

Design Tools Monthly

The Executive Summary of Graphic Design News

www.design-tools.com

Issue #195 November 2008



NEWS & RUMORS

Gift Subscriptions to Lynda.com

Regular readers of *Design Tools Monthly* are aware of how valuable the video-based trainings at Lynda.com are. Now, you can buy a gift subscription for as little as \$25 for one month of all-you-can-eat access. Check it out at www.lynda.com/giftsubscription.

MacBooks Can Use 6GB of RAM

Although Apple's official line is that the maximum RAM you can use in their laptops is 4GB, it turns out that many people are successfully using 6GB — one 4GB module and one 2GB module.

One company actively promoting this configuration is OWC, but the price to jump from 4GB to 6GB is steep: two 2GB modules cost \$60, while one 2GB with one 4GB costs \$480.

However, if you do lots of video, photo, or 3D work, the speed jump may be worth it. (Note: RAM for the latest "unibody" MacBook/MacBook Pro costs even more:

2GB+2GB=\$130 and
2GB+4GB=\$750!)

www.macsales.com

FCC Approves Unlicensed Use of White Space

After lengthy deliberations, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted unanimously to allow unlicensed use of the "white spaces" between television station frequencies. This is game-changing news for computer users, as it allows companies to develop devices to transmit data wirelessly across great distances, much faster than your existing WiFi network.

Devices using the spectrum could be on the market within a year to 18 months. These might include portable communications gadgets as well as in-home electronics that, for instance, could carry a video signal from a computer or recording device to a television. Imagine extending

...News continues on page 2



NEW HARDWARE

Replace All Your Drives with Drobo

In our August issue, we highlighted the Drobo hard drive storage system, which we believe can really change the way you deal with external hard drives. Without Drobo, if you want external storage that's safely backed up, you need either:

1. A series of external drives, paired for backup; or
2. A RAID setup.

Both solutions are complicated. The first is messy and the second is limiting. Drobo solves these problems by letting you slide up to four bare SATA drives into its cubic enclosure, in any combination of capacities. Drobo combines their capacity and presents it to your computer as one large volume. Drobo reserves

...Hardware continues on page 2



NEW SOFTWARE

Sample Colors with Your iPhone

Code Line's Color Expert (\$10) is an amazingly cool iPhone application that turns your iPhone into a color sampler and color scheme builder. You can take photos with the iPhone's camera, match colors in the photos to Pantone PMS and Goe swatches, build custom Monochromatic, Analogous, Complementary, Split Complementary and Triadic color palettes, email your color schemes, and more. This is not only a great tool for on-location color sampling, it'll impress your clients.

www.code-line.com

...Software continues on page 4



TIPS & TRICKS

Instantly Name PDF Bookmarks

When creating a new bookmark in Acrobat, Acrobat can name it for you automatically. Just select some text on the page you plan to bookmark, press Command-B to create the bookmark, and the bookmark will be named using that text.

Bridge's New Grid View

Unlike other view modes in Bridge, the new Grid view in Bridge CS4 shows all images without cutting any off at the bottom of the preview window.

Helpful Adjustment Presets in Photoshop

In Photoshop CS4, if you create an Adjustment Layer, look in the Adjustment Layer panel. There, you can choose among several very helpful presets for each kind of adjustment. If one gets you almost to where you need, you can tweak it from there. Browse through the presets for Levels, Curves, Exposure, Hue/Saturation, Black & White, Channel Mixer and Selective Colors. Click one to apply it, then press Command-Z to undo it. It's an incredibly fast way to make instant adjustments.

...more Tips & Tricks on page 5