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Rechargeable Apex stylus

Has the humble pen and paper finally had its day?

★★★★★

US\$70 (about £42) Manufacturer Lynktec, lynktec.com

Tip 2.3mm replaceable conductive polymer nib
Width 15mm (with clip) **Length** 15cm **Weight** 28g

Lynktec's latest Apex Fine Point Active stylus is one of the best of a new breed of touchscreen input devices that do away with the bulbous, mushy nibs of previous pens. Its 2.3mm tip generates an electric field to simulate the contact point of a finger. A built-in rechargeable battery provides the power, and at 28 grams and 150mm in length, the brushed aluminium stylus feels comfortable in the hand.

Press and hold the button to turn on the pen – indicated by a blue LED – and it switches off after 30 minutes of inactivity. A twist of the cap reveals a micro USB port (and spare nib) to plug in the cable and connect it to your Mac or a USB wall adapter. The LED glows red when the battery is recharged, which took just under 90 minutes for us. We were told one charge would last between two and four weeks;

Extra replacement nibs can be bought separately in packs of five.



Lynktec also promised at least 500 charging cycles and 20 years' use with a year's limited warranty.

In use, the stylus feels controlled, with good glide and tactility. It works fine as a general input device in iOS, but the real benefit is being able to follow the lay of 'ink' in apps, such as Penultimate, Notesshelf and ArtRage. Pen and paper isn't quite in danger (yet), but for digital doodlers this is the next best thing. **Tim Hardwick**



Delivers a pen-to-pad writing experience that will appeal to notetakers and illustrators alike.

- + Comfy to use
- + Pen-like experience
- + Replaceable nib
- + Long-lasting battery

BenQ BL3200PT 32-inch monitor

Your Mac desktop will look great – but do you really need to super-size?

★★★★★

£499 Manufacturer BenQ, benq.co.uk

Resolution 2560x1440 WQHD **Response time** 4ms **Position** height adjustable, 90° pivot, tilt and 45° swivel

Nothing quite prepares you for sitting down in front of a 32-inch monitor. As you'd expect for such a massive panel, it supports a 2560x1440 WQHD resolution, so you need a graphically capable Mac to cope with that pixel count. If your Mac has an HDMI port, you might need to use the Thunderbolt (mini DisplayPort) connection instead.

This is not an IPS panel like other 27-inchers on the market; we felt the

colour reproduction suffered as a result, but it's bright and the viewing angle is good. However, we had to disable eco-mode, as our review model kept turning itself off.

Although the display includes buttons, there's a cabled remote control for managing inputs. Underneath the monitor lies the power button alongside two USB ports; the video connections are on the side, with HDMI, DVI, DisplayPort



Check your Mac will support this level of resolution.

and VGA, so you can hook up multiple devices. There are also two more USB 3 ports on the side, as well as an SD card reader. Connect a USB cable to your Mac and this display also acts as a hub for your notebook.

This isn't the most attractive display, but you get used to it and the bezel seems thin once in use. It's decent for the money and we liked it, but do you really need a display this big? **Dan Grabham**



Good value, but you can already view two pages side-by-side quite happily on a 27-inch monitor.

- + Massive screen space
- + Excellent positioning options
- + Feature packed
- Eco mode needs work