About MacBooks

When Apple Computers introduced their iMac range of desktop computers in 1998 it was a major breakthrough. To try and match the success of the iMac, Apple began working on a new range of Notebook computers. They first entered this market seriously with the Macintosh Portable in 1989. In 1991, Apple introduced the PowerBook range of laptops, which was essentially the forerunner to the MacBook range.

In 1999 a new range of Apple laptops was introduced. This was the iBook range, aimed firmly at the consumer market. In May 2006 the MacBook range first appeared. The two main reasons for this consolidation were:

- Simplifying Apple's laptop range under one banner

- It was during this period that Apple Computers were moving from Power PC processors for their computers to Intel processors

The MacBook range now consists of:

- **MacBook Pro**. This is the professional version of the MacBook and is aimed more at the market previously covered by the PowerBook range

- **MacBook Air**. This range pushes the idea of thin, light and portable laptops even further than the standard MacBook. It is billed as an ultraportable notebook computer and claims to be the thinnest on the market, currently at 0.68 inches

The MacBook Air comes in two sizes: an 11-inch and a 13-inch version. The MacBook Pro comes in two sizes: 13- and 15-inches. The 15-inch version is available with a high resolution Retina display. This provides very vibrant and detailed color to make images as bright as possible and text the sharpest yet on a MacBook.

Don't forget

iBooks had a lot of media coverage in terms of appearing in popular TV shows and movies. This has continued with the MacBook range.

MacBook Specifications

All computing technology moves at a break-neck speed, and specifications are always getting better and better. The range for MacBooks is from the 11-inch MacBook Air to the 15-inch MacBook Pro Retina display, with 13-inch versions in between.

11-inch MacBook Air
- Display: 11.6-inch (diagonal) high-resolution LED-backlit glossy widescreen display

- Battery life: Up to 5 hours wireless web

- Height 0.11–0.68 inches (0.3–1.7cm); Width 11.8 inches (30 cm); Depth 7.56 inches (19.2 cm); Weight 2.38 pounds (1.08 kg)

- Processor: 1.7GHz dual-core Intel Core i5 processor

- Storage: 64GB flash storage

- Memory: 4GB of 1600MHz DDR3L onboard memory

- Graphics card: Intel HD Graphics 4000

- Ports: Two USB 3 ports and one Thunderbolt port

15-inch MacBook Pro Retina display
- Display: Retina display 15.4 (diagonal) LED backlit display with IPS technology

- Battery life: Up to seven hours wireless web

- Height 0.71 inches (1.8 cm); Width 14.13 inches (35.89 cm); Depth 9.73 inches (24.71 cm); Weight 4.46 pounds (2.02 kg)

- Processor: 2.6GHz quad-core Intel Core i7 processor

- Storage: 512GB

- Memory: 8GB of 1600MHz DDR3L onboard memory

- Graphics card: Intel HD Graphics 4000 and NVIDIA GeForce GT 650M

- Ports: Two USB 3 ports, two Thunderbolt ports, one HDMI port, one SDXC memory card slot

Don't forget

All MacBooks have a range of energy-saving and environmental features.

Don't forget

MacBook Air and the MacBook Pro Retina display both have flash storage. This is similar in some ways to traditional ROM (Read Only Memory) storage but it generally works faster and results in improved performance. The MacBook Pro Retina display is also designed with a flash architecture throughout to make it one of the most advanced laptops currently on the market.

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