

A Kid and His Kindle  
By: Alex Hershon

What is a Kindle? Is it a device that allows you to read and carry around hundreds of books. Maybe. But it is more than that. It is the ultimate device for the lover of reading. Magazines, newspapers, blogs and books in the thousands are available at your touch and command. You can either sample or buy books and magazines, and if you don't want a subscription anymore Amazon will cancel it and refund your money.

Most people who have Kindles are adults and older. I am only sixteen and I am the only teenager or younger that I know that has a Kindle. I was introduced to the Kindle by my Grandfather, who had just received one for his birthday. I researched the Kindle on its website everyday and the wait until I could have my own was unbearable. For my sixteenth birthday my waiting was over when my parents gave me my very own Kindle. The feeling that I received when I opened the box was indescribable. It was like the secret of happiness was now mine to command and hold. My Grandfather helped me set it up by hooking my Amazon account to the Kindle, but when he tried to teach me how to use it I was a step ahead of him. Thanks to the Kindle video I had watched several times a day since learning about the Kindle, I knew everything there was to know about using it.

In order to use a Kindle you need a bank account that will be linked to your Kindle and will allow you to buy books and periodicals through the Kindle itself. The Kindle Store on Amazon contains over three hundred thousand books, around a hundred periodicals, and more are being added every day. An individual Kindle itself can hold

around two thousand five hundred books. But that does not mean that you can only have twenty-five hundred books and that's it. The books that won't fit or you don't want on your Kindle are placed in your Archives, which are stored in your Amazon account. If the case arises when you can't put anymore books onto your Kindle, then all you have to do is put some books into your Archives to make some room. Periodicals are not in your Archives but are in your Back Issues, which are also stored online in your Amazon account. With a subscription when a new magazine, blog or newspaper comes out the old one is put in your Back Issues. Seven or so old periodicals of each subscription can be placed in your Back Issues before you have to erase one; the Kindle will erase the oldest one when a new issue arrives. If there is a periodical that you want to keep, then all you have to do is choose "keep it" and it will never be erased until you want it to be.

My own Kindle is a Kindle 2. The original Kindle has less memory and thus could hold fewer books. There were also some problems with the original that have been fixed in the Kindle 2 including; the next page button is more firm and can no longer be pressed accidentally, the time to turn pages has decreased, and the size of the screen has been made bigger without making the entire Kindle bigger. There are two other types of Kindles; the Kindle DX, which is a much bigger Kindle though that takes away its portability and where it can be stored, and the Kindle Global, which is the same as the Kindle 2 but allows you to buy books anywhere in the world while the Kindle 2 will only let you buy books in America. I have equipped it with a case and an attachable light because the Kindle has no internal light. Amazon makes cases and lights designed for each type of Kindle. Kindles' can also play music while you read, read audio books that you download and some books to you if the author has agreed to it with Amazon, allows

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