



ARTICLE

COMMENTS (0)

What's up dock? Apple to shrink connector for iPhone 5

Recommend

41 people recommend this. Be the first of your friends.



By Clare Jim and Lee Chyen Yee
TAIPEI/HONG KONG | Mon Jul 23, 2012 3:42am EDT

(Reuters) - Apple Inc's new iPhone will drop the wide dock connector used in the company's gadgets for the best part of a decade in favor of a smaller one, a change likely to annoy the Apple faithful but which could be a boon for accessory makers.

The iPhone 5, Apple's next generation iPhone expected to go on sale around October, will come with a 19-pin connector port at the bottom instead of the proprietary 30-pin port "to make room for the earphone moving to the bottom", two sources familiar with the matter told Reuters.

That would mean the new phone would not connect with the myriad of accessories such as speakers and power chargers that form part of the ecosystem around iPods, iPads and iPhones, without an adaptor.

That means new business, analysts say.

"That means new business, analysts say. ... for accessory vendors," said Pete Cunningham, London-based analyst at technology research firm Canalsys. "The iPhone connector has been a standard for a long time now and I would expect the same to be true for a new connector, should Apple change it as expected."

Apple did not immediately reply to an emailed request for comment.

Tech blogs have long speculated on the demise of the 30-pin connector, which at 21 mm wide takes up a chunk of space, especially as the latest technologies such as microUSB offer more power in less space.

They say that a smaller connector would give Apple more scope for new product designs or a bigger battery, or simply to make ever smaller products.

Tweet 176

Share 2

Share this

3

Email

Print

Related News

[Apple's latest iPad makes low-key debut in China](#)
Fri, Jul 20 2012

[Nokia's cash reserves hold up despite big loss](#)
Thu, Jul 19 2012

[Australia's Qantas Airways drops Blackberrys for iPhones](#)
Wed, Jul 18 2012

[Insight: Despite sanctions, Apple gear booms in Iran](#)
Fri, Jul 13 2012

[China preempts Apple on iPhone 5 launch](#)
Thu, Jul 12 2012

Related Topics

[Tech »](#)

[Media »](#)

[iPad »](#)

Follow Reuters

Facebook	Twitter	RSS	YouTube
--------------------------	-------------------------	---------------------	-------------------------

READ

- [Colorado town, Obama honor shooting victims](#)
4:34am EDT
- [Mexico urges U.S. to review gun laws after Colorado shooting](#)
21 Jul 2012
- [Assad's forces overrun two Damascus districts](#)
4:20am EDT
- [Shots fired from Egypt at Israeli troops, none hurt](#)
22 Jul 2012
- ['Dark Knight' sales below forecasts after shooting](#)
22 Jul 2012

Login or register

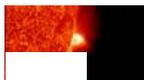
Latest from My Wire

- 213** [Mexico urges U.S. to review gun laws after Colorado shooting](#)
- 137** [Fourteen killed in Denver movie theater shooting](#)
- 117** [Syrian battles rage in capital, Russia pressed](#)

WATCHED



Brain research confirms dangers of boxing
Sun, Jul 22 2012



Latest solar flare dazzling but not dangerous
Fri, Jul 20 2012



Brian Lam on rewarding depth over volume
Mon, Jul 16 2012

Switzerland's Logitech, one of the biggest makers of Apple speakers, declined to comment.

But some enterprising vendors in [China](#) have already begun offering cases for the new phone, complete with earphone socket on the bottom and a "guarantee" the dimensions are correct.

For some in the peripherals industry, the change could open doors to new business.

"iPod docking speaker sales have been declining for one or two years," said an employee of a Hong Kong-based company that designs speakers especially for Apple products.

"My previous factory is a lucky one. They shifted the focus to Bluetooth speakers, which proved a wise decision now," the employee said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"It looks like while iPod speaker sales are going down, Bluetooth speaker sales are going up."

HAPPY TO UPGRADE?

Apple has already said that some users of older models of its Macbook computers won't be able to use the latest operating system to be announced soon, but analysts think it will be kinder to mobile gadget users.

"Apple needs to find a solution not to disappoint their current clients who want to upgrade to the new iPhone but are tied to an expensive accessory that have bought," said Francisco Jeronimo, London-based analyst at technology research firm IDC.

"I believe Apple will come up with some sort of adaptor so the new iPhone can be used with previous connectors."

It could be a difficult change for Apple to manage, even with an adaptor.

"With a smaller connector, what am I going to do with my loudspeaker at home and the fitness pack that I use when I go to the gym? That's the question," said 24-year old Travis Tam, who owns an iPhone 4 and works as an account executive at a social networking company in Hong Kong.

"I feel that the premium gap between the next iPhone 5 and newest Android models is getting much smaller these days. That will mean that details such as having a smaller connector will mean more in whether I will continue to use an iPhone and switch to other Android phones."

A salesman surnamed Chan at an Apple reseller in Hong Kong thought a smaller connector would be a "pain", and would spoil the clean lines and seamless connectivity that is Apple's trademark.

"There are ways around it as some of the speakers have an audio input point that can be connected directly to any iPhone with a earphone jack. It's not a very elegant way of doing things, but it's an alternative," he said.

In the end though, Apple fans are Apple fans.

"I don't think it will stop Apple consumers from buying the new gadgets," said C.K. Lu, Taipei-based analyst at research firm Gartner. "Many companies are interested in developing accessories for Apple because Apple users are more open and willing to buy accessories."

(This story has been refiled to correct spelling of IDC analyst's last name in paragraph 16)

(Additional reporting by [Tarmo Virki](#) in HELSINKI and [Caroline Copley](#) in ZURICH; Writing by [Jonathan Standing](#); Editing by [Alex Richardson](#))

TECH MEDIA IPAD

PICTURES



Reuters Photojournalism

Our day's top images, in-depth photo essays and offbeat slices of life. See the best of Reuters photography. [See more](#)



Tragedy in Denver
A gunman opens fire at a midnight screening of the Dark Knight. [Slideshow](#)



Hunger in Yemen
Aid agencies estimate half the country is now malnourished. [Slideshow](#)

Related Quotes and News

COMPANY	PRICE	RELATED NEWS
Apple Inc AAPL.O	\$604.30 -10.02 -1.63%	Apple vs Samsung patent trial kicks off in Australia Apple vs Samsung patent trial kicks off in Australia More AAPL.O News »
Logitech International SA LOGN.VX	CHF8.91 -0.38 -4.09%	Logitech Q4 beats estimates UPDATE 1-Logitech 4th-qtr beats estimates More LOGN.VX News »

[Recommend](#) 41 people recommend this. Be the first of your friends.

[Tweet this](#) [Link this](#) [Share this](#) [Digg this](#) [Email](#) [Reprints](#)