

NuGuard GripStand 3 From OWC

The GripStand functions as a protective case, a display stand, and a hand grip for the Apple iPad 2nd, 3rd & 4th Gen (Black).

I have reviewed many cases for the iPad over the years. My absolute favourite iPad case is the GripStand from OWC which I reviewed in the July 2012 DoubleClick. I have been happily using this case for over two and a half years. This is what you see me with at the meetings. There are quite a few features about this unique case that sets it way above any other. Read on to find out why I strongly recommend it.

The NuGuard GripStand 3 is made up of a protective case and a handle which acts as the grip/stand. The protective case has a 2.5 inch hole in the back that allows the stand to be attached. The outside shell consists of a hard plastic with several parts sculpted out to permit access to all the ports and buttons on your iPad as well as a spot to connect your Apple Smart Cover, if you have one. I like that there are large slots and spaces on the sides of the case to insert any plugs. Some cases have too tight a fit and plugs like the Apple iPad Camera Connection kit don't fit. This results in the iPad having to be removed from the case before the plug can be used. The inside of the shell is a rubberized material with symmetric holes. The instructions pertaining to inserting the iPad into the case are straight forward. First insert the iPad with the ports correctly oriented. Then push the opposite corners of the iPad into the case and press down firmly with your thumbs. This should create a good suction fit to hold the iPad in place. Don't attach the handle until you have the iPad secured in the case. I found that the insertion process worked better when the large space at the back was open. It probably helped to create the proper suction, allowing the air to be squeezed out from behind the iPad. This also explains the purpose of all those holes on the rubberized interior of the case. It is advisable to check that the iPad is securely attached. This is my only concern with this case. Most cases wrap around not only the back and sides but also a bit on the front so that the iPad can't slip out of the case. There is no overlapping front face grip. I can understand why it was built this way. This construction allows the Smart Cover to lie flat over the face. To remove any doubts I had about the suction hold of the case, I have held the iPad upside down over a couch and tried to shake it free. The suction has held every time I tried to get it to fall free. I guess if you are worried about how secure it is, you can periodically test the grip.

Once the stand is clicked into place, you are done. The handle can be swiveled 360° or positioned at virtually any angle for viewing and typing needs.



It kind of locks in the four main positions for landscape or portrait viewing with the home button on the right or left. It is also a highly effective one hand grip so you can use your iPad while standing or walking. I was surprised at how handy this was. It was a lot easier carrying the iPad while holding on to the grip and it kept my oily hands away from the screen. The handle can be rotated to use as a hook to hang your iPad on a wall. The handle allows you to carry the iPad like a briefcase. There is also a nylon strap included to securely mount the iPad to a vehicle headrest.

One of the drawbacks of using the iPad as an eReader is the weight of the device, especially for any length of time. The stand makes reading with my iPad undemanding. Because it has that handle on the back, I can use the iPad for reading anywhere, whether lying in bed or on a couch or sitting on a bench. I simply set the angle that best suits my position and I can rest my hand on the handle. I don't have to grip anything since the stand is supporting the iPad. My hands and thumbs don't have to do much work at all. I measured the weight of the various parts and found the iPad 2 to be about 650 g, the case 350 g, and the handle 150 g. So, using the GripStand will increase the weight of the iPad about the same as most of the other cases I reviewed.

I need to mention one other fact that I was thrilled with. The GripStand handle is quite stiff when you attempt to change the viewing angle. This means that whatever angle you decide on, the iPad stays right there. So many other cases I have tried were either limited in the angles or tended to slip and change their angle as you touched and tapped away at them. This is why it is a great aid for using and typing on the iPad. And the stiffness has not decreased in the two and half years I have been using it.

I keep the GripStand at about a 60° angle when not in use. This makes it really easy to pick up. I found with other cases that the easiest way to pick them up was to slide the iPad over the edge of whatever it was lying on. I was always afraid I might slide it too far and, if I was not paying enough attention, I would drop the iPad on the floor. I don't have this fear with the GripStand since I am picking it straight up. As far as protecting my iPad, I did once accidentally knock it off a table onto a carpeted floor with absolutely no damage done. The plastic case did its job and cushioned the fall!

Another factor not apparent when you first buy a case is how well it does with a year or more of use. All my other cases show their age. They are frayed at the edges. Cracks and scratches appear in the shell. They don't hold their position properly. None of these age factors have shown up on my GripStand. There are few scratches in the plastic. The stiffness of the grip is the same as it has always been. It does not look brand new but it has held up well to the continual abuse I have put it through.

Whenever I have my iPad in use, someone is always commenting on the GripStand case. My students see me with it in class and they are impressed with it. They see how versatile it is and ask where they can buy one. The answer is online at www.eshop.macsales.com. The best part of this case is the cost, \$34.99. This is by far the best case for the money, especially when you factor in its versatility and durability. Because Apple kept the size of the iPad fairly consistent, this grip works on quite a few generations of iPads. In any case, whatever iPad you do have, OWC will have a Nuguard GripStand that will fit your gadget. Have a look at this case and, while there, peruse the other items that OWC has for your computer. Like many other OWC and NewerTech brand products, the GripStand comes backed with a no risk, no hassle 30-day Money back guarantee. Should you need to contact them for any questions or issues, I have always found them to be very prompt in these matters. This case will continue to be a permanent fixture at our monthly MaUsE meetings. Have a look for it there!

Submitted by Marcel Dufresne

