

MEET THE AMAZON KINDLE

AND OTHER E-READERS



Welcome. This talk and handout will introduce you to the world of electronic books and periodicals with a focus on the Amazon.com e-reader, the Kindle, plus a glance at other e-readers and the pros and cons of electronic books as contrasted with print ones.

NO DEDICATED DEVICE REQUIRED

Anyone with a computer or most smartphones can have the e-book experience and read books and periodicals associated with the Kindle, NOOK, Sony Reader, or Kobo right now. Amazon.com offers free versions of its e-reader software, or the Kindle App, for iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch, any PC with Windows, the Mac, and the BlackBerry. Its competitors all have comparable packages.

There is no downside to loading a Kindle App or other e-book app on your favorite device and trying one of the thousands of free books available from the Amazon store or other sources (listed in the back of this handout). Except that you might get hooked.

So if you can get the Kindle App on a machine you already have, why would you bother with a dedicated device at all, whether the Amazon Kindle, the NOOK or another?

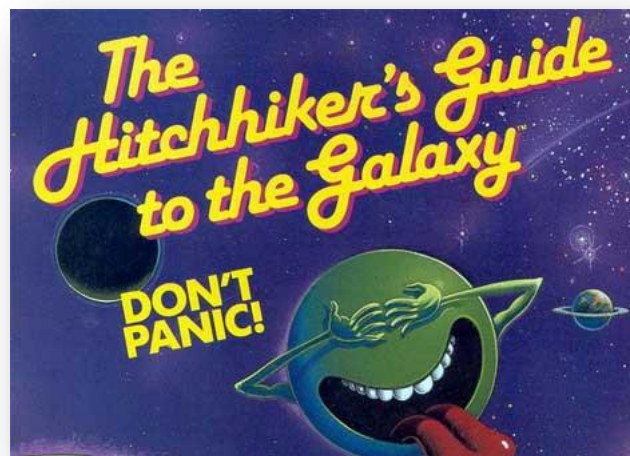
Periodicals are also available on dedicated devices. So far, the app versions only offer books, not newspapers, blogs, or magazines.

The device is much more like reading a print book. We all spend enough time staring at a lit screen. The Kindle's major advantage, shared by its competitors, is that its screen is not backlit. It has no glare and needs light to fall on it, just like a print book. It will not tire your eyes. It's also lightweight and pleasant to hold and, with the right cover, recalls the tactile experience of a print book—just a print book with an enormous library inside.

The Kindle and NOOK have their own wireless connection, like a smartphone, and unlike your laptop, which would have to find a hotspot or connection. Anywhere you could place a call, you can download a book or update a magazine or blog. With its wireless turned off—the default most of the time—it's airplane-safe, unlike your phone. This makes it superb for any kind of travel.

The devices themselves offer options for bookmarking, note-taking, highlighting, and otherwise interacting with your text. This is also true of the Kindle Apps for computer, but the device versions are the most integrated.

It's cool. Anyone who ever came across Douglas Adams' *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* surely lusted after a copy of the remarkable book that was all books. The Kindle and its colleagues are as close as science reality to date can come—and it's pretty close.



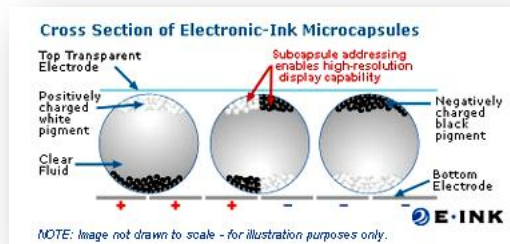
KINDLE THE MACHINE

This is a quick pass through the physical device—finding and opening a book or periodical, reading, turning pages, finding your place, and marking your place. Most of the basic terms and actions here also apply, with slightly different terminology, to the NOOK, the Sony Reader, and the Kobo. Some of this language comes from Amazon’s sales page on the Kindle.

The Kindle is slim and lightweight. Just over 1/3 of an inch, as thin as most magazines. At 10.2 ounces, lighter than a typical paperback. Yet it holds over 1,500 books and periodicals in active memory, with as many as you want stored in its cyberspace archive. *This description is of the Kindle 2, the most popular model.*

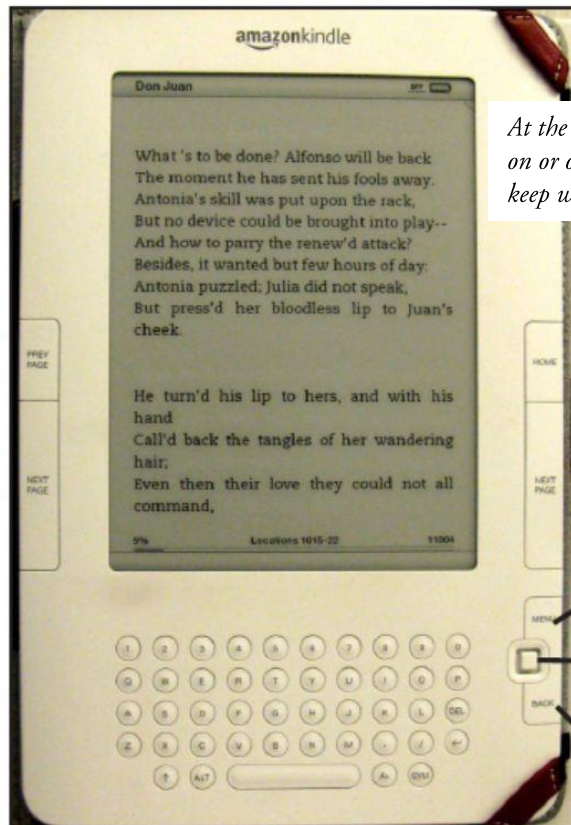
3G wireless lets you download books right from your Kindle, anytime, anywhere; no monthly fees, service plans, or hunting for Wi-Fi hotspots. Books download in less than a minute.

The Kindle’s battery life is enormous. If you leave the wireless feature off when not actively using it, the device needs recharging only two or three times a month, even with daily reading.



Remarkable e-ink technology reads like real paper, causing no eyestrain. The same technology is used by the Kindle, the nook, the Sony Reader, and the Kobo. Information on the science of e-ink, originally developed at MIT, can be found at www.eink.com.

The on/off switch is on the top, not unlike an iPod.



At the upper right, the indicator of whether wireless is on or off, and the battery monitor. You'll want to keep wireless unless you're using it right then.

Takes you to the previous page within a book.

Takes you to the next page within a book.

Wherever you are, press this to go to your home screen.

Takes you to the next page within a book.

"Menu": turns wireless on and off; access to tools and settings.

The "Five-Way Controller"—it's a mouse. Nudge to move directionally, press to click.

"Back": Unlike "Prev Page," takes you to the previous screen—like a browser.

KINDLE THE BOOKSTORE

ON YOUR COMPUTER

The screenshot shows the Amazon Kindle Store website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a search box containing "Kindle Store", a "GO" button, a "Cart" button, and a "Wish List" button. Below the navigation bar is a "Kindle Store" section with links for "Buy A Kindle", "Kindle Books", "Newspapers", "Blogs", "Magazines", "Accessories", "Discussions", "Manage Your Kindle", and "Kindle Support". A "Summer Reading" banner is visible. The main content area is titled "Kindle Books" and features a "New York Times® Best Sellers and New Releases from \$9.99" section. This section includes three book covers: "Anna Quindlen: Every Last", "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks", and "Carol". To the right, there is a "Styron Now on Kindle" section featuring a book cover for "Sophie's Choice" by William Styron, with text stating "Open Road brings the ebooks of the iconic author William Styron to Kindle readers. These updated works contain". On the left side, there is a "Your Country or Region" section set to "United States" and a "Browse" section with links for "Buy a Kindle" (Kindle Global Wireless, Kindle DX Global Wireless) and "Special Features" (Kindle Bestsellers, The New York Times® Bestsellers List, Editors' Picks).

The Amazon Kindle Store now offers over 500,000 books for a fee, plus 1.8 million out-of-copyright free books, and U.S. and international newspapers, magazines, and blogs. The vast majority of pay books are substantially cheaper than their print editions, and most are \$9.99 or less.

In addition, there's even more available from **other download sites**, for free or a low fee. Only items from the Kindle store will download wirelessly into the Kindle. Other files must be saved to a computer and transferred via USB. A list of other good book sites is on the back page of this handout.

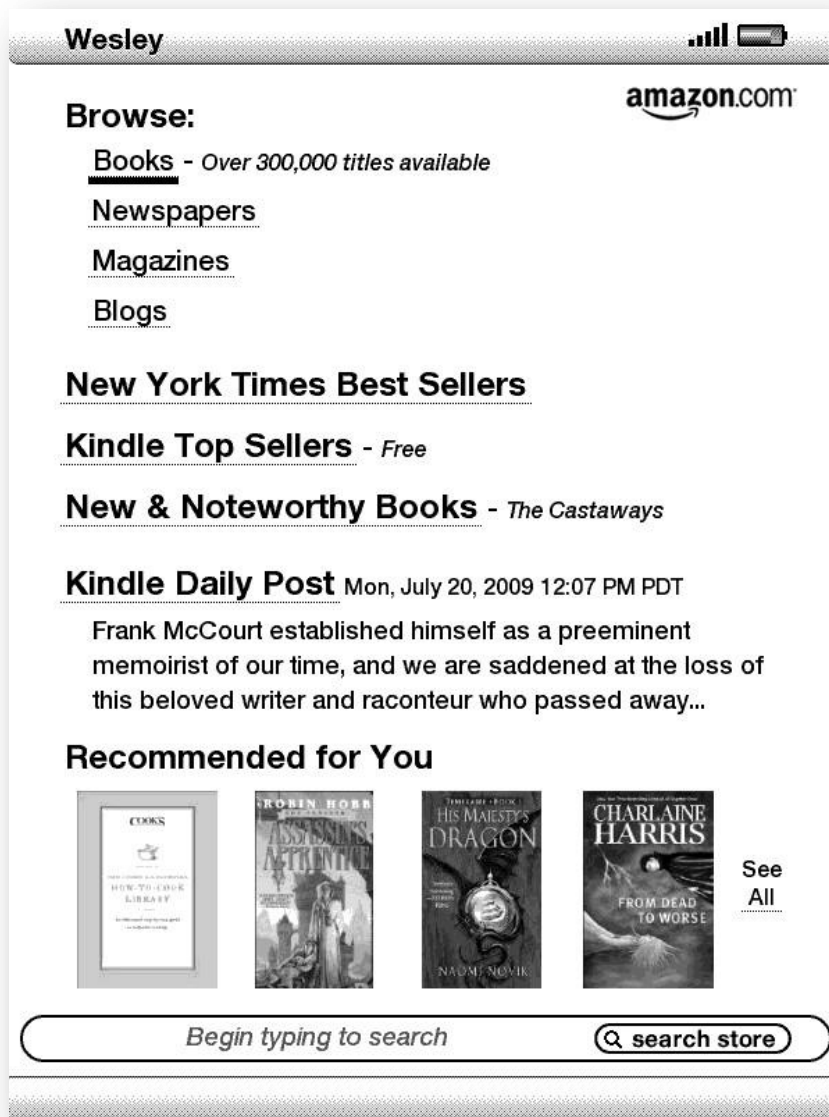
The Kindle requires an active account with Amazon.com. When you first turn on a new Kindle, you're required to register it with Amazon and give it a name. (Mine is named Wesley.) Amazon does track your purchases and provide individualized recommendations, among other things. In registering, you create a "One-Click" account linked to your credit card to allow you to make purchases wirelessly without entering any information. Thereafter, you have a unique "Manage Your Kindle" page, where you can see a list of items you've purchased. You can re-download them if necessary (to the original machine). You can also purchase items, or order samples, and have them sent directly to your Kindle.

Shop on Amazon for Kindle books the same way you'd shop for anything. Titles with a Kindle option will list it as one of the available editions. If you want to limit your browsing up-front to titles that will be available for the Kindle, selected "Kindle Store" in the drop-down menu on the Amazon homepage.

KINDLE THE BOOKSTORE

ON THE KINDLE ITSELF

From the Homepage, press the Menu button and go to “Turn Wireless On.” Then press Menu again and hit “Shop in Kindle Store.” This takes you to the Amazon homepage set up just for the Kindle.



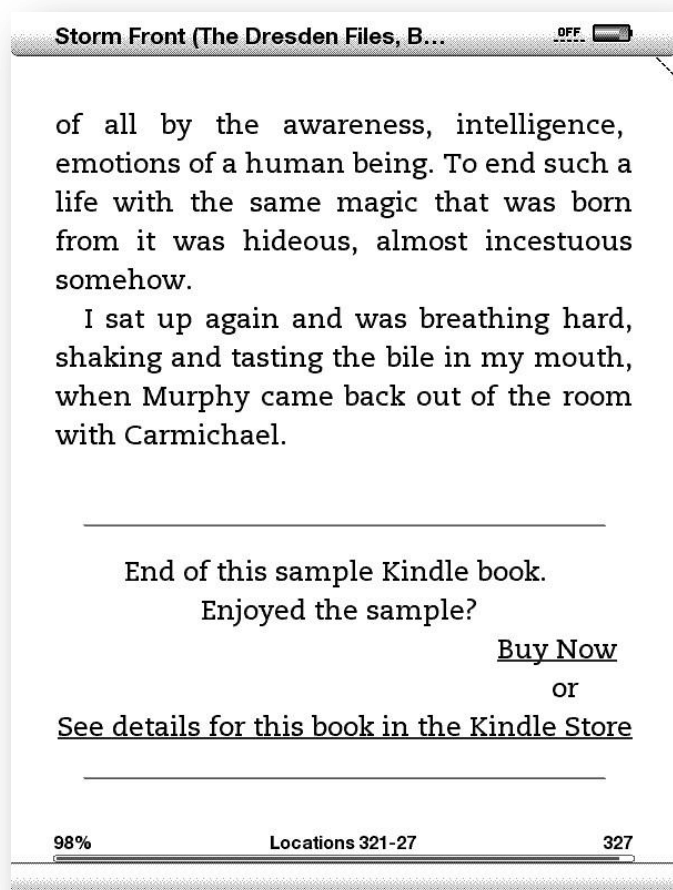
The **Kindle Daily Post** highlights news in the book world, newly available titles, and deals from Amazon. The homepage also includes the current *New York Times* bestseller list, the list of bestsellers on Kindles nationwide, and recommendations based on your past purchases, just like the Amazon homepage.

Use any of these links to **browse for titles**, or **just start typing a search term**. You can “enter” either by pressing the carriage return button in the keyboard or by bumping the 5-way controller to “search store” and clicking it.

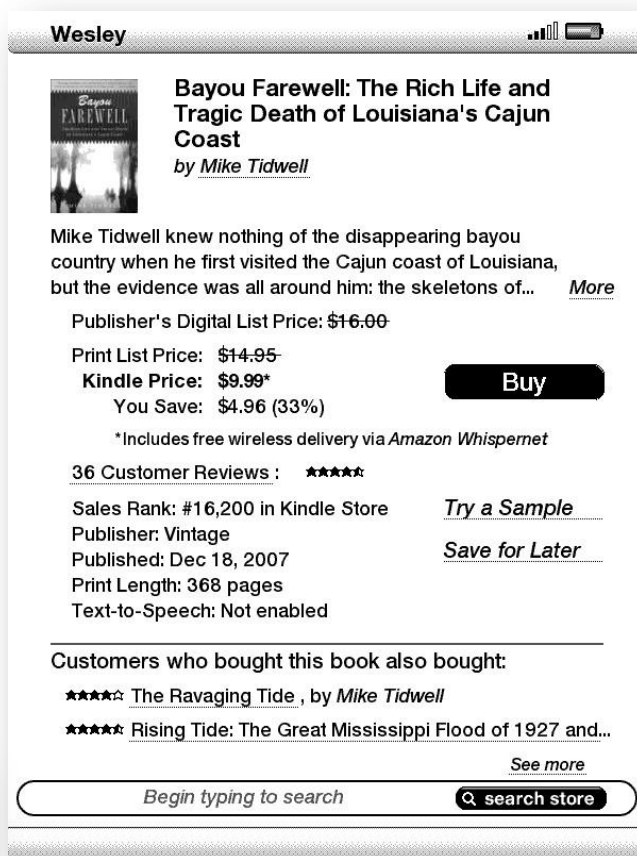
Purchasing an item: Once you’ve found a title of interest, **click directly on “Buy.”** This will charge your credit card based on your One-Click settings on Amazon. All you have to do is leave the wireless on—yes, for less than a minute—and the book will appear in your Home screen.

Not (Yet) Purchasing a Book: There are also two powerful options for browsing and researching. [Try a Sample](#) lets you download the first section of any book, so you can start reading it and then decide whether you're really going to finish it. If you are, you can purchase it directly out of the sample. Samples you've downloaded always have the little word "sample" to the left of the title in your Home screen. This is a powerful tool equivalent to standing in a bookstore and reading the first chapter.

[Add to Wish List](#), (sometimes called "Save for Later") as with any Amazon Wish List, creates a wish list of titles you might want to sample or purchase later. You can create more than one Wish List to separate Kindle titles or a particular topic or genre. Your Wish Lists are available in your regular browser and are automatically synced with the Kindle itself. Once you've put some titles in your Wish List, you can get back to it by pressing the Menu key anytime you're in the Kindle Store on the Kindle itself.



end of this handout. An enormous amount of this material is free. To read items from these sites, you'll have to download the file to your computer and drop it onto your Kindle using the USB hookup.



Why use the Kindle Store? Amazon wants their store to be your #1 resource for e-books, but there are many sources for Kindle-compatible books around the Internet. The Kindle Store does work well as the first source for bestsellers, new or recent books, genre books, e.g. mystery series or paranormal romances, a surprising number of self-published or small-press books, and large collections of public-domain materials in well edited editions, e.g., *The Complete Works of Jane Austen*.

Periodicals are the other important thing supplied by the Kindle Store. Most blog subscriptions are \$.99/month and update automatically—no need to check for new material. You can switch from paper to electronic subscriptions for many mainstream and offbeat magazines as well.

For older materials, less formal editions of public domain works, and a rainbow of self-published and small-press titles, take a look at the sites listed in the Resources at the

KINDLE THE BOOK

(NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINE...)

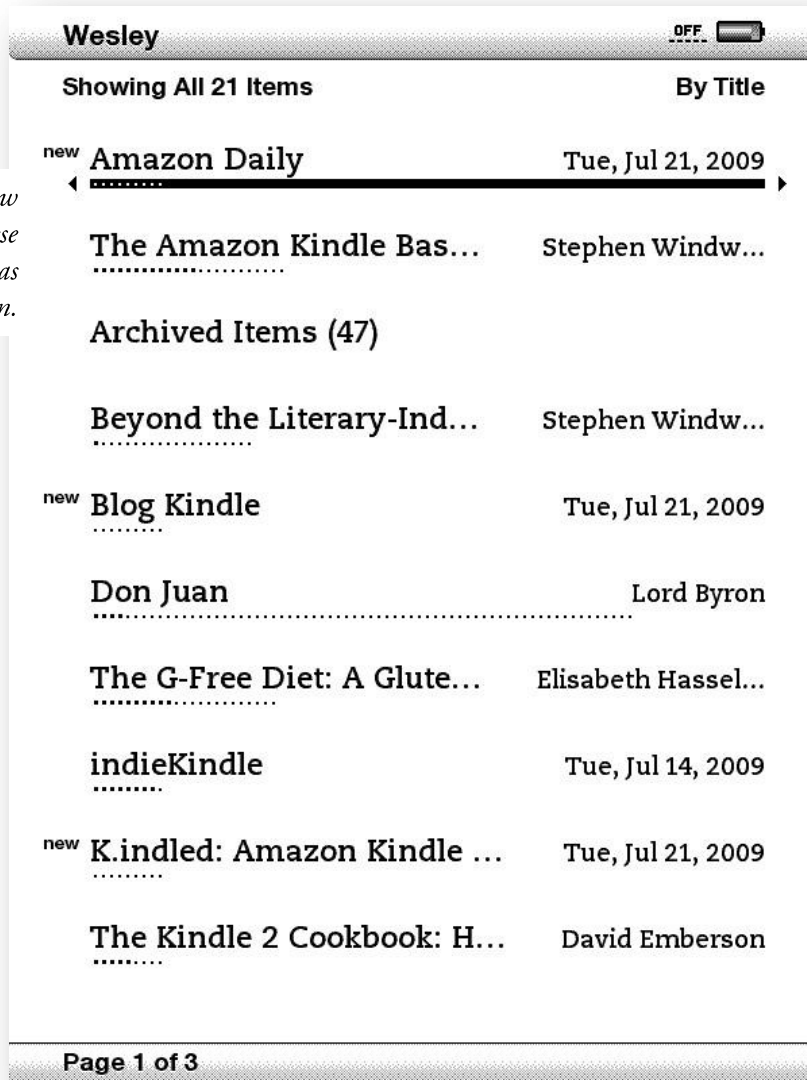
“Lose Yourself in Your Reading. The most elegant feature of a physical book is that it disappears while you’re reading. Immersed in the author’s world and ideas, you don’t notice a book’s glue, the stitching, or ink. Our top design objective was to make Kindle disappear—just like a physical book—so you can get lost in your reading, not the technology.”

—Amazon.com

Your Kindle’s homepage lists all the things you can read at any given time.

To open a book, navigate to it with the five-way controller (mouse) and either click or nudge to the right.

To delete a book, navigate to it and nudge to the left.



The little “new” means that new entries downloaded into these blogs the last time wireless was turned on.

Navigating within a book is as much like using the paper kind as the inventors could manage.

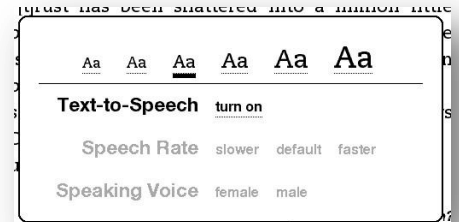
“Next Page” takes you to the next page.

“Prev Page” takes you to the previous page.

To flip through several pages, hold down the “Alt” key and press “Next” or “Prev.”

The Kindle has no conventional page numbers because the number of pages varies depending on the size of font chosen. To turn or return to a particular bit of text, bookmark it or search for it (described below).

The “Aa” key to the right of the space bar **varies the font**. Set it once, and it will show all your texts in that size, except for title pages, captions, etc.



The Kindle automatically saves the page you were on when you ‘closed’ each book, and will return to it when next you click into the book.



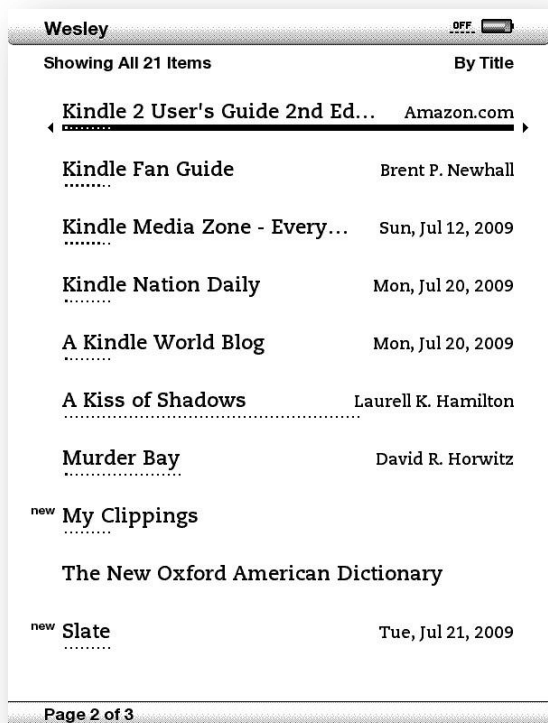
The **Bookmarking** function is to mark pages you want to return to—for instance, in a play, you might bookmark the dramatis personae for reference when a new character shows up. But caution!—in that case, bookmark the last page you were on as well; it won’t automatically save if you’re navigating within the book.

To use the **built-in dictionary**, just nudge the mouse to any word in doubt. The definition from your built in Oxford American will appear at the bottom.

Another great Kindle tool is the ability to create a text file with whatever you **clip, highlight, or note** in a book or magazine.

When in a book, pressing the Menu button will give you the “Add a Note or

Highlight” option. You can then type an annotation associated with the page you’re on, or click within the book’s text to highlight a section of text.



In a **periodical**, the menu will offer “Clip This Article.” That sends the entire chunk of the publication to your clippings.

Once you’ve noted, clipped, or highlighted, “My Clippings” appears in your Home screen. You can browse or search these on the Kindle just like any text or plug in the USB and save them to your computer.

The Kindle reads files with the following extensions natively, that is, with its built-in software:

.azw (the basic Amazon file)

.txt (pure text form, like Notepad on your Windows PC)

.prc

.mobi (most books from sources other than Amazon will have this extension)

.pdf (Adobe Acrobat/Adobe Reader)

Plus Audible Audio books (.aa) and mp3 music files (.mp3).

These file types can be converted to be read on your Kindle:

.doc (Microsoft Word)

.htm or .html (web browser page)

To convert a file for free, send it as an attachment to *[your Kindle's name]@free.kindle.com*. It will be sent back for you to download to your computer and transfer via USB.

To send the converted file directly to your Kindle, send the attachment to *[your Kindle's name]@kindle.com*. Amazon will charge you a few cents per file.

KINDLE THE TOY

Almost every Kindle book is automatically an audiobook as well.

Within a book, press “Menu” and select “Start Text-to-Speech.” A somewhat mechanical but passable and pleasant voice will read to you and automatically turn the pages.

To vary the rate or tone of the speaker, press the “Aa” key.

Frankly, I wouldn't use “Text-to-Speech” for anything where I wanted a really meaningful reading experience, but it's good for texts of moderate interest.

Regular audiobooks play on the Kindle as well. The Kindle will play any audiobook with the extension .aa, most prominently those from Audible.com. Audible is owned by Amazon. \$8-\$15 per month gets you one credit, for the purchase with no further charge of one audiobook. Other titles can be purchased at full price.

Because of their large file size, audiobooks must be downloaded to your computer, then transferred to the Kindle via USB. They go into the folder called “Audible,” either manually or using Audible's software.

Sound quality on the Kindle is very good; it has an external speaker and a headphone jack.

The Kindle also acts as a somewhat rudimentary **mp3 player**. Most commentors on Amazon say they use the mp3 function to listen to background music while reading, not as their primary music player.

Music files must also be saved to the Kindle while connected to a computer with the USB cable. They go in the default folder called “Music.” There's no making playlists or selecting genres—set it to play, and it will play the tracks in the order saved.

To play music, click “Menu” while in the Home screen and select “Play mp3.”





The folder that opens on your computer when you plug your Kindle in

The Kindle acts as a **viewer for images** you add to it, as well as illustrations in books. Using the USB connection, create a new folder called “pictures” alongside the ones labeled “documents” and “audible.” Inside that folder, create another folder called whatever you want—e.g., “My Pictures”—and copy images with the file extensions .jpg, .gif, .png, or .bmp into it. Disconnect from the USB and press Alt-Z. A new “book” called “My Pictures” should then show up on your Home screen.

The Kindle offers an “Experimental” menu section with a **very simple web browser**. It’s in black-and-white and slow, but can check a text-heavy site in a pinch.

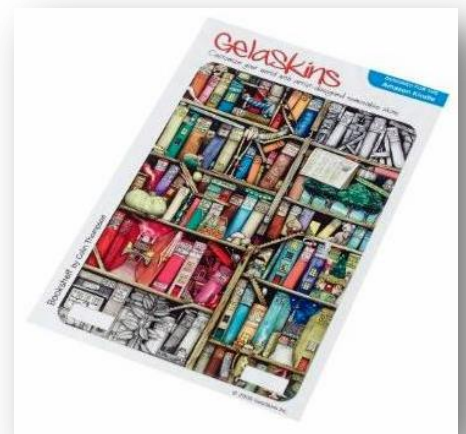
A FEW EXTRAS

As with so many gadgets, the gadget needs a few extras to work at its best—and especially, with the Kindle, to provide even more the experience of reading a print book. Not surprisingly, a number of companies are filling the niche.

Covers: A Kindle needs some sort of cover to protect the LCD screen and keep out dust and smudges. This can be as simple as a Zip-Loc bag (good for the beach!), its more upscale counterpart from Gela-Skins or OCTO, or a leather or faux-leather flip case from M-Edge or a competing company. The M-Edge case strongly resembles reading a handsome print book.

Lights: The Kindle is not backlit, so you’ll need a book light for it anytime you would need one for a print book. There are several brands of lights designed specifically to clip to a Kindle case. Some generic book lights work fine too.

A quick browse of the Amazon Store from your computer will offer a wide selection of add-ons.



THE WIDER WORLD OF E-READERS

The Kindle 2 rules the market, but other electronic readers are catching up in both technology and popularity.

Don't forget that you can make your BlackBerry, iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, PC or Mac into a Kindle, if you don't mind the backlit screen.

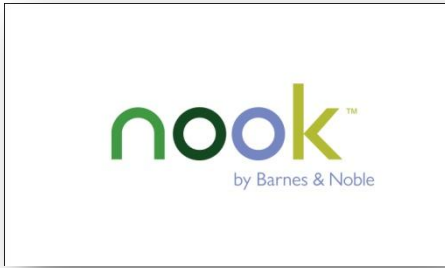
THE KINDLE DX

The Kindle DX works just like the Kindle 2, but with a larger screen and automatic tilt-screen (like the iPhone) for easier reading of large-format works, charts, etc.



Display	6" diagonal E Ink	9.7" diagonal E Ink
Size	8" x 5.3" x 0.36"	10.4" x 7.2" x 0.38"
Storage	1,500 books	3,500 books
Books in Under 60 Seconds	✓	✓
3G Wireless	✓	✓
Wireless Coverage	Global	Global
Native PDF Support	✓	✓
Text-to-Speech	✓	✓
Whispersync	✓	✓
Rotating Display	Manual Rotation	Auto-Rotation
Price	\$259.00	\$489.00

BARNES & NOBLE: THE NOOK



Barnes & Noble launched their answer to the Kindle in the fall of 2009. Technologically, it's in some ways an update on the Kindle 2, featuring a partial touchscreen and other hipper features. B&N also offers apps for computers and smartphones.

www.barnesandnoble.com

From Barnes & Noble's text on the NOOK:

About the size and weight of a paperback book, NOOK is thin, small and portable. Its best-in-class E Ink® Vizplex™ display is easy on the eyes with text as clear and crisp as a printed page. And with no glare or backlight, adjustable text size, and several font styles to choose from, you can read comfortably for hours. Our minimalist design puts the focus on the content, not the technology, welcoming the reader to dive right in.

Color Touch Screen for Easy Navigation The first-ever color touch screen for navigation on an eBook Reader offers an immersive experience, inviting you to virtually browse through brilliant cover art, flip through an expansive library, or search using a virtual keyboard.

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With fast and free 3G wireless and Wi-Fi® access, NOOK is the most-connected eBook Reader. Browse and instantly download eBooks, magazines and newspapers simply and seamlessly on AT&T's 3G wireless network, the nation's fastest, with no set-up required or additional wireless costs.

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With NOOK's breakthrough LendMe™ technology, lend a wide selection of eBooks to friends free of charge, for up to 14 days at a time. Just choose the book you want to share and send it to your friend's NOOK or iPad™ (available in May 2010), iPhone®, iPod touch®, PC or Mac® with free BN eReader software.

A Continuous Reading Experience

With —Reading Now, your virtual bookmark, NOOK brings you back to the last book you've read, right where you left off. Coming soon, it will work across a range of devices.

Over one million titles. Any time, anywhere.

Browse and buy from our extensive collection of over one million eBooks, including thousands of free titles, virtually anywhere you are. Get your favorite eBooks, newspapers and magazines, plus exclusive reads from Barnes & Noble, delivered via fast and free 3G wireless or Wi-Fi, with no PC required.

Portability and Personalization

You can also easily transfer PDF-format documents from your computer to access and read business documents, legal contracts and travel information on your NOOK. You can also transfer your photos to create custom screensavers.

Save Time, Money and Space

Carry up to 1,500 eBooks using NOOK's 2GB of memory, and a virtually unlimited library using microSD™ and microSDHC™ cards in NOOK's expandable memory slot. With just two touches, you'll be able to purchase and download eBooks in seconds. And many bestsellers and new releases start at just \$9.99, so you can enjoy more for less.

Listen to NOOK

Using a standard pair of stereo headphones, plug into NOOK and listen to your favorite songs (MP3s), uploaded through your computer. Use the headphones or built-in speakers to enjoy listening to audiobooks, podcasts, lectures and more.

With the Read In Store experience (in beta), customers can browse complete eBooks, and soon, periodicals, for free on NOOK at any Barnes & Noble store, whether or not the title is in stock. Settle into the café and get exclusive More In Store® content from leading authors, special promotions and much more using Barnes & Noble's complimentary Wi-Fi, provided by the AT&T Wi-Fi network.

THE SONY READER

The Sony Reader was the first E-Ink reader on the market. Less flashy than the Kindle or NOOK, it comes in several different models with varying sizes, features, and prices. The Sony Reader's main advantage over its competitors is its use of generic file types—books are available from an even wider range of sources, including the New York Public Library.

www.sonystyle.com

The advertisement features three Sony Reader models against a dark background. On the left is the Touch Edition, a large grey device with a touchscreen displaying a menu with icons for 'Continue Reading', 'Books', 'All Notes', and 'Collections'. In the center is the Daily Edition, a black device displaying a newspaper page from 'THE WALL STREET JOURNAL'. On the right is the Pocket Edition, a smaller pink device with a physical navigation pad and buttons, displaying a menu with options like 'Continue Reading', 'Books by Title', 'Books by Author', 'Collections', 'All Bookmarks', and 'Settings'.

READER Touch Edition™
A library of books at your fingertips.
\$199.99
Save \$50 thru June 19.

READER Daily Edition™ NEW
Download your books and periodicals wirelessly.
\$349.99

READER Pocket Edition™
Hundreds of books wherever you go.
\$169.99

From Sony's text on the Reader:

The Reader Daily Edition is the premier digital reader for *The Wall Street Journal* and other periodicals.

Together with Google Books, the Reader Store brings you access to over 1 million eBooks.

Borrow from Your Library: Access your local public library to browse, checkout and download eBooks. Best of all, it's free and open 24/7.

More Than Just eBooks: Multiple formats supported including PDF, Microsoft Word, BBeB Book and more. Reader Touch and Daily Editions play select audio files.

The screenshot shows the eNYPL website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'eNYPL Home >', 'eNYPL | eSearches | My eAccount | My eList | Help | Login |', and search filters for 'in All Fields' and 'in All Formats'. Below the navigation is a 'Choose your own lending period' section with a dropdown menu showing options 1 through 7. A sidebar on the left contains a 'JobSearch @ NYPL' logo and a list of categories: 'Software Downloads' (OverDrive, Adobe, Mobipocket), 'Browse Audiobooks', 'Browse eBooks', 'Browse Music', 'Browse Video', 'Browse Children's', 'Browse Young Adult', 'Browse by Subject', and 'Browse eNYPL Collection' (iPod-compatible Audiobooks, Audiobooks (MP3), Audiobooks (WMA), Always Available Audiobooks). The main content area features two rows of book covers. The first row is titled 'iPod®-compatible Audiobooks!' and includes 'The Truth about Muhammad', 'New York', 'Henry As First-String Shortstop', 'Swordbird', and 'Guest: Hedda Hopper'. The second row is titled 'eBooks' and includes 'The Body Finder', 'Going Bovine', 'The Dead-Tossed Waves', 'Tut, Tut', and 'Tales of the Madman Underground'.

THE KOBO



The Kobo is the newest e-reader on the market, associated with Border's Books and Music. It also features device apps and a generic platform supporting many file types. It offers fewer extras than the Kindle or NOOK, but is also much less expensive.

www.koboereader.com



From Kobo's text:

120mm x 184mm x 10mm thick. And only 221 grams. Kobo eReader's compact size makes it an easy fit for nearly all your pouches, purses, and packs. Weighing just more than an average, won't weigh you down when you're on the go. 1GB memory; holds up to 1000 eBooks.

Battery charge of up to 2 weeks: or 8000 page-turns in 'Book Years'

4 navigation buttons: Home, Menu, Back, Display. The Kobo eReader's logically planned, efficient controls put you in charge of your eReading and let you move between screens with ease.

5 selectable font sizes. Put your eyes at ease with a typeface that fits your vision.

Looks like a book, even when off. Turning off your Kobo eReader is like closing a real book—the cover image of the last eBook you were reading displays on your screen, another reminder your eReader is more book than device.

Your library, your way. Choose from over 2 million bestsellers, new releases, award winners, classics, even hidden gems. *New York Times*, Oprah's Book Club, *Globe and Mail*, and other top seller lists are all available at the Kobo Store or through www.kobobooks.com. Plus newspapers and magazines from around the globe.

eBooks for as low as \$9.99. Read more for less. Plus 1000's of free eBooks.

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Mobile Apps. We offer FREE eReading applications for the most popular smartphone brands including iPhone, BlackBerry, Palm Pre, and Android. Browse, purchase and start eReading on your smartphone!

SOURCES AND RESOURCES

THE DEVICES, APPS, AND PROPRIETARY BOOKSTORES

The Kindle and Kindle DX, and Kindle App for other devices: www.amazon.com

The NOOK and Barnes & Noble eReader App: www.barnesandnoble.com

The Sony Reader: www.sonystyle.com

Sony Reader Library Software for PC and Mac: ebookstore.sony.com/download/

The Kobo and Apps: www.koboereader.com

SOURCES FOR FREE CONTENT

www.feedbooks.com—a wonderful site for everything out of copyright, plus new writing

<http://manybooks.net>

The Gutenberg Project: www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page

Alex Catalogue of Electronic Texts: <http://infomotions.com/alex/>

Classic Literature Library: www.classic-literature.co.uk/

Questia: www.questia.com/publicdomainindex

Munsey's (books, reviews, and blog): www.munseys.com/site/home

Mobile Read (free registration required): www.mobileread.com

www.archive.org—amazing archive of almost everything, including over a million out-of-copyright books

PAY SITES

www.kindlelibrary.net

www.worldlibrary.net

www.fictionwise.com—a Barnes & Noble store

www.ebooks.com (for generic platform devices, not the Kindle or NOOK)

www.ereader.com (for generic platform devices)

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