

## Overview

The Ratings lists models with a 6- to 7-inch screen, which offers the best combination of screen size, portability, and price for most people. Some recommended models are listed below.

### Best values:

- 5 Amazon \$100 CR Best Buy
- 7 Amazon \$110 CR Best Buy
- 8 Amazon \$80 CR Best Buy
- 12 Barnes & Noble \$90 CR Best Buy

All of these models are modestly priced, in part because they load content wirelessly using only Wi-Fi; we think that type of connectivity is sufficient for most people. **8** is almost identical to **7** but costs \$30 less because its screen saver carries ads, and it allows access to special offers such as discounts on Amazon purchases. **5** is the pricier predecessor to **8** and weighs more. Consider it mostly if you prefer a keyboard to enter data, rather than a virtual keyboard that you control with a joystick, as on **7** and **8**, and if you value extras such as an MP3 player and text-to-speech capability. **12** is the least expensive alternative to a Kindle but is much heavier.

### Best touch-screen model:

- 1 Barnes & Noble \$140

This Nook offers standout touch navigation. It's also relatively light and is among the fastest models to start up and to turn pages. But Amazon is launching a touch-screen Kindle in November.

### Best color model:

- 6 Barnes & Noble \$250

The consistently decent performance of the Nook Color outpaces all other rated models with color screens. It's a fine budget alternative to most tablets for reading e-magazines and heavily illustrated e-books. But Amazon's Kindle Fire tablet, due in November, promises many of the same capabilities for \$50 less.

## Guide to the Ratings

**Overall score** is based mostly on test results. **Readability** is for text in various lighting conditions. **Versatility** signifies convenience. **Responsiveness** reflects speed to turn on, resume from sleep, open an e-book, and transfer an e-book from a computer using a USB connection. **Page turn** reflects speed and overall experience, such as whether the screen blinks. **Navigation** includes ability to rotate the screen, bookmark a page, and perform e-book searches in the bookstore. **File support** scores compatibility with common e-book and file formats. **Claimed battery life** is the manufacturer's figure. **Weight** is with batteries and without accessories. Under **screen**, we list its viewable **display size**, measured diagonally, and whether it has **color** or **touch** capability. **Price** is approximate retail.

# E-Book Readers Consumer Reports Reviews, Dec. 2011

**D** CLOSE-UP

## E-book reader or tablet?

### An e-book reader offers ...

- Low price.
- Portability.
- Easy reading in bright light.
- Long battery life.

### A tablet offers ...

- Bigger, color screens.
- Touch navigation.
- Huge number of apps and magazines.

Scan this code with your smart phone to see our video on e-book readers vs. tablets. (See page 3 for details.) Or go to [www.ConsumerReports.org/readerchoice](http://www.ConsumerReports.org/readerchoice).



## Ratings E-book readers

In performance order.

Recommendation	Rank	Brand & model	Price	Overall score	Test results					Features		Screen		
					Readability	Versatility	Responsiveness	Page turn	Navigation	File support	Claimed battery life	Weight (oz.)	Display size (in.)	Touch
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	Barnes & Noble Nook Simple Touch Reader	\$140	75	●	○	●	●	●	●	60 days	7.5	6	●
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2	Amazon Kindle Keyboard 3G	190	73	●	○	○	○	○	○	60 days	8.2	6	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3	Amazon Kindle Keyboard 3G with Special Offers	140	73	●	○	○	○	○	○	60 days	8.2	6	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	Amazon Kindle Keyboard	140	69	●	○	○	○	○	○	60 days	7.7	6	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5	Amazon Kindle Keyboard with Special Offers	100	69	●	○	○	○	○	○	60 days	7.7	6	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6	Barnes & Noble Nook Color	250	69	○	○	●	○	○	○	up to 8 hr.	15.8	6.8	● ●
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7	Amazon Kindle	110	68	●	○	○	○	○	○	30 days	5.9	6	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8	Amazon Kindle with Special Offers	80	68	●	○	○	○	○	○	30 days	5.9	6	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	9	Kobo eReader Touch Edition	130	65	○	○	○	○	○	○	30 days	6.6	6	●
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10	Sony Reader Wi-Fi PRS-T1	150	65	○	○	○	○	○	○	> 30 days	5.8	5.9	●
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11	Barnes & Noble Nook 3G + Wi-Fi	170	61	○	○	○	○	○	○	10 days	12	6	*
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	12	Barnes & Noble Nook Wi-Fi	90	59	○	○	○	○	○	○	10 days	11.4	6	*
	13	iRiver Story HD	140	56	○	○	○	○	○	○	42 days	7.2	5.9	
	14	BeBook Neo	250	52	○	○	○	○	○	○	4,000 page turns	10.9	6.1	●
	15	Bookeen Cybook Orizon	190	50	○	○	○	○	○	○	21 days	8.6	6	●
	16	Aluratek Libre Touch	150	49	○	○	○	○	○	○	8-10 hr.	11.9	7	● ●
	17	Aluratek Libre Color eBook Reader	130	47	○	○	○	○	○	○	6 hr.	13	6.9	●
	18	Pandigital Novel PRD07T10WVH7	150	47	○	○	○	○	○	○	6 hr.	19	7	● ●
	19	Pandigital Novel PRD07T20WBL1	150	46	○	○	○	○	○	○	6 hr.	12.4	7	● ●
	20	Kobo Wireless eReader	100	45	○	○	○	○	○	○	10 days	6.7	5.9	
	21	Pandigital Novel 6" Personal eReader	140	45	○	○	○	○	○	○	6,000 page turns	9.1	5.9	●

\* Main screen is black-and-white. Has a second, smaller color screen for navigation.

- Excellent
  - Very good
  - Good
  - Fair
  - Poor
- CR Best Buy  
 Recommended