

Quicken 2003, Premier  
By Intuit

Review by: Sue McBride

This program can be found at almost any store such as Wal-Mart, Office Max, and Staples etc. It can also be ordered off the Internet at various web sites. Some are; Staples, \$59.95, free shipping over \$50.00; Buydisoftware.com, \$53.13, shipping \$6.95; Atomickpark.com, \$58.00, free shipping.

If you wish to keep your personal financial information on the computer this is the perfect program. It is very user friendly and walks you through the whole process.

It is available in a Windows environment and Mac OS X.

Requirements:

Minimum memory: 32 MB RAM, preferably 64 MB.

Hard Drive Space: Premier, 66 MB

Monitor: Super VGA with 256 colors

Audio: sound card and speakers recommended

CD-Rom Drive

Internet connection

Printer

The installation from the CD went smoothly and I was up and running within 15 minutes. There is an uninstall ability if you need to uninstall the program for some reason

If you have been using a former edition of Quicken it transfers the data and you just keep going. I was using Money so I had to enter the totals from the previous end-of-the month records but this was easy because the program walks you through the whole process. Once you have the totals entered, the system just flows easily. After you have entered a check, for say Kroger, the next time you enter a Kroger all you do is enter a K and it fills the space for you. This helps tremendously if it is a long name that you use quite frequently. You can have it open to a window that shows all of your accounts and balances. Then all you do is click on the account you are wanting to access and it pops up.

For the investor there is intelligent investing alerts, based on Morningstar ratings, Schedules A, B and D for reporting capital gains to the IRS, and investor's reference guide (step by step tutorial for beginning investors) and many other investor features.

For you who hate to reconcile your bank statement each month Quicken makes it about as easy as it can get. I have five separate checking accounts and have no trouble with this chore. One of the many great reasons to use Quicken.

Quicken works similar to Money but the reports section is a bit easier to use. Quicken also interfaces with Intuit's TurboTax program so you do not have to enter tax data into another program.

You also have the ability for automatic bill paying through the Internet if you wish. My bank does not have that ability but I would use it if it did.

There was no manual with my copy but I read where it is available when you purchase the program. Mine was a review copy minus the manual. The help section on the screen has answered every question I had so I have not missed a manual so far.

One irritating feature I found was the way it will memorize an entry in the checkbook when I don't want to repeat it. I had to have help on how to change this feature, but so far that is the only one.

I have not had enough time to experience all the power and abilities in this software but I am having fun seeing things come into focus.

If you would like to get rid of all the paper work that comes along with trying to keep track of all your financial dealings Quicken is the way to go as far as I am concerned.