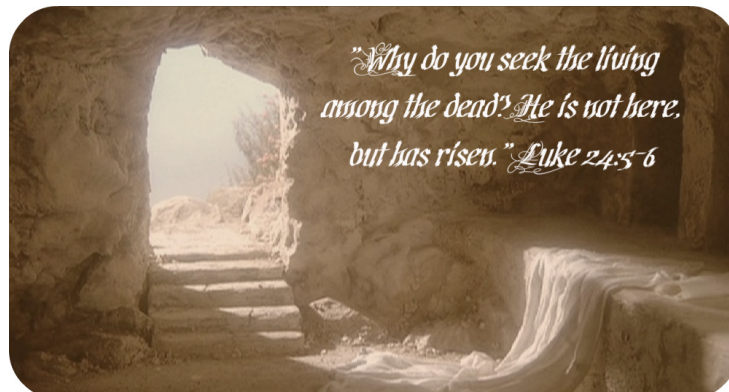
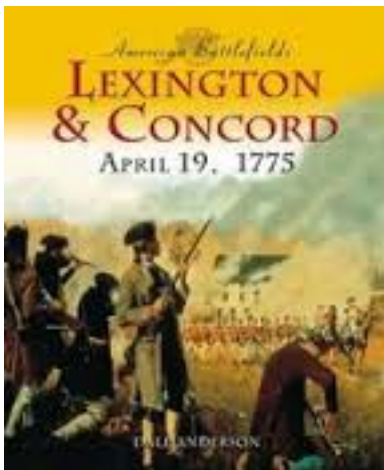




MACTECHNICS

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025



I. Apple Computer/Devices News

A. iPhones, Macs, and Other Apple Devices Exempted From Trump Tariffs

Saturday April 12, 2025 9:44 am PDT by Juli Clover

Apple and other electronics manufacturers have received a break from Trump's reciprocal tariffs, with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency sharing a long list of products excluded from the levies last night.



iPhones, Macs, iPads, Apple Watch, and other Apple devices will not be subject to the 125 percent tariffs that have been put in place on imported Chinese goods, nor will Apple have to pay the 10 percent reciprocal tariffs that are in place for goods from other countries.

All manner of electronic devices have been exempted, including computer components such as GPUs from Nvidia, semiconductors and the equipment used to make them, SSDs, displays, many TVs,

and more. The AirPods and the HomePod do not appear to have been exempted, and video game consoles like the Nintendo Switch 2 are still subject to the tariffs.

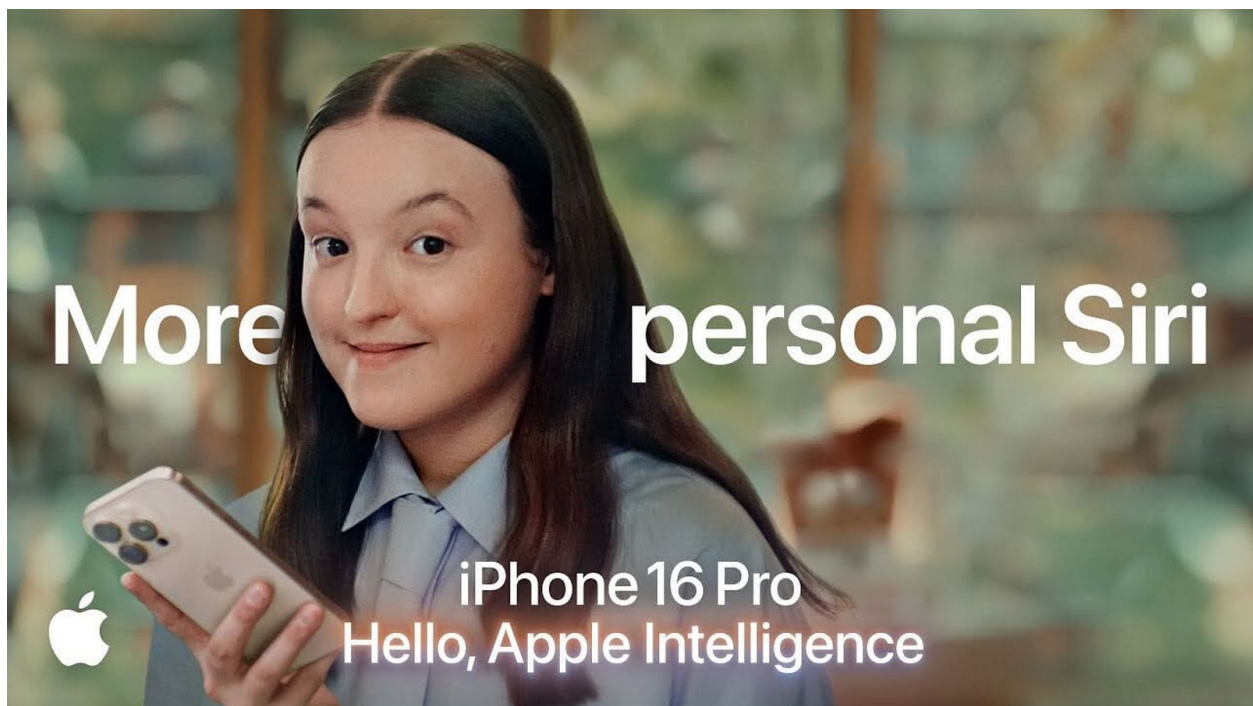
As *Bloomberg* points out, the exemptions could be temporary and the Trump administration could be planning for new, lower tariffs on electronics and other goods from China. The order also does not exempt companies from the 20 percent "fentanyl" fee imposed on China, which was an earlier penalty, so there is still a fee that Apple will need to pay.

With the back and forth over tariffs and the 90-day pause Trump put in place in some countries, Apple stock has been volatile for the last week and has dropped more than 20 percent before recovering somewhat. As of market close yesterday, Apple's stock was down 11 percent from early April.

B. Apple Hit With More Class Action Lawsuits Over Delayed Siri Features in U.S. and Canada

Thursday April 10, 2025 8:09 am PDT by [Joe Rossignol](#)

Apple has been hit with at least two more proposed class action lawsuits over its delayed personalized Siri features for iPhones.



In the U.S., a complaint filed in a California federal court this week alleges that Apple violated false advertising and unfair competition laws by marketing Apple Intelligence upgrades for Siri that are still not available. The two named plaintiffs said they never would have purchased or been willing to pay as much for an iPhone 16 had they known that Apple's marketing surrounding the features was false and misleading.

Apple advertised the Siri features in product presentations, on its website, in a TV commercial starring actor Bella Ramsey, and elsewhere.

C. Apple's Going to Take a Peek at Your On-Device Data to Improve Its AI

PC Mag

Tue, April 15, 2025 at 4:48 PM EDT 2 min read



How do you improve your AI without scraping tons of personal data? Apple's approach, at least for text generation, is using a combination of "synthetic data" and on-device messages.

To get access to those on-device messages, however, Apple needs permission, so it will use data from those who have opted in to Device Analytics to cross-check the accuracy of its synthetic data, without collecting any actual emails or text from iPhone owners.

"Synthetic data are created to mimic the format and important properties of user data, but do not contain any

actual user generated content," Apple says in a [post](#) on its Machine Learning Research site. Translation: Apple Intelligence makes up a bunch of emails.

That works well enough on one specific topic. But "to improve our models we need to generate a set of many emails that cover topics that are most common in messages." Those fake messages are then checked against actual emails on someone's device to pull out the synthetic data that is most like something a human would write.

"This process allows us to improve the topics and language of our synthetic emails, which helps us train our models to create better text outputs in features like email summaries, while protecting privacy," Apple says.

According to [Bloomberg](#), Apple will roll this out in an upcoming beta version of iOS and iPadOS 18.5 and macOS 15.5. You can see what type of analytics data you're sharing with Apple via Settings > Privacy & Security > Analytics & Improvements.

"Only users who have opted-in to send Device Analytics information to Apple participate. The contents of the sampled emails never leave the device and are never shared with Apple," the company says.

The company is under pressure to improve its Apple Intelligence features, which thus far have largely focused

on writing tools and image tricks like Genmoji and Image Playground. Siri got a small upgrade last fall, but a larger overhaul has been delayed a few times. The rumor mill is all over the place, with some saying we'll get a glimpse of new Siri features in the fall and others saying we may have to wait until 2027. Apple's been hit with [multiple lawsuits](#) over those delays.

D. Trump confirms he reduced tariffs to help TimCook

While denying he ever changes his mind, Trump has now said he helped out Apple with tariffs because of conversations with Tim Cook.



II. APPLE HARDWARE

A. Top Stories: iOS 19 and iPhone 17 Pro Rumors, Siri Revamp Turmoil, and More

Saturday April 12, 2025 6:00 am PDT by [MacRumors Staff](#)

It was a big week for leaks and rumors in the Apple world, with fresh claims about iOS 19, the iPhone 17 Pro, and even the 20th anniversary iPhone coming a couple of years from now.



Sources also spilled the tea on the inner turmoil at Apple around the Apple Intelligence-driven Siri revamp that has seen significant delays, so read on below for all the details on these stories and more!

B. Waiting for the Perfect MacBook Pro? 2026 Might Be the Year

We're expecting an update to the MacBook Pro later this year with a new **M5 chip** and some other upgrades, but for a much more substantial revamp, you might want to wait until 2026.



Rumors indicate the 2026 MacBook Pro could see a design overhaul with OLED displays, a smaller pinhole camera cutout replacing the current notch, and perhaps even a thinner and lighter design and 5G connectivity.

In addition to the MacBook Pro overhaul, 2026 may also see the launch of Apple's rumored large foldable device, which reportedly features an 18.8-inch display when unfolded.

C. 10 Products Still Coming From Apple in 2025

Friday April 11, 2025 4:14 pm PDT by [Juli Clover](#)

Apple may have updated several iPads and Macs late last year and early this year, but there are still multiple new devices that we're looking forward to seeing in 2025. Most will come in September or October, but there could be a few surprises before then.



We've rounded up a list of everything that we're still waiting to see from Apple in 2025.

- **iPhone 17, 17 Air, and 17 Pro** - We get new iPhones every September so it's not a surprise that updated models are coming, but this year should be exciting because the rumored iPhone 17 Air will have an all-new ultra-thin form factor, plus the iPhone 17 Pro and iPhone 17 Pro Max are getting a new rear camera design.
- **Apple Watch Series 11** - There's an updated Apple Watch coming, and it could get blood pressure monitoring and other health features, though that's not a guarantee yet. An update for watchOS has also been rumored, so it could get a new look.
- **Apple Watch Ultra 3** - Apple didn't update the Apple Watch Ultra last year, but we're supposedly getting a new model this year.
- **Apple Watch SE** - We also didn't get an Apple Watch SE in 2024, so Apple's low-cost Apple Watch is due for an update. There were some rumors about a new plastic casing, but that might be scrapped.

- **AirPods Pro 3** - It's finally time for the AirPods Pro to get an update, and it sounds like it'll be a big one. The AirPods Pro will have a new design, and the case could get an update too. We're expecting better audio quality, Active Noise Cancellation improvements, a faster chip, and possibly health features like temperature and heart rate monitoring.
- **Mac Pro** - The Mac Pro is Apple's last Mac that doesn't have an M4 chip inside, and it's going to be refreshed before the end of the year.
- **MacBook Pro** - The MacBook Pro was last updated in October 2024, but when October 2025 rolls around, it'll be due for another refresh. No major design changes are planned, but it will get a spec boost in the form of the faster M5 chip.
- **Apple TV 4K** - It's been quite some time since the Apple TV was refreshed, and a new model is in the works. It'll have a faster processor, perhaps even one that can support Apple Intelligence and console-

quality games. No design changes are expected.

- **HomePod mini** - The HomePod mini could get its first update with a faster S-series chip, an Apple-designed Wi-Fi and Bluetooth chip for improved performance, and new color options.
- **AirTag 2** - There's a new version of the AirTag in the works, and it's slated for launch sometime in 2025. There are no signs of a design update, but it will get a new Ultra Wideband chip for improved range, plus there could be other improvements like a new, louder speaker.

D. Check Out ColorWare's Custom Apple Pencil Pro With a Crayon Design

Friday April 11, 2025 1:17 pm PDT by [Juli Clover](#)

ColorWare today introduced a clever new range of custom Apple Pencils that have been designed to look like crayons. ColorWare is known for its custom-painted Apple accessories and products

like AirPods, and the company sometimes does unique limited edition designs.



The ColorWare Apple Crayon Pro is available in seven colors, including black, mint, pink, purple, red, white, and yellow. Each one has a custom colored tip and a matching wrapper, all of which is painted on a standard Apple Pencil Pro. ColorWare previously did a custom Apple Pencil designed to look like a number 2 pencil, but the custom crayons in multiple colors are even more fun. With the attention to design, the Apple Crayon Pro does indeed look quite a bit like an actual crayon.



ColorWare has been customizing Apple devices for more than a decade, and it has perfected the process for a lasting finish. ColorWare uses a multi-step coating system, including a primer, a proprietary color formula, and a liquid plastic coating to protect the color. All products are warranted for 12 months.



Because ColorWare is using a standard Apple Pencil Pro, all of the functionality of the Apple Pencil remains intact. The Apple Pencil Pro works with the M4 iPad Pro models, the M2 and M3 iPad Air models, and the A17 Pro iPad mini.

ColorWare is selling the Apple Crayon Pro for \$215, and all colors are available from the ColorWare website as of today. Orders ship out in about two weeks.

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III. APPLE SOFTWARE

A. iOS 18.4.1 Update Coming Soon for iPhones

iOS 18.5 remains in early beta testing, but [Apple appears to have an interim iOS 18.4.1 update on the way](#), and it should be arriving within the next week or two.



It's unclear what fixes will be included in the update, but these updates typically focus on security issues. It's possible it could also address a few problems that popped up in the iOS 18.4 update such as [CarPlay connectivity issues](#) some users have been experiencing, though that's merely speculation at this point.

B. Report Reveals Internal Chaos Behind Apple's Siri Failure

The Apple Intelligence-powered revamp of Siri has hit a number of stumbling blocks, leading to Apple uncharacteristically announcing a delay in some of the upcoming features. An extensive new report from *The Information* this week reveals details of the turmoil that has gone on behind the scenes at Apple.



According to the report, indecision and repeated changes in direction from Apple leadership about how to deploy Apple Intelligence frustrated engineers working on the project, with Siri in particular being a "hot potato" that bounced between teams without significant progress being made.

Sources indicate that some of the most impressive Siri features demoed in Apple's Intelligence's unveiling at WWDC 2024 were effectively fictitious, with the functionality not even working on

test devices at that point. The demo even apparently came as a surprise to members of the Siri team.

C. iOS 19 Leak Reveals Alleged New Design With Rounder App Icons, Floating Tab Bar, and More

YouTuber Jon Prosser is back with some more claims on his Front Page Tech channel regarding design updates coming in iOS 19, and according to information he's seen, we could be in for some major changes.



Sources within Apple have shown Prosser a more glass-like interface inspired by visionOS, including rounder icons, a new floating pill-shaped tab bar at the bottom of many built-in apps, and some additional design tweaks.

For an overview of everything we've heard so far about potential design changes for iOS 19 with just about two months ago until its official unveiling at WWDC, [check out our recap article](#).

D. New Software

In two months, Apple is going to show off new software at its June Worldwide Developers Conference. We'll see the new features in [iOS 19](#), iPadOS 19, macOS 16, tvOS 19, watchOS 12, and visionOS 3.

New software is fun because if you've got a modern Apple device, you don't even need to buy anything new to get the new functionality that Apple will be showing off. While we'll get a June preview, the software updates are slated for September.

E. Apple Plans to Release Delayed Apple Intelligence Siri Features This Fall

Friday April 11, 2025 4:53 am PDT by [Tim Hardwick](#)

Apple plans to release its delayed Apple Intelligence Siri features in the fall, according to a new report by *The New York Times*.



In early March, Apple said that it was going to take longer than expected to roll out the more personalized Siri experience, and that these features would be rolled out "in the coming year." Subsequently, *Reuters* reported that the Apple Intelligence Siri features have been delayed until 2026.

However, *NYT* reports today that its sources within Apple are still confident of a fall release. From the report:

Apple hasn't canceled its revamped Siri. The company plans to release a virtual

assistant in the fall capable of doing things like editing and sending a photo to a friend on request, three people with knowledge of its plans said.

The Siri features in question were demonstrated at WWDC when introducing iOS 18, and they were expected to come out in an update to iOS 18. The functionality includes personal context, onscreen awareness, and improved app integration. Here's a quick summary:

Personal Context

Siri will be able to track emails, messages, files, photos, and more – learning from your interactions to help you stay organized and complete tasks.

- Show me the files Sam sent me last week.
- Find the email where Sam mentioned ice hockey.

- Find the books Sam recommended to me.
- Where's the recipe Sam sent me?
- What's my passport number?

Onscreen Awareness

Siri will understand what's on your screen and act on it. For example, if someone texts you an address, you can ask Siri to add it to their contact card. Or, if you're viewing a photo, you can ask Siri to send it.

Deeper App Integration

Siri will handle more complex tasks across apps – things it currently can't do. Apple shared a few examples of what to expect:

- Move files between apps.
- Edit a photo and send it.
- Get directions home and share the ETA with Sam.
- Send the draft email to Sam.

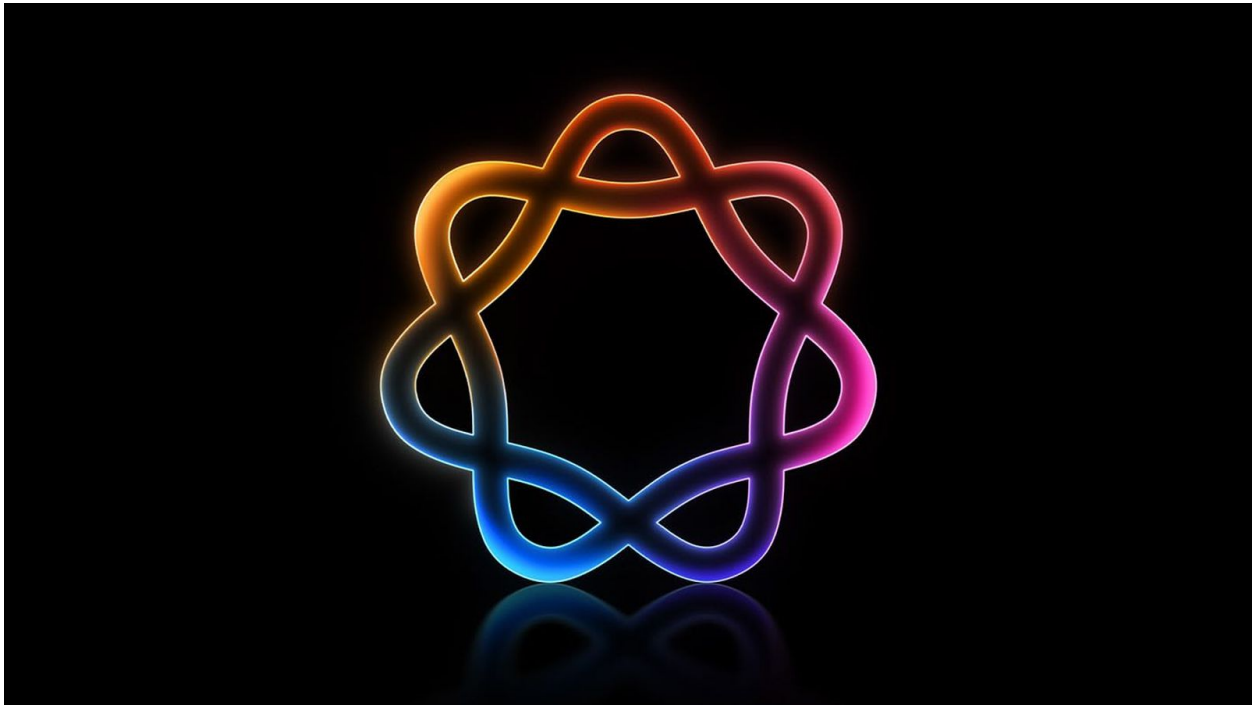
Already, Siri has gained Type to Siri, a refreshed interface, ChatGPT integration, and improved natural language understanding.

Apple demonstrated many of the above missing Siri features in WWDC previews, and went on to advertise them on its website. It also promoted them in a since-pulled TV ad for iPhone 16 starring actor Bella Ramsey, as well as elsewhere. Apple has been sued at least three times over the delayed Siri features in California.

F. [NYT: Apple's AI Struggles Began with 2023 Chip Budget Dispute](#)

Friday April 11, 2025 4:33 am PDT by [Tim Hardwick](#)

Apple's current struggles with Apple Intelligence and Siri began in early 2023 when AI head John Giannandrea sought approval from CEO Tim Cook to purchase more AI chips for development, according to a new report from *The New York Times*.



Cook initially approved doubling the team's chip budget, but CFO Luca Maestri reportedly reduced the increase to less than half that amount, and instead encouraged the team to make existing chips more efficient.

The lack of adequate GPU resources meant Apple's AI team had to negotiate for

computing power from providers like Google and Amazon.

At the time, Apple's data centers had about 50,000 GPUs that were more than five years old – far fewer than the hundreds of thousands of chips being purchased by competitors like Microsoft, Google, and Meta.

The *NYT* report goes on to cover the leadership conflicts within the company, describing a power struggle between Robby Walker, who oversaw Siri, and Sebastien Marineau-Mes, a senior executive with the software team. The two reportedly battled over who would spearhead Siri's new capabilities, with both ultimately receiving pieces of the project.

Apple Intelligence faced significant delays after internal testing revealed Siri was inaccurate on nearly a third of requests. Apple subsequently **admitted** that it would take longer than expected to roll out the more personalized Siri experience, and that these features will be rolled out "in the coming year."

However, according to the report, Apple still plans to release its enhanced Siri experience this fall. The functionality includes personal context, onscreen awareness, and improved app integration. Some Apple executives reportedly aren't concerned about the delay, and believe competitors haven't perfected AI either, giving Apple time to get it right.

Following the delay, software chief Craig Federighi reorganized executives, removing responsibility for the new Siri from Giannandrea and reassigning it to Mike Rockwell, who leads the Vision Pro division. The details of Apple's Siri team changes and the delayed Siri revamp were previously reported by *Bloomberg* and *The Information*.

For more details on Apple's internal issues, including political infighting, budget constraints, and talent drain, see *The New York Times'* full report.

G. ChatGPT Gets Better at Remembering Info About You With Memory Improvements

Thursday April 10, 2025 1:12 pm PDT by [Juli Clover](#)

OpenAI today updated ChatGPT with an improved memory feature that allows the chatbot to remember more about your conversations. OpenAI CEO Sam Altman says that ChatGPT can "reference all your past conversations," allowing for a more personalized experience.



ChatGPT will remember context from previous conversations, such as preferences and interests, using that information to tailor the responses that it provides. You can add something directly to ChatGPT's memory by telling it to "remember" a fact.

The option to reference saved memories is opt-in, and can be toggled off in the ChatGPT settings under Personalization. There is an option to manage all of the memories that ChatGPT has stored, including deleting them all or deleting just one or two. ChatGPT will save memories indefinitely, but they can be removed at any time.

The updated memory features are rolling out to all Plus and Pro tier users, but the functionality is not available in the EU, UK, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein.

H. CarPlay's iOS 18.4 upgrades hint at a promising new trend



Ryan Christoffel

Apr 11 2025 - 10:32 am PT



CarPlay is used and loved by millions of iPhone owners. And while the wait for

CarPlay 2 [keeps getting longer](#), iOS 18.4 and other recent updates hint at a promising CarPlay trend.

CarPlay 1.0 is slowly getting better, with iOS 18.4 bringing the latest upgrades

For an iOS feature that's used by so many iPhone owners, CarPlay's update cadence in the last few years has been lacking.

After Apple announced its "next generation of CarPlay" [back in 2022](#) alongside iOS 16, the company seemed to invest very little into improving the existing CarPlay system.

We've gotten app updates and wallpapers coordinated with new iOS versions, but not much else.

Recently though, albeit slowly, that's started to change. iOS 18.4, for example, adds a [few nice CarPlay upgrades](#):

1. Vehicles with large screens now support three rows of app icons, up from two
2. Sports apps can offer CarPlay versions
3. and in the EU, Google Maps can be set as the default navigation app

These upgrades, alongside CarPlay's [iOS 18.1 AI-related features](#) and [NACS change](#), signal a possible new trend.

Apple seems ready to invest a little more in the current CarPlay 1.0 system.

Is Apple planning a new path for CarPlay's future?



After CarPlay 2 failed to hit its 2024 shipping deadline, I wrote that Apple should reboot CarPlay's "next generation" as an upgraded version of the current system. CarPlay 2, as Apple envisioned it, involves deep buy-in from auto manufacturers. Essentially, Apple wants control of more vehicle elements than just the infotainment screen.

But even after years of waiting, when CarPlay 2 does arrive it will only be available to a fraction of current CarPlay users—those who buy a fancy new car that supports it.

Leaks of various CarPlay 2 elements have shown that Apple could make positive upgrades to the current CarPlay system now.

For example, images revealed [some of the customizable widgets](#) CarPlay 2 will bring to the vehicle.



Is there a reason widgets have to be exclusive to pricey new vehicles as part of CarPlay 2? Couldn't Apple offer them as part of the current CarPlay experience?

I may be overly optimistic, but Apple's recent updates to CarPlay as part of iOS 18 have me wondering if that's now become the plan.

Even as work continues on the full CarPlay 2 vision, maybe Apple's decided to start bringing relevant features to the existing CarPlay experience too.

We're just two months from iOS 19's unveiling. Could the big new design extend to CarPlay? Maybe with widgets as a part of it?

That may be asking a lot. But with the first CarPlay 2 vehicles MIA, it would be great news if Apple is planning a long-overdue pivot.

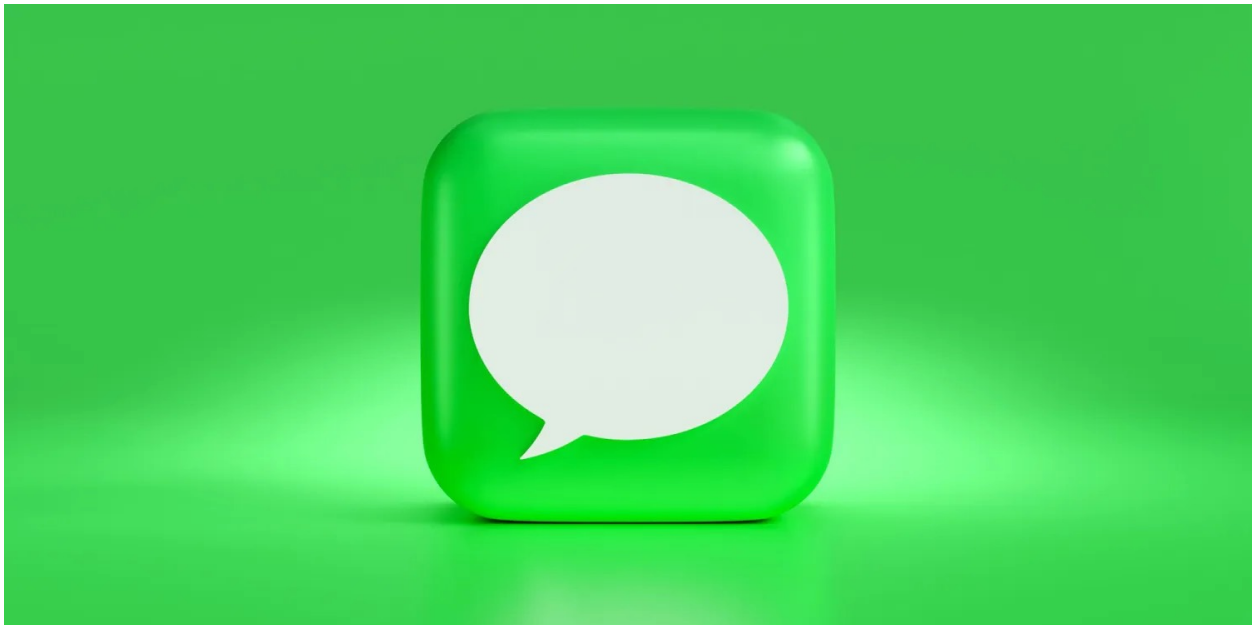
Do you think Apple's plans for CarPlay have changed, and we might get more new features moving forward? Let us know in the comments.

I. iOS 18.4 adds new Messages feature perfect for your go-to chats



Ryan Christoffel

Apr 11 2025 - 8:46 am PT



iOS 18.4 arrived late last month packed with a variety of new features, including an upgrade you might have missed that provides a fast way to open your go-to conversations in the Messages app. Here's how it works.

Messages now supports shortcuts to launch specific conversations

Apple's Messages app has received some solid upgrades in recent months, such as [Genmoji](#), [Image Playground](#), emoji tapbacks, scheduled messages, [and more](#).

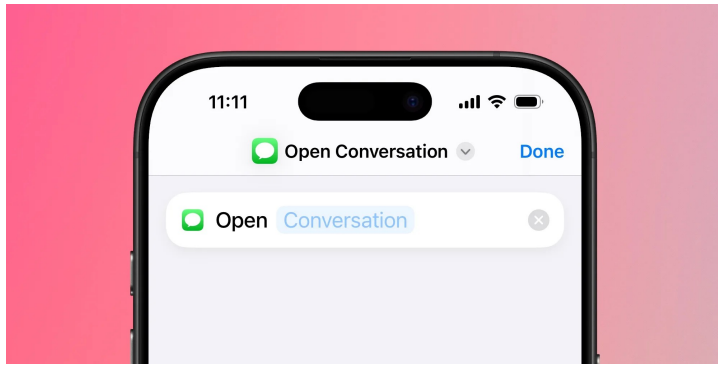
In iOS 18.4, there's another new Messages feature that's enabled via the Shortcuts app.

Shortcuts has gained a handy 'Open Conversation' action, which lets you directly open a specific Messages conversation.

It works fast, and makes for a great way to open go-to conversations.

The feature also benefits strongly from various iOS customization features—like Control Center and Home Screen options—which offer convenient access to your Messages chats anywhere on your iPhone.

Setting up iOS 18.4's Messages shortcut and making it easy to access



To set up the new Messages shortcut in iOS 18.4, there are a few simple steps:

1. Open Apple's Shortcuts app
2. Hit the '+' button to create a new shortcut
3. Search for the 'Open Conversation' action and add it
4. Then tap the 'Conversation' field and select a Messages thread

If you want quick access to multiple Messages conversations, just follow the above steps to create each separate shortcut.

Having a button in the Shortcuts app alone isn't necessarily more convenient than just opening the Messages app and finding the thread you need.

That's where Control Center, the Home Screen, and Lock Screen come into play.

After creating your Messages shortcuts, you can add them to a variety of places on your iPhone.



Your shortcuts can be added to:

- [Control Center](#)
- [iPhone's Action button](#)
- the Lock Screen, replacing Camera or Flashlight
- your Home Screen via widgets
- or [widgets on the Lock Screen](#)

You can also, as seen above, turn each shortcut into a [Home Screen app icon](#)—perhaps customized with the conversation's photo.

In other words, Apple provides a ton of flexibility in where your Messages shortcuts live. If you want quick access to your most important Messages chats, iOS 18.4 makes that possible in a variety of ways.

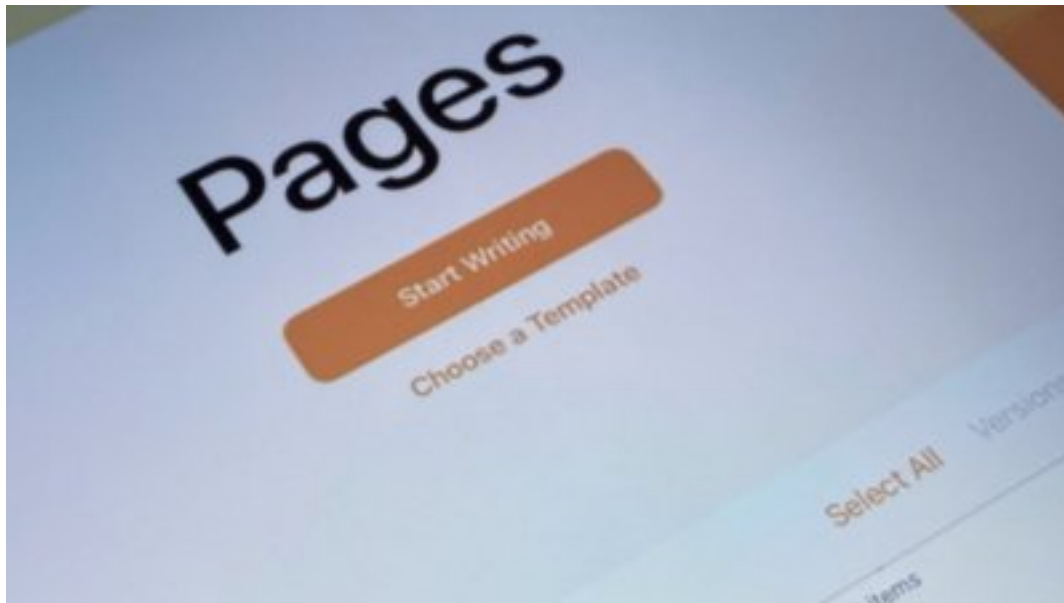
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[How to play classic arcade games on your iPhone or iPad](#)

A new emulator app in the App Store means you can now play MAME ROMs on an iPhone, iPad, or Mac. Here's how to get started.

K. Pages for iPad explained – how to get the most out of Apple's word processing powerhouse



Apple's Pages never gets the praise it should, but it's especially unfairly ignored on the iPad where in truth it is an exceptionally easy to use pro writing app.

IV. IOS KORNER

A. Apple Planning 'Bold' New 20th Anniversary Design for 2027 iPhone Pro

We're still a couple of years away from the 20th anniversary of the iPhone's debut, but *Bloomberg's* Mark Gurman says Apple is planning something special for the milestone: a "major shake-up" that will include not only the much-rumored foldable iPhone but also a "bold" new look for the Pro-level iPhone models.



iPhone X released in 2017 for 10th anniversary

Gurman says the 2027 iPhone Pro models will make more extensive use of glass in their construction, but little else is known about what Apple has in the works.

B. iPhone 17 Pro's New Rear Camera Bar 'Same Color as Rest of Device'

Leaks have shown the upcoming iPhone 17 Pro models will have a much larger rear camera bump spanning the entire top of the device, and a new claim from *Bloomberg's* Mark Gurman says the bump will be the same color as the rest of the device rather than being a distinct black color seen on some renderings.



On the feature front, Jon Prosser has said the iPhone 17 Pro models will include native support for simultaneous video recording from both front and rear cameras, something that so far has only been available through select third-party apps.

We've also recapped a number of other significant changes rumored to be coming to the iPhone 17 Pro later this year.

C. M4 iPad Pro vs. M3 iPad Air: Which One is Best For You

Friday April 11, 2025 9:14 am PDT by [Juli Clover](#)

Both the iPad Pro and the iPad Air have had fairly recent updates, and there are quite a

few similarities between them that might leave you wondering which one is the best to meet your needs. In our latest video, we go over the similarities and differences, and the use cases that might make you choose one over another.

play

[Subscribe to the MacRumors YouTube channel for more videos.](#)

The M3 iPad Air is priced starting at \$599, while the M4 iPad Pro is \$999, so there's a notable difference in terms of cost. There are 11-inch and 13-inch size options for both models, and performance is not too far off between them.

With the iPad Pro, you essentially get an improved display, a faster chip, Face ID support, better audio, ProRes video recording, and the option to use the higher-end keyboard case. There are few things you can do on an iPad that stress the M3

chip, and most people won't notice the difference in performance from M3 to M4 for day to day tasks.

Where you might see a small difference is apps that are system intensive, like Final Cut Pro or Photoshop, but both handle those tasks just fine. It's actually the display that's the biggest differentiating factor. The iPad Pro has an OLED display that's much brighter, supports HDR, offers ProMotion, and has deeper blacks and more vivid colors. If you're doing something where color is a factor, or if display quality is important, that's where you would want to consider the iPad Pro.

Make sure to watch our full video where we go into much more depth about the differences, and show off the two tablets side-by-side.



CLICK ON PICTURE ABOVE

Related Roundups: [iPad Air](#) , [iPad Pro](#)

Buyer's Guide: [iPad Air \(Buy Now\)](#), [iPad Pro \(Caution\)](#)

Related Forum: [iPad](#)

D.



iPhone Fold rumored to cost over \$2000

The iPhone Fold will be an extremely expensive smartphone to purchase, with a leaker claiming it could be priced at more than \$2,000 at launch.

E.



iPadOS 19 rumored to get more Mac-like in productivity push

Apple's iPadOS 19 at WWDC is rumored to be a more macOS-like update, with boosts to multitasking and productivity potentially making the tablet even more of a workhorse.

V. DEALS

A. [Best Apple Deals of the Week: Apple Watch SE Hits Best Price of the Year So Far, Plus Save on the New iPad and More](#)

Friday April 11, 2025 7:52 am PDT by [Mitchel Broussard](#)

This week's best Apple deals include discounts on AirPods Max, iPad, and Apple Watch SE. We're also tracking

a big sitewide sale at OWC, including savings on docks and hubs for your Mac, plus external drives and more.

BEST APPLE DEALS

Note: MacRumors is an affiliate partner with some of these vendors. When you click a link and make a purchase, we may receive a small payment, which helps us keep the site running.

AirPods Max



- **What's the deal?** Take \$49 off AirPods Max
- **Where can I get it?** Amazon
- **Where can I find the original deal?** Right here

\$49 OFF

AirPods Max (USB-C) for

\$499.99

Amazon discounted the AirPods Max (USB-C) to \$499.99 in every color this week. This is the first time in a few weeks that we've tracked a deal on every color of the AirPods Max.

OWC



- **What's the deal?** Save on Mac docks, hubs, and more
- **Where can I get it?** OWC

- **Where can I find the original deal?** Right here

SITEWIDE DEALS

OWC Spring Savings Sale

OWC's "Spring Savings Celebration" kicked off this week, offering big discounts on docks, hubs, memory cards, external drives, and more. Many of these deals won't be applied until you add the items to your cart, at which time an automatic coupon will be applied to your order.

Apple Watch SE



- **What's the deal?** Take \$79 off Apple Watch SE
- **Where can I get it?** Amazon
- **Where can I find the original deal?** Right here

\$79 OFF

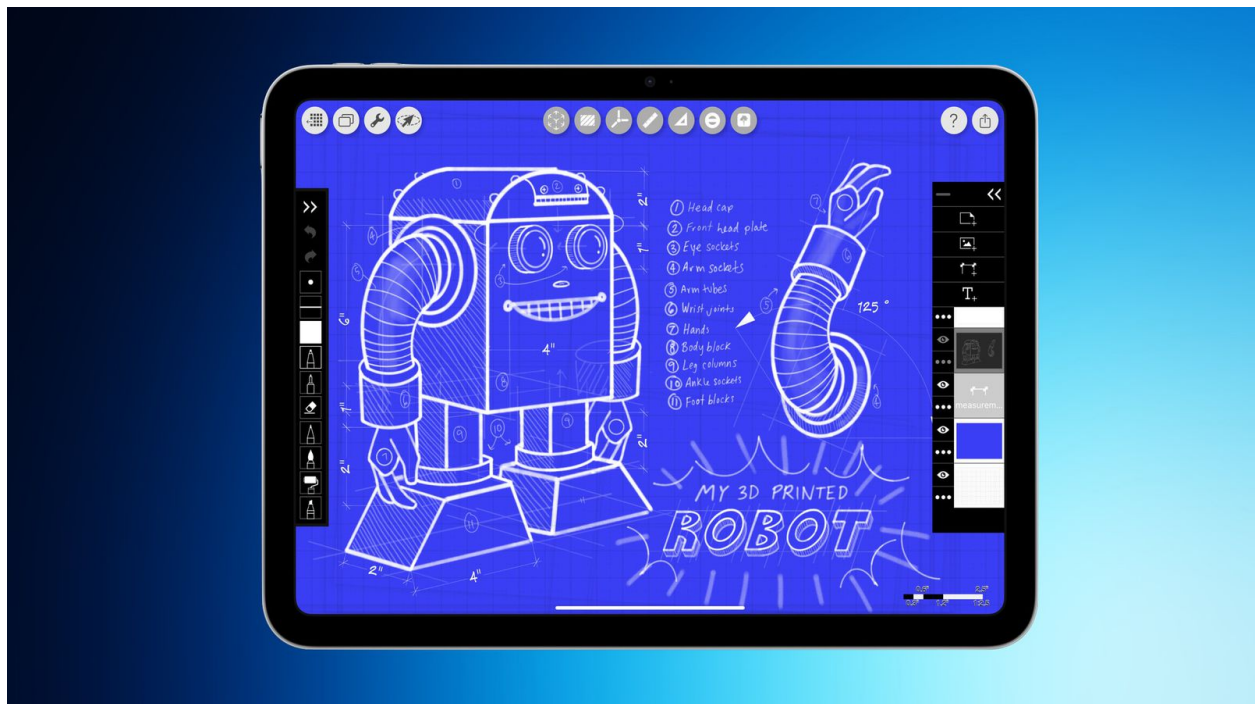
**Apple Watch SE (40mm GPS) for
\$169.97**

\$79 OFF

Apple Watch SE (44mm GPS) for \$199.97

You can get \$79 off the Apple Watch SE this week on Amazon, starting at just \$169.97 for the 40mm GPS model. Overall, these are both the best prices we've seen so far in 2025.

iPad



- **What's the deal?** Take up to \$49 off the new iPad
- **Where can I get it?** Amazon

\$30 OFF

128GB Wi-Fi iPad for \$319.99

\$29 OFF

256GB Wi-Fi iPad for \$419.99

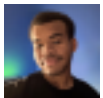
\$49 OFF

512GB Wi-Fi iPad for \$599.99

Amazon has a few new discounts on Apple's 11th generation iPad this week, including \$49 off the 512GB Wi-Fi model of the tablet. Prices start at \$327.00 for the 128GB Wi-Fi iPad, down from \$349.00.

If you're on the hunt for more discounts, be sure to visit our [Apple Deals](#) roundup where we recap the best Apple-related bargains of the past week.

B. Is Apple's refurbished store a good deal?



Michael Burkhardt
6 hours ago



Apple has long offered a [refurbished store](#) on its website, where it sells recent generation products at a pretty sizable discount. Unlike other refurbished offerings, Apple guarantees a replaced outer shell, battery, and glass – ensuring no wear and tear. You also get a 1 year Apple warranty and the ability to add AppleCare if you'd like. That sounds great, but is it actually a good deal? Well, it depends. We'll be delving into Apple refurbished listings, and comparing it to [other offerings](#) on the market.

Apple Refurbished

One great thing about Apple Refurbished is that a lot of the time, you can buy current-generation products. For example, the [M4 MacBook Pro](#), [iMac](#), and [Mac mini](#) are all available on the store. Apple is pretty great about putting new Macs on the store pretty quickly.

iPads and iPhones, on the other hand, aren't the same. You can't buy an [M4 iPad Pro](#) or [M2 iPad Air](#) on the refurbished store yet, despite those products being a year old. The most recent iPads on the refurbished store are 2022's [iPad 10th generation](#) and [M2 iPad Pro](#). When it comes to iPhones, you can only buy [iPhone 14 models](#). That said, a lot of people (including myself) love Apple Refurbished, mainly because you can effectively purchase products in new condition, just with some less fancy packaging. Instead of a traditional Apple box, you get a plain white box with the text "MacBook Pro" instead of a printed image. It's also covered with a 1 year Apple

warranty, so even if something goes wrong, you're covered.

Amazon Renewed Premium

While there are a number of ways to buy refurbished Apple products out there, I think Amazon Renewed Premium is the best comparison.

Why? Amazon offers a 1 year return window, allowing you to get your money back if any issues crop up. Yes, that's a full 365 day return window. Amazon promises 90% battery health as well. Amazon's Renewed Premium program likely is the closest thing to Apple's refurbished program.

To be clear, there's also a the standard "Amazon Renewed" program, which only offers a 90 day return window. However, that won't be used in this price comparison.

Price comparison

Now, to answer the ultimate question: Is Apple refurbished worth it? We'll be comparing prices across a number of products. These prices will vary, and are accurate at the time of writing.

- iPhone 14 Plus: \$619 (128GB) on [Apple Refurb](#), \$519 (256GB) on [Amazon Renewed Premium](#)
- iPhone 13: \$699 (512GB) on [Apple Refurb](#), \$453 (512GB) on [Amazon Renewed Premium](#)
- iPad Air (M1): \$379 (64GB) on [Apple Refurb](#), \$435 (64GB) on [Amazon Renewed Premium](#)

- iPad 10: \$339 (256GB) on [Apple Refurb](#), \$359 (256GB) on [Amazon Renewed Premium](#)
- MacBook Air (M2): \$799 (512GB) on [Apple Refurb](#), \$752 (512GB) on [Amazon Renewed Premium](#)
- iMac (M1): \$1009 (256GB) on [Apple Refurb](#), \$649 (256GB) on [Amazon Renewed Premium](#)

In short, Apple Refurbished can be a good deal depending on what you're shopping for. iPhones are almost always a bad deal on Apple Refurbished. Amazon has better deals than what Apple offers, and also offers devices that Apple doesn't yet. For example, Amazon has a renewed premium [iPhone 15 Pro for \\$738](#), something that Apple just can't compete with.

Amazon's 1 year return window with Renewed Premium is also undoubtedly a good offering, in case you end up changing your mind or realizing a product isn't the right fit for you.

That said, when it comes to the latest products, it's hard to beat Apple Refurbished. Apple offers the latest [M4 MacBook Pro for \\$1359](#), whereas Amazon can only offer [M3 MacBook Pro models](#) under its renewed premium program.

Apple Refurbished can also be more expensive than new offerings sometimes. For example, Apple offers refurbished [AirPods Pro 2 for \\$209](#), something that you can often buy brand new for cheaper. Amazon is currently selling [new AirPods Pro 2 for \\$199](#), for example.

Ultimately, the conclusion here is that if you're looking for a high-quality purchasing experience with refurbished

tech, Apple refurbished can be a great option. It just isn't the only one, and you should always cross-shop before making a purchase.

C.



Price war: Get Apple's M4 MacBook Pro with 24GB RAM, 1TB SSD for \$1,799

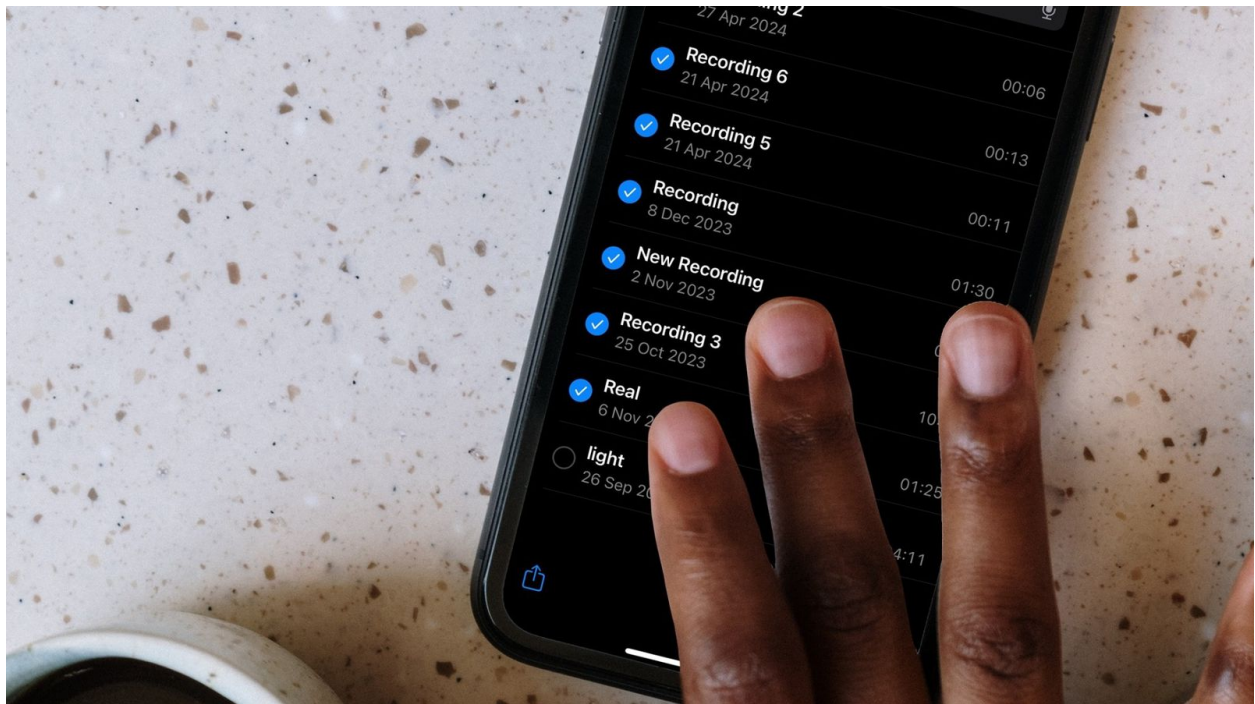
This deal on Apple's upgraded M4 14-inch MacBook Pro is part of an April price war as B&H and Amazon compete for your business.

VI. TIPS & TRICKS

A. Select Faster on iPhone With This Two-Finger Trick

Friday April 11, 2025 7:16 am PDT by Tim Hardwick

Your iPhone has multiple touch and gesture capabilities that can enhance how you interact with apps. Some, like pinch and zoom, are well known enough to be considered second nature, but others are less obvious, like the one we're about to explain.



Two-Finger Drag to Select Items

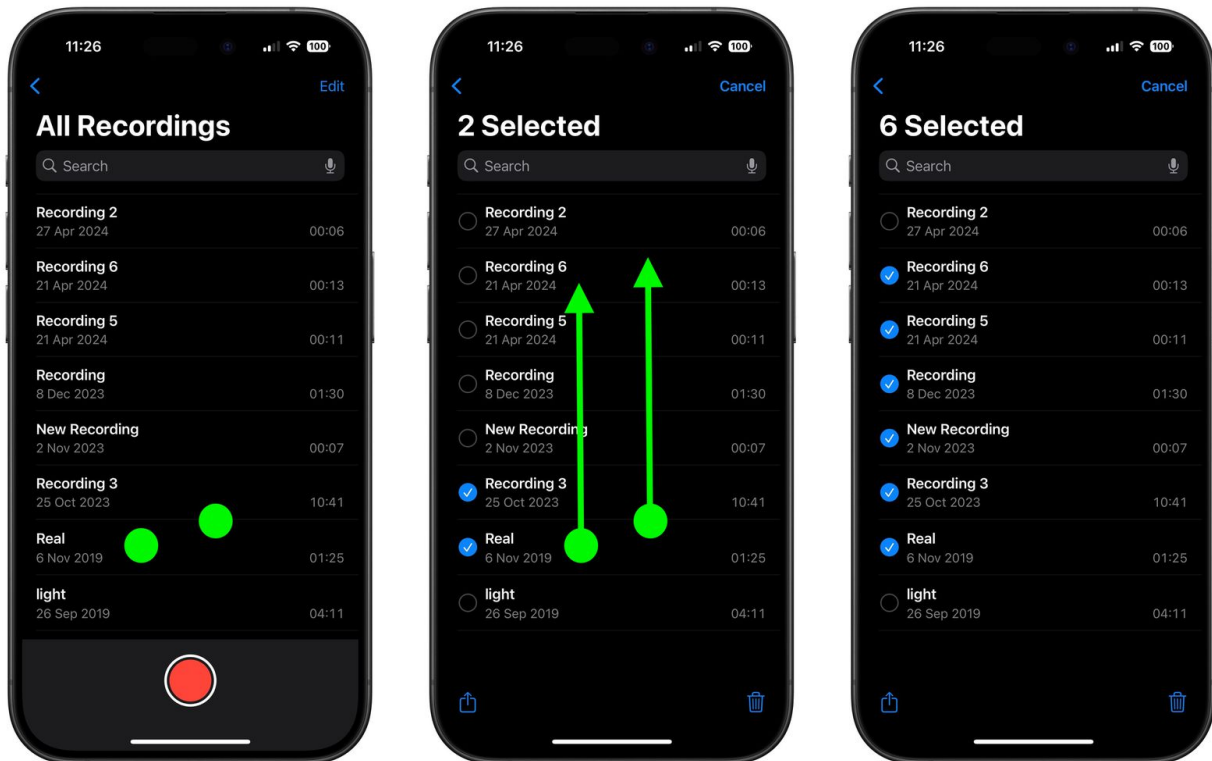
If you have apps where you habitually tap on each individual item in a list to

select them – emails in your Mail inbox, for example – it's time to dial in some efficiency and embrace this faster method.

This gestural feature allows you to easily select (or deselect) multiple items in apps like Contacts, Mail, Messages, Voice Memos, Notes, and indeed any Apple app that lists multiple items. Here's how it works.

- Open an app where multiple item selection is supported.
- Touch and hold the screen with two fingers at the same time.
- While keeping both fingers on the screen, drag them down (or up) to select multiple items. As you drag, items will be highlighted to indicate they are selected.

- Once the desired items are selected, you can perform actions such as moving, deleting, or organizing them.



That's all there is to it. This simple yet powerful feature streamlines your workflow, saving you time and effort when handling multiple items. Looking to speed up your iPhone text editing skills? Check out our [favorite hidden trick](#) by following the link.

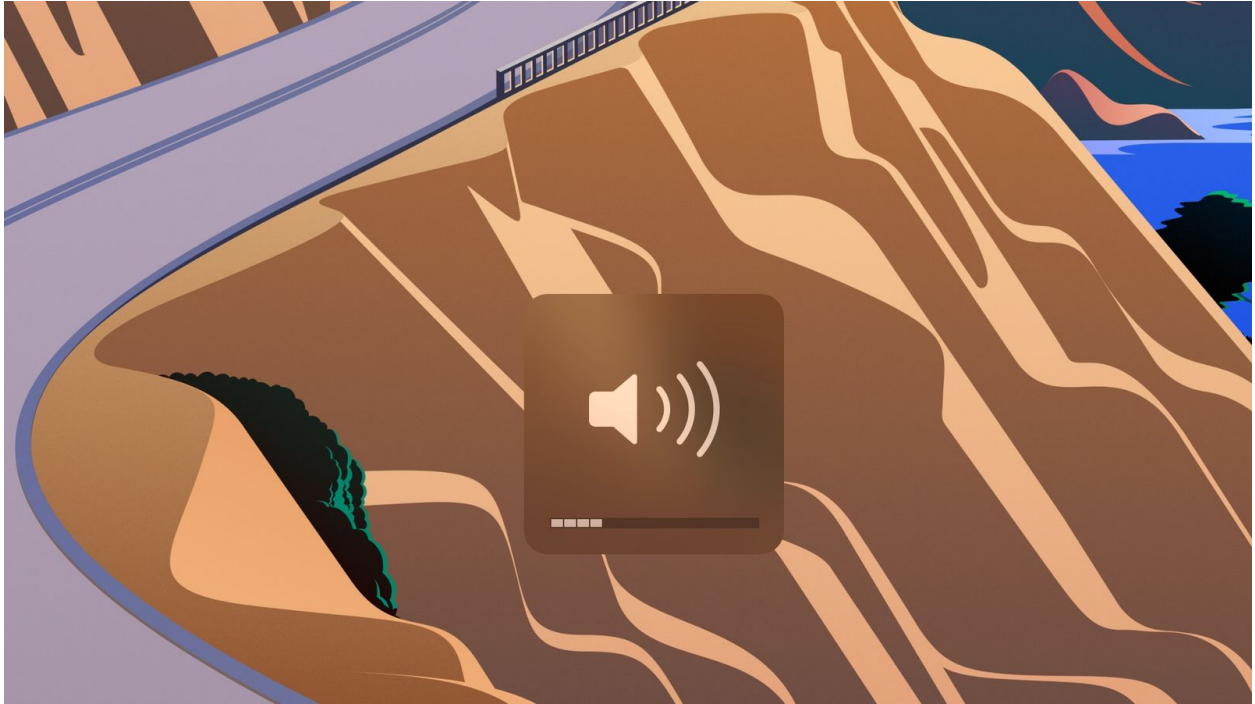
B. How to Adjust Mac Volume and Brightness More Precisely

Friday April 11, 2025 3:13 am PDT by [Tim Hardwick](#)

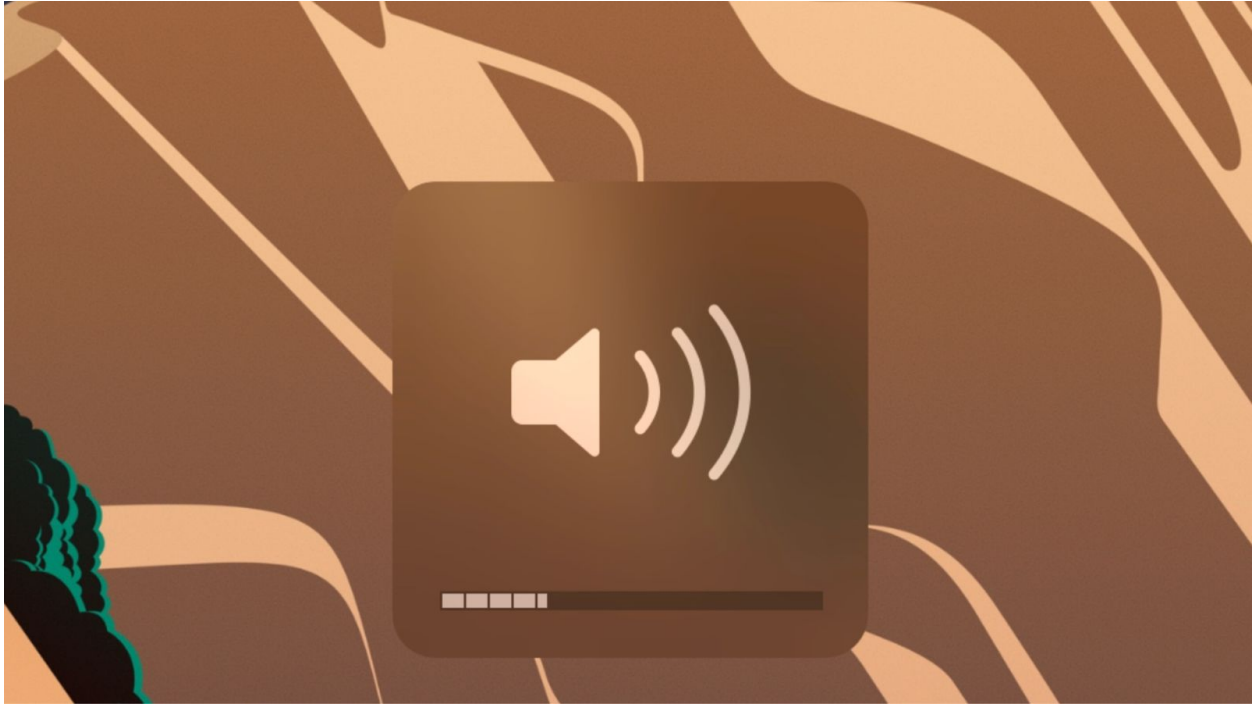
On a Mac that has a top row of function keys, Apple includes volume and brightness controls that can be used to make adjustments in stepwise increments. However, there may be times when you want to make more fine grained adjustments to these settings than the default increments allow – in which case, read on.



Whenever you tap the volume or brightness controls on your keyboard, you'll see an indicator appear on your Mac's screen with 16 fixed increments separated by lines. With the help of a keyboard modifier, it's actually possible to make more nuanced quarter-step changes to sound volume and screen brightness using a total of 64 increments.



Before you press the volume or brightness controls, hold down the Option and Shift keys together on your keyboard. Now go ahead and make your adjustments, and you should see the onscreen indicator move forwards and backwards in smaller increments (four over each segment).



It's a simple tip, but it's really useful for when just tapping the control on its own feels like too much of a jump, and you'd prefer more accurate control over, let's say, how quiet or loud your headphone audio output is, for example.

C. [102 Expert iPhone Tricks You Should Know](#)

By [Eric Griffith](#)
March 14, 2025

Think you know iOS inside out?

Trust us, there's way more to uncover. Unlock your iPhone's full potential with these hidden tweaks.

D. 18 Things You Didn't Know Your iPhone Could Do

Updated March 21, 2025



Photo: Michael Hession

By Wirecutter Staff

No matter how long you've used an iPhone, there are always new (or new-to-you) features to discover. And stumbling upon a time-saving trick after so many years is, quite frankly, a delight.

Here are 18 tips and tricks that Wirecutter staffers rely on all the time. If you don't already know about them, we hope they make your life a lot easier.

E. 10 Actually useful Mac tips & tricks!

Jan 20, 2023

Our video showcasing 10 useful tips and tricks for your mac. From useful keyboard shortcuts, to custom screenshots, and control center customization; after watching, you'll be able to use your Mac like a pro!

F. 50 INCREDIBLE macOS Tips and Tricks in 14 Minutes!



Created Tech

Dec 10, 2023 [#macbook](#) [#mac](#) [#macos](#)

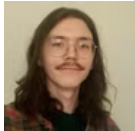
I've used macOS every day for the last 12 years, and along the way I've found some incredible shortcuts, apps, settings, and other stuff you should also know about. Here are 50 of the best!

By the way, this is the best macOS keyboard I've found:

➔ Nuphy Air75 V2 Wireless Mechanical Keyboard

(use code CT10): <https://crted.tech/air75v2>

G. Everything You Need to Convert Your Cassette Tapes to Digital



By Andrew Heinzman



QUICK LINKS

- [You Have Two Options](#)
- [How to Use a USB Cassette Converter](#)
- [Set Up a Tape Deck for Digitization](#)
- [Set Up Audacity](#)
- [Record and Organize Your Tracks](#)

Like all analog formats, cassette tapes decay over time. In fact, it's likely yours have already lost some fidelity. If you want to save those old mixtapes and home recordings, it's best to digitize them right away.

Thankfully, this is an easy process. You don't have to be a computer whiz or an audiophile to follow this simple guide. And you shouldn't have to spend any more than \$35 on this project (it'll probably cost even less).

You Have Two Options

If you want to digitize your cassette tapes, the process is much easier than it is for VHS tapes. You don't have to know much about computers or tape decks---just follow a few simple instructions, and you'll get the job done right.

There are two paths you can go down to make this happen. One's relatively easy and yields high-quality results, while the other is more time-consuming (but not necessarily difficult) and yields even higher quality results:

H. [How To Digitize Audio Cassette Tapes on Mac | 2022](#)

Tutorial-Video. Do you have some old audio cassette tapes that you want to digitize and capture to your Mac? Then check out this latest tutorial. Simon will show what you will need in order to capture your audio cassette tapes. All you need is a cassette player, an audio capture device, a Mac computer, and an audio editing software such as Audacity. So don't hold off on digitizing your audio cassette tapes!

I. [Forgot Your Mac Password? Here are 4](#)

Easy Ways to Regain Access

Locked out of your Mac? Try these tried-and-tested ways to get back in safely.

J. How to use Apple Software Restore to clone your Mac's

drive



Apple Software Restore lets you clone your Mac even with a Signed System Volume.

Here's how to use it to copy your Mac's storage.

VII. Miscellaneous

A. [Australian man rescued from ocean with Apple Watch Ultra save](#)



Ryan Christoffel

Apr 10 2025 - 9:51 am PT



For as long as the Apple Watch has existed, users have shared stories of the device offering life-saving aid. Recently, a couple especially powerful such stories have emerged. Yesterday [we reported](#) on a woman's Apple Watch helping her catch cancer early. Now [per a new video](#), the Apple Watch Ultra and Emergency SOS were involved in an ocean rescue in Australia.

Emergency SOS on Apple Watch Ultra helped man find ocean save

Apple Australia's YouTube channel [published a new video](#) yesterday highlighting an Apple Watch Ultra-assisted rescue.

On July 13, 2024, Rick Shearman went body surfing near Byron Bay when things got scary.

Turbulent waters led Shearman to get caught in a rip and ultimately end up 1.6km (about 1 mile) from shore.

He used Emergency SOS on his Apple Watch Ultra to call emergency services. This [can be done](#) by pressing and holding an Apple Watch's side button then using the Emergency Call slider.

Per the re-creation of the call in the video, Shearman was exhausted, cramping, and unable to see a beach in sight. He very well could have drowned if left alone.

But thanks to the call, a team of emergency professionals was able to find him and perform a rescue.

Later this year, Apple is expected to [add satellite connectivity](#) to the Apple Watch Ultra 3.

No doubt after that happens, we'll start hearing even more rescue stories from Ultra users in the years ahead.

B.