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# Humane Reader is a \$20 8-bit PC for TVs

By Paul Miller posted Jul 20th 2010 2:42AM



We can't decide if this is a Smart idea or a Stupid idea in the [grand scheme of things](#), but we love it just the same. Humane PC and its Humane Reader child are open source hardware projects with some seriously low-cost internal components. At volume the PC could retail for as low as \$20, and that's with 2GB of microSD storage, USB / PS/2 plugs, and video out. The PC is primarily designed to output low-res, black and white text to a TV, making it a low cost reader for developing countries, and the Humane Reader project pre-loads the device with thousands of Wikipedia articles (much in the vein of the [OpenMoko WikiReader](#)). Of course, the Humane PC itself is imminently hackable, and we probably haven't seen the full extent of this sucker's functionality just yet. The project is currently seeking a partner to deploy some prototypes.

VIA [Make](#)

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20


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POWERED BY [surphace](#)  
NPD: PC retail and digital distribution sales reaching parity 5 days ago

## COMMENTS

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 *pcorlatan* Posted Jul 20th 2010 2:46AM **HIGHLY RANKED**  
At that price I want one!

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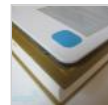
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**uckApple** Posted Jul 20th 2010 2:59AM NEUTRAL  
@pcorlatan

If all the 8-bit loving nerds (like me xD) buy this, it might just kill the iPad..  
8-BIT STYLE.



**seventythree** Posted Jul 20th 2010 6:15AM HIGHLY RANKED  
@uckApple

You know the PC is the green box off to the side, right?



**hmmwv** Posted Jul 20th 2010 10:05AM NEUTRAL  
@pcorlatan That Prism LCD TV was on sale at Walgreen for \$35 last week, so this is potentially a \$50 computer.



**Firewave** Posted Jul 20th 2010 2:48AM NEUTRAL  
I wish Kindles were at that price!



**vdubdan45** Posted Jul 20th 2010 2:52AM NEUTRAL  
IPAD KILLERRRRRRRRR



**Special Agent Steve** Posted Jul 20th 2010 3:00AM NEUTRAL  
@vdubdan45  
Definitely. Especially at 1/25 the price.

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**Madmax333** Posted Jul 20th 2010 2:57AM HIGHEST RANKED  
Damn third world countries have all the fun



**Heywatchitbuddy** Posted Jul 20th 2010 3:41AM NEUTRAL  
@Madmax333  
>implying you can't buy one unless you live in a third world country



**Dante of the Inferno** Posted Jul 20th 2010 3:03AM NEUTRAL  
I'm all for helping those less fortunate with their technical needs, but for the trouble, get these partners into the OLPC category. The newest model is supposed to be a foldable tablet anyway, so why not just use that as the e-reader?

Also, with the Humane Reader, apparently you need to be too poor for OLPC, but fortunate enough to have a TV in the third world.



**Patricio Arnechino** Posted Jul 20th 2010 3:07AM NEUTRAL  
A very (potentially) nice reader for books on any big screen as you go... doesn't sound that bad for a couple of bucks...



**Inm4444** Posted Jul 20th 2010 7:56AM NEUTRAL  
All I need now is my old Members Only jacket.



**CRA1G** Posted Jul 20th 2010 8:20AM NEUTRAL  
Will it play Doom?  
Scratch that.  
Will it play Zork?

Microsoft partners with Blue Line Innovation for Hohm-compatible monitoring device, we go hands-on  
3 hours ago



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Facebook social plugin



Larz Posted Jul 20th 2010 6:58PM NEUTRAL

@CRA1G

Text-adventures it can do.  
You have been eaten by a Grue!



KupoCheer Posted Jul 20th 2010 8:52AM NEUTRAL

Why are we looking for low-cost readers for developing countries when books work just as well (and probably a whole lot better, in this scenario)?



Jive Turkey Posted Jul 20th 2010 10:39AM NEUTRAL

@KupoCheer Thousands of articles in one book for \$20? I don't think so. Not to mention that you can't update the content in a book, or automatically search it.



dorkypants Posted Jul 20th 2010 11:41AM NEUTRAL

I think you mean "eminently hackable". "imminently" means "about to happen right now"; "eminently" means "highly, very, to a great degree".



numo Posted Jul 20th 2010 9:48PM NEUTRAL

My H8 MCU board w/USB costed nearly \$40..

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*Apple Magic Trackpad first hands-on*

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*Apple Cinema Display goes to 27 inches, 16:9 aspect ratio*

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