tools of the trade

Bytes and Books

The **iPod nano** is one of the recent variations of **Apple's** spectacularly successful pocket multimedia. Essentially, it's an extremely small MP3 player that will hold gigabytes (1 or 2) of music, photos, podcasts, and audiobooks. The 1.5-inch screen is bright, and the high resolution makes it easy to scroll through levels of menus with your thumb on the click wheel. Between the 1GB and 2GB versions, you can store 500 or 1,000 songs or up to 25,000 photos. The iTunes software makes downloading and managing the files easy via a USB direct connection. The Nano is smaller than you would expect because it relies on flash memory, not an internal hard drive. That also provides skip-free playback even in the pocket of a jogger. The super thin player is 1.5 x 3.5 inches and weighs 1.5 ounces. The internal battery charges through the

The iPod nano

same USB cord you use for syncing, and a charged unit will play back for 14 hours. www.apple.com

There are all kinds of manuals published by the usual sources, but if you want an iPod book as stylish in design as your player, you can get a copy of **Yasukuni Notomi's iPod Fan Book** from **O'Reilly**
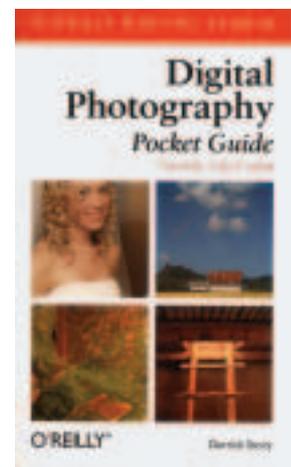
Media, Inc. Exactly 100 pages, the book is about six inches square, and it covers just about everything from basic operations, peripherals, where to find the loaded games, and how to use the iPod calendar and address book. Before you get much past the first 200 or 300 songs loaded, you should read chapters three and four about creating playlists. www.oreilly.com

The **Nikon Coolpix P1 and P2** are the first compact digital cameras with built-in Wi-Fi to send photos to a computer or printer without wires. The Coolpix 8-megapixel P1 and 5-megapixel P2 transmit via 802.11b- and 802.11g-compatible wireless networks and adapters to a computer or most PictBridge-enabled printers equipped with the Nikon Wireless Printer Adapter (PD-10). Three modes of transfer are: Shoot and Transfer Mode, which transfers images as

they are taken; Easy Transfer Mode, which allows images to be transferred by a specific date after they are taken (only new images are transferred to eliminate duplication); and Wireless Print, which uses the optional Wireless Adapter to print without a computer. Other features

Nikon Coolpix Wireless

Googlebooks ◆ Michael Castelluccio, Editor

■ IT HAS BEEN ONE YEAR SINCE GOOGLE decided to recreate the legendary Library of Alexandria online with scans of large university and public library collections. Google began scanning all the books in the New York Public Library and the libraries at the University of Michigan, Harvard, and Stanford and has made the digital versions available at print.google.com. At the beta site for Google Print you can search authors, titles, and even phrases and characters from books. What you get back depends on the copyright status of the works, and Google has found itself facing two lawsuits: one from a publishers' group and one from an authors' association.

Not the First
Actually, one of the first projects of this kind has been up

and running for 34 years. Called the Gutenberg Project, the purpose of this pioneering enterprise is "to encourage the creation and distribution of eBooks." The work of the Project is managed mostly by volunteers who produce and proof the books. A book producer is anyone who submits a book that clears approval by having a copyright that has expired, rendering the work in the public domain, or by gaining permission of the copyright holder. The producer then typically will scan the pages, use OCR (Optical Character Recognition) to translate the printed text into digital format, and then the editing and proofing process begins. The producer does the first read as he or she goes over the OCR text. Other volunteer readers in the Distributed Proofreaders division then go through the editing process. The absolutely democratic

of the camera include the Face-Priority AF function, which automatically senses and accurately focuses on the human face within the frame, and the In-Camera Red-Eye Fix™, which automatically corrects for red-eye. A D-Lighting feature makes the necessary corrections in poorly lighted situations.
www.nikonimaging.com

The manuals included with digital cameras often are small and highly technical. **The Digital Photography Pocket Guide** from **O'Reilly** is different. It offers practical advice in simple language illustrated with photographic examples. Topics as common as "when should you use flash in outdoor portraits" and as specialized

as "should you work with RAW files or are JPEGs good enough" are covered in just a page or two. If you need some guidance on composition basics or would like to know what the white balance setting is used for, this 150-page guide is a great alternative to the coverless black-and-white booklet that came with the camera.
www.oreilly.com

The **TX** handheld from **Palm** is its latest large-screen PDA with built-in Wi-Fi for an Internet connection using its Blazer browser. The TX will also connect to keyboards, printers, and other peripherals via Bluetooth. The screen is 320 x 480, and you can rotate the view to landscape or portrait. The TX reads Word,

Palm TX handheld

Excel, and PowerPoint files and has VersaMail e-mail client software. The 128MB memory is expandable with an expansion slot for Multi-MediaCard SD and SDIO cards. Play MP3 files or read e-books with free readers available online.
www.palm.com/us

With a free e-book reader from mobipocket.com or

ereader.com, you can access thousands of free and current books. The oldest of the free libraries is at Gutenberg.org, where you will find 16,000 free books that range from world classics as well as the strange to scholarly. The books are available in plain text and HTML formats, and the home page at Gutenberg.org has information on how to use the library. Another free source similar to Gutenberg is blackmask.com, which has almost 20,000 books in seven different formats. If you want titles appearing on *The New York Times* bestseller list, you can find those on the mobipocket, ereader, or other commercial sites. Do a Google search—the library is enormous and expanding rapidly.

process lets the producer choose the book they want to work on, and it's not about what will produce a profit (the books are made available free). It's, as founder Michael S. Hart explains, to make a copy of the book available to every person on the planet in the form of Project Gutenberg Etexts so easy to use that no one should ever have to care about how to use, read, quote, and search them. The "books" also include magazines, documents, and music. Appropriately

and discovery."

Among those not as inspired as President Coleman are the Authors Guild and the Association of American Publishers (AAP). Both have sued Google in the Southern District of New York. Google had notified book publishers that it intended to scan all books in the libraries unless they received notification that particular books should be excluded because of current copyright restrictions. In other words, publishers would have to notify Google to opt out. AAP attorneys

publisher of computer books; and Lawrence Lessig, a Stanford law professor, copyright scholar, and author of the seminal work *Free Culture*. Each in their own way explains the benefits of Google's plan to both publishers and the community.

One kind of book that would likely benefit from Google Print is the work that is still in copyright but currently out of print. Tim O'Reilly estimates that the number of these books could make up 70% or more of the protected works in 2004. They are not in bookshops and would be kept in limbo if the court decides against Google's claim that they can "publish" them online. There's no national index of copyright holders, so the owners of many of these works are unknown. Google's offer of CPR via OCR for these undead manuscripts is opposed by most publishers.

> "Anyone with an Internet connection can search the text of and read the compelling narratives, historical accounts, and classic works offered today, and in doing so access a world of ideas, knowledge, and discovery."

enough, the first Gutenberg text that Hart produced and distributed was the Declaration of Independence.

1923
The purpose of the Google Print project is similar. In the November press release, Google quoted Mary Sue Coleman, president of the University of Michigan, who spoke of the overall plan: "Today we welcome the world to our library. As educators we are inspired by the possibility of sharing these important works with people around the globe. Think of the doors it will open for students; geographical distances will no longer hamper research. Anyone with an Internet connection can search the text of and read the compelling narratives, historical accounts, and classic works offered today, and in doing so access a world of ideas, knowledge,

object to Google scanning copyrighted materials without first getting permission. Generally, that would apply to most works published after 1923.

The issues are complicated and are made more confusing by realities of the publishing world and fair use provisions in the copyright law.

Google Print scans the entire work so anyone searching has the full text available. What is returned, however, is only a small part of the text around the found item. You don't get to read the entire book or even the chapter to which the search has led. Google explains that this will increase interest in and boost sales of the work. On the same page are links to booksellers and libraries for those interested in the whole text.

Opposing the AAP and Authors Guild are groups like the Electronic Freedom Foundation; Tim O'Reilly, a

As the legal negotiations between Google and the publishers continue, a new meme has emerged from Amazon. Called Amazon Pages, the plan will let you buy a part of a book for a few cents a page. If you then purchase a paper copy from Amazon, you will be allowed to view the entire electronic text online at the Amazon site. You would not be able to print pages from the online text, but you could access it long after you had parked its hard-copy twin on the shelves at home.

Until the legal decisions or negotiations are completed, you might want to look at the libraries that already offer classic e-books free. Gutenberg is at www.gutenberg.org, BlackMask Online is at www.blackmask.com, and another source is Many Books at www.manybooks.net. You can read these books on your PC or PDA or listen to some of them on your iPod if you don't mind the sound of robotic voices. ∎