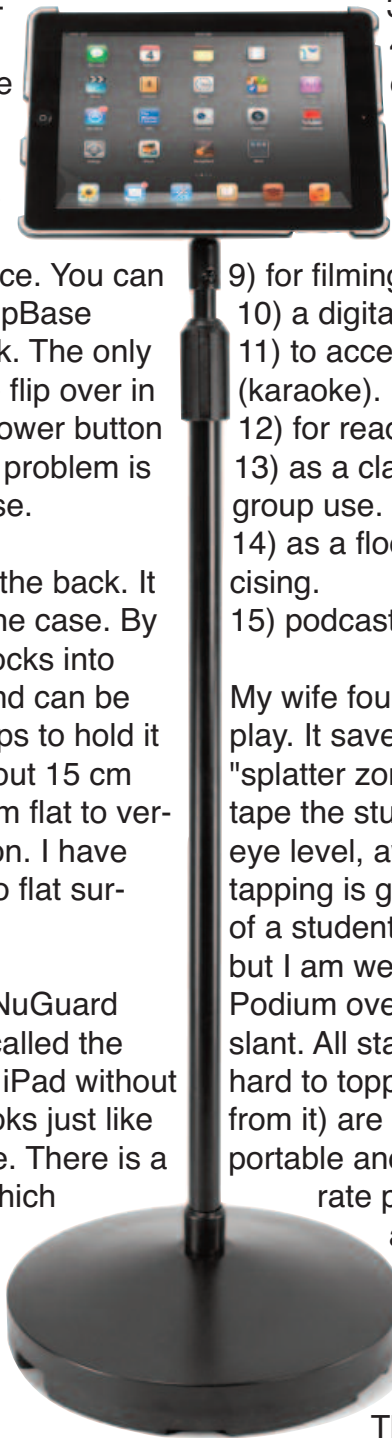


NuGuard GripBase Podium for the iPad from Newer Technology (OWC)

I have tried out a lot of iPad cases during the course of my monthly reviews. The one I use the most is the NuGuard GripStand. The thick plastic case protects the sides and the back of my iPad. The grip at the back offers the most versatility of all the cases I have tried in terms of viewing angle. It is unlimited. The swivel grip at the back can be set to whatever angle you want. The grip at the back acts not only as a stand for setting down the iPad at the correct viewing angle, but it also serves as a very convenient handle to carry the iPad. With it, I can hold onto the back without getting my oily fingers on the glass surface. You can read more about this case and the additional GripBase Stand by checking out the July 2012 DoubleClick. The only drawback to this case is that there is no cover to flip over in order to hibernate the iPad. I have to push the power button to put it to sleep when it is not in use. This small problem is more than made up for in the flexibility of the case.

The above mentioned case has an 8 cm hole in the back. It is to this hole that the GripStand is attached to the case. By pushing in the two side buttons, the GripStand locks into place. Removing it is a snap. The GripBase Stand can be substituted in, having the same push button snaps to hold it in place. The GripBase Stand holds the iPad about 15 cm above whatever flat surface it is on. It can tilt from flat to vertical and swerve to any angle with 360° of rotation. I have found many uses for this stand, but it is limited to flat surfaces.

This review is in fact for another addition to the NuGuard modular iPad line. There is now an attachment called the GripBase Podium which permits the use of your iPad without the need of a surface to sit it on. The Podium looks just like a microphone stand that one would see on stage. There is a heavy (12.55 pound / 5 kg) weight in the base which keeps it firmly rooted in place. It has a hand grip that can be loosened and tightened so that the inner tube can be raised and locked in. The only difference is that the top end of the Podium has the exact same button pushing attachment that the other NuGuard holders have. With the Podium, you have all the viewing angles of the previous holders with the addition of any height requirement from 32" to 53" (these measurements were taken with the iPad attached and tilted flat). With this Podium you don't need a table or flat surface to sit the iPad on. It can be placed anywhere on the floor for easy access to the iPad.



OWC, which sells the Podium, compiled a list of possible uses for it, submitted by appreciative owners. Although I have not tried all of these out, having played with the Podium some, I can see how it would be useful in each and every situation. The following list gives some new ways to use an iPad thanks to the Podium:

- 1) in a boardroom or presentation hall.
- 2) as a music stand.
- 3) in the kitchen, as a counter space saver and for spill avoidance.
- 4) using the iPad's camera to bring in visual of a guest in podcasts.
- 5) videotaping and displaying training sessions.
- 6) as a speaker stand.
- 7) for recording sessions.
- 8) for conducting Skype calls.
- 9) for filming stop motion with the iPad as the camera.
- 10) a digital 'Check-In' device at public event
- 11) to access and display Sheet Music, Guitar Tablature, Song Lyrics (karaoke).
- 12) for reading or watching movies in bed.
- 13) as a classroom aid for teachers: lectures and presentations; student small group use.
- 14) as a floor stand alongside treadmill to view movies, stream TV while exercising.
- 15) podcaster display to stream live comments off-camera during podcast.

My wife found that it worked well in kitchen, using the iPad as a recipe display. It saved counter space and kept the iPad at eye level and out of the "splatter zone". I will try it at school. I have a few ideas about using it to video tape the students doing labs or demos. This way I can just turn it on, have it at eye level, away from the chemicals and not have to be at the iPad while the tapping is going on. I must admit that I am a bit nervous about the possibility of a student knocking it over. It does have a very heavy weight at the bottom, but I am well aware of how accident prone students can be. I pushed the Podium over at various angles and it popped back into place even from a 45° slant. All stands of this type can be tipped too far. It would have to be hit quite hard to topple it. As long as care and common sense (keep students away from it) are used, it will work just fine. The beauty of this stand is that it is portable and can be moved around or taken apart. It unscrews into four separate parts: the Podium Weight, the Weight Cover, the Podium "neck" and the screw to tighten it all together. Putting the GripBase Podium together is a piece of cake, and is one of its advantages. It is easily assembled and taken apart. If you're looking for a podium to travel, this is a great option.

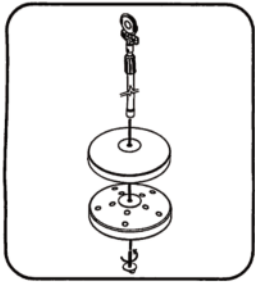
There's not a lot to say about the functionality of the GripBase Podium, other than to say that it works exactly as advertised. The stand is quite sturdy with the heavy base, and it stays put. It is a bit wobbly when you try to tap anything on the iPad. The further up it is, the more evident this becomes. However, any vibrations caused by tapping on the screen of the iPad are quickly damped out, even when the stand is extended to its full length. It settles back into place quickly.



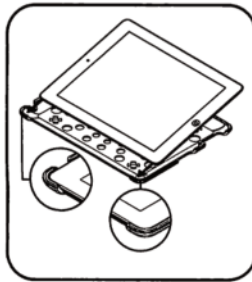
NuGuard

Gripbase Podium

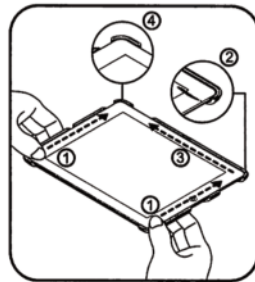
Protective case and display stand/grip for the Apple iPad 2/3/4



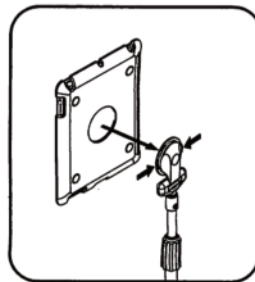
Assemble the base of the Gripbase Podium



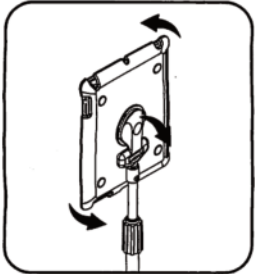
Insert your iPad into the GripStand with the ports correctly oriented



Make sure your iPad is firmly seated into the GripStand case



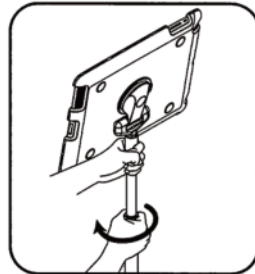
Insert the GripStand onto the arm of the Gripbase Podium



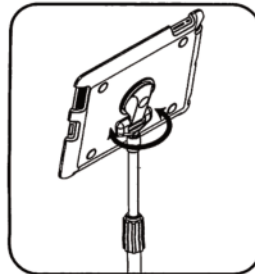
The GripStand can be used in either portrait or landscape orientation



To raise or lower the Gripbase Podium, loosen the collar and raise.



Be sure to firmly tighten the collar when done adjusting the height



You can pivot the Gripbase Podium 360°



It is not really meant as a surface to do work on. Rather, it is meant to be in place and act as a visual display, as most of the above uses attest to.

In conclusion, with the weighted base, the Podium holds your iPad safely and securely while putting the display closer to eye level. With the twistable knob on the neck, it's extremely easy to adjust the height on the fly, even during a presentation. Orientation is also very easy. Adjustability is a huge plus. Your eyes and body will thank you when you place your iPad atop the GripBase Podium. No more leaning over, straining your neck, or squinting your eyes to view your iPad's display. The model I have easily attaches to the included protective GripStand case which holds an iPad 2, 3, or 4 securely while still allowing full access to all controls and connections. The modularity of the unit means that when Apple comes out with a different iPad size or configuration, you need only purchase the corresponding NuGuard case. The GripBase Stand, GripBase and Podium will just snap into the new case. At \$49.99, it might seem a bit pricey but similar designed microphone stands sell for even more. The Podium is not for everyone but if you're a public speaker, presenter, videographer, or musician who wants a sturdy extendable stand for your iPad, or in fact anyone who needs to use an iPad and keep both hands free to move then the GripBase Podium is an affordable and well-designed solution.

Overall, I was happy with the GripBase Podium and would recommend it to anyone looking for an iPad Podium. Whether you're doing presentations, podcasting, or even just watching some TV or playing games and want a special stand, the GripBase Podium is what you want.

Submitted by Marcel Dufresne

FLOOR STAND PODIUM FOR APPLE iPad AND iPad MINI

GripBase Podium

- Extends from 38 inches to nearly five feet high
- Ribbed twist lock prevents extension shaft slippage
- Tilt and swivel to virtually any angle
- Includes protective case for iPad 2, 3, & 4*

Have a look at <http://eshop.macsales.com/item/NewerTech/PADNUGGPB/> for the complete specs on the Podium.