



# Mactechnics

Ann Arbor  
Computer  
User Group

January 2006 Issue

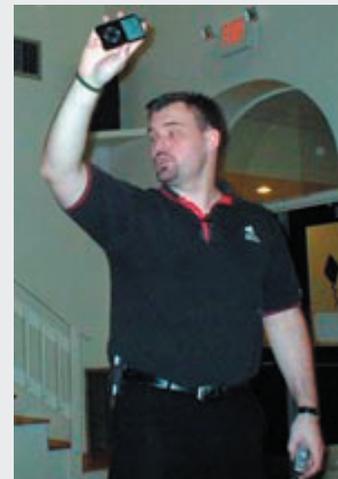
## November's MacTechnics Expo Sneak Preview



### Clipboard



*Apple Representative,  
Colin Murphy provided  
some gift-giving ideas  
for the Mac enthusiast at  
our November meeting.*



#### Newsletter Contents

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### Membership Info

MacTechnics mailing address: P.O. Box 4069  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106

New Membership (1 year - \$40)

Renewal Membership (1 year - \$35)

Student Membership (1 year - \$20 with copy of current ID card)

Family Membership (1 year - \$7.50 extra card with Regular or Student Membership)

Corporate Membership (1 year- \$100 which includes 4 membership cards, and 1/8 page ad in the newsletter)

*New members can sign up at one of our meetings at the Membership Table or fill out the form on page 11 of this newsletter and bring it to one of our meetings.*

### Membership Perks

- A 'News briefs' -- Agenda -- outlining the activities for the month. A newsletter detailing planned activities, and providing news, reviews and evaluations of popular programs.
- A website, [www.mactechnics.org](http://www.mactechnics.org), with news, events and conferences of interest to members of the Mac community. And, coming soon, Shareware and FreeWare software that can be downloaded.
- Special Interest Groups. SIGs are available to all members and meet from 9:30 - 10:30am the day of the main meeting. You should check in at the Kiosk for a list of current SIGs.
- Retail books offered at discounts due to user group purchasing.
- User Group discounts on software and hardware.
- Hands-on Mac Lab.
- Participation in raffles.

## Meet MacBook Pro



<http://www.apple.com/macbookpro/>



### January Apple Seminars

#### Getting Started with Your Mac For General Audiences

Lansing Jan 23, 2006

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

CompUSA #414 - Lansing

Get started using the Mac the quick and easy way by attending this free workshop! Windows users welcome. For more details: <http://seminars.apple.com/goToEvent.html?id=41532&s=300>

#### Professional Video and Audio Applications Tour

Ann Arbor Jan 26, 2006

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Michigan League - University of Michigan

For Education Audiences

Tools for real-time video & audio production and curriculum deployment. Come and see for yourself at an Apple Education seminar. Formoredetails:<http://seminars.apple.com/goToEvent.html?id=41317&s=300>

#### Garage Band Basics

Novi Jan 26, 2006

6:00 PM - 7:15 PM

CompUSA #591 Novi, MI

For General Audiences

Garage Band Basic Overview

For more details: <http://seminars.apple.com/goToEvent.html?id=41241&s=300>

#### .Mac: Internet Essentials for Mac OS X

Lansing Jan 30, 2006

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

CompUSA #414 - Lansing

For General Audiences

.Mac, everything you'll need to extend your Mac experience to the Internet. For more details: <http://seminars.apple.com/goToEvent.html?id=41533&s=300>

### February Apple Seminars

#### The Mac Advantage

Novi Feb 2, 2006

6:00 PM - 7:15 PM

CompUSA #591 Novi, MI

and Ann Arbor Feb 23, 2006

6:00 PM - 7:15 PM

CompUSA #409 - Ann Arbor

For General Audiences

An overview of the advantages of a Mac over a Windows PC.

For more details: <http://seminars.apple.com/goToEvent.html?id=41242&s=300>

#### iMovie Basic Overview

Novi Feb 9, 2006

6:00 PM - 7:15 PM

CompUSA #591 Novi, MI

iMovie Basics

For General Audiences

For more details: <http://seminars.apple.com/goToEvent.html?id=41243&s=300>

#### HD MASTERING: Complete Post Production Workflow on the Mac

Novi Feb 13, 2006

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM or

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Macprofessionals

For Business Audiences

Join us for a straightforward look at state of the art post-production for high definition on the Apple platform.

For more details: <http://seminars.apple.com/goToEvent.html?id=41274&s=300>

#### iPhoto Basics

Novi Feb 16, 2006

6:00 PM - 7:15 PM

CompUSA #591 Novi, MI

For General Audiences

iPhoto Basic Overview

For more details: <http://seminars.apple.com/goToEvent.html?id=41244&s=300>

#### iDVD Basic Overview

Novi Feb 23, 2006

6:00 PM - 7:15 PM

CompUSA #591 Novi, MI

iDVD Basics

For General Audiences

For more details: <http://seminars.apple.com/goToEvent.html?id=41245&s=300>

### Apple Online Seminars

These online events are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from any computer with internet access. They are designed to be no more than 30 minutes in length and offer a wide variety of resources and information for your review. Topics cover solutions using Apple and partner products and technologies. For training on these and other solutions visit <http://seminars.apple.com/training/index.html>

#### Topic: Design, Print & Graphic Design

Asset Management for Creative Workgroups: With Xserve G5 and Extensis Portfolio Server. Learn how you can better manage your photographs and creative assets

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with the winning combination of Apple Xserve and Extensis Portfolio Server. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/assetmgmt/apple/index.html?s=203>

**Color Management:** From Input to Edit and Print with Mac OS X Panther & ColorSync. Join Steve Upton, industry consultant on color, as he gives you an overview of color management from displays to applications and output.

For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/colorwf/apple/index.html?s=203>

**Desktop Management Made Easy** with Apple Remote Desktop 2. Join Apple Product Mgr Nader Nafissi to learn why Apple's new, easy to use desktop management software is the essential tool for any Mac system administrator. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/dtmgmt/apple/index.html?s=203>

**Font Management for Creative Professionals.** Join Brent Haley, Apple marketing mgr, for an overview of font management capabilities in Mac OS X and to see solutions from Extensis and Insider Software. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/fontmgmt/apple/index.html>

**Managing Your Creative Assets.** Join Brent Haley, Apple marketing manager, for an overview of the latest storage solutions from Apple and an intro to asset management solutions. For more

information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/manageassets/apple/index.html>

**Optimize Your Creative Workgroup** with Apple's UNIX-Based Server Technology. Join Brent Haley as he demonstrates how to deploy, manage, and scale technologies for creative workgroups using the latest services included in Mac OS X Server. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/creativewg2/apple/index.html?s=203>

**Perfect Color Starts Here.** With Apple Cinema Displays. Join the Apple Cinema Displays product manager to learn how adding an Apple display to your creative system can boost your color viewing experience. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/perfectcolor/apple/index.html?s=203>

**Powering Creative Desktops** with Mac OS X Tiger. Join Brent Haley, marketing manager for design and print market, as he goes under the hood and shows you the creative features of Mac OS X Tiger. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/creativedesktop/apple/index.html?s=203>

Russell Brown presents Mac OS X and Photoshop CS2. Join Photoshop expert Russell Brown for a look at the ultimate digital studio: Adobe Photoshop CS2, a Power Mac G5, and the 30" Apple Cinema HD Display. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/digitalstudio/apple/index.html?s=203>

### Topic: Development Tools

Developers win with Mac OS X: Reap the rewards. Built on a rock-solid UNIX core and standards-based technologies, Mac OS X is hailed as the world's most advanced operating system. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/macosxdev/apple/index.html?s=203>

**Maximizing Mac OS X Application Performance.** Re-broadcast of the webcast discussion of the basics of optimization, how and why developers should turn a critical eye to the code they've just written. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/appperformance/apple/index.html?s=203>

### Topic: Digital Media

**3D Modeling on the Mac** with Modo. Watch Brad Peebler, President of Luxology, as he provides a tour of Modo and find out how you can turn your inspiration and creativity into amazing 3D models. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/3dmodeling/apple/index.html?s=203>

**Capture, Create and Share Digital Media** with QuickTime 7 Pro. Join Apple's team of QuickTime experts in this free online seminar to learn how QuickTime 7 can take your digital media to the next level. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/qt7/apple/index.html>

**Powerful tools for 2D and 3D post production.** Watch Daryl Obert of Alias and Charles Meyer of Apple as they explore ways



you can bring new levels of integration to your post production workflow. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/2d3dpost/apple/index.html>

Pre-Visualizing and Presenting Your Ideas with StoryBoard Artist. Watch Jeff Walsh of PowerProduction demo StoryBoard Artist and find out how to convey your ideas with more depth, flair and accuracy than you thought possible. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/storyboard/apple/index.html>

Mobile Field Editing with Journalist Dr. Bob Arnot. Join Dr. Bob Arnot to learn how the Mac can help you become a more successful storyteller and videographer by editing video on-the-go using tools from Apple. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/mobilefieldediting/apple/index.html?s=203>

The Production Value of HD. Don't miss Don Peebles of Apple, as he provides an overview of Final Cut Studio, the suite of pro applications for video content creation, editing and output. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/prodvalueofhd/apple/index.html?s=203>

### **Topic: Keynote**

Improve Your Presentation Skills. Watch this free online seminar and find out how to improve your presentation skills. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/presenting/apple/index.html?s=203>

### **Topic: Music**

Making Music on the Mac with GarageBand. Tune in to this free online seminar and learn how to transform your Mac into a musical instrument and record new and inspiring masterpieces. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/garageband/apple/index.html>

### **Topic: Product Info**

Guitarists and the Mac: A Conversation with Pat Metheny. Join Pat Metheny in this free online seminar and learn how the Mac can help you take your music to the next level. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/guitarists/apple/index.html?s=203>

Mobile Creative Studio, Portable Workstation, "Office-on-the-Go." Join Gail Nishimura, PowerBook product manager, to learn about the latest advancements in the PowerBook G4 line and discover which model is right for you. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/pbg4/apple/index.html?s=203>

The Ultimate Creative Workstation. Discovering the Apple Power Mac G5. Todd Benjamin provides a tour of the Power Mac G5, describing what makes them so innovative and how they will benefit your creative endeavors. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/pmg5/apple/index.html?s=203>

### **Topic: Servers/Networks**

A Blueprint for Tiered Storage. Steve Duplessie, recognized independent expert on storage technology, discusses the practicalities of tiered storage & set-up of a solution that works. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/tieredstorage/apple/index.html?s=203>

Biotech is in our DNA. Michael Athanas, Ph.D., of The BioTeam will show how to install a fully provisioned informatics cluster on one or more Xserve servers using iNquiry. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/biotech/apple/index.html?s=203>

Build High Performance Tiered Storage Strategies - With Xserve RAID. Join Alex Grossman, Senior Director of Server and Storage Hardware, and learn how you can implement a tiered storage strategy using Xserve RAID. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/tieredstoragestrat/apple/index.html?s=203>

Change Your Infrastructure Legacy: Lower Costs & Simplify Server & Storage Management. Join Alex Grossman, Apple Sr Director, and learn how adding Xserve G5 and Xserve RAID to your IT infrastructure can help you meet today's business demands. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/chginfralegacy/apple/index.html?s=203>

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Computational Clusters for Bioinformatics. Elizabeth Kerr, Ph.D., Director of Science and Technology Markets at Apple, moderates this informative webcast discussion of the Apple Workgroup Cluster. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/biocluster/apple/index.html?s=203>

Deliver Simplified Workgroup Services. Join Douglas Brooks, Server Product Mgr, to learn how to deliver robust workgroup & internet services without straining your budget or stretching your IT staff. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/deliverwgvcs/apple/index.html>

Getting Started with High Performance Computing (Apple). On-demand rebroadcast of the Dec 16, 2004 webcast discussion of the high-level concepts of high performance computing, issues & obstacles, and more. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/hpc/apple/index.html?s=203>

Grid Computing in the Life Sciences. Learn how Xgrid, built into Mac OS X and Mac OS X Server, makes it feasible to deploy large computational grids without the addition of software. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/gridcomputing/apple/index.html?s=203>

Increasing Workgroup Productivity with Xsan. Join Doug Cunningham as he demos how to set up Xsan, reviews powerful admin and reporting tools, and

demos real-time collaboration in a video environment. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/xsan/apple/index.html?s=203>

Information Lifecycle Management. Steve Kenniston, an Enterprise Storage Group analyst will offer insights as to how to manage vast amounts of data while keeping your overhead low. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/ilm/apple/index.html?s=203>

### Topic: Sci/Tech

Apple in Science: Diversifying the IT Infrastructure By incorporating Mac OS X into the infrastructure and supporting desktop Macs, IT organizations have increased the productivity of their research organizations. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/itresearch/apple/index.html?s=203>

OsiriX: Multi-dimensional Image Navigation Software. Dr. Osman Ratib's presentation at Children's Hospital Boston, Department of Radiology, on OsiriX, an open source, medical imaging application built on Mac OS X For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/osirix/apple/index.html?s=203>

Computational Clustering in the Sciences. A number of Apple technologies simplify cluster computing, and for clusters of up to 64 processors, Apple provides pre-qualified solutions to meet your needs. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/computational-clusters/apple/index.html?s=203>

Cost-effective Storage Deployments for Research Computing (Apple) Seminar Online. Learn how to achieve better data accessibility and faster storage retrieval in a more cost-effective way with industry-leading solutions. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/researchstorage/apple/index.html>

Mac OS X and Mac OS X Server for High Performance Computing (Apple). Learn about the technical underpinnings of Apple's latest OS, and how new features and updates will benefit users of Mac OS X-based clusters and grids. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/tigerforhpc/apple/index.html>

Mac OS X v10.4 "Tiger" for Scientific & Technical Computing (Apple). Join Apple in this densely-packed on-demand webcast rebroadcast on how each new feature in Tiger applies to Apple's scientific customers. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/tigerforscience/apple/index.html>

Third-party HPC Solutions for Mac OS X. Apple will be joined by representatives from companies who develop their software or hardware for the platform to talk about their products. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/hpc3rdptysol/apple/index.html?s=203>

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### Topic: Small Business

Architecture By Design. Join Jacques Sedille as he demonstrates and discusses the Mac and key 3rd party design tools that enable architects to imagine, design and communicate. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminar-online/architecture/apple/index.html>

DWG on the Mac. See how ArchiCAD, eDrawings and VectorWorks allow you to view, edit and manipulate DWG files on the Mac. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/dwg/apple/index.html>

Standards-based Web Electronic Filing Systems. Apple invites you to view a free webcast that discusses technical best practices around web-based electronic filing solutions. For more information visit <http://seminars.apple.com/seminaronline/efiling/apple/index.html>

### Topic: Support

Why Hire a Member of the Apple Consultants Network. Learn about the services provided by and advantages of hiring members of the Apple Consultants Network. For more information visit <http://www.seminars.apple.com/seminar-online/hireacn/apple/index.html>

## Macromedia Online Seminars

### Breeze Capabilities & Benefits Online Live Seminar Series

Learn how Macromedia Breeze enables you to quickly combine existing learning assets with

real-time interactivity for collaborative communication, teaching & learning experiences.

### Beyond Web Conferencing

Tuesday, January 24, 2006  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM US/Eastern

### Rapid Training with Macromedia Breeze

Tuesday, January 31, 2006  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM US/Eastern

### Captivate Online Live Seminar

Learn how Captivate (formerly RoboDemo) can easily create interactive simulations and software demonstrations. Whether you are an exiting user or new to the tool, you will find these seminars invaluable!

Thursday, January 12, 2006  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM US/Eastern

### Contribute 3 & the Contribute Publishing Server Online Live Seminar Series

Learn how Contribute 3 and the Contribute Publishing Server can improve your organization's web publishing needs by allowing non-technical users to update content, web developers to maintain control over the code and design, and IT managers to centrally administer and track usage.

Tuesday, January 24, 2006  
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM US/Eastern

### Flex Online Live Seminar

Learn how to build enterprise class Rich Internet Applications with Macromedia Flex. Attendees will see an overview of Flex, learn about the Flex architecture, watch an expert build an application and more."

Thursday, January 26, 2006  
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM US/Eastern

For more information regarding this seminar or other Macromedia seminars visit: <http://www.macromedia.com>

## eBay Seminars

All eBay classes are presented by Donna Klein (The eBay Lady) at The Community House in Birmingham, Michigan. Register: 248-644-5832 or online at <http://www.communityhouse.com>.

All classes \$34.

### "Using eBay For Fun and Profit"

Introductory class covering all eBay basics. No experience needed except how to use e-mail and the Internet.

- Saturday, 1/21, 1-3pm
- Tuesday, 2/7, 1-3pm
- Tuesday, 2/28, 7:30-9:30pm

### "Invite The World To Your Sale on eBay"

If you take the classes in a series, this is #2. Covers my top 5 keys to sales success, including cost-saving photo-embedding techniques using simple HTML. Prerequisite: understanding eBay and/or having taken "Intro".

- Saturday, 1/28, 1-3pm
- Wednesday, 2/15, 1-3pm
- Thursday, 3/9, 7:30-9:30pm

### "Super-Selling!"

If you take the classes in a series, this is #3. Covers dutch auctions, Turbo Lister, more HTML for photo-embedding and style, and safe banking. It is the most technical class.

Prerequisite: understanding eBay selling and/or my "Sales" class.

- Saturday, 3/11, 1-3pm

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## February Adobe Seminar

### Color Control Freak: Creative Perspectives on Digital Color

February 16, 2006  
9:00AM--4:00PM  
Doubletree Hotel - Novi  
248-348-5000  
27000 Sheraton Dr.  
Novi, MI 48377

This seminar teaches color management techniques and technologies to graphic designers, art directors, and marketing professionals who take their color seriously. Learn how to use Adobe Creative Suite 2 software to specify color, accurately preview colors onscreen, and ensure that your designs are reproduced correctly. Also learn how to use the latest technologies, including monitor calibrators, profiling software, inkjet proofers, and RIP workflows. Finally, know what you can expect and demand from your clients, printers, and digital service providers. To register visit: <http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=85628>

*This snippet of news from USA Today was emailed to me from MacTechnics member Denny McLampy.*

## Next-Generation DVDs

Electronics makers and computer companies are rushing to develop a new version of the DVD that can store higher-quality video, but they can't agree on the technology, so they've split into two camps. Sony, Panasonic, Apple and others support a standard called Blu-ray. Toshiba, Sanyo, Microsoft and others tout one called HD DVD. Until a few weeks ago, Blu-ray looked as if it would become the de facto standard, pushing HD DVD out of the market, says tech analyst Ste-

phen Baker with researcher NPD. Then Blu-ray supporter HP said it would back either standard. Now both might be released into the market to duke it out in a battle reminiscent of the VHS/Betamax war of the 1980, Baker says.

## Hardware Reviews

### Z22



Vendor: Palm, Inc.  
<http://www.palm.com>  
800-881-7256 | \$99

**Pros:** Small, lightweight, full-color display, plenty of memory for phone numbers.

**Cons:** No SD card memory expansion slot.

**Requires:** OS 10.2.8 or higher, USB port

**macHOME recommends:** A bow—this PDA makes a fine gift

### WHR-G54S 125 High-Speed Mode Wireless Smart Router



Vendor: Buffalo Technology

<http://www.buffalotech.com>

**Cost:** \$90

**Pros:** Excellent speed and range, easy to configure.

**Cons:** Some PC-only features won't work with the Mac.

**Requires:** OS 9.1 (OS 9.2.2 recommended) or OS 10.1.5 or higher

**macHOME recommends:** OS 10.2 or higher

### Air Flo Ex



Some games just feel better when you play them using a gamepad rather than keyboard controls. Nyko's Air Flo Ex gives Mac users a comfortable gamepad option that performs well and most resembles the Sony PlayStation controllers. It's great for games such as Aspyr's Tony Hawk skateboarding series or for racing games if you don't have a racing wheel. Plug it into a USB port, and many games, such as Aspyr's Lego Star Wars (see review, page 59) recognize it immediately and let you use default settings or program the buttons. A Mac driver allows more detailed configurations. The airflow system of its namesake uses holes in the handles and really does keep them cool after prolonged use, unlike most other gamepads.

—MARKKUS ROVITO, MacHome Magazine

<http://www.nyko.com>  
888-444-6956

**Cost:** \$25

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## Software Reviews

### Dreamweaver 8C

Comprehensive Web-authoring software

**Company:** Macromedia

Contact: 800-470-7211

<http://www.macromedia.com>

**Cost:** \$399 (full), \$199 (upgrade)

**Requirements:** G3, Mac OS 10.3 or later, 256MB RAM, 2GB disk space

**Pros:** Workflow improvements are brilliantly implemented. Drag-and-drop support for FLV and XML support.

**Cons:** Complex and deep feature set is complicated by crowded, minimal interface.

To read the entire review visit: <http://www.macaddict.com/issues/2005/12/reviews/dreamweaver>

### Britannica 2006 Ultimate Reference Suite DVD

**Company:** Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc.

<http://www.britannica.com>

800-323-1229

**Cost:** \$50

**Pros:** Comprehensive reference tool, multimedia-rich content, regular updates free for registered users.

**Cons:** PersonalBrain graphic navigator software works only on Windows computers, registered users only get a trial subscription to Encyclopædia Britannica Online.

**Requires:** OS 10.3 or higher, G3 350MHz or faster, 256MB RAM, 1.1GB free hard disk space

**macHOME recommends:** OS 10.4, G4 or faster, 512MB RAM, 5GB+ hard disk space

To read the entire review visit: <http://www.machome.com/reviews/0512/britanica.lasso>

### MacCapture

*Record your desktop activity as a movie*

**Company:** MacXware

<http://www.macxware.com>

**Cost:** \$30

**Pros:** Easy process for recording your desktop as a movie with sound, huge variety of capture and export options, full editing capability.

**Cons:** Unconventional editing method can be cumbersome and confusing.

**Requires:** OS 10.2.6 or higher, 128MB RAM

**macHOME recommends:** G4 1.25GHz or faster, 512MB RAM, editing your clips in iMovie or other Apple program

To read the entire review visit: <http://www.machome.com/reviews/0512/macCapture.lasso>

## Shareware Reviews

### DockStar 1.0

*More detailed counts for new Mail messages*

**Developer:** Ecamm Network

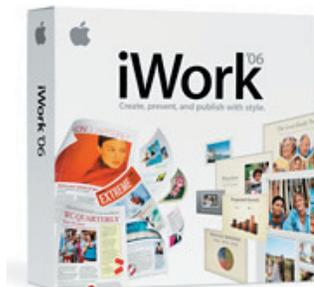
<http://www.ecamm.com/mac/dockstar/>

**Price:** \$8.00 [7 day demo]



Ever been frustrated with Mail's simplistic new message count in its Dock icon? You get one number, representing only the messages in your inbox. But if you use rules to filter messages, you probably have unread mail in a number of folders, too. Enter DockStar. This Mail plug-in lets you view the unread count for up to five different mailboxes in Mail. I'm on a number of mailing lists, and I find this little tool is quite helpful for tracking new activity (in addition to my main inbox). The UI [User Interface] is quite intuitive, though I found the color-changing wheels to be somewhat tricky to use -- I'd love to see a pop-up for the standard color picker instead. But beyond that, it's well thought out, and you can even pick from a set of different graphics for each badge's background. You can also check out Dan Frakes' detailed review of DockStar at this link: <http://www.macworld.com/weblogs/macgems/2005/12/dockstar/index.php>

## Introducing iWork 6



**Create,  
present,  
publish with style.**

**\$79**

<http://www.apple.com/iwork/>



# MacTechnics 20th Anniversary Highlights



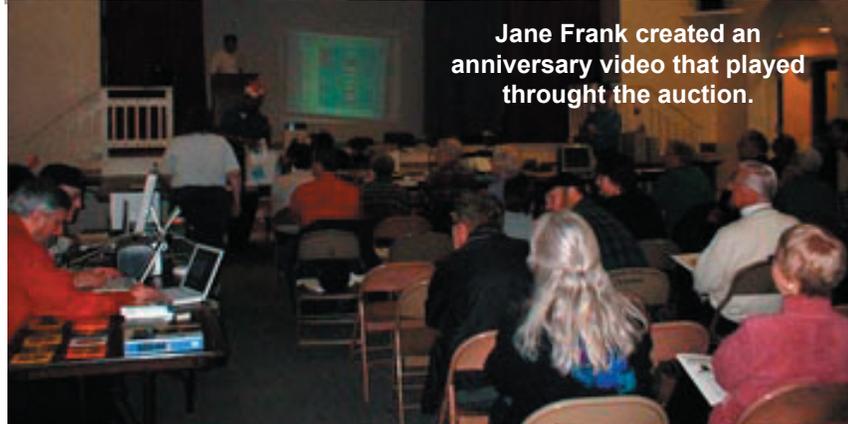
Gerry and Dean auction the items.



Steve drew the raffle tickets.



Going....going....gone!



Jane Frank created an anniversary video that played through the auction.



The brunch gave us time to socialize before and during the auction/raffle.



Past President Mary Van Raden and former Treasurer Evert Van Raden were among the attendees.





### Email Attachments Made Easy

If you want to attach a file to an email message, you can drag the file directly to Mail's icon in your Dock. This opens Mail and creates a brand-new email message window with that file already attached. Sweet! Better yet, even if you drag multiple attachments, they all attach to just one email message (rather than creating one message for each attachment, as in previous versions of Mac OS X).

### How to Stop An Application from Launching

If you've accidentally launched an application that you didn't want to launch, you can stop that launch dead in its tracks by pressing **Command-Option-Shift-Escape**. (For those still on Panther, the shortcut is **Shift-Option-Command-Escape**).

### DVD Screen Grab Tip

Here's how to take a screenshot from a DVD in Mac OS X Tiger.

1. Go to the part of the movie you'd like to capture. Hit the Stop button in the DVD controller.
2. Press the Play button in the controller, & then immediately press **Command-Shift-4**.
3. Hit the space bar to take a screenshot of the DVD Player window, then click the mouse to take the shot.

You can do all this without ever quitting DVD Player first.

### Sources for Automator Actions

Tiger's new Automator feature includes many actions that let you automate the processing of files. To add new actions, you can either write them yourself, or download them from kind-hearted developers such as:

<http://www.apple.com/downloads/macos/automator/>

<http://automatorworld.com>

<http://automatoractions.com>

<http://automator.us>

There are hundreds of free actions at these websites. To use one, copy it into

```
[username]>Library>  
Automator.
```

If an Automator folder doesn't yet exist, create it yourself.

### A Method To Empty Trash That Refuses to Empty

Occasionally, I would find several items left in my trash that would not empty. Here's the cure: grab all the items in the trash, and drag them to the Desktop. Then return the icons to the trash, and empty the trash. The files are gone!

### Prevent CD and DVD Disks from Becoming Stuck

There has been written a lot about one issue: CDs and DVDs have a tendency to get stuck in the drive at times. Most hints suggest a reboot for remedy. This was unacceptable to me.

After some research, I discovered that the disks only get stuck when the 'Put the disk(s) to sleep when possible' option is

activated in the Energy Saver settings. There is only one setting for all drives, so if you actually want your external disks to sleep, you are "stuck." But what if you could prevent your Superdrive from sleeping, and still have all other disks take their nap?

The solution: Employ

```
/usr/bin/drutil
```

via `launched`. You will only need TextEdit and Terminal do the job, but you can use `Lingon` (<http://lingon.sourceforge.net/>) if you'd rather not use the command line.

### Select Text Word-By-Word

This might be old hat to some, but I just discovered this behavior by accident (in both 10.3 and 10.4). If you double-click to select a whole word, and then hold the mouse button down, you can then drag to select contiguous words, one word at a time. This is similar to how Microsoft Word works. It seems to work in Safari, TextEdit, TextWrangler, Mail.app, Finder, etc.

### A Timesaver When Using Safari in Offline Mode

A quickie but a goody. If you are using Safari to browse a previously-saved page such as `boingboing.net` while offline, here's a little timesaver. When you **Command-click** a bunch of links to new sites, they're not going to load -- because you have no active internet connection, obviously.

However, just keep all the "Failed to Open Page" pages/tabs open. Once you connect back up to the net, Safari realizes this, and goes ahead and grabs all the pages right away for you. Winner!



MacTechnics member, DennyMeLampy sent this tip for a helpful website for PhotoShop Elements 3 users:

<http://www.angelfire.com/pe2/teamouse/index.html>

## Google The Moon

Most of you have seen Google Earth that allows you to zoom around cities and countries like you were playing on a Xbox. But have you seen Google Moon (<http://moon.google.com/>)? It shows the NASA imagery related to the Apollo landings. But to see what the moon is really about zoom in all the way.

## Music Details

For all kinds of information about any singer, band, lyrics, articles, review, pictures, sheet music, tour dates, tickets, discography, downloads, videos or wallpaper go to <http://starpluse.com/Music/>

## Email a Link and Page Name with One Click

Safari now emails links automatically. Go under the File menu to "Mail link to this page (**Command/Shift/I**)."

## Spell Check in Stickies

**Control/click** the Stickies note and you get a dialog with that the choice to spell check. You can even select "Check Spelling As You Type."

## Back Up Your Stickies

If you use Stickies a lot and don't want to lose any of the data, make a backup of the database. In OS 9, you can find it located in the System Folder, called Stickies. In OS X, open your Home/Library folder, and then **Option/drag** Stickies-

Database into a backup folder or disc. In case you somehow lose your information, the backup can be copied back to the appropriate location.

## Page Set Up Tip

When accessing the Page Setup dialog, hold down the Option key when clicking the "OK" button to save the current settings as the default.

## Improve Windows Media Playback for Free!

If you are having trouble with some streaming video content that uses Windows Media Player, there is a solution. I found that many sites using Windows Media streaming did not function well at all. Sometimes the video would be jerky, or take forever to start if it started at all. I found a solution that works well for me: Flip4Mac (<http://www.flip4mac.com/>). This program an add-in which allows you to use QuickTime to play digital media. It also enables a plug-in for Safari for web content media. The price varies, depending on what component you need (starting at \$29). There are educational discounts available (20% discount). As of January 2006, the basic Flip4Mac is now free.

## Delete Mail Messages Without Using Mail's Trash

A message in Apple's Mail app can be permanently removed by cutting it (**Command-X**) instead of deleting it via any of the usual methods. This is a pretty basic hint, but when I'm clearing out mailboxes, it saves a trip to the Trash mailbox to delete them again.

## Second Start Up Blink

Does your Mac's screen "blink" (or "flash") a second time at startup, just after the MacOS screen appears? Don't worry. It's normal. It means that the Mac is loading an updated version of the video driver software. If you really want to avoid the flash, hold down the **Command-Shift-N-D** keys at startup. Unfortunately, this also means you'll be using the older, presumably buggier, driver. Aside from being a bit irritating, the only problem this flash causes is that it wipes out any custom startup screen display.

## Mac OS 9.x Scrapbook Resizing Tip

Hold down the **Command** key while resizing the Scrapbook window (by clicking and holding and dragging on the bottom right corner) to make it smaller than would otherwise be possible.

## A Typing Tutor

If you're looking for a typing tutor program that works with any version of Mac OS X, Key Advantage Typing is worth a try. This program is great for the novice typist or if you're just looking to improve your typing skills because it's customized. There are 25 lessons "easy-to-follow" lessons and using the 30 free trial version, you are able to try the first 5 lessons. You can download the free trial version from <http://www.programmingart.com/products/key/>. The full program cost is \$19.95. By the way, a free trial version is also available for Mac OS 9 and Windows users.



## Events

### January/February 2006 Calendar of Local Events

January 2006						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15	16	17	18 Apple Pro Day	19 LAMALUG Meeting	20	21 MacTechnics eBay Seminar
22 Mac Group Detroit	23 Apple Seminar	24 Macromedia eSeminar	25 Apple Pro Day	26 Apple Seminar Macromedia eSeminar	27	28 eBay Seminar
29	30	31 February Newsletter Deadline Macromedia eSeminar	1	2	3	4

February 2006						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1 Apple Pro Day	2 Apple Seminar	3	4
5	6	7 eBay Seminar	8 Apple Pro Day	9 Apple Seminar	10	11
12	13 Apple Seminar	14 <b>Valentine's Day</b> MUG Meeting	15 Apple Pro Day eBay Seminar	16 Adobe Seminar Apple Seminar	17	18 MacTechnics

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- **Fax:** 707-829-0104



To receive notifications of upcoming eBay Radio broadcasts plus listen to archived broadcasts join the group at: <http://groups.ebay.com/forum.jspa?forumID=1278>

## Looking for a Macintosh Provider?

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# January 2006 Agenda

- 9:00 Meeting Setup & Registration
- 9:30 SIG (Special Interest Groups) meetings
  - Digital Imaging w/ Michael Smith – Room 261
  - Beginners w/Fred Seitz – Media Center
  - Desktop Publishing w/JoAnne Olsen – Room 259
  - Guru Table – Teacher’s Lounge
- 10:30 Meeting Transition (SIG’s end & Main Meeting setup)
- 10:45 Demo – Launch Bar – Jim Monkiewicz
- 11:00 Macworld Expo Review – Colin Murphy (Apple Computer) & others

## Attention MacTechnics Members:

### Our 20th Anniversary Special

Bring a new person to any MacTechnics meeting, and when they join with a full membership, your next membership renewal is **1/2 off!**



### MacTechnics Membership Form

The Ann Arbor Computer Users Group

Mail check to: MacTechnics, P.O. Box 4069, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-4069

Today's Date                    /                    /

- New** (1 year, \$40)
- Renewal** (1 year, \$35)
- Student** (1 year, \$20)  
*copy of student ID*
- 6-Month Trial** (\$20)
- Family** (\$7.50 extra card with Regular or Student membership)
- Corporate** (\$100 - includes 4 membership cards, and 1/8 page ad in the monthly newsletter)
- Charge of Address/Information**
- First Class Mailing** (\$15)

First Name		Last Name	
Company		Your Email Address	
Address			
City	State	Zip Code	Country
Home Phone (    )		Work Phone (    )	
		Ext.	
Sex M    F	Age	Your Occupation	

Names & Ages of Other Family Members Who Are Joining

How did you hear about MacTechnics? Where did you get this Membership Form? \_\_\_\_\_

Feel free to call on me occasionally to help out.     Yes     No

**Submit form**

Revised 10/10/03



## January 21, 2006 Main Meeting

### Macworld Expo 2006 Highlights



Apple's own Colin Murphy, will be joining us and presenting the latest Macworld news from Apple Computer. We'll also have other MacTechnics members highlighting other new products they've heard about from the show. So, plan to be there and hear about the latest announcements impacting the Macintosh and iPod worlds.

### Upcoming Events:

February 19th - MacTechnics Demo Fair II

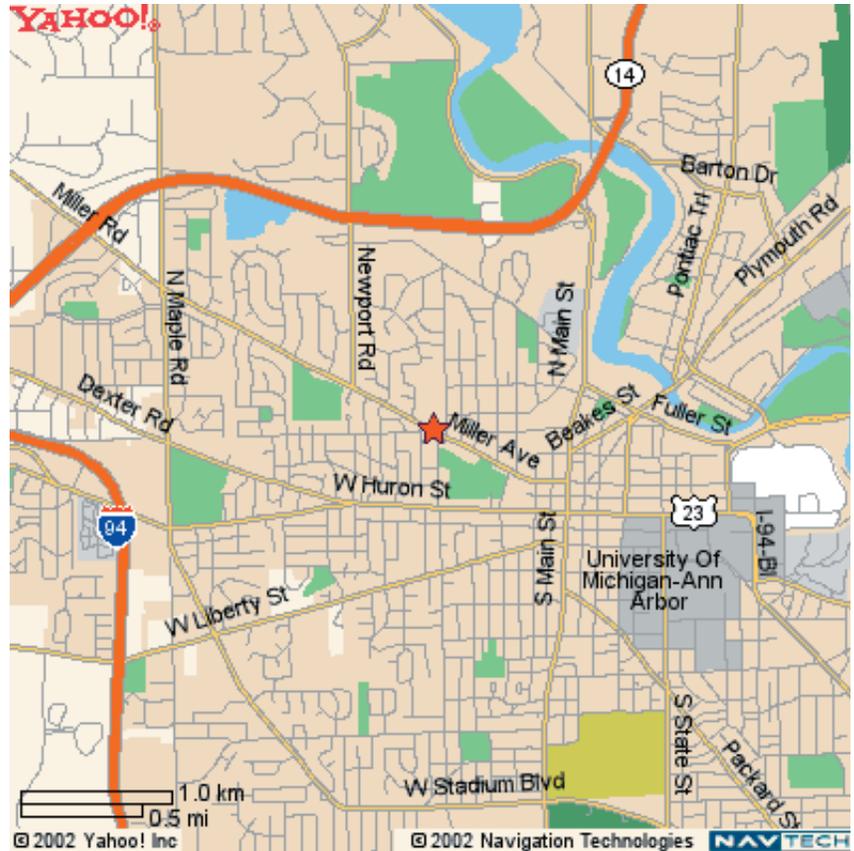
March 18th - TurboTax and Other Tax Solutions

April - Home Networking

May - TBD

June - MacGames

July - No Meeting



The meeting location is at:  
Ann Arbor Open School,  
920 Miller Road,  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Please refer to our web page  
(<http://www.mactechnics.org>)  
for complete directions.



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