

# Sights & Sounds of Multimedia

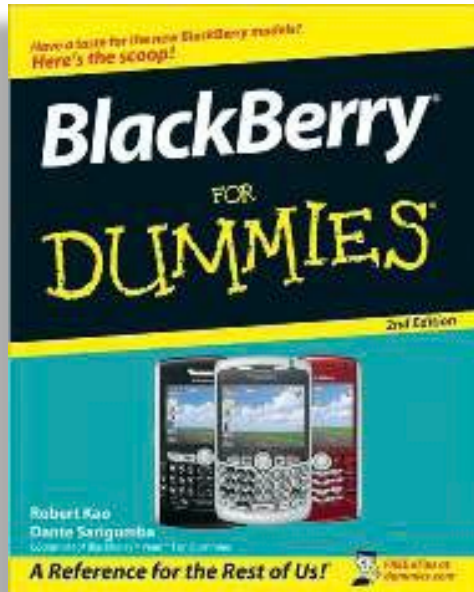
George Harding

## ***Blackberry for Dummies***

This book in the Dummies series helps those of us that have and use a Blackberry (BB) device. Although it's written for the Bold, Pearl Flip, Storm and Curve 8900 models, much of the information is applicable to other Blackberries as well.

Chapter 1 is a low-power introduction of what a BB (and other similar devices) can do. Chapter 2 goes through features, the different keyboards and has some useful keyboard shortcuts. Chapter 3 covers certain customization features.

Chapter 4 extensively covers contact set-up and use. Chapter 5 does the same for appointments and usage of the calendar. Chapter 6 shows how to use the To-Do list functions and how to set and change your password.



Chapter 7 deals with e-mail: how to link your email accounts to your BB, how to spell-check, filter and sort them, and how to set up automated replies. Chapter 8 deals with PIN-to-PIN messages (messages that go directly to another BB without going through the RIM hierarchy), SMS, MMS and IM. If you don't know what those are, you may not need to know!

Chapter 9 deals with using the BB browser. Chapter 10 covers using the phone application in some detail. This includes

making calls, of course, but also forwarding calls, configuring speed dial and arranging conference calls. It also covers how to make hands-free calls, including setting up Bluetooth connections.

Chapter 11 discusses taking pictures and recording videos. This may seem obvious, but there's more to these functions than meets the eye! For example, you can add the latitude/longitude info to your picture so you can tell and locate exactly where you took it.

Chapter 12 deals with the entertainment features of your BB, including music, video clips, ring tones and more.

Chapter 13 covers the use of the GPS facility of your BB to operate mapping applications.

Chapter 15 shows how to synchronize your BB with the Desktop Manager in order to protect all your information. Chapter 16 deals with how to transfer your info to a new BB, so you don't have to reenter all that data.

Chapter 18 covers Backup and Restore operations. Chapter 19 shows how to install and uninstall those all important applications from Blackberry World or elsewhere, as well as how to upgrade your BB operating system.

Chapter 20 lists and explains ten of the best accessories for BB and where to get them. Chapters 21 and 22 list the authors' ideas on the best applications and games for BB,

The book is soft cover style and runs to 364 pages, with a very complete index. The very first page is a tear-out sheet of shortcuts that is very helpful in your BB operation.

This is an excellent book, written in an understandable and entertaining style.

**About:** *Blackberry for Dummies*

**Publisher:** For Dummies  
[www.blackberryfordummies.com](http://www.blackberryfordummies.com)

**Authors:** Robert Kao, Dante Sarigumba

**Price:** \$25, \$18.24 at Amazon

## Verbatim PhotoSaveDVD

Here's a nice idea! You know all those photos you've taken over the years and how you've carefully backed them all up on your hard drive or an external drive or copied them to a CD-ROM? Well, those media may well not last as long as you think. Here's the way to preserve them for your lifetime or more.

Verbatim has come up with a great way to save your pictures on DVD. They provide a DVD disc that has software already loaded on it that can locate and copy all your photos to that DVD. It's effortless and provides a secure way to back up your precious assets.

There are a couple of problems. One is that you only have one shot at the "locate and save" action. You are given three choices of places to look for photos: Auto copy (you specify the disks to scan), camera or memory card and Manual copy. If you select Auto copy, the software scans the disks you have selected and tallies the pictures it found. In my case the software found 2.24 GB of files.

When you click Record, the software transfers a copy of the files it found to a DVD-R disk. Then you click Finish to eject the disk for safekeeping.

A second problem is that in spite of the brief instruction sheet statement that you can "store multiple times until the disc is full," I could not get this to work. When I reinserted the DVD disk, I get a message that the disk is "closed, containing one recording." There seems to be no way around this.

In any event, you can record all your files from one computer on a disk. The Verbatim package contains three PhotoSaveDVD disks, so you can save from up to three computers, which



should be enough to fill your needs. A slightly larger product is also available with 5 disks.

Only .jpg files are identified in the scan and are saved.

The product is easy to use and fulfills a need that everyone has these days.

**About:** *Verbatim PhotoSaveDVD*

**Manufacturer:** Verbatim

[www.verbatim.com](http://www.verbatim.com)

**Price:** \$25, \$18.24 at Amazon

## Griffin Products

I received three products for review from Griffin: **FM transmitter for MP3 player**, **Noise-Reducing Audio Cable** and **Power Block Reserve**.

The FM transmitter is a slick device that works in your car (or with any FM radio). It allows you to play your music through the car radio on an FM frequency that isn't being used, or at least is being used by a low-power station.



The unit is a black oval device with a wire on each end. One end has the connector that fits in your MP3 player, the other attaches to the power outlet in your car. The black device has a button that scans the FM frequencies to find a weak or unused frequency, which it shows in its LCD panel. You then tune the radio to that frequency and play your music. Simple!

The Noise-Reducing Audio Cable helps eliminate or moderate interference from car electrical systems when you are using the FM transmitter. There's not much to it. It connects between your MP3 player and the car connection.

The Power Block Reserve is used with the iPod and iPhone. It is a spare battery for either device and is detachable. You first charge it with the wall charger. Then you put it in your pocket to use when you need to supplement your iPod's battery. Neat!



**About:** Griffin Products

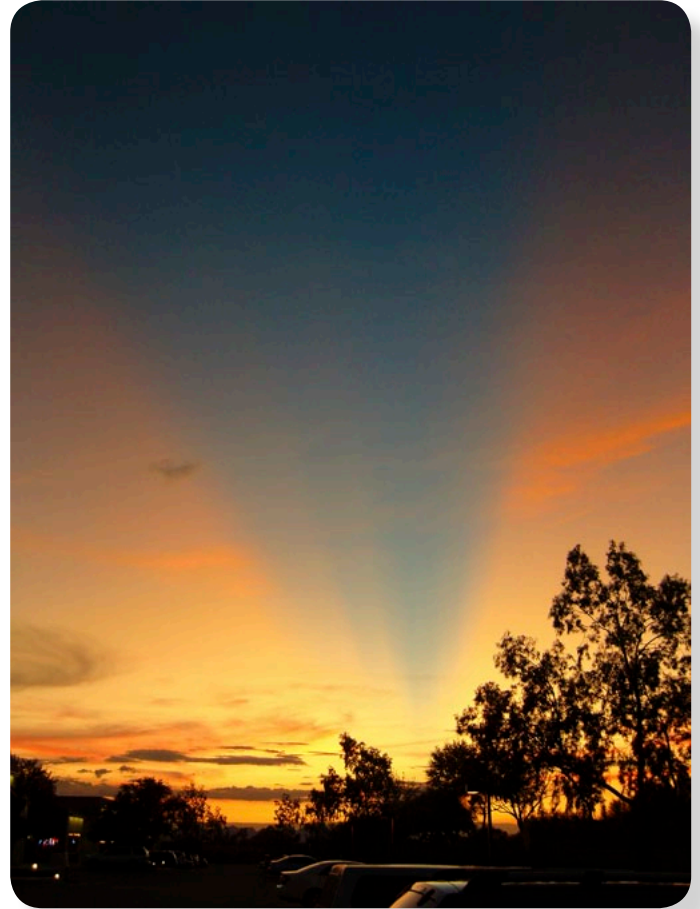
**Manufacturer:** Griffin

[www.griffintechology.com](http://www.griffintechology.com)

**Price:** \$20-\$50 depending on product



*Colorful Aloe blooms, shared by TCS Member Lee Nuehring*



*Leaving the TCS Board meeting the evening of Sept. 9th, past President George Harding captured this extraordinary image of the sunset's crepuscular rays.*