

# Kindle 2

Price: \$259

Size: 8" x 5.3" x .36"

Internet: Free 3G connection

Screen Type: E Ink

Screen Size: 6"

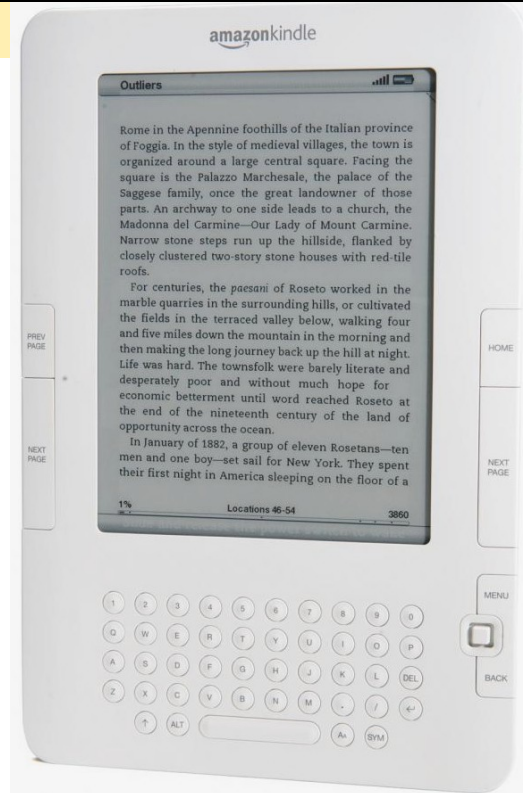
Online store: Amazon.com

Out-of-box storage: ~1,500 books

Interface: Keyboard / Joystick

Extra Features:

- Text to Speech
- Doesn't require a computer
- Magazine and Blog support
- Email documents to yourself (Whispernet)



## Things to Consider...

The Kindle is one of the most popular names in eReaders. It's a well made and durable product, and has many features that the other readers don't. However, with its always-on 3G internet connection, the Kindle doesn't connect to a computer, and its memory is the only place that your digital files will "live." The Kindle is largely tied to the Amazon store and isn't able to download books from our library's free service (Overdrive). On the other hand, Amazon's online store is one of the cheaper options around. Some people may also be put off by using a keyboard, joystick, and face-plate buttons to navigate the device, instead of a touch screen.

# Kindle DX

Price: \$489

Size: 10.4" x 7.2" x 0.38"

Internet: Free 3G connection

Screen Type: E Ink

Screen Size: 9.7"

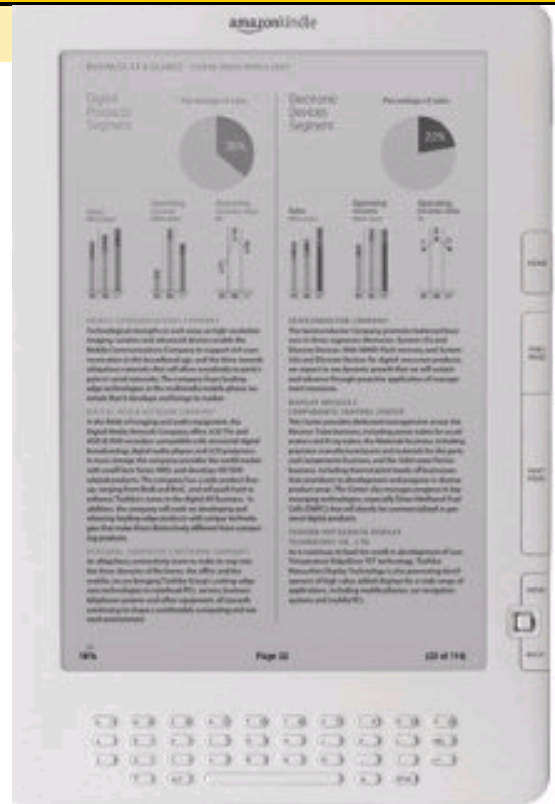
Online store: Amazon.com

Out-of-box storage: ~1,500 books

Interface: Keyboard / Joystick

Extra Features:

- Text to Speech
- Doesn't require a computer
- Magazine and Blog support
- Email your documents to your Kindle (Whispernet)



## Things to Consider...

The DX is one of the most expensive e-readers that you can buy, but also one of the best. Its large screen, host of extra features, and appealing design are all selling points. The same concerns with the Kindle 2 exist with the Kindle DX: namely, that it's tied to Amazon's store, and doesn't work with many of the free e-book services offered at your library and online. Before committing to Amazon's store, it's a good idea to check out their selection and prices and ask yourself if you want to continue using them for as long as you have your Kindle. Some people also dislike using the face-buttons and joystick for navigation; it's always a good idea to try a physical product before you buy.

# Nook

Price: \$259

Size: 7.7" x 4.9" x .5"

Internet: Free 3G connection

Screen Type: E Ink

Screen Size: 6" (and color navigation screen)

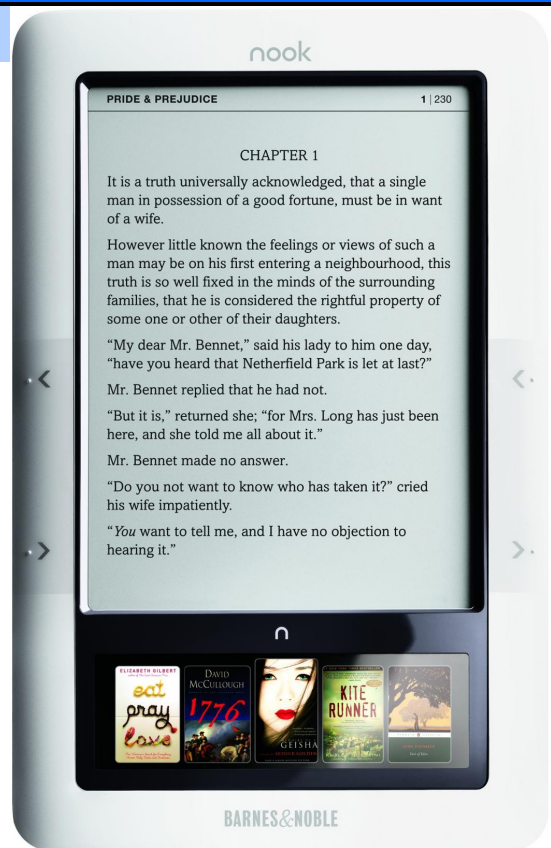
Online store: [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com)

Out-of-box storage: ~1,500 books

Interface: Touch Screen

Extra Features:

- Doesn't require a computer
- "Lend" feature allows friends to borrow titles you own
- Can download free titles through library's website
- Free book access in B&N stores



## Things to Consider...

At the same price, and relatively same features as the regular Kindle, the Nook is a good option for people who like the Kindle's always on wireless connection, but are put off by not being able to download free Google books, and items from our Library's e-book collection. Some people say that Amazon has slightly lower prices, but it varies from title to title. If there's a particular author you read a lot of, then it's a good idea to check their prices on both sites before buying. Some reviews have said that the Nook has less impressive battery life (due, in part, to the color navigation screen), and that it seems a little slower than its counterparts. Nooks are available at any Barnes and Noble retail outlet for you to try.

# Sony Readers

## PRS-300

Price: \$199

Size: 6 1/4 x 4 1/4 x 13/32

Internet: No

Screen Type: E-ink

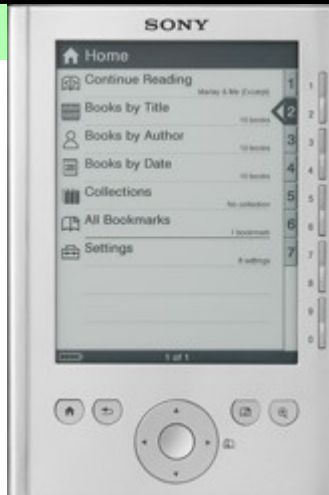
Screen Size: 5"

Out-of-box Storage: 512 MB

Interface: Buttons

Extra Features:

- Works with your library's e-book collection
- Available in 3 colors
- Easily scalable text
- Expandable storage capacity



## PRS-600

Price: \$299

Size: 6.9 x 4.8 x .4 inches

Internet: No

Screen Type: E-ink

Screen Size: 6"

Out-of-box Storage: ~512 MB

Interface: Touch Screen

Extra Features:

- Works with your library's e-book collection
- Available in 3 colors
- Easily scalable text
- Expandable storage ca-



## PRS-900

Price: \$399.99

Size: 5 x 8.2 x 19/32 inches

Wireless Internet: Yes

Screen Type: E-ink

Screen Size: 7"

Out-of-box Storage: 2 GB

Interface: Touch Screen

Extra Features:

- Works with your library's e-book collection
- Built in cover
- Easily scalable text
- Expandable storage capacity



# Things to consider...

Sony offers the most options out of all of the e-reader manufacturers. They have one of the cheapest systems (the PRS-300), and their other models are very competitive for their price. However, you're not getting the always-on wireless connection that the Nook and the Kindle both have (with the exception of the most expensive model). Every Sony system works with most free e-book options. Sony's online store, however, isn't as well developed as Barnes and Noble's or Amazon's.

# Further reading...

There are a few other companies that manufacture e-readers, which aren't mentioned at length in this guide. These are largely specialized (catering towards groups like researchers or students) and include:

- The "Bookeen" by Cybook
- The "iLiad" by iRex
- The "eBook" by Hanlin
- The "EZreader" by Astak

If you'd like to research these other readers, then there's always the buying guides, blog, and forum at <http://www.mobileread.com>. If you'd like to compare prices of ebooks across a number of stores, then there's <http://www.inkmesh.com>. If you'd like to see the items available through our online library, then you can check out: <http://maryland.lib.overdrive.com/>.