

MACWORLD

The Gateway Area Macintosh User Group Magazine

SEPTEMBER 2026

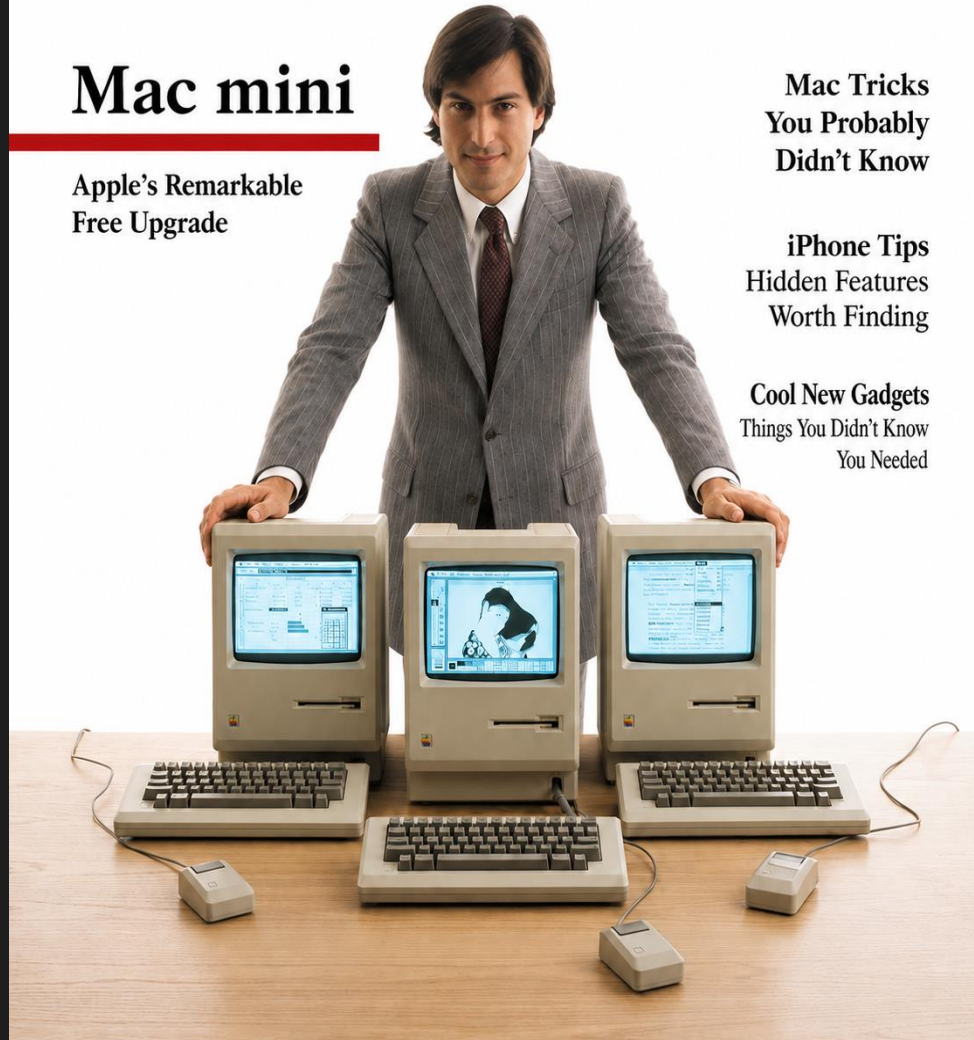
Mac mini

Apple's Remarkable
Free Upgrade

Mac Tricks
You Probably
Didn't Know

iPhone Tips
Hidden Features
Worth Finding

Cool New Gadgets
Things You Didn't Know
You Needed



GLEN'S GOODIES

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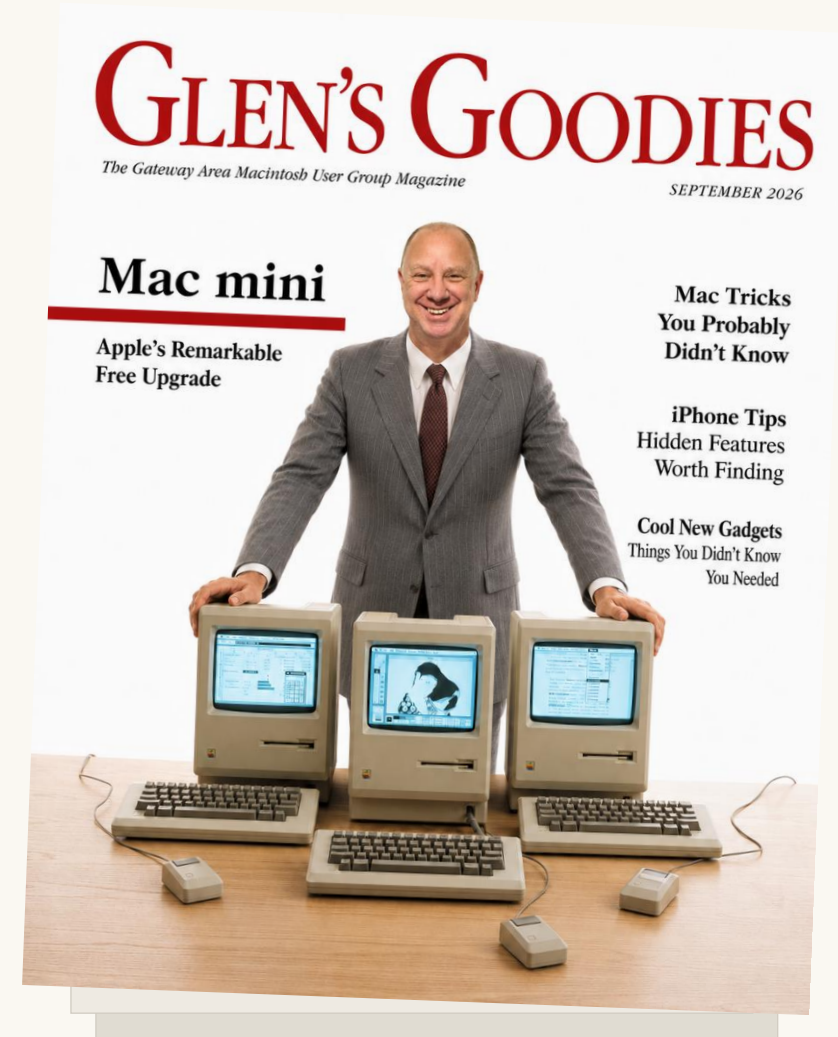
Cool New Gadgets
Things You Didn't Know
You Needed



NEWS

*Apple & technology news
stories worth knowing*

APPLE • MAC • IPHONE • APPLE WATCH • TECHNOLOGY



Mac mini buyers get a surprise upgrade

Some unshipped M4 orders were automatically bumped to the new M6 model — at no extra cost.



“Since your order has yet to ship, we automatically upgraded you...”

The story

- Unshipped M4 Mac mini orders → equivalent M6 Mac mini
- \$899 new starting price vs. \$799 before = about a \$100 free bump
- Nice surprise... unless the upgrade pushes your delivery back

Backorder, for once, was a feature.

Source: MacRumors, Joe Rossignol, Aug. 26, 2026

Apple will make Mac mini in Houston

Apple says its new Advanced Manufacturing Center in Houston will begin Mac mini production later this year.



“...we’re pleased to begin Mac mini production later this year.”

The story

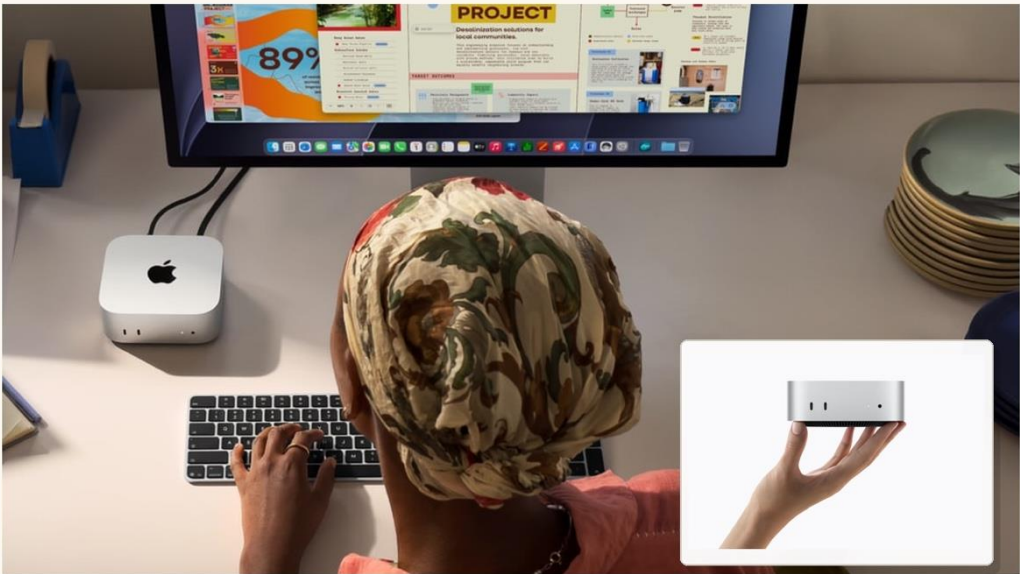
- Apple opened a new Advanced Manufacturing Center in Houston
- The same facility already builds and ships Apple’s advanced AI servers
- Mac mini production begins later this year
- 20,000-square-foot center offers free training for small and midsize businesses

The little Mac is going big in Texas.

Source: Apple Newsroom, Aug. 13, 2026

Apple unveils a faster new Mac mini

The new Mac mini comes in M6 and M5 Pro versions, with stronger AI performance, upgraded connectivity, and availability starting Sept. 22.



“Mac mini has always been our most versatile Mac.”

The story

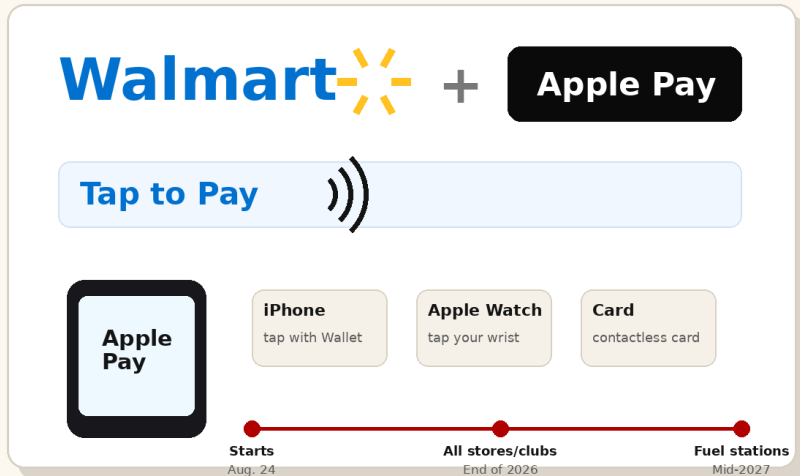
- Announced Aug. 25; preorders are open now, with availability starting Sept. 22
- Comes in M6 and M5 Pro configurations
- Apple says the M6 model delivers up to 4x faster AI performance
- Adds Wi-Fi 7, Bluetooth 6, and 2.5Gb Ethernet
- Pricing starts at \$899 for M6 and \$1,699 for M5 Pro

	M6	M5 Pro
CPU	12-core	up to 18-core
GPU	12-core	up to 20-core
Memory	16–32GB	up to 64GB
Bandwidth	170GB/s	307GB/s
Rear TB	3× TB4	3× TB5
Starts at	\$899	\$1,699

M6 for most users. M5 Pro for heavier work.

Hell Freezes Over: Walmart finally adds Apple Pay

Tap to Pay began rolling out Aug. 24 at select Walmart and Sam's Club locations — with a full U.S. rollout planned by the end of 2026.



“another familiar and convenient way to pay”

The story

- Walmart is adding Tap to Pay at Walmart and Sam's Club.
- Rollout began Aug. 24 at select stores and clubs; all U.S. stores/clubs are planned by the end of 2026.
- Fuel stations follow by mid-2027.
- St. Louis stores rollout date hasn't been announced

What does not change

Walmart Pay and Sam's Club Scan & Go are not going away. Tap to Pay is an added checkout option.

It's finally happening.

Source: Walmart Newsroom, Aug. 21, 2026

Apple sets Sept. 9 'Surprise and shine' event

The livestream begins Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 10 a.m. Pacific — that's 12:00 noon Central for your St. Louis audience.



"Surprise and shine."

The story

- Official Apple Event: Wednesday, Sept. 9
- Start time: 10:00 a.m. Pacific / 12:00 noon Central
- Watch on Apple.com, the Apple TV app, or YouTube
- Apple has announced the event, but not the full product lineup publicly
- 9to5Mac expects major iPhone and Apple Watch announcements

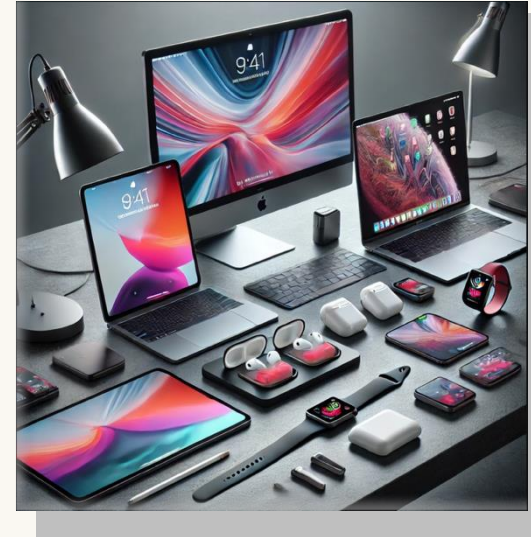
For St. Louis: Noon on Wednesday.

Sources: Apple.com; 9to5Mac, Aug. 26, 2026

TIPS, TRICKS & HOW-TOs

*Useful Mac, iPhone, iPad, and Apple Watch
things worth knowing*

MAC • IPHONE • IPAD • APPLE WATCH
SETTINGS • HOW-TOs



I didn't know you could do that!

TIP #1

Use Back Tap on iPhone

Turn the back of your iPhone into a hidden shortcut button.



Why do you want to use this:

- Use taps for things you do often.
- It's great when the screen is hard to reach one-handed.
- It gives older iPhones a “secret button” without buying anything.

Simple and Fast

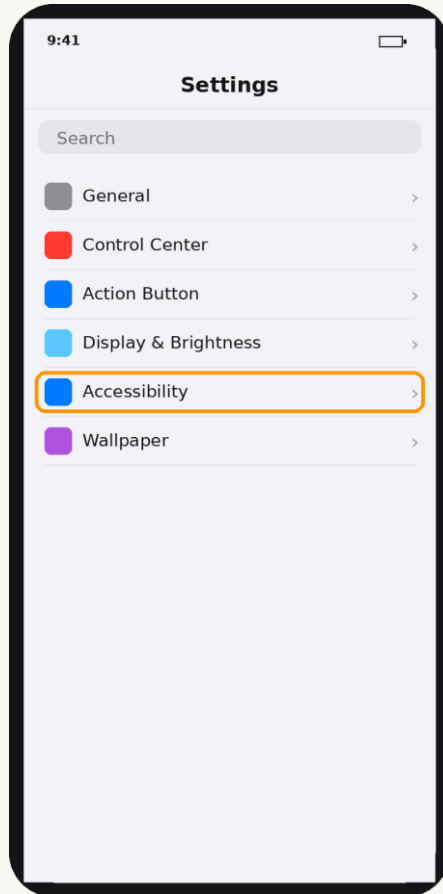
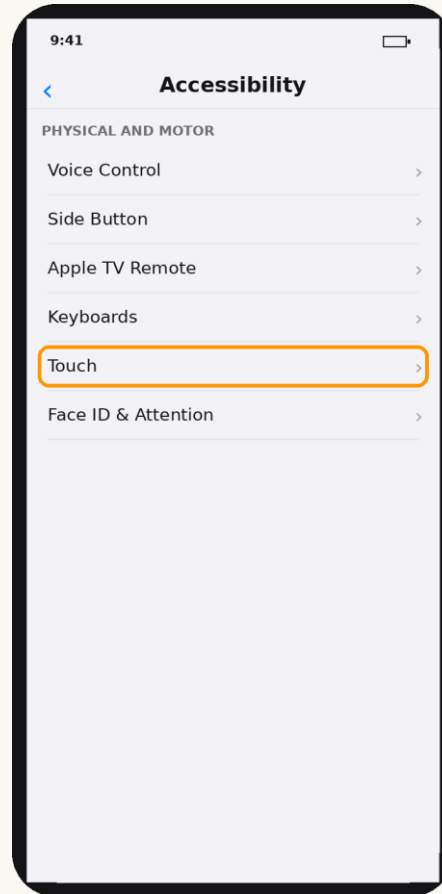
It doesn't get easier to use than this.

Compatibility

- iPhone 8 or later
- iOS 14 or later

HOW TO SET IT UP

Step 1: Open Settings, then tap Accessibility

PATH Settings > Accessibility**1 Open Settings****2 Tap Accessibility,
then Touch**

Why this setting is hidden here

- Back Tap is an Accessibility feature, but it is useful for everyone.
- Apple puts many “shortcut” features under Accessibility because they change how you interact with the phone.

What people need to know

- Many of these features can be accessed in other ways, but it gives you a quick and easy way to call them up.

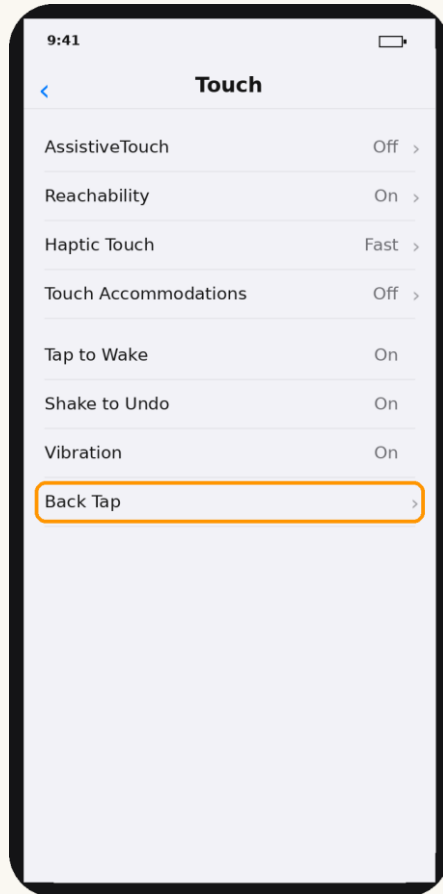
You're Creating Shortcuts!

You're making the back of your phone act like a shortcut button.

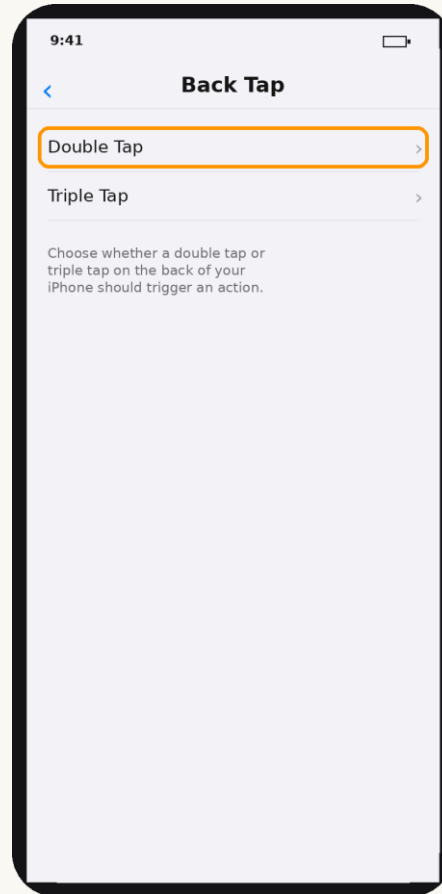
HOW TO SET IT UP

Step 2: On the Touch screen, tap Back Tap

PATH Settings > Accessibility > Touch > Back Tap



**3 Scroll down and tap
Back Tap**



**4 Choose Double Tap
or Triple Tap**

Double Tap vs. Triple Tap

- Double Tap is faster and easier to remember.
- Triple Tap is better for actions you do not want to trigger by accident.
- You can assign one different actions to each one.

Best starter setup

- Think about the things you use often and want easy access to. These will be best to try first.

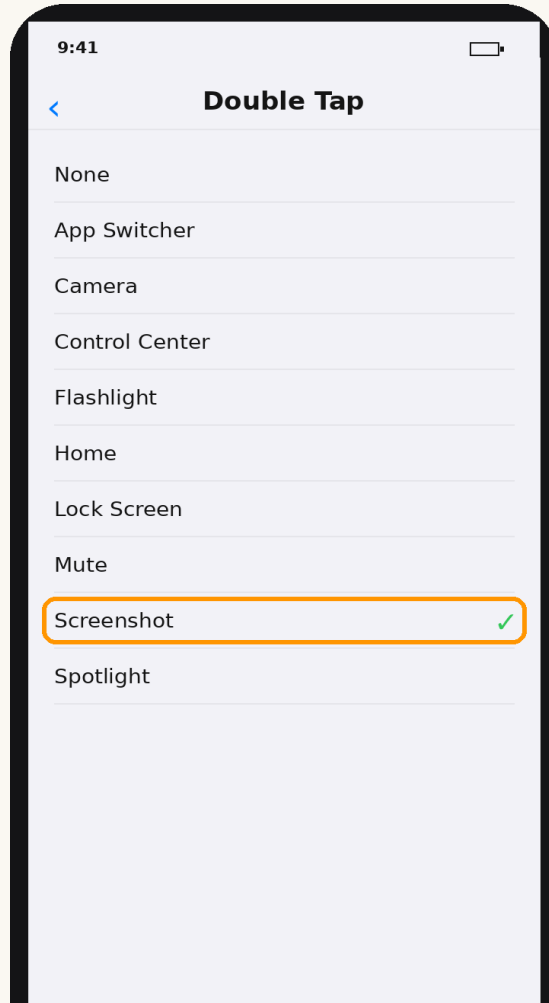
Troubleshooting tip

**If Back Tap fires when you do not mean it to,
move the action from Double Tap to Triple**

HOW TO SET IT UP

Step 3: Choose the action you want to run

PATH Settings > Accessibility > Touch > Back Tap > Double Tap



What to choose

- Your iPhone gives you a pre-made list to choose from of common actions
- You can make your own additional actions by using the Shortcuts app and assigning taps to those shortcuts



The powerful option: Shortcuts

Back Tap can also trigger a Shortcut. That means it can launch something custom you build in the Shortcuts app — not just Apple's built-in actions.

Be Aware of Cases

If you use one of the thick heavy-duty cases it could affect your tapping. You may need to tap harder or it may not work.

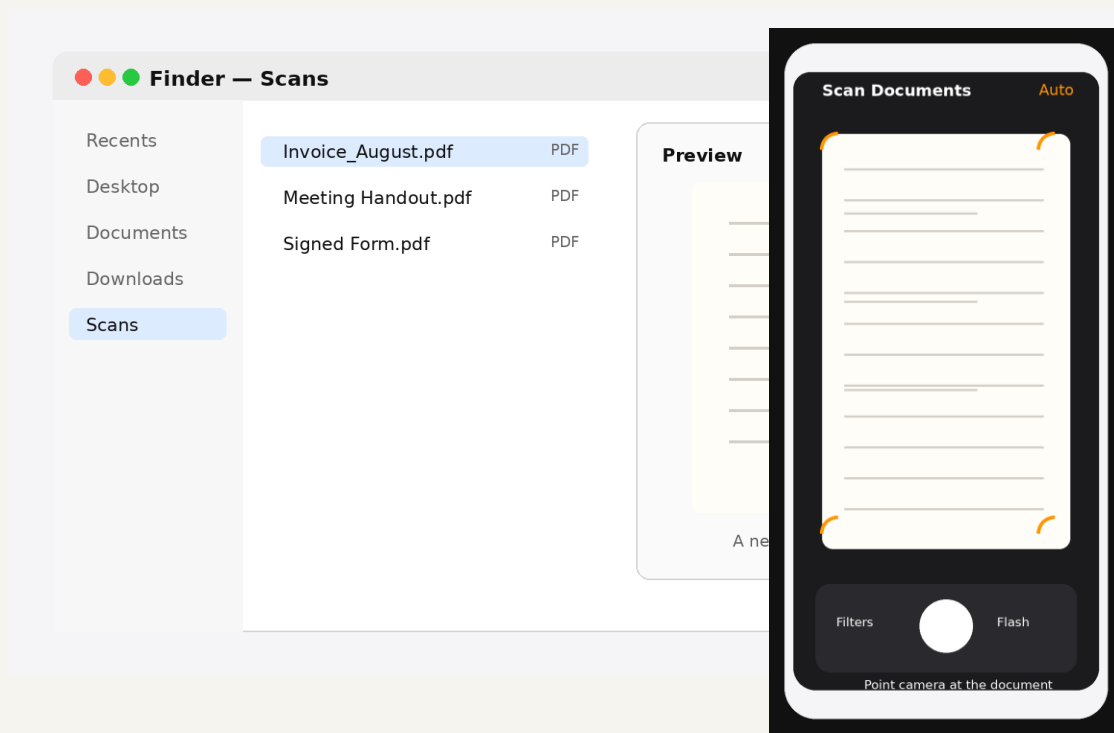
How to test it

Exit Settings and tap the back of the phone twice at a normal pace. If nothing happens, try a firmer tap near the center of the back.

TIP #2

Scan documents directly to your Mac

Use Continuity Camera so your iPhone scans a document and the finished PDF appears instantly on your Mac.



Why this is useful

- Skip the usual “scan on phone, then AirDrop or email it.”
- Great for receipts, forms, handouts, letters, and signatures.
- Multi-page scans are combined into one clean PDF.

Where it works

Finder, Freeform, Mail, Messages, Notes, TextEdit, and Apple’s iWork apps (Pages, Numbers, Keynote). Start in the place where you want the finished file to land.

What you need

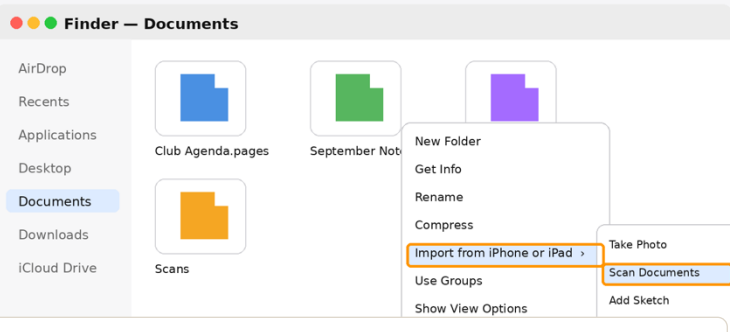
Same Apple Account, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth on, devices nearby, and recent enough macOS/iOS versions. If the command does not appear, also check Handoff under AirDrop & Continuity settings.

HOW TO DO IT

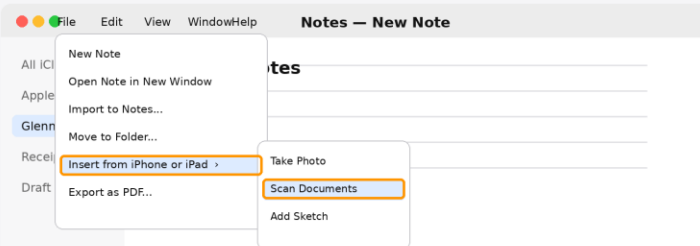
Step 1: Start the scan from the Mac

PATH

Finder/Desktop/Folder: Control-click > Import from iPhone or iPad > Scan Documents



Finder or any folder on the Mac



In supported apps, use the File / Insert menu

Two ways to launch it

Right-click in Finder, on the desktop, or in a folder if you want a standalone PDF file. Inside Notes, Mail, Pages, and similar apps, use File or Insert so the scan lands exactly where you are working.

Important detail

You begin on the Mac — not on the iPhone. As soon as you choose Scan Documents, the iPhone opens its scanner automatically.

If the option is missing

Most failures are setup issues: devices are too far apart, Wi-Fi or Bluetooth is off, the devices are signed into different Apple Accounts, or Handoff is disabled. Check those first before assuming the feature is gone.

HOW TO DO IT

Step 2: Capture the document on your iPhone

PATH

iPhone scanner opens automatically > point at the page > Keep Scan or Retake



Auto mode can capture the page for you



Adjust the corners if the page is not framed correctly

Auto vs. manual capture

Auto mode works well when the page has clear edges and decent contrast. If it keeps missing the page or firing too early, tap the shutter button — or a volume button — to capture manually.

How to get a better scan

Lay the paper flat, give it good light, and avoid hand shadows. A darker table or desk often helps the camera recognize page edges faster. Hold the phone directly above the page if you can.

Corner correction matters

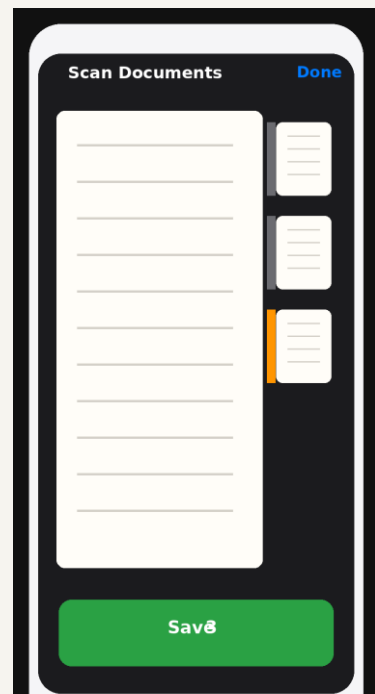
If Apple guesses the page outline incorrectly, drag the corners before you tap Keep Scan. A ten-second fix here produces a much cleaner final PDF.

HOW TO DO IT

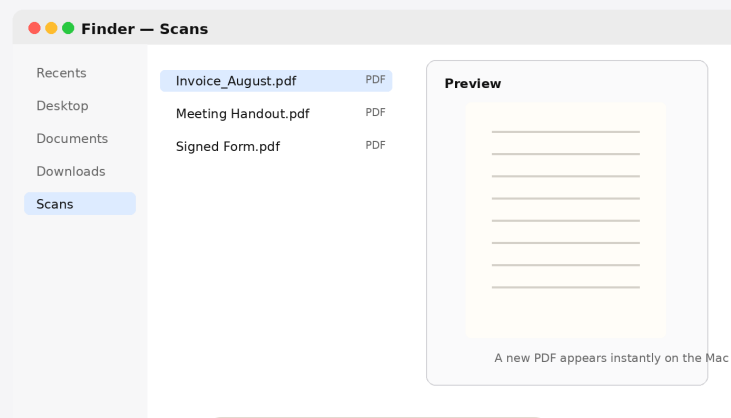
Step 3: Add pages, save the scan

PATH

After each page: Keep Scan > continue scanning
> Save when finished



Build a multi-page PDF on the phone



The finished file appears instantly on the Mac

Multi-page is the real win

Each new page is added to the same document, so receipts, handouts, letters, or signed forms become one organized PDF instead of a pile of separate pictures.

What Save actually does

Save sends the finished scan back to the Mac location where you started — a Finder folder, a note, an email, a Pages document, and so on. The result is a PDF, not a random photo in your library.

You're Not Taking a Photo

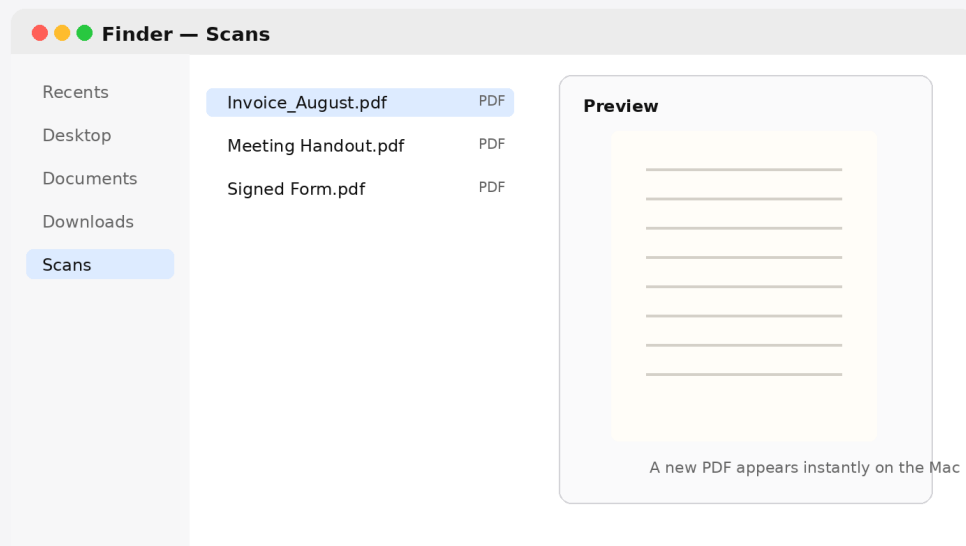
This is more than just taking a picture — it is a real document workflow.

HOW TO DO IT

Step 4: Use the finished scan on your Mac

PATH

PDF appears where you started >
rename, open, annotate, sign, or share



**In Finder, the scan becomes a
normal PDF file**

What happens next

If you launched from Finder, you get a PDF file in that folder. If you launched from Notes, Mail, Pages, or another app, the scan appears in the spot where you started — ready to use immediately.

Useful follow-up moves

Rename it so you can find it later. Open it in Preview if you want to crop, rotate, mark it up, or add a signature. Then share it by Mail or Messages right from the Mac.

Great real-world uses

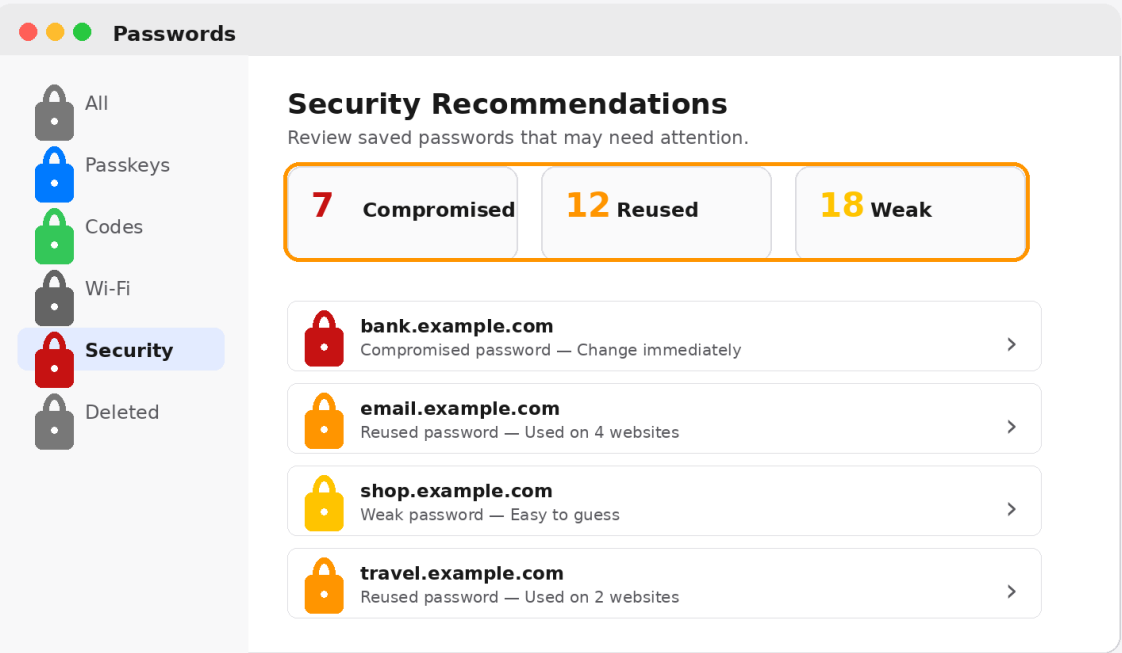
Expense receipts, permission slips, club handouts, forms that need a signature, or any paper someone hands you at a meeting. This is one of those Apple ecosystem features that quietly saves time all year.



TIP #3

Use Passwords to find risky logins

Apple’s Passwords app turns password worry into a focused cleanup list.



Security highlights saved logins that need attention

Why this is worth doing

- Finds accounts that need attention before there is a problem.
- Uses Apple’s built-in Passwords app — no extra app to learn.
- Turns security cleanup into a manageable checklist.

What the warnings mean

Compromised: appeared in a known data leak.
Reused: used on more than one website.
Weak: easy to guess or based on a common pattern.

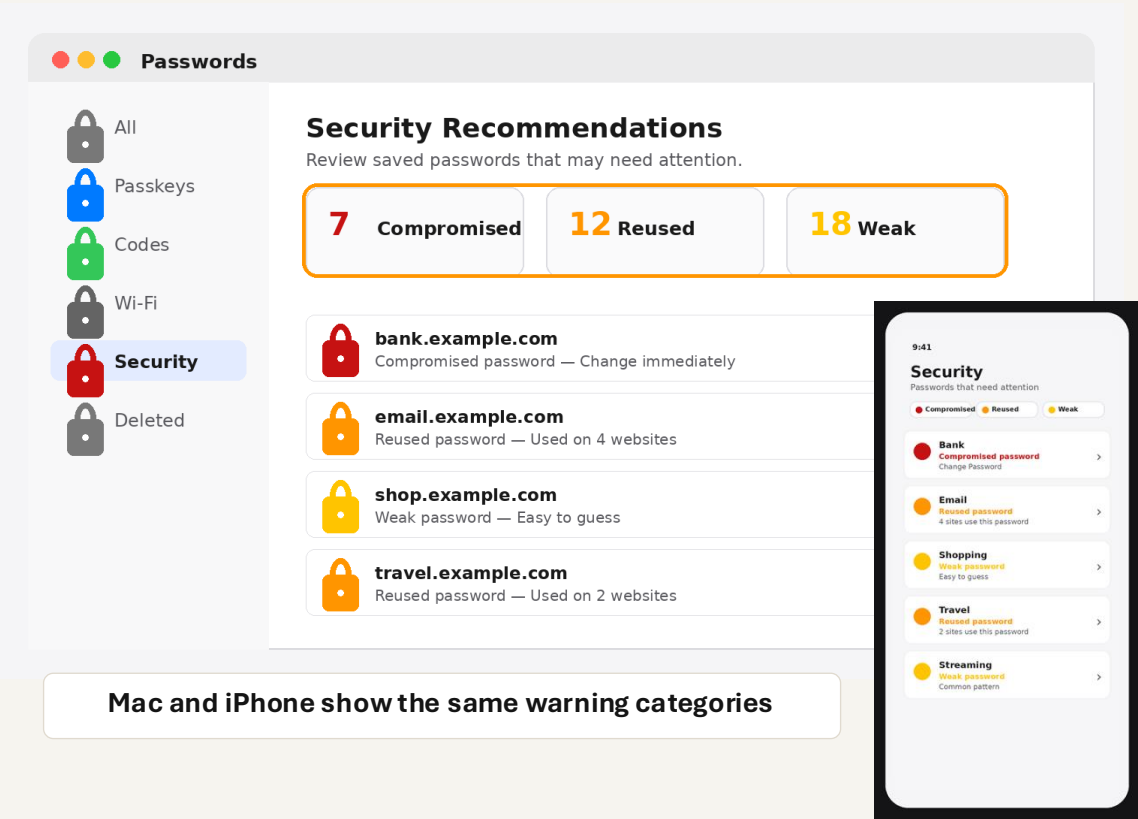
Where to start

Fix compromised passwords first, especially email, banking, shopping, Apple ID, and social accounts. Then work through reused passwords.

HOW TO DO IT

Step 1: Open Passwords > Security

PATH Passwords app > Security



Mac and iPhone show the same warning categories

Do not treat every warning equally

Compromised passwords are the priority. They may already be in lists attackers use. Reused and weak passwords still matter, but they are the second pass.

Why reused passwords are dangerous

If one website is breached, attackers often try the same email/password combination elsewhere. One reused password can become several compromised accounts.

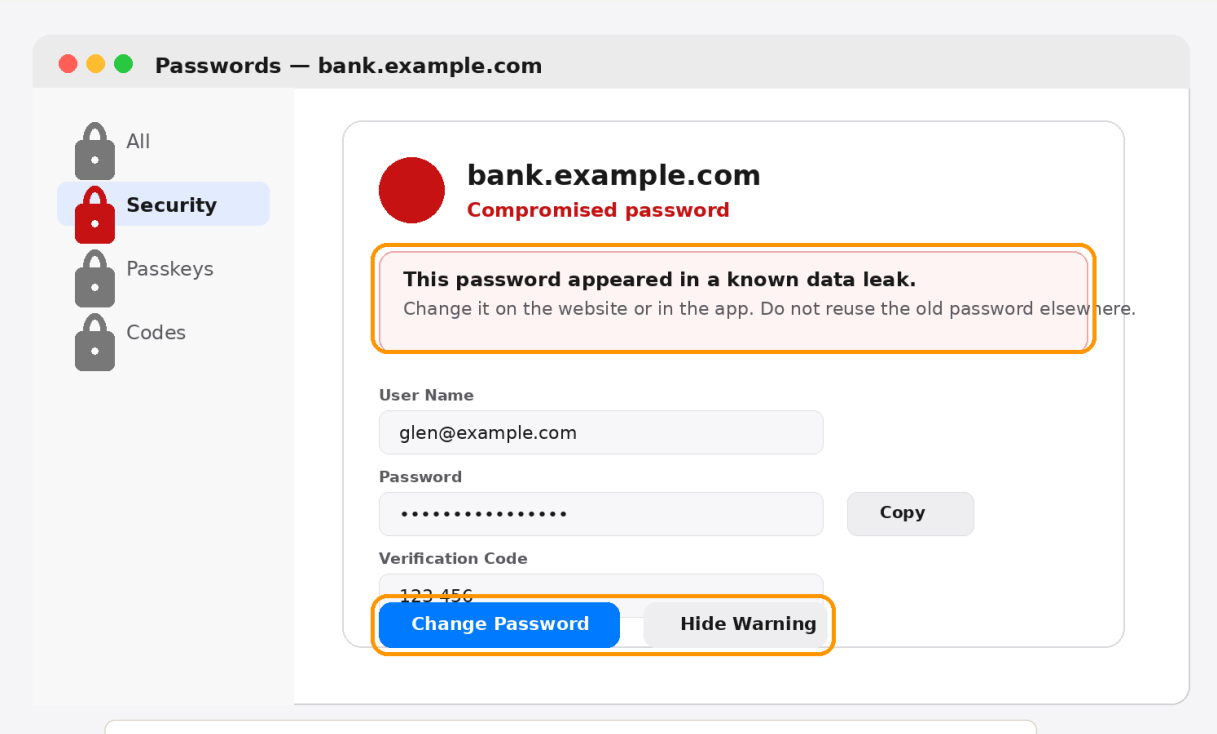
Good way to approach it

Fix a few important accounts at a time instead of trying to clean up everything in one sitting.

HOW TO DO IT

Step 2: Pick an account and fix it

PATH Security > choose an account > Change Password



Change Password takes you to the website or app

Change it; do not just hide it

Hide Warning is mainly for accounts you cannot fix or no longer use. For active accounts, change the password or delete the saved login if the account is gone.

Let Apple make the replacement

When the site allows it, use Apple’s suggested strong password instead of inventing your own. Passwords saves it for you.

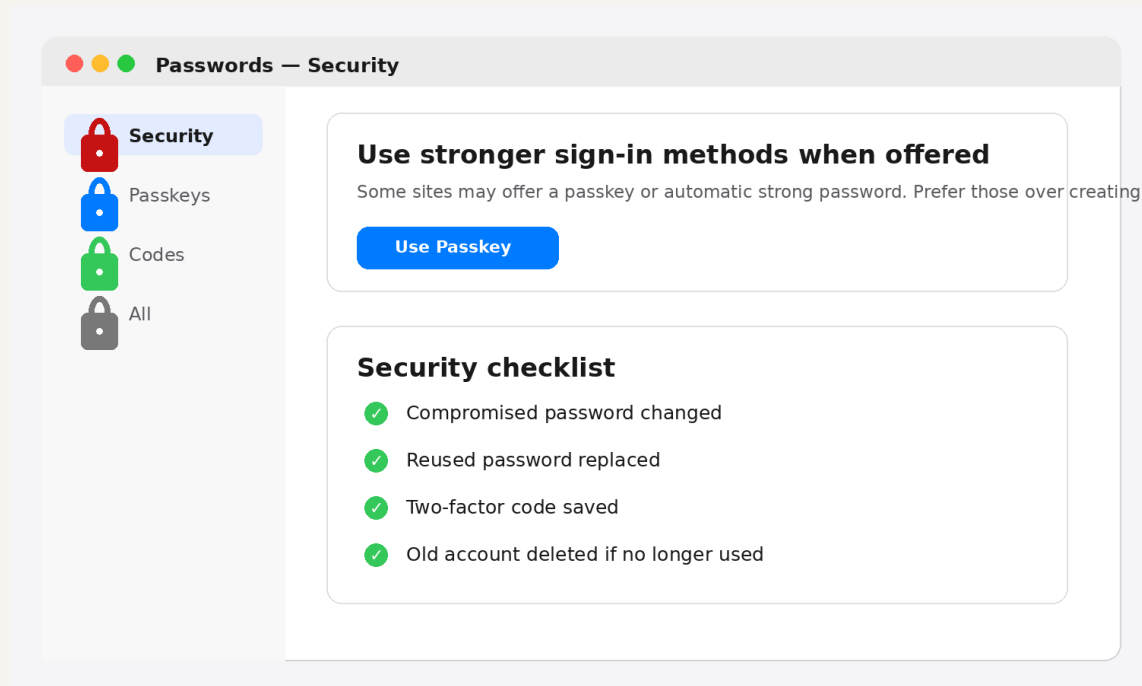
Before you click away

Some sites ask for the current password first. Copy it if you may need to paste it during the change.

HOW TO DO IT

Step 3: Upgrade sign-in options

PATH Passwords > account details > passkey / verification code / strong password



Security cleanup is also a chance to modernize sign-in

Passkeys are worth choosing

When a site offers a passkey, it can replace the password with a sign-in tied to your device and Face ID, Touch ID, or passcode. They are more secure, but can be a pain if you're logging in from a device that isn't your own.

Verification codes can live here

Passwords can store two-factor verification codes for supported accounts, so codes can autofill without a separate authenticator app.

Make it a habit

Review Security every few months. The goal is maintenance, not a perfect list in one day.

GOODIES FOUND

Interesting finds worth sharing

GADGETS • APPS • ACCESSORIES • SOFTWARE
SERVICES • IDEAS



*Things you might not know you
needed.*

GOODIE #1

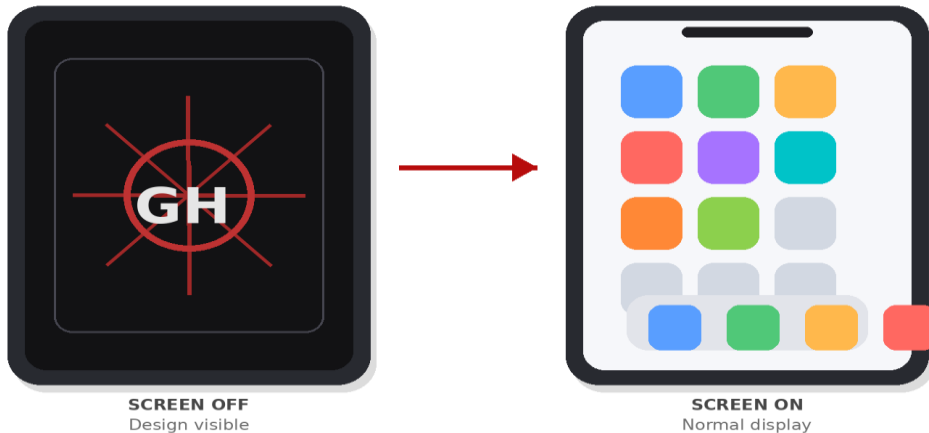
Belkin + Screen Skinz custom screen protectors

Personalized 'phone tattoos' show when the display is off and disappear when the screen turns on.

How it works

Visible when the phone is sleeping. Disappears when the screen wakes up.

GOODIES FOUND



What it is

- Custom tempered-glass iPhone protector.
- Design shows when the phone is asleep and disappears when the screen wakes.
- Privacy versions limit what side viewers can see.

Why it stands out

- Adds personality to an otherwise basic accessory.
- Belkin lists 0.33 mm glass, 9H scratch resistance, and easy installation.
- Useful for gifts, teams, clubs, and custom branding.

Shark Tank

- Screen Skinz appeared on Shark Tank in January 2026.
- The company says it secured \$300,000 from Kevin O'Leary and Alexis Ohanian.
- Belkin later partnered with them to sell custom protectors.

GOODIE #2

Nimble SharePower a battery pack that snaps in half

A portable charger that becomes two smaller chargers, so you can keep one and share one.

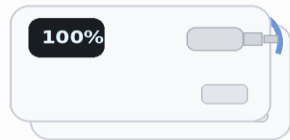
Share it or split it

One battery becomes two independent chargers when you need to help someone else.

GOODIES FOUND

STACK MODE

Use it as one compact 10,000 mAh battery.



Capacity: 10,000 mAh total

Power: Up to 35W total

Devices: Up to 3 at once

SHARE MODE

Snap it apart and hand one half to someone else.



YOURS

Capacity: 2 × 5,000 mAh

Power: 20W USB-C PD each

Devices: Up to 4 at once

THEIRS

The best battery might be the one you can share.

Apple sells it

Travel-friendly

Useful for couples or friends

Less than \$80

What it is

- A 10,000 mAh portable battery made of two magnetically connected 5,000 mAh modules.
- Use it as one charger, or pull it apart and hand half to someone else.
- Apple sells it, which gives it instant credibility with Apple users.

Why it stands out

- It solves a very real problem: two people need power at the same time.
- More useful than a standard battery on trips, at games, in airports, or at events.
- Can charge up to four devices when split, or three when connected together.

Key details

- Up to 35W total in Stack Mode; each half provides 20W through USB-C in Share Mode.
- Main half has an LCD charge display; the second half includes a built-in lanyard-style cable.
- About \$79.95, and Nimble emphasizes recycled materials and plastic-free packaging.

A power bank that is actually shareable.

GOODIE #3

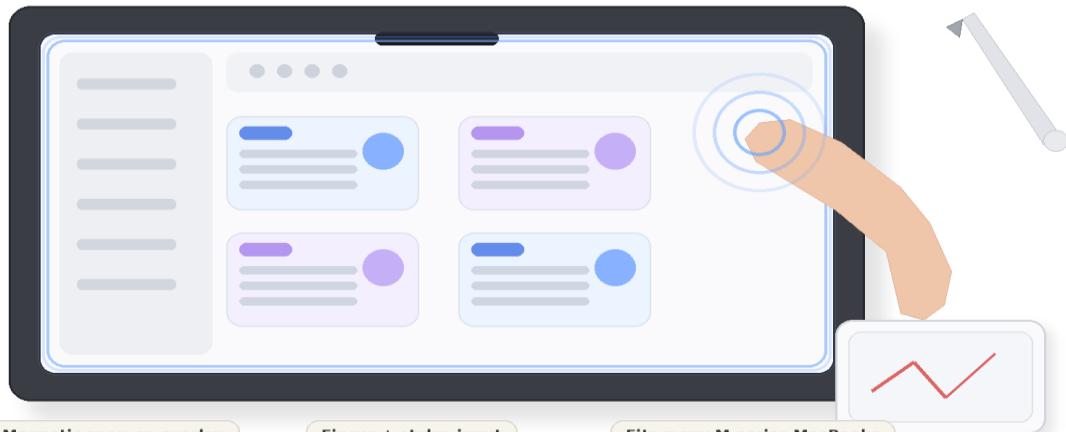
Magic Screen for MacBook a snap-on touchscreen overlay

Turns a compatible Apple-silicon MacBook into a touch-and-pen display without replacing the laptop.

Touch your MacBook

A snap-on overlay adds touch and pen support without replacing the laptop.

GOODIES FOUND



Apple still does not make a touchscreen MacBook.

What it is

- A magnetic overlay that snaps onto certain MacBook displays.
- Adds tap, swipe, and pinch input right on the screen.
- Includes a stylus for drawing and handwriting.

Why it is interesting

- It gives Mac users something Apple still does not offer: touchscreen control.
- Could appeal to artists, note-takers, and presenters.

What to know

- Fits many notch-display MacBook Air and Pro models with Apple silicon.
- Basic touch works right away; an app is needed for advanced features.
- Preorder pricing starts around \$179.

APPLE TRIVIA

A trivia question to end on ...

What was the original price of the Macintosh when Apple introduced it in 1984?

A

\$

B

\$1,995

C

\$2,495

D

\$3,495