of *Vanish* in “Adding and converting books” earlier in this project.

9. Tap the series you want.

A display of the titles available in that series appears (**Figure 3.21**).

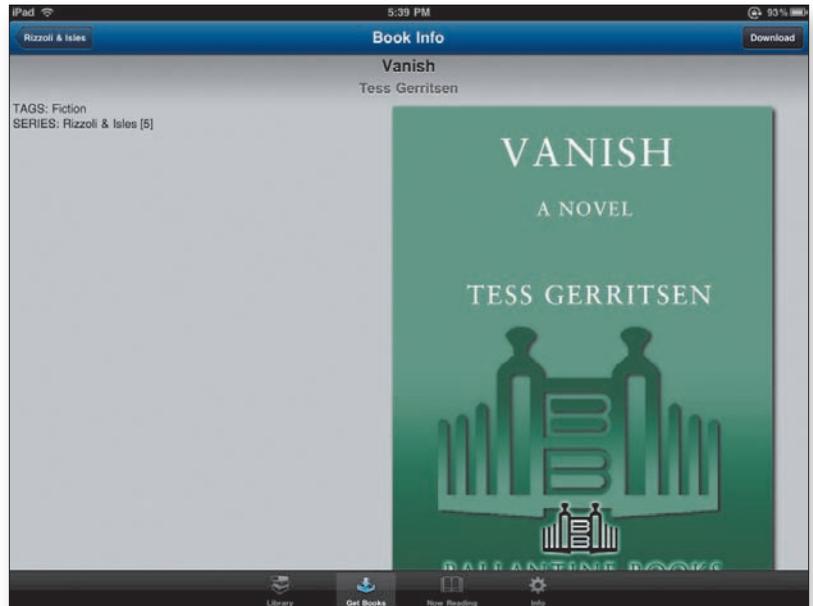
Figure 3.21 calibre displays the titles in a series.



10. Tap the title you want.

A screen displaying your book's cover image appears, with a Download button in the top-right corner (**Figure 3.22**).

Figure 3.22 You can download the displayed title from this screen.



11. Tap the Download button.

A confirmation dialog appears in the middle of your iPad's display.

12. Tap Download in the dialog to make that happen.

When the download is complete (usually, very quickly), the Download button changes to Read Now.

13. Tap Read Now if you want to go directly to the book, or backtrack to add more books to your iPad's Stanza library.

tip

At least for now, we find reading books in Stanza to be more convenient with the iPad in portrait orientation, whereas the two-page landscape display in iBooks is more to our liking. Your mileage may vary.

Movie and TV-Show Syncing Project

Difficulty level: Easy

Software needed: iTunes

Additional hardware: None

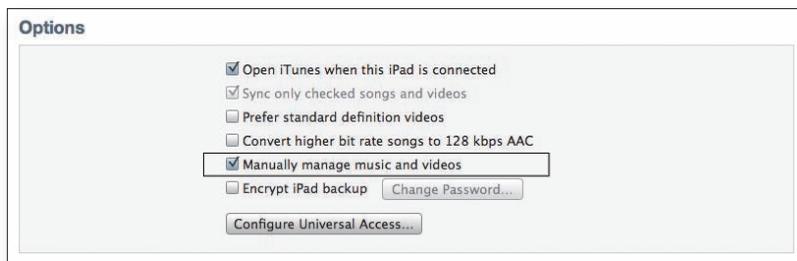
Television. The boob tube. The vast wasteland. What Shakespeare might have called “an expense of spirit in a waste of shame.”

You know you love it. We certainly do. From the ghostly black-and-white haunted aquariums of the early 1950s to the giant flat-screen high-definition full-color sets of the 21st century, we can’t get enough of TV. So the first time we saw video playing on an iPad, we moaned, “Gimme some of that. Now!”

In this project, you’ll see how to get movies and TV shows syncing between your iPad and your computer so that no matter where you are, you can get the video fix you crave.

note The Music Syncing Project earlier in this chapter describes a way for you to manage music and videos manually. If you’ve set this option on your iPad in iTunes’ Summary tab (Figure 3.23), you can’t sync video between your iPad and computer automatically. This project assumes that you *don’t* have that option turned on.

Figure 3.23 If you want to sync movies and TV shows, don’t check this iPad syncing option.



note When you make any changes in the iTunes syncing tabs, the changes don’t take effect immediately, so you can try out different settings. When you click something else in the iTunes Source list, iTunes asks whether you want to apply your changes. You can also click Apply in the bottom-right corner of the iTunes window to apply your changes

immediately, or you can click **Cancel** to set all your unapplied syncing changes in all the syncing tabs back to the way they were (Figure 3.24).

Figure 3.24 Use the two buttons in the bottom-right corner of the iTunes window to apply syncing changes immediately or to cancel changes and revert to previous settings.



Sync movies

Whether you get your movies from the iTunes Store or somewhere else (and we discuss some of the “somewhere else” options elsewhere in this chapter), getting them from your iTunes Library to your iPad and back again isn’t rocket science, even though the technology underlying it may be.

You can sync movies by the following criteria:

- All movies
- Unwatched movies (*unwatched* movies being those that you haven’t watched all the way through to the end)
- The most or least recently obtained unwatched movies
- Selected movies
- Selected playlists of movies

note

Yes, you can create playlists in iTunes that contain movies. This feature is especially useful for short movies, such as the ones you make yourself with iMovie or some other movie-creation application.

Some of these criteria aren’t mutually exclusive. You can sync five recent unwatched movies as well as additional selected movies and playlists of movies, for example.

In this section of the project, you get to experiment with various movie-syncing settings to see how they work. As noted earlier, the changes don’t take effect without your say-so.

Turning on movie syncing:

1. Connect your iPad to your computer.
2. Launch iTunes.
3. Select your iPad in the iTunes Source list, below the Devices heading.
4. In the main pane of the iTunes window, click the Movies tab.
5. At the top of the Movies tab, select Sync Movies (**Figure 3.25**).

Figure 3.25 This check box is the master key to iPad movie syncing.



If Manually manage music and videos is checked in the Options section of the Summary tab (see the intro section of this project), turning on movie syncing unchecks that option. When that happens, the syncing options in the Music and TV Shows tabs take effect, so you need to look in those tabs as well and set some syncing options.

When movie syncing is enabled, you have access to the other controls and lists in the Movies syncing tab. First, you see how to turn on syncing for all movies.

Syncing all movies:

1. Below the Sync Movies heading in the Movies tab, click the Automatically include x movies check box.
2. Choose the option titled all from the pop-up menu in the middle of the preceding option's name (**Figure 3.26**).

The rest of the options in the Movies tab vanish at this point; with all movies set to be synced, you don't need them.

Figure 3.26 When you sync all movies, the other options in the Movies syncing tab vanish.



note

Keep in mind that movies take up a lot of room. If you sync all movies, iTunes copies only as many as can fit on your iPad. You may find that you don't have room for many apps, books, or songs if you fill your iPad with movies.

In most cases, you probably *don't* want to sync all your movies, just as you wouldn't pack every piece of clothing you own when you go on a trip. You usually want your iPad to have the newest movies in your collection or the ones that you haven't yet viewed. In the following task, we show you how to make it so.

Syncing new or old movies:

1. Below the Sync Movies check box in the Movies tab, check the Automatically include x movies option, if it isn't already checked.
2. From the pop-up menu in the middle of the preceding option's name, choose any option other than all or all unwatched (**Figure 3.27**).

Figure 3.27 Your choices for syncing movies automatically.

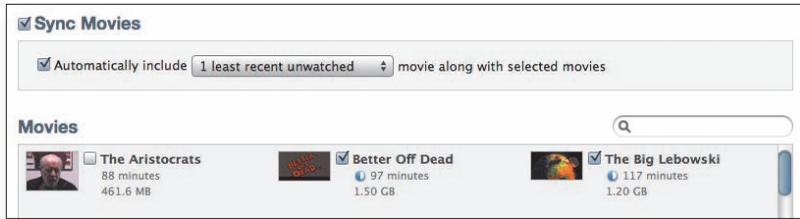


When you make any choice other than all or all unwatched, all the lists of movies and playlists in the Movies syncing tab become active.

note

iTunes uses the date when each movie was added to the iTunes Library—not the movie's release date—to figure out which movies are the most or least recent. From the pop-up menu, you can choose to sync automatically one or more of the most recent watched movies; you can choose one or more of the most recent unwatched movies; or you can choose one or more of the least recent unwatched movies. For some reason, however, you can't choose to sync the least recent watched movies: those, you have to select manually (**Figure 3.28** on the next page).

Figure 3.28 You can manually select additional movies when you choose a specific number of recent or unwatched movies to sync automatically; that's why the lists of movies and playlists are available below the syncing option.



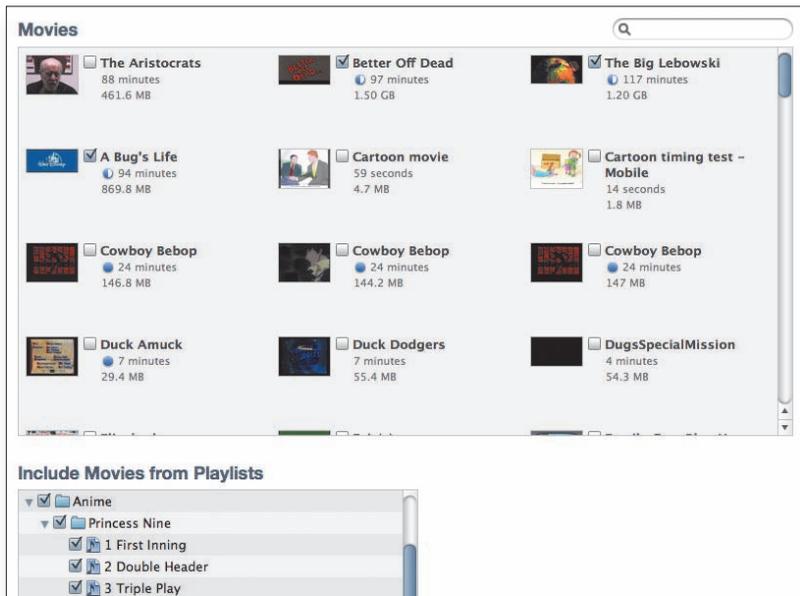
Speaking of including selected movies and playlists when you sync, that task is coming up next.

Syncing selected movies and movie playlists:

1. Below the Sync Movies check box in the Movies tab, do one of the following things:
 - Clear the Automatically include x movies check box.
 - From the pop-up menu in the middle of the Automatically include option's name, choose an item other than all.

The lists below the option's name become available (**Figure 3.29**).

Figure 3.29 You can pick movies individually and choose playlists of movies.



2. Click to select the movies you want to include along with your choices from step 1.

note

If you choose any of the unwatched items from the Automatically include pop-up menu in step 1, you can select only additional movies that don't match the unwatched items you've chosen. The movies that match your choice are automatically checked in the Movies list and can't be unchecked.

3. In the Include Movies from Playlists list, click to select the playlists you want to sync.

Sync TV-show episodes

The videos in your iTunes Library that are categorized as TV shows have two special items of information associated with them that affect syncing: the name of the TV series and the episode of that series. You can use these two pieces of information to specify which TV-show episodes get synced.

The choices you have for syncing TV-show episodes are similar to those for movies:

- All episodes
- Unwatched episodes
- The most or least recently obtained unwatched episodes
- Selected episodes
- Selected playlists that contain TV-show episodes

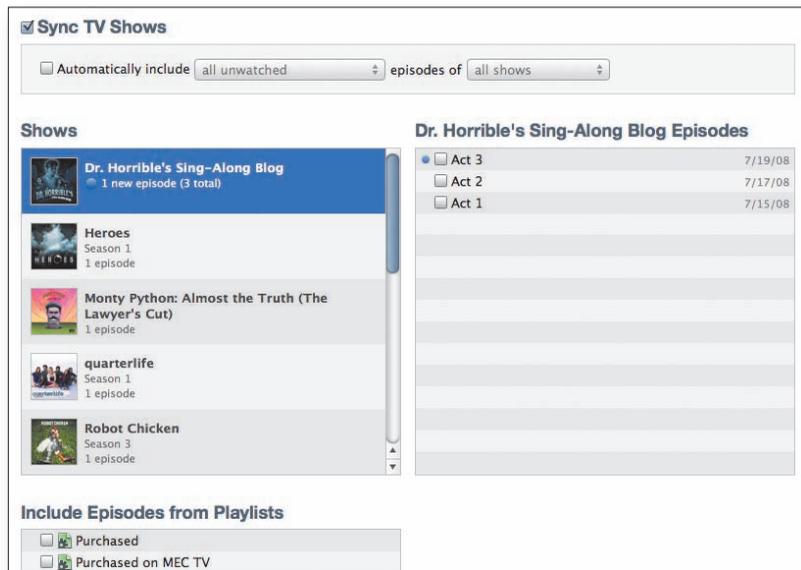
Because episodes “belong” to TV shows, you can specify whether the unwatched and recent criteria apply to all TV shows or only to selected TV shows. If you're an avid fan of Jerry Van Dyke, for example, you can choose to sync only the five oldest unwatched episodes of *My Mother the Car* and no others.

As with movies, in this part of the project you get to experiment with various episode syncing settings to see how they work. Also as with movies, any changes you make in TV-show syncing don't take effect without your approval.

Turning on TV-show syncing:

1. Connect your iPad to your computer.
2. Launch iTunes.
3. Select your iPad in the iTunes Source list, below the Devices heading.
4. In the main pane of the iTunes window, click the TV Shows tab.
5. At the top of the TV Shows tab, select Sync TV Shows (**Figure 3.30**).

Figure 3.30 What lies beneath the TV Shows tab.



Because TV shows consist of many episodes, only some of which you may have seen, the options for syncing new and old episodes are more flexible than they are for movies. Let's take a look.

Syncing new or old episodes:

1. Below the Sync TV Shows check box in the TV Shows tab, check the Automatically include x episodes of x option, if it isn't already checked.
2. From the first pop-up menu in the Automatically include option, choose any item other than all.

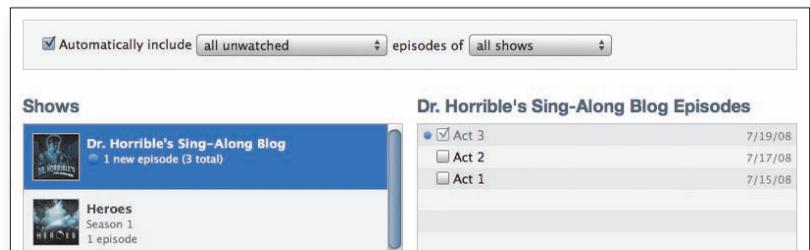
3. From the second pop-up menu in the Automatically include option, choose all shows.

(You'll deal with selected TV shows a little later in this project.)

4. Select a TV show in the Shows list.

The Episodes list to the right shows which, if any, of the show's episodes are set to sync automatically (**Figure 3.31**). You can click the check boxes next to other episodes in a show's Episodes list to include those episodes in the sync.

Figure 3.31 You can choose other episodes in addition to those that sync automatically.



tip

In addition to the episodes that fall within the syncing criteria you set, you can put TV episodes in playlists and select those playlists in the Include Episodes from Playlists list at the bottom of the TV Shows syncing tab (refer to Figure 3.30 earlier in this project).

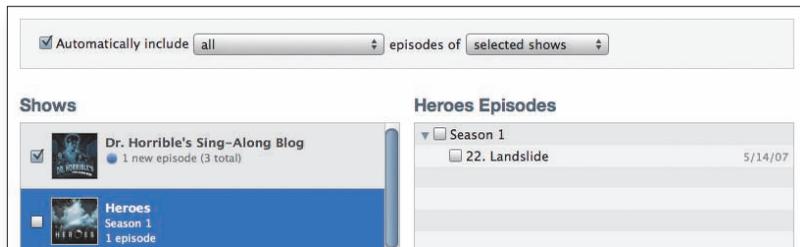
Now that you've seen your choices for choosing episodes by how long you've had them and whether you've watched them, in the next task we show you how to specify the episodes that get synced.

Syncing episodes of selected TV shows:

1. Below the Sync TV Shows check box in the TV Shows tab, click the Automatically include option, if it isn't already checked.
2. From the second pop-up menu in the preceding option (the choice in the first pop-up menu doesn't matter), choose selected shows.
Check boxes appear beside each show's name in the Shows list.
3. In the Shows list, click a show's check box to select it.

Only the episodes from the selected TV shows that match the criteria in the first pop-up menu sync automatically. As shown in **Figure 3.32**, however, you can select other shows in the Shows list and sync individual episodes of them as well.

Figure 3.32 You can sync episodes from shows other than the ones you've chosen to sync automatically.



Finally, if you happen to be a completist when it comes to TV shows, the last task in this project shows you how to sync all your TV shows.

Syncing all TV shows:

1. Below the Sync TV Shows check box in the TV Shows tab, click the Automatically include option, if it isn't already checked.
2. From the first pop-up menu in the Automatically include option, choose all.
3. From the second pop-up menu in the Automatically include option, choose all shows.

All the lists in the TV Shows syncing tab vanish. After all, you don't need them if you're syncing everything.

4. In the bottom-right corner of the iTunes window, click Cancel.

In this project, you've been playing around with a lot of settings to see what they do. Unless you want them to take effect—and chances are excellent that you don't—it's best to cancel and then plan how you *really* want to sync your TV shows and movies. After all, now you know how to do it; that's what this project has been about.

Happy viewing! But first, stay tuned for these important messages....

What About Music Videos?

In addition to TV shows and movies, you may have music videos in your iTunes Library—videos that were included with albums you purchased or that you purchased individually. Music videos sync according to the same criteria you set for the songs in your Music library—if you set the right music syncing option.

In the Music syncing tab, in the first group of options, select the Include music videos option. That's it. Now when you sync your music, your music videos come along for the ride. You'll find them on your iPad in the Video app's Music Videos tab.

Moving Movie Rentals

You can't sync movies that you've rented from the iTunes Store on your computer. You can *move* rentals from your computer to your iPad and back, but the rental is always on only one device at a time.

In addition, if you rent a movie from the iTunes Store on your iPad, it stays on your iPad; you can't move it to your computer or any other device. (Similarly, if you rent a movie via Apple TV, you can't move it from Apple TV to any other device.)

Streaming Internet Video Project

Difficulty level: Moderate

Software needed: ABC Player (free at the App Store)

Additional hardware: None

Everywhere we turn, we find people catching their TV shows at times other than the scheduled broadcast times and, frequently, on devices other than a TV set or home entertainment center. Battling viewership loss to cable, and in an attempt to recoup ad revenue lost to cable and other competition, network television has begun to embrace alternative delivery systems—in particular, the Internet and iTunes.

Time and venue shifting have become so pervasive that Nielsen Media Research, in an attempt to stay relevant, purchased NetRatings to measure the demographics of the rapidly growing Internet viewing population. Nielsen also factors iTunes and YouTube viewing into its ratings.

Get the software

Although all the networks stream their shows via their Web sites, and though Safari on your iPad provides a competent content conduit, ABC has taken things a step further, providing a dedicated iPad app called ABC Player to stream its shows to our handheld devices.

This app offers a viewing experience that's tailored to the iPad rather than the lowest-common-denominator Web browser interface—as you see in **Figure 3.33** and **Figure 3.34**, which were taken seconds apart on the same day.

Figure 3.33 ABC's Web interface.

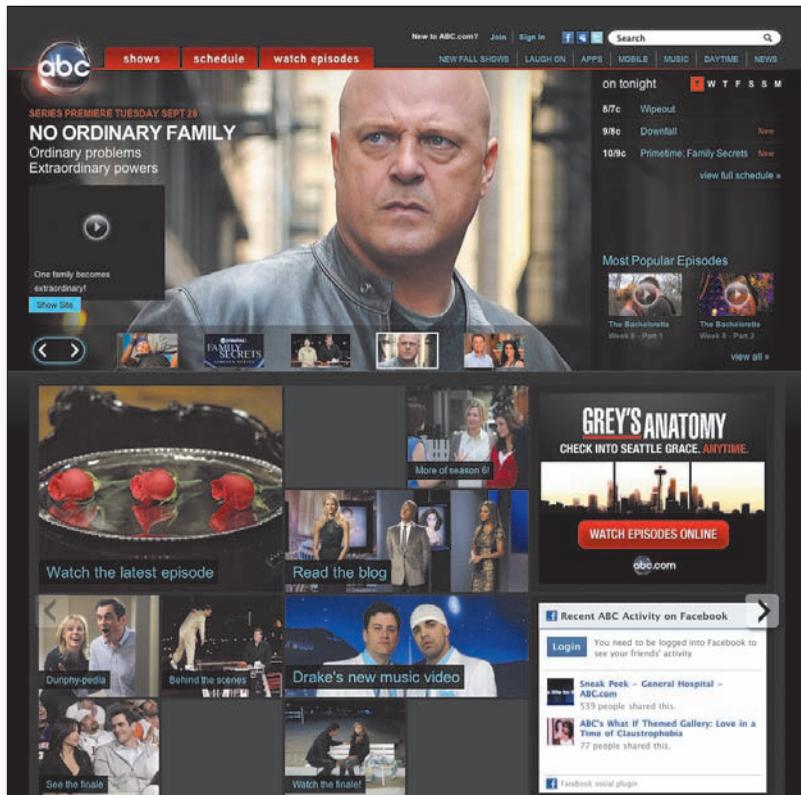
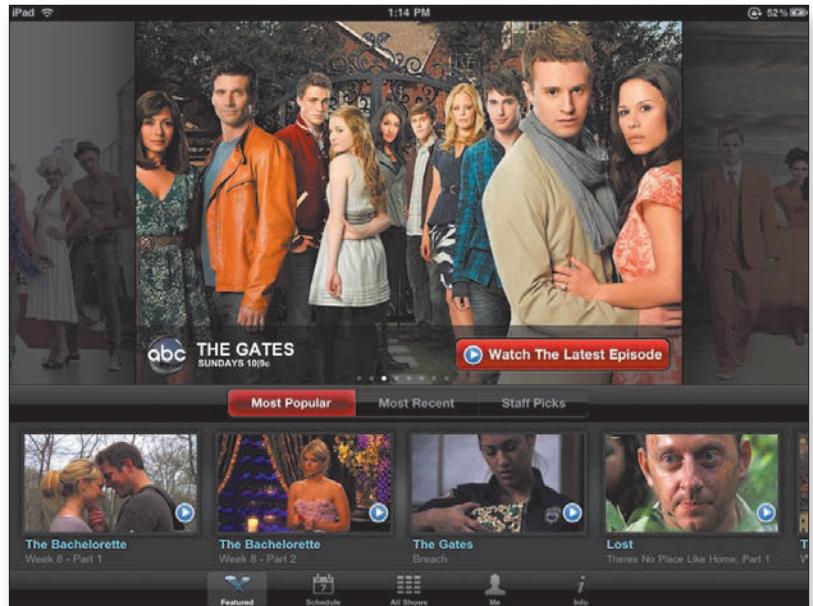


Figure 3.34 ABC Player's interface.



Obtaining ABC Player:

1. Tap the App Store icon on your iPad's home screen.
2. In the Search field in the top-right corner of the App Store's home screen, type **ABC**; then tap ABC Player in the list that appears.
3. Tap the ABC Player entry (which should appear in the top-left corner of the iPad Apps section).

The ABC Player product page appears.

4. Tap the Free button below the icon in the top-left corner.
Free flips over and becomes Install.
5. Tap Install.
6. When you're asked to enter your Apple ID and password, do so.

You're back at the home screen, and ABC Player is downloading.

You're ready to start enjoying ABC's network TV shows. (At least, ABC hopes that you'll enjoy them.) Tap the ABC Player icon to enter the world of ABC prime-time (and more) television.

Use the ABC Player

When you have ABC Player running, you find five buttons along the bottom of the screen: Featured, Schedule, All Shows, Me, and Info.

Viewing ABC's featured favorites:

1. If it isn't already selected (which it is by default), tap the Featured button at the bottom of the ABC Player screen.

You see a large thumbnail at the top of the screen, displaying a show that ABC is—wait for it—featuring (**Figure 3.35**). This display slides to the left about every 5 seconds to bring a new show's thumbnail into view.

Figure 3.35 ABC's featured shows and episodes on a summer day in 2010. Your mileage may vary.



2. To speed the movement of the large thumbnail display or to make it go in the opposite direction, touch the thumbnail and then flick your finger in the desired direction.
3. To watch a recent episode, do one of the following things:
 - To watch the most recent episode of a series during its regular season, tap the Watch Latest Episode button to—yes—watch the latest episode of that show.

- To watch episodes of a series that's between seasons, such as *Desperate Housewives* in Figure 3.35, the button will say Catch Up on Season *n* (6, in the case of the ladies on Wisteria Lane).
4. To view a specific episode of one of the shows displayed below the scrolling thumbnail, tap that episode's thumbnail.
 5. To modify what's being displayed in the various thumbnails, tap Most Popular, Most Recent, or Staff Picks.

Seeing what's on the schedule:

1. To check out the network schedule, tap the Schedule button at the bottom of the ABC Player screen.

You see a screen resembling the one shown in **Figure 3.36**.

Figure 3.36 Pick an ABC episode from the weekly calendar display.



2. Tap the desired day of the week to find that day's shows in their ABC time slots.

As you can see in Figure 3.36, some shows aren't available for viewing on the iPad—usually, local broadcasts, sporting events, and the like. Also, shows that are available in the iTunes Store are so marked, with a button you can tap to buy them.

Checking it all:

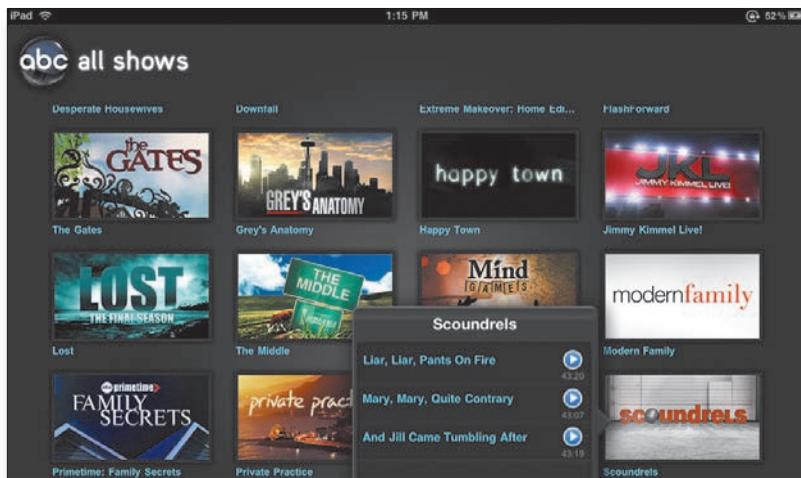
1. Tap the All Shows button at the bottom of the ABC Player screen.
 You see a grid of all available ABC shows (**Figure 3.37**).

Figure 3.37 Find the show you want in ABC's All Shows grid.



2. Tap a show's thumbnail to see a pop-up list of episodes (**Figure 3.38**).

Figure 3.38 Tap the show to see a list of available episodes.



3. Tap the desired episode to start viewing.

Reviewing your viewing history:

1. Tap the Me button at the bottom of the ABC Player screen.

You see a grid of thumbnails representing the episodes you've seen so far (**Figure 3.39**). At the top of each thumbnail is a timeline, with a down-pointing arrow showing where you left off watching the episode. Near the top-right corner of each thumbnail is a small x that you can tap to remove the episode from your history.

Figure 3.39 Check here in case you don't remember what you've already watched (or if you like reruns).



2. (Optional) If you see an episode you want to watch again or want to pick up watching an episode where you left off, tap its thumbnail.

note

This feature is great if you regularly watch a few TV series and have seen multiple episodes of each one. It's very easy to lose track of which episodes you've viewed and which you haven't. Thanks to the Me button, you don't have to remember multiple episode names in multiple series.

Giving ABC feedback:

1. Tap the Info button at the bottom of the ABC Player screen.

A feedback form appears (**Figure 3.40**). This form is a lot less colorful than the player's other pages, but you hold sway here.

Figure 3.40 Tell ABC what you think, or make suggestions.

2. Fill out the form to tell ABC what you consider to be good or bad, or to suggest features you'd like to see in future versions.
3. When you've had your say, click the Send Feedback button.

View the video stream

After you tap an episode in the Featured, Schedule, All Shows, or Me screen (well, some people like to watch shows multiple times, so if you're not one of them, you don't need to tap an episode in your history), ABC Player starts loading the episode.

During the loading process, the player displays a placard stating that the following episode is being presented with limited commercials. That may be true, especially if you're defining *limited* by counting the distinct advertising spots, because you generally get the same two or three

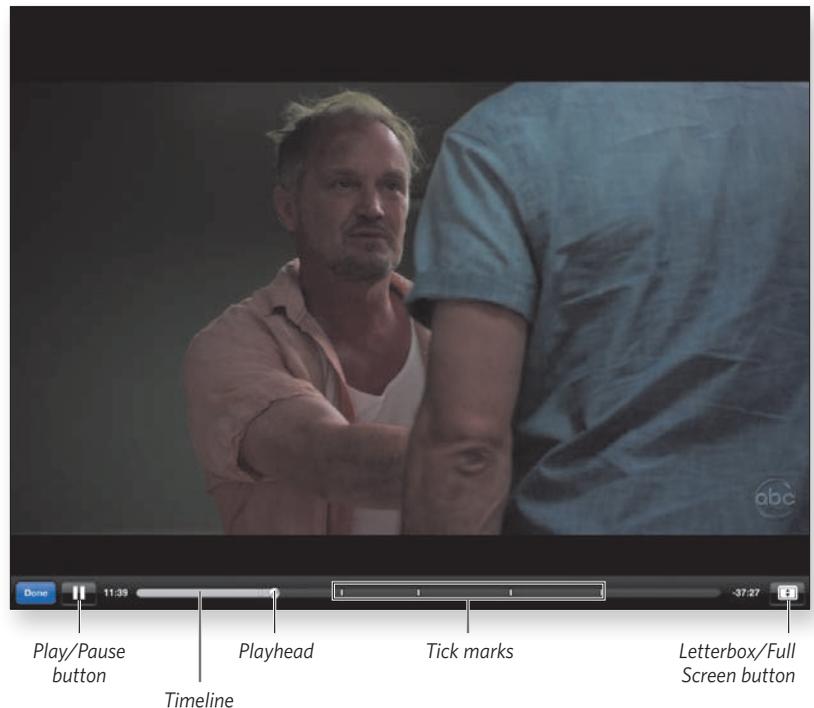
commercials repeated ad nauseam through the show. It also may be true if your tolerance for interruptions is greater than ours. We count four interruptions per hourlong episode in addition to the lead-in commercials, with two commercials per interruption. (Actually, an “hourlong” episode viewed in ABC Player is typically 42 to 43 minutes long, not counting the commercial time.)

When the introductory commercial break is over, the episode starts to play.

Controlling video playback:

1. While you’re viewing an episode in ABC Player, tap a video to display viewing controls at the bottom of the screen (**Figure 3.41**).

Figure 3.41 Tap an episode to control its playback.



2. Do any of the following things:
 - Tap the blue Done button to go back to the show’s episode screen.
 - Tap the Pause/Play button to toggle between pause and play.

- Tap the Letterbox/Full Screen button to control the video's aspect ratio.
- Drag the playhead in the timeline to move to a different section of the episode.

note

Be aware, however, that if you drag over one of the tick marks (each of which denotes a “limited commercial interruption”), the playhead lands on the commercial rather than on the particular point you chose.

note

When a commercial is playing, the viewing controls are inaccessible. You can't pause playback, much less fast-forward or rewind. In fact, you can't even end playback and return to the selection page. This situation is particularly annoying when you accidentally tap one of the thumbnails, because every video starts with one of these uninterruptible commercials. Thus, you have to sit through the commercial until the controls are available again, or press the iPad's Home button and then relaunch the ABC Player app.

Streaming Your Video Project

Difficulty level: Intermediate

Software needed: Air Video (\$2.99 from the App Store) and Air Video Server (free)

Additional hardware: Mac or Windows computer

We love TV and movies, and as we write in the **Converting Video Project** later in this chapter, the iPad is a fantastic platform on which to watch our video. Unfortunately, the iPad doesn't support most of the formats in which video is commonly distributed. It likes only MPEG-4 (MP4 or M4V)—no MPEG-1 or MPEG-2 (used for VCDs [video compact discs] and DVDs); no QuickTime; no AVI, DivX, or Xvid; no Matroska (MKV); and no Adobe Flash, just to name some common formats that you'd need to transcode to play on your iPad. Every one of these transcoding operations involves a diminution of quality resulting from recompression to the new format.

Add to that fact these considerations: Your iPad's storage space is fairly limited, and video takes a lot of space. Your desktop (or laptop) computer, on the other hand, usually has a pretty large hard drive, and you can extend that space with additional drives. Wouldn't it be nice to use your iPad to view the video stored on your computer without having to sync it? Thanks to InMethod's Air Video products, you can do just that. Read on.

Get Air Video

You need two pieces of InMethod software:

- **Air Video or Air Video Free.** You can get Air Video at www.inmethod.com or from the App Store. If Air Video's \$2.99 price tag puts you off, or if you just feel compelled to try before you buy, you can obtain Air Video Free (available from the same sources), which limits the number of videos accessible in each folder.
- **Air Video Server.** You also need the free server software, available at www.inmethod.com. Air Video Server requires Mac OS X 10.5 (Leopard) or later or Windows XP Service Pack 3 or later (the same Windows software required for iPad support).

Air Video streams virtually any video on your computer's hard drive, transcoding it as necessary. The lone exception is copy-protected video, which you usually purchase or rent from the iTunes Store (see the sidebar on the next page).

tip

Although Air Video will transcode on the fly, which is the way most users employ it, you can perform the conversions before streaming the content. If you have a slower network (or a computer slower than a Core 2 Duo), you may want to perform the up-front conversion.

Copy Protection and DRM

Rather than call it *copy-protected*, a term that has serious negative connotations in the public mind, the industry and lawyers refer to this type of content as *digital rights management* (DRM) content.

Copy protection and DRM are the same thing when you're dealing with digital material. Because the DRM content you obtain from the iTunes Store is already in an iPad-compatible format, and you can sync it to your iPad, why can't Air Video stream it? Well, that situation arises because the DRM license that the lawyers impose on Apple precludes streaming of DRM content. Therefore, if you want to watch video from the iTunes Store on your iPad, that's about the only video you'll need to sync.

Obtaining the Air Video software:

1. Point your Web browser to www.inmethod.com.
2. Click the link labeled Get Air Video from the iTunes AppStore, or click the link for the free version.
3. In the App Store, follow the familiar steps to complete your acquisition and download the app to your iTunes Library.
4. Sync your iPad so that the software is installed on your iPad.

tip

You can combine steps 2-4 by connecting to the App Store on your iPad and making the purchase there. Remember that Air Video won't be backed up to your computer until your next sync.

5. Back on the InMethod Web site, click the graphic for your operating system (the blue Apple logo if you're using a Mac or the Windows logo if that's your platform) to download the Air Video Server software for your computer.

The Server software for your platform downloads and installs itself on your computer.

note

If the Server software doesn't install automatically when you download it, run the installer (Windows) or drag the Server application's icon to your Applications folder (Mac).

Introduce your iPad to Air Video Server

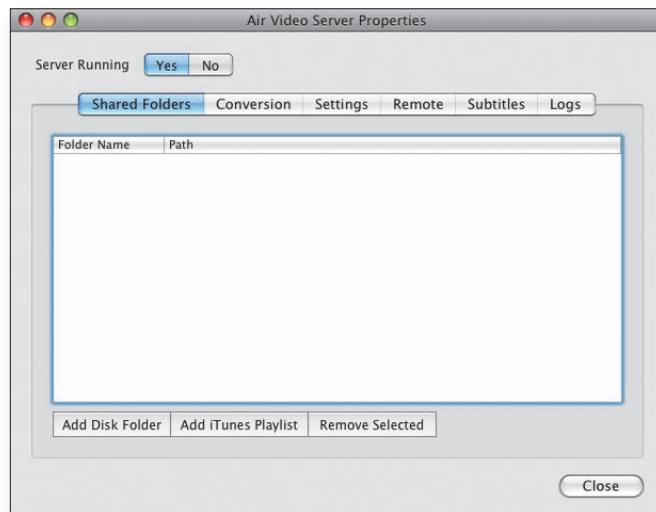
Now that you have Air Video on your iPad and Air Video Server on your computer, it's time to open the lines of communication.

Setting up Air Video Server:

1. Launch Air Video Server.

You should see the dialog shown in **Figure 3.42**.

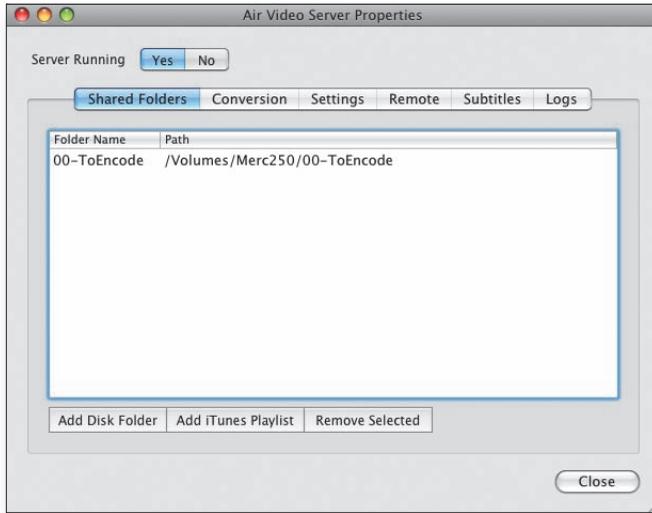
Figure 3.42 The Air Video Server Properties dialog.



2. If you want to specify a folder (such as your Movies folder on a Mac or your MyMovies folder in Windows), click the Add Disk Folder button, and navigate in the Open dialog to select your folder.

Now your specified folder appears in the dialog's list box, as shown in **Figure 3.43** on the next page.

Figure 3.43 Your first entry in the folders that Air Video can access.



3. Repeat step 2 for any additional folders you want to make available.
Note that selecting a folder also selects all subordinate folders.
4. To add iTunes playlists to the list of streamable locations, click the Add iTunes Playlist button.
The iTunes Playlists dialog opens (**Figure 3.44**).



As we mention earlier in this project, copy-protected content from the iTunes Store won't stream. iTunes playlists are handy for your home videos, iTunes U courseware, video podcasts, and other content that lacks DRM.

Figure 3.44 Select any iTunes playlists you want to access.

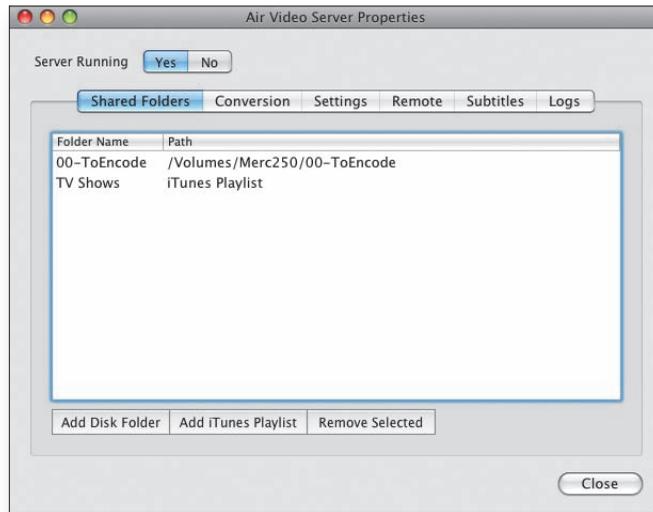


5. Select the iTunes playlists (or categories) you want to add, and click Close.

You return to the Air Video Server Properties dialog.

6. Make sure that the Server Running switch at the top of the window is set to Yes, as shown in **Figure 3.45**.

Figure 3.45 Make sure that the Server is turned on.



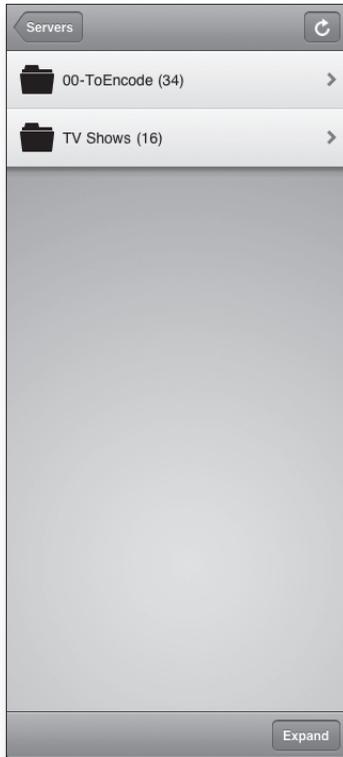
Air Video Server runs as a background process. No icon for it appears in either the Mac OS X Dock or the Windows taskbar. If you close the window, the application continues to run, and a dialog (**Figure 3.46**) informs you that you can still access it via an icon in the application's menu bar (Mac) or system tray (Windows).

Figure 3.46 Use the menu-bar or system-tray icon to access the faceless Server application.



You're good to go and should find your specified content available in the Air Server app on your iPad (**Figure 3.47** on the next page).

Figure 3.47 Your selected folders are now available on your iPad.



Setting Additional Server Preferences

In the Air Video Server Properties dialog (refer to Figure 3.42), you can click the other tabs to set various preferences that launch the application automatically at login, require a password, or set a custom port (Settings tab).

You can also instruct the Server to honor Internet access (Remote tab), but this functionality requires that your router support UPnP (Universal Plug and Play) or NAT-PMP (Network Address Translation-Port Mapping Protocol). When you select the Enable Access from Internet check box, a server PIN is displayed. Make certain that the Automatically Map Port check box is selected. Now you can access Air Video Server from remote locations via Wi-Fi or (if Wi-Fi isn't available and you have a 3G iPad) via AT&T's 3G network.

Caution: 3G access is slower than Wi-Fi, so live conversion may be more problematic. Also, with AT&T's pricing, the amount of data involved can burn through your monthly 3G allotment fast, causing you to run up some hefty overage charges.

Play your content

Playing your content is simple, just as you'd expect on the iPad. Air Video's iPad user interface operates in landscape orientation, even when the iPad is vertical. We find this fact somewhat amusing, because Air Video started as an iPhone app.

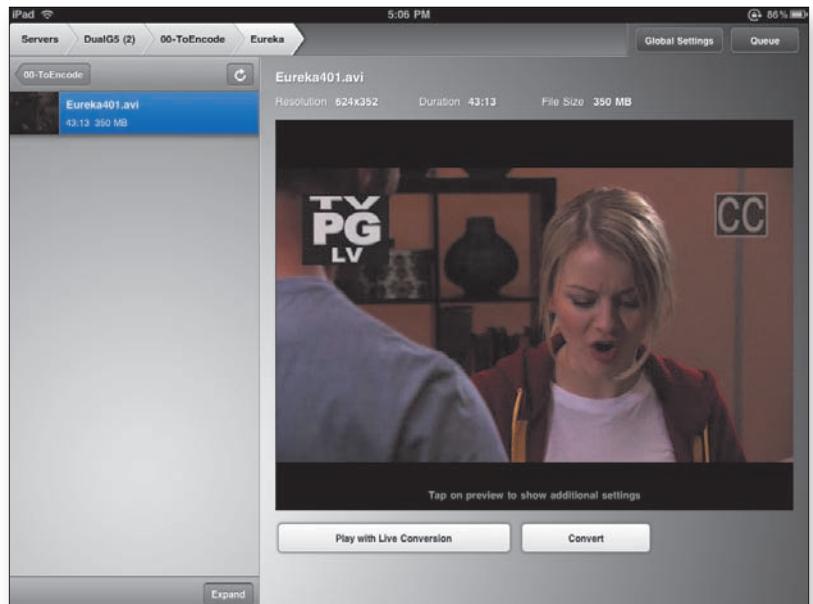
At any rate, if you're using your iPad in portrait orientation, rotate it 90° to landscape or tilt your head 90° (if you don't mind being uncomfortable).

Playing a video:

1. Select the video you want to play, tunneling down through your folder hierarchy if necessary.

The beginning of your video appears in the preview pane on the right side of the iPad screen (**Figure 3.48**).

Figure 3.48 The preview pane includes controls that start your video, convert your video, and manage the conversion queue.



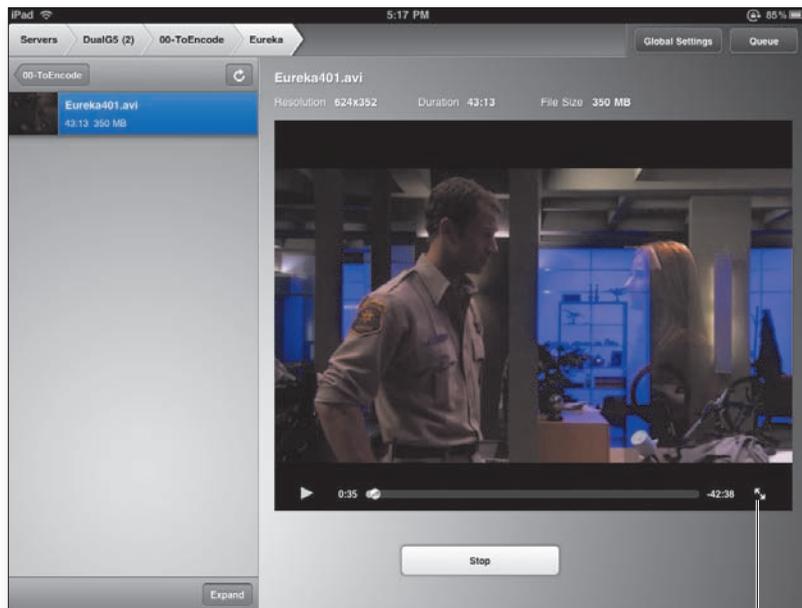
2. Tap the Play with Live Conversion button if you're into immediate gratification, or tap the Convert button if you're a disciple of Job.
For the purposes of this task, choose to be impatient.

tip If you do elect to perform the conversions before you play the video, you can check the queued conversions and their status by tapping the Queue button in the top-right corner of the preview pane.

After a quick spin of the wait cursor, your video starts to play in the preview pane.

3. Tap the double-arrow button in the bottom-right corner of the preview pane (**Figure 3.49**) to have your video appear full-screen.

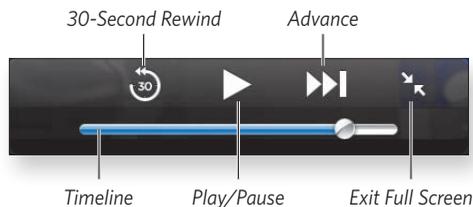
Figure 3.49 When video is playing, controls are available at the bottom of the preview pane.



Tap for full-screen video.

4. In the controller overlay (**Figure 3.50**), do any of the following:
- Tap the 30-Second Rewind button to go backward in 30-second increments.
 - Tap the Play/Pause button to switch from playing to pausing, and vice versa.
 - Tap the Advance button to move to the next chapter marker (or the end of the video, if there are no remaining chapter markers).
 - Tap the Exit Full Screen button if you want to go back to the screen with the preview pane (refer to Figure 3.49).
 - Drag the scrubber in the timeline to move to any point in the video you want. The current time code (how far into the video you are) is shown at the left end of the timeline, and the remaining time in the video is displayed at the right end.

Figure 3.50 Video displayed in full-screen mode and the controls available in that mode.



More Convenience Features

Here are a few tips for added enjoyment and functionality:

- If the controls aren't visible, just tap within the video to make them appear.
- Double-tap the video in full-screen mode, and the video expands to fill the screen, even if that expansion results in cropping the sides of a widescreen show. You can do the same thing by tapping the double-arrow button above the timeline (refer to Figure 3.50), switching between letterbox and full-screen view.
- If you've added videos to or removed videos from the folder currently displayed in the list on the left side of the preview pane, tap the Refresh button above the top-right corner of the list (refer to Figure 3.48) to update the display.

Watching Television Project

Difficulty level: Moderate

Software needed: EyeTV 3 software, version 3.4 or later (\$79.95), EyeTV app (\$4.99)

Additional hardware: Intel Macintosh (required), EyeTV capture product or a compatible hardware solution, Turbo.264 HD recommended for streaming over 3G

note

For this project, only Mac users need apply.

Ever since Elgato Systems released its first EyeTV tuner back in the autumn of 2002, the EyeTV product line has been garnering awards and four- and five-star ratings. In our opinion, based on longtime personal use as well as on reading the product reviews, the quality of Elgato's software is a major reason—if not *the* major reason—for the high ratings and the awards.

Elgato is a rarity among companies that produce a varied line of hardware peripherals because its product line focuses on Macs and Mac users. Though some of the hardware (such as the EyeTV Hybrid) works well on a Windows 7 system with Windows Media Center, the software is Mac-only. The EyeTV software and hardware combination turns your Mac into a television set, a DVR, a video-editing station, and more. That *more* includes redirecting TV to another Mac, an iPhone, or an iPad.

note

Elgato also develops and maintains Toast Titanium for Sonic/Roxio. Toast is the leading CD/DVD/Blu-ray burning solution for the Macintosh, and it integrates beautifully with EyeTV for burning video to DVD. Because EyeTV also takes input from a VCR, it's a very handy way to transfer your old VHS (or Beta) tapes to DVD.

Get the software, hardware, and app

You can check out the Elgato hardware and software product line at www.elgato.com/elgato/na/mainmenu/products.en.html, or just go to www.elgato.com and click the Products link on the home page.

We aren't going to tell you how to hook up an EyeTV unit to your Mac. Elgato does that extremely well in its product documentation; besides, the instructions vary depending on which tuner you purchase. Similarly, we won't tell you how to install the EyeTV 3 software, which installs like any other Mac software.

After you connect the EyeTV hardware and install the EyeTV 3 software, launch that software and then follow the onscreen setup instructions for your tuner.

Next, visit the App Store. Click (Mac) or tap (iPad) your way to the Store, and purchase the EyeTV app (current price: \$4.99).

note

If you purchase the app via iTunes on your Mac, sync your iPad so that the EyeTV app will be on your iPad, and if you purchase it on your iPad, sync anyway so that the backup copy will be available on your Mac.

When you have all the pieces in place, it's time to get them talking, which you do in the following task.

EyeTV's Transition from FireWire to USB

When Elgato introduced the first EyeTV units, every Mac came with one or more FireWire ports, and the only USB ports were USB 1.1. Additionally, digital camcorders connected via FireWire (IEEE-1394 or, as Sony called it, i.Link), making FireWire the perceived digital video bus of choice.

The EyeTV line moved from its original FireWire implementation (in the days when Macs sported USB 1.1 ports, which were far too slow for video transport) to USB when Apple transitioned its iPod line to USB 2.0. FireWire has higher sustained throughput than USB 2.0, but the difference is negligible.

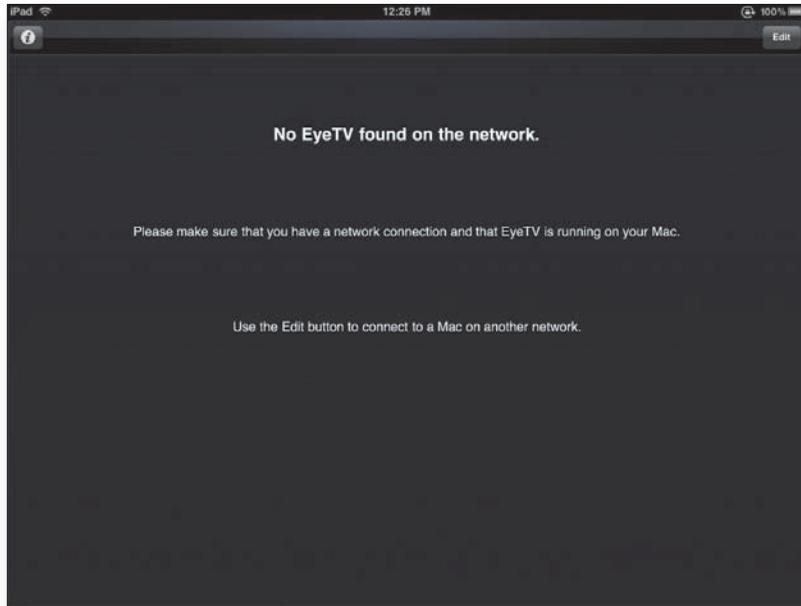
Apple's decision not to include FireWire in some models (currently, the MacBook and MacBook Air) and to significantly reduce the number of FireWire ports in the rest of the product line proved to be serendipitous.

Getting everything linked:

1. Tap the EyeTV app to get it running on your iPad.

After the short splash screen fades, you'll see the screen shown in **Figure 3.51**.

Figure 3.51 The EyeTV app tells you to turn sharing on in your Mac's EyeTV software.



2. In EyeTV 3 on your Mac, choose EyeTV > Preferences to open the Preferences dialog.
3. Click the Sharing button in the Preferences dialog's toolbar, and select the Share my EyeTV Archive check box (**Figure 3.52**) to let EyeTV on other Macs (or your iPad/iPhone) see this Mac's archive.

Figure 3.52 EyeTV's Sharing preferences.



note

The Look for shared EyeTV Archives option is handy if you have other EyeTV units running on other Macs on your network. (Dennis ‘fesses up to having three going.)

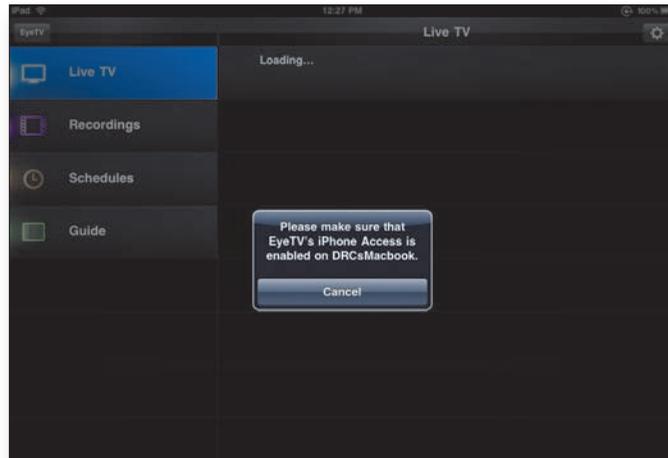
Your EyeTV archive source now appears in the EyeTV app on your iPad.

4. Tap the archive source.

You see the screen shown in **Figure 3.53**.

Figure 3.53

The EyeTV app says that you still have another preference to set on your Mac.



5. In the EyeTV Preferences pane on your Mac, select the check box titled Enable access from EyeTV for iPhone/iPad (**Figure 3.54**).

Figure 3.54 Select this check box to let your iPad access this EyeTV archive.



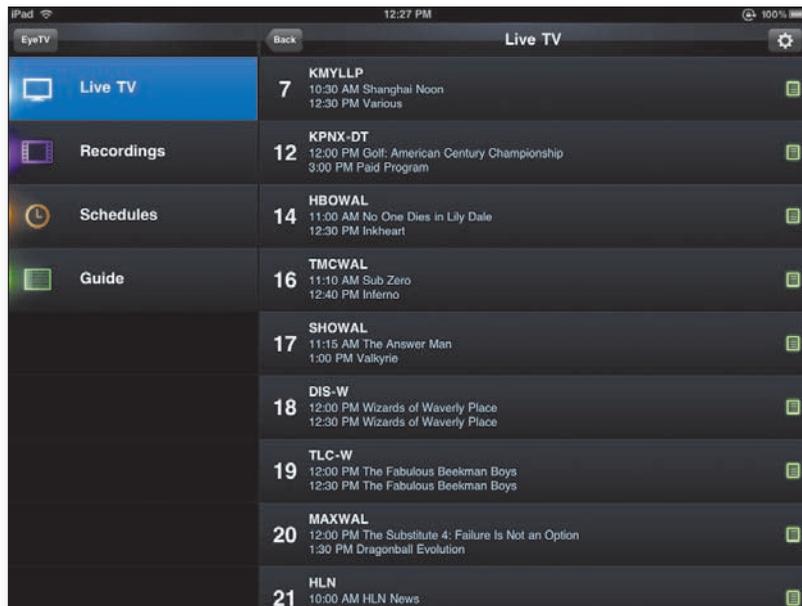


The Use My EyeTV option lets your iPad (or iPhone) locate your Mac’s EyeTV software over the Internet.

6. Back on your iPad, click the bar that represents a Mac sharing its EyeTV archive.

Now your iPad’s EyeTV app has access to your Mac’s EyeTV software, including live TV, its existing recordings, and the ability to schedule recordings (**Figure 3.55**).

Figure 3.55 Your EyeTV app can access your EyeTV hardware, recordings, schedules, and Guide.



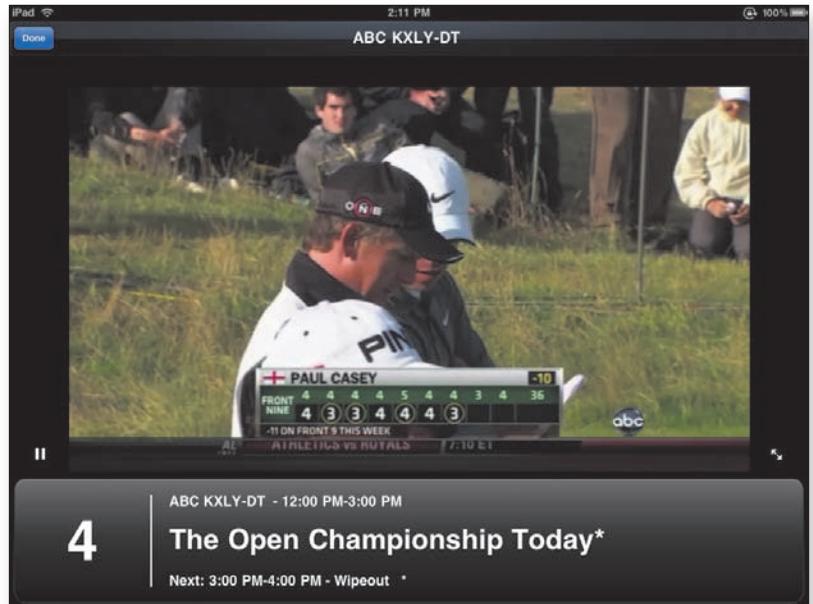
Navigating EyeTV:

You have several ways to get around in and use EyeTV:

- In the EyeTV app on your iPad, tap a show in the Live TV screen, which displays the current schedule.

EyeTV connects to your Mac and starts receiving the requested broadcast as your Mac transcodes it for display on your iPad. (For more info about transcoding, see the last section of this chapter: the **Converting Video Project**.) **Figure 3.56** shows TV playing on an iPad.

Figure 3.56 Watch live TV on your iPad.



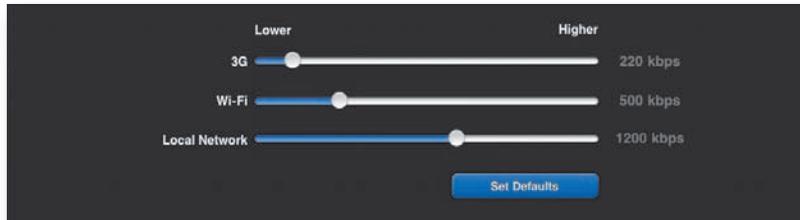
tip

This process is where an Elgato Turbo.264 HD unit comes in handy. With the Turbo.264 in play, the conversion is much faster, and it offloads the processing from your Mac's CPU. The original *raison d'être* for the Turbo.264 HD was to facilitate bringing AVCHD (the high-def version of the Advanced Video Codec, also known as H.264) content in from high-definition camcorders, but the conversion for transmission to iPads and iPhones is an excellent side benefit.

- Tap the little green button at the far-right end of a channel's entry to see the schedule for that channel (just like the Guide, described later in this section).
- In the top-left corner of the Live TV screen (refer to Figure 3.55) is a button labeled EyeTV. Tap it to return to the display of EyeTV units your iPad sees.
- Tapping the Back button above the list of available shows lets you choose broadcast channels or A/V input. (You can have a VCR, LaserDisc player, or other analog source connected to your EyeTV tuner and select it as your input source.)

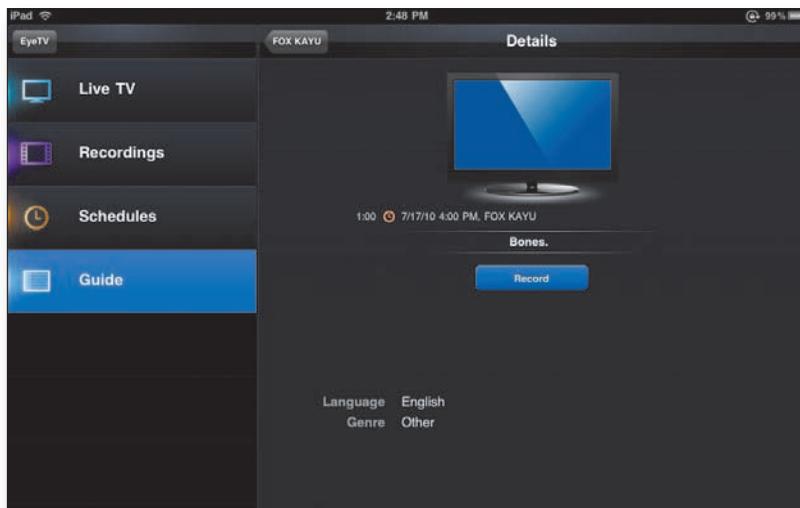
- Tap the Actions button in the top-right corner of the Live TV screen (it looks like a gear) to present the screen shown in **Figure 3.57**. The sliders in this screen let you adjust throughput over various types of network connections. (Also, this screen mentions how the Turbo.264 HD helps improve streaming and picture quality; refer to the tip earlier in this section.)

Figure 3.57 Use the sliders to adjust network access speed.



- In the list on the left side of the Live TV screen, choose any of the following options:
 - Tap Recordings to see a list of the recordings in the Mac's EyeTV DVR archive.
 - Tap Schedules to see what recordings are scheduled.
 - Tap Guide to see what's currently playing or (by tapping a channel's entry) to see what's on tap for that channel and schedule recordings, as shown in **Figure 3.58**.

Figure 3.58 Tell your Mac's EyeTV to schedule a recording.



Converting Video Project

Difficulty level: Intermediate

Software needed: HandBrake (free), VLC (free), and iTunes

Additional hardware: Mac or Windows computer with DVD drive

The iPad is a wonderful video viewer—easily the best handheld viewer we’ve encountered. Even if the only video you watch on yours is content obtained through the iTunes Store, you have a rich (and possibly expensive) experience.

You can easily put your own videos on the iPad, though, or convert videos obtained from other sources. We’re not lawyers, don’t play them on TV, and don’t profess to be them, so we won’t get into the argument about whether *transcoding* (converting from one format to another) the content on DVDs you’ve purchased to play on your iPad is legal or actionable. We’ll just note that an awful lot of people do it and that their arguments concerning fair use (see the nearby sidebar) are at least as compelling to consumers as the arguments advanced by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) are to the trade. The judicial system still hasn’t weighed in definitively, or even consistently, on the subject.

What Is Fair Use?

In U.S. copyright law, *fair use* is a doctrine allowing limited use of copyrighted material without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. Four criteria apply in copyright law, but the seminal point argued for private use rests on the decision in *Sony Corp v. Universal City Studios* in 1984 (aka “the Betamax case”), wherein the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that making individual copies for purposes of time shifting (recording a show to view at a later time, as we all do nowadays with DVRs) doesn’t constitute copyright infringement.

The courts are currently considering whether this decision can be interpreted to include file sharing and conversion technologies such as transcoding to shift the viewing platform from a specific device (such as a DVD player) to another device (say, an iPod, iPad, or iPhone). Thus far, they haven’t issued a definitive ruling on either side of the question.

In the meantime, HandBrake and similar technologies exist and are freely available.

Acquire HandBrake and VLC

The first thing you need to do is acquire a current version of HandBrake and a copy of VideoLAN Client, aka VLC.

HandBrake converts a large—and growing—collection of input video formats to the H.264 codec that your iPad wants. As an open-source project, HandBrake doesn't have a predetermined development and release schedule, so it's almost guaranteed that something new will be added between the time we're writing this project and the time you're reading it. Check out the HandBrake site to see what the current version is (at this writing, 0.9.4).

VLC is a very capable open-source, multiplatform audio and video player application—one that plays formats that aren't playable in iTunes or QuickTime without additional (and sometimes nonfree) plug-ins.

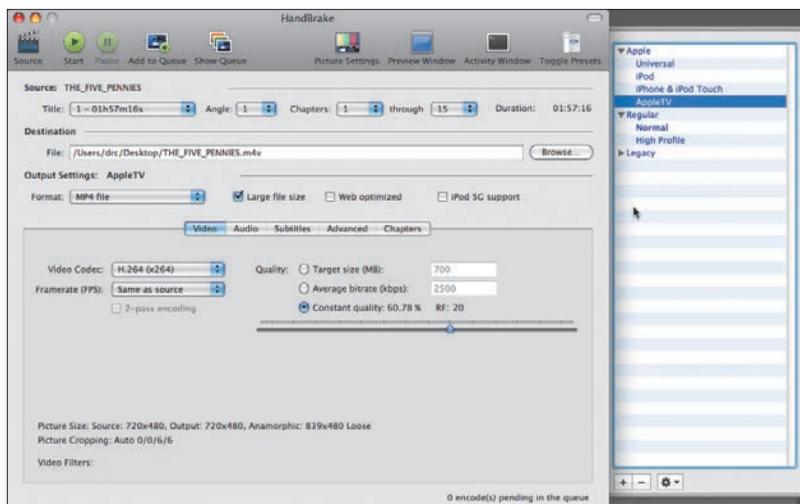
note

HandBrake requires VLC only for transcoding DVDs. If your intent is to convert AVI, DivX, Xvid, MKV, and other formats for use on your iPad, you really don't need VLC, but we still recommend it because it's a very useful viewer.

After you install both programs and launch HandBrake, you should see the window shown in **Figure 3.59** (or something quite similar).

Figure 3.59

The HandBrake window, with its toolbar, Presets drawer, and settings area.



Depending on your preferences settings, HandBrake might display an Open dialog on launch, asking you to specify the source to transcode. If you don't see the Open dialog, click the Source button in the top-left corner of the HandBrake window to make it appear.

note

Except for adjusting to minor visual differences, Windows users should be able to follow right along with this project, because HandBrake is pretty much the same on Mac, Linux, and Windows computers.

Getting the software:

1. Download HandBrake at <http://handbrake.fr>.
2. Download VideoLAN Client at www.videolan.org.

Convert and transfer your media

Making your video available to your iPad is a two-part process. The first part is the actual transcoding operation, which you can deal with by telling HandBrake what your target platform is. The second part is moving the content into iTunes for syncing.

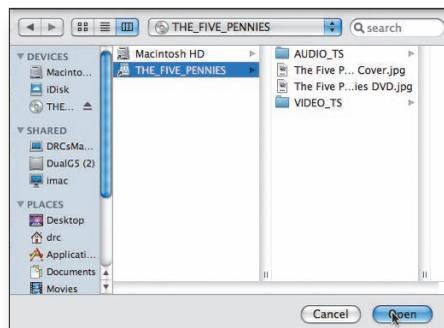
Specifying your transcode format:

1. In HandBrake's Open dialog (refer to "Acquire HandBrake and VLC" earlier in this project), select your input source.

This source could be a video file on one of your discs, a VIDEO_TS folder on a hard drive, or an inserted DVD. **Figure 3.60** shows an inserted DVD selected.

Figure 3.60

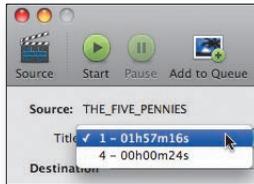
HandBrake displays an Open dialog that lets you navigate to your source content.



2. Click Open.

The dialog closes, and HandBrake scans the selected source, placing the videos it finds in the Title pop-up menu (**Figure 3.61**).

Figure 3.61 The Title pop-up menu lists the sources found and their durations.



3. Select the desired preset.

- On a Mac, presets appear in the Presets drawer (refer to Figure 3.59). If the drawer is closed, click Toggle Presets in the toolbar to open it.
- In Windows, presets appear in a list box on the right side of the HandBrake window.

Currently, the best preset to choose is AppleTV, but an iPad-specific preset may become available in a new HandBrake version by the time you read this book.

You can adjust specific settings in the Video, Audio, Subtitles, Advanced, and Chapters panes by clicking the corresponding tabs near the middle of the HandBrake window (refer to Figure 3.59). Unless you know what you mean to accomplish, you probably should leave them alone. We don't want to discourage experimentation in pursuit of knowledge, however, so if you want to try things out, feel free. After all, all you have to lose are some time and (temporarily) some disk space.

Letting it rip:

1. Complete the steps in the preceding section, "Specifying your transcode format," if you haven't already.

HandBrake displays the path to and name of the destination file.

If you prefer to save the output to another location, you can type that location in the File text box or click the Browse button to its right and navigate to the new location.

2. Add the transcode to the queue by clicking the Add to Queue toolbar button.

If you're going to be processing only one file, you can just click the Start button in the toolbar and skip the rest of these steps.

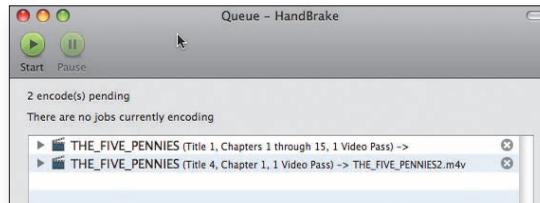
3. Repeat Step 2 for other sources that you want to convert.

These sources can be other titles already listed in the Title pop-up menu or sources that you add via the steps in "Specifying your transcode format" earlier in this project.

4. Click the Show Queue toolbar button.

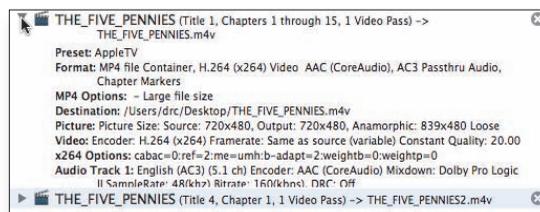
The Queue window opens (**Figure 3.62**).

Figure 3.62 The Queue window tells you which sources you've told HandBrake to process.



You can click the disclosure triangle to the left of any job file to see its parameters, as shown in **Figure 3.63**. If you decide that you want to remove a file from the queue, click the gray X button to its right.

Figure 3.63 Click a queued item's disclosure triangle to see the transcode settings.



5. When you have everything the way you want it, click the Start button at the top of the Queue window.

An orange circle with two curved arrows chasing each other appears to the left of the job in progress. A check mark in a green circle appears to the left of completed jobs. The X button that appears to the right of pending or in-progress jobs is replaced by a magnifying-glass icon for completed jobs. Click the magnifying glass to see the result in the Finder (Mac) or Windows Explorer.

Moving your content to the iPad:

1. Launch iTunes, if it isn't already running.
2. In the Finder (Mac) or Windows Explorer, locate and select your output file(s).

See Step 4 of “Letting it rip” earlier in this project for the easiest way to locate your output video.

3. Drag your selected file(s) to the Library section of iTunes' Source list (Figure 3.64).

Figure 3.64 Drag your output file(s) to the Library section of iTunes.



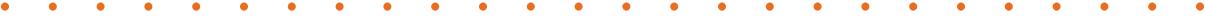
By default, your new content syncs to your iPad; if it doesn't, you've changed a default setting somewhere. Go to the Videos tab in iTunes, and make certain that the new content is selected for synchronization.

note

If you set up a relationship so that MP4 (or M4V) files “belong” to iTunes, an alternative way to transfer content is to double-click a selection in the Finder or Windows Explorer. iTunes launches and performs the transfer automatically. This relationship seems to be the default on the Mac, but we had to establish the relationship on a Toshiba laptop.

tip

You can also invoke iTunes' File > Add to Library command and navigate the Add to Library dialog to select the files that you want to add.



Index

A

- ABC Player
 - basics, 187-189
 - favorites, 190-191
 - obtaining, 189
- Add to Existing Contact button, 28
- addresses (email)
 - adding contacts from address fields, 27-30
 - copying, 32
 - editing contacts created from, 30-31
- addresses (street)
 - adding to contacts, 32
 - locating in Maps, 109-111
 - locating linked in Maps, 104
- ADEPT, 167
- air travel
 - airports, locating, 142-143
 - flight routes, setting, 141-144
 - flights, finding, 144-146
- Air Video
 - acquiring, 197-199
 - basics, 197
 - user interface, 203
- Air Video Server
 - acquiring, 197-199
 - basics, 197
 - Properties dialog for preferences, 202
 - setting up, 199-202
- alerts (calendars/new invitations), 48-49
- Apple. *See also* iWork.com site; Keynote; MobileMe; Pages
 - Find My iPhone service, 24-26

- FireWire ports/USB ports, 207
- iBooks, 164-165, 168
- artists, selecting for syncing, 155-156
- attachments, previewing, 54-55
- AVCHD (high-def version of the Advanced Video Codec), 211

B

- background color, changing, 94
- backing up information, 5
- Baen Free Library, 172
- Bcc fields, 117
- Betamax case, 213
- BigOven Lite, 80-86
 - emailing recipes from, 86
 - leftovers, searching for recipes using, 82-83
 - making favorites in, 84-85
 - searching in, 80-84
- BigOven Pro, 80
- bookmarks, syncing, 9-10, 18
- borders, adding to maps, 113-114
- browsing recipes in Epicurious, 73-76
- browsers (Web), finding lost iPads and, 24-25

C

- calendars
 - alerts, 48-49
 - basics of, 46
 - default, setting, 46-48
 - iCalendar (.ics) format, 35
 - subscribing to, 35-36
 - syncing, 7-8, 18
 - Time Zone Support feature, 49-51

- calibre
 - acquiring and setting up, 169-172
 - basics of, 167
 - CDs, EyeTV and, 206
 - check boxes, selecting and unselecting, 155
 - childproofing, 21-23
 - cloud services. *See also* Wireless Syncing Project
 - from cloud to computers, 13-15
 - from cloud to iPad, 16-18
 - defined, 11
 - color
 - background color, changing, 94
 - font or text color, changing, 94
 - commercials (TV), 195-196
 - computers, syncing with. *See also* Movie and TV-Show Syncing Project; Music Syncing Project; Wireless Syncing Project
 - connecting to iPads, 4
 - moving files from, 54-55
 - preventing syncing, 2, 3
 - syncing with iPads, 2, 6-7
 - transferring files from, 60-62
 - transferring Word files to, 65-66
 - Contact and Calendar Management Project, 44-53
 - contacts
 - adding photos to, 31
 - data, adding, 31-32
 - editing, 30-32
 - getting directions, 51-52
 - sharing, 33-34
 - sorting, 45-46
 - syncing, 6-7, 17
 - contacts, adding, 27-33
 - data, adding to contacts, 31-32
 - editing, 30-31
 - from email address fields, 27-30
 - Content Server, 171
 - Converting Video Project, 213-218
 - content, moving to iPads, 218
 - HandBrake, acquiring, 214-215
 - ripping, 216-217
 - transcode format, specifying, 215-216
 - VLC, acquiring, 214-215
 - cooking. *See* iPad Chef Project
 - copy protection, 198
 - copying
 - email addresses, 32
 - images from Web sites, 95
 - ingredients into scrapbooks, 92-94
 - copyright law, 213
 - Create and Convert E-Books Project, 164-177
 - calibre, acquiring and setting up, 169-172
 - content, sending to Stanza, 175-177
 - e-books, acquiring, 168
 - e-books, adding and converting, 172-174
 - PDFs, creating, 165-166
 - customizing
 - invitations, 107-108
 - recipes in Pages, 94
 - CutePDF Writer, 166
- ## D
- data
 - adding to contacts, 31-33
 - recovering, 21
 - date and time zone, setting, 50
 - dates
 - adding movies to iTunes and, 181
 - setting travel dates, 144-146
 - default calendars, setting, 46-48
 - deleting
 - emails, 39-42
 - notes, 100
 - songs from playlists, 160
 - dinner, scheduling, 138-141
 - directions, 49-52
 - directories. *See* folders (mail)
 - Documents To Go, 69-71
 - DRM (digital rights management), 167, 198, 200
 - Dropbox, 67-69
 - duplicating slides, 128-129
 - DVDs
 - EyeTV and, 206
 - transcoding and, 213, 215

E

- e-book readers, 167, 174
- editing
 - contacts, 30-32
 - importing files for, 69-71
 - previewed files, 54
 - shopping lists in Notes, 103
 - slides, 128-129
 - text fields, 128
- Elgato Systems, 206
- emailing
 - files to iPad, 54-55
 - invitations, 115-117
 - notes, 101-102
 - presentations, 132
 - recipes, 86
 - shopping lists, 78-80
- emails. *See also* Mail Management Project
 - deleting, 39-42
 - drafting, 34-35
 - moving to folders, 42-44
- embedding maps in invitations, 111-114
- Epicurious
 - displaying favorites, 77-78
 - finding recipes with, 72-77
 - making favorites in, 77
 - navigating, 76
 - searching in, 76-77
 - viewing and emailing shopping lists, 78-80
- Epicurious* magazine, iPhone app from, 73
- episodes (TV shows)
 - available, 192
 - syncing and, 183, 184-186
 - watching, 190-191
- ePub format, 164, 167
- eReader, 167, 168
- events (calendars)
 - displaying/creating, 46-48
 - syncing, 8, 13
- exporting
 - files, 64-66
 - flash cards, 131-132
 - invitations, 115-116
 - presentations to iPad, 132

EyeTV

- Archives option, 209
- capture product, 206
- EyeTV 3 software, 206
- linking, 208
- navigating, 210-212
- Preferences dialog, 208
- sharing preferences, 208

F

- fair use, 213
- favorites
 - ABC's, 190-191
 - in BigOven Lite, 84-85
 - in Epicurious, 77-78
 - file in Dropbox, 67-68
 - recipes. *See* scrapbooks for recipes
- feedback to ABC, 194
- fields (email addresses)
 - adding contacts from, 27-30
 - editing contacts from, 30-31
- File Management Project, 54-72
 - Documents To Go, 69-71
 - Dropbox, 67-69
 - emailing, 54-55
 - exporting, 64-66
 - importing, 62-63
 - opening in Pages, 57-60
 - Pages and compatibility, 60
 - Phone Disk, 72
 - previewing, 55-57
 - transferring from computers, 60-62
- Find My iPad feature, 23-26
- Find My iPhone service, 24
- FireWire ports (Macs), 207
- Flash Card Project, 119-132
 - flash cards, creating. *See* presentations
 - flash cards, exporting, 131-132
 - Free Translator 50, 120-121
 - illustrations, collecting, 123-125
 - Keynote, 119-120
 - translating words and phrases, 121

- flights
 - finding, 141-144
 - flight info, adding to itineraries, 146-150
 - routes, setting, 141-144
 - folders (mail)
 - defined, 27
 - moving mail to, 42-44
 - folders (playlists)
 - adding and removing playlists from, 159
 - creating in iTunes, 158-159
 - fonts
 - changing in Pages, 94
 - substitutions when importing, 58-59
 - supported by Pages, 60
 - formats
 - not supported by iPad (video), 196
 - for transcoding, 214, 215-216
 - formatting song size, 154
 - Free Translator 50, 120-122
 - full-screen mode, 204-205
- G**
- genie effect, 39
 - genres (music), selecting for syncing, 155-156
 - Gerritsen, Tess, 172, 177
 - Google. *See also* Maps
 - gathering images with, 123-125
 - translation services, 120
 - wireless syncing and, 12
- H**
- H.264, 211
 - HandBrake
 - acquiring, 214-215
 - ripping with, 216-217
 - specifying transcode formats, 215-216
 - hardware
 - accessing EyeTV hardware, 210
 - needed for Watching Television Project, 206-207
- I**
- iBooks, 164-165, 168
 - .ics format, 35, 36
 - illustrations. *See also* images
 - collecting, 123-125
 - images
 - copying from Web sites, 95
 - gathering with Google, 123-125
 - importing into Pages, 95
 - inserting into Pages, 95-97
 - saving, 124
 - IMAP (Internet Message Access Protocol), 26, 37
 - importing
 - files into iPads, 62-63
 - Word files into Documents To Go, 69-71
 - from Word into Pages, 57-58
 - in-app purchases, 22
 - INEPT, 167
 - Information Syncing Project
 - backups, 5
 - basics of, 2-3
 - calendars, 7-8
 - contacts, 6-7
 - iTunes for, 3
 - notes and bookmarks, 9-10
 - settings, applying, 10-11
 - settings, mail, 8-9
 - settings, viewing, 3-6
 - ingredients in recipes, copying into scrapbooks, 92
 - InMethod's Air Video products. *See* Air Video; Air Video Server
 - Intel Macintosh, 206
 - Internet, locating EyeTV software over, 210. *See also* Web sites for downloading; Web sites for further information
 - invitations, creating
 - addresses, locating with Maps, 109-111
 - basics of, 105-108
 - list for, creating in Notes, 99-101
 - maps, embedding, 111-114
 - saving as PDFs, 115-117
 - iPad
 - connecting to computers, 4
 - similarity to iPod touch, 152
 - space capacity of, 152, 181, 197

iPad Chef Project, 72-97
 iPads, using in the kitchen, 97
 recipe scrapbooks. *See* scrapbooks for recipes

iPhone
 from *Epicurious* magazine, 72
 EyeTV for, 209

iPod app, making playlists with, 161-163

iPod touch, similarity to iPad, 152

italics, formatting, 93

iTunes
 data recovery and, 21
 parental restrictions, 23
 playlists and playlist folders, creating in, 158-159
 restricting use of, 21-22
 for syncing information, 2, 3
 syncing library to iPad, 153
 syncing tabs, 178-179
 transferring Word files via, 60-62, 65-66
 video, moving to, 218

iWork.com site
 sharing presentations via, 132
 transferring files and, 66

J

Jobs, Steve, 164

K

KAYAK
 acquiring, 134
 setting flight routes, 141-144
 setting travel dates and finding flights, 144-146

Keynote
 acquiring, 120
 basics, 119
 creating flash card deck. *See* presentations

Kindle, 167, 168

kitchens, using iPads in, 97

L

languages, changing with Free Translator 50, 121, 130
 legality of transcoding, 213
 letterbox viewing, 205

library (iTunes)
 syncing to iPad, 153
 videos, adding to, 218
 linking software for Watching Television Project,
 207-210
 links, creating in Notes, 103
 lists, using Notes to create, 98-101. *See also*
 shopping lists
 live TV, watching, 211

M

Macs
 creating PDFs on, 165-166
 EyeTV and, 206, 207, 208
 FireWire ports/USB ports, 207
 signing up for MobileMe and, 12, 13
 syncing between MobileMe and computers, 13-14
 syncing calendars on, 7-8
 syncing contacts on, 6-7
 syncing mail on, 9
 syncing notes and bookmarks on, 9-10
 transcoding video on, 216
 transferring files via iTunes on, 62
 magnifying glass (Notes), 103

Mail

attachments previewable by, 55
 editing files in, 54
 launching, 71
 previewing Word files in, 56-57
 Mail Management Project, 26-44
 calendars, subscribing to, 35-36
 contacts. *See* contacts, adding
 emails, deleting, 39-42
 emails, drafting, 34-35
 folders, moving mail to, 42-44
 mailbox management, 36-37
 spam, 37-39
 mailboxes. *See also* folders (mail)
 managing, 36-37
 manual music and video management, 163-164,
 178, 180

Maps

- getting directions and, 51-52
- locating addresses with, 109-111
- locating linked addresses, 104
- street addresses and, 32

maps, embedding in invitations, 111-114

masking maps, 113-114

Me button (ABC Player), 193

metadata, for e-books, 167, 173

Microsoft. *See also* Windows; Word, exporting from Pages to; Word files

Microsoft Exchange for syncing, 12

PDFs, creating and, 166

MobileMe

- accounts, acquiring, 12-13
- accounts on iPads, creating, 16-18
- features of, 13
- Find My iPad feature, 23-26
- syncing with computers, 13-15

Movie and TV-Show Syncing Project, 178-187

moving movie rentals, 187

music videos, 187

syncing movies, 179-183

syncing TV-show episodes, 183-186

movie rentals, moving, 187

Music Syncing Project, 152-164

manual music management, 163-164

playlists, adding songs to, 159-160

playlists, creating on iPads, 161-163

playlists, selecting and syncing, 160-161

playlists and playlist folders, creating in iTunes, 158-159

reformatting songs for more space, 154

smart playlists, 161

syncing artists and genres, 154-156

syncing iTunes library to iPad, 153

music videos, syncing, 187

N

New Contact form, 29

Notes

basics of, 98

handling RSVPs in, 118

invitation lists, creating in, 98-101

shopping lists, creating in, 101-104

notes, syncing, 9-10

O

orientation of iPad

Air Video user interface and, 203

Back button in Epicurious and, 75

Keynote and, 125

for reading e-books, 177

P

Pages

compatibility and, 60

copying ingredients into scrapbooks, 92-94

creating recipe files in, 90-91

creating recipe scrapbooks in, 87

customizing recipes in, 94

exporting to Word, 64-66

importing emailed recipes into, 87-90

importing images into, 95

importing Word files into, 58-59, 62-63

inserting images into, 95-97

invitations, creating in, 105-108

opening Word files in, 57-60

parental ratings, 22, 23

Party Project, 98-118

invitations. *See* invitations, creating

Notes for making lists, 98-101

responses, 118

shopping lists, creating, 101-104

passcodes

passcode locks, 19-21

restrictions passcode, 22

setting, 19-20

PDFs

creating, 165-166

saving invitations as, 115-117

Phone Disk, transferring files with, 72

phone numbers in contacts, 32

photos. *See also* images

adding to contacts, 31

emailing, 35

- in invitations, 111-112
- Saved Photos, 127, 128
- placeholder text (Pages), 93
- playback (video), controlling, 195-196, 205
- playlists
 - adding songs to, 159-160
 - Air Video Server and, 200-201
 - basics, 156-158
 - creating in iTunes, 158-159
 - creating on iPads, 161-163
 - movies in, 179, 182-183
 - playlist folders, creating in iTunes, 158-159
 - selecting and syncing, 160-161
 - smart playlists, 161
 - TV-show episodes and, 185
- plus-sign icon, 35
- POP (Post Office Protocol) mail accounts, 37
- PowerPoint vs. Keynote, 119
- presentations, 125-132
 - basics of, 125-128
 - Italian slides, creating, 130
 - slides, duplicating and editing, 128-129
 - viewing, 131
- previewing
 - attachments, 54-55
 - files, 54, 55-57
- Print dialog to create PDFs, 165
- purchases, restricting, 22

Q

- queue for processing video, 217

R

- readers (e-books), 167, 168, 174
- recipes. See BigOven Lite; Epicurious; scrapbooks for recipes
- recovering
 - data, 21
 - deleted emails, 39
- reformatting song size, 154
- responses to invitations, 118
- restoring data
 - iTunes and, 21
 - Restore feature, 26

- restrictions, 21-23
- ripping video, 216-217
- RSVPs, tracking, 118

S

- Safari
 - collecting illustrations in, 123-125
 - disabling and restrictions, 22
 - in Flash Card Project, 120
- safety of iPads in the kitchen, 97
- saving
 - email drafts, 34
 - files, 71
 - images, 124
 - invitations as PDFs, 115-117
- schedule of TV programs, viewing, 191-192
- scrapbooks for recipes, 87-94
 - basics of creating, 87
 - ingredients, copying into scrapbooks, 92-94
 - Pages, importing emailed recipes into, 87-90
 - recipe files, creating, 90-91
 - recipes, customizing, 94-97
- screen shots in Maps, 110-111, 113
- searching
 - for addresses in Maps, 109-111
 - in BigOven Lite, 80-84
 - in Epicurious, 76-77
 - for flights, 142-144
- selecting
 - artists/genres for syncing, 155-156
 - playlists, 160-161
 - selecting and unselecting playlist items, 155
- selection buttons, 88, 92-93
- settings (for syncing)
 - applying, 10-11
 - mail, 8-9
 - viewing, 3-6
- sharing
 - contacts, 33-34
 - files with Dropbox, 67
- shopping lists
 - BigOven Pro and BigOven Lite and, 80
 - creating in Notes, 101-104
 - viewing and emailing, 78-80

- shortcuts for addresses and photos (Mail), 35
 - Show To/Cc Label to check for spam, 38–39
 - Simple Security Project, 18–26
 - childproofing, 21–23
 - Find My iPad feature, 23–26
 - passcode lock, 19–21
 - slides
 - duplicating and editing, 128–129
 - in Keynote, 125
 - slide composition screen, 131
 - smart playlists, 161
 - software
 - for Converting Video Project, 213
 - for Create and Convert E-Books Project, 164
 - for File Management Project, 54
 - for Flash Card Project, 119
 - for iPad Chef Project, 72
 - for Party Project, 98
 - for Streaming Internet Video Project, 187
 - for Streaming Your Video Project, 196
 - for Vacation Planning Project, 132
 - for Watching Television Project, 206
 - songs
 - adding to playlists, 159–160
 - references to in playlists, 156–157
 - reformatting size, 154
 - syncing only favorites, 154–156
 - Sony Corp v. Universal City Studios*, 213
 - Sort Order screen (contacts), 45
 - Source list (iTunes), 4
 - space capacity of iPads, 152, 181, 197
 - spam, 37–39
 - Stanza
 - advantage of, 168
 - sending content to, 175–177
 - Streaming Internet Video Project, 187–196
 - ABC Player basics, 187–189
 - ABC Player favorites, 190–191
 - ABC Player feedback, 194
 - ABC Player, obtaining, 189
 - history, viewing, 193
 - schedule, viewing, 191–192
 - video stream, viewing, 194–196
 - Streaming Your Video Project, 196–205
 - Air Video and Air Video Server, acquiring, 197–199
 - Air Video and Air Video Server basics, 197
 - Air Video Server, setting up, 199–202
 - playing content, 203–205
 - Summary tab (iTunes), 5
 - surnames, sorting contacts by, 45
 - synchronizing, defined, 2
 - syncing
 - defined, 2
 - Dropbox and, 67
 - between iPad and computers. *See* Information Syncing Project
 - iTunes syncing tabs, 178–179
 - music. *See* Music Syncing Project
 - preventing, 2, 3
 - wireless. *See* Wireless Syncing Project
- ## T
- templates
 - invitation template, 104, 105–106
 - for recipe scrapbooks, 89, 91
 - text
 - changing fonts or colors in Pages, 94
 - placeholder text (Pages), 93
 - text fields, editing, 128
 - time zone, setting, 50
 - Time Zone Support feature, 49–51
 - Toast Titanium for Sonic/Roxio, 206
 - transcoding video
 - Air Video and, 197
 - EyeTV and, 210
 - format, specifying, 215–216
 - legality of, 213
 - transferring
 - files with Phone Disk, 72
 - information. *See* syncing
 - iWork.com site and, 66
 - transferring files via iTunes, 60–62
 - Word files to computers, 65–66
 - translating words and phrases, 120, 121–122
 - Trash folder, 39
 - TravelTracker. *See also* KAYAK
 - acquiring, 134

- add-ons, 138
- creating trips, 135-138
- flight info, adding to itineraries, 146-150
- scheduling dinners, 138-141
- Triplt, 135
- trips, creating. *See* KAYAK; TravelTracker
- Turbo.264 HD, 206, 211, 212
- TV shows. *See* Movie and TV-Show Syncing Project; Streaming Internet Video Project; Watching Television Project

U

- updating files in Dropbox, 68
- URLs in contacts, 32
- USB ports (Macs), 207

V

- Vacation Planning Project, 132-150
- .vcf (vCard) files, attaching to emails, 33-34
- video. *See also* Converting Video Project; Streaming Internet Video Project
 - manual management of, 163-164, 178, 180
 - music videos, 187
- VideoLAN Client (VLC), 214-215
- viewing controls for TV-show playback, 195-196
- viewing history (TV shows), reviewing, 193
- viewing video stream, 194-196
- VLC (VideoLAN Client), 214-215

W

- Watching Television Project, 206-212
 - EyeTV, navigating, 210-212
 - linking, 207-210
 - software and hardware for, 206-207
- Web browsers, finding lost iPads and, 24-25
- Web sites for downloading
 - Air Video and Air Video Server, 197
 - Baen Free Library, 172
 - calibre, 169
 - CutePDF Writer, 166
 - Dropbox software, 67
 - Google images, 123
 - HandBrake, 215
 - KAYAK, 134

- Phone Disk, 72
- TravelTracker, 134
- VLC, 215
- Web sites for further information
 - Dropbox accounts, 67
 - Elgato Systems, 207
 - fonts supported by Pages, 60
 - Free Translator 50, 120
 - Google Sync page, 12
 - iCalShare and iCal World, 35
 - Keynote, 120
 - POP vs. IMAP, 37
 - restoring data, 21, 26
- welcome wizard (calibre), 170
- Windows
 - converting video and, 215, 216
 - PDFs, creating and, 166
 - signing up for MobileMe and, 12-13
 - syncing between MobileMe and computers, 13, 14-15
 - syncing calendars on, 7-8
 - syncing contacts on, 6
 - syncing mail on, 9
 - syncing notes and bookmarks on, 9-10
- wired syncing, turning off, 15-16
- Wireless Syncing Project, 11-18
 - cloud services, 11
 - cloud to iPad, 16-18
 - computers to cloud, 13-15
 - MobileMe and, 11
 - MobileMe account, acquiring, 12-13
 - syncing MobileMe with computers, 13
 - wired syncing, turning off, 15-16
- wizards
 - Getting Started Wizard (Dropbox), 69
 - welcome wizard (calibre), 170
- Word, exporting from Pages to, 64-66
- Word files
 - importing into Pages, 62-63
 - opening in Pages, 57-60
 - previewing in Mail, 56-57
 - transferring to computers, 65-66
 - transferring via iTunes, 60-62