

1. Accessorize your iPad - Part 1

Keyword phrase:

Accessorize your iPad

While your iPad is a pretty amazing device on its own, there are a number of ways that you can accessorize it that will add to both your enjoyment of your tablet, as well as improved functionality. From its inception, the iPad has gone from being a simple content consumption device into something much more, with business applications and creation programs greatly enhancing everything that it can do.

Speakers

Many of you use your iPad to view movies and web content. While using headphones works perfectly well when you are privately viewing your material, they fall far short of being effective when you want to share what you're watching with others. The iPad has a built-in speaker, but the speaker is not exactly capable of delivering the deep sounds that an external speaker can provide. These speakers come in a variety of different styles, ranging from classic "boom box" speakers to portable (and foldable) speakers.

Screen Protectors

When you want to accessorize your iPad, one of the first things that you'll probably want to look at is protecting the screen. Granted, the good people at Apple have done a very impressive job of making a screen that is quite strong and sturdy, but it is not impervious to scratching. Luckily, adding an inexpensive screen protector will keep your iPad screen looking as awesome years from now as it was from the first day you owned it.

Headphones

As mentioned earlier, the iPad works with headphones, but in many cases, iPad users want to go with third-party headphones that might provide a bit more bass and treble for those audiophiles out there who truly want to experience their music to the fullest extent possible. Every person has a different preference when it comes to headphones, with some preferring the "earbuds," while others might like the "over the ear" studio headphones that often provide deeper, richer sound. Then again, for the frequent traveler, there are a number of very efficient "noise canceling" earphones that will allow you to enjoy your iPad without having to endure outside distractions. If you hate the idea of having wires dangling around your neck, there are even wireless headphones that have radio transmitters capable of sending a signal up to 100 feet, allowing you to move virtually anywhere around your house without having to drop your iPad with you.

Keyboards

As mentioned earlier, the iPad has rapidly become a content creation device, meaning that you can use it for much more than just viewing videos and reading your email. When you want to accessorize your iPad into a more productive tool, one of the most useful items you can use is an external keyboard. There are a number of keyboards available for your iPad, allowing you to greatly increase your typing speed and accuracy.

No matter what you're using your iPad to do, the odds are that there are accessories available that allow you to do much more than you thought possible.

2. Protect your iPhone with a case

Keyword phrase:

Protect your iPhone with a case

While the iPhone has been designed to withstand normal wear and tear, most users agree that one of the best accessories to use with your smartphone is a good case. The case is designed to prevent scratching, as well as offer protection in the event of accidental drops or even being caught in a rainstorm. Since Apple has created one of the most popular products, the good news for you is that there is a wide range of cases that might appeal to you.

External Battery Cases

One of the most interesting iPhone cases is the external battery case. Basically, it is an iPhone case that also has an extra battery attached to it that provides additional battery life. At the same time, when the external battery case is recharged, the iPhone internal battery also gets recharged. External battery cases are ideal for people who use their iPhone extensively with both audio and video playback.

Protective Cases

There are an incredible variety of protective cases available for the iPhone. When you want to protect your iPhone with a case, you'll find there are both functional and fun cases available. Some are solid colors, while others are more flamboyant styles. This allows the iPhone case to actually become an extension of the user's tastes and desires.

Seeing Clearly

For users who subscribe to the "less is more" philosophy, there is good news when you want to protect your iPhone with a case. Several manufacturers have a clear protective case. Simply slide your iPhone into the case, add an easy-to-apply screen protective sheet, and you have an iPhone case that doesn't take away from the actual design of the iPhone. Naturally, this kind of case doesn't offer the solid protection against falls as some of the other cases do, but for users who value form over function, these cases are definitely the "clear" choice.

Fashionable Cases

So, let's say that you want to protect your iPhone with a case, but you also want to approach it as a fashion statement. There are actual leather clutches that are designed to hold your iPhone (as well as credit cards and money) in an elegant and understated style. The iPhone is kept in a separate compartment, protecting it from any damage caused by change or keys rattling around.

Metal Cases

There are a number of metal cases that have inner silicone cores, designed to protect your iPhone in the event that it gets dropped. These cases are quite stylish, providing aesthetically-pleasing protection for your smartphone.

Flip Cases

One of the more interesting developments in iPhone cases are the “flip” cases. These cases “flip” open to expose your iPhone, and also have a built-in stand, allowing you to use your iPhone for video chatting or for watching movies. Many of these flip cases are made from high-quality leather, added elegant style to increased functionality.

3. Understanding HDMI Cables

Keyword phrase:

What is a HDMI cable

More often you might be seeing the term “HDMI cable” on flat screen televisions and computer monitors. “What is a HDMI cable?” is a question that can often be heard in various electronic stores and departments.

To understand what is a HDMI cable, you need to remember the old RCA cables, which usually had a red tip, a yellow tip, and a white tip. These three cables plugged into television sets and delivered both a picture and sound. The HDMI cable does the same thing, but without using three cables. It only needs one cable and it delivers superior sound and visual quality.

So, when someone wonders what is a HDMI cable used for, it's simple to remember – it's one cable that does the work of three.

Screen Resolution and Refresh Rates

HDMI cables are used to provide the sharpest picture possible. Many of the new HD television sets (and the Ultra HD television sets) only use HDMI cables. That's because the older cables simply cannot provide the same benefits. In fact, HDMI cables are also going to be used with the next-generation systems that are being created, preventing them from becoming obsolete within a couple of years.

HDMI cables also have a variety of refresh rates, ranging from 120Hz to 360Hz, making your television viewing as comfortable on your eyes as possible. The higher the refresh rate, the less strain your eyes are put under.

Ethernet

HDMI cables have been improved to the point where you can use an IP-enabled device without having to have a separate Ethernet cable. Many of the satellite providers and cable services have entirely moved to using HDMI cables for their current equipment. This is especially useful for many of the “smart” TV sets that are being currently

developed. With one single HDMI cable, you will be able to record a program, watch a video playback, and also do Internet surfing and online video chatting.

Connectors and Cables

Although some of the less expensive HDMI companies might want you to believe otherwise, there has been a significant difference noticed between gold-plated connectors and other connectors. The gold-plated connectors have been shown to create superior signal transfers. At the same time, you'll want to make sure that you have shielded cables. An unshielded cable might well pick up interference from common household items, including using wireless telephones, vacuum cleaners, and even running dishwashers and washing machines.

Lengths

The HDMI cables are found in a wide range of lengths, from the smaller 3-foot length all the way to the 60-foot length. Studies have shown no significant degradation with a longer length of HDMI cable.

3D Uses

With the arrival of 3D television sets, HDMI has become the only cable capable of providing a truly immersive 3D experience.

4. Finding the Perfect Height for Mounting Your Flatscreen TV

Keyword phrase:

How high to mount a flat screen TV

If you're wondering how high to mount a flat screen TV, it's important to understand that every person will have a different "perfect" height. There are a wide range of factors that need to be examined, and when they are taken all together, the right height can be found.

Viewing Position

When it comes to determining how high to mount a flat screen TV, you need to examine your viewing position. Some people mount their flat screen TV in the bedroom, where they will be watching it from their bed. If that's the case, the mounting is usually higher on the wall than might be found in other rooms. On the other hand, some people will be watching it mostly from their couches or their recliners, in which case, the right height would be slightly closer to the ground. There are even people who watch their televisions while they are standing up or working out, which might cause the height to be somewhere between bedroom viewing and recliner viewing.

Determining the Height

When you need to figure out how high to mount a flat screen TV, you'll want to have some bright pieces of painter's tape used to create an outline of the television screen.

Set the tape around the boundaries that you'll determine to be approximately the right size and shape of the television. Then, sit, stand, or even lay in the position where you'll be doing most of your viewing. Keep your attention focused on the tape for about five minutes.

At the end of five minutes, find out how your neck is feeling. If there is a tightness to it, your height is not adjusted properly. Do some more experimentation to find the right height.

Tilting Mounts

If your flat screen TV is going to be mounted over a fireplace or other high area, you'll want to have a tilting mount. This allows the television to actually tilt downwards, providing you with a pleasant viewing experience, despite the higher angle.

Swivel Mounts

If you think that you'll be using your television from a variety of positions in the room and from a variety of different heights, you might want to look into getting a swivel mount. Just like with a tilting mount, it allows the viewing angle to go up and down. However, it also has the added feature of being able to be viewed from side to side, as well. This allows for the most flexibility in your viewing angles.

By examining the room where the television will be located and by studying the different viewing angles that will most likely be used, a little forethought will allow you to find both the right viewing height and the right viewing mount to use on your flat screen TV.

5. Choosing where to put your new television

Keyword phrase:

Choosing where to put your new television

It might seem there is really nothing special about choosing where to put your new television, but when it comes to ease-of-viewing and comfort, there actually needs to be some thought put into it. If you've got one of the new flatscreen TVs that are available, you'll have an almost unlimited number of options on where you can set up your television.

The placing of your television is a matter of individual preference. However, always consider viewing angles when choosing where to put your new television. While some seating arrangements might offer superior viewing, any furniture that is off to one side or another might create a less than ideal viewing situation.

Wall Mounting

One of the options when choosing where to put your new television is obviously your wall. The new televisions are lighter than ever, flatter than ever, and present possibilities that were undreamt of only a few years ago. More and more people are setting their televisions on the wall, using wall mounting kits. Those with a creative bent will

sometimes put a picture frame around the television, while others will set up a photo montage around the television.

Entertainment Centers

Some people prefer the solidity of having an entertainment center that showcases their television. Today's entertainment centers come in a wide range of different styles, with some of them being made from wood, others made from metal, and still others designed from plastics and acrylic. One of the benefits to using an entertainment center is that today's televisions are best used when hooked up to various modern sound systems.

Some entertainment centers have areas set up where additional surroundsound speakers can be placed. For those of you who aren't interested in surroundsound, one of the newer options that is becoming popular is having a soundbar. This operates as a kind of one-piece stereo system that uses the actual room the television is in to literally "bounce" sound from the different walls. Naturally, if you're going with an improved sound system, that will greatly influence your decision when choosing where to put your new television.

Light Pollution

It's never a good idea to put your television directly in front of a window that has a great deal of outside light spilling through it. The outside light will "bleed" through the room, making some of the color saturation of your television less than ideal. One way to combat that is to make sure you have some light-blocking shades set up in front of those windows. Another way to handle the situation is to manually adjust your television picture settings so that your color setting is bright enough and has enough contrast to make your viewing enjoyable.

6. The Truth About LED Televisions

Keyword phrase:

The Truth About LED Televisions

With so much talk about energy efficiency televisions nowadays, it is hard to know the difference between the truth about LED televisions and the fictions that are going around. In fact, because of all the mixed information that's been released, even some of those in the industry don't quite know the truth about LED televisions on the market. However, a little bit of basic research will help you determine exactly what makes LED televisions so special.

LCD

First of all, it is important to realize that all LED television sets are actually liquid crystal display (LCD) televisions. The actual light source in an LED television is coming from the light emitting diodes in the television, but the actual image is created by an LCD chip or video card.

Lighting

In general, there are two ways that LED backlighting takes place in a flat panel television. The first method is known as “edge lighting.” A series of LED lights are set up around the perimeter of the screen. Light then gets dispersed across that screen. The advantage to this method of lighting is that the screen can be made extremely flat. However, most experts agree that there is a certain amount of “washing out” that takes place, with blacks not really being very black.

The other method is known as “Full LED,” in which there are multiple rows of LEDs set up behind the surface of the entire screen. This means that there can be something known as “local dimming,” in which certain areas can be dimmed down and certain areas can be highlighted. This results in a much richer color experience, with sharper images and blacks being extremely black.

Benefits

The truth about LED televisions is that there are a number of benefits over other kinds of television sets. For one thing, the LED television sets use less power. This is because it takes less energy to light up the LEDs than to light up a fluorescent tube or other display.

For the environmentally conscious, there is no mercury used. This is an overall benefit that helps the entire planet, when it comes time to dispose of the television, rather than just the individual. Less mercury being leaked into our landfills results in a healthier overall environment.

An important aspect of LED televisions is picture quality, of course. When compared with DLP televisions, the LED televisions have a much richer color saturation. This means that there’s a greater viewing experience than found in other kinds of television sets. Also, if the LED television is using the Full LED method, that means that scenes that are shot mostly in shadowed areas will appear much more clearly than with other kinds of televisions.

Price

Many of the newer models coming out are priced as competitively as other kinds of television sets. At one time, the LED televisions were too costly, but the prices are rapidly coming down, making them a viable option for anyone looking to buy a new television.

7. When You Wall Mount Your TV, Be Sure to Stop Before You Drill!

Keyword phrase:

Drilling Precautions with Wall Mounted TVs

Let’s say that you’ve just purchased your new flat screen LED TV and you’re ready to get it up and running. However, before you grab your toolbox and begin working, there are some drilling precautions with wall mounted TVs that you need to consider. Sure, in

many cases, it's as easy to mount a TV on the wall as it is to hang a TV, but there are things that need to be addressed.

Position

The first thing that you need to do is decide on where you're going to hang your TV. If there are several people living with you, make sure that you come to a consensus as to the TV placement. One of the primary drilling precautions with wall mounted TVs is making sure that no one is going to be upset with where the television is situated. Before you power up that drill, go entirely around the room and make sure that the set is going to be in the best possible viewing location.

Wiring

Another of the most important drilling precautions with wall mounted TVs is making sure that you're not going to be drilling through any electrical wiring. One of the most accurate ways to make sure that you're being entirely safe is using a stud finder that has a built-in live wiring detector. Granted, in most cases, you're going to avoid hitting wires if you're not drilling directly above or below electrical outlets, but the stud finder with wiring detector offers you that extra bit of protection. Naturally, before doing any drilling, you'll want to cut all power to the room that you're drilling in, just to be on the safe side.

Plumbing

Checking for plumbing is another of those drilling precautions with wall mounted TVs that you don't want to ignore. In some houses, there are pipes that are built between living room walls and bathrooms or master bedroom walls and master bathrooms. You can usually determine where pipes might be by looking at any water fixtures. If there is any doubt as to whether or not you might be drilling into a pipe, it's best to only drill into studs, which can be found with any battery-operated stud finder. For those of you who want to be extremely cautious, you can also invest in purchasing a multiscanner, which allows you to scan for studs, pipes, and electrical wiring.

Right Fit

Make sure that you have the right mounting kit for your television. There are few things more aggravating than installing the wall mount in the perfect spot, only to discover that the mount does not work on the television that you have.

Don't be intimidated at the prospect of mounting your TV on the wall. It isn't difficult and when you follow a few simple precautions, it's safe and it's secure.

8. Why Should You Mount Your TV? Here are 5 Reasons Why

Keyword phrase:

Reasons to Mount Your TV

With today's new lightweight, flat-screen TVs showing up in living rooms around the world, there are a wide range of reasons to mount your TV, rather than having it set up in a stand. Wall mounted televisions turn a functional entertainment device into an actual artistic statement, but if that isn't enough to convince you, there are a number of other reasons to go with mounting your TV on the wall.

Space-saving Functionality

For most people, unless you're living in the Overlook Hotel, space is usually always at a premium. When you mount your TV on the wall, you immediately free up a tremendous amount of space. This instantly appeals to the interior designer lurking within all of us, and you'll quickly discover that the space that you've now freed up can be utilized in new and exciting ways. For the truly adventurous, consider putting an actual frame around the mounted TV. This instantly turns it into a work of art that some might say makes a cleverly ironic statement about entertainment versus art.

Increased Viewing

Say goodbye to the days when you had to sit in a certain position at a certain angle at a certain time of day to get a clear view of whatever was on the TV. One of the best reasons to mount your TV is to take advantage of the many mounting kits available that allow you to watch your TV from virtually any area of a room at any time of the day.

Safety

Believe it or not, one of the most valid reasons to mount your TV is because it is safer than having it on a stand. Anyone who has ever bumped into a TV that's on a stand knows how unstable it can be. In addition, if you have kids or a rambunctious dog in the household, the likelihood of that TV falling over rises dramatically. Lastly, if you are unfortunate enough to have a break-in, thieves are more likely to grab a stand-alone TV, rather than mess around with taking one down that has been mounted on the wall.

Limitless

With a TV mounted on your wall, you're no longer a slave to the limitations of the room. Before the new TVs came out, most people had to put the TV wherever the entertainment center would fit. People actually bought new furniture that would be usable with their entertainment centers. Now, however, you can mount your TV wherever you want, making your choices virtually limitless.

Simplicity

One of the reasons to mount your TV is that it's easy. The days where you needed to have your own handyman program on cable television in order to get that TV on the wall are over. If you can read a blog or watch a video, you can mount your TV on the wall.

There you have it – five terrific reasons for you to consider mounting your TV on the wall. Choose your model and you'll be on your way.

9. Protect your iPad with a case

Keyword phrase:

Protect your iPad with a case

While your iPad was designed to withstand a lot of everyday abuse, most users agree that it's a good idea to actually have a case for it. When you protect your iPad with a case, you're actually making a very wise investment. In addition to keeping it in excellent condition, many cases will offer protection from some of the elements, including rain and dust and various particles. Also, if you're tossing your iPad into your knapsack or suitcase, having it in a case prevents surface scratching and wear. Since many iPad owners will often trade in their old iPad when a new model comes out, the better the condition it is in, the more money that will be offered for the trade-in value.

Stylish Statements

While some people prefer for their iPad cases to simply offer protection, when you decide to protect your iPad with a case, you might opt for a more stylish statement. If you're into classic styling, there are leather iPad cases for you to choose from. On the other hand, you might be more comfortable with something that's more functional, allowing you to choose from a range of hard cases that offer total protection, as well as functionality.

Miniature Offices

For those of you who use your iPads to deal with everyday business, there are a number of iPad cases that will protect your tablet, while also offering storage spaces for important papers and documents. The iPad has made some tremendous inroads into the business community, and it is not uncommon to see business people walking around with their iPads and a wide range of papers in their possession.

Improved Functionality

When you want to protect your iPad with a case, you'll also discover that many of the new cases available offer improved functionality for your tablet. For example, many of the cases will also allow you to use them as stands. This makes it quite easy to view videos and web content without having to hold the tablet in your hand. After all, even though the iPad is lightweight, holding it for any length of time can be pretty tiring.

Waterproof Cases

There are people who want to take their iPads with them everywhere, including the bathroom and the beach. Luckily, some of the manufacturers have taken advantage of new technology that will allow you to completely enclose your iPad in a waterproof shell that allows you to fully use the controls, but protects your iPad from any water elements.

No matter what you're looking for in iPad cases, you're going to find a tremendous variety to choose from. Whether functional or fun, there's a case out there that will fit your needs.

10. Accessorize your iPhone - Part 1

Keyword phrase:

Accessorize your iPhone

There's no doubt that one of the most compelling features about your iPhone is the sheer number of accessories currently available. While the iPhone itself is an incredibly impressive device, when you decide to accessorize your iPhone, you open yourself to a new dimension of uses.

Cases

While the iPhone has been designed to be fairly sturdy, it is not meant to withstand being tossed around in a purse or in a backpack without suffering some slight damage. However, by using one of the many cases that are available, the iPhone is provided an extra level of protection. While some cases offer only protection against accidental drops and falls, others also provide screen protection.

Screen Protection

When you want to accessorize your iPhone, consider having screen protection. While the screen is certainly tough enough to withstand the occasional jostle or bump against keys or coins, it has been known to scratch. A wide array of screen protectors are available, ranging from adhesive screen panels to protective screen sleeves.

Speakers

One of the advantages to the iPhone is the flawless way that it operates with the entire iTunes experience. While listening to music through headphones is fine when you're alone, there are times when you want to share your music with others. There are a number of awesome speakers that can be used, some of which also double as "docking stations" that will allow you to listen to music through speakers while also recharging your iPhone.

FM Transmitters

There are times when you might want to listen to your iPhone in your car. While newer model cars often have special docking units built into the vehicle so that the iPhone can broadcast through the speakers, some of the older model cars lack this feature. Luckily, there are FM transmitters which will let you broadcast your iPhone through an unused FM station in the car.

Bluetooth Accessories

When you look to accessorize your iPhone, you'll definitely want to look at some of the amazing Bluetooth accessories that are available. These range from Bluetooth wireless headphones to Bluetooth wireless keyboards. The iPhone has been specially designed to make linking with any Bluetooth accessory to be a snap.

Headphones

While the iPhone comes with its own set of headphones, many people prefer to use other models. There is an incredible range of headphones that will work with the iPhone, ranging in price from inexpensive to costly. Naturally, the more expensive the headphones, the more likely it is that there will be advanced features built into the headphones. For example, there are noise canceling headphones available that will literally block out any outside noise, allowing for uninterrupted listening of whatever is on the iPhone.

No matter what it is that you're looking for with your iPhone accessories, there's a very good chance that you'll have a tremendous range of options to choose from.