

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Bought a Macbook Air for < \\$100](#)

Hackers - August 19, 2023, 9:48 am

I just bought a Macbook for less than \$100 from an online shop. It has been around for a while, but has years of mixed reviews. I knew it was a gamble, but with the average cost of this model going for \$160-200 (used obviously) I figured a sub-100 price was worth it and I would just chargeback via my bank if anything was wrong. The description was that it was Great / right below "New" condition, while the same laptop model online for \$160-200 on Ebay & other marketplaces were all listed as Bad/Good / not nearly as good condition & with known issues. I felt like I had a steal, and I was right! It's a great laptop.

The charger has scratches, but that's not a big deal at all. There are a couple scratches on the outside / chassis, but nothing on the screen, keys, trackpad, etc. It's practically in "brand new" condition in terms of look & feel, and spec-tests all came back great (interior hardware appears to be in great condition).

Spoiler ([Click to View](#))

With shipping the total cost was \$110 - Macbook Air, just under 12", i5, 64GB SSD

The store is called Stock4less, but it's hit or miss on the discounts. They'll drop products down by 50-70% in some cases, but then bring it back up the next day. Also, you may have orders cancelled if it's too low or a mistake. For example, I found \$1 devices that they refused to ship - the next day they had accurate prices put in. I think that was an honest mistake or a default price for a new item perhaps, but I suppose it's possible they use that as a tactic to pull people in.

Please be careful if you use it, you may have mixed results and it has a good number of bad reviews of incorrect models (of computers) being sent out, but I had a great experience. As always, make sure to factory reset everything even if it comes to you already reset.

Jadzia - August 19, 2023, 10:07 pm

wow...nice! Thanks for the heads up. I'm running on an old macbook air (mid 2012) and I really wanted to get my feet wet on ios dev but it's just too old to get some things installed. For example it'll only take xcode 12.

Hackers - August 19, 2023, 10:52 pm

(Aug 19, 2023 10:07 PM)Jadzia Wrote: [CITE](#) wow...nice! Thanks for the heads up. I'm running on an old macbook air (mid 2012) and I really wanted to get my feet wet on ios dev but it's just too old to get some things installed. For example it'll only take xcode 12.

Have you considered React Native with Codemagic or another remote OS service? It may be cheaper than buying a new Mac, especially if you aren't sure how serious you'll be when it comes to app dev.

Truth - August 19, 2023, 11:00 pm

I remember I bought a macbook and paid those people at apple \$100 a year or some BS to keep my app running on their store.

Total money grab.

Glad Android is eating their lunch with better phones and Microsoft will better OS. Even linux is better than mac.

Congrats on the book though, can it run latest mac os?

Hackers - August 19, 2023, 11:25 pm

(Aug 19, 2023 11:00 PM)Truth Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I remember I bought a macbook and paid those people at apple \$100 a year or some BS to keep my app running on their store.

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It's on Catalina, it's mostly just so we have a laptop my fiance can tuck in her purse. It's light, fast, good for what she does and random stuff while watching Netflix and whatnot on the TV.

Personally I'm all Android, Windows or Linux, between Samsung and Dell and ASUS mostly.

Jadzia - August 20, 2023, 6:47 am

(Aug 19, 2023 10:52 PM)nodes Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Have you considered React Native with Codemagic or another remote OS service? It may be cheaper than buying a new Mac, especially if you aren't sure how serious you'll be when it comes to app dev.

Right now I'm trying to get Ventura in VirtualBox on my Manjaro laptop. But having issues. I got the 1 click qemu mac os running but it installs Catalina which is what's on my mac air so that was super easy but did me no good. I removed Qemu and now I'm thinking maybe there's a way to upgrade the Qemu install. ? I didn't even check. I think I'll try that today. Also I'll take your advice and look at Codemagic. Also I'm looking at Altstore to sideload iOS apps but that keeps losing connection to icloud. Maybe the family will leave me alone today so I can try different options.

(Aug 19, 2023 11:00 PM)Truth Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I remember I bought a macbook and paid those people at apple \$100 a year or some BS to keep my app running on their store.

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Yeah....the developer's license where you have to jump through hoops. You pay your yearly fee and still have to get your app approved and if one thing is wrong you have fix it and then wait a long while. Idk personally but I've heard it's a pain in the butt getting you app approved and then getting updates approved.

Altstore supposedly lets you sideload but it loses connection to icloud. You have to refresh the license every week. They use to limit you to 3 active apps but I saw yesterday it's showing 10 apps are allowed. But if it relies on icloud and it keeps disconnecting...maybe just end up being useless. I wanted to do the sideloading because I just want to try ios dev to see if I'll like it. Starting to look like I'll have to cough up the \$99 though.

Hackers - August 20, 2023, 8:40 am

(Aug 20, 2023 06:47 AM)Jadzia Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Right now I'm trying to get Ventura in VirtualBox on

my Manjaro laptop. But having issues. I got the 1 click qemu mac os running but it installs Catalina which is what's on my mac air so that was super easy but did me no good. I removed Qemu and now I'm thinking maybe there's a way to upgrade the Qemu install. ? I didn't even check. I think I'll try that today. Also I'll take your advice and look at Codemagic. Also I'm looking at Altstore to sideload iOS apps but that keeps losing connection to icloud. Maybe the family will leave me alone today so I can try different options.

Remember, if you have a certain chip (Intel, and I think most or all of the old Airs had intel chips), you may be able to dual boot Windows and then just develop out some Android apps instead. However, this really depends on your setup, and you may not have enough RAM or other specs to have a good experience in Android Studio + an emulator. The newer Macs are all on different chips (M1, M2, whatever) so only the older Macs can dual boot I think?

Jadzia - August 20, 2023, 9:12 am

(Aug 20, 2023 08:40 AM)nodes Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Remember, if you have a certain chip (Intel, and I think most or all of the old Airs had intel chips), you may be able to dual boot Windows and then just develop out some Android apps instead. However, this really depends on your setup, and you may not have enough RAM or other specs to have a good experience in Android Studio + an emulator. The newer Macs are all on different chips (M1, M2, whatever) so only the older Macs can dual boot I think?

I remember using Android Studio on a different computer and it took forever to get the emulator to come up. I finally had to use an old phone instead of the emulator. I have 8GB ram on the air (Intel). But I have a system 76 (galago) with good specs running Manjaro and can use that to dev android. I wanted to get mac os installed in a VM to do iOS since I have plenty of RAM to share. I really wanted to do it that way. I have 24GB of RAM on the Galago. I had also considered PWA to bypass the stores. I feel really scattered with family and work. ADD really bites me in the ass sometimes. I hate myself sometimes because it's getting worse and I don't want to be on meds. It's just hard to stay on task. I'm on dl-phenylalanine right now which helps some.

But anyway...I know I don't know much about coding. Wish I was better at it. Way back in the day I wrote 2 VB programs for a local fuel company that supplies farmers. The ladies at the front desk loved them but I thought it was shitty code. ?? They thought I was a genius which was hilarious. I just thanked them anyway. ?

Hackers - August 20, 2023, 9:16 am

(Aug 20, 2023 09:00 AM)shatter Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I think that's illegal actually. False advertising. Possibly for the \$1 devices if it was intentional, but at end of day I did receive my MacBook at the discounted rate and they are allowed to offer discounts that expire. But for the \$1 bait and switch, yeah that felt like either a huge mistake that of course they can't fulfill, or like you said a way to get people in. For example, it could trick a user into buying a bunch of \$1 tablets so they think they're going to make a lot of money so they then buy other items. Then the order is partially canceled, the user buys a big item but doesn't get their profit-winning \$1 tablets. In my case, I found the tablets after the laptop so it didn't have this psychological effect on me, but I could see how that could be a malicious tactic.

manadasosa - August 21, 2023, 11:10 am

Its all RNG, it can work or not

Jadzia - August 21, 2023, 1:14 pm

Well...it let me download Ventura to the Sosumi (Catalina) install and it looks like it's upgrading the OS but reboots to Catalina. Might have to buy one of those macs from that stock4less after all but not ready to give up yet! lol

EDIT: Gonna try this.

<https://dalvikplanet.blogspot.com/2020/03/how-to-update-macos-inside-sosumi.html>

OPSECnewsim - August 21, 2023, 2:55 pm

bro thats a really great source will be checking into it dm me man.

pos_stub - August 22, 2023, 8:30 am

Legit source ? sounds like good deal or luck

Hackers - August 23, 2023, 5:20 am

(Aug 21, 2023 02:55 PM)protonbypassi Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) bro thats a really great source will be checking into it dm me man.

Good luck!

(Aug 22, 2023 08:30 AM)pos_stub Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Legit source ? sounds like good deal or luck
Yeah, I mean the thing works great & is fast & specs are right. I'm having 1 battery issue, but it only started up after my girl dropped the laptop so it's hard to say if that's her fault or theirs.

I'll probably order another device from them soon enough & if that one is good too then I think this place is fine.

Al-Bundy - August 24, 2023, 6:03 pm

(Aug 19, 2023 11:00 PM)Truth Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I remember I bought a macbook and paid those people at apple \$100 a year or some BS to keep my app running on their store.

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Glad Android is eating their lunch with better phones and Microsoft will better OS. Even linux is better than mac.

Congrats on the book though, can it run latest mac os?

You do realize Google and Microsoft both charge \$99/year to keep apps on their store right? You can side load a private app on your phone for free if it's personal use. But if it's commercial use, are you really getting mad at Apple because your app failed and you made \$0?

Hackers - August 24, 2023, 6:51 pm

(Aug 19, 2023 11:00 PM)Truth Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I remember I bought a macbook and paid those people at apple \$100 a year or some BS to keep my app running on their store.

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I 100% agree with this. I have Mint, Ubuntu, and working on 1 Elementary OS laptop and a Deepin AIO rig. I love Linux, and have used Centos, Ubuntu, Alma, and few others for backend services.

Truth - August 24, 2023, 7:06 pm

(Aug 24, 2023 06:03 PM)Al-Bundy Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You do realize Google and Microsoft both charge \$99/year to keep apps on their store right? You can side load a private app on your phone for free if it's personal use. But if it's commercial use, are you really getting mad at Apple because your app failed and you made \$0?

yeah just going to quote this so your level of IQ is posted forever.

Maybe you can spend 3 seconds googling instead of posting some BS you have no idea about

AI-Bundy - August 25, 2023, 2:22 am

(Aug 24, 2023 07:06 PM)Truth Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) yeah just going to quote this so your level of IQ is posted forever.

Maybe you can spend 3 seconds googling instead of posting some BS you have no idea about
Either way, getting mad at Apple for charging fees for a failed app is on you. Maybe try to make a better app that makes money and you won't need to complain about a yearly fee.

Prettykitty - October 3, 2023, 12:42 pm

It's a good deal you got there. I have a 2011 MacBook but the browsers don't support it anymore, and I don't use it.

secretmane - December 24, 2023, 2:56 am

wow glad to hear this

Hackers - January 1, 2024, 11:14 am

(Oct 3, 2023 12:42 PM)Prettykitty Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) It's a good deal you got there. I have a 2011 MacBook but the browsers don't support it anymore, and I don't use it.

Any chance you can just boot Linux on it instead? I noticed that on an old iPad - you can't even use sites like reddit on the old devices anymore due to the browsers being so outdated. Really is a shame - the hardware is perfectly capable in many cases. Not sure about Macbooks specifically though.

Prettykitty - January 1, 2024, 3:15 pm

(Jan 1, 2024 12:14 PM)nodes Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Any chance you can just boot Linux on it instead? I noticed that on an old iPad - you can't even use sites like reddit on the old devices anymore due to the browsers being so outdated. Really is a shame - the hardware is perfectly capable in many cases. Not sure about Macbooks specifically though. Good suggestion. I'm not familiar with Linux, did a search and these came up.

<https://discussions.apple.com/thread/255147685?sortBy=best>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jasonevangelho/2019/12/09/breathe-life-back-into-your-late-2013-or-older-apple-mac-with-linux/?sh=64bee41b76b2>

Ssd upgrade then ubuntu seems like a good idea.

https://www.reddit.com/r/linuxquestions/comments/fq9xc6/should_i_replace_macos_with_ubuntu_on_my_old/