

Barcode Scanners

Apps and accessories that turn your iPhone into a portable scanner

by Nathan Clevenger

There are many different ways that today's hottest consumer technology can be used for business applications. While most organizations that use handheld barcode scanning technology still utilize ruggedized industrial-strength devices from companies like Motorola or Intermec, there is a growing trend toward using off-the-shelf consumer technology as a replacement for these often extremely expensive devices.

For example, in late 2009, Apple replaced their Windows Mobile-powered devices from Symbol/Motorola with iPod touch devices and a Linea Pro sleeve. The Linea Pro provides laser barcode scanning and magnetic stripe reading to allow Apple Store employees to simply scan a product and swipe a customer's credit card right from the iPod in their hands, allowing the customer to be right on their way in mere seconds. This article will examine many of the barcode scanning options for organizations looking to take advantage of applications like this.



The Linea Pro gives an iPod touch both a barcode scanner and magnetic stripe reader.

Linea Pro

\$549, ipclineapro.com

The Linea Pro was popularized as the hardware used in Apple Retail stores to facilitate rapid customer checkout. The Linea Pro is a sleeve for an iPod touch that makes it a single unit, which is very convenient for many kinds of applications. In addition to providing a moderate level of durability and protection to the iPod touch, it also offers a hot-swappable battery that not only powers the scanner but also serves to keep the iPod fully charged. The Linea Pro has both a 1D barcode scanner and magnetic stripe reader, which makes it perfectly suited for applications like retail point-of-sale where the product can be scanned and

the customer's credit card swiped. A Software Development Kit, or SDK, is provided by the manufacturer, Infinite Peripherals, to give app developers low-level access to scanners and readers to configure settings, trigger the barcode, and receive events for successful scans or swipes. As the first barcode scanner to receive certification from Apple to provide an SDK for low-level access, the Linea Pro is gathering quite a bit of momentum in internally developed applications similar to Apple's deployment. It is also being used in several commercial apps and point-of-sale solutions like LightSpeed Mobile (xsilva.com). The Linea Pro is the perfect device for many types of applications, but due to the fact that it only works with the iPod touch (2nd and 3rd gen) and not the iPhone or iPad, it has limited use.

SCAN BARCODES!

- Bluetooth Barcode Wedge - Easy to Set-Up & Easy-to-Use
- Connect to iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch as a HID keyboard (iOS v4+)
- Side buttons connect / disconnect KDC Barcode Scanner allowing use of the soft keypad for mixed-mode data entry
- Bright OLED shows last barcode and connection status

KOAMTAC Barcode Scanners

- Economical • Durable
- FUN TO USE!



KDC200 -

- Zippo Lighter Size
- Laser Scanner reads 1-D Barcodes
- Quick Recharge via USB, 4-Line Display, & Bluetooth 2.1+EDR

KDC300 -

- Scans popular 2-D barcodes including QRCode & DataMatrix
- Scans barcodes displayed on PC & cell phone screens!!
- Powerful Barcode Imager, Firmware, OLED Display, & USB Rechargeable Battery



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