

Gestures and Techniques

If you've never before owned a multitouch device from Apple, you may be unfamiliar with crazy phrases like pinch-to-zoom and the difference between flick and swipe. Have no fear: While some of these gestures may have odd names, they're easy enough to pick up.

You can tap to open apps, bring up controls, make choices from menus, and more.

Tap: As clicking is to a desktop computer, so is tapping to an iOS device. Tapping is the most common and basic gesture. **Double-tap:** Tap an object twice in succession to effect a double-tap. Double-taps are primarily used for zooming in or out on text.

Tap, hold, and drag: For some functions, such as highlighting text, copying and pasting, or deleting and moving apps, you'll need to tap and hold down on the screen. When you do this on a piece of text, it will highlight in blue, and editing handles—vertical lines with blue dots—will appear on either side of the highlighted area. You can tap, hold, and, while holding down, drag your finger to increase or decrease the selection. Dragging also comes into play for moving objects in apps, drawing, and swiping and flicking.



Drag your finger across the screen, up, down, left, or right, to swipe.

Flick and swipe: Swiping is one of your primary navigational tools: You use a left or right swipe to move through app pages on your Home screen or images in the Photos app; you use an up or down swipe to read text in Safari, iBooks, Newsstand, or elsewhere. It's one of the easiest gestures to learn. A flick is just like a swipe, only faster: Your device supports inertial scrolling, which means that the faster or slower you move your finger, the faster or slower content will move. If you want to get to the bottom of a page quickly, just flick your finger upward in a fast motion.



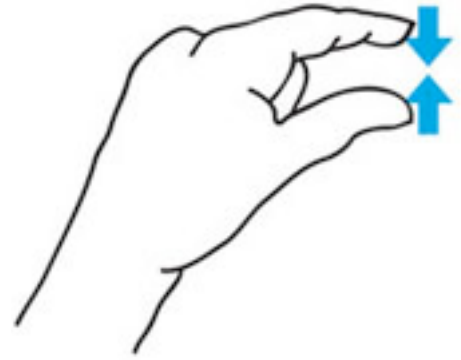
One note of caution: All flicking and swiping on your device is inverse, meaning that when you move your finger down (in other words, swipe down), you're actually moving whatever is on the screen upward. This makes perfect sense in the real world, but coming from a computer, where scrolling down on a trackpad or mouse actually scrolls the window down, it can be a bit disorienting at first. Why make the clarification? In this book, we refer several times to "swiping right" to bring up a left-hand navigational bar—which can be confusing to parse, if you don't know about inverse gestures.

To zoom in or out, you'll use the pinch gesture (also referred to as pinch-to-zoom).

Pinch: To zoom in or to open something, place your thumb and index finger, pinched together, on screen and spread them apart. To zoom out, do the reverse: Start with your thumb and index finger outwards, and then pinch them together.

Rotate: You can even rotate some elements with two or more fingers. Just place two fingers on the screen and make a circular gesture, clockwise or counterclockwise.

iPad 2-specific multitasking gestures: If you own an iPad 2 running iOS 5, you can use additional gestures to multitask on your device, which include a four- or five-finger swipe and pinch.



More fingers, more tasks

Four- or five-finger vertical swipe

With iOS 5, your iPad 2 will gain several new multitouch gestures for working with apps and the multitasking bar. These gestures require more fingers—and therefore, more space—than your typical iOS pinching, swiping, and tapping gestures; as a result, these gestures are available only on the iPad. The good news, however, is that anyone already familiar with the iOS gesture-based interface should have no problem learning and using the latest additions to the growing list of available taps, swipes, flicks, and pinches.

If you're tired of pressing the Home button repeatedly to pull up the multitasking bar, you may like these three new gestures, all of which require four to five fingers to execute. With them, you can switch between apps and return to the home screen much quicker.

Four- or Five-Finger Vertical Swipe Like a double-press on the Home button, a four- or five-finger upward swipe will pull up the multitasking bar along the bottom of the screen. To return it, swipe downward to hide the bar (or single-tap anywhere above it).



Four- or five-finger horizontal swipe

Four- or Five-Finger Horizontal Swipe With a four- or five-finger horizontal swipe, you can quickly move between your most recently used apps. For example, if you're in Safari and want to switch to another open app, you can perform a four- or five-finger horizontal swipe left or right to move from one app to another; it's similar to the one-finger swipe you use to move between home screens. You can swipe only between apps that have recently been used; to see those



(and which order they've been used in), pull up the multitasking bar by double-pressing the Home button or by performing the four- or five-finger vertical swipe mentioned earlier.

As you swipe, the app you're in will follow your fingers and move off the screen in the direction you are swiping. As it slides off, the next app will begin to crawl in from the other side of the screen until you swipe far enough for it to snap to center. You can swipe quickly to jump through apps almost immediately, or drag slower to fully appreciate the animation.

Four- or five-finger pinch

Four- or Five-Finger Pinch When you're in an app and want to quickly return to the home screen, you can use a four- or five-finger pinch gesture. (This accomplishes the same thing as clicking the Home button.) Start with four or five fingers outward, and then pinch them together. Depending on the speed of your pinch, you can either slowly shrink the app until it disappears into the home screen, or do a quick pinch so that the app disappears at the same speed as it would if you clicked the Home button normally. This gesture has no reversal option; to reopen a recently closed app, you'll have to pull up the multitasking bar.

