

# California Computer Care

News,  
Views,  
Tips and  
Cool Techniques  
for CCC Members

January 2005  
Vol. VIII, No. 1

We  
speak  
Geek,  
so you  
don't  
have to.

# MacWorld Expo 2005

Every January, the Macintosh world focuses on San Francisco's Mosconi Convention Center. For five days the future of Macintosh computers and accessories are presented to drooling, wild-eyed fans (you know who you are). This year, Apple ruled supreme with several new products that enhance work and fun.

## The Mac Mini.

The most excitement was generated by the announcement of a new miniature desktop Mac. A tiny box only 6.5"X6.5"X2" containing the power of a G4 tower of a year ago. But, where miniaturization usually costs more, the two *Mac Mini* models are only \$499.00 and \$599.00. *Mac Mini* does not include keyboard, mouse or monitor.



The *Mac Mini* is primarily aimed at three groups: *Switchers* (folks who have been using Windows PCs, but want to change to Macintosh); *Upgraders* (folks with G3 or older Macs looking to step up on a budget) and *Hobbyists* (folks who like to customize their computer setups). Because of this, it is expected that the purchaser already has perfectly usable monitors, keyboards and mice left over from their old, obsolete system. While this may be true, I see this as an opportunity for users to pick their keyboard and mouse (there are tens of styles, shapes and colors available from \$10.00 up) instead of being stuck with whatever happened to be included with the computer. Many folks do so anyway and end up throwing the usually included keyboard and mouse in the trash (a waste!).

1.25GHz *Mac Mini* has a 1.25GHz processor, 256MB RAM, 40GB hard drive, CD-RW/DVD Combo drive for \$499.00

1.42GHz *Mac Mini* has a 1.42GHz processor, 256MB RAM, 80GB hard drive, CD-RW Combo drive for \$599.00.

Both come with *iTunes*, *iPhoto*, *iMovie*, *iDVD*, *GarageBand*, *AppleWorks 6*, *Quicken 2005*, two games and *Mac OS X Panther*. That's \$350.00 worth of software before including *Panther* and all of its internet software and cool utilities.

Naturally, I have one on order (the 1.25GHz model). I plan to use the living-room TV as monitor so that I can switch instantly to the 'net when web addresses pop up during TV shows (Yikes! What a fanatic!). I'll write a full review once it's installed and working.

## iPod Shuffle

Apple's *iPod* music player is by far the most popular digital music player around, commanding almost 90% of its market segment. Older *iPods* have huge capacities for holding thousands of songs. But with that huge capacity comes expense. So the Apple miniaturists struck again with the teeny, tiny *iPod Shuffle*.



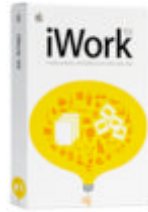
Smaller than a pack of gum, the *iPod Shuffle* comes in two models: 120 songs and 240 songs. *iPod Shuffles* can also be used as portable, solid state hard drives. Because they have no moving parts, the *Shuffles* are impervious to vibration and dropping. They're ideal for exercisers, kids and clumsy people everywhere. The 120 song model (512MB) is \$99.00\* and the 240 song model (1GB) is \$149.00\*.

As with the *Mac Mini*, the *iPod Shuffle* is designed for simplicity. The *Shuffle* has no screen and only the most basic controls (play, pause, volume, track ahead, track back). In standard operation, the *Shuffle*, shuffles (plays in random sequence) the songs in its memory. This is like listening to a radio station that has no commercials, fabulous reception and only plays your favorite songs.

The *iPod Shuffle* plugs into a USB port on your Mac, or a PC, and automatically brings up *iTunes* (4.7.1 or newer) so that you can manage your music files for it. You can pick and choose what songs you want on the *Shuffle*, or let *iTunes* surprise you with a custom selection.

### iWork

*AppleWorks 6* has been around for ages and while it is a good integrated package, it isn't up to date in its capabilities. Apple is starting to replace *AppleWorks* with a series of new applications that take advantage of new technologies. The *iWork* package features the first two modules of this new Apple productivity suite: *Pages* and *Keynote 2*.



*Pages* is a word processor with full page layout capabilities. As an experiment, I've used *Pages* to create this month's CCC newsletter. *Pages* has very strong type management allowing for fully justified columns (I usually use ragged right) with no extra effort.

All of the features that you expect are here: spell checking, footnotes, table of contents, style sheets, word count, etc. You also get a great bonus: *Pages* can open and save *Microsoft Word* files without the need of external translators. Compared to *AppleWorks 6*, *Pages* is faster, more stable and more professionally presented. Looks like *Pages* is my new word processor.

The other half of the *iWork* package is *Keynote 2*. The original *Keynote* was introduced two years ago as a competitor to *Microsoft's PowerPoint*. *Keynote 2* is a solid upgrade that adds new capabilities and design templates. *Keynote* provides a great environment for creating presentations of all types. *Keynote* can open and save *PowerPoint* documents.

To get a good idea of what *Keynote* can do, see this winner of the recent *Keynote Design Your Passion* design contest: *My First Year*, <http://www.calcompcare.com/files.html>

*Keynote* alone previously sold for \$99.00. The new *iWork* package, complete with *Pages* and *Keynote 2*, is only \$79.00\* making it a super great value.

### iLife '05

It's 2005, so an upgrade to the *iLife* suite must be here as well. *iLife '05* features updates of the famous iApps: *iTunes*, *iMovie*, *iPhoto*, *iDVD* and *GarageBand*. All five applications have received substantial improvements. *iMovie HD* can now handle high definition video, *iPhoto 5* adds folders, RAW file support and more editing tools for better control, *iTunes 4.7* (also available as a free download) is upgraded for compatibility with the new *iPod Shuffle*. *GarageBand 2* can now record up to eight simultaneous music tracks and *iDVD 5* has 15 new design tem-



plates to help you make professional quality DVD disks for friends, family and work. Of course, as before, all five applications are tightly integrated, allowing you to access *iPhoto 5* from *iDVD 5* and *iTunes 4.7* from *GarageBand 2* or almost any other combination that you may need.

*iLife '05*\* is \$79.00.

\* Be sure to check minimum system requirements before buying any new hardware or software.

## January Tip—

Don't forget Save As...

The Save As... command, found under the *File* menu, allows you to save a second version of your document. Use Save As... to experiment with changes or to create a whole new document using an old document as a model. This way you can try out changes and ideas without messing up your original documents or relying on back up copies that you probably forgot to make (Shame on you!).

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