

June 14, 2016

What's New? By George Harding

olloclip ...

This is a nifty product to allow your iPhone to expand its photo capability to wide-angle or telephoto.

The device is not large, about 2 inches long and 2 inches wide, in a Z-shape. There are two lenses on either end, facing opposite directions. They are mounted on a frame that has a slot that clips to an iPhone.

One of the lenses is telephoto and provides a 2X view that appears closer to the object on screen.

The other lens is Ultra-wide and provides a view between fisheye and is wide-angle. It's helpful with selfies to get everyone into the picture.



The device fits snugly over the top of the iPhone, with one of the lenses over the forward-facing camera, the other over the rear-facing camera. You can use either camera with either lens. It's easy to switch lenses, too.

Each of the lenses is precision ground, according to the company, giving you high level clarity. I found that it's easy to get finger marks on the lenses, so I advise keeping a polishing cloth handy.

The kit contains the Olloclip, three storage clips, two lens covers and a neck strap to keep your lenses handy.

The results of your photography with these lenses work in any application that you use normally.

I found that using the two lenses offers options you don't normally have. The lens holder is easy to clip onto the top of your iPhone and center it over the forward facing camera. Doing so also centers the other lens over the rear-facing camera.

olloclip

www.olloclip.com

Price \$100

Studio ...

This is a collection of accessories to make your iPhone recording life easier.

It starts with a case that looks like many others, but the back of it is a bit different. It has a pair of slots with a textured section between them.

Each of the accessories in Studio fits into the slots and provides a function that you don't normally have.

One accessory gives you a receptacle for a tripod to screw into. It clips onto the side of the case and into one of the back slots. It can slide up and down the side of the case. It is designed to allow portrait alignment of the iPhone.

A second accessory is similar and allows landscape alignment.

A third provides a slot for a supplementary light for fill or additional illumination.



A fourth gives you another slot for a high gain or other microphone.

Next is a kickstand for stable placement of your iPhone while watching a movie or reading a book.

Last is a holder giving you more secure grip on your iPhone and may help you keep your fingers away from the camera.

All this is available for iPhone 6/6s and iPhone 6.6s Plus.

Studio by olloclip

www.olloclip.com

Price \$90

Dux Case for iPad Mini ...

Our cell phones and tablets need a case to protect the device from damage, fingermarks, scratches and to provide a convenient carrying method.

The Dux case is designed for the iPad Mini, but can be used for other similar sized products. I'm using it for my iPad Mini 2, which is about the same size.

The case is very sturdy, has a fabric cover for easy handling and a polycarbonate back for ultimate protection. The back is actually clear plastic, giving you an easy way to identify your Mini by decoration or design.

The frame is rubberized to give substantial protection to your valuable Mini.



The cover has a tab that goes over the right edge of the frame and wraps around it to form a closure. The tab is magnetized so as to form a solid attachment. The cover won't come open inadvertently.

There are, of course, openings on the side, top and bottom for the buttons and ports. There is also an opening on the back for the camera lens.

The cover is helpful in that opening it wakes the Mini, and closing it puts it to sleep. You don't have to push any buttons to do these functions – pretty handy.



The cover is hinged about 2/3 of its width. This allows it to be tilted to form a stand for your Mini. One mode is almost vertical, the other almost level. Each gives you a hands-free way to use your Mini.

I found this case to be an excellent container for my Mini. It provides needed protection for the Mini, yet is easy to open and use.

Dux case for iPad Mini by STM www.stmbags.com Price \$50

Kodak CFH-V20 Video Monitor ...

Many companies have and are developing home security devices. They offer you the ability to see what's going on inside your home when you're not there.

The CFH-V20 is very easy to install. What you need is home WiFi service and a smart phone, either Apple or Android.

The kit comes with only three things: the monitor itself, a power cord and a brief User Guide. As with other products of this type, the User Guide relies on a smart phone app for most of the installation instructions.

Your first step in setting up the monitor is to power it up. The base of the monitor rotates a bit and detaches, allowing the power cord to be connected. The other end goes in a wall socket.



You can attach the monitor to a wall or just set on a flat surface, as I did. Installation screws are enclosed in the kit for wall installation.

The next step is to download the iSecurity+ smart phone app and open it. You set up an online account, which includes a user name and password, then log in to it.

The monitor sets itself up by tilting and panning, presumably to test its limits. Once that is done, you can access the monitor and the view it provides.

The nice feature of this device is that from the app, you can pan 360° and tilt up and down as needed. In practice, rotation is what you would do. I can't imagine a situation where tilting more than a little bit would ever be needed, but you can do it if you want.

The view pane of the monitor gives an option to take a picture, take a video, talk through the monitor as well as hear, and pan and tilt.

When you make a recording, it is saved with your pictures. There is a feature, however, for cloud storage of motion-triggered videos.

Included with the kit is one-day storage of motion-triggered videos. Every one for the past 24 hours is stored in the cloud. You can buy 14 or 30 day plans (\$9.99/mo. Or \$19.99/mo.) if you want longer periods. Cloud storage is accessed through the app.

The monitor takes color images during the day and at night uses IR filters to see in the dark

Kodak Video Monitor

www.kodak.com

Price \$150