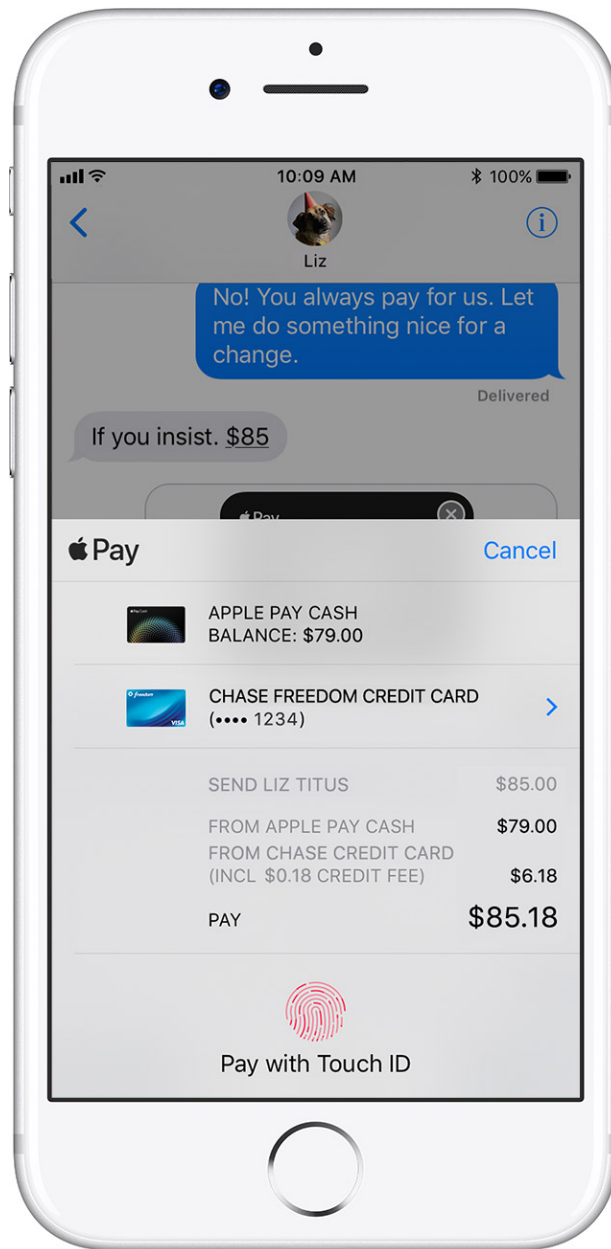


Apple Bits

NORTHEAST OHIO APPLE CORPS
VOLUME 41, ISSUE 2



NEOAC

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ABOUT NEOAC

We are an informal group of Apple users and enthusiasts. We have members of all levels of computer expertise using all types of Macs and Apple products.

Annual dues are \$20.00 per family. In September, the cost for a new membership through the end of the year is \$10. To join or renew your membership, you can either pay at a meeting, on our web site or mail a check made out to "NEO Apple Corps" and send to the post office box noted above.

Dues include access to our listserv (an online bulletin board where you can post questions and/or comments at any time), a PDF of our monthly newsletter and the opportunity to participate in our monthly raffle for valuable Apple and Apple-related products.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Thanks to those members who have renewed. Dues are \$20 and include any family members that you can claim on your taxes. Membership privileges include participation in the raffles, the listserv, and picnic attendance. Prospective members should fill in the form on the last page.

MEETINGS

Unless otherwise noted, NEOAC meetings start at 9:30 a.m. on the fourth Saturday of each month at the Strongsville Public Library.

Strongsville Public Library
18700 Westwood Drive
Strongsville, OH 44136
(directly behind the police station)
440-238-5530

<DIRECTIONS>

NEXT MEETING

February 24

UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 24

April 28

May 19 (1 week early)



How to use Apple Pay Cash

DAN MOREN

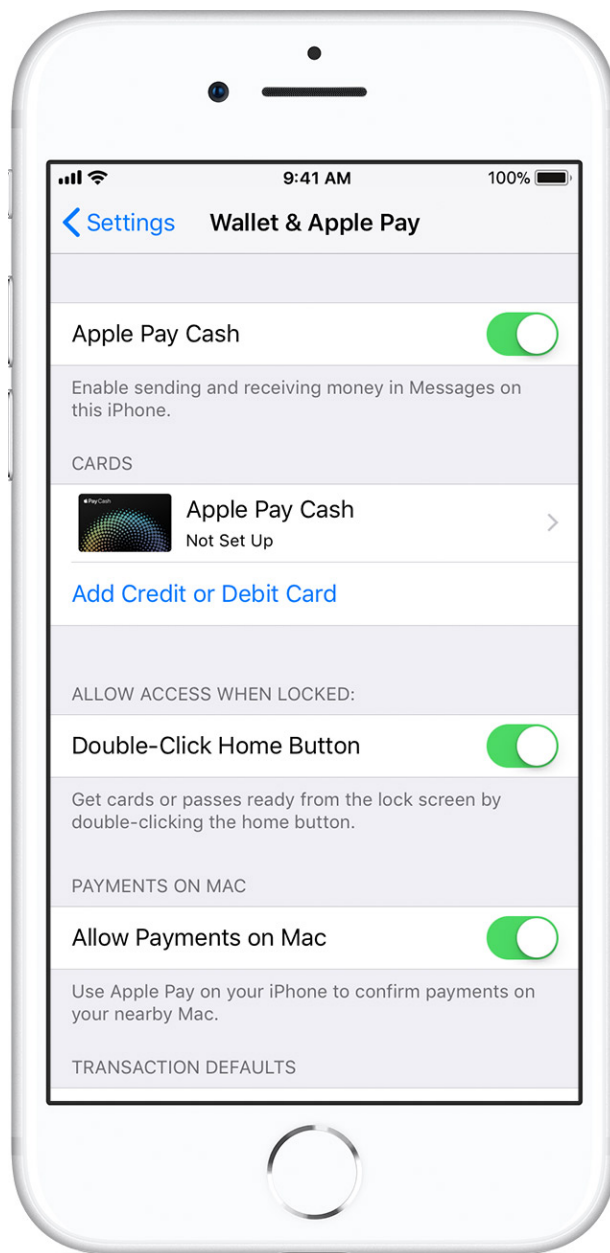
<https://sixcolors.com/2017/12/how-to-use-apple-pay-cash/>

While iOS 11.2 was released seemingly ahead of schedule over the weekend to combat the endless rebooting bug, it did not initially activate the Apple Pay Cash feature that was in the betas. Instead, the ability to send money to contacts via the Messages app came in a gradual rollout on Monday.

If you're not seeing it in Messages currently, it's possible your number hasn't come up yet; force-quitting and restarting Messages could help, as could a reboot of your phone, but you also may have to tap that most valuable of resources: patience.

For those of you who do have Apple Pay showing up, I did a quick test of how it works, spending money so you don't have to. As promised, Apple Pay Cash is pretty straightforward: when it's been activated, you should get a full-screen notice inside Messages alerting you that it's ready to use and accessible via iMessage apps, which you get to by tapping the apps button next to the text field in Messages. (You can also send payments from your Apple Watch.)

By default, Apple Pay Cash has you sending \$1, which you can adjust with plus or minus buttons that increment or decrement by a dollar. You can also tap the dollar amount to show a keyboard, which lets you request



cents in addition to dollars, though you can't apparently go below \$1. You can also send a request to someone for money.

Important note: Remember that if you pay with a credit card, there's a 3 percent credit card fee, which I learned the hard way.

When you send the money the first time, you'll have to verify your identity, including your name, birth date, and the last four digits of your social security number. After that, you'll get the same Apple Pay screen that you'll recognize from any other Apple Pay transaction. iPhone X users will have to double-click the side button and authenticate with Face ID; users of earlier iPhones will just have to use Touch ID. Then, your money goes off at the speed of light (Or the speed of iMessage. Which is often much slower than light.).

Under Settings > Wallet & Apple Pay, you'll find a new Apple Pay Cash card —tapping on that gives you a few additional options, including a transaction history, whether or not you want to automatically accept payments, and ways to add money to your Apple Pay Cash balance or transfer your balance to a bank account. Remember that when you have a balance on your Apple Pay Cash card, you'll be able to use it like any other card you have in Apple Pay. (I'm not sure yet what happens if there's not enough balance to cover your purchase—does it simply fail or fall back to another card?)

Apple's got [a more thorough help document on Apple Pay Cash](#) if you're curious, as well as one that [details the monetary limits](#). (Hint: Don't try to store more than \$20,000 on your Apple Pay Cash card.)

[If you appreciate articles like this one, help us continue doing Six Colors (and get some fun benefits) by [becoming a Six Colors subscriber](#).]

[[Dan Moren](#) is a tech writer, novelist, podcaster, and the Official Dan of Six Colors. You can email him at dan@sixcolors.com or find him on Twitter at [@dmoren](#).]



Apple Cash: Requirements **APPLE**

<https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT207886>

To send and receive money with Apple Pay, you must be at least 18 years old and you must live in the United States. 2 You also need these things:

- A compatible device with iOS 11.2 and later or watchOS 4.2 and later.
- Two-factor authentication for your Apple ID. Make sure that you sign in to iCloud with your Apple ID on any device that you want to use to send or receive money.
- An eligible credit or debit card in Wallet, so you can send money. Learn how to add a card.

Then you need to agree to the Terms and Conditions. You can do this the first time that you try to send or receive money. You might also be asked to verify your identity.

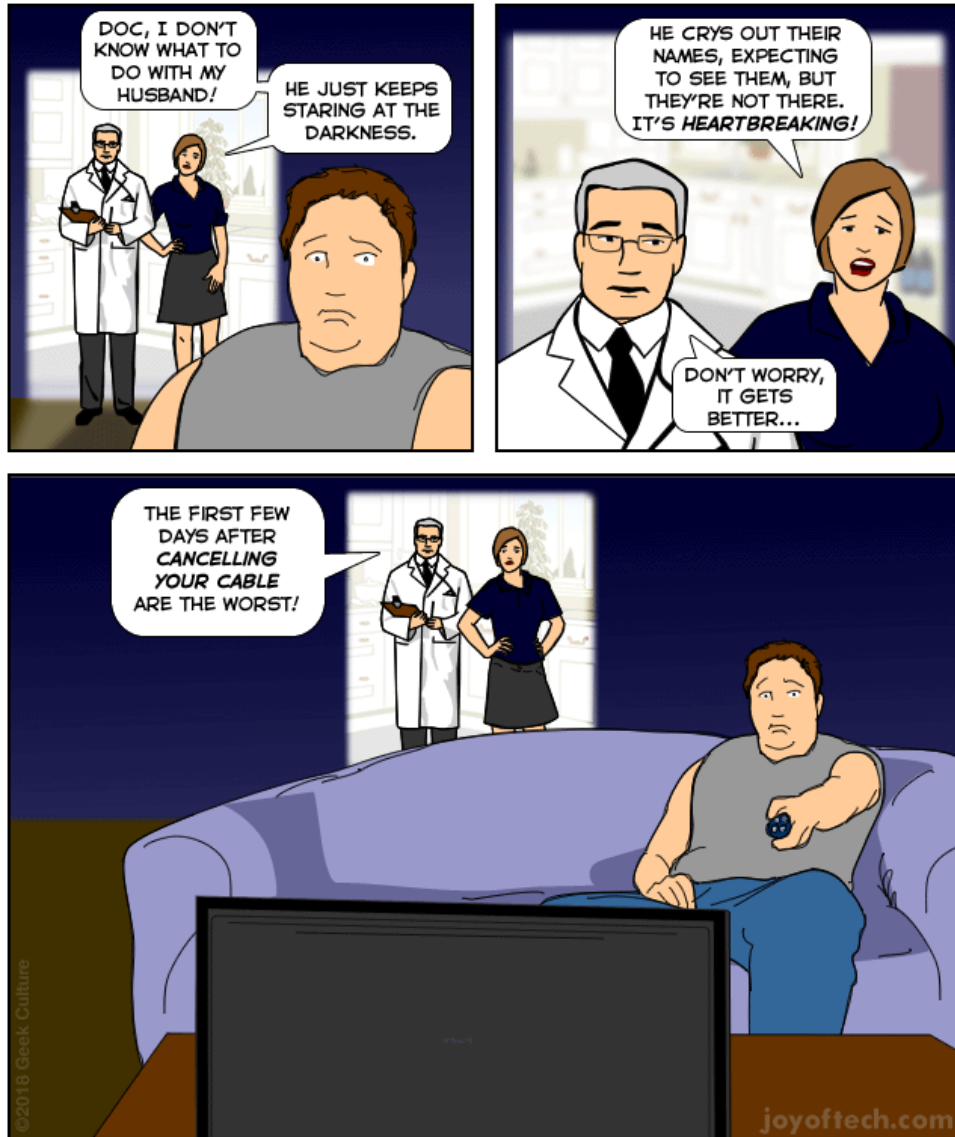


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Brydge Keyboard 12.9 Review: Closer to iPad keyboard perfection

JASON SNELL

<https://sixcolors.com/post/2017/01/brydge-keyboard-129-review-closer-to-ipad-keyboard-perfection/>



I've been struggling to find the perfect 12.9-inch iPad Pro keyboard. The Razer Mechanical, Logitech Create, and Apple Smart Keyboard all have issues that prevent me from endorsing them. The big screen is why I love the big iPad, but its surface area makes it tough to match with a keyboard that's functional and not bulky. Generally, I've been traveling with an Apple Magic Keyboard and the Studio Neat Canopy.

But I think I've found the best external keyboard yet for the 12.9-inch iPad:

the \$150 Brydge Keyboard 12.9. It's not perfect, but it's the first external keyboard that I can see myself using on a regular basis.

The Brydge keyboard is an aluminum-bodied Bluetooth keyboard with the same surface area as the iPad Pro. At the top of the keyboard, there are two padded hinges into which you slide the iPad Pro. Once the two devices are attached, the iPad Pro is effectively a 13-inch laptop, albeit one with a touchscreen and no trackpad.

Here are the ways that the Brydge keyboard excels over other keyboards I've tried:

Ease of attachment/removal. The Logitech Create keyboard will also turn your iPad into a laptop, but snapping the iPad into the case takes time and effort, as does extracting it. I never want to commit to my iPad remaining a laptop for an extended period of time—if I want to go keyboardless, I want to be able to do it in a heartbeat. Inserting the iPad into the hinge clips on the Brydge takes a little training, but after I'd tried it a couple of times I could do it in seconds. Removing the iPad is even easier.

Works in your lap. A lot of tablet keyboards use the “kickstand” method for stability on flat surfaces—a support extends out from the back of the tablet, rather than the L shape you'd find in a laptop. The result is that these keyboards work well on tables and desks, but not on laps, where they tend to be unstable at best and unusable at worst. The Brydge keyboard works like a laptop, with all the support coming from the heavy-duty hinges and the weight of the keyboard body itself.

Adjustable viewing angle. Some keyboards and cases, including the Logitech Create and the Studio Neat Canopy, are limited to a single viewing angle. That's great if it's the perfect angle for you, but the Brydge hinges let you move the iPad screen a full

180 degrees, so you can pick the angle that works for you at any given moment. Just like a laptop.

A good keyboard. The Brydge Keyboard's keys are very much in the style of the previous generation of Apple laptop keys, like those still found on the MacBook Air. I'm a big fan of that keyboard style, so this works for me. The keyboard also features a full row of function keys (unlike the Apple Smart Keyboard), and three levels of keyboard backlighting.

Color matched and lid closed. The Brydge keyboards are sheathed in aluminum and come in all the same colors as the iPad Pro, so my Space Gray keyboard matches my Space Gray iPad. When I close the “lid”—put my iPad against the top of the keyboard—the two sides come together perfectly and resemble nothing more than a closed 13-inch laptop.

I didn't find weight to be an issue. Like the Logitech Create, the Brydge Keyboard weighs about 1.6 pounds, roughly the same weight as the iPad Pro itself. When connected together, it's a 3.2-pound “laptop.” When I want something lighter, I remove the iPad and walk away.

There are, however, a few things that prevent me from declaring the Brydge the perfect 12.9-inch iPad Pro keyboard.

My biggest complaint is the lack of an escape key. Believe it or not, just as on the Mac, you can tap the escape key on iOS to cancel out of various states, including Spotlight searches. I didn't realize I used that key a lot on my Magic Keyboard with the Canopy until switching to the Brydge. Brydge offers a Home key, Lock key, and even a Siri key, but I'd easily trade one of them for a proper escape key.


This is a Bluetooth keyboard, so it doesn't use the Smart Connector on the iPad Pro. As a result, you need to occasionally charge it via a micro-USB cable. The battery life of the keyboard seems quite good, though it'll be reduced somewhat if you use the backlighting. I don't think occasionally recharging a keyboard is a big deal, so this didn't bother me.

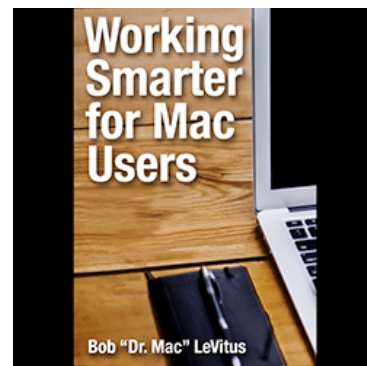
While it's not a big deal for me, some people are sticklers for device protection. While I'd have no problem putting this set-up in a backpack or shoulder bag, it's worth noting that the Brydge keyboard does not provide any protection for the back of the iPad, and because of the way the hinges are constructed, you can't use it if your iPad is in a case.

But my biggest caveat with the Brydge keyboard is not the keyboard itself, but a lack of consistency in the manufacturing process. The first keyboard I bought from Brydge just didn't work—it dropped characters

even at slow typing speeds. A second model, shipped to me as a replacement, showed the same problem. All the while, Brydge customer support was responsive and helpful, and on the third try I got a working model. In the end, it all worked out—and at no extra cost to me—but it left me a little uneasy.

Still, here's where I am now: I can slip my iPad Pro into the Brydge Keyboard and it's suddenly a laptop, ready for me to write an article (like this one) or revise a novel or anything else that requires a whole lot of words. I can pull the iPad out of the keyboard in a second and walk away with an unencumbered tablet. That's the combination I've been looking for. I'll keep my eye out for perfection, but in the meantime I'll be using the Brydge keyboard as my iPad keyboard of choice.

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Working Smarter for
Mac Users

Membership Renewal

For those members who wish to mail in their renewal, simply print and fill out this page, include check or money order for \$20 (made out to NEO Apple Corps) and mail to:

NEOAC
P.O. Box 361782
Strongsville, OH 44136

Name (first last):

Email address (Please include even if opting out of Google Group, so an acknowledgement of the receipt of your check can be issued; a written receipt will be available at the next meeting.):

Street Address:

City, State & Zip Code:

Form

New or Renewal: circle one

1. New
2. Renewal
3. Lifetime member

Are you part of a family membership?
circle one

1. No
2. Primary member (the one who paid)
3. Secondary member (everyone else)

What computer model(s) do you own?
(e.g. Mini, MacBook, iPhone, iPad)

What is the primary OS you use?
(e.g., Snow Leopard? Lion? Mountain Lion? Mavericks? Yosemite? iOS? Other?)

Years using a Mac: circle one

1. less than one year
2. 1-3 years
3. More than 3 years

Opt out of Google Group

Do you want to receive listserv email?

1. Yes
2. No