

# The Blackberry Ebook

A Guide For The Blackberry Novice

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[www.blackberryebook.com](http://www.blackberryebook.com)

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You just got your first blackberry and you just don't quite know where to start?

Before you spend a single dime on software and accessories and before you waste a whole night on google searches please read this e-book first.

Please don't make the same mistake I did. As a new blackberry customer I spent countless hours online wishing that I had a cheat sheet.

I started collecting notes and organizing my research as I made new discoveries. Pretty soon when friends and colleagues asked me questions about the blackberry, I would shoot them an email with my findings and data.



Here is a formal version of that list for all to share.

Cheers.

\*tips and tricks were picked up by multiple sources along the way

## Software:

[Handango](#)  
[PDATopSoft](#)  
[Blackberry Forums](#) [Power Thread](#)

## Forums/Community

[Pinstack](#) (Friendly)  
[Blackberry Forums](#) (Techy)  
[MySpace.com/RimBlackberry](#)

## Blogs & News

[BBHub](#)  
[Blackberry Cool](#)  
[RIMarkable](#)

## Ringtones

[Crackberry Ringtones](#) (MP3 Style)  
[Custom Tones](#)  
[7100i Nextel Tones](#) (Nextel Users)  
[RingtoneMegaplex](#) (Midi library for everyone)

## Wallpapers

[BlackberryWallpapers.com](#)

## Vehicle Chargers

[BlackberryCarChargers.com](#)

## Holsters, Skins, Batteries and More

[BBerry.com](#)  
[GizmoSkin](#)  
[SpeckProducts](#)

## Not So Free Books/Ebooks

[Blackberry For Dummies](#)  
[BlackBerry Made Simple for Full Keyboard BlackBerries](#)  
[Professional Blackberry](#)

## BlackBerry Tips & Tricks

- 1) Hold the ALT key while you roll the thumb-wheel to scroll horizontally in any field where you can enter or view text.
- 2) Hold the ALT key while you roll the thumb-wheel to scroll through a field to view options.
- 3) Hold the CAP key while you roll the thumb-wheel to select multiple items in a list.
- 4) Type the first letter of an item in an options list or menu to jump directly to that item.
- 5) Type the first letters of a name or the initials separated by a space to find a contact in the Address Book screen.
- 6) Press C to compose a new message from the home screen or within Messages
- 7) Rearrange the ribbon: In the Home screen (ribbon), hold the ALT key and click the thumb-wheel to bring up a menu. You can then select Move Icon, Hide Icon, or Show All. If you hide an icon, to show it again click Show all and it will appear with an X over it, bring up the menu on it and uncheck hide icon.
- 8) The Blackberry display can be backlit to allow reading messages in the dark. To get the light to come on, hit the backlight button usually in the lower right of the keyboard. Hopefully you have a backlit keyboard as well so you can type in the dark.
- 9) Turning the radio off and back on when coverage is spotty and you've lost signal seems to help. Also going into network and selecting register now will help. And if you have a phone/combo BB then on some you can go into network and select Scan for networks. then select the network you are on, for example Tmobile, then save. After doing this the radio will reset and you may receive a register message and a new service book, which you can accept from the service book menu in options.
- 10) Password protect your BB. To set a password, go to the Options menu to the Security item. Set the desired timeout (I use 15 minutes) and enable/set a password. In conjunction with this, you should also go to the Options menu to the Owner item, and enter your name, phone number, etc. When the password protection kicks in, this is what is displayed on the screen.
- 11) After five incorrect attempts at typing in your password, the password starts echoing (figuring you really need all the help you can get). After ten attempts, it performs a lobotomy on itself and almost all data is cleared. The Memo database, however, is retained and visible.

12) To support more than one signature. Wipe out your auto-signature in the Redirector of the Desktop Software and just use 'AutoText' to configure alternate sigs.

## In the Message List

(Some of these work in tasks, memos, and appointments also)

Sorting:

- 1) ALT-i: show only incoming mail
- 2) ALT-o: show only outgoing mail (messages you have sent - i.e. checkmark icon)
- 3) ALT-p: show phone log messages
- 4) ALT-s: show SMS messages
- 5) ALT-v: show VoiceMail messages

Navigating:

- 1) t: go to top of message listing
- 2) b: go to end/bottom of message listing
- 3) backspace: close message listing and return to home screen (ribbon)
- 4) spacebar: pagedown
- 5) cap + spacebar: pageup

Deleting multiple messages at once:

- 1) Highlight a date (i.e. Fri, Oct 05,2001) in the message list, hit the thumbwheel and select delete prior. All messages prior to that date will be deleted.
- 2) Hold down the CAP key and use the thumb-wheel to scroll up or down to select messages. Click the thumb-wheel and select 'Delete Messages'. Combine this with a sorting tip to make it even more useful (i.e. To delete the last 5 messages that you have sent (checkmarks), press 'ALT' then the letter 'o' (for outgoing) this will show all of your sent messages, then per this tip scroll down and select the last five.

## While In A Message

Navigating:

- 1) enter or spacebar: scroll down a page/screen at a time
- 2) ALT-enter or spacebar: scroll back a page/screen at a time
- 3) b: scroll to end of page
- 4) t: scroll to top of page
- 5) u: jump to closest unread message

- 6) n: jump to next message
- 7) p: jump to previous message
- 8) backspace: close message and return to message listing

#### Reply-to/Forward:

- 1) r: reply to or answer this message
- 2) f: forward this message

#### Select Text (OS v2.1+):

- 1) Press the CAP key and then scroll the thumb-wheel to select. If you release the CAP key and scroll the thumb-wheel you will select entire lines. Press the CAP key again at any time to start selecting by character again.
- 2) Hold down ALT key + CLICK the thumb-wheel (click it don't hold it down), release the thumb-wheel and then use it to scroll whole lines. You can press and hold the ALT key at anytime to start selecting by character again.
- 3) Click scroll wheel and select SELECT from the menu. scroll wheel to select entire line. click scroll wheel again and select copy. With either method, click the thumb-wheel and select 'Cut Selection' or 'Copy Selection'... to paste, open a new message or whatever, click the thumb-wheel, and then select 'Paste Selection'.

#### Composing Message

- 1) Press and hold a letter to capitalize it (with Key Rate enabled).
- 2) Press the SPACE key twice to insert a period and capitalize the next letter.
- 3) Press the SPACE key to insert the "@" and "." characters in an **Email** field. Backspace and type again to over-ride this like you would with AutoText.
- 4) Press and hold a letter key and roll the thumb-wheel to scroll through international/accent characters, equation symbols and other marks.

#### Calendar (from Agenda screen)

- 1) Press T to go to "Today" in the Calendar screen.
- 2) Press G to go to a specific date in the Calendar screen.
- 3) The default date range for Calendar synchronization in Desktop Manager may not suit most people. While configuring the Calendar synchronization, click the Advanced button and specify the desired range.

## Battery

- 1) The largest draw on battery life is the transmitter, so if you are transmitting a lot, you can expect reduced battery life. And the backlight.
- 2) Being in fringe or no coverage areas will eat up your battery as it attempts to transmit. If you're in an area that is out of range, turn your BB's radio off manually or use Options / Auto On Off to conserve battery life.

## Other Tips

- 1) Rather than looking at the bars, you can change the display of the 'signal strength' to read in real numbers. While at the home screen (ribbon), hold down the half moon ALT key while you type NMLL. The bars should change to read numbers. For the 'signal strength', if you are in the 100 area (that means -100dBm), you will be transmitting at maximum power (2 Watts), and since coverage is hit and miss at this weak a signal, you may end up transmitting many times before the packets make it through. This might help explain any poorer than normal battery life. I consider anything at -90 to -50 excellent.
- 2) To get the bars back: While at the home screen (ribbon), hold down the half moon ALT key while you type NMLL again.
- 3) Hold down the half moon ALT key -AND- the CAP key at the same time, then the letter 'h'. This brings up the "Help Me!" screen that lists version, app version, pin, imei, uptime, signal strength, battery level, file free, and file total.
- 4) Hold down the half moon ALT while you type LGLG. This brings up the event log where you can clear events (frees some memory) or view them or copy the contents to mail to someone.
- 5) ALT-CAP-Backspace will reboot your BB.