



The NOOK Book

An Unofficial Guide **Fourth Edition**

COVERS

NOOK® HD
NOOK® HD+
NOOK Simple Touch™
with GlowLight™
NOOK Reading Apps™



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que

Patrick Kanouse

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The NOOK Book

An Unofficial Guide **Fourth Edition**

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The NOOK® Book: An Unofficial Guide

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Patrick also teaches business technical report writing at IUPUI. Outside of teaching about writing, reading on his NOOK®, and writing about his NOOK, he writes science fiction and poetry, having published a PubIt™ book at BN.com that you can read on your NOOK. His website is patrickkanouse.com. You can find him on Twitter at @patrickkanouse.

Patrick lives in Westfield, Indiana, with his wife and two Yorkies.

Dedication

This book is dedicated to my wife, Gina, who has always supported my every endeavor, even if it is immersed in some ancient history reading or volumes of poetry or dragging her to the latest science fiction movie. Without her support and encouragement, nothing that I attempt would be possible.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to Loretta Yates for asking me to revise and write this edition. Given the pace of writing this edition, I must give substantial thanks to the book team for taking my initial words and making them much better: Todd Brakke, Betsy Harris, San Dee Phillips, and everyone in production.

Thank you to Jeff at the Noblesville B&N store for his patience as I walked in one morning desperate to get my hands on a NOOK® HD+.

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Introduction

Congratulations on your purchase of the NOOK[®] HD, NOOK HD+, or NOOK Simple Touch[™], Barnes & Noble's (simply B&N from here on) ebook readers. The NOOK HD+ and NOOK HD, released in November 2012, are a complete redesign of the NOOK Tablet[™] and NOOK Color[™], which debuted September 2011. Both the NOOK HDs feature high-definition color touch screens. The NOOK Simple Touch, which first went on sale in June 2011 and was updated in 2012 with GlowLight, features an E Ink reading display that bears a remarkable resemblance to paper. The NOOK HDs resemble a tablet like the iPad or Google Nexus, but B&N has intentionally focused it as an ereading device, so although it has apps and video and music, B&N has designed the NOOK HDs to be readers. This focuses attention on the reading experience of books, newspapers, and magazines while keeping the price down. The NOOK HDs are an attempt to balance the features of the tablet with the immersive experience of reading. With the high-definition display, you can read text so clearly that you may think it is better than paper. The NOOK HD+ and NOOK HD differ in size, but they pack in all the same software and features.

Beyond releasing the new devices, two other related items are worth mentioning. Since B&N has been releasing ereading devices, the company has never sold video content. With the release of the NOOK Tablet, it included apps for Netflix and Hulu Plus, but those services (although great) could not boast as wide a selection as some would prefer. In addition, you could not purchase and download movies and TV shows to watch when you have no Internet connection. In November 2012, B&N released NOOK Video[™]. This service, which debuts on the NOOK HDs and will have a separate app for laptops and other tablets eventually, will fill in a large gap in B&N's offerings compared to other tablets.

The other item is the introduction of profiles. Most tablets and ereading devices are set up for one person—all content is available to anyone with access to the tablet. But what if you are a family that shares a device? You may not want your 4 year old to watch R-rated movies at the touch of a button—or rack up credit card bills by buying all sorts of content. This is where profiles come in. On the NOOK HDs, up to six profiles can be created. Child profiles in particular offer customizable parental controls.

The NOOK Simple Touch is a simple-to-use device slightly bigger than a paperback book. Because it is not backlit, you can easily read a book in bright sunlight with little glare. If you have the NOOK Simple Touch[™] with GlowLight[™], however, you can turn on a built-in light that softly illuminates the screen, allowing you to read in dim

light or complete darkness. Also, its E Ink screen is less than ideal for reading graphic-intensive books, but for reading the latest mystery or newspapers, it is an excellent device that can go anywhere and is easy on the eyes.

This book is intended to give you all the information you need to get the most out of your NOOK, whichever version you have, and the associated supporting applications. You not only learn how to use your NOOK, but you also learn all the best places to get books and other content. After you've learned all the great resources available for books, you'll quickly find that you need a way to organize your ebooks, so you also learn how to do that using a free tool called Calibre.

By the time you finish this book, you'll be comfortable with all aspects of your NOOK. Following are some of the many things you can learn how to do in this book:

- ▶ Add your own pictures for use as a wallpaper or screensaver.
- ▶ Use B&N's unique LendMe[®] feature to lend and borrow books.
- ▶ Play music, audiobooks, podcasts, and more.
- ▶ Watch video, including Netflix and Hulu Plus.
- ▶ Read your ebooks on your iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android tablet, Android phone, and computer.
- ▶ Get books (many free) from many sources on the Internet, and load them onto your NOOK.
- ▶ Manage all your ebooks, and update author and title information if needed.
- ▶ Automatically download full-color covers for your books that display on your NOOK.
- ▶ Use your NOOK HDs to browse the web.
- ▶ Use your NOOK HDs to read enhanced books and children's books. You can even record your own readings of your child's favorite books.
- ▶ Use highlights, annotations, and bookmarks.
- ▶ Use the NOOK Friends[™] app to see what your fellow friends are up to.
- ▶ Set up profiles.
- ▶ Build scrapbooks from pages of catalogs and magazines.
- ▶ Learn how to publish your books using B&N's PubIt feature.

This book is divided into three parts:

- ▶ Part I, “NOOK HD+ and NOOK HD,” focuses exclusively on using the NOOK HDs. The NOOK HDs are identical except for their size. Thus, while reading this part, when you read about the NOOK, it is for either the NOOK HD+ or NOOK HD.
- ▶ Part II, “NOOK Simple Touch,” focuses on using the NOOK Simple Touch.
- ▶ Part III, “Beyond the NOOKs,” focuses on using the NOOK-related apps, Calibre, and B&N’s PubIt.

Mixed in with all this, you can find plenty of tips and tricks to help you get the most from your NOOK.

NOTE: Writing this book presents a unique challenge. The E Ink NOOK has some limitations with images. Although the images do appear, complex images or images with lots of information can be tedious to see. The NOOK HDs, however, present images in a much better fashion, as do the related NOOK Reading Apps™. Therefore, for all aspects of the NOOK HDs and NOOK Apps, the use of images will be more substantial than with the NOOK Simple Touch chapters. I used NOOK HD+ to create the images.

NOTE: Throughout this book, you encounter the terms *ebook* and *NOOK Book*; *ebook* will be used generically. NOOK Books™ is what B&N calls its version of ebooks that it sells through B&N. These are still ebooks, and NOOK Book is more of a marketing piece, but the distinction is useful because only NOOK Books sync between devices and support social features. Also, only NOOK Books are visible in My NOOK® Library on BN.com.

It’s my hope that you don’t have any questions about using your NOOK after reading this book, but if you do, please don’t hesitate to send me an email at NOOK@patrickkanouse.com. I’ll gladly help if I can. You can also find me on Twitter at [@patrickkanouse](https://twitter.com/patrickkanouse). Finally, my blog, <http://patrickkanouse.blogspot.com/>, has a section devoted to updates as I get them related to this book, so check in every so often.

Thank you for buying *The NOOK Book*!

CHAPTER 1

Getting Started with Your NOOK HDs

Before getting into the details of using your NOOK HD+ or NOOK HD, take a look at some of the basics: gestures, setup, and basic navigation. With these basics in place, you can then discover all the other incredible things your NOOK HD+ or NOOK HD can do.

NOTE: I simply refer to these devices as NOOK. The two are identical in functionality. The only difference is screen size.

NOTE: Barnes & Noble uses a lowercase *n* when it spells NOOK and for the NOOK's logo.

Understanding NOOK Gestures

You control the NOOK, excepting the Power button, Home button, and volume controls by gestures:

- ▶ **Tap:** This is the most common gesture. Just press your finger to the screen and raise it. Usually, you use this gesture with buttons and covers.
- ▶ **Press and hold:** This is the same as the tap gesture, but instead of raising your finger, you hold it to the screen for a couple of seconds. This often opens an additional menu from which to choose by a tap, but you can encounter other results from a press and hold.
- ▶ **Swipe left/swipe right:** The gesture is mostly for turning pages. Like a tap, touch your finger on the screen and quickly drag it to the left (or right) and lift your finger up.

- ▶ **Scroll:** Essentially the vertical version of the swipe gesture. You can control the speed of the scroll by swiping up or down more rapidly. You can slow down or stop the scroll by tapping the screen (to stop) or pressing and holding to slow the scroll.
- ▶ **Pinch and zoom in/pinch and zoom out:** This is a method to zoom in or out on pictures, PDFs, web pages, and so on. To zoom in or show part of the screen more closely, you place your index finger and thumb closely together on the screen (that is, pinch) and then spread them apart. To zoom out or show more of the screen, you do the pinch and zoom in gesture in reverse—this is also called unpinch.

Setting Up and Registering Your NOOK

When you first turn on your NOOK, you are asked if you are in the UK or United States. Tap the appropriate response.

The first step in getting started with your NOOK is to set up and register it with Barnes & Noble (simply B&N from now on).

The next step is to set up the Wi-Fi access (see Figure 1.1). You can go to a B&N store, and your NOOK will recognize its network and log on automatically. More likely, though, you are at home, so you need to set up the NOOK to access your wireless network. Enter the required information. Tap Continue with Setup.

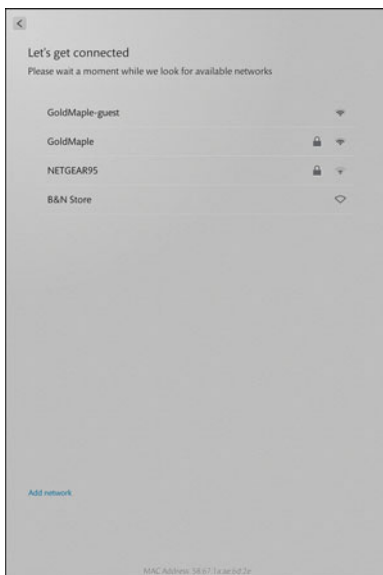


FIGURE 1.1 Pick your Wi-Fi network.

NOTE: Want Wi-Fi access on the go? The NOOK and NOOK Wi-Fi need only a wireless network to access the Daily (articles from B&N), subscription content, and so on. Many wireless companies such as Verizon offer mobile Wi-Fi hotspots at reasonable prices. A mobile hotspot uses the 3G or 4G cellular network but treats it as a Wi-Fi connection, so you never need to be without wireless access.

For more information on connecting your NOOK to a Wi-Fi hotspot after your initial set up, see “Using Wi-Fi Hotspots,” later in this chapter.

Now you need to pick your time zone. Then you see a screen to set your time zone (see Figure 1.2). Choose your time zone and tap Next. The NOOK registers with B&N.



FIGURE 1.2 Pick your time zone.

You need to agree to the terms of service. Tap the check box for Yes, I Accept the NOOK Terms of Service and tap Agree. After this, you land at the Do You Have a NOOK Account screen. If you have an existing B&N account, tap Yes, I Have an Account and enter your account information. Tap Submit. If you don't have an account, you can create one by tapping No, I Need to Create an Account. Fill out the form and tap Submit (see Figure 1.3).

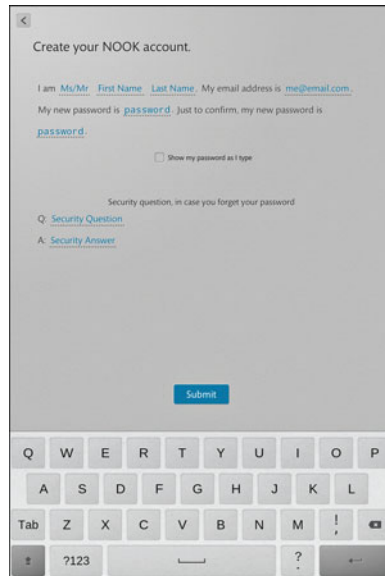


FIGURE 1.3 Create a B&N account if you do not already have one.

NOTE: You can also set up a B&N account on your computer by visiting www.nooktablet.com/setup.

To register your NOOK, you also need to provide a default credit card with a valid billing address to be associated with your B&N account.

After you have an account, you are asked to enter your interests. These are used later by B&N to provide recommendations. You can select one or more. A screen about building your library appears offering some free sample content. You can skip this or tap the covers to receive the content.

You are then taken to the Home screen, and your NOOK is now set up for use.

Orienting Yourself to Your NOOK

Now orient yourself to the NOOK and the basic navigational features. You won't get the details about putting items on it and so on in the following sections, but you'll get there eventually. This is simply to orient you to common locations you revisit often in this book.

The Welcome Back Screen

After you set up your NOOK, whenever it goes to sleep or powers off, whenever you wake it up or power it back on, you must unlock it. This occurs on the Welcome Back screen. If the NOOK is asleep, pressing the Home button starts the Welcome Back screen. If you power the NOOK on, after it completes the start sequence, you go to the Welcome Screen.

From the Welcome Back screen, you can select the profile you want to start using (profiles are covered in Chapter 11, “Creating and Using Profiles and Your NOOK Today”). Click the icon of the profile and drag it toward the unlock icon in the middle. (The arrow from the profile icon points you in the correct direction.) If you set up a lock sequence, enter the PIN and tap OK. The screen that appears is the Home Screen.

Home Screen

This is the screen that appears after you unlock the NOOK. The Home screen is a central location, and you interact with it a lot. The screen is divided into several sections (see Figure 1.4):

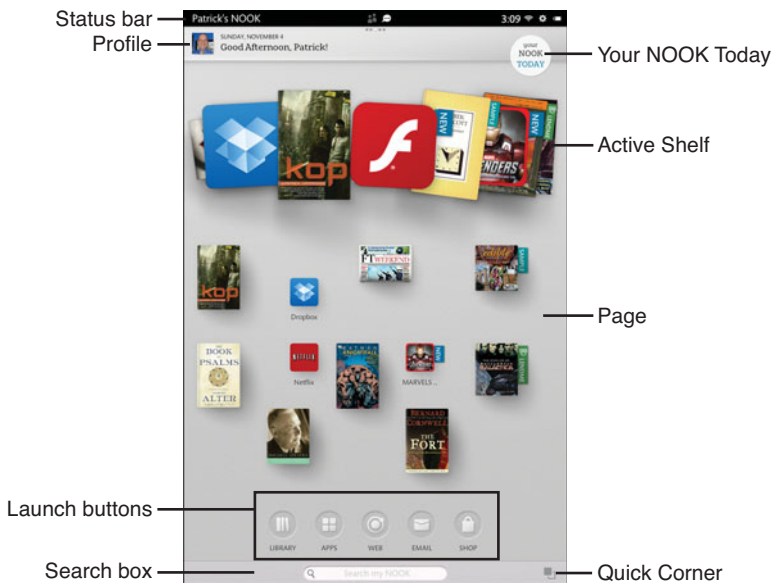


FIGURE 1.4 The Home screen.

- ▶ **Status bar:** This is the top of the screen. You see whatever you name your NOOK (Patrick's NOOK in Figure 1.4). Also, you see notifications in the middle of the screen. On the right side, you see the current time, Wi-Fi connectivity, settings (the gear icon), and battery monitor.
- ▶ **Profile:** This is the icon or image, the date, and a welcome greeting on the left side of the screen just below the status bar. You use this to change profiles outside of the Welcome Back screen.
- ▶ **Your NOOK Today:** This takes you to the Your NOOK Today screen (covered next).
- ▶ **Active Shelf:** This is a carousel of large icons of recently accessed items, new downloads and purchases, and so on. You can scroll through the Active Shelf by swiping your finger left or right across it. Tap one of the icons to launch the app, magazine, book, and such.
- ▶ **Pages:** You have five pages on the Home screen to do with as you please. The Home screen is the middle of the five (you can see which page you are on by looking at the dots immediately below the notifications in the status bar; the white dot is the current page). On these pages you can add apps, books, and more for quick access.
- ▶ **Launch buttons:** These are Library, Apps, Web, Email, and Shop. Tapping these launches new screens. Depending on the profile, some of these Launch buttons may not be visible.
- ▶ **Search box:** You can tap in here and begin typing for something you're searching for. This is an easy way to access your content.
- ▶ **Quick Corner:** By default, the Quick Corner action is the Recent Drawer. However, you can set it to be Continue Reading. The Recent Drawer icon is a filled in square overlapping the outline of a square. The Continue Reading icon is a spread open book with a clock on the bottom right.

If you press and hold an empty area of the Home screen, the Add to Pages screen appears. From here, you have a variety of options for accessing your content.

Recent Drawer

If your Quick Corner is set up for the Recent Drawer, if you tap the icon, the Home screen goes dark, and the bottom third of the screen presents a scrollable list of the 50 most recently used and accessed apps, videos, books, and so on (see Figure 1.5). When you tap Recent Drawer, you also have a magnifying glass to open a search page. If you tap the Recent Drawer icon again, it closes the Recent Drawer and returns you to the screen you were previously on. Use the Recent Drawer to quickly

and easily access recent items without having to press the Home button and navigate where you want to go.

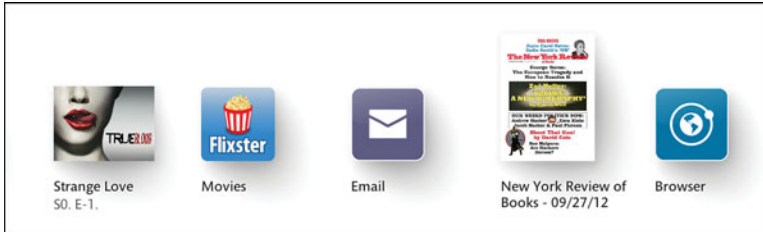


FIGURE 1.5 The Recent Drawer.

Add to Pages Screen

The Home screen enables you to access your library, app, and Internet bookmarks quickly for placing onto one of the pages; to do so, you need to access the Add to Pages screen (see Figure 1.6). To access this screen, press an area of the Home screen without an image, and tap Add to Pages from the pop-up menu. The Home screen shrinks and several options appear. For example of what you can do on this screen, from the Add to Pages screen, tap Bookmarks. When the list of bookmarks appears, scroll to the one you want, press and hold it, and drag it to the page. The bookmark is added to the page, which lets you quickly launch it. Tap Done when complete.

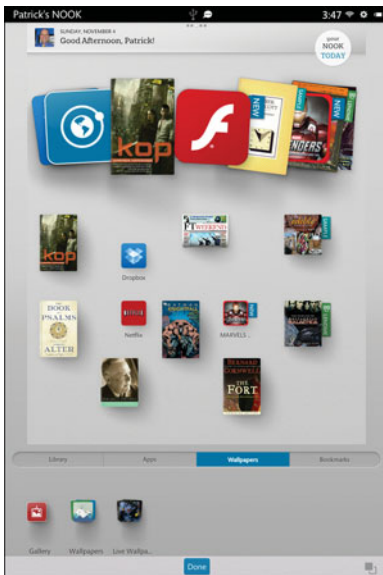


FIGURE 1.6 The Add to Pages screen.

The Wallpapers option here is different, as discussed in Chapter 2, “Customizing and Configuring Your NOOK HDs.”

Using Wi-Fi Hotspots

Your NOOK can connect to Wi-Fi networks other than the one you initially set up. B&N offers free Wi-Fi access in all B&N stores. If you take your NOOK to a B&N store, it can automatically connect to the Wi-Fi hotspot in that store.

For more information on using your NOOK in a B&N store, see Chapter 13, “Shopping and Visiting B&N on Your NOOK HDs.”

To connect your NOOK to a Wi-Fi hotspot other than one in a B&N store, follow these steps:

1. From the status bar, tap the Settings gear icon (see Figure 1.7).

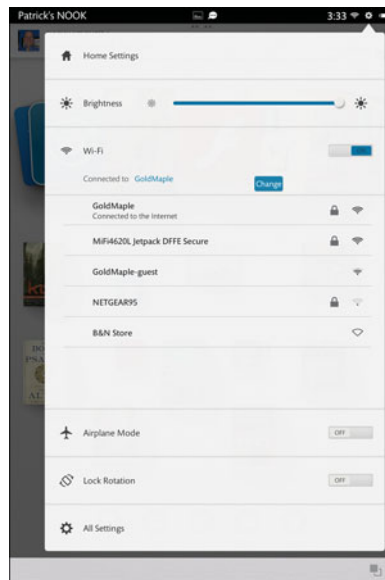


FIGURE 1.7 Access your Wi-Fi settings here.

2. In the Wi-Fi section, tap Change. If Wi-Fi is Off, tap Off to turn it On.
3. Tap the Wi-Fi hotspot you want to use. Your NOOK displays the SSID for all Wi-Fi hotspots in range.

4. If required, enter the password for your Wi-Fi hotspot.
5. Tap Connect.

Your NOOK should now indicate that it is connected; you should see the Wi-Fi signal indicator on the status bar on the bottom right next to the battery indicator.

If your Wi-Fi hotspot isn't listed after you turn on Wi-Fi or is not in the list of Wireless Networks, follow these steps:

1. From the status bar, tap the Settings gear icon.
2. Tap All Settings.
3. Tap Wireless & Bluetooth.
4. Tap Find Other Networks.
5. Tap Scan to refresh this list, or tap Add Network.
6. Enter the network service set identified (SSID), select the type of security (if the Wi-Fi is secured), and enter the password for your Wi-Fi hotspot if necessary. If you don't know this information, ask the person who set up the Wi-Fi network.

Your NOOK can connect to a Wi-Fi hotspot that requires you to browse to a web page to authenticate yourself. For example, many hotel Wi-Fi hotspots require you to enter a room number or other information to connect. You can connect to a Wi-Fi hotspot that has this requirement by tapping the Web Launch Button from the Home screen after you join the Wi-Fi network.

Does My NOOK's Battery Drain Faster with Wi-Fi Connected?

I tested my NOOK's battery life using Wi-Fi hotspots. In my testing, the battery life was quite a bit shorter when using Wi-Fi than when not. However, Wi-Fi affects battery life only when your NOOK is actually connected to a Wi-Fi hotspot. Simply having Wi-Fi turned on doesn't affect battery life.

You can significantly improve battery life by turning off Wi-Fi.

Disconnecting and Forgetting a Wi-Fi Hotspot

If you want to stop using a Wi-Fi hotspot, you have two options: disconnect or forget. Disconnect just prevents your NOOK from connecting to that Wi-Fi hotspot. Forgetting the hotspot removes the information about the hotspot from your NOOK.

If you later want to reconnect to that hotspot, you must set it up again. To disconnect or forget a Wi-Fi hotspot, follow these steps:

1. From the status bar, tap the Settings icon.
2. If Wi-Fi is turned off, turn it on.
3. Tap the Wi-Fi hotspot. This displays a pop-up window.
4. Tap Forget to disconnect from the Wi-Fi hotspot.

For more information on configuring the settings on your NOOK (including turning off the Wi-Fi card), see “Your NOOK’s Settings” in Chapter 2.

Charging and Caring for Your NOOK’s Battery

Your NOOK uses a high-tech battery called a lithium polymer battery. You can charge your NOOK’s battery either by plugging your NOOK into your computer’s USB port or by plugging your NOOK into a wall outlet using the supplied AC adapter. Plugging your NOOK into a wall outlet charges the NOOK quicker.

TIP: Just like any electronic device, your NOOK is susceptible to power spikes and other electrical anomalies. If you want to ensure that your NOOK is protected from electrical problems, plug it into a surge suppressor when charging the battery.

Unlike older rechargeable batteries, your NOOK’s battery doesn’t suffer from a charge “memory.” However, you should still follow some basic rules to maximize the life of your battery:

NOTE: Charge memory means that over time, a battery can store less power because it thinks it’s full when it’s not. Essentially, most people don’t operate a battery-powered device until it reaches zero over time. So, as they recharge it over and over, the battery recalibrates what “zero” is—thus, the battery holds less charge. This explains the instructions on such devices to occasionally drain the battery completely.

- ▶ Try to avoid fully discharging your battery. Recharge it when it gets down to approximately 20% or so. Although charging it repeatedly is not necessarily a bad thing, the battery seems to function optimally if you charge it only when it drops down toward that 20% area.
- ▶ To maximize battery life, turn off Wi-Fi, and leave it off whenever you don't need it. Same goes with Bluetooth.
- ▶ Avoid high heat. Reading in sunlight is fine, but avoid storing your NOOK near a heat source.
- ▶ If storing your NOOK for a long period (a week or more), charge the battery to approximately 50% rather than giving it a full charge. The battery, even off, slowly loses its charge—very slowly, but loses nonetheless. By charging it to 50% only and then powering it off for a long time, it mimics how it was initially packaged and shipped. The 50% will go away slowly, and when you power it on again, it may have a low charge, but it is more like what the “factory” setting would have been.

By following these instructions, your NOOK's battery should last years. If you do need to replace the battery, contact B&N Customer Service.

When You Are Not Reading

When you finish reading, you should let your NOOK go to sleep instead of turning it off. You can force the NOOK to sleep by pressing and quickly letting go of the Power button.

By leaving your NOOK on with Wi-Fi on, it will occasionally download content from B&N such as subscription content and any books that you purchase from the B&N website. When you're ready to start reading again, simply press and release the power switch at the top of your NOOK to wake it up. Alternatively, you can press the Home button.

Your NOOK's Controls

Before you enjoy content on your NOOK, let's go over the controls on your NOOK (see Figures 1.8 and 1.9). In general, you can interact with your NOOK using the touch controls of tapping, pressing and holding, and swiping. The few physical buttons are minimal but provide some tactile controls. The most frequent button you are likely to use is the Home button.

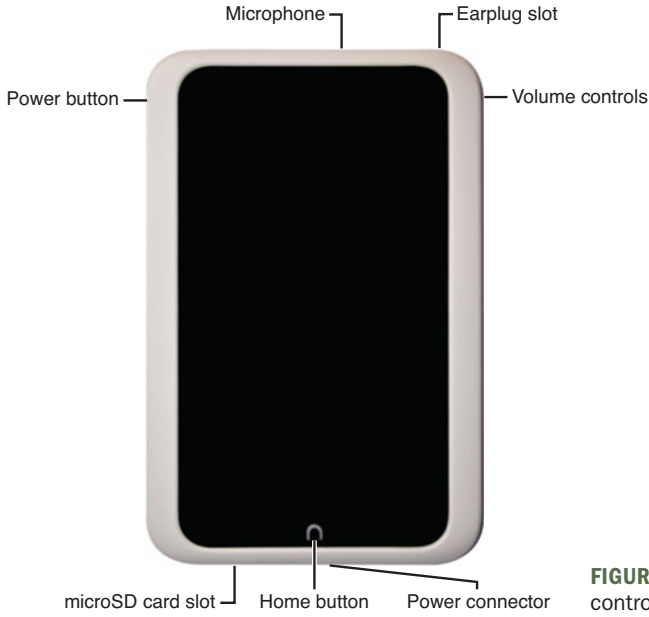


FIGURE 1.8 Your NOOK HD's controls.

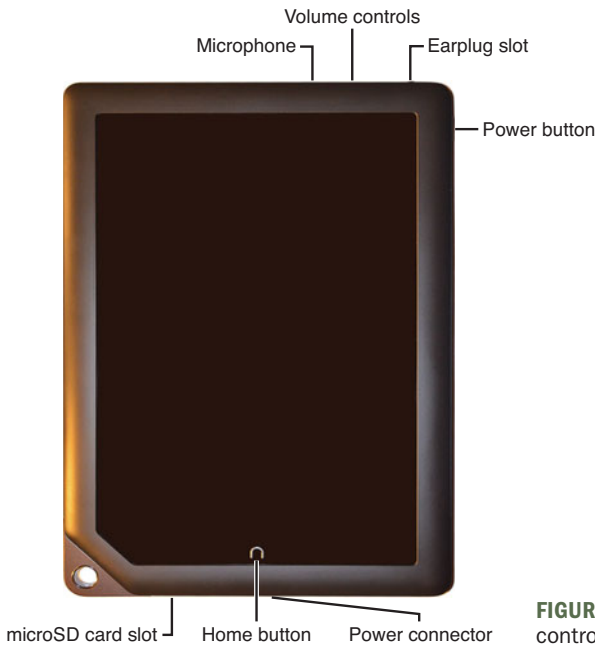


FIGURE 1.9 Your NOOK HD+'s controls.

The Power Button

The Power button is the sole button on the top-right side of the NOOK. In addition to powering your NOOK on and off, the Power button can wake your NOOK when it's sleeping or put it to sleep when you finish reading.

To put your NOOK to sleep or wake it using the Power button, press and release the Power button quickly. To turn off your NOOK, press and hold the Power button for 5 seconds. To turn on your NOOK again, press and release the Power button quickly.

The Home Button

The Home button is identified by the NOOK logo (a lowercase n) and is located in the center of the black bar along at the bottom of the touchscreen display. Like the Power button, the Home button performs more than one function.

You can wake your NOOK by pressing the Home button. If the touchscreen is already illuminated, pressing the Home button twice takes you to your NOOK's Home screen.

The Volume Buttons

These two buttons on the top of the NOOK that control the volume. If no videos, music, or other sounds are playing, the Volume buttons control the Notification volume (that is, when something new arrives such as subscription content). When video, music, or other sounds are playing, the Volume buttons control the sound of the media.

How Should I Clean My NOOK's Touchscreen?

Your NOOK's touchscreen is going to get dirty and covered in fingerprints. The best way to clean it is using a dry, microfiber cloth like the one you would use to clean eyeglasses. If you must use a cleaning fluid, spray it lightly on the cloth and then wipe the touchscreen. Use only cleaning sprays designed for cleaning LCD screens.

The Microphone

Use the microphone to record voice narration for NOOK Kids™ books. In the author's recordings, the microphone had an okay quality. When you speak into it for recording, use a strong voice and hold it close to your mouth if you can.

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