MAKING A "MAC MINI" MORE PORTABLE

by Francis Chao
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Web location for this presentation:
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SUMMARY
A "Mac mini" is usually used as a desktop computer. However, by adding a few accessories to it, a "Mac mini" can travel well with you. When you travel with it, your "Mac mini" can be used as your main portable computer or as a backup for your existing laptop computer.
TOPICS

• "Mac Mini in a briefcase" concept
• Models of the "Mac mini" computer
• Add a keyboard and a mouse
• Add a portable monitor
TOPICS (continued)

• Add a briefcase
• Add a wrap-around case
• Add a USB sound dongle if you need a mic jack
• Connecting USB devices to a "Mac mini"
TOPICS (continued)

• Connecting more than one monitor to a "Mac mini"
"MAC MINI IN A BRIEFCASE" CONCEPT (  
• For a portable Mac that is more durable that a "Macbook.." (but a lot heavier), you can add a few accessories to a "Mac mini" and carry the whole shebang in a briefcase:  


"MAC MINI IN A BRIEFCASE"
CONCEPT (continued)

• A example of the concept can be found at
http://www.branderson.net/2008/03/06/down-with-the-laptop-mac-mini-in-a-suitcase/:


The "Mac mini" is here:
"MAC MINI IN A BRIEFCASE" CONCEPT (continued)

• The small monitor is here:
"MAC MINI IN A BRIEFCASE"
CONCEPT (continued)

• A small power surge strip is here:
Since the owner of this "Mac mini" is a professional musician, he also carries a small audio mixer:
MODELS OF "MAC MINI" COMPUTERS

• "Mac Mini" =
  $500 base price
  $700 base price
  $1000 base price
Base price does not include a monitor, a keyboard, a mouse, or a "Mic In" jack.
MODELS OF "MAC MINI" COMPUTERS (continued)

- Wherever you go with your "Mac mini", you will need to plug it's power cord into a 110VAC power outlet or 240VAC power outlet (unless you bring along a pile of batteries and a "DC to AC power inverter").
MODELS OF "MAC MINI" COMPUTERS (continued)

• The concept image at Apple's Web site shows a "Mac mini" with a monitor, keyboard, and mouse ($999, $107, and $49). The keyboard and the "Magic Keyboard" can travel well but the "Thunderbolt Monitor" is too large and heavy to be considered portable.
ADD A KEYBOARD AND A MOUSE

• Apple's mice (your choice) and their "Magic Keyboard" are essentials for any "Mac mini" whether it is used as a stationary desktop computer or a portable computer:
Apple Wired Mouse
by Apple

List Price: $49.99
Price: $46.50 & FREE Shipping on orders over $49. Details
You Save: $3.49 (7%)

In Stock.
Want it Friday, April 22? Order within 4 hrs 29 mins and choose Two-Day Shipping from and sold by Amazon.com. Gift-wrap available.

- Wired optical mouse with innovative scroll ball
- Touch-sensitive technology offers detects left and right clicks
- Scroll ball lets you scroll in all directions
- Force-sensing side buttons
- Customize button functions with Mac OS X

3 new from $46.50  39 used from $15.00  5 refurbished from $24.99
Apple Magic Keyboard (MLA22LL/A)
by Apple

List Price: $99.00
Price: $94.00 & FREE Shipping. Details
You Save: $5.00 (5%)

In Stock.
Wanted Friday, April 22? Order within 16 hrs 43 mins and choose One-Day Shipping at checkout. Details
Ships from and sold by Amazon.com. Gift-wrap available.

- With an improved scissor mechanism beneath each key for increased stability, as well as optimized key travel and a lower profile, the Magic Keyboard provides a remarkably comfortable and precise typing experience.
- The Magic Keyboard pairs automatically with your Mac, so you can get to work right away. Requires Mac OS X v10.11 or later.
- The battery is incredibly long-lasting - it will power your keyboard for about a month or more between charges.

24 new from $79.75  11 used from $65.00
ADD A PORTABLE MONITOR

• If you are able to borrow a monitor or a TV set with an HDMI input wherever you operate your "Mac mini", you do not need a portable monitor

• Otherwise, you will need a portable monitor:
  You will have to choose between a cheaper, low-resolution one and a more expensive one:
ADD A PORTABLE MONITOR (continued)

• For a really good monitor that is similar to those on many laptop computers, see http://www.gechic.com/product_help_en.asp?s=18
First 13.3” portable monitor with True color and FHD resolution Display

This easy-to-carry On-Lap 1303H is the only portable monitor which supports both HDMI and mini-DisplayPort inputs. Its LED display of full HD 1080P resolution and True Color (16.7M colors) offers brilliant colors and clear images.

IPS Wide-viewing-angle Panel, Comfortable Viewing

On-Lap 1303H comes equipped with high quality IPS panel, providing 178 degrees horizontal and 178 degrees vertical wide viewing angle. No matter hold on hand or place flatly, can surf high quality image to one’s heart’s content. With 1920x1080 resolution and 700:1 contrast, no matter the color display or level of detail, it leads among 13.3 inch screens.

FHD IPS Panel, More Refined

Using Full HD 1080p IPS panel, On-Lap 1303H provides 1920 x 1080 resolution, True Color (16.7M colors) and 300nit brightness.
GeChic 1303H 13.3" 1080p Portable Monitor with HDMI, VGA, MiniDisplay Inputs
by GeChic

List Price $449.99
Price $299.99 & FREE Shipping. Details
You Save $150.00 (33%)

In Stock.
Want it Friday, April 22? Order within 1 hr 53 mins and choose Two-Day Shipping at checkout. Details
Sold by lctouch Tech and Fulfilled by Amazon.

• Full HD 1920 x 1080p resolution and True Color (16.7M) for stunning color performance
• Connects to Mac Mini, MacBooks, Laptops, Smartphones, Cameras, Game Consoles, TriCaster Mini, and other devices via HDMI, VGA, Mini Display
• Plug and Play with no driver installations needed; powers on automatically
• Compact and light design, weighs only 1.3 lbs., comes with an aluminum cover
• IPS 178 Degrees Wide-Viewing-Angle Panel

13 new from $269.99 1 used from $265.49
GeChic 1303H 13.3" 1080p Portable Monitor with HDMI, VGA, MiniDisplay Inputs
by Gechic
⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐  41 customer reviews  |  24 answered questions

List Price: $449.99
Price: $299.99 & FREE Shipping. Details
You Save: $150.00 (33%)

In Stock.
Want it Friday, April 22? Order within 1 hr 52 mins and choose Two-Day Shipping at checkout. Details
Sold by Icitouch Tech and Fulfilled by Amazon.

- Full HD 1920 x 1080p resolution and True Color (16.7M) for stunning color performance
- Connects to Mac Mini, MacBook's, Laptops, Smartphones, Cameras, Game Consoles, Tricaster Mini, and other devices via HDMI, VGA, Mini Display
- Plug and Play with no driver installations needed; powers on automatically
- Compact and light design, weighs only 1.3 lbs., comes with an aluminum cover
- IPS 178 Degrees Wide-Viewing-Angle Panel
ADD A PORTABLE MONITOR (continued)

• For a less expensive but lower-resolution monitor, see
ADD A PORTABLE MONITOR (continued)

• For another less expensive but lower-resolution monitor, see http://www.gechic.com/product_help_en.asp?s=14
GeChic 2501C 15.6" Portable Monitor with HDMI, VGA Inputs
by GeChic

141 customer reviews | 117 answered questions

Price: $199.99 & FREE Shipping. Details

In Stock.
Want it Friday, April 22? Order within 3 hrs 24 mins and choose Two-Day Shipping at checkout. Details
Ships from and sold by Amazon.com. Gift-wrap available.

- HD USB-Powered Portable Monitor with Built-In Speakers & Audio Jack
- No lags with Real Video Input. HDMI or VGA (sold separately)
- Plug & Play (No driver installation needed)
- Weighs 2.27lbs (with cover), 1.28 cm thin
- Comes with a black cover that doubles as a stand

13 new from $198.00

Upgrade Your Gadgets.
Shop the must-have new computer products. Learn more
GeChic 2501C 15.6" Portable Monitor with HDMI, VGA Inputs
by GeChic

Price: $199.99 & FREE Shipping. Details

In Stock.
Want it Friday, April 22? Order within 3 hrs 23 mins and choose Two-Day Shipping at checkout. Ships from and sold by Amazon.com. Gift-wrap available.

- HD USB-Powered Portable Monitor with Built-In Speakers & Audio jack
- No lags with Real Video Input, HDMI or VGA (sold separately)
- Plug & Play (No driver installation needed)
- Weighs 2.27 lbs (with cover), 1.28 cm thin
- Comes with a black cover that doubles as a stand
ADD A PORTABLE MONITOR
(continued)

• For a less expensive monitor that connects to a USB port of the "Mac mini", see https://www.asus.com/us/Monitors/MB168B/overview/
ASUS MB168B HD Portable USB-Powered Monitor with USB 3.0
by Asus

Price: $149.50 & FREE Shipping

In Stock.
Estimated Delivery Date: April 22 - 27 when you choose Expedited at checkout.
Ships from and sold by Technology Galaxy.

- 15.6-inch HD portable USB-powered monitor with a single USB 3.0 cable for power and data transmission
- World's slimmest and lightest USB monitor with a sleek and metallic finish
- Auto-rotating display bundled with the ASUS Smart Case - a two-way adjustable stand and protective sleeve
- ASUS Rapid Replacement: 3 Years Warranty, 2 way free shipping
- Screen Resolution: 1366 x 768. Max screen resolution: 1920 x 1080

63 new from $149.47 30 used from $105.50

Upgrade Your Gadgets.
Shop the must-have new computer products. Learn more
ASUS MB168B HD Portable USB-Powered Monitor with USB 3.0

by Asus

🌟🌟🌟🌟 311 customer reviews | 144 answered questions

Price: $149.50 & FREE Shipping

In Stock.

Estimated Delivery Date: April 22 - 27 when you choose Expedited at checkout.

Ships from and sold by Technology Galaxy.

- 15.6-inch HD portable USB-powered monitor with a single USB 3.0 cable for power and data transmission
- World's slimmest and lightest USB monitor with a sleek and metallic finish
- Auto-rotating display bundled with the ASUS Smart Case - a two-way adjustable stand and protective sleeve
- ASUS Rapid Replacement: 3 Years Warranty, 2 way free shipping
- Screen Resolution: 1366 x 768. Max screen resolution: 1920 x 1080
ADD A BRIEFCASE

• A briefcase with a solid, unbreakable handle and latches can be used to carry the "Mac mini" and it's collection of accessories: A hard-shelled briefcase will do a much better job of protecting the portable monitor relative to a soft carrying case such as a knapsack.
ADD A BRIEFCASE (continued)

• See

http://www.staples.com/Solo-Pro-Laptop-Attache-Titanium-AC100-10/product_555681?externalize=certona
Solo 17.3" Laptop Attaché, Hard-sided with Combination Locks, Silver, AC100-10

by SOLO

79 customer reviews

List Price: $79.99
Price: $39.94 & FREE Shipping on orders over $49.

In Stock.

Want it Friday, April 22? Order within 2 hrs 44 mins and choose Two-Day Shipping at checkout. Details

Ships from and sold by Amazon.com. Gift-wrap available.

Color: Silver

- Padded-frame laptop compartment with removable padded spacers and velcro strap protects laptops up to 17.3"
- Interior organizer section and file pocket.
- Dual combination locks.
- Sturdy carry handle.
- Aluminum body.
- 13.25"H x 18.25"L x 5"W
- 5 Year Warranty
ADD A WRAP-AROUND CASE

• The optional wrap-around case has two functions: It protects the Mac Mini. It provides a "Kensington Security Slot" for using a "computer security cable" to lock down the "Mac mini" when you need to do so.
ADD A WRAP-AROUND CASE

• See https://www.tryten.com/security-mount-for-airport-extreme.html
Designed to secure Apple's Airport Extreme Wireless Router or Mini Mac, the Tryten Security Mount features easy-access rear ports, unrestricted WiFi communication, and high-security anti-pick cam lock. The attractive, scratch-resistant black finish complements well the 16-guage steel cable.

$59.95

SKU: 554425
Each Kit Includes:

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Machine Screws - For VESA mount on back of monitor</td>
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<td>High Security Tubular Lock</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Keys with Cam Lock</td>
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ADD A USB SOUND DONGLE IF YOU NEED A MIC JACK

• The "Mac mini" comes with a TRRS 3.5mm audio jack but injecting mic audio from a headset or a standalone microphone is an iffy proposition. To provide a more reliable headset jack (and a separate headset/speaker audio jack), use a "Griffin Technology" USB "iMic":
ADD A USB SOUND DONGLE IF YOU NEED A MIC JACK (continued)

- See
  https://griffintechology.com/us/imic
Griffin Technology iMic - The original USB Stereo Input and Output Audio Adapter

by Griffin Technology

5 stars 98 customer reviews | 24 answered questions

Price: $39.99 & FREE Shipping on orders over $49. Details

In Stock.

Want it Friday, April 22? Order within 2 hrs 35 mins and choose Two-Day Shipping at checkout. Details

Sold by Griffin Tech and Fulfilled by Amazon. Gift-wrap available.

- High-quality audio input and output for desktops and laptops.
- No external power source needed.
- Provides amplified output for connecting powered speakers to your computer.
- Supports both mic-level and line level input.
- 3.5 mm (1/8") stereo IN and OUT jacks for connecting turntables, cassette decks, microphones, instruments, and powered speakers to your computer.
ADD A USB SOUND DONGLE IF YOU NEED A MIC JACK (continued)

• "Soundblaster" makes a similar device that is called a "Creative Sound Blaster X-Fi Go! Pro USB Audio System with SBX SB1290". However, this device does not generate as clean and as large a microphone signal as the "Griffin Technology iMic" device.
ATTACHING USB DEVICES TO A MAC MINI

• The "Mac mini" has 4 "USB 3.0" ports

• If you attach a "USB 3.0" external hard drive to one of the 4 "USB 3.0" ports of a "Mac mini", the total cable length cannot exceed 5 feet
ATTACHING USB DEVICES TO A MAC MINI (continued)

• If you attach a "USB 2" external hard drive or a "USB 2" flash drive or a "USB 3" flash drive or a USB mouse or a USB keyboard to one of the 4 "USB 3.0" ports of a "Mac mini", the total cable length cannot exceed 15 feet.
ATTACHING USB DEVICES TO A MAC MINI (continued)

• If the total USB cable length exceeds the maximum limits, then attached USB device will either fail to work at all or intermittently fail while you are using it.
ATTACHING USB DEVICES TO A MAC MINI (continued)

• If you need more than 4 "USB 3.0" ports, you can attach a "USB 3.0" hub to one of the 4 "USB 3.0" ports.
IOGEAR 6-Port Super-Speed USB 3.0 Hub (GUH326)
by logear

8 customer reviews

List Price: $49.95
Price: **$40.85** & **FREE Shipping** on orders over $49. Details
You Save: $9.10 (18%)

Only 11 left in stock (more on the way).
**Want it tomorrow, April 22?** Order within **3 hrs 42 mins** and choose **One-Day Shipping** at checkout. Details
Ships from and sold by Amazon.com. Gift-wrap available.

- 5gbps Data Transfer Rate Plus Mobile Device Charging
- High-current Hub Processor With Up To 1.3a Charging
- Up To 10x Faster Than Sub 2.0
- Charge & Sync Tablets Including iPad
- Compatible With Microsoft Windows, Mac Or Linux So
- 6-Port Super-Speed USB 3.0 Hub with up to 5Gbps data transfer rate plus mobile device charging
ATTACHING MORE THAN ONE MONITOR TO A MAC MINI

• The "Mac mini" has an HDMI port for attaching a monitor (or the "HDMI In" jack of a television set)

• If you need an additional HDMI port or a VGA port or a DVI-D port, you can procure and attach a "Mini Displayport to Graphics adapter":

63
ATTACHING MORE THAN ONE MONITOR TO A MAC MINI (continued)

- See
VicTsing Mini Display Port DP to DVI VGA HDMI TV AV HDTV Adapter cable 3 in1 for Mac Book, iMac, Mac Book Air, Mac Book Pro, and Mac mini-Square Shape

by VicTsing

5 star rating - 560 customer reviews | 56 answered questions

List Price: $39.99
Price: $14.99 & FREE Shipping on orders over $49. Details
You Save: $25.00 (63%)

In Stock.
Want it Monday, April 25? Order within 10 hrs 34 mins and choose Two-Day Shipping at checkout. Details
Sold by VicTsingDirect and Fulfilled by Amazon.

Color: B: Mini Display Port DP to DVI VGA HDMI 3 in1

- Support Mini Display Port 1.1a Dual-mode Input.
- The HDMI can support audio output for iMac (Late 2009) and Mac Book Pro (MID 2010)
- Support HDMI/DVI/VGA output with the max resolution of 1920x1080p@60Hz, 225MHz/2.25Gbps per channel (6.75Gbps all channel), 12bit per channel (36bit all channel) deep color.
- Automatic detect the display by plugging and unplugging it.
- Powered from Mini Display Port source.
VicTsing Mini Display Port DP to DVI VGA HDMI TV AV HDTV Adapter cable 3 in1 for Mac Book, iMac, Mac Book Air, Mac Book Pro, and Mac mini-Square Shape

by VicTsing

560 customer reviews | 56 answered questions

List Price: $39.99
Price: $14.99 & FREE Shipping on orders over $49. Details
You Save: $25.00 (63%)

In Stock.
Want it Monday, April 25? Order within 10 hrs 31 mins and choose Two-Day Shipping at checkout. Details
Sold by VicTsingDirect and Fulfilled by Amazon.

Color: B: Mini Display Port DP to DVI VGA HDMI 3 in1

- Support Mini Display Port 1.1a Dual-mode input.
- The HDMI can support audio output for iMac (Late 2009) and Mac Book Pro (Mid 2010)
- Support HDMI/DVI/VGA output with the max resolution of 1920x1080p@60Hz, 225MHz/2.25Gbps per channel (6.75Gbps all channel), 12bit per channel (36bit all channel) deep color.
- Automatic detect the display by plugging and unplugging it.
- Powered from Mini Display Port source.
APPENDIX

• http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/30-years-mac-timeline-apple-macintosh-1433476