

iPhone Setting it up!

First of all, to those of you who are planning to get an iPhone, here is some advice. Get your Contacts, Calendars and email accounts in order before you sync your iPhone. Doing this before you sync your iPhone will save you plenty of aggravation down the road.

Merge all your duplicate contacts. Some people I've met have 3 or 4 address book entries for the same person! Open address book, shift-click on the duplicate entries and select "merge selected cards". This will combine all the scattered info into one card. If you give the contact a photo, that image will be displayed when the person calls you. You can also use the "Look for Duplicates" under the Card menu in the address book to help you find duplicates. Get this under control and you will save yourself a lot of time.

If you have most of your info already in your address book on the computer, do not waste your time inputting info on the iPhone first. Sync your contacts with the computer, then as you add new contacts on your iPhone, they will be synced back to the computer the next time you sync the iPhone. If you plan to sync your Safari Bookmarks, make sure you have pruned the dead or outdated sites and organized them as well. Creating well organized folders of bookmarks will help you find what you are looking for more quickly.

Think about what music and movies you want to put on the iPhone. If you don't have an iTunes account yet, sign up now. Download version 7.7 of iTunes and make certain your system is up to date. If you do not want iTunes to launch and Sync every time you hook up your iPhone to the computer, open Preferences>Syncing and Check "Disable automatic syncing for all iPhones and iPods". This will save you a lot of grief.

After major firmware updates, avoid doing anything with the iPhone until the entire process is complete and the iPhone has restarted. Make sure everything is running okay before adding apps, or re-syncing. Click Restore to return iPhone to original settings if you experience a problem. If you don't use Bluetooth, turn it off. If you are not using Wi-Fi, turn it off. This will save your battery. Also, go into Settings>General and change the Auto Lock time to one or two minutes. This turns off the screen for you – saving the battery. If you really want to save battery life and are not using the data side much, turn off the 3G service. Your battery life will improve dramatically. The only downside is that the iPhone cannot accept incoming calls when accessing data on the Edge

(non 3G) network. So if by chance you are downloading an email using Edge when a call comes in, the iPhone won't ring. It may go direct to voicemail. To avoid this use Wi-Fi or 3G at all times. Just be prepared to have the battery drain more quickly.

Avoid Mail confusion

Don't name two of your e-mail accounts with the same name, as Mail will get confused and copy the settings from one account to the other. And you can't fix the situation by simply renaming one account; you'll need to delete one of the accounts and then recreate it.

Find another way to scroll through Contacts

Everyone knows that you can scroll through the Contacts list on your iPhone two different ways—either flick your finger on the list to scroll up or down, or tap on one of the letters on the alphabet running down the right side of the screen to jump to contacts beginning with that letter. But there is a third way: hold your finger on the alphabetical list and then slide up and down—you'll be able to scroll through your Contacts in a more controlled manner than by flicking your finger.

Rebooting your iPhone

Pretend for a moment that your iPhone suddenly becomes unresponsive. Pushing the Home button does nothing. Hitting the On/Off button produces the same discouraging result. What do you do? Apple's first reset tip is to press and hold the Home button for about six seconds to quit any application that might have locked up your iPhone. If that doesn't work, trying pressing and holding both Home *and* On/Off; after about 10 seconds the Apple logo will appear. (This reboot trick takes a little bit longer than the iPod equivalent—holding down Select and Menu usually restarts your music player after four seconds.)