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Gadgets: iPhone 5/5s accessories fill specific needs

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BY GREGG ELLMAN

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CASE WITH BUILT-IN LENSES PERFECT FOR IPHONEOGRAPHERS

The IZZI Orbit Pro iPhone 5/5s case has been out for a little while but I got my first glance at it recently. It shows how serious iPhoneographers can take their photos with the hand-held device.

While smartphones don't really produce the image quality of a standalone camera, even of the point-n-shoot category, your phone is always handy with its camera functions and instant access.

Structurally, the case is an incredibly strong outer shell of aircraft-grade aluminum. Built into the case is a stabilizing grip on the bottom with three tripod mounts to attach your tripod on both sides and the bottom. Your phone goes into a rubber shell, which then goes into the stronger outer shell.

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What makes this device unique for photography is the four-lens pro-grade system mounted directly on the camera with the company's peripheral motion lock technology.

The rotating lens includes a telephoto, fisheye and macro. A wide-angle lens gives you a fourth option by screwing a small attachment onto the macro, if that view is needed.

Specifically, you get a 180-degree fisheye view, a 67X wide-wide angle lens, a 2X optical telephoto lens and the macro for close-ups.

The case is bulky and you probably can't store it in your pocket so I wouldn't use it as my everyday case. But if you're on a vacation or a day of sightseeing, a switch to the Orbit Pro would be easy,

The little brother IZZI Slim is on the way and available for pre-order for \$99.99. The slim has the lens attachments but without the metal case construction and the tripod attachments.

Instead it has a polycarbonate case (black or white choices) with the rotating lens attachments.

Details: \$229.99 available in black, red and silver. A lanyard and lens cleaning cloth are included; www.izzigadgets.com

THE CASE FOR FORMER BLACKBERRY USERS

The TYPO keyboard case for the iPhone 5/5s is claimed to be the first physical keyboard for an iPhone, according to the company.

At a first glance, the keyboard is a spitting image of a standard Blackberry keyboard, which is a great device for hardcore Blackberry users to get into the iPhone world.

It's a common problem to get used to the touch-screen keyboard and even do it with speed - assuming you're not a teenager. The TYPO is the perfect solution and works really well.

The keyboard looks like the iconic Blackberry (I admit, I was a user for a long time) and had keys, which your fingers can easily adjust to - much easier than the virtual keyboard.

It brought back memories of how I used to type and it took a little while to adjust back, but after a few typos I was there.

The backlit keyboard is built into a hard shell case, which has two pieces that slide together. When it's attached it extends your phone about a half-inch longer. But all-in-all that's a good thing since it gives you a 40-percent larger screen since you don't have the virtual screen on your LCD.

Details: \$99; note they are currently on backorder, but are taking orders, which are expected to be available in mid-March; www.typokeyboards.com

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Details: \$39.95 available in multiple patterns and colors; <http://www.evutec.com>



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