# BlackBerry Curve

## Made Simple

Martin Trautschold | Gary Mazo

MadeSimple LEARNING

Apress®

# BlackBerry Curve Made Simple

## For the BlackBerry Curve 8520, 8530 and 8500 Series

Martin Trautschold
and
Gary Mazo

Apress®

**Blackberry Curve Made Simple**

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# About the Authors

**Martin Trautschold** is the founder and CEO of Made Simple Learning, a leading provider of Apple iPad, iPhone, iPod touch, BlackBerry, and Palm webOS books and video tutorials. He has been a successful entrepreneur in the mobile device training and software business since 2001. With Made Simple Learning, he helped to train thousands of BlackBerry Smartphone users with short, to-the-point video tutorials. Martin has now co-authored fifteen "Made Simple" guide books. He also co-founded, ran for 3 years, and then sold a mobile device software company. Prior to this, Martin spent 15 years in technology and business consulting in the US and Japan. He holds an engineering degree from Princeton University and an MBA from the Kellogg School at Northwestern University. Martin and his wife, Julia, have three daughters. He enjoys rowing and cycling. Martin can be reached at martin@madesimplelearning.com.

**Gary Mazo** is Vice President of Made Simple Learning and is a writer, a college professor, a gadget nut, and an ordained rabbi. Gary joined Made Simple Learning in 2007 and has co-authored the last thirteen books in the Made Simple series. Along with Martin, and Kevin Michaluk from CrackBerry.com, Gary co-wrote *CrackBerry: True Tales of BlackBerry Use and Abuse*—a book about BlackBerry addiction and how to get a grip on one's BlackBerry use. Gary also teaches writing, philosophy, technical writing, and more at the University of Phoenix. Gary is a regular contributor to CrackBerry.com—writing product reviews and adding editorial content. He holds a BA in anthropology from Brandeis University. Gary earned his M.A.H.L (Masters in Hebrew Letters) as well as ordination as Rabbi from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio. He has served congregations in Dayton, Ohio, Cherry Hill, New Jersey and Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Gary is married to Gloria Schwartz Mazo; they have six children. Gary can be reached at: gary@madesimplelearning.com.

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Part

# Quick Start Guide

In your hands is one of the most capable devices to hit the market in quite some time: the BlackBerry Curve. This Quick Start Guide will help get you and your new Curve up and running in a hurry. You'll learn all about the buttons, switches, and ports, and how to use the responsive Trackpad to help you get around. Our App Reference Tables introduce you to the apps on your Curve—and serve as a quick way to find out how to accomplish a task.

# Getting Around Quickly

This Quick Start Guide is meant to be just that—a tool that can help you jump right in and find information in this book—and learn the basics of how to get around and enjoy your Curve right away.

We start with the nuts and bolts in our "Learning Your Way Around" section—what all the keys, buttons, switches, and symbols mean and do on your Curve. You will learn how to get inside the back of your Curve to remove and replace the battery, SIM card and media card. You will also learn how to use the **Menu** key, **Escape** key, **Trackpad** and other important buttons. We show you some great time-saving tips for menus and setting dates and times as well as how to multitask.

In the section "Working With the Wireless Network," we help you understand when the letters, numbers, and symbols at the top of your Curve screen tell you and which help you make phone calls, send SMS text messages, send and receive e-mail, or browse the web. We also show you how to handle your Curve on an airplane when you might need to turn off the wireless network, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth radios.

In the "App Reference Tables," section, we've organized the app icons into general categories so that you can quickly browse the icons and jump to a section in the book to learn more about the app a particular icon represents. The following are the tables:

- Getting Set Up (Table 2)
- Staying In Touch (Table 3)
- Staying Organized (Table 4)
- Being Productive (Table 5)
- Being Entertained (Table 6)
- Networking Socially (Table 7)
- Personalize Your Curve (Table 8)
- Add and Remove Software (Table 9)

## Learning Your Way Around

To help you get comfortable with your Curve, we start with the basics—what the keys, buttons, ports and trackpad do and how to open up the back cover to get at your

battery, media, and SIM card. Then, we move into how you start apps and navigate the menus. We end this section with a number of very useful time-saving tips and tricks about getting around the menus, setting dates and times, and many great ways to use the **Space** key.

## Keys, Buttons, and Ports

Figure 1 shows all the things you can do with the buttons, keys, switches, and ports on your Curve. Go ahead and try out a few things to see what happens. Try pressing the **Menu** key for 2 seconds, press and hold the **1** key, press the side **Convenience** keys, click on an icon, then press the **Escape** key. Have some fun getting acquainted with your device.

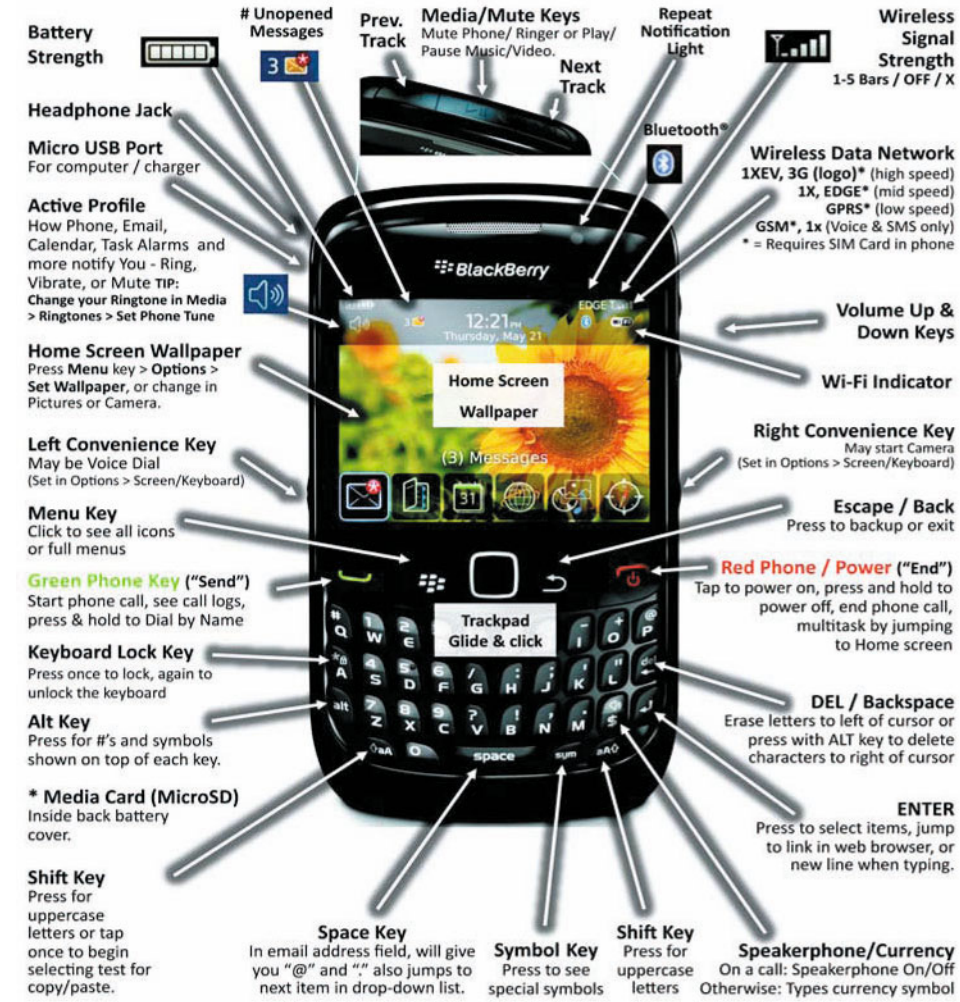



**Figure 1.** *Keys, buttons, and ports on the BlackBerry Curve*

# Inside Your Curve

You have to get inside your Curve to access your battery, SIM card slot, and media card slot. The following instructions and Figure 2 show you how.

**To Remove the Back Cover:**
Insert your fingernail into the opening at the bottom of the Battery cover and gently lift up. Take it out of the two notches at the top.

**To Remove or Replace the Battery:**
Gently put your fingernail at the top edge of the battery and pry the top edge out first. Then, remove the battery. To replace it, insert the bottom edge of the battery with the metal contacts and push down the top edge.

**To Insert a Memory Card (MicroSD format):**
Gently place the media card with the metal contacts facing down and slide it completely into the memory card slot (see below) from the top.

**To Insert a SIM Card (required to connect to a GSM phone network):**
Remove the battery and slide the SIM card completely into the SIM card slot from left to right (see Figure 2).

**To Replace the Back Cover:**
Insert the two notches at the top (near the top of the battery) and press the cover down from the bottom of the BlackBerry until it clicks into place.

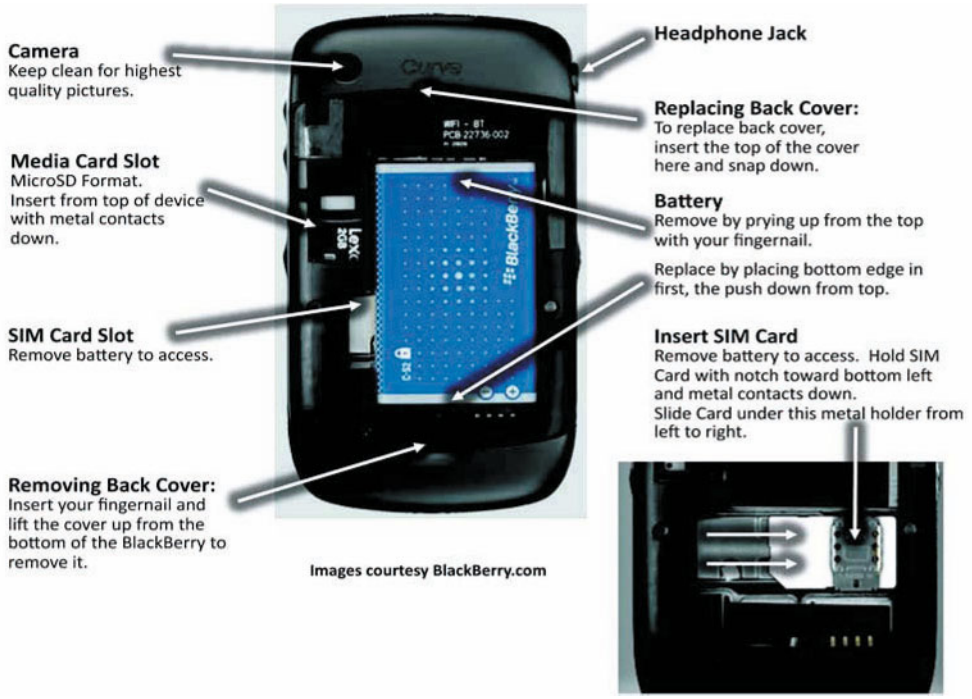



**Figure 2.** *Inside your Curve: the Battery, Media Card, and SIM Card slots*

## Starting and Exiting Icons

You use the **Trackpad**, **Menu** key, and **Escape** key to navigate around your BlackBerry, open folders, and select icons (see Figure 3). The **Escape** key will get you back out one step at a time, the **Red Phone** key will jump you all the way back to your **Home** screen. You can change the background image (wallpaper) also called the **Home** screen image, from your media player or camera. You can change the look and feel or theme of your Curve by going into the **Options** icon and selecting **Theme** (see page 178). You will learn how to move icons on page 169 or hide icons on page 1711.

**Figure 3.** *How to start and exit icons (Apps)*

## Two Types of Menus (Full and Short)

One useful thing on your BlackBerry is the two types of menus: Full and Short (Figure 4). You see the Full Menu by pressing the **Menu** key and the Short Menu by pressing the **Trackpad**. You will notice that the Short Menu will often times have exactly the thing you want to do highlighted, like **Send** or **Forward**, saving you time with common tasks.

**Figure 4.** *Full and short menus*

# Multitasking on Your Curve

Once you start using your Curve, you will almost immediately want to start doing a few things at the same time. Maybe you want to check your **Calendar** while listening to **Pandora** internet radio (see page 384), or cut, copy, and paste text from an e-mail message into your notepad. It is easy to multitask on your curve. You actually have two choices: you can use the **Red Phone** key or **Menu** key. We show you how to use both below.

## Multitask with the Red Phone Key

Press the **Red Phone** key (when not on a call) and you jump right to the home screen.

Or when on a call, press the **Escape** key, it does the same thing.

Say you are writing an e-mail and needed to check the calendar or wanted to schedule a new event.

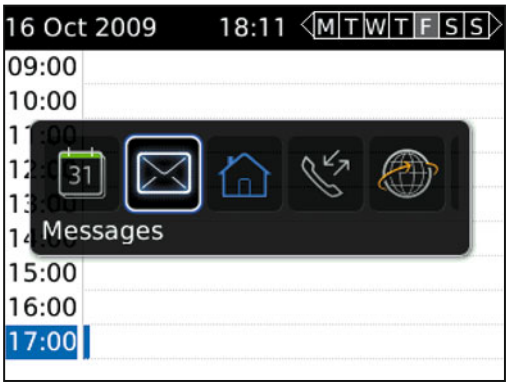
1. Press the **Red Phone** key to jump to the **Home Screen**.
2. Start the **Calendar** to check your schedule.
3. Press the **Red Phone** key again to return to the **Home Screen**.
4. Click on the **Messages** icon to return exactly to where you left off composing your e-mail message.

Remember, though, that if you always use the **Red Phone** key to jump out of icons and leave them running in the background, over time your blackberry will slow down.

## Multitask with the Menu Key

You can also multitask using the **Menu** key. Just press and hold it to bring up the multitasking pop-up window.

1. Press and hold the **Menu** key to see the pop-up window of running apps.
2. Glide the **Trackpad** to the app you want to start.
3. Click on the **Home** app, if you don't see the icon you want to start. Then click on the icon you want to start from the **Home screen**.
4. Repeat the procedure to return to the app you started in.



# Jump to First Letter Trick for Menus and Drop-Downs

Getting around on your Curve, you will probably access at least 20 menus every day, sometimes many more. Since you use menus so often, saving a little time on every menu will result in a lot of overall time savings. You can do this by pressing the first letter of the menu item, list, or drop-down item on your keyboard to instantly jump down to it. See Figure 5.

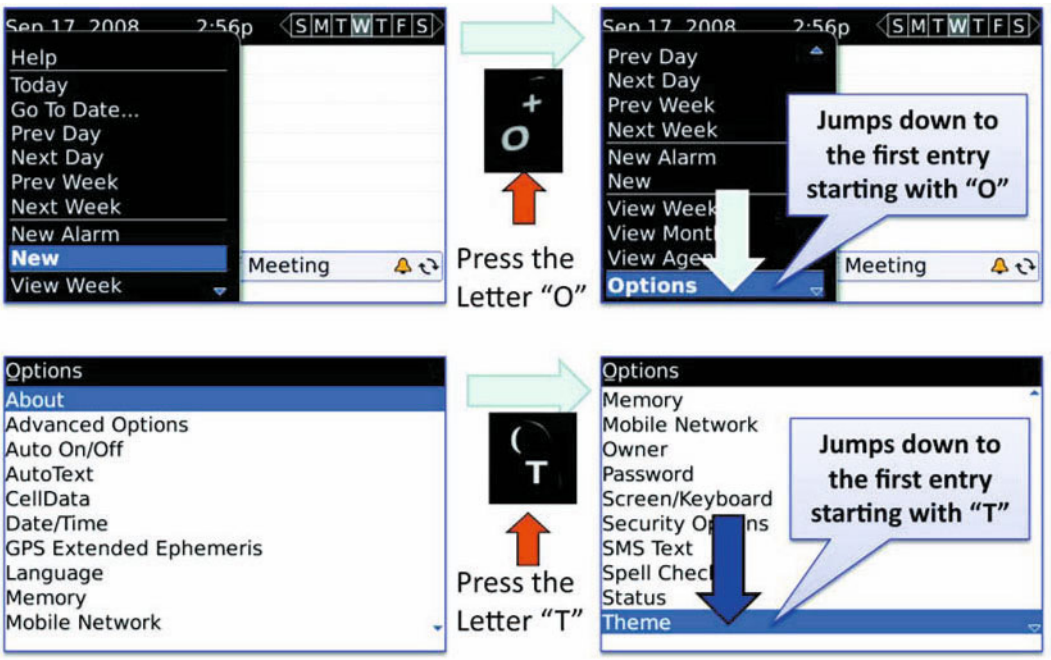



**Figure 5.** *Press the first letter to Jump to a particular menu item or list item.*