

The Best iPad Cases

Quick look at the best shells, skins, slipcases, portfolios, bags, and specialty cases

by Cindy Downes

Choosing the best case for your iPad depends on how you use it, the type of environment in which you use it, whether or not you travel with it, how much money you can afford, and your personal preferences. Whether you're looking for the "naked" look, a simple grip, exceptional protection, a carryall, a case

that "makes a statement," or a specialty case, there's a solution for you. A search on the Internet yields a diverse assortment of iPad cases in a variety of colors, styles, sizes and prices. With so many choices, making a decision can be difficult. To help you get started, here are my choices for Best iPad Cases for 2010.

Best Accessories | Cases, Clips & Protectors

BEST BAGS

A bag is for iPad owners who want to carry accessories and other personal items with their iPad. Bags come in many styles, colors, sizes, and prices. Here are my choices for the Best Bag category:



Best Style: iPad Exo SleeveCase
\$49-\$99, sfbags.com

The Exo SleeveCase has a stylish and upscale look and feel. At first glance, it looks like it belongs in the Slipcase section, but its storage capacity makes it a better fit here. The basic case can be customized to suit your tastes, storage needs, and budget. For example, you can choose an orientation (vertical or horizontal), pick a color, add a strap, and purchase an extra Piggyback pouch for more storage. There's room inside the case for an iPad, a pen or stylus, or small notebook. An open pocket on the back holds earphones, cables, and similar items. If you add the optional Piggyback pouch, there's more room for a cell phone, wallet, and other personal items.

The Exo is constructed of lightweight, high-grade neoprene wrapped in a ballistic nylon shell. The foam-lined, shoulder strap is extremely comfortable, and the case is TSA checkpoint friendly. It's available in black with two trim color choices: lead indium or leather.

Best Protection—Booq's Taipan Shadow XS
\$79.95, booqbags.com

The Shadow XS is compact, lightweight, roomy, and protective. I was not able to examine this bag, but fellow blogger, John Painter, says it's his favorite.



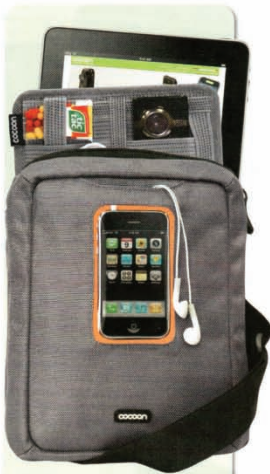
"I love my new Booq bag.... It's very heavily padded and no doubt would save your iPad in a drop." The Shadow XS has room for papers, business cards, keys, and iPad accessories while maintaining a minimum exterior size. It's also airport friendly. It's a relatively expensive solution, but according to Painter, "... it's worth the premium."



Best Value: Kensington Sling Bag
\$19.99, us.kensington.com

This is my husband, Bill's favorite case. Sling Bag is a roomy, over-the-shoulder bag with an adjustable strap and a well-padded slot for the iPad. As long as it's in the bag, your iPad is well protected from drops, bumps, and scratches, but you'll need another case to protect it when it's out of the bag. Bill keeps his iPad in the Eco-Vue.

In addition to the iPad slot, Sling Bag has an inside zippered pouch for accessories. In between the slot and pouch is room for even more stuff. Bill carries his Kindle, iPad, notebook, cables, and pens inside the bag. The bag also has an outside zippered pouch for items you want to retrieve quickly, such as a cell phone. A tab, attached on the outside, is useful



Best Functionality: Cocoon Innovations Messenger Sling
\$29.99, cocooninnovations.com

The Messenger Sling protects your iPad in a padded interior pouch. The bag also includes "Grid-It," a woven elastic organizer designed to hold pens, a stylus, earphones, flash drives, notepads, business cards, charging cord, small electronics, and other accessories. Customize it any way you like with the woven elastic grids that hold the accessories in place. A pocket on the outside of the bag lets you carry your iPhone or another small electronic device. The pocket has a clear, thin plastic window that provides access to the iPhone's interface without having to remove it from the bag. The Messenger Sling is constructed of ballistic nylon and weighs less than a pound. It's available in black, gun gray, and racing red.

The Best iPad Cases

Quick look at the best shells, slipcases, portfolios, bags, and specialty cases
by Cindy Downes

Choosing the best case for your iPad depends on how you use it, the type of environment in which you use it, whether or not you travel with it, how much money you can afford, and your personal preferences. Whether you're looking for the "naked" look, a simple grip, exceptional protection, a carryall, a case that "makes a statement," or a specialty case, there's a solution for you. A search on the Internet yields a diverse assortment of iPad cases in a variety of colors, styles, sizes and prices. With so many choices, making a decision can be difficult. To help you get started, here are my choices for Best iPad Cases for 2010.

Best Accessories | Cases, Clips & Protectors

BEST BAGS

A bag is for iPad owners who want to carry accessories and other personal items with their iPad. Bags come in many styles, colors, sizes, and prices. Here are my choices for the Best Bag category:

Best Style: iPad Exo SleeveCase

\$49-\$99, sfbags.com

The Exo SleeveCase has a stylish and upscale look and feel. At first glance, it looks like it belongs in the Slipcase section, but its storage capacity makes it a better fit here. The basic case can be customized to suit your tastes, storage needs, and budget. For example, you can choose an orientation (vertical or horizontal), pick a color, add a strap, and purchase an extra Piggyback pouch for more storage. There's room inside the case for an iPad, a pen or stylus, or small notebook. An open pocket on the back holds earphones, cables, and similar items. If you add the optional Piggyback pouch, there's more room for a cell phone, wallet, and other personal items.



Best Value: Kensington Sling Bag

\$19.99, us.kensington.com

This is my husband, Bill's favorite case. Sling Bag is a roomy, over-the-shoulder bag with an adjustable strap and a well-padded slot for the iPad. As long as it's in the bag, your iPad is well protected from drops, bumps, and scratches, but you'll need another case to protect it when it's out of the bag. Bill keeps his iPad in the Eco-Vue.

Best Functionality: Cocoon Innovations Messenger Sling

\$29.99, cocooninnovations.com

The Messenger Sling protects your iPad in a padded interior pouch. The bag also includes "Grid-It," a woven elastic organizer designed to hold pens, a stylus, earphones, flash drives, notepads, business cards, charging cord, small electronics, and other accessories. Customize it any way you like with the woven elastic grids that hold the accessories in place. A pocket on the outside of the bag lets you carry your iPhone or another small electronic device. The pocket has a clear, thin plastic window that provides access to the iPhone's interface without having to remove it from the bag. The Messenger Sling is constructed of ballistic nylon and weighs less than a pound. It's available in black, gun gray, and racing red.

BUYERS GUIDE

iPhoneLife

+ iPad & iPod touch iPhoneLife.com
NOV-DEC 2010 VOL. 7, NO. 5

BUYERS GUIDE

Best Apps & Accessories

NEW iPod touch

Which Device is Right for YOU?