

# Sights & Sounds of Multimedia

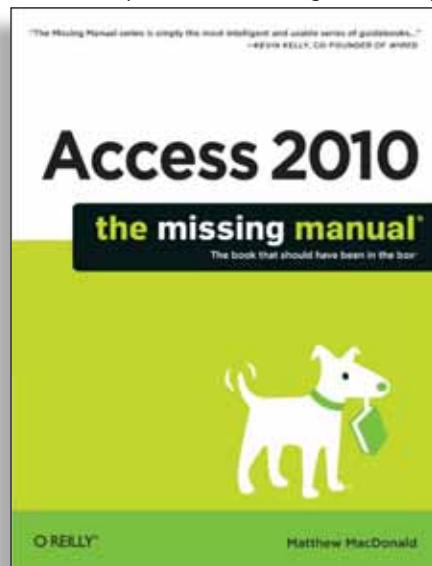
George Harding

## ***Access 2010 The Missing Manual***

The *Missing Manual* series now totals almost 60 books! The reason the series is so popular is because software/hardware makers don't include the hefty manual they used to, but buyers need more than the Quick Reference Guide that now replaces the manual that used to be. It's published by O'Reilly – Pogue Press.

The book is written by Matthew MacDonald but there is a team behind him that supports a colossal project such as writing a book. All examples have to be tested by actual example. The illustrations in the book, likewise, have to be reproduced.

The book is pretty hefty, consisting of 812 pages, of which 17 are the all-important index and one Appendix. The book is divided into seven parts with 23 chapters, each covering a broad topic.



The Introduction is, in contrast to some, very valuable. It tells what's new in the 2010 version of *Access* and how to use some of these features. One of the valuable items is the "missing" CD-ROM. You can download it at the web site. It has all the examples used in the book, so you can see how to do any of them.

*Access* has four main parts: tables, queries, forms and reports. The latter three all depend on tables. Part One of the book deals with creating tables, accessing the data contained in them, making

sure the data is useful and valid, and relationships between tables. This is probably the most important section, because if the table isn't built correctly, the queries, forms and reports may not work properly.

Part Two covers queries, including the basic select type, as well as update, append and update types. Since many forms and reports use queries as the source for information, learning how to create and use them is important. Frankly, though, creating select queries is really easy and the other forms are not often useful.

Part Three deals with creating and printing reports.

Part Four covers forms, including using a special type of form as a user interface. Simple forms, though, are easy to create and are most useful for those who are not very familiar with *Access*.

That covers the four basic tools in *Access*, but there's more. *Access* has built in an extensive programming system and Part Five covers several aspects of it. These include macros and Visual Basic. With these two tools, one can develop a database system that is useful, but whose insides aren't visible to the user.

Part Six, the last one, covers new aspects of *Access*, namely, multi-user databases, import/export, connecting *Access* to SQL Server and SharePoint, as well as building a web database.

This is both a top-notch reference book and a helpful learning tool. I highly recommend it.

**About:** *Access 2010 The Missing Manual*

**Author:** Matthew MacDonald

**Vendor:** O'Reilly-Pogue Press  
[www.missingmanuals.com](http://www.missingmanuals.com)

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**ISBN-13:** 978-1449382377

**Price:** \$39.99, \$24.55 @ Amazon

## Powermat

You probably carry at least one portable device, a mobile phone. To keep it charged, you need a charger for a home outlet or one for the car. When you travel, either locally or away from home, you must remember to carry one or both of these chargers. It's cumbersome, but that's the price of a mobile device.

Or maybe not! Powermat has a solution for any of your mobile devices, and it doesn't require a charging cord. How do they do this? You charge a Powermat unit, then carry it with you wherever you might be.

Just set your mobile device on one of the panels of the Powermat and your device is charged wirelessly by induction. What does that mean? You don't need to know. It just works.

I received a Powermat for evaluation. It is a small 3" X 3" tri-fold device. It unfolds into three connected panels, two of which are charging panels. The third section is the storage battery that allows the device to be used wirelessly.

You first charge the Powermat with a wall outlet. Then fit your mobile phone or other device with a receiver tailored for your specific type of device. Then simply place the mobile device on the Powermat. You'll hear a beep to indicate that connection is made and that your mobile device is charging. Another beep sounds when your device is removed.

The tri-fold Powermat I received is one of several styles available. Some are smaller, some come with a Power Cube, a unit that connects to your mobile device and is what is placed on the Powermat.

I tried out my wife's Blackberry on the Powermat. The unit comes with a Power Cube which you connect to the Blackberry, then place it on the Powermat to charge. The Power Cube is about one and a half inches square and has a white, smooth surface.

One corner of it has a wire attached with a connector with adaptable



heads for almost any receptacle available today. The wire fits neatly into a groove around the edge of the Power Cube when not in use.

I also received a receiver for my iPhone. A receiver is a shell into which the iPhone fits. It has a compatible plug in its base and a unit on its back similar in function to a Power Cube. Once the iPhone is in the receiver, you need only place it on the Powermat to charge it.

Powermat announced at CES an agreement that will provide wireless charging capabilities in airports, through the installation of Powermat units in terminal seating. Airports are difficult environments in which to obtain recharges. This solution will benefit the many travelers with mobile devices that need charging in an airport.

In addition, Powermat will be working with GM to incorporate in their cars, starting with the Chevy Volt, a charging solution for most mobile devices, without the use of wires.

**About:** Powermat

**Vendor:** Powermat  
[www.powermat.com](http://www.powermat.com)

**Price:** tri-fold \$130, receiver \$40

## Golla Bags

If you have a laptop, MP3 player, mobile phone or tablet, you need something to protect it from scratching and dropping. It would be nice, too, to have a convenient way to carry your device.

Enter Golla, a company from Finland, with an array of bags that would amaze you! Not only do they offer different bags for different devices, each type can be obtained in several designs and colors.

For example, there are 33 versions of their Mobile Bag, which has a



compartment for your mobile phone, a slim pocket for a credit card or money, and a flap that covers both and attaches with a Velcro patch.

There are 26 different laptop bags, differing in size, color and design. If that's not enough, look at laptop backpacks or laptop sleeves.

Golla has bags for cameras, video cameras, GPS devices and all the other common portable things we carry around. See their impressive selection on the web site. Once you've made a selection, visit most any retailer for purchase.

**About:** Golla Bags

**Vendor:** Golla  
[www.golla.com](http://www.golla.com)

**Prices:** Vary by type of bag and retailer. Laptop sleeve @  
Best Buy: \$33