Now that you've purchased your iPad and have had a chance to sync it with iTunes, it's time to get a bit more familiar with the actual hardware. In this chapter, we'll talk about the various hardware controls on your iPad and how to use them. We'll discuss the care and maintenance requirements of your new device, and we'll explore the details of some of the more widely used Apple accessories for iPad. Grab that iPad, any Apple accessories you may have purchased, and perhaps a refreshing beverage, and let's take a quick tour of the hardware.

The Bits and Pieces of an iPad

In Chapter 1, you were briefly introduced to the names and locations of some of the switches and ports that decorate the outside of your iPad. In this chapter, we explain how those switches and ports are used.

On/Off Sleep/Wake Button

On the top-right corner of the iPad is one of the more important buttons on this little slab of glass and aluminum: the On/Off Sleep/Wake button (see Figure 3–1). That's kind of an odd name for a button, but it describes the function quite clearly.

When your iPad has been totally powered down, you'll need to press and hold this button for two or three seconds to turn it back on. A white Apple logo will appear, followed shortly by either the Home screen of your iPad or the Passcode Lock screen.
Figure 3–1. The Sleep/Wake button is used for powering the iPad on or off and for putting it to sleep when it's not being used.

If you don’t plan on using your iPad for a few hours, you have your choice of either waiting for it to automatically lock and go to sleep (if that option has been turned on in Settings) or manually putting it to sleep. To do the latter, give the button a quick, firm press, and the screen goes dark. When the sound on your iPad is turned up, you’ll even hear a click as an audible verification that the device has been put to sleep.

You can wake up the iPad either by giving the On/Off Sleep/Wake button another quick press or by pressing the Home button. Once again, if you have enabled a passcode lock, you need to enter that passcode correctly before you can use the iPad.

Occasionally, you may want to shut off your iPad completely. This means, of course, that it won’t be magically picking up e-mail, waking to display alarms, or doing anything else. It will be totally shut down. This is handy when you’re not going to be using the iPad for a long time (for example, you leave it home while on a trip) and don’t want the battery to drain.

To shut off the iPad, simply hold down the On/Off Sleep/Wake button for about five seconds. The iPad will display a black screen with a Cancel button at the bottom in case you really don’t want to shut it off and a red button near the top labeled “Slide to power off.” Sliding your button to the right with your finger shuts off power to the device.

This trick can be useful on those rare occasions where an iPad app simply won’t respond to your touch and the entire device is locked up. To turn it back on, press the On/Off Sleep/Wake button one more time.

With an iPad 2 adorned with a Smart Cover, there’s another way to sleep and wake the iPad: just open the Smart Cover to wake the iPad, or close it to put it back to sleep.