

Apple's MacBook Neo: iFixit's best MacBook score in 14 years, but the residual value ceiling is real

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Apple just shipped its most recyclable and most repairable laptop to date, and priced it at \$599. For an industry that has spent years processing glue-heavy, adhesive-bonded MacBooks with soldered everything, that combination is worth paying attention to. The MacBook Neo is Apple's newest and most affordable laptop, launched in March 2026 at \$599, roughly half the price of the company's next model up, the MacBook Air. It runs macOS on Apple's A18 Pro chip, the same processor found in the iPhone 16 Pro, and targets students, first-time Mac buyers, and budget-conscious consumers. It is the first Mac to fall below \$600, putting Apple in direct competition with the Chromebooks and entry-level Windows laptops that currently dominate school districts and cost-sensitive procurement. In the context of sustainability, the MacBook Neo is Apple's most significant hardware design departure in years, built with a higher proportion of recycled materials and a more serviceable internal architecture than any MacBook that came before it.

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