

iPad Pro vs MacBook Air

M1 Chip shoot out: Same Power, Different Uses

First Step, Configurations & Pricing

- Styles & Models
- Capacities (RAM, SSD)
- Battery & Power
- Display (brightness, resolution, number of pixels)
- Pricing of basic, middle, high end configurations

iPad Pro 12.9-in. (5th generation) ▾

iPad Pro 11-in. (3rd generation) ▾



 
Silver

 
Silver

Wi-Fi
Starting at \$1099

Wi-Fi + Cellular
Starting at \$1299

Buy

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Wi-Fi
Starting at \$799

Wi-Fi + Cellular
Starting at \$999

Buy

[Learn more >](#)

Summary

12.9"

Liquid Retina XDR display¹
ProMotion technology and True Tone

11"

Liquid Retina display¹
ProMotion technology and True Tone

MacBook Air (M1, 2020) ▾

MacBook Pro 13-in. (M1, 2020) ▾



  
Silver

 
Silver

From \$999

From \$1299

Buy

Buy

Quick Look

13.3"

Retina display¹

13.3"

Retina display¹

iPad Pro 12.9-in. (5th generation) ▾

iPad Pro 11-in. (3rd generation) ▾



M1 chip with next-generation Neural Engine



M1 chip with next-generation Neural Engine

Up to
2TB

Up to
2TB

MacBook Air (M1, 2020) ▾

MacBook Pro 13-in. (M1, 2020) ▾

Up to
16GB
unified memory

Up to
16GB
unified memory

Up to
2TB
storage³

Up to
2TB
storage³

iPad Pro 12.9-in. (5th generation) ▾

iPad Pro 11-in. (3rd generation) ▾

MacBook Air (M1, 2020) ▾

MacBook Pro 13-in. (M1, 2020) ▾

Power and Battery⁵

Up to 10 hours of surfing the web on Wi-Fi or watching video

Up to 10 hours of surfing the web on Wi-Fi or watching video

Up to 9 hours of surfing the web using cellular data network

Up to 9 hours of surfing the web using cellular data network

20W USB-C Power Adapter

with magic keyboard 3.0 lbs

Power and Battery⁵

Up to 15 hours wireless web

Up to 17 hours wireless web

Up to 18 hours Apple TV app movie playback

Up to 20 hours Apple TV app movie playback

Integrated 49.9-watt-hour lithium-polymer battery

Integrated 58.2-watt-hour lithium-polymer battery

30W USB-C Power Adapter

61W USB-C Power Adapter

2.8 lbs

3.0 lbs

iPad Pro 12.9-in. (5th generation) ▾

iPad Pro 11-in. (3rd generation) ▾

Liquid Retina XDR display

12.9-inch (diagonal) mini-LED backlit Multi-Touch display with IPS technology¹

2732-by-2048 resolution at 264 ppi

600 nits max brightness (typical)

1000 nits max full-screen brightness; 1600 nits peak brightness (HDR)

Fingerprint-resistant oleophobic coating

Fully laminated display

Antireflective coating

ProMotion technology

Wide color display (P3)

True Tone display

Liquid Retina display

11-inch (diagonal) LED backlit Multi-Touch display with IPS technology¹

2388-by-1668 resolution at 264 ppi

600 nits max brightness (typical)

—

Fingerprint-resistant oleophobic coating

Fully laminated display

Antireflective coating

ProMotion technology

Wide color display (P3)

True Tone display

MacBook Air (M1, 2020) ▾

MacBook Pro 13-in. (M1, 2020) ▾

Display

13.3-inch (diagonal) LED-backlit display with IPS technology

Retina display

2560 by 1600 pixels

400 nits brightness

Wide color (P3)

True Tone technology

13.3-inch (diagonal) LED-backlit display with IPS technology

Retina display

2560 by 1600 pixels

500 nits brightness

Wide color (P3)

True Tone technology

iPad Pro 12.9-in. (5th generation) ▾

iPad Pro 11-in. (3rd generation) ▾

Wi-Fi

128GB \$1099

256GB \$1199

512GB \$1399

1TB \$1799

2TB \$2199

Wi-Fi + Cellular

128GB \$1299

256GB \$1399

512GB \$1599

1TB \$1999

2TB \$2399

Wi-Fi

128GB \$799

256GB \$899

512GB \$1099

1TB \$1499

2TB \$1899

Wi-Fi + Cellular

128GB \$999

256GB \$1099

512GB \$1299

1TB \$1699

2TB \$2099

8GB RAM

16GB RAM

MacBook Air (M1, 2020) ▾

MacBook Pro 13-in. (M1, 2020)

Memory

8GB \$999

16GB +\$200

8GB

16GB

Storage³

256GB SSD \$999

512GB SSD +\$200

1TB SSD +\$400

2TB SSD +\$800

256GB SSD

512GB SSD

1TB SSD

2TB SSD

Magic Keyboard \$350

Pencil \$130

3.5mm Audio + Charge \$35

12.9-inch iPad Pro

[Change](#)

Space Gray

[Change](#)

256GB¹

[Change](#)

Wi-Fi

[Change](#)

No Engraving

[Change](#)

Apple Pencil and Keyboards

Get the most out of iPad Pro. Draw, take notes, and sign documents with an Apple Pencil. And edit documents, write email, create spreadsheets, and more with a keyboard. [i](#)

Add Apple Pencil

Keyboard

[Edit](#)



Magic Keyboard for iPad Pro 12.9-inch

\$349.00 or \$29.08/mo. for 12 mo.*

Color: White
Language: US English

Delivers: Tomorrow
Pickup: Today

\$1,548.00

Apple M1 Chip with 8-Core CPU and 7-Core GPU 256GB Storage

Apple M1 chip with 8-core CPU, 7-core GPU, and 16-core Neural Engine

8GB unified memory

256GB SSD storage¹

Retina display with True Tone

Magic Keyboard

Touch ID

Force Touch trackpad

Two Thunderbolt / USB 4 ports

\$999.00

or

\$83.25/mo. for 12 mo.*

[Learn how to pay monthly at 0% APR when you choose Apple Card Monthly Installments](#)

Apple Trade In

Get credit toward a new Mac when you trade in your eligible computer. Or recycle it for free. $\diamond\diamond$

[Get started](#)

Select



Order today. Delivers to **86305**
Aug 18 - Aug 20 — Free

Pick up, in store or curbside:
Today at [Apple Arrowhead](#)

12.9-inch iPad Pro

[Change](#)

Space Gray

[Change](#)

512GB¹

[Change](#)

Wi-Fi

[Change](#)

No Engraving

[Change](#)

Apple Pencil and Keyboards

Get the most out of iPad Pro. Draw, take notes, and sign documents with an Apple Pencil. And edit documents, write email, create spreadsheets, and more with a keyboard. [i](#)

Add Apple Pencil

Keyboard

[Edit](#)



Magic Keyboard for iPad Pro 12.9-inch

\$349.00 or \$29.08/mo. for 12 mo.*

Color: White
Language: US English

Delivers: Wed, Aug 18
Pickup: Today

\$1,748.00

or

Customize your MacBook Air - Space Gray

Apple M1 chip with 8-core CPU, 8-core GPU, and 16-core Neural Engine

8GB unified memory

512GB SSD storage

Retina display with True Tone

Backlit Magic Keyboard - US English

Touch ID

Force Touch trackpad

Two Thunderbolt / USB 4 ports

[Learn more about the Apple M1 chip >](#)

Apple Trade In

Get credit toward a new Mac when you trade in your eligible computer. Or recycle it for free. $\diamond\diamond$

[Get started](#)

Memory

[How much memory is right for you?](#)

8GB unified memory

16GB unified memory

+ \$200.00

Storage

\$1,249.00 or

\$104.08/mo. for 12 mo.*

Add to Bag

Entry Price

Equal Comparison Price

Equal Comparison Price 1TB Storage

12.9-inch iPad Pro [Change](#)

Space Gray [Change](#)

1TB¹ [Change](#)

Wi-Fi [Change](#)

Personalize your device.

Add Engraving

Engrave a mix of emoji, text, and numbers to make iPad Pro unmistakably yours. Only at Apple.

Free

No Engraving

Apple Pencil and Keyboards

Get the most out of iPad Pro. Draw, take notes, and sign documents with an Apple Pencil. And edit documents, write email, create spreadsheets, and more with a keyboard. [i](#)

Add Apple Pencil

\$2,148.00

Customize your MacBook Air - Space Gray

Apple M1 chip with 8-core CPU, 8-core GPU, and 16-core Neural Engine

16GB unified memory

1TB SSD storage

Retina display with True Tone

Backlit Magic Keyboard - US English

Touch ID

Force Touch trackpad

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[Learn more about the Apple M1 chip >](#)

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[Get started](#)


Memory

[How much memory is right for you?](#)

8GB unified memory

- \$200.00

16GB unified memory

 Pick up, in store or curbside:
Today at
[Apple Arrowhead](#)

\$1,649.00 or
\$137.41/mo. for 12 mo.*

Next step: What do you want to do?

- Internet Browsing - both equal unless you are out in the sun
- Email/Messaging - easier to set up and modify email accounts using Air
- Document creation - Pages has more functionality in Air
- Photo/Movie Capture/Editing - ???
- Graphics creation - MUCH easier on iPad Pro
- Gaming - Better on iPad pro
- Music - Equal
- Use on the go, or on lap/desk - varies

Third step: Strengths & Weaknesses

- Internal and External displays - iPad Pro better internal, Air better external
- Performance and Pro Apps - iPad Pro worse off from software
- Games, Human interface, and Portability - iPad wins
- Sound - equal
- Graphics creation -
- Battery & Camera - mixed
- Price - Air wins big

MacBook Air Strengths

- Advanced light weight laptop
- Keyboard and Trackpad included
- Runs all Mac & Professional software Apps
- Able to run iOS software Apps
- More flexible configurations of RAM & SSD
- Most powerful light weight laptop on the market
- Great support for external monitor with virtual desktops

MacBook Air Weaknesses

- FaceTime camera only (and less capable than iPad's)
- No cellular option - requires WiFi or iPhone to get to internet
- No touch screen, no pencil input
- Display not as good as new iPad XDR Liquid Retina one

iPad Strengths

- Light weight (without external add-ons like cover & magic keyboard)
- Higher pixel density, brighter screen, better for use outside in sunlight
- Touch screen
- TrueDepth Camera with 2 lenses (13mm & 26MM)
- Optional 5G nanoSim card for Cellular connection to web
- Whole host of add-ons (keyboards, mice, trackpads, pencils, covers, etc)

iPad Pro Weaknesses

- No external keyboard, mouse, trackpad, pencil included
- All the above are an extra cost
- If you get an inexpensive keyboard, still have to touch the screen to move the cursor
- Covers to protect screen not included, cost extra and add weight
- True independence from WiFi or iPhone costs \$200 more plus monthly cellular
- Only one USB-C port, requires hub for any other connection
- Only iOS software Apps run

iPad Pro Weaknesses

- When attaching to external monitor, it just mirrors the iPad screen. Does not give you virtual desktops
- No “ProApp” support (Xcode, Final Cut, Logic)
- iOS Apps often still a subset of MacOS apps (FileMaker Pro, ON1, Affinity, etc)
- Magic Keyboard adds another pound to weight
- Can not run MacOS software Apps
- Can not get 8GB RAM & 1-2TB of SSD
- No Headphone port

Summary

	External Display	Internal Display	Human Interface	Performance	Portability	Pro Apps	Games	Price	Battery	Ports	Camera	Graphics Creation	Sound	Sum
iPad	2	10	8	10	8	1	8	2	7	4	8	9	10	87
MBA	9	7	6	10	8	10	5	10	10	8	2	6	7	98

Subjective Rating with 10 being the highest rating

References

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