

Part 1 of 2

the free iPod Book 3.3

Over **1375 Products** Rated
130 Ways to Max Out **iPod**
140 **iTunes** Tips & Tricks
Fall in Love With **Apple TV**
From **iLounge.com**

Now including
the free
**iPhone
Book**

Innovative Solutions

for the iPhone® lifestyle



C.E.O.™ Quick Vue

Sleek protection for iPhone®



C.E.O.™ Elite

Executive protection for iPhone®



Sport Grip™ Backwinder

Smart storage for iPhone®



Sidewinder™

Smart holster for iPhone®

Coming this Summer



www.marware.com/iLounge

THE FREE IPOD BOOK 3.3



Top to Bottom:
The iPod Fashion Contests
134

iPods Around the World
138

Sneak Peeks
8



Foreword, iSnapshots: iPod and iLounge | 4

What's new in the Book, iPod dominance, and iLounge.

Sneak Peeks | 8

The pre-holiday wave of iPod and iPhone accessories.

The Free iPhone Book | 16

Learn all about Apple's first self-developed cell phone.

Love Your Apple TV | 36

Make more of the 40 or 160GB at-home media player.

The All Things iPod Guide | 46

Prepare to be amazed by your iPod all over again.

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1. Installing The Right iPod Software | 48 |
| 2. Connecting Your iPod To Your PC/Mac | 49 |
| 3. Filling Your iPod | 50 |
| 4. Enjoying Your iPod Everywhere | 72 |
| 5. Customizing Your iPod | 92 |
| 6. Expanding Your iPod: Electronics | 98 |
| 7. Playing With Your iPod: Toys | 103 |
| 8. Protecting Your iPod: Cases & Film | 104 |
| 9. Wearing Your iPod: Clothes | 108 |
| 10. Maintaining and Repairing Your iPod | 110 |
| 11. Selling Your iPod | 114 |
| 12. Buying a New iPod | 116 |
| 13. Goodbye, iTunes Phones, Hello, iPhone | 120 |
| 14. Gifting to iPod Fans | 122 |
| 15. Joining The iPod Community | 124 |

The iLounge Report Card: Over 1,375 Ratings | 126

From the original iPod through today's models and Apple TV, reviews of top hardware, accessories, and software.

iLounge iPod Fashion Photo Contests | 134

Which 4 readers won Apple iPhones in our contests?

iPods Around the World Galleries | 138

Some of our favorite global iPod snapshots from readers.

iTunes Tips & Tricks | 144

Learn how to enjoy Apple's media manager with 140 tips.

The iPod Directory | 224

Index to Advertisers | 236

Note: All ads in this Book are clickable.

Apple's Semi-Secret Store | 237

Some Apple logo items are found in only one place: here.

Backstage | 238

iLounge editors' favorite gadgets, and Making the Book.

Closing the Curtain: Zune | 242

Foreword: Third Edition, Three Products. In recent months, Apple's grown its hardware family to include Apple TV and iPhone. So we've grown, too.

We were genuinely happy when we released **The Free iPod Book 3.0**: we knew it was packed with useful iPod, iTunes, Apple TV, and iPhone information, great pictures and artwork, and a number of things no one had ever seen before. But we knew going in that it wasn't totally complete: as excited as we were to cover Apple's new iPhone, we knew we wouldn't be able to properly review it until weeks after our deadline. So we decided to offer as much iPhone information as we could prior to the launch, then re-release the Book in an updated form as soon as it made sense.

Thus, you're reading **The Free iPod Book 3.3**, a new and improved version of the million-plus downloaded Free iPod Book 3.0. (And from all of us to all of you: *thank you* for all those downloads - we really appreciate them!) Of course, we've kept all of the iPod, iTunes, and Apple TV tutorial information you may have seen in the last edition; little has changed in most of these products since we released the prior Book, and all the new iPod action is expected to take place later this year. But as the iPod, iTunes and Apple TV have seen minor feature changes, we've noted the most important of them inside.

The Book 3.3's big changes are all iPhone-related. We've completely revamped our iPhone coverage to help you learn more about the final hardware, software, service plans, and accessories we've been testing since Apple's much-hyped iPhone release event. Last edition's Sneak Peeks at new iPhone accessories have been transformed into fully reviewed final products, and new products have been added, as well. Last but not least, our Report Card is now packed with even more hardware, software, and accessory ratings - over 1,375 at last count.

As always, we hope you enjoy the Book. Expect lots of new information, including exciting changes, in our 2008 Buyers' Guide.



Dennis Lloyd
Publisher

A long-time fan of Apple products, **Dennis Lloyd** (dennisl@ilounge.com) was a graphic designer and DJ before creating iLounge, which remains the world's most popular resource for iPod and iTunes users. Owner of the customized iLounge Element shown in this edition, Dennis is happily married with a dog, cat, many iPods, and two turntables. He lives in and loves Irvine, California.



Jeremy Horwitz
Editor-in-Chief

Jeremy Horwitz (jeremy@ilounge.com) has written about iPods, gadgets, games, and the companies that make them for everyone from Electronic Gaming Monthly to The New York Times, in addition to practicing law. Today, Jeremy focuses his days on iLounge, its Books, and Buyers' Guides. He lives with his wife, two dogs, and lots of accessories in Mission Viejo, CA.



Larry Angell is iLounge's Senior Editor, specializing in news. Based in Ohio, where he lives with his fiancée and cat, Larry is also responsible for shopping websites Uncrate and Outblush.



Bob Levens is iLounge's Chief Forum Administrator. Living in Cambridge, U.K. with his wife and dog, Bob has been a TV and radio engineer, and has served in both the Royal Air Force and the Ministry of Defense.



Jesse David Hollington is an iLounge Contributing Editor, responsible for our Ask iLounge columns, as well as updates to All Things iTunes in the Book. Based in Toronto, he lives with his wife and two cats.

Contributing Editors, Forum Administrators, and Moderators:

Jerrold Hofferth, Charles Starrett, Mike McKenney, Doug Adams, Alicia Bankhofer, Albert Tan, Audrey McGirt, Brett, Jed, Ryan, Tom Levens, and Stuart VandeVenter.

The Free iPod Book 3.3 from iLounge.com is published by The Media LLC and is Copyright © 2005-2007. All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, sold, rented, or transmitted in any form, or by any means whatsoever, without the prior written consent of the publisher. Unauthorized sale of this publication is prohibited, and by accessing this publication, you agree not to violate these restrictions. The Media LLC and its publications have no affiliation with Apple, Inc. or any vendor of iPod accessories. iPod, iTunes, iPhone, and Apple TV are the registered trademarks of Apple Inc., without rights claimed thereto. All other names and marks herein are the property of their respective owners. Certain portions of this book were prepared in accordance with Directive 96/9/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 1996.

iSnapshot: iPod. Our annual look at the ever-growing iPod + iTunes steamroller focuses on the numbers behind Apple's continued dominance.

	June 2005	June 2006	June 2007	Growth
iPods Sold	15.6 million	50.8 million	100 million	Roughly doubled over 2006
iTunes Songs Sold	430 million	1 billion	2.5+ billion	Nearly tripled over 2006.
iTunes TV Shows Sold	0 (under 8m)	Approx. 30m	50 million	Nearly doubled over 2006.
iTunes Movies Sold	0	0 (~ 1.3m)	2 million	Up 70% over 4Q 2006.
iTunes Music Catalog	1.5 million	3 million	5 million	Nearly doubled since 2006.
iTunes TV Catalog	0 (16) shows	90 shows	350 shows	Almost quadrupled from 2006.
iTunes Movie Catalog	0	0 (75)	500	Up over 6 times from 4Q 2006.

After 100 Million iPods + 2.5 Billion Songs, What Next?

In one year, Apple nearly doubled iPod sales and tripled iTunes song sales. Can this continue?

There were some - well, many - who said that the iPod was poised for a dramatic sales slowdown in 2007. We saw the charts, heard the predictions, and braced for what we were told would be the first falling off of iPod sales in history. But it didn't happen. Instead, the year has seen massive gains for both the iPod and the iTunes Store: as the chart here shows, Apple's digital media player and content sales are up even more sharply over 2006 than the prior year's were over 2005.

In recent months, Apple has cited strong sales of lower-end iPods, including the second-generation iPod shuffle, as one of its growth drivers. Additional types of media, including TV shows, movies, and games, have helped increase the iTunes Store's catalog, and also its profits. Potential competitors, such as Amazon, Microsoft, and Sony, have gained zero traction.

Admittedly, the numbers aren't all positive. Vendors have told iLounge that accessory sales haven't been as strong thus far in 2007 as they were in 2006, a surprise given the larger base of iPod owners now out there, and reports have suggested that sales of Apple's 40GB Apple TV device have been lukewarm; a new 160GB model may help. Similarly, though the Store's sales numbers look high, they've failed to capitalize on the demand for downloadable video content in countries outside of the United States; Apple has promised a remedy by late 2007.

Can the company's iPhone possibly live up to iPod and iTunes' success? We think the answer is "yes." Despite surveys showing user concern over pricing and other issues, Apple and AT&T will likely tailor the initial rollout terms to match whatever they can supply. Curiosity alone will create sell-outs - and lines.

Why Stop at Just One? Apple Publicly Pushes Multi-iPod Ownership to Boost 2007 Sales

It's a maxim of marketing: "it's easier to sell to your existing customer base than to acquire new customers." So it wasn't a shock to see Apple embracing that idea in a January press release: "Music fans can now choose iPod shuffle in one of five brilliant colors, or they can buy one of each." The campaign went further in March, as we spotted an Apple Store sign with

the not-so-subtle title, "Why stop at just one?" In some parts of the country - say nothing of the world - the very idea might be offensive, as high iPod prices relative to wages have preserved Apple's luxurious image. But with shuffles now selling for \$79 in the United States, some users are finding that the best iPod accessory is a second, smaller iPod.



Need more details? We provide up-to-the-minute iPod news on our front page at ilounge.com, and maintain an archive of news stories dating from 2001 to the present day at ilounge.com/index.php/ilounge/archives/.

iSnapshot: iLounge.com. Hardly a month goes by at iLounge's web site without a new feature; these are four of our favorite recent additions.

iPodweek

Just as our free Books and Guides provide semi-annual, big picture summaries of the iLounge site, our weekly newsletter **iPodweek** lets you catch up with the best content we've published weekly. Plus, there are discounts. As with all of our publications, iPodweek is free - a subscription link is available from our main page.



Desktop Wallpaper



New Galleries

We've been collecting iPod-related art and photograph for years now, but we were never satisfied with the way our old galleries organized the ever-expanding collection. So we've updated our **gallery** software and interface, making it considerably easier for readers to find and submit great images. Now split into four sections - iPods Around the World, Unboxing and Disassembly Photos, Apple Event Photo Galleries, and iLounge Photo and Art Contest Galleries - the galleries (**gallery.ilounge.com**) now contain over 12,000 images, updated near-daily with more.



We could say a lot about our collection of **iPod-themed wallpaper**, including how blown away we were by the most recent entries submitted to our Desktop/Wallpaper Art Contest, but these pictures speak much louder than words. Since they're high-resolution and have been formatted to fit your computer's screen, you can easily replace the boring Windows or Mac default desktop graphics with some of these fantastic pictures - of course, at no charge. Your fellow iLoungers deserve a lot of credit for creating such superb art for the site.

Translate iLounge

Our automatic translation feature was a long time in coming, but now it's here. Currently, the **translator bar** converts the entire iLounge site into your choice of nine non-English languages, Spanish, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Dutch, Japanese, Chinese, and Korean. More languages are coming soon.





macally™

all new **iPhone** accessories
and many more...

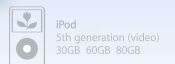
Call us for dealers near you 1.800.644.1132 or visit us at: www.macally.com

WHEN YOU ARE ON THE GO, WHEREVER
YOU GO, IT'S PORTAGO.

visit www.Tursiogear.com



Portago works with



PORTAGO™

Connect • Control • Charge

TURSIOGEAR™
STYLISH INTEGRATED CASES

Copyright © 2007 Tursiogear LLC. all rights reserved.

SNEAK PEEKS

A mid-2007 slowdown in the iPod accessory market? Perhaps in the United States, where companies are focusing on iPhone, but elsewhere in the world, the latest generation of iPod accessories are looking better than ever. Here's the best of what's next.

Dress Up Your Home. Extreme is the best word to describe new iPod audio systems: companies are testing nichey high-end designs and value-packed low-end designs. These are some of the most eye-catching options.



Lomme Design Lomme Bed

If you've seen Darth Vader's meditation chamber, you've probably wondered what sort of bed Princess Leia used to sleep in before she moved in with Han and Chewie on the Millennium Falcon. We'd picture it to look like **The Lomme Bed**, the first product from a Vaduz, Lichtenstein-based company called **Lomme Design Platform**. Shaped like an open, 5-foot-high by 10-foot-wide egg, Lomme Bed includes all sorts of high-tech goodies - light therapy, a muscle relaxer, and an integrated iPod dock with sound system. The goal is to let you fully relax your body inside, so not surprisingly, a high-quality mattress is included, and you can choose the interior and color that evoke personal zen. Pricing's not yet available.



Scandyna Podspeakers with V Dock

They're round. They're shiny. And they're Danish. **Scandyna's Podspeaker** series consists of numerous models, including the 3/4" and 3 1/4" driver **Micropod SE** (shown white, \$300 and up per pair), 1" and 5" driver **Minipod** (shown black, \$650 and up per pair), the 10" driver, 50W amplified

Minibass Subwoofer (shown, black, \$630 and up), and the 70W amplified **Bass Station Subwoofer** (shown white, \$1200 and up). Each of the speaker sets can be paired with Scandyna's **V Dock** (\$200), which features an integrated double 20w amplifier. Many colors are available, too.



Logitech **DiAlive i-Alarm**

Retro can be fun. **Japan's Logitech** - not to be confused with Logitech - sets the way-back dial to 1940 with its **DiAlive i-Alarm** (approx. \$100), a combination alarm clock and iPod docking speaker system available in black or white. Each unit

contains two top-mounted, bell-shaped speaker housings to output your iPod's music, an adjacent snooze button, and a rear volume knob. Release and pricing information for territories outside of Japan isn't yet available.



Elecom **ASP-WP8**

Sold in three versions - white cherry, maple, or walnut - **Elecom's ASP-WP8** (approx. \$130) is the latest iPod accessory to marry a classic wood enclosure with the modern lines and features of the iPod. Not surprisingly, ASP-WP8 is a dual-driver audio system with a top-mounted iPod dock and 13-button remote control, interesting more for its body materials than anything else. As with all Elecom releases, a U.S. release is unlikely; it is available now from importers.



Geneva Lab **Model M**

We were impressed by **Geneva Lab's** prior Model L and XL speakers. The company's more moderately-sized **Model M** (approx. \$450) predictably shrinks the size and horsepower to meet a lower price point: the 14.4" by 7.4" by 9.5", 16-pound cabinet now contains two 1" tweeters and two 4" woofers, 100 total Watts of amplification, a CD player and FM radio. You get a remote, but no iPod dock - just a cable. As before, red, black, and white piano lacquered versions will be available.

Listen or Connect: iPod. Whether you're looking for a pair of earphones or need a way to connect your iPod at home or in a car, these cool new accessories take steps beyond the ones we tested only one year ago.



Elecom Ear Drops

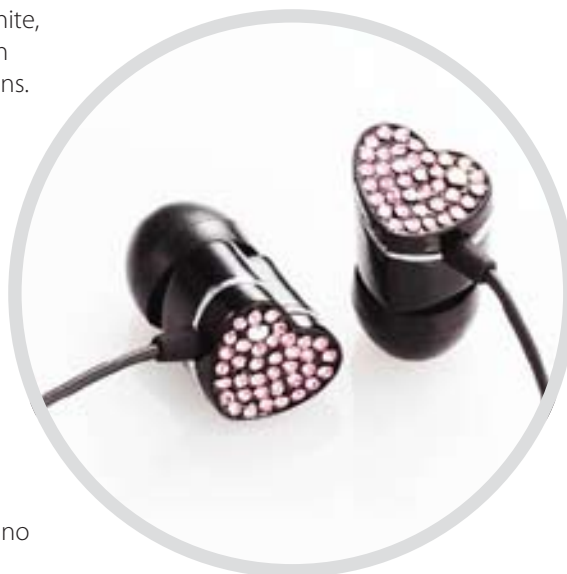
If looks - not sound - are what's most important to you, **Elecom's Ear Drops** series of earphones deliver the goods without the high prices of audiophile-caliber buds.

EHP-AIN10 (\$16 and up) looks like Apple's old iPod Earphones, but with colored crystals inset in the stems. You can choose from white, pink, or black AIN10s, each with several different crystal variations.

Slightly more expensive is the

EHP-AIN20 (\$21 and up), metallic-painted in-canal globes with rings of crystals on their outer edges, and

EHP-AIN30 (\$26 and up), a series of black, white, or pink heart-shaped canalphones packed with crystals on their outermost edge. While you shouldn't expect spectacular sound, these are definitely lookers; they're available now through select importers, with no U.S.-specific release date.



Ultimate Ears UE-11

There's only one pair of earphones we'd compare right now to **Ultimate Ears'** new **UE-11** custom-fit canalphones (\$1,150)- the first pair we've tested with literally four miniature speakers per ear, two dedicated to bass, and one each for highs and mids, with two total crossovers inside. That pair would be Shure's E500/SE530, our current "price no object" champ, and UE-11 is a step beyond: its low end has the added warmth and presence one would expect without compromising on the across-the-spectrum detail of a triple-driver earphone - a sound signature appropriate for all the "audiophile bassheads" out there. Combined with UE's "designed for your ears alone" moldings, significant new user art customizations will make UE-11 even more personalized than its popular UE-10 predecessor. The only question is whether anyone will be able to afford it.



Griffin iTrip Auto Scan

Think you've seen every FM transmitter innovation around? **Griffin's iTrip Auto Scan** (price, date TBA) may prove you wrong: it's the first we've seen with an OLED screen for easy tuning under any lighting conditions, and has the ability to find and transmit your iPod's music to the clearest station on your local FM dial. Three preset buttons and the ability to toggle between strong mono and weaker stereo are included, as is a mandatory car charging bulb.



Suntac RMIP-605 Car Remote Control

The Japanese iPod accessory industry continues to focus on practical solutions: **Suntac's Car Remote Control** (\$33) mounts under your car's existing audio buttons, providing play/pause, fast forward, back, album skip and playlist skip buttons. Using the pass-through Dock Connector, you can add an iPod charger and illuminate the buttons in yellow. A U.S. release date is TBA.



DreamGear i.Sound AudioStation

Revealed just before press time, **DreamGear's silver and black i.Sound AudioStation** (\$50) lets

you charge or hear the second-gen shuffle through two small speakers, and even comes with a free car charger.



Belkin Dual USB Charger

While iPod charging solutions are old hat at this point, **Belkin's Dual USB Charger** (\$30, June) is an attempt to simplify an established idea: the company provides one wall charger with separate cables to let you send power to an iPod and any mini-USB-charging device at the same time. A light lets you know that power's flowing.

LISTEN

to your music the same way artists do!

Your favorite musicians use Ultimate Ears onstage while performing and offstage while listening to their MP3 players. If you LOVE music, then join The Killers, Joss Stone, Fall Out Boy, System of a Down, Incubus and the thousands of other music lovers who swear by...

Ultimate Ears.



ultimate ears.
how music is meant to be heard

www.ultimateears.com

iPhone Accessories. Only a month and a half old, the iPhone has already seen the release of nearly 100 accessories, many debuted in the prior version of this Book. Here's just some of what's coming in the next big wave.



Speck TechStyle Runner for iPhone

Speck describes it as unlike anything out there, and we'd agree: **TechStyle Runner for iPhone** (\$30, Fall) is a suede iPhone case with sporty styling, contrast stitching, and a dual-colored, substantially protective body. With cut-outs for iPhone's camera, front controls, speaker, and proximity sensor, TechStyle Runner has an interestingly protective cover for the Home button, revealing just enough to let you know that it's there.



Talking Panda iLingo 3.0 for iPhone

Having pioneered the idea of an interactive language translator for iPods, **Talking Panda** is now bringing the idea to iPhone with **iLingo 3.0**, available by Fall 2007 in a **EuroPack** (\$49.95, Spanish, German, Italian, French, Russian and Portuguese) and **AsiaPack** (\$39.95, 4 languages: Mandarin, Cantonese, Japanese and Korean). In addition to iPod-downloadable versions of these translators, you'll get a password to access Safari-based iPhone versions, though you'll need to have EDGE or Wi-Fi access to use them.

Pacific Rim Technologies GripShield

Combining rubber with acrylic hard plastic and a film-based face protector, **Pacific Rim Technologies** is releasing **GripShield** (\$35, September), a case that will also include a belt clip, self portrait mirror, and overlay stickers for an optional artistic addition to the design. Black, pink, and clear colored versions will be available at launch, with others following soon thereafter.



Otter Products OtterBox for iPhone

Though it has specialized in waterproof cases for iPhones, **Otter Products'** latest case - **OtterBox for iPhone** (\$TBD, Fall) - is explicitly not waterproof; it's just ruggedized, while offering full access to the iPhone's various features. A swivel belt clip attachment will cover and protect the full face, which is under a patented touch-friendly membrane.

GelaSkins iPhone GelaSkins

Clear film has become our iPhone protector of choice, but we have to admit that **GelaSkins' iPhone GelaSkins** (\$15) are a surprisingly viable alternative. Not only has the company selected some incredibly interesting art from over 50 international designers, and used 3M adhesive that's easy

Griffin iClear for iPhone

The only clear case we're still looking forward to seeing for the iPhone is **Griffin's** transparent polycarbonate case **iClear for iPhone** (\$30, September), which will include a snap-on clip that converts to a widescreen video stand, an elastic armband, microfiber cleaning cloth, and a detachable static-peel screen protector. Griffin's rear clip is smaller than many we've seen - a good thing, as some of the current clear shells are just a little too bulky when clipped.



to apply to and remove from the iPhone's body, but it's also including matching, downloadable digital wallpaper so that you can complete your iPhone's customization with face art. If you're excited about transforming your iPhone into art, get ready: the GelaSkins are available starting today.



iPod Cases. Even as it nears its second (and possibly last) birthday, the fifth-generation iPod continues to inspire new cases. The second-gen nano and shuffle have received their fair share of attention from case makers, too.



Incase Rome Folio for iPod video

When Apple opens a major new store, **Incase** is often there to join in the celebration. Like its past Shibuya, New York City, London and Toronto cases, its new **Rome Folio for iPod** (35 Euros) is a limited edition case designed to commemorate the opening of the Rome, Italy Apple Store, its first in continental Europe. The Rome Folio features geometric embossing inspired by Italian marble mosaics, and is available solely to visitors at the new location.

Belkin Honeycomb Pattern Acrylic Cases

We were impressed by **Belkin's** swirled metal and plastic cases earlier this year; now the company has **Honeycomb Pattern Acrylic Cases** (\$25) coming in August for both the fifth-generation iPod and the iPod nano. Four colors (silver, blue, black, and pink) will be available, each with a colored front and clear back; the 5G version will include backs for both thicknesses of 5G iPods. Soft Click Wheel protection will be included, as well.



Belkin Reversible for iPod Video

Late in the fifth-generation iPod's life, companies are experimenting with new ideas that might make for good next-generation iPod cases as well. **Belkin's** August release of **Reversible for iPod Video** (\$25) will introduce a double-patterned honeycomb design that can be flipped inside out to change its look. Both sides provide full screen protection and a label for the play-through Click Wheel controls.

Belkin Line and Heart Charm Cases for nano

Similar in design to its Denim Cases for nano, **Belkin's Line Charm and Heart Charm Cases** (\$25 each, August) instead use leather as a base material, and feature etched patterns, interior mirrors that double as picture frames, and wristlet lanyards with attached charms. Flip-closed lids keep your nano's face covered until you need screen and control access.



Belkin Denim for iPod and nano

Jeans are always "in," but denim as a material for other things - fashion accessories, jackets, and so on - may or may not be your thing. **Belkin's Denim Cases for iPod and nano** (\$25 each, August) use jean-like stitching and rivets as design elements, and include integrated denim Click Wheel protection. Each includes a circular carabiner hook; the 5G version is open-faced, while the nano one flips closed.



Belkin Shuffle Armband/Wristband

Wearing the second-generation iPod shuffle is easy thanks to its integrated rear clip, but many people want the added reinforcement of a sturdy armband or wristband. **Belkin's new Shuffle Armband/Wristband** (\$20, August) offers both features in one package, using an extender to convert the shuffle-grabbing wristband into a bicep-ready armband. Six colors will be available: silver, pink, green, blue, orange, and black/gray.



Aquarius iJacket

Packaged with a rubber cord manager, **Aquarius' iJacket for iPod shuffle 2G** (\$10, June) is a hard rubber front shell with your choice of abstract, realistic, or psychedelic artwork. As always with iJackets, tens of different patterns are offered, and the colorful art doesn't come off when rubbed.



the Free iPhone Book

AT&T



9:22

Wednesday, August 15



This is the iPhone. Apple promised in January 2007 that it would blend a **revolutionary mobile phone, widescreen iPod, and breakthrough Internet communicator** into one pocket-sized device.

In its first two days of availability, 270,000 iPhones were sold - a strong, but not staggering number. Why did people line up all across the United States to buy Apple's first cell phone? Why didn't the company sell even more? These answers, and much more, are inside our Free iPhone Book.

THE FREE IPHONE BOOK

What Can iPhone Do For Me?



Phone

iPhone is a great, easy-to-use phone, whether you dial digit-by-digit or use its advanced Contacts list. Two- or more- person conferencing is effortless; Visual Voicemail lets you hear all your messages in any order you prefer, and skip around in each message rather than listening from the start.



Mail

With the ability to check your POP and IMAP email accounts every fifteen minutes, or receive "push" email instantly from a free Yahoo account, iPhone's Mail program also displays Word, Excel, PDF and JPEG files if you receive them. You can send text and 640x480 photos via e-mail to contacts, as well.



Safari (Web)

A robust browser offers the most PC-like web experience yet seen from a phone. With Javascript, AJAX and other Web 2.0 standards support, Safari lets you view web pages almost exactly as they'd normally look, minus only Flash and old Java. It also plays music, games, and iPhone-specific programs.



iPod

Forget the Click Wheel. iPhone's 3.5", 480x320 widescreen display makes vertical music scrolling easier than ever, switching to a cool Cover Flow mode when horizontal. Video playback makes 5G iPods look weak, while full-screen album art looks amazing, too. You'll wish you had more space.



Anything Else?

Yes. Like many cell phones, iPhone can send **SMS text messages** to other cell phones. It can also store and update events on a **calendar**, and let you take and e-mail **notes** on a yellow note pad.

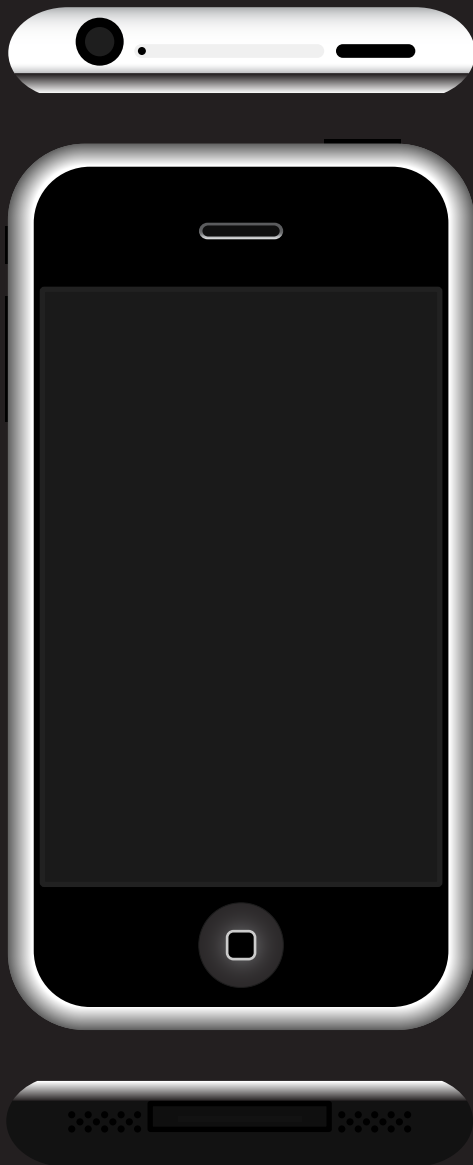
Unlike most phones, it can display and capture **photos** with a nice 2-Megapixel **camera**, play **YouTube** videos, and provide one-button access to your **stocks**, local **weather**, a world **clock** and timers.

It also has a simple but very useful **calculator**, plus a powerful version of Google **Maps**, both accessible from the main menu. The calculator's buttons are easier to use than most cell phones', making iPhone handy for calculating tips or shopping expenses when you're out.

Google Maps offers realtime traffic information, satellite and drawn maps, and turn-by-turn driving directions. Though iPhone doesn't include a GPS feature, you can easily enter addresses with an on-screen keyboard, search for addresses with Google, or use contact information from your list (including your own address) as starting and/or ending points for your trips.

THE FREE IPHONE BOOK

iPhone: What's Outside



Top

The iPhone's top is the inverse of the iPod's: there's a recessed headphone port on the left and a Sleep/Wake button on the right, which doubles as a power-off button when held down. At center is a SIM card slot, which can (but needn't) be opened with a paperclip.

Screen

Apple one-upped the 5G iPod with a 3.5" widescreen display, which boasts a 480x320 resolution, plus automatic brightness, orientation, and proximity sensors. It rotates to display videos, wide web pages, or your music library with Cover Flow. And it turns off when your face comes close for phone calls.

Glass, Metal, and Plastic Body

Except for its cell phone ear speaker and a button at the bottom, iPhone's front is almost entirely made from anti-scratch glass, surrounded by a polished metal bezel. Its top, back, and sides are mostly made from aluminum, though its bottom rear is black plastic, and a prominent back Apple logo is chromed like the front bezel.

Multi-Touch and Other Controls

Almost all of iPhone's buttons are virtual, thanks to a special touchscreen with the ability to register multiple button presses at once, and track finger movements to see what direction(s) you're gesturing in. A physical Home button below the screen brings you back to the main menu at any time, quits applications when you hold it down, and restarts iPhone when held simultaneously with the top Sleep/Wake button.

Bottom Port and Vents

iPhone's bottom is unique in that it has vents for a speaker and a microphone alongside a 30-pin Dock Connector that's physically just like the ones on iPods. The microphone is there for all phone calls; the speaker is there for speakerphone calls and iPod audio, too.

iPhone: Stats & Trivia

Measurements: 4.5" x 2.4" x 0.46", 4.8 ounces. For those keeping score, it's 0.4" taller than the 5G iPod, 0.03" deeper, and the same weight and width.

Talk & Internet Time: iPhone promises 8 hours of talk time or 6 hours of Internet use, assuming you don't use other features - everything uses up battery life.

How Do Its Specs Compare with 5G iPods? If you can put screen quality and interface aside, they're surprisingly similar. Both read the same video files and play the same audio files; iPhone can play audio for 24 hours or video for 7 hours, versus 20 hours and 6.5 hours in an 80GB iPod. Storage capacity is a major differentiator, though: iPods store 7+ times as much.

THE FREE IPHONE BOOK

How Do I Use iPhone?



Use Your Finger(s)

Don't even think about using a stylus: almost everything you do on iPhone requires you to use one or two fingers and the touchscreen. You'll be best off if your fingers are clean; they'll leave fewer smudges.



Flicks Equal Scrolling

Though you can drag your finger on a page to scroll, iPhone simplifies this by letting you flick up or down to quickly zip around. Web pages, iPod media libraries, and e-mail boxes all let you flick to scroll.



You'll Want to Pinch

Pinch and expand gestures are "zoom in" and "zoom out" for iPhone's Photo, Safari, and Maps applications. You'll be amazed at the amount of detail you can find in images when you zoom out - it's iPhone's killer feature.



Critical Keyboard

There's no way around it - iPhone's virtual keyboard is mandatory for Mail, Safari, Notes, and Text Messaging. You'll need a week or less to get good at using it, then you'll at least grudgingly accept it.



Try the Speaker

While it's necessary for iPhone's speakerphone mode, the bottom speaker is also quite good for iPod mode's audio. Sure, your neighbors will appreciate it if you use earphones, but it's more fun to turn the speaker up if you can.

Sync, Sync, Sync

Your iPhone life will be a lot - and we mean a lot - better if you sync phone contacts, web bookmarks, and e-mail settings from your PC or Mac. Hours of tiny keyboard typing will become seconds of fast, single button presses.



Spin It Right Round, Baby

Most cell phones are held in one direction: upright. iPhone turns on its side - and a sensor inside lets it know it's turning. Videos demand it, music, web browsing, and photos can benefit from it; you'll be impressed.



Don't Forget the Sides

iPhone's top and left side both have buttons: the top button turns off the screen to conserve power and prevent button mistakes; the side buttons adjust volume and turn the ringer on and off. Use them. Seriously.

THE FREE IPHONE BOOK

What's In The Box?



Books & Stickers

As with iPods, quick reference manuals leave most of iPhone's details to be learned online; two white Apple logo stickers are ready to put on your car.



Cleaning Cloth

This single sheet of soft microfiber cloth lets you keep the iPhone's smudgable glass face clean. Though we doubt you'll be pocketing it and carrying it around with the phone, it's guaranteed to be screen safe.



Dock, Cable and Charger

Every iPhone comes with a specially made Dock, a USB Power Adapter, and a USB-to-Dock Connector cable, items which Apple also sells separately for \$49 (iLounge rating: B+). The cable is enough to charge and synchronize the iPhone with your PC or Mac, but the Dock keeps iPhone standing up and adds a line-out port, and the Adapter lets you charge from a wall outlet instead of your computer.



iPhone Stereo Headset

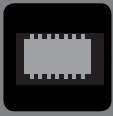
An evolution of Apple's most recent (September 2006) iPod Earphones, the iPhone Stereo Headset includes the same earbuds - too small for some ears, quite nice for others - plus an in-line combination microphone and remote control box that hangs at neck level from the right earbud cable. Apple's microphone does a great job indoors, and its earbuds - assuming they fit you - deliver clean, bass-rich sound. Extras are available for \$29 (iLounge rating: B+).

Pack-Ins Forever?

If history's any guide, some of the iPhone's pack-ins won't remain packed-in for long: Apple's "price cuts" routinely include removal of items from its boxes, and the iPhone's Dock and USB Power Adapter would likely be the first to go, helping iPhone achieve a \$50 lower price. Its Stereo Headset, USB-to-Dock Connector cable, and cleaning cloth would most likely be preserved in the package, along with the simple manuals and stickers.

THE FREE IPHONE BOOK

iPhone Technologies



Memory

You choose either 4GB (\$499) or 8GB (\$599) of storage, and get 3.5GB or 7.25GB of usable space, respectively, for music, videos, and photos.



Bluetooth

With Bluetooth 2.0+EDR built in, iPhone can work with newer, lower-power, better-quality mono and stereo headsets - if Apple adds a little software.



GSM

The quad-band iPhone works in every U.S. state and almost every country around the world; you may need to roam on non-AT&T networks.



Wi-Fi

Indoors, you use 802.11b or 802.11g networks to get near-PC/Mac Internet speeds; outdoors, you'll use AT&T's slower EDGE network.

If you don't already have a cell phone, be aware: iPhone's going to cost you around \$1,000 over its lifetime - possibly more.

First, you'll need to buy the iPhone itself, and after paying a one-time \$36 activation fee, you'll also need to pay a minimum of \$60 per month in AT&T service charges. By our math - excluding taxes - you'll pay a minimum of \$1,975 for a 4GB model and \$2,075 for an 8GB iPhone over its mandatory two-year (24-month) lifetime.

The costs go up as you increase from AT&T's basic 450 minute monthly service plan to its 900 or 1,350 minute plans; the company also offers pricier 2,000 - 6,000 minute plans if you need them, as well as family plans with or without second cell phone lines (\$20 more per month).

To be fair, the Apple part of AT&T's \$60+ bill is really only \$20: in fact, AT&T will let existing customers add iPhone to any prior rate plan for only \$20 per month. Assuming you never had a smartphone and never used a data plan before, that brings the iPhone's added cost down to \$979 for 4GB, or \$1,079 for 8GB over a standard AT&T phone.

There's one major hidden cost though: text messaging. The standard AT&T iPhone plans include only 200 outgoing SMS messages per month, which you can upgrade to 1500 messages for an additional \$10 per month, or unlimited messages for a total of \$20 per month. E-mails and web use are unlimited, but messaging to other phones is not; we hope Apple will add an iChat-style instant messaging service to iPhone in the near future.

Other hidden costs are AT&T's cancellation fee - you'll pay \$175 if you want out of your service contract before 2 years have expired - and Apple's optional charges to fix the phone or battery. After the one-year warranty has expired, you'll have to pay \$86 to get iPhone's battery replaced; alternately, you can buy AppleCare for \$69, which covers all iPhone parts, as well as Apple's Bluetooth Headset.

How Much Does It Cost?

Pay Apple

\$499	4GB iPhone
\$599	8GB iPhone

Plus, Play AT&T Monthly

\$60/mo	450 minutes, or
\$80/mo	900 minutes, or
\$100/mo	1350 minutes

And Pay AT&T Once

+\$36	Activation Fee
--------------	----------------

And Possibly Pay AT&T Monthly

+\$10/mo	1500 SMS
+\$20/mo	Unlimited SMS

And Possibly Pay AT&T Once

+\$175	Cancellation Fee
---------------	------------------

And Possibly Pay Apple Once

+\$86	Battery
--------------	---------

THE FREE IPHONE BOOK



Phone: Dialing? Hah. Use Contacts.

As a cell phone, iPhone is seriously impressive. If you've synced your contacts (names, phone numbers, and addresses of people) from a Mac or PC, dialing is extremely easy and fast; if not, you can easily dial with a keypad, which auto-adds prefixes for international dialing. Call quality is strong, with near-land line sound and stronger reception than many phones; speakerphone also works extremely well. Missing? iTunes ringtones.

Phone Rating: A-



Visual Voicemail & Bluetooth Calling

iPhone also includes relatively novel technologies for voicemail and wireless audio. Visual Voicemail is a new way to manage voice messages left by your callers: instead of forcing you to call a special telephone number and listen to the entirety of each message before moving on, Visual Voicemail lets you pick any message at random - using your caller's name or number - then listen to as much or little as you want, skipping around with an iPod-like scrubbing bar. It works well, and provides one-click "Call Back" access to any caller, but messages sometimes sound a little garbled and compressed.

iPhone's Bluetooth support is spotty. It works well to let you pair monaural headsets and car kits as alternate mic and speaker combos, but doesn't support newer stereo headsets or the ability to play music wirelessly. Even Visual Voicemail messages won't play back through a Bluetooth connection, an odd omission.

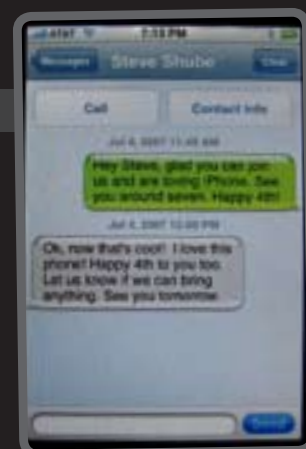
Voicemail Rating: A- Bluetooth Rating: B-



Text Messaging (At a Price)

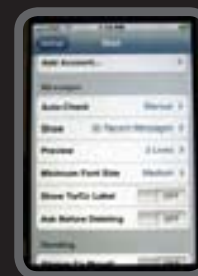
Our least favorite part of iPhone is its limited instant messaging capabilities. Rather than including a mobile version of its Mac iChat program, Apple currently only supports outdated SMS technology, so you can forget about sending pictures or chatting with friends on any of the Internet's chat services (AIM, Yahoo, MSN, ICQ) unless you use a web-based chat program like BeeJive's JiveTalk. With iPhone's Text app, you are limited to 200 phone-to-phone messages per month unless you pay an additional \$10 or \$20 each cycle to AT&T. What a waste of good potential.

SMS Text Messaging Rating: D+



THE FREE IPHONE BOOK

Mail: Read, Write, and Swap Photos



If you're not accustomed to having e-mail access from your cell phone, iPhone's Mail will blow you away: you can have multiple e-mail accounts, each with their own folders, browse new mail with your choice of titles and several lines of preview text, and even view rich HTML messages, PDF, Word, Excel, and JPEG files on the go. But business users and Danger Sidekick fans will find Mail a bit buggy and disorganized, frequently failing to download messages, keeping accounts too separate, and filling your inboxes with tons of unwanted mail to delete one-at-a-time. The on-screen keyboard is initially a test of your patience and trust, but becomes easier to use over time, and though you can't save received pictures to your Photos collection or send more than 640x480 versions of your Camera shots to friends, Mail is a good first attempt. We're looking forward to seeing it make big improvements, and soon.

Mail Rating: B

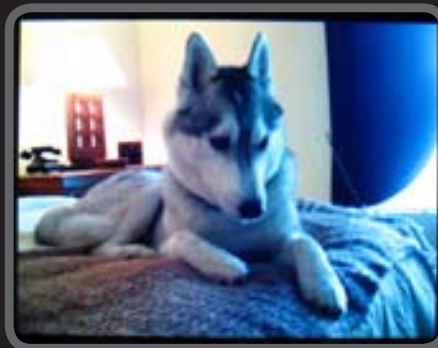


Photos, Camera & Notes



Stored photos look fantastic on iPhone's screen, rotate as you turn the device around, and zoom with pinches. You can add shots to contacts, too. Apple needs to add transitions and boost e-mail resolution settings.

Photos Rating: B+



It's not supposed to be a killer app for iPhone, so this "fine" feature is acceptable. Notes lets you jot down quick messages that can be saved or e-mailed as you prefer. It's basically a separate e-mail folder with a different and less attractive font.

Notes Rating: B-



Some photographers may gripe about iPhone's zoomless, zero-settings camera, but by cell phone standards, we really, really like it. The fixed f2.8 lens and 2.0-Megapixel sensor are fast enough to capture detailed indoor and outdoor pictures if you hold iPhone decently steady, and Apple's done a great job of picking the right exposure and color settings for most (not all) situations. Add a flash and zoom and it'd only get better.

Camera Rating: A-

THE FREE IPHONE BOOK



Safari: Web Browsing, Perhaps More

Apple's Safari web browser is close to wonderful. True, it's the iPhone's most crash-prone application, and will reset itself multiple times a day if you're using it actively. But unlike most cell phones' browsers, you'll want to use it: Safari provides a very close approximation of a full-fledged Mac or PC web experience, with almost entirely properly formatted pages, clickable links and graphics, screen rotation if you want it, and the ability to use pinch and expand gestures to zoom in or out as much as you prefer. It also lets you play web-based games, use web-based, decent applications such as JiveTalk instant messaging, and more. But there's no Flash support (yet), so not all pages work fully, and the bugs are a pain. It's a very good start, but needs more tweaking.

Safari Rating: B+



YouTube & Maps: Google, Anywhere



YouTube Rating: B+
Maps Rating: B+

Rather than using Safari to access two of Google's most popular features, Apple has built separate main menu applications for YouTube and Google Maps. One advantage: iPhone's programs manage data properly whether you're on a Wi-Fi or EDGE connection, picking smaller, faster-loading versions of videos when you're on EDGE, and larger, more detailed ones when you're on Wi-Fi. Maps are optimized for iPhone's screen, and enable you to zoom in and out with simple finger pinches, adding realtime traffic information as a map overlay with a single button press, and seeing directions by the turn on a map, or as a list. You also have access to YouTube videos at any time, a great source of free, time-killing content. But Apple's apps aren't perfect: Google's international maps still display in foreign languages, unreadable by some travelers, and don't stop you from zooming until the maps disappear. iPhone also can't play the pre-June, 2007 videos uploaded to YouTube, either.



Stocks Rating: A-
Weather Rating: A

Stocks & Weather, Thanks to Yahoo

Apple got stock and weather tracking almost entirely right in its Mac widgets, and though you could get the same info with Safari, the iPhone apps are much more convenient - and attractive. Stocks lets you track a large sheet of your favorite companies, scrolling through a list for current prices and changes, with a tracking graph on the page's bottom; Yahoo lookups of company info, though, are spotty. Weather lets you quickly see nice 6-day forecasts for multiple cities; flick gestures skip from city to city.



THE FREE IPHONE BOOK



iPod Mode: Vertical's Pretty Good...



Even though its screen is wider than it is tall, the iPod has always been a vertical media player: you scroll up and down through lists with a wheel. As shown below, iPhone lets you change that, but it also improves upon the iPod's standard controls. The Now Playing window (left) features huge album art with play/pause, track and volume controls underneath, and a transparent overlay for track scrubbing, shuffling, and repeating. You can also flip the current album cover over to rate songs or change tracks within the current album. A more familiar iPod-style black text-on-white background interface is used for standard artist, song, album, genre, or other sorted browsing; you can use flick gestures to scroll much faster than with a Click Wheel, or point to any letter of the alphabet on a right-side list to skip there.



Missing? Storage, an iPod-style search feature, and the ability to start at a screen full of sorting choices like the 5G iPod. iPhone tries to make this more convenient, and generally succeeds.

Overall iPod Rating: A-

But With Cover Flow, Widescreen's Better...



Since 2006, Apple has integrated a nice-looking but not especially useful feature into iTunes: Cover Flow, which displays album and movie box art to let you cycle through media graphically, rather than



with boring text. On iPhone, Cover Flow comes into its own: flip iPhone into wide (landscape) orientation and you can scroll quickly through covers, then tap on them to see and select the full contents of each album. This lets you actually enjoy accessing your library, rather than just shifting your eyes in iTunes-style from a pretty picture down to a list of songs in a separate window pane. Though you lose on-screen volume controls, there are still buttons on iPhone's side; you do lose forward and backward buttons, but can easily access any track via Cover Flow. All that's gone is immediate access to track scrubbing, rating, randomization and repeating, but you can flip iPhone at any time.



...and Video's Just Plain Awesome

Apple's approach to iPhone video is really smart: it displays properly-formatted videos with letterboxes if you want them, or zooms in with a double-tap, cropping off their sides to make more of the screen. Transparent controls appear only when you want them. Better scrubbing would help, as would iPhone-to-TV output, but we could hardly ask for more.



THE FREE IPHONE BOOK

Calculator, Clock & Calendar

iPhone's last three features are, in a phrase, better than just the cute little helper applications they could be. Calculator is the simplest of the bunch, relying on big keys and big on-screen numbers more than features, but succeeding because these two things are more useful on a cell phone than all the scientific graphing buttons in the world. More features - as an option - wouldn't hurt. Clock includes multi-city clocks, weakened only by the lack of zip code-based selection, plus multiple alarms, a stopwatch, and timer; be cautious when using the vibrate alarm. Calendar lets you sync and even create events, each with alerts and notes; it's robust, if not as beautiful as it could have looked.

Calculator Rating: B+

Clock Rating: B+

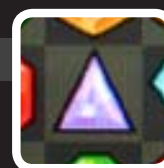
Calendar Rating: A-



Games, Chat, and Other Mini-Applications

Good news! The iPhone can run software created by third-party developers. Bad news! The software only runs if you open it in iPhone's Safari browser, which only works when your iPhone's connected to a Wi-Fi or EDGE network. In other words, as long as you're connected to the Internet, you can use the iPhone to play games, track flights, send messages via AOL and other instant messaging networks. Lose the Internet connection and you lose all that, too.

That limitation hasn't stopped programmers from doing their best to create useful and fun iPhone software. Numerous games have already appeared in iPhone format, including a free version of Popcap Games' Bejeweled, the classic arcade game Qix, Sudoku, and the memory game Lumina. Several companies have also released iPhone-ready IM clients, including BeeJive's JiveTalk, Heysan!, and FlickIM; other noteworthy programs include a free text messenger and an international keyboard for e-mailing. See iLounge's iPhone Software section for these and over 35 pages of other free programs you can access via Safari: ilounge.com/index.php/iphone-software.



iPhone Hacks: Activation, Menu, Ringtones

With the exception of the shuffles, every iPod's been hacked at one time or another, and the iPhone's no different - hackers started tearing apart its hardware and software on the first day of its release, and the results have been intriguing: tricks have been developed to avoid AT&T activation, add new programs to iPhone's main menu, and even create your own custom ringtones to replace the ones Apple ships with iPhone. The only problems: Apple's already signaling that it may lock out hacked iPhones, and old software, so proceed, if at all, with extreme caution.



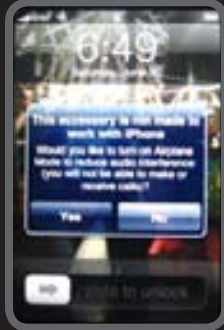
iFunTastic (hacktheiphone.com) adds ringtones and more to the iPhone. (Mac)



JailBreak (hacktheiphone.com) lets 1.0.0. iPhones skip AT&T activation (PC).

THE FREE IPHONE BOOK

What's Missing



Some of iPhone's omissions make sense: its modest storage space and lack of a physical keyboard were forced compromises, and its lack of instant messaging, monaural-only Bluetooth, and bugs are software issues that we think will be remedied in the near future. But other absences were disappointing, and may or may not ever be fixed by Apple. Here are our biggest concerns.



Limited iPod Add-On Support

Let's say you have a car kit for your iPod, a speaker system for your iPod, and maybe a voice recorder, FM transmitter, or a Nike + iPod Sport Kit. You've just bought an iPhone because Apple called it the best iPod ever, and even included a little iPod button on the main menu to remind you that there's an iPod inside. There's a Dock Connector port on the bottom, so the old Dock Connector accessories should work, right?

Well, they don't - or, at least, there's no guarantee that they'll work completely, a little, or not at all. Instead, Apple has come up with a new "Works with iPhone" accessory program, and you'll have to buy replacements for anything that doesn't work properly when you activate iPod mode. You'll almost definitely want to replace your speakers, and you may well need a new car kit or FM transmitter, too. As of today, voice recorders, the Nike + iPod Sport Kit, iPod Camera Connector and a number of other devices don't work with iPhone, and probably never will.



Replaceable Battery Pack

Apple loves to sell extra batteries, but it really prefers to sell extra iPods, iPhones, and post-warranty services. For a cell phone, that's not a good thing. No one wants to give up use of a phone for three days while the battery's replaced - that's how long Apple will have you wait while the intentionally hard-to-remove battery is professionally extricated. Apple's \$86 (plus \$29 iPhone rental) asking price for an iPhone battery swap only rubs salt in the wound. It's no surprise that consumer groups are actively protesting Apple's choices.



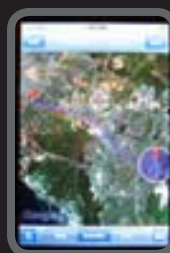
Your Ringtones

iTunes is your digital music hub. It most likely contains either all of the music you've paid for, or all of the music you thought was worth carrying around. But none of it works as a ringtone on iPhone: instead, you're stuck with a collection of 25 weird sound effects and jingles that are far less Apple than, say, Microsoft. iPhone users can already play music through the unit's speaker - why not whenever the phone rings, too? A rumor that Apple plans to charge 99 cents for ringtones would be laughable if it wasn't so offensive.



Drag & Drop Music & Videos

This one speaks for itself: having to create iPhone-specific playlists rather than just dragging and dropping content onto it, iPod-style, stinks. It's a pain on Apple TV, and even more of a pain for a load-it-and-go iPhone.



GPS

If any "obviously missing" feature from the iPhone could be called unnecessary, it's GPS - a chip to let Google Maps know where you are. But it would make a lot of sense, and not just as an add-on.

THE FREE IPHONE BOOK



Overall Conclusions

What Were We Expecting?

Motorola said long ago that Apple was working on a smartphone, so we expected to see a fairly typical hybrid of a PDA and cell phone with a beautiful casing and a Front Row-based media interface. We didn't expect a huge screen, but we did expect logical iPod-to-cell phone changes, as well as the ability to choose our own cell phone carrier (from GSM providers) and fair pricing.

What Did You Expect?

Most of our readers appeared to expect an iPod nano-ish phone with MacBook aesthetic influences, a small screen, and zero PDA features. Again, photos, video, and music would be shown via Front Row.



What Did Apple Deliver?

Apple exceeded most of our expectations, delivering a smartphone that in most ways is easier to use, and more powerful, than any of its competitors. Its screen, integrated speaker, wireless chips and software offer great video, audio, and phone experiences. With the exception of its on-screen keyboard, which requires a week or so of adjustment, and its reliance on a relatively slow but not awful EDGE data network, the phone's feature set - and promises of future evolution - are spot-on, at least for the "smartphone" niche of buyers.

What Was Missed?

Keyboard and lack of faster data services aside - necessary compromises, we'd say - the current iPhone's biggest issues are its \$499 and \$599 price points, its limited 4-8GB storage capacity, its physical size, hard-to-replace battery, add-on issues, and AT&T lock. We expect Apple to sell smaller, cheaper, and more limited phones in the future, and to bump the capacity of full-sized iPhones while cutting prices.



While we can understand why most people will hold out until Apple announces price cuts, capacity bumps, and/or sequels (think iPhone mini), iPhone is a highly compelling first phone from Apple - if you have the cash to afford it, the willingness to commit to an AT&T service contract, and the ability to live with its limited storage capacity. iLounge's editors range from "strongly like" to "love" on the iPhone, and we think smartphone users should consider it a "must-try," if not a "must-buy."

Overall iLounge Rating:

B+



What's Next for iPhone?

Current and prospective iPhone owners can take comfort in the fact that Apple has promised surprising and delightful software updates over iPhone's two-year lifespan, some of which will surely improve the device's features and add-on support. We hope and believe that missing features such as true instant messaging, user-selectable ringtones, and new applications will remedy some concerns. You'll just have to decide whether you want to buy a cell phone, or anything, on a promise that it will be better in the future.

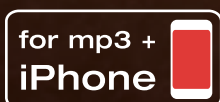
And iPhone nano?

No one knows exactly what will wind up in a miniaturized iPhone, but odds are good that it will drop anything that needs the keyboard, such as e-mail and other PDA-style features, in favor of a simplified phone and media interface. A lower price point and smaller physical size are givens, but whether Apple aims for a flip-style display with a large screen or a smaller candybar design remains to be seen. We can't wait.

The image features a pair of Vibe duo earbuds with black and silver finishes and white ear tips. A black braided cable connects them to a 3.5mm audio jack. A silver Vibe brand tag is attached to the cable. The entire setup is reflected on a dark, glossy surface.

introducing
vibeduo

v-moda



Vibe duo available at Apple Store and v-moda.com

visit v-moda.com

THE FREE IPHONE BOOK

The Ten iPhone Accessories You Should Know

There are thousands of iPod accessories, but as of this writing, there are fewer than 100 designed specifically to work with the iPhone. We've sifted through brand new cases, armbands, protective films, earphones, adapters, speakers, cables, car chargers, docks, and Bluetooth headsets to help you pick the best possible add-ons for your iPhone, focusing as always on quality, value for the dollar, and design. Full reviews of all of these accessories, and many more, can be found on the iLounge.com web site under Reviews.



Plastic, Leather, and Fabric Cases

Our ideal iPhone case would protect comprehensively without inhibiting immediate access to iPhone's controls and key features. Some may prefer cases with less protection or access, so the top options of all types are here.

So far, the best overall iPhone case we've seen is **Marware's SportGrip** (\$15, iLounge rating: A-, **1**), a silicone rubber design that comes in four colors, properly fits the iPhone's body, and includes a full iPhone face protector made from clear film. Priced aggressively by case standards, it's a smart buy from a major manufacturer. A similar case made from either leather or canvas is **Incase's Fitted Sleeve** (\$35, iLounge rating: B, **2**), which also comes in four colors, but offers less comprehensive protection - none at the top or on the screen - in more stylish materials. **Case-Mate's Signature Leather Case** (\$35, iLounge rating: B+, **3**) strikes a compromise, offering a hard-reinforced puffed leather body with partial face protection; it comes in three colors, plus a cool perforated leather version. Several clear hard plastic cases for the iPhone have emerged, most notably **Contour Design's iSee** (\$30, iLounge rating: B+, **4**), which covers most of iPhone in a see-through shell, and adds a belt clip that can also be used as a video viewing stand. No screen protection is included, however; **Power Support's Crystal Jacket** (\$30, iLounge rating: B+, not shown) includes screen film, but no video stand feature.



Three other cases we've tested offer distinctive looks and almost complete protection, but far less access to the iPhone's controls. **Marware's SportSuit Sleeve** (\$20, iLounge rating: B, **5**) uses black neoprene nicely to anonymize your iPhone, adding a headphone pocket to the front, and a detachable belt clip to the back. **iStyles' 2007 Sleeves** (\$10, iLounge rating: B, **6**) sell for half the price, and come in many colors and textures, but don't seal shut and feel cheaper than the SportSuit. **Incase's Leather Folio** (\$40, iLounge rating: B, **7**) is one of the most expensive cases we've tested without full-time iPhone access, but it comes in a stunning black version or a fine brown alternative, holding iPhone horizontally with a non-detachable rear belt clip.



THE FREE IPHONE BOOK



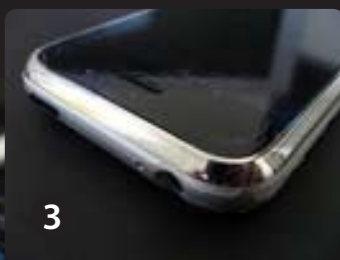
Sports Armbands

Though we expect to see many more armband accessories in the near future, the first two aren't bad. **Belkin's Sport Armband** (\$30, iLounge rating: B, **top**) is one of the cleanest, simplest such designs we've seen, with a neoprene and clear soft plastic iPhone pouch permanently mounted to a nice neoprene and Velcro armband. A small key pocket is off to iPhone's side. **Incase's Sports Multifunction** (\$35, iLounge rating: B) takes a different approach, with a detachable neoprene case that's nearly identical to the Fitted Sleeve on the prior page - including the rear belt clip, and lack of screen protection - plus detachable arm and hand straps, letting you carry the iPhone however you prefer. Neither company's design offers complete iPhone coverage, however; both are open at the top, so don't expect sweat or moisture safety here.



Screen and Full Body Film

Many companies are offering rectangular 3.5" screen protectors for iPhone, but we strongly prefer custom-designed films with full face or full body protection. **ShieldZone's InvisibleShields** come in Front Cover (\$15, iLounge rating: B, **1**) and Full Body (\$25, iLounge rating: B-) versions, each with one cover per package, while **NLU Products' BodyGuardz** (\$25, iLounge rating: B+, **2**) includes two front and two rear stickers, with a slightly less noticeable texture than the InvisibleShields. **Total Body Skins from Best Skins Ever** (\$8, iLounge rating: B, **3**) are individually cheaper, but with even more texture; **Power Support's Crystal Film** (\$15, iLounge rating: B+, **4**) includes two sheets of crystal clear film - our favorites - but only for iPhone's front.



THE FREE IPHONE BOOK

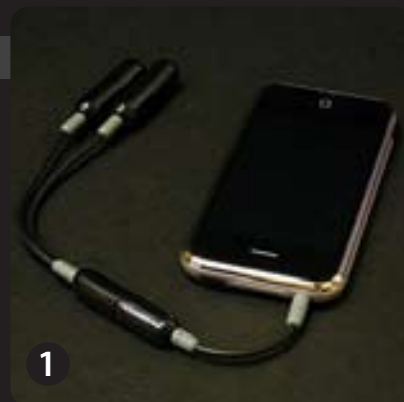
iPhone-ready Earphones

Understand this much up front: your old favorite pair of iPod earphones might not work on iPhone. And there are three levels of not work: they might not physically fit into iPhone's recessed headphone port, and if they do, they probably lack a microphone for making phone calls, and if not, they might well lack an in-line button to accept or end those calls. Surprise: Apple's packed-in **iPhone Stereo Headset** (\$29, iLounge rating: B+) has all those features in one inexpensive package. Other companies, such as v-moda and Altec Lansing, have released iPhone-compatible alternatives with varying levels of functionality: **v-moda's Vibe Duo** (\$101, iLounge rating: B+) adds a mic to the metal-bodied style and bass-heavy sound of its older Vibe earphones, while **Altec's UHP307** (\$40, not rated) has no mic, but fits into iPhone's headphone port. Neither includes the in-line control button, but v-moda plans to release the **Vibe Duo Control** with the added feature.



Headphone Port Adapters

If you don't want to buy all-new earphones just for use with the iPhone, you're in luck: four companies are already selling iPhone-ready headphone port adapters that allow old earphones to work without problems. **Griffin's** updated **SmartShare** (\$15, iLounge rating: A-, **1**) includes a detachable **Headphone Adapter** (also sold alone for \$10, iLounge rating: B) and gives you two headphone ports with separate in-line volume controls. **RadTech's ProCable Stereo Audio Extender** (\$7, iLounge rating: B-, **2**) offers only the adapter in a less expensive, but less flashy shell, and **Belkin's Headphone Adapter for iPhone** (\$11, iLounge rating: B-, **3**) is more expensive and looks nice, but isn't as flexible and doesn't do anything the others can't do. All of these options lack for the same features: an iPhone-ready microphone and a button to start and stop calls or iPod audio. **Shure's MPA-3c Music Phone Adapter** (\$40, not rated, **4**) both converts your headphone port and adds these features, though it also adds a bunch of extra cabling in the process.



THE FREE IPHONE BOOK



Semi-Compatible Speakers

The iPhone's Apple's best iPod ever, right? Well, sort of. It looks sort of like an iPod, plays music and movies sort of like an iPod, and has an iPod-style Dock Connector at the bottom, but that doesn't mean that it works properly with past iPod accessories. Case in point: speakers. Some speakers released prior to iPhone, such as **Klipsch's iGroove SXT** (\$169, iLounge rating: B+), do play iPhone audio, but display a "nag screen" that asks you to turn off the device's wireless features to prevent interference in the speakers. For these speakers, you can use **Apple's iPhone Universal Dock Adapters** (\$9, not rated) to resize the dock for iPhone. Other speakers, such as **Macally's TunePro** (\$149, iLounge rating: A-, not shown) don't work at all. **Logic3** is working on **i-Station Traveller for iPhone** (\$50, not rated), a black and chrome portable speaker that lets iPhone sit vertically or horizontally inside, using the headphone port rather than the Dock Connector for audio. Expect fully iPhone-compatible speakers later in 2007.



iPhone-ready Audio Cables

Just as with headphones, virtually the entire suite of iPod-compatible audio cables has proved physically incompatible with iPhone's recessed headphone port, so companies have released modestly updated versions. The two biggest iPhone cable companies are Belkin and Monster Cable, both of which have released two sets of cables - one for iPhone-to-car stereo use, and one for iPhone-to-home stereo use. **Monster's iCable for Car (iPod/iPhone)** (\$20, iLounge rating: B) is nearly functionally identical to **Belkin's Mini-Stereo Link Cable** (\$20, iLounge rating: B), except Belkin's shorter chrome and gray cables look cooler than Monster's foot-longer, white plastic version. However, **Belkin's Stereo Link Cable** (\$15, iLounge rating: B+) is a clearly better value than **Monster's iCable for iPod/iPhone** (\$30, iLounge rating: B), which has only black fabric jacketing in its favor.



THE FREE IPHONE BOOK

Simple Car Chargers

Car chargers are another category of old iPod accessories that won't necessarily work with iPhone: if you're using a charger with audio- or video-out, you might not be able to get power or audio from iPhone, and you definitely won't get video from it. Several simple iPhone-ready chargers - none with audio-out - have thus appeared, and each does a fine job of keeping the device's battery topped off on the road. **XtremeMac's InCharge Auto** (\$20, iLounge rating: B) is one of two authorized "Works with iPhone" solutions out there now; **Griffin's PowerJolt** (\$20, iLounge rating: B-) is the other, but our review unit ran hot to the touch when iPhone's Bluetooth mode was on. **BoxWave's VersaCharger PRO** (\$40, iLounge rating: B) also includes a wall charger, but you supply the cable.



Docks and Stands

Strictly speaking, you can mount an iPhone in virtually any past iPod dock - it's roughly the same size as a 30GB fifth-generation iPod, only a little thinner and a little taller - but there are reasons to prefer iPhone-specific dock designs. **Apple's iPhone Dock** (iLounge rating: B+) currently comes in the iPhone box, and sells separately for \$49 with an included USB cable and USB Power Adapter; the **iPhone Dual Dock** (iLounge rating: B+) sells for the same price, and includes the same pack-ins, but also has a space to the right of the iPhone dock to charge Apple's iPhone Bluetooth Headset. Both docks are designed for charging, syncing, and audio-out via their back ports, while special cut-outs permit easy access to iPhone's Home button, and bottom vents enable you to use iPhone's bottom speaker and microphone for speakerphone calls or iPod audio playback.



THE FREE IPHONE BOOK



1

Bluetooth Headsets - Mono/Stereo

Good news! When Apple decided to include Bluetooth 2.0+EDR functionality in the iPhone, it didn't lock out existing Bluetooth headsets: stereo and monaural earpieces we tested before still work for iPhone cell phone calls. But Apple isn't taking full advantage of the newer stereo headsets; iPhone only allows them to be used for phone calls, not music or the audio portions of YouTube or stored widescreen videos. As such, even though the recent **iSkin Cerulean F1 Wireless Stereo Bluetooth Headphones** (\$130, not rated, 1) lets you hear stereo audio from an iPod when a Bluetooth 2.0 dongle's connected, that's not supported with iPhone's integrated Bluetooth hardware.



2

Consequently, the first wave of iPhone-ready Bluetooth accessories is limited to simple monaural headsets. For superior noise removal, the best such headset we've tested is **Aliph's Jawbone Bluetooth Headset** (\$120, iLounge rating: B, 2), which comes in black, gray, and red versions. Callers have told us repeatedly that they prefer how we sound through Jawbone, which uses advanced noise filtering technology to almost completely remove background noises that can completely drown out your voice. In tests next to air conditioning units, washing machines, and blenders, callers were stunned at how clearly they could hear us even at close distances. Aliph's only issues are the price, which is very steep by Bluetooth headset standards, and the unit's fit. Try as we did, we could never make Jawbone 100% comfortable on our ears. The same technology in a new package would be a huge success.



3

Another strong option is **Apple's iPhone Bluetooth Headset** (\$130, iLounge rating: B, 3), a black aluminum stick that measures less than a half inch wide by roughly two inches, with a single iPod-styled earbud that sticks in your ear. As with iPod earbuds, it's too small to be stable in many ears, which Apple offsets by including two foam covers. Similarly, the company justifies its high price by including both an iPhone Dual Dock and an iPhone Bluetooth Travel Cable as alternative USB charging solutions. But style aside, the Bluetooth Headset has little to offer: its 5.5 hour battery life is lower than Jawbone's 6 and many competitors' 8-10 hour run times, its sound quality is good but lacks for advanced filtering like Aliph's, and it can't get too far away from iPhone or your computer before static interference plagues its audio. We did, however, like its on-iPhone charge indicator, a first for any Bluetooth headset.

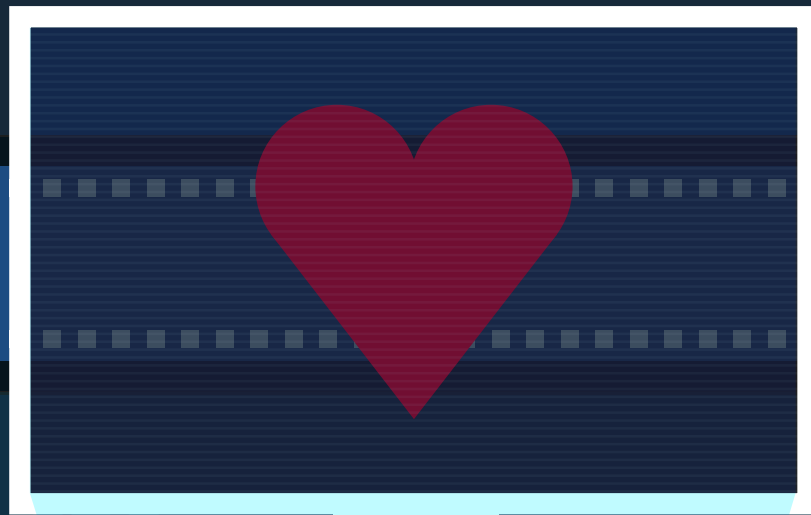


4



5

Need something smaller? **Argard** has the **M10** (\$150, iLounge rating: B-, 4), which fits entirely within your ear, yet barely sacrifices incoming or outgoing sound quality over Apple's design. The battery suffers, though, running for only 3 hours; M10's charging cradle is thankfully super cool. If you're willing to go larger than all of these other options, **Plantronics'** new **Voyager 520** (\$100, iLounge rating: B+, 5) delivers superb sound quality in all but blender-like noise conditions, 8 hours of battery life, and a comfortable earpiece, too.



YOUR

Apple tv

You've already heard about Apple's \$299 HDTV-compatible media player with a 40GB hard drive. It's designed to be an at-home substitute for your iPod.

Now Apple's offering a \$399 version with 160GB of space. Jealous? Good news: there are ways to make "old" Apple TVs do more, and Apple's readying updates.

A **Add to the Apple TV's Box.** Apple includes only two extras in the Apple TV box: a remote and a power cable. You need to provide video and audio cabling, set up iTunes, and set up your TV.

What's In The \$299/\$399 Boxes?



The star of each Apple TV box is the understated device itself: the aluminum-ringed, gray plastic enclosure is a stripped-down Mac mini with four differences: it packs a newer 802.11b/g/n wireless card, extra audio and video ports, a simple interface, and a single USB port, not designed for keyboards or mice.



You'll find more paperwork than pack-ins in Apple TV's box: **an Infrared remote control and a short power cable** are the only frills. Even though virtually every Apple TV-compatible TV set has component video and audio ports on the back, Apple doesn't include video or audio cables in the Apple TV box. Stingy? It feels that way.

What About My TV?



Generally, if your TV has **component video ports** - the green, blue, and red ones at left - **or an HDMI port**, shown above them, it's ready for Apple TV. If your TV only has only one input, mull a switchbox with ports for more devices. XtremeMac sells a \$100 **HDMI Switcher** with 4 HDMI ports, and MonoPrice.com sells \$34 Component and \$65 HDMI switchboxes.

Setting Up iTunes



Connecting your Apple TV wirelessly to iTunes couldn't be much easier: on startup or on Connect to New iTunes, Apple TV sends a 5-digit code to iTunes 7.1 (or later). Enter it. Done.

Buy the Right Cables



Apple's recommended cables are from the **XtremeHD** series sold by **XtremeMac**: for \$20 each, the company's thick rubber cabling and gold tipped connectors are well-shielded and guaranteed to fit Apple TV's rear array of ports. MonoPrice.com sells less expensive options with similar performance.

HDMI. This single \$20 cable handles video at peak quality levels and also carries an audio signal.



Component. Bundling three colored cables, this is only for video but delivers high quality.



Optical/TOSLINK Audio. Delivers crystal stereo or 5.1-channel audio from Apple TV to your home stereo.



Stereo Audio. Sold for \$15, this classic audio cable connects to virtually any TV lacking HDMI.



Note: you don't need cables more expensive than these to get perfect digital video and audio from Apple TV. Beware scams.

ALWAYS BY YOUR SIDE

New, Apple refurbished, and used iPods + Hundreds of iPod accessories!



mophie
DREAM FORWARD



Knox

This slim shell of aircraft grade aluminum is the ultimate wallet + iPod combo!



Bevy

A protective iPod shuffle case with earbud wrap, key chain and, of course, bottle opener!



Nano Wraptor

End earbud drags, dangles and tangles! Precision grooves spool earbud wires nice & tight.

GRIFFIN



Amplifi

A high-tech, powerful, stylish 2.1 iPod sound system for any room!



iTalk

Twin built-in mics record directly to your iPod - or, use your own external mic!



iKaraoke

Just plug iKaraoke into your iPod, cue up your favorite tunes and you're on!

Kensington



QuickSeek FM Transmitter

Find the best FM signal in seconds with QuickSeek™ technology!



SX 3000R Speakers w/ FM Radio

Dynamic audio clarity from a stunning speaker with a built-in FM radio and remote control.



Noise Canceling Headphones

Travel in peace and quiet with these compact & comfortable headphones!

www.smalldog.com



**Small Dog
Electronics**
Always by your side.

800-511-MACS

Take \$3 off your next purchase!
Enter coupon code "ilounge" at checkout!



Apple Specialist

B Boost Your Network Speed. Apple TV works with almost any 802.11 wireless network, but you may want a new 802.11n router, a wired Ethernet connection, or fewer older, slower devices.

Is It Time To Go 802.11n?



If you already have a wireless network set up at home, chances are that Apple TV will work just fine: **it supports 802.11b, g, and n standards**, the oldest of which has been around for years, and the latest (802.11n) is just beginning to become popular now.

In order to smoothly stream typical video from a computer to Apple TV, you'll want to have an 802.11g network and an 802.11g wireless PC or Mac; high-resolution (better-than-DVD quality) videos will benefit from an 802.11n network and computer. Older 802.11b networks and computers may stutter when streaming videos.

iLounge's editors prefer **Apple's latest AirPort Extreme Base Station** (\$179), which though more expensive than many 802.11n routers has great software and has worked beautifully. Its AirPort Disk feature even lets computers wirelessly access a USB-connected hard drive.

Apple TV does an impressive job of streaming video from an iTunes-equipped computer, but it's at its best when content has been stored on its built-in hard drive. The only problem: wirelessly filling that drive takes a very long time - 8 or 9 hours in our tests with an 802.11g network, or 4 hours with a newer 802.11n network. Do you really want to wait?

If the answer's no, and especially if you don't want to shell out for an 802.11n router, your best option is simple: **an Ethernet cable, also known as a RJ-45/Cat5 network cable**. You can temporarily use the one that connects your cable or DSL modem to your router, or spend a few bucks for a new one from a local store or MonoPrice.com. Run it from your iTunes computer to Apple TV and you'll fill the drive faster; switch back to wireless for incremental re-syncing.

Wired Synchronization



Eliminate Old Devices



A hidden problem with 802.11 wireless networks is their friendliness: they try to communicate with any device that's able to speak their language, even if the device is talking slowly. Older devices - 802.11b computers or portable game consoles such as Sony's PlayStation Portable and Nintendo DS - decrease an 802.11g or 802.11n network's speed, dragging down your fast Apple TV's ability to talk with equally fast computers. If you have a new 802.11n network, you'll find that 802.11g devices slow it down, too.

The solution: try to eliminate older wireless devices from the Apple TV's network. One way to do this is to **look for 802.11b or 802.11g devices and turn them off**, another is to **tell your network to ignore b or g devices**. You can also **set up two separate home networks**: one for Apple TV and similarly fast devices, another for your older, slower wireless gadgets. Performance will improve.

GRIFFIN



Journi

Journi's got your soundtrack wrapped up

Compact size. Amazing sound from your iPod® wherever life takes you. "Out there" is calling. Your Journi awaits.



iClear

Clear polycarbonate case
for iPod



iTrip Auto

Your iPod® on your
car stereo

Set your technology free.

www.griffintechology.com

Create and Manage Apple TV-ready Content. You've installed Apple TV and readied your network. Great! But what are you going to watch? These tools will help you create DVD- or HDTV-worthy videos.

Apple TV only supports two video formats: MPEG-4 and its newer, better cousin H.264. Any videos not in one of these formats - or, worse yet, not within certain limits specified by Apple for these formats - won't play on Apple TV without serious hacking you probably don't want to do. Since your only other alternative is file-by-file conversion, here are the programs we'd recommend.

HandBrake

DVD ripping isn't legal in certain countries, including the United States, but it's popular nonetheless. And thanks to **HandBrake** (handbrake.m0k.org), it's unbelievably easy. Version 0.8.5 added an Apple TV preset, which you click on after inserting a DVD and pressing Open. Your DVD's in Apple TV-ready format after one click of the Start button and a couple of hours later. Mac, PC, and Linux versions are all free.



VisualHub

If you're trying to convert any type of video other than a protected DVD to Apple TV format, **TechSpansion's VisualHub** (\$23, Visualhub.net) is a solid Mac tool. It reads virtually any video type you throw at it and spits out Apple TV-ready media; a free version called iSquint makes iPod-sized videos.



Apple TV Video Conversion Tools



Turbo.264 and TiVo Tools

Just prior to publication of this Book, **Elgato Systems** released a handy new device called **Turbo.264** (\$100), which allows most Mac computers to create high-resolution, optimally compressed H.264 videos for Apple TV at higher speeds than ever before: near realtime, rather than 2-5 times the running time of original videos. Also, TiVo owners can transfer their videos into Apple TV files using **TiVoDecodeManager** for Mac (TDM, sourceforge.net, free) or **AutoPilot** for PC (tvharmony.com, \$20), both described in our All Things iPod guide.



Apple TV vs. iPod



It's a serious new problem for iPod lovers with Apple TVs: videos optimized for Apple TV won't play on the iPod, and videos optimized for iPods don't make the most of Apple TV's display capabilities. Do you really want to convert your movies into a format that works well with one device but not with the other? Even the iTunes Store now has **video podcasts specially formatted for Apple TV** (below).

As of today, you have to choose: live by the maximum 640x480 resolution for iPods, or go higher to a DVD-like, iPod-incompatible resolution and hope that Apple's next iPods and iPhones support it. We'd bet heavily on that latter theory, but if you start creating or downloading Apple TV-only videos today, you may want to create an iTunes playlist solely for iPod-friendly content to keep it obvious.



Disk Space: Upgrading the Hard Drive. As Apple's release of a 160GB Apple TV shows, the 40GB (33GB formatted) version isn't enough for video storage. Thankfully, old Apple TVs can get bigger.

Do It Yourself



It's not too hard to replace the 40GB hard disk in an early Apple TV with a much larger drive, and in fact, replacements up to 160GB are currently available for \$150 or less online. You'll need TORX 8 and 10 screwdrivers, a 2.5" hard disk enclosure or FireWire bridge, and a parallel 2.5" ATA drive (not serial ATA) of your chosen capacity. After peeling back the rubber bottom cover, you'll need to unscrew eight total Torx 8 and 10 screws, carefully pull out the hard drive attached to Apple TV's bottom, place it in your enclosure or FireWire bridge, and connect it to a Macintosh computer. After copying the contents of the old drive into a Macintosh disk image, you use Terminal to restore those contents onto the new drive you've purchased, and put the new drive inside Apple TV. Once the screws are replaced, run a Factory Restore from Apple TV, and your new hard drive space will show up. Formatted drive capacity will be 70GB (80GB), 107GB (120GB) or 145GB (160GB); all you'll lack at the end is your old Apple TV warranty, which ends when you open the case.

If you're not technically savvy, you might well be spooked off an upgrade by having to buy special screwdrivers, run disk copying tools, and invalidating your warranty. Several companies will do it for you, if you're willing to pay \$50+ over the raw cost of the new hard drive. Be aware: Hitachi drives are the best, and look for a new warranty.

iResQ

You'll pay between \$199 to \$259 depending on whether you want **80GB or 160GB** of hard disk space, but that includes overnight pickup and delivery. No brand of hard drive is guaranteed besides Hitachi for the 80GB model, and you get only a 90-day warranty.



Professional HD Swap Services

PowerMax

Unlike the others, PowerMax only sells one upgrade: an **Apple TV with a 120GB hard drive pre-installed**, at a \$150 premium over Apple's \$299 price. But you get a one-year warranty on the unit, and shipping is free after a rebate.



MacService

Expect charges of \$195 to \$295 for **60GB to 160GB** drives, including free round trip ground shipping. Unlike most vendors, MacService guarantees that all of its drives except for the 120GB Seagate are made by Hitachi. You'll get a 3-year drive warranty, with no promises for the Apple TV hardware itself. Since it's so new, it's hard to know how long it'll last.

TechRestore

With more options than its competitors, TechRestore offers drives and already-upgraded Apple TVs ranging from **60GB to 160GB** for \$100-200 premiums over standard Apple prices. You'll need to pay extra for shipping, and you'll only get a 1-year warranty on the Apple TV if you purchase it from TechRestore; upgrades get only drive warranties.

Extra Features. Hackers started adding features to Apple TV within days of its release: more video formats, new applications, and even replacement operating systems. Apple followed suit with YouTube.

More Video Formats



Upset that Apple TV shipped without support for most of the popular video formats included in Apple's free QuickTime media software, hackers moved quickly to figure out ways to make the device play more than just MPEG-4 and H.264 content. And they succeeded: **Engadget** published a guide (<http://www.engadget.com/2007/04/10/how-to-play-divx-and-xvid-on-your-apple-tv>) that starts with the hard drive removal process detailed on the prior page, then transfers files over to the drive to enable it to see and play back movies without iTunes syncing. Formats such as DivX and XviD - popular with online movie pirates and do-it-yourself DVD ripping fans alike - are supported, as are WMV, MPEG-2, and even audio codecs AC3 and OGG.



New Apps

Like an iPod, Apple TV's menus are limited. But with hacks found at AwkwardTV.org, you can add new features, transforming Apple TV into a widget-laden TV box. Here are a few of the plug-ins recently developed:

AppleTV RSS Plugin: Allows you to assemble a list of RSS feeds from the Internet and display them on Apple TV.

Sports Scores: Displays in simple text format current sports scores, even indicating the inning of baseball games currently in progress.

Weather: Set by default to provide weather for Denver, CO, you can update the zip code to get local weather for your area.

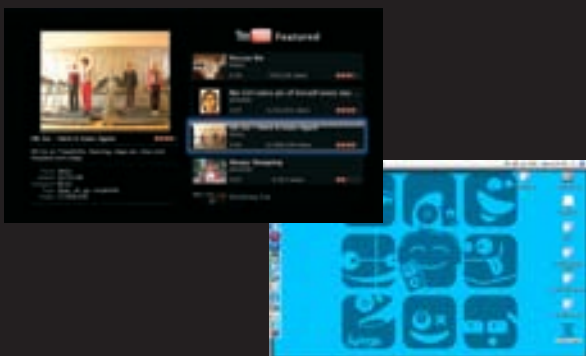
Streamer: Adds the ability to stream Internet Radio audio programming directly onto Apple TV; still in early form.

ShareMounter: Auto-mounts a networked disk. Think 1TB of videos, stored elsewhere, to spool content from.



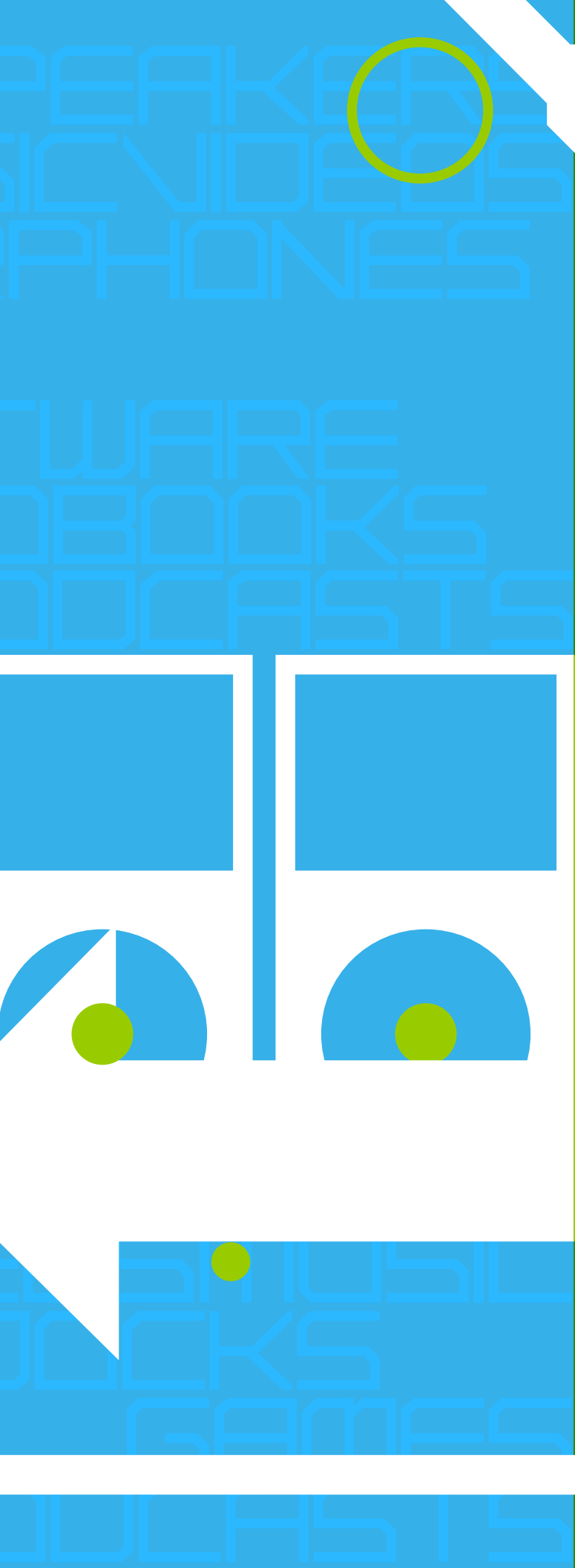
YouTube, New OSes, and More?

In June, Apple released its first official update to Apple TV, providing a way to search and **watch free YouTube videos** through the device. Hackers, of course, are thinking bigger. They have already succeeded in getting Apple TV to run both Linux and the standard Mac OS X operating system. The Mac hack's against Apple's end user licensing agreement, runs slow thanks to Apple TV's 1GHz processor and 256 MB of RAM, and violates your warranty. Linux directions can be found at wiki.awkwardtv.org/wiki/Linux_on_Apple_TV; more work has yet to be done.



ITUNES
CASES
MUSIC
BOOKS
GAMES
EAR
SOFT
AUDIO
PO
All
Things
iPod





Over 130 Ways to Max Out Your iPod

Every year, the iPod family improves: whether Apple shrinks an iPod's body, brightens its screen, adds video playback, boosts its battery life or just makes it easier than ever to use, the experience always becomes better as time goes on. That puts iLounge's editors in a constant struggle to find new and better tips to help our readers make the most of their iPods. Thankfully, this edition of our All Things iPod Guide delivers, with more than 20 new sections since last year, even after we pulled tips that became outdated with new iPod and iTunes releases. Odds are good that you'll find new ways inside to enjoy your iPod; a full index is on the next set of pages.

1. Installing The Right iPod Software 48

Get iTunes from Apple.com
Updating iTunes and Adding Extras

2. Connecting Your iPod To Your PC/Mac 49

Easy: Free USB 2.0 Cable
Moderate: Simple Docks
Advanced: Deluxe Docks

3. Filling Your iPod

Music

Transfer Your CDs Yourself
Download From the iTunes Store
Download Free Live & Studio Music
Professional CD Ripping Services

Podcasts

Download With iTunes
Create Your Own Podcast

Radio

Record FM Radio: Radio SHARK 2
Download "Old Time Radio" Shows
Record Internet Radio: StationRipper & iFill

Videos

Buy Apple's Videos
Download Free Videos & Video Podcasts
Create iPod-Ready (Home) Movies
Convert Other Videos... Slowly
Record iPod Videos Directly From TV
TiVo Desktop & AutoPilot

Photos & Art

iTunes Transfers Photos to Color iPods
Transferring Directly From Your Camera
Add Album Art to Individual Songs
Adding Other People's Pictures
Storing Digital Photos on a Non-Color iPod

Travel Goodies

Color iPod Tours and Maps
Translation Software
Audio Tours and Driving Directions

Books

eBooks, Cookbooks & More
Comic Books Designed for Color iPods
Download Audio Books and Convert Web Pages to Text or Audio

Calendars & Contacts 65

Sync Your Calendars and Contacts: PC
Sync Your Calendars and Contacts: Mac

Personal Data & Files 67

Use Your iPod as a Hard Disk
Use iPod shuffle/iTunes Phones as Hard Disks
Securing Your Personal Data
Carrying Your PC on Your iPod

Games 68

Apple's Four Free iPod Pack-Ins
Text Adventures & Trivia
Advanced Users Only: Free Games (and More) via Linux Hacks
iTunes' Downloadable iPod Games

Make Your Own Fun 70

Mogopop: Snag or Make Books
Create Trivia with iQuiz Maker

4. Enjoying Your iPod Everywhere 72

At Home

Tabletop All-in-One Speakers
Alarm Clock Radios
Boom Boxes
Component Speaker Systems
iPod Docking Stations
Oversized All-in-One Speakers

On Campus 74

Backpacks, Sleeves, and Matching Cases

On Your Own 76

Cheap Phones: \$50 and Under
Mid-Range Earbuds: \$150 and Under
Premium Listening: \$400 and Under
Price No Object Earphones

At The Gym 78

Sport & Underwater Earphones
iPod Armbands
Bike Mounts
Waterproof Sport Cases
Exercise Software
Nike+ Series: Nike+iPod Sport Kit

In The Car: Low-End 82

FM Transmitters
Cassette Tape Adapters
Tape Adapter/Line-Out Charging Mounts

Inexpensive Car Mounts		
Deluxe Car Mounts		
Three- or Four-in-One (Transmitter/Line-Out/Charging/Mounting) Accessories		
In The Car: High-End	84	
Premium Audio Only		
iPod Video in Your Car		
iPod-Ready AV/Navigation Systems		
iPod Road Test: Porsche Boxster		
Auto Bluetooth Wireless		
Out Of Town (Travel)	90	
Battery Packs: Rechargeables and Non-Rechargeables		
In-Air iPod Chargers		
Travel Cases: Small or Large		
Portable Speakers		
Noise Isolating Earphones		
Pocket-Sized Speakers		
Video Display Goggles		
5. Customizing Your iPod	92	
Recolor Your iPod's Body		
Colorize Old iPods		
Etch Your iPod's Back		
Bling Out Your iPod or iPod nano		
Replace Your iPod's Graphics		
Bling Challenge: iPod shuffle		
6. Expanding Your iPod: Electronics	98	
FM Radio Tuners		
Stereo Audio Recorders		
Wired Display Remotes		
Wireless Display Remotes		
Other Wireless Accessories		
Portable Video Displays		
Karaoke Accessories		
7. Playing With Your iPod: Toys	103	
Cool Docks		
Toy Speakers		
Fun Cases		
8. Protecting Your iPod: Cases & Film	104	
iPod Cases		
iPod nano Cases		
iPod shuffle Cases		
Protective iPod Film		
9. Wearing Your iPod: Clothes		108
Jackets and Shirts		
Lanyards: Headphone and Case		
Belts and Belt Buckles		
10. Maintaining and Repairing Your iPod		110
Keep Your Battery Going		
Replace Your Own Battery		
Repairs: Apple and Others		
Restore Your iPod's Shine		
Battery Swap Services		
Troubleshooting your iPod		
11. Selling Your iPod		114
iPod Selling Prices on eBay		
Amazon.com Marketplace		
Bulk Buyers: Broken iPods		
Bulk Buyers: Working iPods		
Trading Your iPod to... Apple?		
12. Buying a New iPod		116
Comparisons and Deals on New iPods		
Which One's Right For Me?		
The Hidden U2 iPod		
iPods, Unpacked		
13. Goodbye, iTunes Phones, Hello, iPhone		120
ROKR E1, SLVR L7, RAZR V3i		
14. Gifting For iPod Fans		122
Small: \$50 and Under		
Medium: \$150 and Under		
Large: \$300 and Under		
Deluxe: Price No Object		
15. Joining The iPod Community		124
iLounge Forums and Community		
International Sites: iLounge Around the World		
The iLounge Report Card		126
In this update to our popular Report Card, we offer our ratings of over 1,375 Apple products and add-ons, which we've been reviewing online since 2001. Full reviews of all of these items are available at www.ilounge.com/index.php/accessories/ .		

Installing The Right iPod Software. iPods used to include CDs, but now you'll need a web browser to download free iTunes media management software. Why not add some key non-Apple tools?

Get iTunes from Apple.com



It used to be so easy: buy an iPod, run the PC- and Mac-ready iTunes CD you find in the box, and start transferring music from computer to iPod. Today, iPod boxes are smaller than ever, and have no CDs, so you'll need an Internet connection and a visit to apple.com/itunes/download/ in order to start using iTunes. Users in foreign countries can find their download links by looking for the Apple.com Worldwide link at the bottom of the Apple.com home page. The download is free.



Installing iTunes is almost effortless. On a Mac, a window will appear with a file called iTunes.mpkg; click it and the iTunes Installer will do the rest. On a PC, run iTunesSetup.exe for the same streamlined experience. Once done, connect your iPod.

Your iTunes download guarantees you the latest version at that moment... but when Apple updates it, you'll want it. And since iPod updates can bring bug fixes and sometimes interesting new features, you'll want those too. And what about things iTunes can't do? Third party software fills the gap. Here's how to enhance your PC or Mac experience.

Update Your iTunes and iPod

Apple has made iTunes and iPod updates much easier in the past: they're all handled in iTunes. A feature called **Check For Updates** in the iTunes menu (Mac) or Help menu (PC) offsets a Check for Update button under the Summary Tab you'll see after connecting an iPod to your computer. iTunes can also check automatically for updates, a feature found under the General



Tab of iTunes' preferences menu. You can turn the checks off, and always get to approve new updates.

Copy From iPod to Computer

Every iPod owner eventually asks this question: "how do I transfer content off of my iPod and back onto my computer?" We answer the question fully in our **All Things iTunes** Section, but here's the short version: for most content, you'll need to download a separate program such as **Senuti** for Mac (free from fadingred.org/senuti/), **Music Rescue** (formerly PodUtil) for the Mac or PC (£10 Shareware fee, kennett.net.co.uk/musicrescue/), or **iGadget** for the PC (\$15 after free 15-day unlimited trial, ipodsoft.com/index.php?software/igadget).

Updating iTunes & Adding Extras

Copy LPs, Tapes, and More

iTunes is easy and powerful, but it does have limits. Third-party companies such as Roxio now sell tools that go beyond iTunes' ripping and downloading:

Roxio's Boom Box (\$60) for Macs includes tools to turn vinyl albums, cassette tapes, and even written text (web pages, eBooks, and text files) into iPod audio files. Own a PC? A number of programs will help you turn your LPs or tapes into iPod-ready MP3 files, including



Acoustica's Spin It Again (\$35, acoustica.com). There's a free recording option called **Audacity** (audacity.sourceforge.net) that is great, but less intuitive than The Boom Box's solution. For a complete tutorial on how to handle LP/cassette conversion with Audacity, read "Guide 2" found at forums.ilounge.com/showthread.php?s=&postid=273807.

Drag and Drop Your Music

If you prefer to avoid iTunes and use the familiar drag and drop method to put files on your iPod, **Anapod Explorer** (anapod.com, \$20-30) lets PC owners do that - and more. Bypassing iTunes, Anapod can shrink high-quality versions of your songs to take less iPod space, transfer from iPod to PC, and even let you access or stream your iPod's music over the Internet.

2

Connecting Your iPod To Your PC/Mac. If your computer has a USB 2.0 port, you don't *need* anything else. But you may *want* a way to safely dock your iPod on a flat surface, and/or expand its abilities.

Easy: Free USB 2.0 Cable



From 2001 to mid-2003, if you wanted to use an iPod, you needed to have a computer with **FireWire** - a high-speed data port developed by Apple. But today's iPods have dropped FireWire for the ubiquitous **USB 2.0** standard, a rectangular hole (shown at left) found on every computer shipped for the past year or two. Just like FireWire, USB 2.0 provides both power for your iPod and the ability to transfer data back and forth between connected devices.

Transfer speeds with USB 2.0 will vary from iPod to iPod and computer to computer: flash-based (nano and shuffle) iPods tend to transfer files faster than hard drive-based (video) iPods, and computers with nothing else connected will take less time than those that have multiple USB devices on at once. Expect two song per second transfers.

It's easy to connect Apple's cable to the bottom of any iPod, but many people prefer to mount their iPods upright to keep them from scuffing or scratching on a flat surface. Visually, our current iPod dock of choice is **Griffin's** aluminum **AirDock** (\$70), which connects to your computer or an AV system thanks to included cables and an RF remote. **Apple's** smaller, simpler **Universal Dock** (\$39, center) also connects to your computer, stereo system, or even a television, but you'll have to provide cables, and the **Apple Remote** control. The company's **iPod nano Dock** (\$29), by comparison, is data- and audio-only. Finally, **Marware's USB Travel Dock for iPod shuffle** (\$20) and **Incipio's IncipioBud** (\$8) are alternatives to Apple's packed-in Dock for second-generation iPod shuffles; Travel Dock is compact and equally protective; IncipioBud is even smaller.

Moderate: Simple Docks



Advanced: Deluxe Docks



If you're looking to do more than just keep your iPod standing up, you're in luck: many companies now sell hybrid accessories that combine iPod docks with other features. **Nyko's Speaker Dock 2** (\$100) is an inexpensive example of a full iPod dock with integrated speakers, allowing you to connect your computer and iPod for audio, charging, and synchronization; **JBL** (\$100-\$300) and other companies also make many speakers that do the same thing. Another developer, **Atech Flash**, has released the **iDuo** (\$60), a 10-in-1 media card reader and iPod dock, the **iDuo Hub** (\$60, a three-port USB hub with iPod dock and remote control, and the **KB-Reader** (\$50), a keyboard with an iPod dock on top. Other companies, such as **Belkin** with its **TuneSync** (\$66) and **Razer** with its **Pro|Type Keyboard with Integrated iPod Dock** (\$130), have done the same.

3

Filling Your iPod. Every iPod arrives empty - it's yours to fill up with whatever content you prefer. Below, we show you how to add audio, video, photos, comics, books, maps, and much more to your iPod.

Music

Rip CDs yourself. Have someone rip CDs for you. Pay for iTunes music downloads. Or download music for free. Here are your best options.

Though it's time-consuming, iTunes makes it mostly easy to convert your CDs into iPod-friendly music files. These steps will save you time, improve quality, and prevent you from re-ripping CDs in the future.



In iTunes **Preferences**, under the **Advanced** Tab, go to the Importing Sub-Tab. Find **On CD Insert** and choose "Import Songs and Eject." Your PC will rip CDs, eject, and rip again.



Also under the **Importing** Sub-Tab, you'll see **Import Using**. Choose **MP3 Encoder** and a **Setting** of either "Higher Quality (192Kbps)" or "Custom." We'd recommend Higher Quality.

Transfer Your CDs Yourself



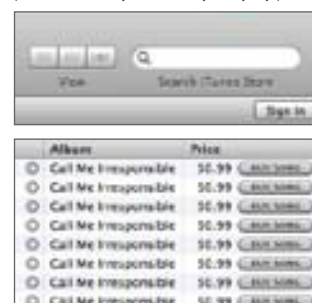
Choosing "Custom" will open this window. Use a **Stereo Bit Rate** of 128 Kbps if you plan only to use Apple's ear buds; go higher (192Kbps) if you use \$100+ speakers or headphones, or think you may later.

Download From the iTunes Store

In the iTunes **Source List**, select **iTunes Store** and this window will open. You'll need to create an Apple account by signing in (upper right corner of the screen, under the Search box). Then you'll be able to buy tracks.



With over 2.5 billion songs sold and 5 million now available, Apple's 99-cent-per-track shop is a large, safe place to buy virtually any type of music you want.



You can **Search** with the top right box, or browse by genres, featured artists and albums, top songs, or top albums. To buy music, use the **Buy Song** or **Buy Album** button. Very easy.

Live concerts from well-known (and less well-known) artists are legally available for free download online. If you want to find the music and learn how to make it work on your iPod, see ilounge.com/index.php/articles/comments/jambands-download-free-concerts-for-your-ipod/. A visit to etree.org will help you start.



Download Free Live & Studio Music



Our Free Music page (ilounge.com/index.php/freemusic/) offers a collection of links to places where you can legally download free tracks from major and indie bands.

xitel

PRECISION AUDIO TECHNOLOGY



Want vinyl LPs and cassettes on your iPod?

INport Deluxe: Complete software and hardware recording kit.



Want to take your iPod movies and music to the next level?

movieCENTER: The world's first all-in-one entertainment dock with virtual surround sound.



Want big sound from your iPod nano?

HiFi-Link for iPod nano:
All-in-one nano specific entertainment dock with remote control and Trubass.

www.xitel.com

Professional CD Ripping Services

Turning old CDs into iPod-ready MP3s is called **ripping**. And ripping is the only bad part of buying an iPod. With a fast CD drive, rips take 6-10 minutes per full-length disc - that's 10-17 hours for 100 CDs, not including the time you'll spend organizing all of the songs.

If you have more than 100 CDs, it's definitely worth *something* to have all your ripping done for you - but how much? And can you really trust just anyone with your CD collection?

Picking a Trustworthy Ripper

You've built your CD collection from nothing into huge stacks of jewel cases, paying thousands of dollars for music you'd like to hear on your iPod. Do you really want to turn over your discs to a stranger who's working out of a college dorm room, using your collection to build his own master music collection? No. So we sought out reputable CD rippers - **professional and trustworthy companies with centralized ripping facilities**. We looked for companies that **didn't use misleading advertising or other tricks to fool potential customers**, and **ones that were committed to protecting the rights of musicians**. Only one of the companies here ripped CDRs, which you may or may not like.

How We Tested

We sent a total of **100 CDs to each of the companies** as a test. **Each collection included some "bad" discs**: cracked, mixed data and audio, or seriously scuffed CDs, and we also tossed in some CD-Rs to see whether the companies would rip them, despite their statements to the contrary. We used 224Kbps encoding from each company, and rated only based on standard included services. We list most of their other key options in our table to the right.

The Process, Start to Finish

Each of the companies used FedEx or UPS to send us a well-padded box and spindle (or two) for our CDs; most insured for between \$10 and \$15 per disc in case of any damage. Typically, the boxes are sent from and to the companies by ground transportation, which can take several days in each direction depending on your distance from the company. But several of the companies offer expedited shipping for a premium. Most of the companies provided status updates on our discs before shipping them back. At the end, **each company converted our CDs into two DVDs full of great MP3 files**, and **most included installation instructions**, too. They handled bad discs differently; some rejected them, some tried to fix them, others offered refunds.

Which Differences Really Matter?

All of the companies delivered our CDs and DVDs, but differences emerged in **pricing, speed and frills**. **Our top pick was willing to rip for 79 cents (shipped) per CD regardless of bitrate** (128-320kbps), but at others, **prices for 224kbps MP3s ranged from \$99-156, including shipping**. The best turned discs around in **1-2 days**, some included iTunes- and color iPod-ready **album art**, \$20-25 **promo cards**, or other extras, while others charged high premiums for anything other than "standard" service. All of our discs from these companies arrived properly - the only company that was late, and ranked at the C level, went out of business since our last edition.



	dmp3 Music	Moondog Digital	Music Shifter	Ready to Play	RipDigital	RipShark
Cost For 100 CDs & Shipping	\$121 was \$140	\$88-132 on bitrate - \$108/224K	\$79	\$130	\$77 was \$156	\$132 was \$125
Cost For 500 CDs No Shipping	\$445 was \$500	\$430 for 224Kbps (\$350-530, by bitrate)	\$395	\$605	\$385 was \$499	\$395
Standard Insurance & Shipper	\$15/CD FedEx Ground	\$12/CD FedEx Ground	\$0/CD US Postal Service	\$10/CD UPS Ground	\$10/CD UPS Ground	\$10/CD FedEx Ground
Process Time (w/o Shipping)	"A Week or Less" Actual: 4	"About 2 Days for Average Sized Orders" Actual: 2	"4~6 (bus.) days" Actual: 4	"Typically 1-2 Days" Actual: 2	"Up to 7 days," but 3-5 typical. Actual: 5	"Generally 2 Business Days." Actual: 1
Location	Alameda, CA	Indianapolis, IN	Northfield, MN	Palo Alto, CA	NYC, NY	Minneapolis, MN
Std. Bitrate	192Kbps CBR	224Kbps CBR	192Kbps VBR	192Kbps CBR	192Kbps CBR	192Kbps CBR
Included Services	+ MP3/WMA/AAC ripping + 128-320K bitrate + Personal contact to process order + Album Art Included + Text catalog	+ MP3 or WMA ripping + Pick any bitrate you want, charges vary but are competitive at each level. + Album Art Included	+ MP3/WMA/AAC/Lossless/FLAC ripping + VBR or CBR + 128-320K bitrate + Album Art +/- Rips CDRs, scratched CDs	+ Loads iPod at no charge + MP3, Lossless, WAV, FLAC ripping + 224/320K ripping + DataGroom to fix ID3 tags	+ VBR or CBR	+ Free 128, 192 or 224Kbps ripping + Free Twin Cities Pick-Up/Delivery + Free Album Art
Paid Special Services	+ Send jewel cases + \$35 iPod loading + \$50/Hr. iTunes/library help	+ 0.37/disc CD-ROMs instead of DVDs + Gift Certificates	+0.20/CD get both MP3 + lossless files +Gift Certificates +Sells HDs +0.20/CD 2-day, 0.70/CD 1-day processing time	+ Sells HDs + Sells iPods + Lossless Files on DVDs + Send your jewel cases, not spindles	+ Sells HDs + Sells iPods + Lossless ripping + Color catalog + Other formats + Album Art	+ Gift Certificates + Sells PCs + Sells HDs
Negatives	- Pricing isn't automated on site	- No frills feel; simple instructions, and paper DVD envelopes	- Uninsured shipping unless you pay 0.34/CD for UPS Ground, or more - No frills feel	- Charges for damaged discs even if not converted - Limited updates	- Slower internal turnaround than others	- Limited instructions - Limited status updates, no tracking info
Overall Opinions	Lots of personal communication is required here, but you're cared for. Many a la carte services are offered. DVDs are delivered on the tops of your CD spindles. Pricey, but well-suited to serve needs of inexperienced PC users who want help and can afford to pay for it.	Fast and cheap, but very light on frills. DVDs are delivered in envelopes, and no album art is included with your files. Great price options, fast turnaround, and gift certificate program make this a great pick. Prices went up a little since our review but company now includes album artwork at no additional charge.	New low price leader offers two keys - album art and user choice of bitrate - but doesn't insure discs, and charges quite a bit for faster shipping. If you're not in a rush or concerned about CD shipping damage, you'll get good service, at a great price, few frills.	A good, careful compromise. DVDs arrived in a double-sided jewel case with album art, which was good for the price, as well as data on the converted files and a detailed printed installation guide. Pricing not as aggressive for large-quantity users, but good for most color iPod owners.	From boxes to manuals, tops in professional looks. DVDs arrived in a DVD case with PC and Mac installers. Great tracking info, even tried to fix our bad discs. Since our review, has lowered prices and included services, stripped down to bone.	Whether you have large or small volumes of CDs to rip, you'll find RipShark to be highly competent with good pricing and great speed. Included album art but not a case for ripped, spindled DVDs. Increased shipping costs pushed price up.
iLounge Rating	B- Limited Recommendation	A- Highly Recommended	A- Highly Recommended	B+ Recommended	B Recommended	A- Highly Recommended

Podcasts

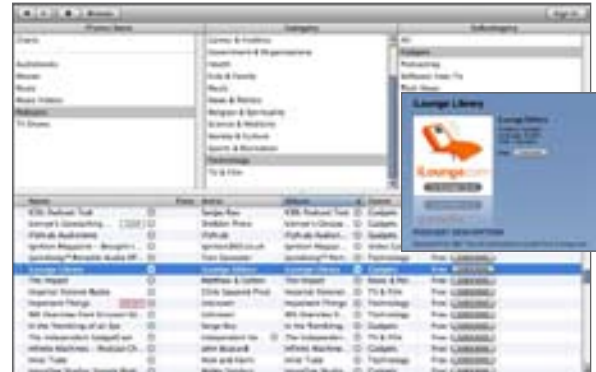
Download thousands of free radio-style news, opinion, comedy and educational audio broadcasts - or make one yourself.

Download With iTunes

Free radio-style content for your iPod? Yes. Thousands of people now produce free "podcasts," including pioneers such as TechTV's Leo Laporte and MTV's Adam Curry, celebrities and journalists like Ricky Gervais and Ebert & Roeper, and many unknown amateurs. Podcasts are like free subscription radio; audio that's ready whenever you are.



Downloading podcasts is easy with iTunes. Locate **Podcasts** on the **Source** list off to the left of the iTunes window. Then click on **Podcast Directory** at the bottom right to open the Store's Podcasts page. Apple's top picks are here, along with left-side **Categories** to dig through. Go faster with **Quick Links** (top right), use **Browse** to bring up the window below. You can hunt by **Category** and **Subcategory**, or search by phrase using the top right **Search** box. Click on **Subscribe** to the right of any entry to download it.



Adding podcasts to your iPod is easy: just drag and drop files from your Library onto the iPod in the Source List. Alternately, select your iPod on the list and use the Podcasts tab to schedule auto-syncing of unplayed or recent episodes.



Mac users interested in creating their own podcasts have it easy: Apple's **GarageBand 3** (\$79, part of iLife '06 bundle) can record solo microphone sessions or multi-person iChats, transforming them into enhanced (image-laden) podcasts with almost no effort at all. For PC users or those Mac users without GarageBand 3, the iLounge web site offers a complete **Beginners' Guide to Podcast Creation** (ilounge.com/index.php/articles/comments/beginners-guide-to-podcast-creation/), which we can be summed up this way: buy a USB headset like



Create Your Own Podcast

Logitech's 350 (\$50, far left); connect the headset to your PC or Mac; use **Audacity** (audacity.sourceforge.net) to record and save your audio for free; have iTunes convert your file into a small MP3, then put it on a web server and use iTunes' **Submit a Podcast** button to tell people where to get it. For more details, check out the **Beginners' Guide** online. **Avanquest's WebPodStudio** (\$50, right) makes audio or video podcasting easy, too.

Radio

Thanks to web sites, inexpensive hardware, and new software, it's now easy to transfer modern, classic, and Internet radio to your iPod.



Record FM Radio: Radio SHARK 2

Obsessive radio fans have traded taped recordings of their favorite shows for years. As a newer, cheaper sequel to its earlier **radioSHARK**, **Griffin Technology's Radio SHARK 2** (\$50) makes it easy for you to record your favorite radio show, then listen to it on your iPod or computer, whenever you want. The black and chrome fin serves as a large FM/AM antenna, and is equipped with lights that glow blue for normal reception and red when you're recording. Three cables help you achieve near-optimal indoor reception; it even sounds better than the prior \$70 model.

Griffin's included software gives you a complete digital tuner with a ten-band equalizer and time-shifting capabilities: activate it to gain TiVo-style pausing and rewinding of live broadcasts. A separate recording window lets you schedule times for radio programs to automatically save on your drive, and preferences (bottom left) let you pick the format and quality of recordings. PC users also get a program called SnapTuneOne that learns your tastes and acquires crazy amounts of Internet Radio content, if left on endlessly.

Download "Old-Time Radio" Shows

If contemporary radio isn't your thing, you're still in luck: recorded programs from the "Golden Age" of radio are now available for free download. Prior to appearing in movies and TV shows, famous programs such as *Abbott & Costello*, *Batman*, *Buck Rogers*, *Burns and Allen*, *Dragnet*, *Flash Gordon* and *Sherlock Holmes* riveted families in front of radios. Now sites like **Old-Time Radio Shows** (related-pages.com/oldtimeradio/) and **Radio Lovers** (radiolovers.com/) can help you hear the shows for yourself. Right-clicking on files and choosing **Save Target As** is all you'll need to do. For more information, see our **Old-Time Radio Guide** (ilounge.com/index.php/articles/comments/free-old-time-radio-otr-for-your-ipod/).



Record Internet Radio: StationRipper & iFill



Don't care for FM radio? Don't need old-time radio? Then maybe Internet Radio's a better fit. Around 10,000 stations now broadcast free radio online, and two good programs can record the shows as iPod-ready files. **Ratajik Software's StationRipper** for PCs (\$20, at stationripper.com) records up to 600 stations at once, assuming you have the bandwidth. **Griffin's iFill** (\$20, at griffintechology.com) works with both PCs and Macs, recording as many stations as they can handle, but with greater copyright protection. Both auto-separate and -tag songs.



Videos

Good: Full-sized iPods play videos. **Bad:** videos cost money, or require conversion. **Worse:** conversion takes a long time. Your options are here.

If you're looking for new video content, the iTunes Store has it: Apple sells TV shows and music videos for \$1.99 each, with feature-length movies at \$9.99-\$14.99. You'll need broadband Internet access to download them.



In the upper left corner of iTunes' main pane, you'll find **Movies, TV Shows, and Music Videos**. Pick one, then the artist, studio, series, or film you want to see.



The next page allows you to preview 30 seconds of each video, then **Buy** it individually, or as part of an entire season ("**Season Pass**") or **Video Album**.

Buy Apple's Videos



Once you've purchased the video, it will download, then appear in your **Source List** under **Music, Movies, or TV Shows**. Drag it to your iPod or double-click to watch.

Download Free Videos & Video Podcasts

If you want free video for your iPod, head over to **YouTube.com** or **DailyMotion.com** which specialize in viral clips. The nice tool **TubeSock** (\$15, stinkbot.com/Tubesock/) transforms any video from these sites into iPod-ready H.264 or MPEG-4 format.



The **iTunes Store** mixes video and audio podcasts together into one Podcasts page, calling out top video podcasts on the bottom half of that page. Quality continues to improve as time goes on.



Create iPod-Ready (Home) Movies



As Apple has put it, the iPod is already able to play back your home movies... if they're in the right format. Since the iPod requires specific types of MPEG-4 or H. 264 video, the challenge is that few video cameras record directly into compliant files. **Sanyo** produces a \$400-\$1000 lineup of exceptions: the **VPC-CG6**, **VPC-CG65**, waterproof

VPC-CA6, **VPC-C6**, and hi-def models **VPC-HD1**, **VPC-HD1a** and **VPC-HD2** (shown) record photos and videos on removable SD memory cards. Videos shot in low-resolution mode will play back on the iPod without conversion - using the higher resolutions will require you to convert your videos.

You can also use video editing tools, such as **Apple's iMovie HD** (\$79, part of iLife '06 bundle), to create iPod-ready video files recorded with any other camera. Selecting **Share > iPod** will create a H.264 video, taking around three times realtime.



Convert Other Videos... Slowly

If you have a fifth-generation iPod, you already know that it can't play back most of the video files you already have on your computer: it only plays back *certain* MPEG-4 and H.264 files - not all of them - so you'll need to convert anything else. This process can take a long time, especially if you use H.264, and the resulting files aren't optimized to take full advantage of Apple TV. For that reason, we don't advise our readers to go through all the labor quite yet, but if you want to try anyway, we hope that the following will be useful.

DVD Conversion: Legal Issues

It's safe to convert most videos to iPod format, but in the United States, it's currently against the law to turn almost any store-bought DVD into an iPod video file. Why? Most DVDs are encrypted with copy protection called CSS, and it's illegal to remove the encryption. For that reason, DVD conversion tools are hard to find in the U.S., but in other countries, ripping DVDs is entirely legal, and decrypting software is available either for a price, or for free. In all cases, we encourage our readers from around the world to follow local laws, and convert only what's legal.

Free Mac OS X Converters

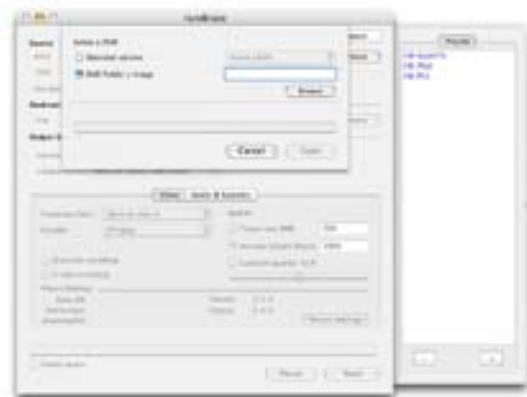
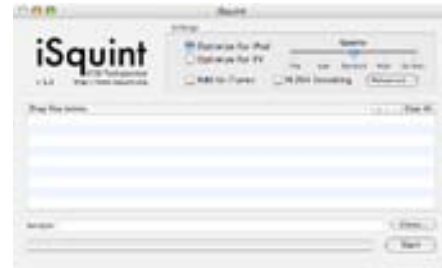
For standard video files, **iSquint** (isquint.org) is your go-to program. It's fast and requires two clicks - **drop in a file, and press Start** - unless you want to adjust quality settings. **HandBrake** (handbrake.m0k.org) handles everything from decryption or saved DVD image conversion into MPEG-4 or H.264. Just **select the DVD or video file folder** to convert, press **Open**, select the **HB-iPod Preset** at right, hit **Start** and that's it. If you want to play with Picture Settings, use Automatic Crop; without it, your videos will quite possibly contain top and bottom black bars. On all but the most recent computers, you should expect to leave these programs running for quite some time - the length of the full movie (MPEG-4) or longer.

Free PC Conversion Utilities

Windows PC users have many free iPod-format video conversion options, but you'll really want to read our full Video-to-iPod Conversion for Windows PCs tutorials (parts 1-3, at ilounge.com/index.php/articles/more/C125) before using them. **Videora's iPod Converter** (videora.com) is free, and makes video-to-iPod conversion relatively easy, but doesn't handle DVDs unless they've been pre-processed by **DVD Decrypter** (doom9.org) or similar programs, and now has all sorts of annoying ads built-in. A PC version of **HandBrake** (handbrake.m0k.org) handles the entire process.

Something Worth Paying For?

Virtually all of the iPod video software we've seen for sale - **Avanquest's DVD2iPod** (\$30, PC), **InterVideo's iVideoToGo for iPod** (\$30, PC), and **Roxio's Crunch** (\$50, Mac) - has the same general benefits and issues: you get a nicer user interface, professional instruction manuals, and potentially modestly superior conversion speed or video quality. They also tend to offer wide support for video formats, so many types of files can be converted. But despite their names or packaging, none converts a commercial DVD to iPod format, and with effort, free tools work roughly as well. That said, **Elgato's turbo.264** (\$100) is a hardware solution that delivers up to a 5X increase in H.264 encoding times when used with any "Export to Quicktime" Mac application. **ADS Tech's PC version Instant Video To-Go** (\$80) has bugs.

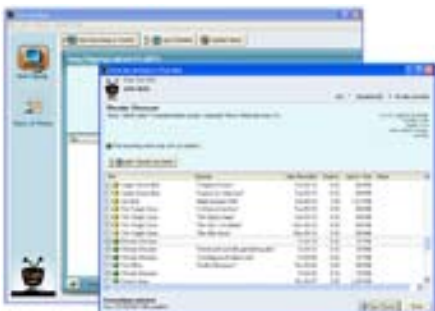


Record iPod Videos Directly From TV



The other major way to add video content to an iPod is to record it off of live television - an option presently possible with devices such as **Elgato Systems' EyeTV 250** (\$200, top) for the Mac, when paired with the company's EyeTV 2 digital video recording software (shown), or **Neuros Audio's** standalone **MPEG-4 Recorder 2** (\$130). EyeTV is superior: you get the equivalent of a tiny cable box that allows your Mac to tune in the same stations as any other TV in your home, then EyeTV 2 records the video just as if you were using a standalone digital video recorder, complete with easy scheduling. The only limitation: once the video has been recorded, your Mac will need to convert it into iPod-ready MPEG-4 format, which EyeTV 2 makes extremely easy, but it's still time-consuming. Elgato's latest EyeTV 2 software creates Apple TV-optimized videos, too. By contrast, MPEG-4 Recorder 2 works like an old VCR, connecting to your home TV and recording whatever you schedule with an limited on-screen menuing system. It has some serious limits - your TV or other video output device must be on for it to work - but its videos are iPod-ready, instantly.

TiVo Desktop and AutoPilot



Let's say you don't want to keep your computer turned on to record TV shows, and you don't want a simple recorder box like MPEG-4 Recorder 2. Another option: **TiVo**, the highly automated digital video recorder, can send files to one of several PC or Mac programs for iPod-format conversion.

TiVo's official solutions are decent. For the PC, you can buy **Desktop Plus** (\$25, tivo.com), which transfers files and converts them into iPod-ready MPEG-4 or H.264 formats. The process is slow - plan to leave your PC on overnight - but leaves you with at least partially tagged video files that are very watchable. **TVHarmony's** free Windows program **AutoPilot** (tvharmony.com) actually does a better job, ripping out commercials, creating files that are smaller and/or a bit better-looking, and consuming less time. AutoPilot works on Windows Vista; Desktop Plus doesn't. The official Mac solution is **Roxio's Toast 8 Titanium** (\$100), which handles TiVo transfers into 320x240 iPod format and also creates CDs, DVDs, and Blu-Ray discs. We prefer **Benesch's TivoDecodeManager** (free, tdm.sourceforge.net), which can create 640x480 iPod videos.



in-ear Audio

Detail, balance, comfort and value.

From the company that created in-ear technology. Etymotic Research earphones have higher noise isolation and higher frequency response accuracy than any in-ear earphones, and nearly twice the isolation of bulky ANR headphones. You'll hear layers of your music you've only imagined until now.

You know your music. Etymotic knows your ears.



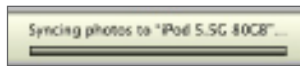
ety8 World's first Bluetooth® wireless stereo in-ear earphones

Visit www.etymotic.com for the full line of audio earphones and headsets for your music, movies, computer and cell phone.

Photos & Art

Color iPods (4G, 5G, nano) can display photos and art, while older iPods store, but can't display photos.

iTunes Transfers Photos to Color iPods



If you've ever wanted to carry tons of digital pictures in your pocket, you'll be thrilled with any color-screened iPod - 4G, 5G, and nano models all include photo display abilities. But there's a catch: you'll almost always need to use **Apple's iTunes** software to transfer photos to the iPod if you want to be able to view them.

The process isn't hard, but it's not obvious, either. iTunes continues to hide photo importing in its **Preferences** menu, requiring you to click first on the **iPod Tab** and then the **Photos Sub-tab** beneath it. You're then given options, starting with "Synchronize photos from:", which lets you tell iTunes where to find your photos.

The easiest next step on a Windows PC is to select your **My Pictures** folder, and on a Mac, the **Pictures** folder. Any photos you drop into those folders will then be transferred to the iPod. But you can also use **Choose Folder** to select any other folder where your photos are already located, or if you use photo library programs such as **Adobe's Photoshop Elements** (\$80-\$90, Mac/PC) or **Apple's iPhoto** (\$79, in the iLife '06 bundle for Macs), you can select that program by name. iTunes will let you see all of the individual photo albums you've created, and you can choose either to **Copy all photos and albums**, or **Copy selected albums only**.

There's one last option: if you want your iPod to store printer-quality versions of your pictures, click the **Include full-resolution photos** checkbox. Then you'll be able to connect your iPod to any computer and make good prints. But leaving it blank will save space on your iPod, and you'll still be able to see all of your pictures - you just won't want to print them, because they'll look grainy and coarse.

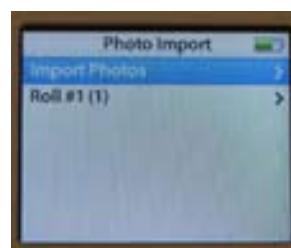
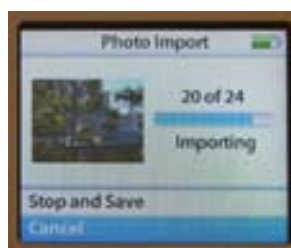
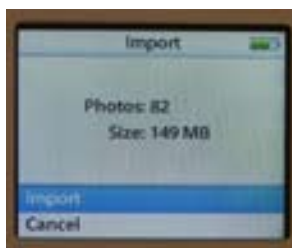
Clicking on **OK** will begin an optimization and copying process that may take some time. When it's done, you'll find the photos in your iPod's Photos menu.

Transferring Directly From Your Camera



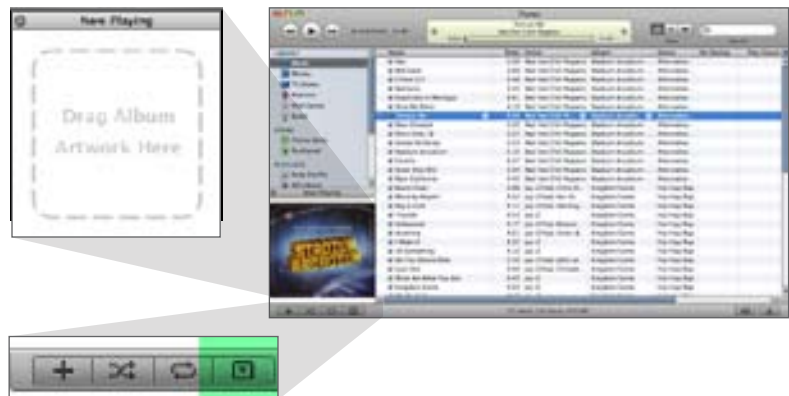
If you don't want to carry a laptop with iTunes just to view pictures on the iPod's screen, you can buy an add-on to transfer a camera's photos to full-sized iPods - not nanos - without iTunes. Some, like the \$70 SD card reader **iWay** and **Belkin's Media Reader** (discontinued), only work on specific full-sized iPod models; Apple's **iPod Camera Connector** (\$29) works with color 4Gs and 5Gs, but is now hard to find.

When you connect any of these devices to the right iPod, an **Import screen** appears (bottom left), counting photos and their storage needs. **Press the iPod's center button** to import them, and each image appears. Then a list of each imported "roll" of pictures will appear on the iPod, and you can **browse the shots**, except for movies and RAW files. Photos are found as rolls in the iPod's DCIM folder, and copied off of the iPod by dragging and dropping from Windows or OS X.



Now that all full-sized iPods and nanos have color screens, album artwork has become a fun part of iPod use. If you're missing art, it's easy to add. Just select a song, and drop any picture from your computer into the square box that reads **Nothing Playing** or **Drag Album Artwork Here**. (Look at the bottom left of your iTunes window under the **Source** list. If nothing's there, use the fourth button from the left to open it.) Or you can right-click on a song or group of songs, then hit **Get Album Artwork**. So long as you have an iTunes Store account, art will download automatically. **You can even add multiple pictures** and scroll through them with the arrows right above the picture. You'll only be able to see one picture at a time on your iPod.

Add Album Art to Individual Songs



Adding Other People's Pictures

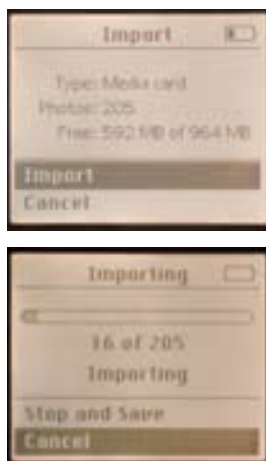
So you're not a photographer and don't own a digital camera, but still want to view cool pictures on your iPod's screen. Join the club. There are now photo packs designed specifically for iPod owners - the most famous of which, **iBod**, was released by **Playboy Magazine** only to be mysteriously pulled from the company's web site.

But more wholesome content is available. **Earth Videoworks' iCandy** (\$15, earthvideoworks.com) is a CD-ROM that runs on any PC or Macintosh, installing 42 different photo galleries onto your color-screened iPod. The collection includes 1200 pictures ranging from artwork to sunsets, forests, coastlines, mountains and other nature photography. There are also hundreds of kaleidoscope images like the ones shown here.

Want to add free pictures you find online? Just save the images in a folder on your computer, and tell iTunes where to find it using the iTunes Transfers instructions on the previous page. Virtually any photo you save will be converted automatically.



Storing Digital Photos on a Non-Color iPod



In late 2003, **Apple and Belkin** introduced the first iPod accessory capable of moving pictures from a digital camera to a 3G or 4G iPod - the **Media Reader**. CompactFlash, SD, MMC, SmartMedia and Memory Stick cards can be inserted into the Media Reader, which plugs into old full-sized black-and-white iPods (not mini, nano, or 5G) and brings up the **Import** screen (top left) - a one-click transfer option, which slowly indicates progress (below). Subsequently, you can erase the card after the transfer completes. The Media Reader has been discontinued, and sells for \$15 and up online.

Belkin later introduced another option, **Digital Camera Link** (right), which connects 3G and 4G iPods to many popular digital cameras. You'll need to use the Link and the USB cable that comes with your camera, then press a white button on the Link's face. No other input is needed, and the transfer takes place. Unfortunately, the Link consumes power from your iPod, its own batteries, and your camera. You can find it for ~\$25 online if you need one.



Travel Goodies

Add directions, translation software, and other traveler-friendly features to your iPod.



Color iPod Tours and Maps

Like many great ideas in need of further exploitation, **PodGuides** (podguides.net) could be a killer app for color iPods, but for one thing. A PodGuide is a free, 20-minute long combination of a voice-narrated city tour with on-screen photographs. The PodGuides are downloaded as podcasts through the iTunes Store, and meant to be accompanied by a numbered map (in PDF format) that you download and print out before embarking on your tour.



Here's the one piece of bad news: there are only six guides available right now: one for Opal Coast, France; three for cities in Belgium; one for Sibton Park, Kent, England, and one for the St. Louis Science Center. But the site gives away PodGuide Generator, a PC, Mac, or Linux program so that you can make your own PodGuides.

Then there's **iSubwaymaps.com**, a site with iPod-sized maps of 24 famous subways. Tokyo's subway features English, Japanese, and Korean maps, plus ones formatted specially for 4G or 5G iPods. San Francisco even has a nano-sized map.

Translation Software

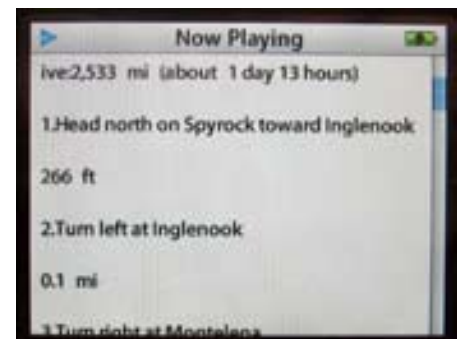


One of the least-touted features of the iPod is perfectly suited to language translation programs: using the built-in Notes feature (found under Extras), you can display text files that are linked to audio files. Now companies use this feature to turn the iPod into a foreign language translator with text and voices.

Talking Panda's iLingo (\$40 for Asia pack, \$50 for Europe pack, talkingpanda.com) provides English translations into ten different languages - French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and Russian in the Europe pack, and Cantonese, Mandarin Chinese, Japanese and Korean in the Asia pack. Each language contains over 400 different translated phrases, intelligently organized in menus that are ready to use wherever you are. Similarly, **Wuhan Venus's iParrot** series (\$20-25 per language, iPodXP.com) covers those, plus Arabic, Thai, and Vietnamese. Both products work on all iPods save 1G, 2G, and shuffle.

Once locked inside little devices you had to rent at car galleries, audio tours are becoming increasingly popular as iPod downloads. If you're looking for free options, start with the **iTunes Store's Podcast section**, which has dozens of tour podcasts available for free download if you search using the word "tour." The City of Alexandria, VA, Rick Steves, and Slate Magazine are amongst those offering freebies. Paid options include **Soundwalk** (soundwalk.com), which sells \$12 audio tours - mostly of New York City, but also Paris, France, Varanasi, India, and Berlin, Germany - while **AudioSteps** (audiosteps.com) sells \$12 tours of five major U.S. cities and two in the U.K, and **iJourneys** (iJourneys.com) offers \$15 tours of European cities. If you need something more specific to your current location, **Purple Ghost Software's iGadget** (\$20, purpleghost.com) and **Verstige's iDirectionz** (free, verstige.com/ iDirectionz/ - capital D required) gather driving directions for any specified set of locations, puts them into iPod format, and sync them to your iPod's Notes directory. **ZappTek's iSpeak It** (next page) for Macs creates audio and text (lyrics) directions.

Audio Tours and Driving Directions



Live Life Loud™



iHome™



Rock and roll out of bed with your iH8 iPod® alarm clock radio. From your first stretch to your last yawn, groove to your favorite tunes. Your iPod® powers up on the one-size-fits all charging dock, while the clear Reson8™ speakers take your music to a higher level. Sounds like another beautiful day.

🔊 **The world's #1 producer of clock radios for the iPod**

Check out the entire line at www.ihomeaudio.com



Available at:

www.apple.com www.ihomeaudio.com

iHome and its products are trademarks of SDI Technologies, Inc. iPod® is a trademark of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries.

Books

Now you can enjoy three types of books on an iPod: text, comics, and audio-format books can be added in a flash, with low (or no) price tags.

eBooks, Cookbooks & More



Thirteen-thousand free books for your iPod? That's right. The eBook craze from several years ago failed to popularize dedicated electronic eBook readers - once anticipated to replace real books - but it did create a tremendous wealth of electronic books just waiting for readers. **Manybooks.net** currently offers 16,645 free downloads, including Sun Tzu's *The Art of War*, Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, *The King James Bible*, and much more, all in Notes format. You'll need to enable your iPod's Disk Mode (see Personal Data & Files a few pages up), download a book, and then just drop its folder into your iPod's Notes folder using the Windows Explorer or the Macintosh Finder.

There are other books available online, too. **iPrepPress** (ipreppress.com) offers free downloads of key U.S. laws and card game rules, **SparkNotes Study Guides** to popular books and AP courses (\$5), TOEFL test prep for \$15-20, 2005 and 2006 Major League Baseball stats (\$5), and dictionaries and encyclopedias. Celebrity chef **Emeril Lagasse** has released free iPod-ready books at the Fun section of **emilr.com** - under Stuff for iPod, you'll find the **Recipes2Go** and **Recipes2Go Too** series with 1,000 recipes each. If you're willing to pay for iPod-ready recipes, **TalkingPanda.com** (iBar, \$30) and (Pocket Bar & Grill, \$10) sell them.

Comics on your iPod? **Clickwheel.net** today offers 119 different digital comic series - up from 90 last year, and 9 the year before - many of which have multiple episodes. They're designed for color-screened iPods, and free. You can even subscribe to RSS feeds so that new episodes download automatically. A new site, **JonasMoore.com**, is previewing a trilogy of iPod-formatted graphic novels starring a character named Jonas Moore, planned for release in late 2007. They'll be videos, not just still images.

Comic Books Designed for Color iPods



Download Audio Books and Convert Web Pages or Text to Audio



We were surprised to discover how much we liked audiobooks: listening is easier than reading, and hearing a great actor or the original author read a book is more compelling than seeing the words in print. **Audible** (audible.com) offers individual audiobooks at prices comparable to their print versions, and subscriptions (\$10-15 monthly) that entitle you to any one or two books each month. **Apple** also sells audiobooks through the iTunes Store - sometimes cheaper - but you'll do better with an Audible subscription overall.

Want to create your own audio files? **iSpeak It** from **Zapptek** (\$15 for Mac, zapptek.com) can load documents, web pages, driving directions, weather, news headlines, or other RSS feeds, and convert the text into audio files. The Mac's built-in voices are OK. **Zero2000's 2nd Speech Center** for Windows (zero2000.com, \$40) can turn e-mails, text files and web pages into MP3 or WAV format files, speaking in your choice of free or paid voices that can actually sound quite good - especially **AT&T's Natural Voices** (\$30-35).

Calendars & Contacts

Your friends, colleagues, and key dates, organized.

Sync Your Calendars and Contacts: PC

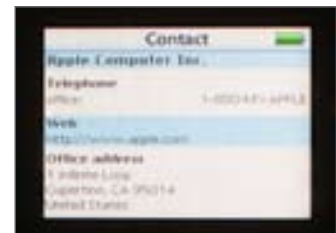
Years ago, Apple added a limited collection of PDA-like features to the iPod - limited being the operative word for **Notes**, **Calendar**, and **Contacts**. Unlike PDAs, which have keyboards and writing styluses, iPods' controls can't easily be used for text input, so you can look at, but not edit whatever you store on the devices. And you'll need to synchronize (or "sync") data from separate calendar and contact/address book programs to do it.

At the beginning, iTunes only handled calendar and contact synchronization for Macintosh users, but today's iTunes allows Windows PC users to enjoy the same benefits - assuming they're using the right Microsoft software. iTunes recognizes contact information from the free Outlook Express/Windows Mail, Windows Contacts, or Microsoft Office's Outlook. Once you connect an iPod to your PC, you select your iPod in the Devices list, then select the Contacts Tab. You first select the checkmark next to "Sync contacts from:" and then choose which program's list of contacts you'd prefer to use. The synchronization process is pretty quick, and yields contacts formatted like the ones at right.

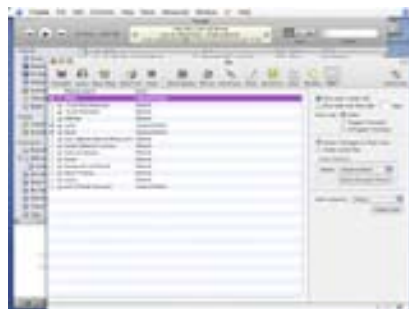


Unfortunately, Microsoft doesn't include iPod-compatible calendar software with its PCs, so iTunes' only hope for calendar synchronization is Microsoft Office's Outlook. If Outlook isn't installed, iTunes will refuse to let you play with the synchronization settings, which are simple: Synchronize All Calendars, or Selected Calendars Only.

PC users may also get a kick out of **Purple Ghost Software's iGadget** (\$20, purpleghost.com), which in addition to handling calendar and contact synchronization also imports e-mail, Notes, and Tasks, plus turns web-based weather forecasts, RSS newsfeeds, movie listings and horoscopes into iPod-viewable text files. Simple settings windows let you choose the data to transfer or ignore, including just how many days of historical and future-looking calendar information you need to keep in your pocket. Once synced, your calendars and contacts will look as they do on the screens to the right. iGadget also has many other useful features, including copying or backing up iPod media onto your PC.



Sync Your Calendars and Contacts: Mac



The Calendar and Contacts sync process is easiest for Macintosh users, particularly those using Apple's Mac OS X Tiger (10.4) operating system. After connecting and selecting your iPod in the Devices list, picking the **Contacts Tab** lets you import data from Address Book and iCal. Users of non-Tiger Macs can use **Apple's** older free application **iSync**, instead, and those with Microsoft Entourage data can use **ZappTek's iPDA** (\$20, zapptek.com) for syncing. Additional programs, such as **ProSoft's** upcoming **Jax** (prosofteng.com, left), also promise iGadget-like features for Mac users.



www.purpleghost.com

"By the way, your software is excellent and does everything I wanted, a combination of efficiency and simplicity!"
- Aidan B.



iGadget™



Songs and Playlists

Transfer songs and playlists from your iPod to your PC and/or into iTunes while preserving play counts, user ratings and last played dates.

Outlook Data

Get rid of your PDA and put all your Microsoft Outlook data onto your iPod including email, appointments, contacts, tasks and notes.

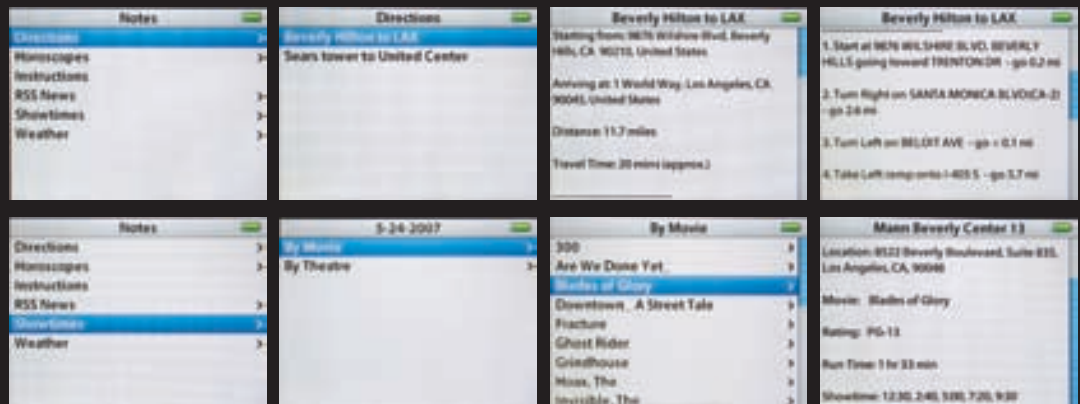
Backup Important Files

Backup any set of files and folders from your PC to your iPod for safe keeping.

Internet Data

Put all kinds of information from the internet onto your iPod for instant access anywhere.

Driving directions
example



Movie showtimes
example



iRepo X™



Also available is iRepo X for Mac. iRepo X allows you to transfer songs and playlists from any iPod to your Mac.



Personal Data & Files

iPods can hold complete PC backups and transport data.

Using your iPod as a hard disk is pretty easy: connect it to your computer, then open iTunes, and select the iPod under the **Devices** list. Under the **Summary Tab**, you'll see the **Enable disk use** checkbox. Select it, then hit **Apply**, and your iPod's ready to go. You can now drag files to the iPod's icon on your desktop, or in Windows Explorer or the Mac OS X Finder. If you think you'll be using the hard disk features often, uncheck **Open iTunes when this iPod is attached**. This way, iTunes won't load every time you want to connect the iPod just to copy files using the operating system.



If you've set your iPod to **manually manage songs and playlists**, it is already set to work as a hard disk, and you don't need to do anything else. Just click **Apply**, and the iPod's icon will appear on your Windows or Mac desktop (lower right). But be careful to **eject** your iPod when you're finished (left, from the System Tray in Windows); if you don't, you could lose the files you've copied or otherwise screw the iPod up in some nasty ways.

Use Your iPod as a Hard Disk



Use iPod shuffle/iTunes Phones as Hard Disks



Apart from their smaller storage capacities, there are other differences between the Disk Modes of standard iPods and iPod shuffles or Motorola's iTunes Phones. Select the device under the **Devices** list, and under the **Settings Tab**, check **Enable disk use**. You'll see a slider representing 100% of the shuffle's total capacity - 120 or 240 songs on the left, 512MB or 1GB on the right. You'll need to tell the shuffle how much space to reserve for data, but you can change it later. It works just like a hard drive.

iPod shuffles and Motorola phones are formatted so both PCs and Macs can read them. Original plastic shuffles don't require a cable for connection, and can plug into any computer with a USB port; newer shuffles need a dock.

Securing Your Personal Data

While it's easy to store files on the iPod, it's not as easy to store them securely. If your Pod is lost or stolen, its contents will be open for all to see. That's why **Pariahware** came up with **Pod Secret** (\$30, pariahware.com), a PC or Mac program that stores data - computer files or personal information such as credit card, traveler's check or passport numbers - in an encrypted format that only you will be able to read. Separately, **Maki Enterprise's PodSmith** (\$20, makienterprise.com, right) is a Mac-only program that turns your iPod into a key that unlocks your Mac or files. Just don't lose it!



Carrying Your PC on Your iPod



If carrying your contacts around isn't enough, try **PowerHouse Technologies' MigoSync** (\$50, 4migo.com, reviewed as Migo Personal), which lets you carry an encrypted clone of your home PC's hard drive anywhere you go. It lets you access your Outlook e-mail, Internet Explorer favorites, desktop folder and other files on any connected PC.

Games

Every iPod except the shuffle comes with games, but you can add even more, including updated takes on classic text adventures.

Apple's Four Free iPod Pack-Ins

The iPod's first game wasn't even obvious to its owners: a version of the classic Atari game Breakout (originally worked on by a young, later-to-be Apple CEO Steve Jobs) was hidden in a menu. That game later became **Brick**, one of four games found on every screened iPod, joined by the Missile Command-like **Parachute**, the card game **Solitaire**, and finally the trivia game **Music Quiz**, where you identify a song snippet from five choices on iPods or nanos, or four on the iPod mini.

Updated color versions of these games were not especially dramatic improvements. Brick added colors, but reduced the number of bricks per line. Solitaire added the ability to endlessly scroll in whatever direction you were moving, rather than stopping at one edge of the screen. Music Quiz moved the location of its countdown timer, and Parachute's graphics became more detailed. Sequels to Brick and Music Quiz called Vortex and iQuiz are now available for download from the iTunes Store.



Believe it or not, iLounge's editors were suckers for text adventures way back when - both Choose Your Own Adventure books, and early computer games like Zork and the Scott Adams Adventures. Now modern versions of these classic, simple games have been brought to the iPod, with simple menu choices that lead you through stories with multiple paths.

Malinche Entertainment (malinche.net) is one of a few companies that are selling iPod games (\$10), with horror story **The First Mile**, thriller **Endgame**, murder mystery **Greystone**, and fantasy adventure **Pentari: First Light**. **iPodSoft** has given away a program called **iStory Creator** (tu cows.com/preview/396253) that lets PC or Mac owners make the games for free; it has been replaced by **Talking Panda's iWriter** (\$30). Similarly, the site **iPodArcade.com** offers titles for free download.

Text Adventures & Trivia



Advanced Users Only: Free Games (and More) via Linux Hacks



Doom (above), Blue Cube/Tetris (below), Ms. Pac-Man 5G (below)



Back only one year ago, the most graphically advanced iPod games were hacks that were ported over by Linux fans. After installing a program called **Podzilla** on your non-shuffle iPod, you'll be able to switch back and forth between standard iPod music functionality and Linux programs - including a bunch of well-known games. Performance varies from iPod to iPod, and though few of the titles are as elaborate as the official iTunes Store iPod Games, the Linux games run on minis and nanos.

The site **iPodLinux.org** offers Podzilla and a large collection of games, most notably a port of Doom that looks OK on color iPods and barely visible on black and white ones, plus Tetris (Blue Cube), Pong, and other games. Coders have also released an emulator called **iPodMAME** that runs the Pac-Man/Ms. Pac-Man games, Zaxxon, Pengo, and Centipede on 5Gs and nanos; an emulator called **iNES** runs Guerilla War, Megaman, and Super Mario 2, and the separate **iBoy** runs 85% of GameBoy games. The screenshots here come from the iPodLinux site.

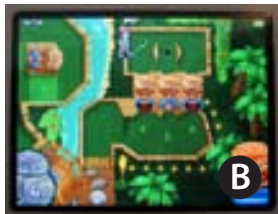
iTunes' Downloadable iPod Games

If you have a fifth-generation iPod and a yen for games better than Apple's pack-ins, the iTunes Store is ready to help you out. Seventeen different games - most recently including Sony BMG's **Musika** (right) and Electronic Arts' **The Sims Pool**, are sold for \$4.99 per title, in addition to the 99-cent trivia game **iQuiz**. Each of the iPod Games is meant to be enjoyed in quick doses, with progress saved at any point you have to interrupt play. Each game has limited music, so your iPod's library can provide the soundtrack. The only bummer: the games don't play on nanos, Apple TVs, or iPhones.



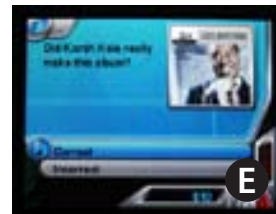
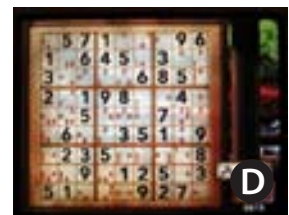
Card & Sports Games

Royal Solitaire (A) evolves the iPod's built in Solitaire with 10 game variations and cartoony art. **Mini Golf** (B) is a light-hearted, low-impact miniature golf game with three courses. And **Texas Hold'Em** (C) offers wager poker with interesting backgrounds.



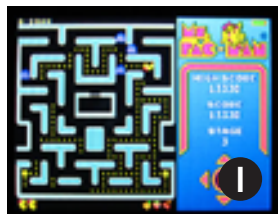
Brainteasers & Puzzles

Sudoku (D) provides both number-matching puzzles and a tool to solve grids from the newspaper. **iQuiz** (E) creates trivia from your iPod's music database, includes movie, music, and TV trivia of its own, and lets you import new questions. **Mahjong** (F) is a Chinese tile matching-game.



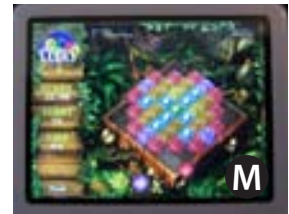
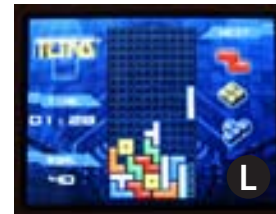
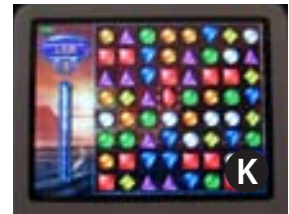
Twitch-Style Action Games

Vortex (G) is a block-breaking game like Brick, but with cool 3-D backgrounds. **Pac-Man** (H) and **Ms. Pac-Man** (I) are classic arcade dot-munching games, not done great justice by the iPod's Click Wheel-style controls. And **Zuma** (J) has you shoot colored balls at a spiraling line of matching targets; you have to eliminate 3 at once to survive.



Block-Matching Games

Based on a popular cell phone game, **Bejeweled** (K) has you match three like-colored blocks - here, shaped like jewels - to eliminate them from the screen. Between-stage transitions use 3-D tunnel effects. **Tetris** (L) is the once-ubiquitous Russian "dropping blocks" game that helped the Game Boy succeed, enhanced with new iPod-ready graphics and limited by iPod-styled controls. **Cubis** (M) is a colorful block-matcher like Bejeweled, but with 3-D stacked blocks and your choice of different levels and block themes.



Make Your Own Fun

New software lets you create iPod-ready books and games.

Mogopop: Snag or Make Books

Until recently, creating your own iPod-ready multimedia content hasn't been easy, but two developers have released tools that let anyone release iPod books or games. The people from **Talking Panda** have **Mogopop.com**, a web site now filled with iPod books, videos, and games - all user-generated with its free web-based tool.



An on-screen page editor (right) lets you create text-based pages and link pages to each other, like mini iPod-only web sites. You can also create picture, music, and video links on your pages, as we did when we created the popular **2007 Guide to New iPod Accessories & More** (left). When you're finished, Mogopop publishes your creation to its web site with whatever promotional graphics and text you prefer.

To see it - or other content - on your iPod, you just download a free, easy to use program called **Mogopop Manager** from the site, then click the Download button on any Mogopop download page that interests you. Manager transfers the content to your iPod's Notes section, and can delete content if you later decide you're done with it. A new feature called **iPod Your MySpace** lets add a badge to your MySpace page so friends can sync it to their iPods to read on the road.

Create Trivia with iQuiz Maker



Unlike Mogopop, **Aspyr Media's** free program **iQuiz Maker** (iquizmaker.com) assumes that you've spent 99 cents to purchase Apple's fifth-generation iPod trivia game iQuiz, and that you want to create additional "trivia packs" for it. Sure, using Mogopop lets you create trivia games too, but iQuiz Maker has an advantage: you can choose or create new artwork to display on the iPod's screen while the trivia questions are being answered. While the artwork doesn't change on a per-question basis, you can create an interface that's a lot cooler than plain black text on a white background.

iQuiz Maker includes simple tools to create true/false and multiple choice questions in one language, add foreign language localizations, and establish the rules - how many questions are asked, and how many wrong answers end the game. You can also pick winning and losing messages, select themes that are downloaded from the iQuizmaker.com web site, and test your quiz in an iPod-like sample mode. In the future, teachers could conceivably use iQuiz as a hip way to test students - if the student reaches the You Win screen, she passes. We'd expect iQuiz to get even better in the future.



Action Hero

Supercharge your next run with the **DLO Action Jacket**. Visit **dlo.com** now to see our complete line of MP3 cases.

DIGITAL LIFESTYLE OUTFITTERS

©2007 Digital Lifestyle Outfitters. Digital Lifestyle Outfitters, the DLO logo and Action Jacket are trademarks of Digital Lifestyle Outfitters, Inc. All Rights Reserved



BT CUP

TunePro

PowerTune

all new **iPod** accessories

Call us for dealers near you **1.800.644.1132** or visit us at: **www.macally.com**

4

Enjoying Your iPod Everywhere. No matter where you go, your iPod's ready to entertain you. Our big picture accessory guide looks at the best ways to exploit your iPod's abilities, starting **At Home.**

Tabletop All-in-One Speakers



One of the most popular types of iPod speakers is the "all-in-one" tabletop speaker, pioneered by **Bose's SoundDock** (\$300, iLounge rating: B+): one enclosure houses stereo speakers and an iPod dock, and typically includes a remote control. Sold in glossy white or black, Bose's system offers rich sound and is a model of simplicity, but costs more than most other options. Overall, the best such system we've seen overall is **Altec Lansing's** tube-shaped **iM7** (\$250, iLounge rating: A-), shown left, next to SoundDock. iM7 beats Bose on sound quality, looks, and adjustability, plus can run off battery power if you want to use it outdoors.

Shown here, other top options in this category include **Athena's iVoice** (\$170, iLounge rating: A-) and **Griffin's AmpliFi** (\$150, iLounge rating A-) which sound like SoundDock, but at much lower prices; and **Logitech's AudioStation** (\$300, iLounge rating: A), which matches SoundDock's price but sounds significantly better, offers user-adjustable bass and treble, and includes an attractive AM/FM clock radio sans alarm features. Each of these options comes only in black as of press time.



Alarm Clock Radios

After an extended period in which **iHome** dominated alarm clock radio sales, great new competitors appeared. **XtremeMac's Luna** (\$150, iLounge rating: A-) has good AM/FM tuning, plus an outstanding, iPod-like menuing system to program dual alarms, adjust bass and treble, and tweak its attractive clock screen. **Philips' AJ300D** (\$70, iLounge rating: A-) has only FM tuning, but also includes dual alarms

and has an impressive dedicated bass driver; as the best low-cost radio we've seen, it costs less than Luna but also does less. Finally, **iHome's iH7** (\$150, iLounge rating: A-) is the only iPod alarm clock radio we've seen to include a third cabled speaker, capable of going on the other side of a large bed and waking two.



Boom Boxes



Aside from the iM7 above, there are now quite a few iPod-ready boom boxes, ranging in price from under \$100 to a new high of \$350.

Harman Kardon's futuristic **Go + Play** (\$350, iLounge rating: B+) is by far the best of the bunch in audio quality, rivaling many indoor speakers but including a tube-

like handle and battery compartment for portability. **MTX Audio's iThunder** (\$200, iLounge rating: B) sounds good for its price but has boxy, old-school lines. You'll only appreciate it when you hear the warmth and clarity of its audio by comparison with lower-cost alternatives. **iHome's iH31** (\$130, iLounge rating: B+) is sleeker and more fully-featured by a mile, including FM radio and iPod shuffle compatibility, but sounds flatter - a better outdoor listening option than indoor one. **iLuv's** \$90 **i552** (iLounge rating: A-) has an AM/FM radio and delivers great value for its super-low price.

Component Speaker Systems

Back before there were dedicated iPod speakers, companies such as JBL marketed multi-component, computer-ready "multimedia" speakers to iPod owners. You'll need to add an iPod dock and remote, but even so, they're still good deals. On value, the best of these speakers is **JBL's Creature II** (\$100, iLounge rating: A, top), a pair of small satellite speakers with a dedicated subwoofer and excellent bass/treble controls, available in five colors; JBL's more expensive **Encounters** (\$150, iLounge rating: A-) deliver superior clarity, but less user control, while its transparent **Soundstick IIs** (\$170, iLounge rating: A-, second) offer better looks and additional detail.



In recent months, companies have developed component systems with integrated iPod docks and remotes; the best of these is **Monitor Audio's i-deck** (\$250, iLounge rating: A-), which compares favorably to JBL's best systems above on audio quality in treble and midrange, but doesn't offer as much thump in the bass. It's available in black and silver versions, but you'll have to search for it online:

it can still be found - for as little as \$150 - but has been axed in favor of a newer model, **i-deck plus** (\$330, iLounge rating: B, third), which looks almost identical, adds a good FM radio tuner, loses i-deck's RF remote, and sells at a huge premium.

iPod Docking Stations

If you want to connect your iPod to a home stereo, you'll want one of these. **Griffin's AirDock** (\$70, iLounge rating: A-, top) packs an aluminum dock, RF iPod remote, power, AV, and USB cables - a great value. **Keyspan's AV Dock** (\$80, center) includes an even more sophisticated RF remote control but uses plastic parts, and **DLO's** cool-looking silver and black **HomeDock Deluxe** (\$150, iLounge rating: B, below) was first to offer on-TV iPod music and movie navigation menus, and has a complex remote, wall charger and cables. But it's pricey for the novelty.



Oversized All-in-One Speakers



Though there are exceptions to this rule, bigger speakers generally come with higher price tags, and these four iPod speakers are examples. Weighing 33 and 66 pounds respectively, **Geneva Lab's Model L** (\$599, iLounge rating: B+) and **Model XL** (\$1075, iLounge rating: B+) are glossy red, black, or white boxes with the most power we've seen in



any dedicated iPod speakers, but you'll need to buy stands (\$99) separately. **Chestnut Hill Audio's** smaller **George** (\$549, iLounge rating: B+) is the biggest alarm clock radio we've seen, delivering impressive (though not Geneva Lab-level) sound quality and the most sophisticated remote control yet developed for the iPod. It detaches from George's face,

allowing you to control iPod music, the radio, and alarms from rooms away, but the battery runs down pretty quickly, so you'll need an optional \$50 charger. If you want something outrageous, **mStation's** metal **Tower** (\$300, iLounge rating: B) stands nearly 43 inches tall and delivers powerful bass, but isn't amazing on clarity, especially in the midrange. **Ignitek's** earlier **iCarrier** (\$250, iLounge rating: B, not shown) offers a similarly tower-like design, but in a cheaper-feeling plastic, wood, and metal shell, at an obviously cheaper price.



On Campus. Your computer and iPod are your best friends at school, and easy to protect with separate holders - now you can coordinate them with stylish matching cases designed by some of the world's top bag makers.

Sumo Cases Backpacks and Sports Cases

No company has blended resilient ballistic nylon and leather as impressively as **Sumo Cases**, which has released one of our favorite new bags to match its popular series of full-sized iPod cases. The **Men's Computer Travel Pack** (\$150) includes three straps, quickly converting from backpack to shoulder bag, and even includes an external zippered iPod pocket with a headphone port hold on its side. You can store a 15" laptop securely inside, along with books, papers, and other supplies - an oversized front pocket

is ready, in addition to the large interior space, which needn't hold a laptop if you'd prefer to use it for more general purposes. Many Sumo iPod cases, including the all-ballistic nylon iPod Flap (iLounge rating: A-, \$20) and hybrid leather and nylon **5G Horizontal PlayThru** (\$25, shown) match the Travel Pack's body, providing even greater detachable protection for your iPod when you'd prefer not to stow it away inside. Sumo's women's bags are also great.



Booq Anaconda, Python XM, and Vyper Cases



Snake names aside, **Booq's** popular series of bags, laptop sleeves and iPod cases would still intimidate your foes: the **Anaconda** case (\$45) is large enough to hold your full-sized iPod, with a top-closing flap and an expandable design that is also compatible with other MP3 players and portable devices. Similarly, the **Vyper Notebook Sleeve** (\$50-60) comes in a variety of sizes, and uses a zip-closed ballistic nylon design with anti-scratch interior coating to protect any laptop - even including Apple's latest MacBook Pros. But our favorite of the bunch is **Python XM** (\$190), a brutally tough-looking 15" laptop backpack - actually large enough for 17" PowerBooks - with a ballistic nylon body, a ton of book (or clothing) storage space spread out across numerous compartments, and straps to keep the whole thing secure on your body, no matter where you are. An iPod pocket's integrated, too, with two layers of zippers.

Marware SportSuit Convertible and SportFolios

When **Marware** introduced its Orca-skin series of iPod cases (including **Sportsuit Convertible**, \$35), we were floored by the smooth new take on neoprene. Then the company brought Orca to its laptop case lines: **Sportfolio Deluxe** (\$80-90, size-dependent) is the handle- and strap-equipped design, while **Sportfolio Sleeve** (\$30-40) is a slimmer zippered sleeve fit for carrying sans bulk. The combination of traditional black neoprene and blue Orca: hot. We'd love more colors.



iSkin SOHO and SiLo Leather and Simulated Leather Cases

When we say that **iSkin's SOHO Cases for MacBook** (\$60) and **MacBook Pro** (\$65) are the nicest faux leather computer cases we've yet seen, that's not a backhanded compliment: the padded cases with cool metal zippers and colored zipper tracks smell and look like the real thing, and do a nice job if you need to transport your computer from place to place. Subtle colored stitching provides a touch of classy personalization without overwhelming your eyes. While the matching **SiLo Cases** (\$30) are still only for the first-gen nano, they're made from real leather and include silicone cases and mini mirrors on the inside for protection and primping. Five SOHO colors are available, while SiLo comes in four.



TUNEWEAR Quality accessories for iPod and iPhone



Stereo Sound Recorder
for iPod nano
Record using iPod nano

TUNEWEAVE FM
Ultimate FM transmitter set



FM Transmitter

+



12V charger adapter

+



USB cable



PRIE Ambassador 5G
Genuine leather cases for iPod 5G



PRIE Ambassador nano
Genuine leather cases for iPod nano



PRIE TUNEWALLET micro
Wallet sized genuine leather case for iPod nano



TETRAN
Fun cable winder for earphones

On Your Own. If you're trying to seal out the world, these headphones are our very top recommendations: each one constitutes a big step (or more) over Apple's iPod pack-in earbuds, revealing incredible hidden audio details.

Cheap Phones: \$50 and Under



Sony MDR-EX81

Cheap earphones aren't known for comfort or audio quality, but the **EX81s** (\$50, iLounge rating: A) are standouts. Three sizes of included silicone rubber tips create a great seal with your ears, and for the price, you'll find the sound to be clean and nicely balanced. We found them supremely comfortable, but their soft tops may fit your ears differently, so buy them locally or through an online retailer with a good return policy. You can find them for under \$35 in either black or white.



Apple iPod Earphones

This time last year, we preferred many alternatives to **Apple's** original iPod pack-in earphones. But when Apple released the updated **iPod Earphones** (\$29, iLounge rating: B+) in September, our complaints - and those of many of our readers - were largely resolved: the new earbuds are comfortable, with plenty of bass, and don't need the old foam covers any more. For the price, we like them a lot.

Mid-Range Earbuds: \$150 and Under



JAYS d-JAYS

Music can be presented "accurately" or "with color," namely emphasis on certain parts of the audio spectrum. Available in white or black, **JAYS' d-JAYS** (\$100, iLounge rating: A-) pleasantly pump up the low and high end, contrasting with the neutral, accurate audio in ER-6i. As with Etymotic's offering, you'll hear \$50-phone-beating detail in your music, but certain iPod EQ settings might sound a bit odd. Our only issue is fit: as small and light as they are, activity makes them pop out of your ears.



Etymotic ER-6i

Once in your ears, the **ER-6is** (\$149, iLounge rating: A) single-handedly teach you the difference between \$150 headphones and their cheaper brethren: for the price, their sound clarity and balance are unrivaled. Previously hidden details will appear in every song you own, leading you to revisit all of your old favorites again. And the "i" is for isolator - in addition to their comfort, they block out most outside noise. White and black versions are available, both with a nice textured soft case, and foam eartips if you prefer form-fitting earbuds similar to higher-end designs.

Premium Listening: \$400 and Under



Etymotic ER-4P

When you consider that the **ER-4P** (\$300, iLounge rating: A) can be had online for as little as \$180, you'll realize why we still love this reference-quality earphone, which renders audio detail at levels by which other earbuds should be judged. Current versions use nice black cords and include a new zippered soft case, but remain available only in black.



Westone UM2

While the ER-4P is clean and balanced, **Westone's UM2** (\$299, iLounge rating: A-) is richer in the mids and lows, making music sound smoother and less clinical. Comfortable ear tips and casings make these a surprisingly snug pair of twin-driver earphones.



AKG Acoustics k701

We've admired and enjoyed literally dozens of headphones, but one stands out from the rest as an ideal in-home option - if a slicker and more comfortable pair of over-the-head earcups than the **k701 Premium Class Reference Earphones** (\$400, iLounge rating: A) has been developed, we haven't seen them. They won our earbud-toting editors over on looks, sound, and feel, becoming an instant object of envy. Silky smooth, detailed sound leans warm, but lets highs pop and creates a vivid stage. Listening is enhanced dramatically by velvet-covered cans, which soothe your ears while on; and you won't want to take them off - maybe ever. The white and chrome body matches the classic iPod look, to boot; a genuine leather band up top adds old-school class. Though the k701s are too large to carry around, this is our top pick for in-home listening with an iPod or stereo. Today's model comes with a 1/4" plug and 3.5mm adapter, plus a 10-foot cord, which you'll likely want to wind up if you're carrying them around; we've liked **blueLounge's cableyoyo** (\$5, iLounge rating: A-) for this purpose.

Price No Object Earphones



Shure E500PTH/SE530

Last year's top pick, **Ultimate Ears' \$900 UE-10 Pros**, have been upstaged: **Shure's E500PTH** (\$500, iLounge rating: A) - also known as **SE530** - delivers the same triple-driver audio technology, but with an even better sound balance. The price premium over ER-4P buys you decidedly superior bass response and warmer mids without compromising on the high-end detail that Etymotic is known for; E500's rounded casings and various-sized tips offer impressive comfort, too. A detachable, optional push-to-hear (PTH) box lets you hear ambient noises without pulling out the earphones, a feature you may not want to pay for.

At The Gym. The iPod's at its best when you're finishing those last two miles on foot or bike, or straining out one last rep. These add-ons are the best we've seen at keeping your iPod music playing safely while you're active.



Sport & Underwater Earphones

We've held off on recommending sport headphones in the past for a number of reasons: mostly, we haven't found a pair that's right for every type of sport out there, and most of the sporty headphones we've tested fall out of some ears, or don't sound quite right. **Sennheiser** is aiming to change that with its latest **PMX70, LX70, and OMX70 Sport Headphones**, which have been ruggedized with strong cables and coated with rubber to feel better in the ears. PMX70 (\$50) uses a firm neckband to secure its earbuds on your head; the OMX70s (\$45, shown) are our favorites, wrapping around your ears and including a cool case,

while the LX70s (\$55) are buds with a flexible cable. All three pairs are sweat- and water-resistant, and intended for use on land. By contrast, **Aquapac's 100% Waterproof Headphones** (\$40, iLounge rating: B) work above or below water - even to 10-foot depths when paired with H2O Audio's iPod cases. Reasonably priced, they sound better above water than other submersible earphones we've tested. Their only issue is that, unlike H2O Audio's Waterproof Headphones, they're earbud-style and not reinforced in your ears, so a tug can pull them out. You may need to towel them off to restore full fidelity to their drivers.

iPod Armbands



There are different types of armband solutions. **Carrie Scott's** fairly priced terry cloth **Jamband** (\$17, iLounge rating: A-) softly covers and holds an iPod nano or shuffle on your wrist, using clear vinyl as a screen cover. **Belkin's SportCommand** (\$80,

iLounge rating: B+) mounts a weather-safe remote control on your arm and lets you keep your iPod inside a jacket or backpack nearby. If you're not afraid of exposing your iPod, **XtremeMac's SportWrap** (\$30, iLounge rating: A-) lets you use its included case with or without wrist and bicep bands. Finally, **Marware's Sportsuit Convertible** (\$30-35, iLounge rating: A-/B+) is amongst the best armband cases we've seen for full-sized iPods, combining Orca neoprene and a pull-off, semi-hard lid with a great belt clip, armband, and simple wrist strap. It shields your 5G from the elements, and comes in black, blue, or silver. There's a nano version too.



Bike Mounts



For safety or other reasons - bikers have been injured and occasionally killed while distracted by iPods - few companies have released iPod-specific bike mounts. But **Risse Racing** is selling **Mork Mount** (\$30, left) and **Strata Systems** has

iBikeMount (\$30, right), both for iPod nano. Mork uses a thick rubber band to hold the iPod on a coated aluminum mount; iBikeMount instead uses hard plastic and clips. Each is sturdy and well-made; just be careful using them.



Waterproof Sport Cases

Though several other companies - namely Power Support, SKB, and Tunewear - have either announced or released "water-resistant" iPod cases, two companies have dominated the market for "waterproof" iPod cases for the past couple of years. **Otter Products** has led the way with its durable **OtterBox** cases for iPod nano (\$40) and video (\$50, shown submerged), each of which has rated an A- in our reviews. They promise and deliver "waterproof, dustproof, dirtproof, sandproof, and drop-proof" protection in a shell that feels ready to absorb anything. We've tested each of the cases to depths below their 3-foot (1-meter) ratings, and had no problems with leaks; unless you're planning on diving, your iPod is certainly safe inside. Both versions include detachable belt clips; while the nano version includes a necklace; you can buy optional armbands for \$15 each. Until recently, Otter's chief competitor has been **H2O Audio**, maker of more sophisticated

and expensive waterproof cases. H2O's **Waterproof Housing for iPod nano** (\$80, iLounge rating: A-, shown) is rated for submersion to 10-foot (3-meter) depths, and includes its own neoprene armband; a waist-mounted swimbelt is sold separately for \$40, as is a pair of truly waterproof headphones from H2O that also works with Otter's and similar cases. A full-sized iPod 5G case (\$90) is also available with virtually identical design. Need something less expensive? **Aquapac's \$40 MP3 Player Case** (iLounge rating: B) fits all full-sized iPods and can also hold nanos, and comes with a necklace and lanyard, but isn't as ideal for any model as the Otter and H2O options.



Exercise Software

Whether you're using a video-enabled iPod or an older iPod, with or without a color screen, there are ways you can carry workout routines in your pocket to the gym. **PumpOne.com** offers **PumpOne Trainers** (\$19 and up), a series of 4-6 week training programs that each include workouts in photographic format. Themes include Pilates, the Swiss Ball, PumpedMama for recent moms, and more. Optimized for small iPod screens, the photos have instructional text overlays, showing the name of each exercise, the body part you're working on, and

your start and end positions. The photos are played over your own music. **Podfitness.com** offers a \$20/month service that lets you create personalized daily audio workouts by over 50 celebrity or featured trainers, and mix them with your choice of iTunes music. Finally, **iWorkout** (\$20) from **Helmes Innovations** contains routines for abs, cardio, full body, lower body and upper body, as well as circuit training, presented in two versions: one for older iPods with text and spoken routines, and one for newer iPods with text, speech, images, and even video clips.



Nike+ Series: The Nike+iPod Sport Kit



Ninety-nine percent of iPod accessories are developed by companies with only minimal input from Apple. Like Belkin's 2003 Voice Recorder and Media Reader accessories, the **Nike+iPod Sport Kit** (\$29, iLounge rating: A-) is one of the exceptions: a combination of Apple- and Nike-developed hardware, software, and footwear that redefines what an iPod's capable of doing. Loaded with version 1.2 (or later) of Apple's iPod Software, any iPod nano - but only the nano - can become a digital personal trainer, using the Sport Kit's shoe-mounted sensor and a nano-mounted wireless receiver to record your workouts and provide feedback on your running performance. The

companies have thought of almost everything here: the sensor slips into a nook found in Nike+ shoes, and the nano into a pocket found on Nike+ clothes; you can improvise alternatives if you prefer. While running, male or female voices will fade in and out of your music to tell you how far you've progressed through one of four types of runs - basic (unrestricted), limited time, limited distance, or limited calories. By pre-recorded standards, the voices are impressive and easy to understand, but not mandatory. Turn them off, and use the nano's screen to track your performance without audio interruption. Once you've finished a run, iTunes can automatically send your results to a Nike+ web site for personal tracking or comparison against other runners. What's missing: battery replacement. After 1000 in-use hours, the sensor dies. Sound familiar? But for \$29, if you run a lot, just buy another Kit.



Choose Your Shoes

As of today, there are over 50 pairs of Nike+ shoes, and by year's end, Nike has promised to make all of its shoes Sport Kit-compatible - a sign that it is clearly backing this accessory in a major way. Each Nike+ shoe has a small hard plastic sensor nook hidden under the foot pad, which lets you keep the sensor clean and safe while in use. Pairs range from \$70-130, with the **Air Zoom Moire** shown here in black/orange, and **Air Zoom Plus** shown in mixed black, gray and orange versions. Your old favorite pair of non-Nike+ shoes will work with the Kit if you add on a shoelace pouch like **Marware's \$10 Sportsuit Sensor+** (iLounge rating: B).



Clothes, Too

The first **Nike+ Sport Armband** (iLounge rating: C-, shown) was a weak, no-screen-access armband, but has recently been followed up with a clear screen protector version. Nike has also released an incredible array of nano-ready Nike+ clothes, most with a simple, screen-covering nano pocket and a padded surface to help you identify the iPod's central Action button. The Sport Kit's audio feedback is supposed to suffice while you're running; standard iPod armbands don't force you to give up the nano's screen at all.

Quick Start

You can use the Sport Kit almost immediately after the sensor and receiver are in place: a new Nike+iPod menu appears on the nano, with the aforementioned four workout categories, Settings, and History as options. Just select Basic, pick a playlist, shuffled songs, or no music, walk around to activate the sensor, and the workout begins: your current time is indicated in big red numbers, with distance, pace, and current song title in smaller text above them. Pressing the iPod's menu button lets you pause or end the run.



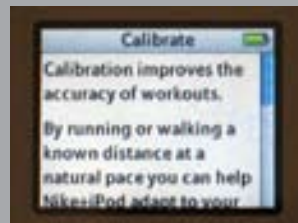
Other Paths

If you want to set specific goals for your run, you have three options. Time-based runs can be set for 20, 30, 45, 60, 90, or a custom number of minutes from 5 minutes to 9 hours, 59 minutes. Distance includes 3K, 5K, and custom settings from 0.05 miles to 99.95 miles (160.85 km) in addition to the options at right. Calories are set from 100 to 800 in 100-calorie increments, or in 5-calorie custom increments up to 9995. Your chosen focus will appear as the big red number on the screen, making it easy to see how close you are to the goal. Voice cues are also available for each type of workout.



PowerSongs and Kit Calibration

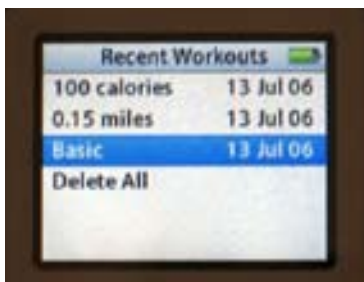
Sport Kit also lets you pick one PowerSong - your personal "I need energy" track. It plays when you hold the central Action button; a light tap on that button provides voice feedback on your run. How reliable are the Kit's distance and calorie measurements? Apple and Nike say that the Kit is 90% accurate out of the box, a claim borne out by testing. It rises to 97% accuracy by using sensor calibration and weight input features found under Settings.



Store, Sync, and Share

Once you've finished working out, there's more: the nano stores your data in a folder, allowing you to access the information from the History option, as shown on the screen below. But that's nothing: if you want, iTunes will then transfer your data to Nike's Nikeplus.com web site, which requires that you sign up for a free account. Once logged in, you can view months of your past performances in graphical form, with a running tally at the top of the screen to let you know just how much you've run with the Sport Kit since day one. The information's also found on the nano's Totals screen, but nowhere near as nicely presented as on Nike's site.

Of all the iPod-related accessory pages we've seen online, Nikeplus.com's interface is the best, making it easy and fun to track your progress over time. You can even compare your results against other Sport Kit users (famous ones or friends), and run shadow races against them by comparing your separately-run times. There are even Mac and PC widgets now to help you quickly monitor your goals.



In The Car: Low-End. If you want a cheap way to hear your iPod on your car stereo, FM transmitters, cassette tape adapters, chargers, and mounts are the way to go. Individual parts range from \$10 to \$60, full solutions \$70 to \$100.



FM Transmitters

As we've explained in great detail on the iLounge web site, FM transmitters are your car listening option of last resort: they turn your iPod into a mini FM radio station, attempting to overwhelm an empty channel on your car's stereo. Most transmitters flatten your music and introduce static or other distortion into the signal; we've only heard a few great exceptions. **Belkin's TuneFMs for iPod and iPod nano** (\$50 each, iLounge ratings: A-) are portable transmitters that hang off of your iPod's bottom, delivering legitimately good sound quality inside or outside your car. Each comes with a detachable car charger cable that lets you broadcast and

charge your iPod simultaneously while you drive; station selection is handled on the iPod's screen. By comparison, **Kensington's** earlier **Digital FM Transmitter/Auto Charger** (\$80, street price \$50 and up) has its own easy-to-read LCD screen on a car charger-mounted station tuner, and provides clear, dynamic sound when used with iPods, nanos, and minis. **Griffin Technology's iTrip for iPod nano** (\$50, iLounge rating: A-) uses on-iPod tuning and is shaped like a sled for the best portable nano design we've seen, but you'll need to buy a charger separately; **XtremeMac's AirPlay Boost for iPod nano** (\$50, iLounge rating: A-) also works well.

Cassette Tape Adapters

Our recommendations for iPod cassette tape adapters have hardly changed for years. The best tape adapter we've seen is **Philips' PH2050W** (\$15, iLounge rating: A-, shown), which connects to your iPod's headphone port or the audio-out port of an charging accessory like **Belkin's Auto Kit** (\$40, iLounge rating: B+), and provides better-than-FM transmitter audio quality with very

little noise or distortion. **Belkin's TuneDeck** (\$50, iLounge rating: A-) combines an iPod nano dock, tape adapter, and charger to great effect, but doesn't work with other iPod models. **Griffin's SmartDecks** (\$30, iLounge ratings: B+/B) promise to let you use your existing car stereo controls to also control your iPod, but they work unpredictably (often poorly) in some cars.



Tape Adapter/Line-Out Charging Mounts



It's easy enough to piece together several cables or accessories for your iPod, but far more difficult to find one accessory that does multiple things well. TEN Technology, Griffin, and XtremeMac have all been working on gooseneck car mounts - flexible metal pipes with iPod cradles at one end and car chargers at the other. **TEN's FlexibleDock** (\$50, iLounge rating: A, shown) was our favorite of the bunch, with the physical strength to properly mount any full-sized or smaller Dock Connector-equipped iPod, a built-in charger, and a line-out port that uses a switch to provide clean audio output when connected to a tape adapter or car stereo's auxiliary-input port. With TEN recently shutting down,

FlexibleDock is becoming harder to find. By comparison, **Griffin's TuneFlex and TuneFlex nano** (\$50 each, iLounge rating: B+) has a pass-through port so that many accessories can be used at the same time. Both TuneFlex models come in standard and "AUX" versions, one with a weak cassette adapter, the other an audio cable. Both have a switch that toggles between proper audio levels for tape and aux-in use. For the same price, **XtremeMac's MicroFlex Car for iPod nano** (\$50, iLounge rating: B) doesn't include a tape adapter or a tape/aux switch, but it does permit the nano to be connected to the company's older **AirPlay 2** FM transmitter at the same time.

Inexpensive Car Mounts

If you want to mount your iPod in your car, but don't want to spend a lot of money, you have several choices - none excellent, but all fine for their prices. **Griffin's iSqueez** (\$10, iLounge rating: B+) is a foam rubber cupholder that's better suited to full-sized iPods and old iPod minis than iPod nanos. It fits basically any car cupholder, with rubber that easily adjusts for a firm grip. Similarly, **Nyko's Universal Car Mount** (now commonly sold for \$10, iLounge rating: A-) is made for full-sized iPods and minis, with spring-loaded clasps that hold most models well. It attaches to virtually any car's air vent with metal clips. Finally, **Handstands' iSticky Pad** comes in two sizes - regular (\$9, shown) and XL (\$10), each working in the same way. You stick one to a flat surface on your dashboard, then stick your iPod on it. If the surface is really flat, the sticky but non-adhesive pad will keep your iPod in place - readers swear. If not, the iPod will fall.



Deluxe Car Mounts

Low-end car mounts can only take you so far: they typically aren't designed to perfectly grip your car, iPod, or both. That's where **ProClip** comes in: the company's deluxe car mounts come in two pieces, the first custom-made to fit a specific car, and the second made to fit a specific iPod model or models. Our favorite ProClip mount is the **Padded Adjustable Holder with Tilt Swivel** (\$40, iLounge rating: A, top) which has soft anti-scratch side brackets that will hold an iPod with or without your favorite case attached. As the name suggests, it tilts and swivels on your choice of angles for a perfect view in your car. Another noteworthy option is the **Padded Holder with Tilt Swivel for Cable Attachment** (\$50, iLounge rating B+), which internally mounts many popular iPod car chargers. The car-specific piece costs \$30 more for a total of \$70-80 when assembled, but you'll be thrilled with the look and fit of this solution.



Three- or Four-in-One (Transmitter/Line-Out/Charging/Mounting) Accessories



seen is **Belkin's TuneBase FM** (\$80, above, iLounge rating: B+), which uses a metal gooseneck to mount, charge, and broadcast tunes from any iPod - full-sized, nano, or mini. (A nano-only version is sold for the same price.) Today's TuneBase FM's have better FM transmitters than ever before and are stably mounted in virtually any car thanks to stiff gooseneck mounts. The only bummer is that both versions omit a line-out port, so they're only used with FM radios, not cabled connections.

DLO's most recent **TransDock** (\$100) has an internal FM transmitter and two unique ports. One outputs both video and audio, while the other's a USB port to let you charge an iPod and another device, such as a cell phone. Though we prefer TuneBase FM's broadcasting and gooseneck mounting arm, TransPod sounds pretty good and, depending on your car, might or might not be easy to stably mount with its included plastic pipes. You can also color-shift its bottom from black to silver with two inserts.



In The Car: High-End. If you're looking for CD-quality sound, the ability to display iPod videos on in-car monitors, or a completely integrated iPod and GPS navigation solution, these premium-priced options deliver the goods.

Premium Audio Only



Even if your iPod is filled with CD-quality music, low-cost accessories degrade that quality: FM transmitters drop music to radio quality, and tape adapters do only a little better. Sure, they work, but can you live with the sound quality?

If your answer is no, there are several ways you can guarantee a CD-quality connection between your iPod and car stereo; the only catches are pricing and the type of stereo your car has installed already. Unless your stereo has an auxiliary input port, which requires almost no extra parts, plan to spend \$150 or more, depending on the quality of the solution, and contact a few professional car installers (next page) with your car's specifics before picking from below.

Add an auxiliary input. Companies such as **PAC** sell kits to add an auxiliary input to your car's stereo (\$99 plus installation); this port will let you hear iPod and non-iPod music, but won't charge your iPod's battery. So you'll want **SiK's imp** cable (\$30, iLounge rating: B+) for charging and line-level audio output.

Add a dedicated iPod integration cable. For an all-in-one iPod audio and charging solution, try **USA-SPEC's** iPod cables for various car models (\$150 plus installation). **PAC, Peripheral, and many auto makers** now sell iPod-specific cables, too (\$199 plus installation). See Apple.com/ipod/ipodyourcar.

Add a complete iPod audio integration kit. We really like the brand-new color-screened **Harman Kardon Drive + Play 2** (\$400, shown), which has a wireless iPod control knob, line-out, FM transmission, and cool add-ons, but the older **Drive + Play** (\$200, iLounge rating: A-) is cheaper, with fewer features.

iPod Video in Your Car



It's exceedingly easy to make your iPod's audio play through car speakers; video is another story altogether. Assuming you've installed a monitor in your car - a step that typically requires the services of a professional auto installer - you should have RCA-style video ports (top) that can connect to any of the accessories here. To connect an iPod to the monitor, you'll need to address two issues: outputting video, and simultaneously charging the iPod's battery so the video doesn't stop playing abruptly.

The only cable we've seen that does both things is **XtremeMac's RoadShow** (\$50, iLounge rating: A-), which makes this process incredibly easy. It simultaneously handles both video output and charging, allowing you to carry your iPod out to your car, plug in a single cable to its Dock Connector port, and not have anything else to do. It's also one of the only AV cables we've seen that pulls audio and video from the iPod's superior bottom port rather than its top headphone port. But unfortunately, it adds some noise to the audio signal.

Another option is to buy two separate cables, which costs a little less than RoadShow, but requires more effort every time you get in the car. Our favorite AV cables are **Griffin's HomeConnect** (\$15), **Marware's AV Cable for iPod** (\$18), and **Belkin's AV Cable for 4G/5G iPod** (\$20). Each connects to the iPod's top headphone port, while a separate car charger (\$20-30) connects to the bottom Dock Connector port. If you're looking for convenience, pick RoadShow, but if you want cleaner audio, go with separate cables.

Featured on the prior page, **DLO's** latest **TransDock** (\$100) now combines iPod video output with a car mount, charger, and FM transmitter, allowing you to pipe movies or TV shows into an in-car video system's monitors via a cable.

iPod-Ready AV/Navigation Systems

It's hard to find a more deluxe in-car iPod integration option than this: an aftermarket, touchscreen navigation and/or AV system (\$900-\$2200), typically professionally installed by an auto shop (\$300-500) and connected to a system-specific iPod cable (\$30-120). When you're done, iPod track and artist info appears on the car's screen, and you can navigate the iPod's library without using the iPod. Unfortunately, not all of these iPod integration kits were created equal - some offer features that markedly distinguish them from others.

Alpine IVA Systems

Across three models - the double-DIN **IVA-W200** (\$1100, shown) and single-DIN **IVA-D310** (\$1400) and **IVA-D100** (\$1200) - **Alpine** offers a key feature we haven't seen in other iPod-ready AV systems: Full Speed iPod browsing, which lets you scan the iPod's library on the 6.5-7" touchscreens almost as fast as using the iPod's own controls. The company's new **KCE-422i iPod cable** (\$30) is compatible with virtually every iPod case, too. What's missing? Without special rigging, the IVA systems won't play iPod videos - they're audio-only - and GPS navigation is sold separately.



Clarion VRX765VD/MAX675VD

Clarion now offers several iPod-ready touchscreens: the single-DIN **VRX575USB** (\$800), **VRX775VD** (\$1200), and double-din **MAX675VD** (\$1200) all have 7" displays, while the \$600 **VRX375USB** has a 3.5" monitor. None has GPS built-in - you'll need to add a Clarion accessory separately for this, Bluetooth, or satellite radio - and each also offers optional audio and video integration for iPods. You need to pair each VD-series system with the audio-only **CCA670 iPod audio cable** (\$70), or **CCA673 audio/video cable** (\$80); the USB-based systems use the **CCA691** (\$70) instead.



Eclipse AVN6610 and iPC-106

Though we've liked **Fujitsu-TEN's Eclipse** navigation/AV systems when we've seen them in person, they're not standouts when it comes to iPod integration. Paired with the **iPC-106 iPod Adapter** (\$50), the company's **AVN6610** (\$1700) and **AVN5510** (\$1400) DVD navigation systems use 7" touchscreens to provide artist, album, and song details, plus searches by playlist, artist, album, genre, or song. The company's **CD7100** (\$700), **CD5100** (\$550) and **CD3100** (\$300) feature far more limited displays and GPS features, but similarly mimic the iPod's screen and music features.



Kenwood DDX and KVT Series

As with Clarion, **Kenwood's** numerous AV system kits ship GPS-less, and there are lots of them, ranging from the 6.95" double-DIN \$800 **DDX6019** (shown) and \$1200 **DDX8019**, to the 7" single-DIN screen-only **KVT-M707** (\$1200) and the single-DIN 7", 5.1-channel Surround, remote controlled DVD/CD system **KVT-819DVD** (\$1200). Some units require the **KCA-iP500 iPod Kit** (\$100); others the **KCA-iP300V** (\$30).



Pioneer AVIC-Series AV Systems

Pioneer makes several iPod-ready AVIC navigation systems - the deluxe **AVIC-Z2** (\$2200), midrange **N3** (\$1800), and cheapest **D3** (\$1000). The double-DIN Z2 includes a 7" touchscreen, plus a 30GB hard drive for GPS navigation, with 3-D maps and voice command features. The N3 has a single-DIN 6.5" pop-out screen, while D3 has a 6.1" double-din screen. All three systems can play DVDs or CDs, and require you to use the **CD-IP100II iPod Interface Adapter** (\$50), which charges and displays your iPod's track, artist, and album info. iPod navigation is regrettably slow.



iPod Road Test: Porsche Boxster



Last year, we decided to take a brand new car with zero iPod integration of any sort, and make it sing with a premium iPod upgrade. We chose **Porsche's** convertible **Boxster** (\$50,000, as sold), shipped with an AM/FM radio and CD system. Since there was no way we'd use an FM transmitter in this car, we gutted it, adding Pioneer's **AVIC-Z1 AV/Navigation System** and more at an installed cost of \$3,000. Then we tested different iPod kits from Pioneer and others, in the process learning tough lessons about high-end integration. Our best tips and worst discoveries are all below.

1. Pick the Right iPod Interface



It's not easy to choose an aftermarket iPod kit: different non-iPod features are important to different users, and vendors' websites don't show many photos of their iPod navigation features. Our advice: research options online, and before you purchase anything, visit a local store to test out all the features you find important. We picked AVIC-Z1 because we liked the GPS features and its touchscreen, but since it was new and local stores didn't have it on display yet, we couldn't try the iPod features for ourselves. That was a big mistake. Only after it was installed did we discover that the AVIC's iPod interface was unusably sluggish - much worse than lower-cost options - and that Pioneer's **CD-IP100II iPod Adapter** was incompatible with many iPod cases, as well. We opted to pull the CD-IP100II and replace it with various AV cables, which lost us the AVIC on-screen menus, but had other benefits.

2. Pick the Right Installer



Today, virtually every car shop sells iPod kits and installation - that means lower prices, but also that some mediocre installers offer sub-par services. We wanted the AVIC's face plate to look just like the Boxster, but not every shop is capable of fabricating such a thing. Since the quality of installers literally varies from city to city and shop to shop, we don't feel comfortable recommending any specific chain, and caution readers not to presume that large chains such as Best Buy or Circuit City are necessarily better than small ones. Contact one or two car dealerships that specialize in your brand of car, and ask whether they handle iPod installations, or can recommend a few local shops that do good work. Once you've picked an AV system, ask the shops for quotes, and go with the one you're most comfortable with - including quality guarantees. Our installer knocked \$450 off AVIC's price and promised satisfaction, then delivered it when we struggled to make the iPod integration work.

3. Enjoy the iPod

For better or worse, this is what high-end car interfaces look like today: garish facsimiles of Apple's interface, minus the ease of control. Pioneer's AVIC-Z1 menus (shown) only support audio output from the iPod, despite the fact that Z1 has a 7" screen that can play back DVDs and external video from non-iPod sources. It also forces you to scroll through songs or artists step by step, touchscreen press by press, without any fast or proportional scrolling feature. It's so slow that you might take literally minutes to get from A to M on a full-sized iPod. Alpine's Full Speed iPod browsing, by comparison, lets you quickly skip around your library, but our preferred solution is still to use the iPod's screen itself. This is impossible with most kits; they disable the iPod's screen and controls entirely.



So we tested three alternatives. The first was **Belkin's AV Cable for 4G/5G iPod**, which looks cool but connects to the iPod's headphone port, thereby requiring constant volume tweaks. Second was a **Capdase Come Home AV Cable**, which connects to the iPod's Dock Connector port for a constant level of audio output. But it prevents you from listening to the iPod and charging the battery at the same time.

We finally settled on **XtremeMac's RoadShow**, which combines an iPod charger and AV cables into a single black and gray Dock Connector accessory. It connects to AVIC's RCA-style AV input, and our installers cut the charger bulb off, splicing the cable directly into our car's power circuitry, running the cable through an iPod-sized hole under the screen. The result - iPod-quality control, good audio quality, video output to AVIC, and charging. We topped off the install with this color-matched **Vaja iVod SP** (\$90), a premium racing striped, puffed leather case that ended our project with a final touch of class. Vaja's website at vajachoice.com lets you pick two from many colors.



Auto Bluetooth Wireless



Believe it: the future will be wireless - even today, there's no need to connect your iPod to a car stereo with cables. **Scosche Industries** now sells the **Bluelife iPod/Universal Bluetooth Car Kit with Hands-Free Microphone** (\$250), a single system that allows your iPod and Bluetooth-ready cell phones to play audio through car speakers. Like **Oakley's O ROKR Bluetooth Eyewear** (\$249, iLounge rating: B), Scosche's included microphone lets you have hands-free phone conversations, too.

The kit requires you to have a car stereo with RCA inputs, and you'll want a professional car installer to integrate its pieces: a Bluetooth 1.2 receiver with auto charger, a phone mount, cabling, a 15-hour battery-powered transmitter backpack with cradles for various iPods, and a leather case to hold the backpack together with many non-iPod devices. You'll achieve roughly 30-foot distances between the iPod transmitter and car receiver, assuming both are mounted properly. Scosche envisions the transmitter as a more or less permanent attachment to your iPod, and offers a second, optional \$130 in-home receiver that connects to your stereo. In other words, when you're at home, play the iPod through your stereo, then walk to your car and play it there, without wires. The only issues: the backpack's not exactly small, and while the Bluetooth 1.2 audio quality is acceptable, newer Bluetooth 2.0+EDR solutions can do better.





Freedom is
sweet.



CERULEAN TX + RX

Make your iPod the ultimate remote control.

iSkin®
iSkin.com

Out Of Town (Travel). These recent accessories are designed to follow you wherever you go, bolstering iPod run time, performing its audio, and more.

Battery Packs: Rechargeables and Non-Rechargeables



When you're far away from home, there are different ways to keep your iPod running: power outlets, pricey, rechargeable battery packs, or cheaper, disposable batteries. For both environmental and practical reasons, we prefer rechargeable batteries, and our favorite remains **BTI's IP-V01** (\$90, iLounge rating: A-) - which adds at least 45 hours of added audio playtime on full-sized iPods, or 12 hours of added video playtime on 5G models. Lower-powered iPod minis and nanos can do even better, but you'll need to use them without the included cradle: IP-V01 is 5G-focused, and includes a combo stand/belt clip to prop it up while video is playing. **iLuv's** recent **i603/i604** (\$65, iLounge rating: B+) combine a 30GB or 60/80GB iPod-

specific battery and silicone case into one 60 music hour, 9+ video hour accessory. **Griffin Technologies'** cheaper, simpler **TuneJuice** (\$20, iLounge rating: B) keeps your iPod running off of any single disposable 9-Volt battery - something readily available wherever you might travel for roughly \$2. TuneJuice adds only 4-8 hours of life to an iPod, more than enough to keep you going until you're near an outlet, or battery store, and it's cheap.



In-Air iPod Chargers

If your iPod runs out of power in a plane, there's almost nothing you can do - unless, of course, you have one of the two in-air chargers currently on the market. **Monster Cable's iAirPlay Charger** (\$30, iLounge rating: B+) powers and charges an iPod, and comes with a car adapter for use when you're not in the air, but uses an

oversized Dock Connector plug that isn't compatible with all iPod cases. **XtremeMac's InCharge Traveler** (\$70, iLounge rating: B) is a more deluxe and expensive package, bundling stylish car, wall, and air chargers with a carrying case and four sets of international wall blades. It's designed as a turnkey travel power option, and works as advertised.



Travel Cases: Small or Large

Whether you like to travel light or pack aggressively, there's an iPod travel case designed to fit your needs. On the "large" front, **Incise** sells a gray ballistic nylon **Travel Kit** (\$69.95) for use with full-sized and mini iPods, using mesh pockets that are designed to carry all of your major iPod accessories and travel documents together. It's one of the largest iPod cases we've tested, and includes a hybrid wall and

car charger that incorporates an audio-out port. Smaller but similarly impressive options include **STM's** fantastic **Cocoon** series (\$30-40, iLounge ratings: A/B+), which combine hard external zippered travel shells and internal mesh accessory pockets with silicone or plastic iPod skins you can use for lighter protection, and **Handstands' iSnug** series (\$40, iLounge ratings: B+/B), which also include hard and soft shells - two cases per package, actually, but use cheaper-feeling leather for their light iPod protection.



Portable Speakers



In order to be a truly portable speaker by iLounge standards, a listening device needs to run off of battery power and fit easily into a briefcase or comparable small bag. We've seen many such

speakers over the past few years, but the best of them are standouts for their respective prices.

Logitech's mm50 (\$150, iLounge rating: A-) uses four total drivers to deliver superb portable sound quality, and includes an iPod dock, Infrared remote control and rechargeable battery. For the same price, the **iM600** by **Altec Lansing** (\$150, iLounge rating: A-) sounds very similar - a hint off Logitech's performance - but also includes a FM radio tuner and an even sleeker, video- and USB data-ready enclosure, lacking only MM50's carrying case from a features perspective. You'll need to decide whether mm50's superior audio or iM600's more robust features suit your needs.

If you're willing to step down a little on sound, **Logic 3's i-Station 7** (\$100, iLounge rating: A) delivers a better feature set for the dollar than any other \$100 system, with a remote and dedicated bass driver.



Noise-Isolating Earphones

There are two schools of thought on what makes an ideal pair of travel earphones: older users tend to prefer over-the-ear headphones, such as **Bose's QuietComfort 2** (\$299, iLounge rating: A-), which completely covers your ears with soft cushions and plastic earcups, using active noise cancellation technology to screen out the grumbles of vehicle engines. Bose includes a carrying case; QC2 folds up into a fairly convenient size for travel, and we prefer it to the newer, pricier QC3. Younger users tend to prefer in-canal earbuds, and the best ones we've tested use rubber tips to provide similar isolation to the QC2. Other than the in-ear phones we picked for the earlier On Your Own section, particularly Etymotic's awesome ER-4Ps, we're also fans of **Ultimate Ears' super.fi 5 Pro** (\$250, iLounge rating: A-, shown), which sounds great, fits well, and includes a metal carrying case. If you're budget-constrained, **Sony's MDR-EX71s** (\$30) offer impressive isolation at a very low price, but their muddy midrange has lowered our view of them as better options have emerged.



Pocket-Sized Speakers

The best pocket-sized iPod speakers run off batteries: **Macally's** small, tubelike **IP-A111** (\$20, iLounge rating: A-) and **Pacific Rim Technologies' fold-closed, better-sounding Cube Travel Speakers** (\$20, iLounge rating: A) are the best values we've seen for full-sized iPods and nanos; Cube is bigger and includes a wall adapter. **Logic 3's new i-Station Traveller** (\$35, iLounge rating: A-) is the largest of the bunch but comes in

6 colors, and excels at mids and highs relative to the bassier Cube.



Video Display Goggles

Squinting at the 5G iPod's screen for videos isn't fun during extended travel, so several companies have released video goggles designed to provide a better-than-5G iPod viewing experience. Our preferred solution, **MicroOptical's myVu** (\$299, iLounge rating: B+), is shown here, and includes a comfortable headset with snug earbuds, plus an iPod battery pack and remote control. Like **lcuiti's iWear for iPod** (\$299), its dual 320x240 LCD screens appear to be much larger than the

iPod's 2.5" display in front of your eyes; iWear connects directly to the iPod and runs off its battery, without a remote control. It's not as comfortable, but it's simpler to connect. **ezGear's ezVision** (\$400) and **ezVision X4** (\$500) aren't iPod-specific, and have fairly significant comfort issues, but include kits that work with non-iPod devices as well, and X4 uses higher-resolution displays than any of the other options mentioned here.



5

Customizing Your iPod. Looking for something more radical than an iPod case? Even on a budget, there are ways you can seriously change your iPod's looks, including colors, engraving, and more.

Recolor Your iPod's Body



One of the most dramatic iPod changes you can make is offered by **ColorWare** (colorwarepc.com), masters of iPod color-shifting. Scratch-resistant, car-quality paint and precision screening enable the iPods to change to your choice of 28 colors, one color for the Click Wheel, and the same or another for the remainder.

The price? Single-color fifth-generation iPod and second-gen nano paint jobs go for \$74, while older nanos, iPods, and minis are \$64; two-color jobs are \$20 extra. You can have some iPods' metal backs coated for \$20-30 more, and key iPod accessories such as Apple's Dock and earbuds can also be paint-matched for between \$10-20 each. Corporate-customized iPods are also available, with incredibly impressive coloration, detailing, decaling and engraving, depending on how much you're willing to spend; plan to buy these in bulk.

Colorize Old iPods



RapidRepair (rapidrepair.com) - formerly iPodMods - can change any black and white iPod screen to red, green, blue, orange, or purple for \$25. If you ever wanted a red screen for your old U2 iPod, or a green screen that matches your green iPod mini, this is the way to do it. The company also sells replacement older model iPod (\$90) and mini shells (\$60) in glossy jet black; no color mods are available for iPod 5Gs or nanos.

Owners of third-generation iPods (the ones with the four separate buttons) have an even cooler option. For \$25, you can separately change the color of each of the iPod's backlit buttons to red, white, blue, green, yellow, or orange. Keep all four the same, or mix them up.

Etch Your iPod's Back



While most companies focus on personalizing the fronts of iPods, **ETCHamac** (etchamac.com, iLounge rating: B) focuses laser beams on their backs, etching your choice of artwork and text into any iPod, nano, mini, or shuffle's metal casing. Etching prices are around \$30 for text and \$40-50 for both text and art, with a discount if you purchase your iPod directly from the company. A new feature called the Design Studio lets you pick from 11 fonts, upload your preferred artwork, lay out the markings on your iPod as you prefer, and in some cases choose from light or dark colors for the rear of your iPod. Pick your positions carefully and watch out for overcrowding the back of your iPod - it's easy.

EXPERIENCE THE VIEW™



VERY VERY BIG



NOT SO BIG



WWW.MYVU.COM

Bling Out Your iPod or iPod nano

In celebrity circles, “bling” has an obvious meaning: jewels, precious metals, and over-the-top decadance. Teeth covered in gold and studded in diamonds. Exotic cars customized with showy new rims, TVs, and encrusted steering wheels. And iPods? Our Guides have shown off some of the more famous items, like rapper Diddy’s 120-diamond iPod from Hewlett-Packard, and matching inMotion speakers. Does any normal person have a chance of grabbing attention with an out-of-box iPod or accessory after that?

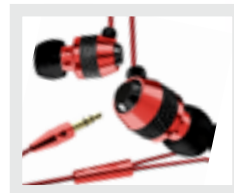
If you’re willing to compromise a little on materials, the answer is yes: Swarovski crystals, top-shelf leathers, and chromed-out accessories are bling for the rest of us, and more affordable.

Vaja’s iVod Crystal cases for the 5G iPod and first-generation nano blend Swarovski crystals with the company’s popular, beautiful puffed leather case designs. Now available in 40 different colors, the iVod Video Crystal sells for \$340, and lets you pick from 7 different crystals, with matching or different front and back halves, and a leather strap with a silver top. The nano version (\$240) is available in seven total color combinations, including a unique bronze variant with white stones. Both case sizes include integrated screen and Click Wheel protectors; versions for older iPods are also available. All of them are stunning in person - the ultimate iPod gift for a special recipient.

There are less expensive options, too. **Let’s Crystal It** (letscrystalit.com) now sells crystal-coated aluminum cases for 5G iPods and both versions of the iPod nano. Prices range from \$25 up to \$200 depending on the size of the case and the number of crystals; the “fully crystalized” nano case shown at right is \$110, with a similarly decked-out 5G version selling for \$200. The company even sells matching earbuds for \$35 per set. If you want something more authentically blingy, companies such as **Crystal Couture** (crystalcoutureinc.com) sell Swarovski crystal kits that let you encrust your iPod for as little as \$20 to \$123, depending on the size of the iPod, how many crystals you want, and how large you want the crystals to be. Smaller crystals cost more; 40 colors are available, with patterns shown on their site.

Need matching headphones to go with your bejewelled iPod? There aren’t a lot of fashion earbuds out there, but **v-moda** has a true winner of a pair in its **Remix M-Class Earphones** (\$50, iLounge rating: A-), which passed both our great looks and great sounds tests. Each of the three pairs uses bright, chrome-like metal - not painted plastic - to provide a substantial-feeling, impressive-looking alternative to Apple’s packed-in earbuds. The company’s newer **Vibe Earphones** (\$101, inset) deliver lightweight in-canal metal designs with outrageous amounts of bass - too much for some people - and four different color choices. The Red Roxx version shown here goes really well with Apple’s PRODUCT (Red) iPod nanos; a Flashblack Chrome version resembles the Remix earbuds, and is our favorite color.

Finally, **Tunewear** is hoping you’ll accessorize your accessories with a **Jewel Clip** (\$50) - one of two heart-shaped headphone cord managers made from metal and covered in crystals. A spring-loaded rear clip attaches to your shirt, pants, or a bag, while the center of each heart prevents headphone cord tangles; two stopper holes keep the ends of your cord at the desired length. Pink and white crystal versions are available; they look and feel pretty substantial in person.





a perfect UNION

Where technology and an active lifestyle meet

The OtterBox line for iPods provides the perfect union between your iPod and your active lifestyle. Now you can take your music anywhere. Hiking, climbing, fishing, swimming, running, biking are just everyday activities to an OtterBox for iPod.

Combine your OtterBox for iPod with H2O Audio Sport Headphones and now even the headphones are rugged. Or, if you prefer the water scene, use H2O Audio Waterproof Headphones and you can safely listen to your songs underwater.

Plan on buying an iPhone? Then you'll be happy to know OtterBox has a new durable case for the iPhone coming in fall '07. This revolutionary case is for users with an all-around active life style.

OtterBox...Never out of its element

www.otterbox.com 888.695.8820



By now, you've heard the standard warnings: modifying your iPod's body or guts could screw up your iPod, void its warranty, and so on. Definitely bear these admonitions in mind before trying **iPodWizard** (sourceforge.net/project/showfiles.php?group_id=153441), a PC program that lets you change the icons and fonts on your iPod.

As iPods have become more graphical, the iPodWizard software has evolved to permit much more customization of those graphics: just compare the iPod nano's screen to the iPod mini one shown here. A small but dedicated group of users, found in iPodWizard's forums (ipodwizard.net/forumdisplay.php?f=4), has worked to churn out all sorts of different themes, and even developed a tool (IPW-ThemeConverter) that converts big-screen 5G iPod graphics for use on the nano. Computer novices probably won't want to dive into these mods, which take a bit of work to install and even more to create, but hackers will find that the results can be very impressive.

Mac users have an option for iPod graphic editing, as well: **AlterPod** (mac.softpedia.com/get/iPod-Tools/alterPod.shtml), which isn't as well-updated as iPodWizard, but works for many older iPods.

Replace Your iPod's Graphics



Bling Challenge: iPod shuffle



Apple's iPod shuffles have never been the easiest to bling up: their low prices and small sizes combine to make them a less attractive target for customizing companies than the pricier iPods and nanos. With the introduction of the second-generation shuffle, the problem has become more acute: many months after the aluminum shuffle debuted, few companies have released cases, let alone serious cosmetic updates, and Apple has pre-empted part of that market by offering five different shuffle colors - all the personalization some people think the \$79 iPod needs.

There are a couple of exceptions. As with the first-generation shuffle, Germany's **ShuffleSome** came up with a series of low-cost sticker covers for the second-generation shuffle, using the latest materials and designs to improve these offerings over their predecessors. For \$6.50 plus the cost of shipping, you get front and back stickers that are either opaque or transparent, with everything from simple black ink silhouettes to multi-colored patterns of all sorts. You don't get top or bottom shuffle coverage, but otherwise, these are seriously cool stickers.

Saunders is one of several companies making aluminum overlay sleeves for the new shuffle; its **Rhinoskin Accents** are different from competitors only in that they're made from polished, glossy aluminum rather than the traditional anodized style that the shuffles, minis, and new nanos use. As a result, the Accents add some much-needed bling to the low-end iPod; you can buy one Accent for \$10 or four for \$20 in the colors shown here. Another company, **JAVOedge**, sells 3-packs of steel **JAVOshield** shells for \$16 and 7-packs for \$27, but only two of its colors (silver and jet black) are glossy; the rest are matte-finished. Still, they're a great value if you're looking for an easy way to customize the look of your shuffle.

Where your iPod lives – at home



HomeDock Deluxe™

Entertainment Dock with On-TV Navigation for iPod

HomeDock Deluxe puts your iPod at the center of your home theater. Use the HomeDock Deluxe On-TV iPod interface to navigate and select music, videos, podcasts and more on your TV. Control your iPod playback from the comfort of your couch with the full-function remote. Release the content trapped in your iPod with the DLO HomeDock Deluxe.

DIGITAL LIFESTYLE OUTFITTERS • FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US AT WWW.DLO.COM

iPodweek by iLounge.com

A weekly look at the top news, reviews, feature stories, and Backstage discussions from iLounge, the world's leading resource for iPod, iTunes, iPhone and Apple TV users.

Don't miss the weekly giveaways and iPod accessory discounts!

✦ [CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP NOW](#)



6

Expanding Your iPod: Electronics. These handy items allow your iPod to perform feats it can't handle out of the box: photo transfers, audio recording, FM tuning, and wired/wireless remote control.

FM Radio Tuners



According to iLounge readers, an FM radio receiver was one of the iPod's top three missing features in 2005. In January of 2006, **Apple** remedied the omission with its **iPod Radio Remote** (\$49, iLounge rating: A-), a wired remote control with an iPod shuffle-like button arrangement and a quality FM radio chip inside. Station tuning and presets are handled on the iPod's screen through a clean interface. It hasn't been updated since then.

An equally good option is **Griffin's iFM** (\$50), a similar combination of FM radio tuner and remote control that has been available in two separate versions. The original was silver and made for 3G, 4G, and mini iPods (iLounge rating: A-), featuring a button that records live radio broadcasts. Today's version (iLounge rating: B+) is sold in black (shown), and lacks the recording feature. Pick iFM if you prefer to keep your iPod in-pocket while you change radio stations; it handles tuning on its own nicely backlit LCD screen. The iPod Radio Remote is a better choice if you like lots of presets or value a considerably bigger tuning screen; Apple's solution also can decode RDS radio data (song titles, Amber Alerts, etc.) - sometimes.

Straight-to-iPod recording devices have come a long way since Belkin's monaural 2003 Voice Recorder for 3G iPods: with Apple's blessing, accessories can now record CD-quality, WAV-format stereo audio to either a full-sized iPod or a second-generation iPod nano. Though these files can consume hundreds of Megabytes of iPod storage, you can easily switch into a lower-quality mono mode that consumes only 1/4 as much space whenever necessary.

There are four recorders currently on the market; at least two others have been shown but not released. Our favorite is **XtremeMac's MicroMemo for 5G iPods** (\$60, top, iLounge rating: A-), which combines a user-positionable mono microphone with a built-in speaker for instant previewing of recorded audio. XtremeMac also sells **MicroMemo for iPod nano** (iLounge rating: B) at the same price, which records at a slightly lower volume level and plays back through an almost useless speaker. Both can be used with the company's optional wired lapel microphone **MemoMic** (\$30).

Other options are **Belkin's TuneTalk Stereo** (\$70, center, iLounge rating: B+) with two microphones and no speaker, and **Griffin's iTalkPro** (\$50, iLounge rating: B) with the same configuration, but lower-quality sound at a lower price. **Macally** plans a small mono mic recorder called **iVoicell**, while **Tunewear** intends to release an iPod nano-sized **Stereo Sound Recorder** of its own; neither is shown.



Stereo Audio Recorders



The Sound Companion

Logic3

www.logic3.com

Travel together with style

Introducing Logic3's new portable system the i-Station Traveller, available in six vibrant colours. The compact design allows you to listen to your favourite music with remarkable sound clarity and definition wherever you choose.



HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
iLounge.com | All Things iPod

playlist
PICK



i-Station Traveller



Compatible with all iPod's & other MP3 Players

The appeal of an iPod wired remote control with its own screen should be obvious: with one of these, you can keep your iPod in your pocket, but still see and change artist, track, album, volume, shuffle mode, and play/pause status, all at a quick glance. While we weren't blown away by **Logic3's In-Line Remote with LCD Display** (\$50-60, iLounge rating: B-), it does have a nicely backlit blue screen and a small joystick that handles volume, track controls, and play/pause modes. A hold switch on the Remote lets you avoid accidental button presses, too. But there are some oddities, such as a 20-second lag between initial connection and full functionality of the screen, and a low-volume clicking sound in iPod audio. We continue to hope for an improved sequel or superior competition.

Wired Display Remotes



Wireless Display Remotes



True CD-quality wireless broadcasting from an iPod to a stereo system isn't yet here, but would come at the cost of battery life. So **AliveStyle's PopAlive Remote + Dock** (\$129, iLounge rating: B-, below) and **Keyspan's TuneView** (\$179, iLounge rating: B+, top left) provide the next best option: keep your iPod connected directly to your stereo, and browse its contents on a color-screened remote control from two or more rooms away. Keyspan's solution is considerably more reliable, and capable of audio and video navigation from afar, but pricier than the audio-only PopAlive, which works decently but doesn't include its own power supply.

We've been hearing for years that the iPod's future will be wireless: wireless headphones, car kits, and home audio accessories have been tantalizingly close to becoming mainstream, but haven't broken through - despite the emergence of newer Bluetooth 2.0+EDR wireless technology in three recent devices. **Belkin's TuneStage 2** (\$150, iLounge rating: B+) transmits near-CD-quality sound from your iPod to your home stereo, but runs for only 5 hours on an iPod's battery. **Etymotic's ETY8** (\$300, iLounge rating: B) is the first pair of in-canal Bluetooth earphones, delivering highly impressive audio quality, only with awkward-looking boxes sticking out of your ears. **Logitech's FreePulse Wireless Headphones** (\$100, iLounge rating: B+) are much larger and fit on top of your ears rather than inside them, delivering less clarity, but at one-third Etymotic's price. Finally, **Lenntek's Hookup Lanyard** (\$70, iLounge rating: B) is a necklace and headphone combo for iPod nanos, using older Bluetooth 1.2 to let you interrupt iPod music whenever cell phone calls come in. Niche today, these devices will be replaced by superior sequels.

Other Wireless Accessories



Portable Video Displays



Video was not meant to be enjoyed on a 2.5" screen, a point made by Apple itself prior to the release of the fifth-generation iPod: especially for movies, you want something that's large enough to be watched without squinting. As an alternative to the wearable video goggles we covered earlier in the Book, four companies have released iPod-specific portable video displays - devices containing 7- to 8.5" screens and stereo speakers. Two of them - **Sonic Impact's Video-55** (\$180, iLounge rating: B+) and **Memorex's iFlip** (\$150, iLounge rating: B+) - are strong alternatives to one another, though repeated aggressive price drops have obscured the value of their original ratings. Video-55 delivers superior audio and video quality, with nicely calibrated speakers and a colorful 7" display, and also includes a remote control and car power adapter, parts missing from iFlip. Memorex's design is less expensive and uses lower-quality speakers, but has a larger 8.4" display that some users may prefer, and dual headphone ports. Both units fold up to the footprints of oversized books, and are convenient for travel, though Video-55's matte surfaces don't scratch as easily or conspicuously as iFlip's. For the same price, or even a small premium, we'd pick Video-55 overall, but iFlip is a great budget option for younger users.

There are other options in this category. **Philips** sells **DCP850** (\$200, iLounge rating: B-) and **DCP750** (\$150), with 8.5" and 7.5" screens, respectively; each has a DVD player built in next to the iPod dock. And **iLuv** sells the **i1055**, also known as the **Zeon Z1055** (\$120, iLounge rating: C), which has a DVD player under its screen and an iPod dock grafted onto its back. We weren't impressed by any of these offerings, as their screen and audio quality was decidedly sub-par by comparison with the Video 55; in each case, the iPod dock feels like an afterthought with minimal iPod control. Unless you need DVD playback, skip them.



Karaoke Accessories

Covered in much greater detail in our 2007 iPod Buyers' Guide, three sing-along karaoke accessories emerged in a bunch last year - **Griffin's iKaraoke** (\$50, iLounge rating: B), **doPi Karaoke** (\$60, iLounge rating: B), and **CAVS' IPS-11G Karaoke Station** (\$160, iLounge rating: B-). Each includes a microphone and the ability to layer your voice over your choice of background music, but from there, they differ: iKaraoke tries to voice cancel your iPod's music, while the others use special karaoke tracks you purchase separately, and IPS-11G includes a sophisticated iPod dock.



hookup LANYARD

iLounge.com
BEST
OF **SHOW**
2007 

listen to your iPod and answer your calls

www.Lenntek.com



Playing With Your iPod: Toys. What's missing from most of the iPod accessory world? Whimsy. These add-ons are designed to bring a smile to your face, not to impress on features or performance.

Cool Docks



It's easy to make a serious iPod stand or dock - there have been tens of them, almost all rather similar to one another. Creating a fun one is a challenge, and one taken up by a company called **Medicom** with several different **iKub** (\$50, iLounge rating: B+) stands. Now one of the most sought-after iPod collectibles in the U.S., the original iKub (pictured) was released only in Japan, and designed to match the classic look of white full-sized iPods. Black versions are also available if you search hard enough; shopping online at overseas vendors or eBay will help.

Each iKub - named for the company's Kubrick action figures - comes with a tray to hold your iPod, slotted to permit connection of a Dock Connector cable, and a large posable Lego-like character. He can either stand or sit, and his arms lift your Pod a bit above ground level. Metallic bear-shaped and colored iPod mini versions called **Be@rbricks ibe@rs** were released later, and an iPod shuffle version was also developed. Fans of the Transformers will want to be on the lookout for **Takara Tomy's** late July release of an \$150, all-white Optimus Prime iPod speaker system, called **Music Label - Convoy iPod Docking Bay with Speakers**, as well.

iLounge's editors love dogs, and **Tiger Electronics** has been at the forefront of dog-slash-iPod toys for a couple of years now. **i-Dog** (\$30, iLounge rating: B) plays your iPod's music through a speaker in his belly while his face and ears put on a motor-and-light show. Simple artificial intelligence makes him "happy" if you play more music, and "hungry" if you don't. The standard version comes unclothed, but amusingly, Tiger has released \$15 i-Dog outfits that match the look of Apple's earlier iPod Socks. Other animals, such as the **i-Cy** penguin, **i-Cat** (iLounge rating: B), and even **i-Fish** (iLounge rating: B-) are also fun, though their looks and built-in speakers tend not to be up to snuff with i-Dog's. For that reason, Tiger's focusing on new i-Dogs with Spider-Man and breed-specific faces.

Need a superior-sounding but still fun speaker? **Rain Design's** larger, more alien **iWoofier** (\$130, iLounge rating: B) sounds better, and includes both an iPod Dock and a radio, lacking only a tuning screen.

Toy Speakers



Fun Cases



We've been fans of **Speck Products'** series of toy-like iPod cases for the past couple of years, but the company's best-known toy designs - the iGuy, iKitty, and FunSkin series of oddly textured and shaped cases - have all but disappeared. What's left in Speck's lineup is a more conventional case called **Canvas Sport** (\$30-35, iLounge rating: A-/B+), based on the classic Converse All-Stars shoes. Available in 5 colors for the nano and 3 for the fifth-generation iPod, Canvas Sport won't make people laugh like iGuy, but it's a lighthearted way to protect your iPod nonetheless.

By comparison, **Boomwave's Diablo** (\$20-30, iLounge rating: A-/B+) and **Bearaphim** (\$15, iLounge rating: B+) cases are designed to generate conversation: the Diablo cases include devil horns and tails, sometimes pierced ears, and the Bearaphim cases are somewhat weird hybrid bears and angels with fluffy ears and wings. You can pick the color and art from a number of options; the cases do better on protection than on looks.

8

Protecting Your iPod. The iPod protection market has exploded, with cases, film, and clothes for every conceivable taste, at any price point. Below, we've picked a handful of our favorite options.

iPod Cases



1



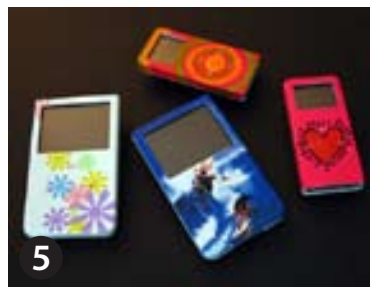
2



3



4



5



6



7



8

Adding a case to a full-sized iPod isn't a trivial matter: last year's iPod cases varied widely in protection, frequently obscured or distorted the iPod's screen, and showed little concern over thickness. Designed for video-ready iPods, these cases are smarter.

If you like hard plastic protection, our top four options are similarly priced and identically A- rated, but with different assets. **Contour Design's Showcase Video** (\$33, **1**) blends soft plastic edging with hinged, hard clear plastic front and back shells. The look is designed to show off your iPod, and does well. A nice reversible belt clip is also included, but Click Wheel protection isn't. **Agent 18's VideoShield Kit** (\$35, **2**) is entirely clear plastic, and includes a detachable video stand, hard core belt clip, and a special Dock Adapter so you can use the encased iPod in Universal Dock-compatible speaker systems.

Marware's Sidewinder (\$30, iLounge rating: A-, **3**) has a pop-out cord manager on its right and a pop-out video stand on its back. Great top, bottom, and side protection are highlights; all that's missing is Click Wheel coverage. Sidewinder is also sold for first-generation and second-generation iPod nanos, the latter in cool colors. Rounding out the top four is **Power Support's Illusion Case** (\$35, **4**), which includes mirrored front and back hard plastic shells, as well as a transparent front shell. With your iPod turned off, the case lets you see your reflection in either mirrored side, but magically gives way to the iPod's screen as soon as it turns on. Like Sidewinder, Illusion's available for nanos, too.

A much less expensive semi-hard plastic option is the **Aquarius iJacket** (\$16, **5**), which comes in an wide array of user-selectable colors and art designs. At last count, there were at least 48 fifth-generation iPod styles, each with a belt clip, lanyard, and film-style screen protector, but more versions are available. iJacket's also sold for nanos.

Silicone cases are nowhere near as hot as they once were, but a few companies are still making noteworthy options. Protection leader **iSkin** did a solid job with **eVo3** (\$35, iLounge rating: A-, **6**), which integrates a large hard plastic shield on its front, with silicone rubber coverage everywhere else - and on the Click Wheel. Your choice of flashy colors and a nice belt clip round out the pricey but worthwhile package. If you're not looking for flash, **Speck Products** took a more affordable approach with **SkinTight** (\$30/3, iLounge rating: A-, **7**), which gives you three different colors of cases in a single package for less than eVo3, each case with a nice fold-open bottom that provides part-time Dock Connector access. Screen protection is included, but Click Wheel protection isn't.

Finally, if you're still a fan of leather and flip-closed designs, **XtremeMac's MicroFlip** (\$40, iLounge rating: B+, **8**) is gorgeous and affordable, but covers your iPod's screen. Apparently discontinued, it can still be found online.

iPod nano Cases

Responding to complaints that the beautiful first-generation iPod nano wasn't scratch-resistant enough, Apple released an aluminum-bodied second-generation nano, with slightly changed curves and a wider variety of colors. Consequently, last year's nano cases needed to be replaced, and many companies went with clear or neutral colored enclosures to show off the bright new nanos rather than obscure them.

Only two second-gen nano cases have earned flat A ratings from iLounge; one of them is **Contour Design's iSee nano V2** (\$25, **1**), a clear hard plastic case with rubber Click Wheel and detachable bottom protectors. With a beautiful belt clip, iSee shows off the nano even better than Contour's Showcase designs, without compromising on protection. **SwitchEasy's** more recent **Capsule** case (\$20, iLounge rating: A-, **2**) is highly similar, comes in clear or smoke black versions, and includes a lanyard necklace, but isn't as good a choice for accessory connection as iSee; neither is as ideal in this regard as the next case.

iSkin Duo (\$30, **3**) is our other flat A-rated case, combining a colored hard plastic top layer with a mostly clear silicone rubber bottom layer, and a matching protective plug for the nano's bottom. You also get a lanyard and a Dock Adapter to let you use Duo in any Universal Dock-compatible accessory. Like iSee nano V2, Duo's protection is hard to beat, but it's even more accessory compatible for the same price, and a little more interesting visually. **Power Support** has simpler, translucent clear **Silicone Jackets** (\$25, iLounge rating: A-, **4**) in "square type" and "round type" designs; we still love the square type version, and prefer it for our own iPods. Like iSkin Duo, each includes a detachable belt clip.

Other top-rated iPod cases include designs that are interesting because of how they look, or how they've been made. **TuneWear's Icewear nano** (**5**) is less expensive at only \$13. Though its protection isn't quite as nicely implemented as in the Silicone Jackets, and no belt clip is included, its ribbed sides and pricing make it a very reasonable option. A totally different type of rubber case is **Better Energy/Solio's Tread Pocket Rock'It** (\$35, iLounge rating: A-, **6**), an environmentally friendly case made from recycled rubber tires. Unlike prior Tread cases, you can access the nano's screen and Click Wheel; no front flap's in the way.

The three remaining cases are for hard-core users. **Griffin's iVault for iPod nano** (\$25, iLounge rating: A-, **7**) is made from two slabs of machined aluminum that are held together with corner magnets - an improvement on ease of use from the company's earlier iPod shuffle iVault. Protection is provided for every part of the nano save the Hold switch and headphone port, though the case's vault-like shape actually bulks the nano up to the size of an old iPod mini, so it's not for everyone. **Speck's ToughSkin 2 Tough** (\$30, iLounge rating: A-, **8**) has similar bulk, but is made from a combination of rubber, hard plastic, and metal, and hinges open in front like a book. Unlike iVault, it includes a detachable belt clip, but it doesn't include a Click Wheel protector; you'll need to pick the tough design that's best for you.

Last but not least, **Core Cases' \$20 Aluminum Case for iPod nano** (iLounge rating: A-, **9**) offers a thinner, sculpted aluminum body in six nano-matching colors. Like iVault, it's sold without a belt clip, but its curves are more mainstream.



iPod shuffle Cases



The debate's gone on since early 2005: does the iPod shuffle really need protection? Judging by the small number of cases that have been released for the second-generation, aluminum-bodied shuffle since its October 2006 debut on shelves, most companies seem to think the answer is no. But if you feel differently, here are some of the best options we've seen.

Our top pick overall is **Power Support's Silicone Case for iPod shuffle** (\$20, iLounge rating: A-), a translucent silicone rubber enclosure which covers virtually every millimeter of the shuffle's little aluminum body. Most of the rubber cases we've seen expose the shuffle's rear clip or its top and bottom to potential scratches if you're planning to pocket or bag the iPod instead of clipping it on; the Silicone Case is one of only two that does protectiveness right.

The other solid silicone option comes as part of a bundle. **Capdase's Protective Case Set for iPod shuffle** (\$13, iLounge rating: B+) includes a highly protective but two-piece rubber case, plus a synthetic leather case with a hook and lanyard. A second version (\$13, iLounge rating: B) called the **Leather Case and Syncha Set** omits the silicone case in favor of an encased shuffle-ready USB dock.

Like its earlier **Mueva Wraptor** (\$10, iLounge rating: B-), and many other designs we've seen, **Mophie's** recent **Bevy** (\$15, iLounge rating: B) is almost inappropriately described as a "case;" it's more of a plastic shell that protects part of the shuffle's front, top, and bottom while providing a place to wrap your headphone cord for storage. But unlike Wraptor, Bevy serves two other purposes: you can pop the shuffle out and use it as a bottle opener, or keep the shuffle in and use it as a keychain. While it's not protective enough to shield shuffles from key scratches, it's a novel design, and one that people who aren't protectiveness-obsessed might well enjoy.

The same holds true with **JAVOedge's** two types of shell-styled designs for the iPod shuffle. Made from colored metal, **JAVOShield** (iLounge rating: B) sells in 3- or 7-packs for \$16 or \$27, adding a new layer to the front of any second-generation shuffle. You can't perfectly match Apple's latest shuffle colors, but these come very close, and can be swapped on or off at any time. Even less expensive are the company's **JAVOClearCases** (iLounge rating: B+), which come in a 7-pack for \$8 and do the same thing, albeit with less durable protection. Best of all, JAVOClearCases come in orange, the only way we know of to transform a silver shuffle into our favorite new shuffle tone.



Protective iPod Film



An alternative to cases is film, which protects some or all of your iPod against scratches. We generally prefer **InvisibleShield's Full Body Protector** (\$20, iLounge rating: A-), which covers almost every bit of the nano or 5G iPod, but looks like baked Saran Wrap. **Power Support's Crystal Film** (\$16, iLounge rating: B+) covers most of a 5G iPod's front and back, but looks better, becoming virtually invisible when properly applied. The \$15 2G nano Film only covers the screen and Click Wheel.

BELKIN®

CHARM

From leather to denim don't miss the new Fall '07 case collection for iPod at belkin.com.

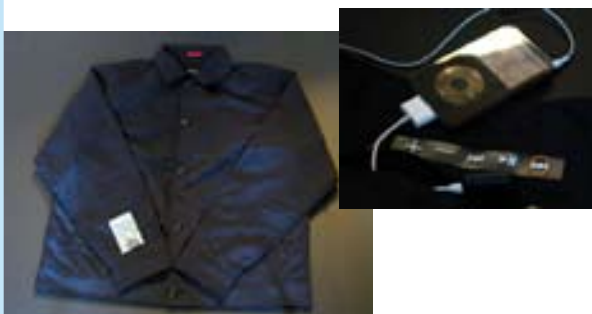
9

Wearing Your iPod: Clothes. From lanyards to shirts, jackets, and belts, iPod-ready clothes have nearly gone mainstream, with comfy new designs that range from inconspicuous to in-your-face.

Jackets and Shirts



Sure, you can carry your iPod in any piece of clothing, but if you're outdoors or working, you might not want to dig down and fidget with controls every few minutes. Previous iLounge guides noted that snow gear makers **Burton** and **O'Neill** developed pricey technical ski jackets with integrated iPod controls; your iPod is connected and placed safely inside, with play/pause, track, and volume buttons built into one jacket sleeve, near your wrist. **Kenpo** is now selling similar jackets for much lower prices - some stores are closing them out for as little as \$13. **Koyono** - maker of great BlackCoat T shirts with iPod pockets - sells **BlackCoat Jackets** (below) starting at \$175. They hide their controls inside a button-down flap, which isn't as convenient as most of the other jackets we've seen, but it's also much less conspicuous.



Lanyards: Headphone + Case

Since the 2005 debut of the lightweight iPod shuffle, lanyard necklaces became a plausible way to carry your iPod around. Now that shuffles have become clip-on accessories, **Apple** and others have focused on making the nano wearable. The **iPod nano Lanyard Headphones** (\$39, iLounge rating: B-) meld a fabric necklace with integrated standard iPod earbuds and a plastic attachment to let your nano dangle from your neck. A superior but more expensive version with silicone-tipped earphones is called **iPod nano In-Ear Lanyard Headphones** (\$49, iLounge rating: B); you may or may not like the way the rubber tips fit in your ears, but they sound pretty good. If you just need a lanyard and plan to use your own favorite pair of earbuds, **iSkin's Lanyard for iPod** (\$15) comes in black or white, unlike Apple's lanyards, and can be adjusted to your preferred length. While you'll have some additional earphone cabling to deal with, you might well prefer the lower-than-Apple pricing and less conspicuous black version. You'll get a free Lanyard with iSkin's Duo case for 2G nanos.



Belts and Belt Buckles



There are three reasons to wear an iPod on your belt: fashion, convenience, or necessity. **TuneBuckle** leads the fashion category with its **Original**, **Half Moon**, and **Full Metal Jacket** (\$60 each) belts for iPod nano. Original has an open face, Half Moon covers the screen, and

Full Metal covers the entire nano. Today's versions are nickel satin plated rather than chrome, an improvement. If you're only looking for occasional belt-wearing convenience, many cases - reviewed on iLounge.com - include belt clips; most are detachable. But if you're a surfer or swimmer, and need to wear an iPod belt, **H2O Audio's** water-safe **Swimbelts** (\$40) are adjustable neoprene and clear vinyl ways for you to keep your iPod at waist level when you're in the water.



iNvincible Protection



The all new Scosche case for iPhone. Available summer 2007.

SCOSCHE

800.363.4490 x1

©2007 Source Industries, Inc. - Newark, CA 94612. iPhone is a registered trademark of Apple Inc.

10

Maintaining and Repairing Your iPod. Treated with care, your iPod will work for a long time, except for its 1-2 year internal battery. Here's how to maintain it, and repair various parts that can go bad.

Keep Your Battery Going



Did you know?

According to Apple, the numbers below represent **typical music run times** for each iPod model. Apple said it came up with these numbers by using factory default settings and playing continuously through a playlist, with both the backlight and equalizer off.

- 1G/2G iPod (5, 10, 20GB) - 10 hours
- 3G iPod (10, 15, 20, 30, 40GB) - 8 hours
- 4G/HP iPod (20, 20 U2, 40GB) - 12 hours
- Color iPod/iPod photo (20, 30, 40, 60GB) - 15 hours
- 5G iPod with video (30GB) - 14 hours
- 5G iPod with video (60GB/80GB) - 20 hours
- iPod mini (first-generation 4GB) - 8 hours
- iPod mini (second-generation 4GB/6GB) - 18 hours
- iPod nano (glossy: 1GB/2GB/4GB) - 14 hours
- iPod nano (aluminum: 2GB/4GB/8GB) - 24 hours
- iPod shuffle (plastic: 512MB/1GB) - 12 hours
- iPod shuffle (aluminum 1GB) - 12 hours

A properly maintained iPod battery is designed to retain up to 80% of its original capacity after 400 full charge and discharge cycles. But what's proper maintenance? Here are the steps Apple says you should follow.

First, **keep your iPod at room temperature** - near 68° F (20° C). While it can be used between 32° to 95° F (0°-35° C), excess cold or heat adversely affects the lifespan. So keep your iPod out of hot cars.

Use your iPod on a regular basis. Every iPod's battery requires you to keep the electrons inside moving. At least once per month, use up your iPod's battery until it goes to sleep, then fully charge it. **Fully charging your iPod** gets the most out of it. An iPod battery charges to 80 percent of its capacity in an hour, but can take up to four hours to fully recharge.

Update your iPod's software. Apple sometimes adds battery-boosting code to its Software Updates, found at apple.com/support/ipod/ - they won't restore a dead battery, but they may add a bit of run time.

Use the Hold switch! If your iPod is playing, it's eating up battery life. So make sure that it's not playing when you're not using it. Set the Hold switch to "on" when you're done and it won't accidentally wake up.

To minimize battery drain, **turn the backlight and equalizers off.** Your iPod's backlight uses up more battery than anything else. If you can live without it (at least for a while), turn it off. You can also **turn off the Equalizer** to extend your playtime - go to Settings > EQ > Off.

To cut down hard drive accessing on full-sized iPods, improving battery performance, **try to avoid repeatedly changing songs.** Changing tracks with the Next/Fast-Forward and Previous/Rewind buttons will force your iPod's hard drive to work overtime to keep up. Similarly, if you can, **use compressed songs.** Your iPod works best with tracks of file sizes under 9MB, as it doesn't need to keep loading from the hard drive with every song. So if you listen to a lot of AIFF or Apple Lossless format songs, you might want to compress them as MP3s or AACs instead. Also bear in mind that video or photo playback will consume much more power than music, and fully discharge your iPod far more often.

A number of companies are now selling do-it-yourself old iPod internal battery replacement kits, each promising even longer run times than Apple's original parts.

We've liked **Newer Technology's NuPower** batteries (\$20 and up) for 1G-3G iPods; now the company sells replacements for all iPods save the shuffle and second-generation nano. Each battery comes with iPod-opening instructions and tools; some run up to 114% longer than Apple's originals. Other companies, including **FastMac (TruePower** series, \$20 and up) and **Blue Raven Technology** (\$30 and up) offer alternatives; FastMac offers a two-year warranty for guaranteed longevity. Our advice: only dextrous, tech-savvy, old iPod users should self-install batteries; be very careful with the 5G or nano.

Replace Your Own Battery



Repairs: Apple and Others



If your iPod needs repairs, you have two choices: contact Apple, or find a reputable third-party repair service. Apple provides 90 days of phone support and a year of repairs, so after the 90 days are up, you can go to a local Apple Store for help. Phone and repair support stretch to two years with the **AppleCare Protection Plan for iPod** (\$59) or **for iPod nano or iPod shuffle** (\$39).

Unfortunately, Apple's repair service isn't always fast. Kansas-based **iResQ.com** offers a \$29 service that will overnight an **iBox** for your iPod to you, then back to them, then back to you. They'll diagnose your problem for no additional charge, but parts cost extra, with reasonable prices (\$20 and up) for brand new screens, face plates, and hard drives. **TechRestore.com** has a virtually identical service for the iPod called **iPodRestore**, available in various forms. For \$10, you can send in your iPod yourself and get a diagnosis with overnight return shipping, while \$29 will buy overnight 3-way-shipping. TechRestore upgrades batteries and hard drives, as well as replacing screens, at prices that vary on model.

Need a third opinion? **RapidRepair.com** provides a competing repair service that's quote-based; send in your iPod and they'll either fix it for a fee, buy it from you, or ship it back with your preferred form of shipping.

Unless it's kept at all times in protective cases, a factory-fresh, mirror-polished iPod is destined to eventually reflect all of the scratches and scuffs it sustains in your everyday life. Several companies sell restorative polishes that remove most but not all of that damage. Small surface scratches in swirl patterns, mostly on metal, are common, so don't expect perfection, just improvement.

Radtech's Ice Creme Version 2 (\$21-\$26, iLounge rating: A-) remains the best we've seen, with two polishing cremes and a resurfacing pad that together can almost entirely restore a full-sized iPod or nano's original front and back shine. They're not for use with the iPod mini, and only modestly useful for the shuffle. **iCleaner's kits** (\$15-\$35) have been upgraded since we last reviewed them (iLounge rating: B), and now promise to do an even better job on scratches of all sorts. **Applesauce Polish** (\$20, iLounge rating: B) removes most deep and middle-grade scratches from both iPod sides, but leaves obvious metal scratches and smaller plastic ones.

Restore Your iPod's Shine



Battery Swap Services

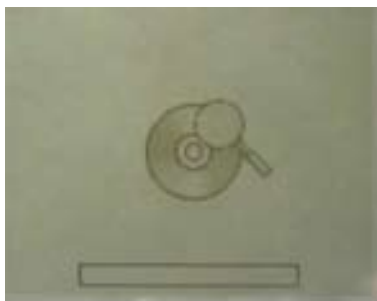


Though you can replace an iPod's battery by yourself, the process will require nimble fingers and more than a bit of patience. **FastMac** (\$40, fastmac.com) and **Newer Technology** (\$39, newerotech.com) offer professional battery replacement services for the parts shown under Replace Your Own Battery, priced *in addition* to the battery's cost, but including shipping to and from you. Newer uses FedEx 2-day. **TechRestore.com** offers \$50 1-day service including the battery, and a \$100 lifetime battery replacement service, as well.

For an even smaller total price, **Apple** now offers the **Out of Warranty Battery Replacement Program**, which for \$65.95 plus local tax will swap your old battery with a new one rated for the same level of performance as the original. Apple's turnaround time is one to three weeks, depending on whether your iPod's engraved. The service page is at apple.com/support/ipod/service/battery/.

Troubleshoot your iPod. If your iPod's misbehaving - won't turn on, won't turn off, has a screen problem, a control problem, or something else - these self-help pointers and diagnostic tricks will help you make things right.

Step 1: Button & Hold Secrets



iPod Model/Generation

Feature	4G, 5G, nano, mini iPods (Click Wheel)	iPod shuffle	1G, 2G, 3G iPods (pre-Click Wheel)
Hard Reset	Action (Center) + Menu	Switch Off, then On	Play + Menu
Diagnostics	Previous + Action (Center)	Not Available	Hard Reset, then Previous + Action (Center) + Next
Disk Mode	Hard Reset, then Action (Center) + Play	Not Available	Hard Reset, then Previous + Next
Disk Scan	Not Available	Not Available	Hard Reset, then Previous + Next + Action (Center) + Menu

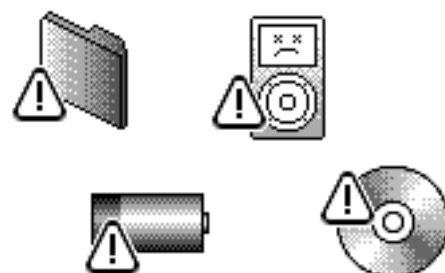
If your iPod's not responding to button presses, don't panic: **a few quick clicks may solve your problem.** As it turns out, there are five simple tricks available to iPod owners, varying by iPod model, which may help you bring a troubled iPod back to life.

The Hold switch. If your iPod's not responding to button presses, try the Hold switch; it's at the top of every iPod except the shuffle. Flip it two or three times until you've seen the orange "on" position once, and leave it in the other ("off") position. Then try your iPod's buttons again. On the shuffle, holding down the Play button for a few seconds activates Hold, and holding it again releases the hold.

Button combinations. On current model iPods, pressing two buttons at the same time will activate certain hidden iPod features - older models sometimes required three or even four buttons. A full table is above, with most combos requiring the iPod's center Action button. If your iPod's not working quite right, and flicking the Hold switch doesn't do anything, a **Hard Reset** is your next best bet. Want to test a specific part of the iPod - screen, controls, memory, or accessory port? Use **Diagnostics**. Other modes, **Disk Mode** and **Disk Scan**, are only for rare situations, described later in this section.

Most of the time, your iPod will turn on with the familiar text menu system, but sometimes it will display an icon instead - the triangle with an exclamation mark inside is a signal that something's not right. **Apple's web page "iPod iconography or what does this picture on my iPod mean?"** (docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=93936) walks you through all of the pictures, but here's the simple breakdown: if you see the folder, first try a Hard Reset, and if that doesn't work, connect your iPod to your computer - you'll most likely have to use the iPod Updater to restore its software. The battery icon - and other variants showing a mostly empty battery or warning text - means that the iPod needs to be recharged immediately. The sad iPod and disc icons suggest that something's wrong with the iPod's hard disk or software; Hard Reset, then Restore.

Step 2: What Is This Icon?



My Music Is Missing!

Once in a while, you may notice right after seeing the iPod's Apple icon that some or all of your music has vanished. The good news is that you might well be able to get it back, but the bad news is that this often suggests one of two things: your iPod's music database is screwy, and needs to be rebuilt, or your iTunes settings need to be fixed. If the music is recoverable, a **Hard Reset** (previous page) should bring it back on newer iPods; a Disk Scan on older iPods can be used as a follow-up step. As a precaution, we'd advise you to **run the latest version of iPod Updater** on an iPod with this issue, erasing it completely, then re-fill the iPod with music from your PC or Mac. Then open iTunes Preferences, select the iPod tab, and use manual updating for your iPod to prevent future unexpected music deletion.

My iPod's Very Slow!

It's not common, but possible for an iPod to slow to a crawl between menu transitions - this can be a sign that you (a) need to **run the iPod Updater** and "restore," (b) should **remove all the iPod's music and replace it**, or (c) have a hardware issue. Try (a) and (b) first before you assume (c), which requires repair.

I'm Hearing Weird Noises!

If you start to hear really loud clicking noises from inside a hard drive-equipped iPod, that's most likely a sign of hard drive trouble, and the result of a bad drop, shake, or random part failure. There's not much you can do except to replace the hard disk, which Apple can handle under warranty. If you notice odd static and hard drive whirring noises in your earphones - a problem with certain pre-5G iPods - you can request a warranty replacement from Apple.

Step 3: Most Common Problems

My iPod Won't Turn On!

Most of the time, if your iPod won't turn on after following Step 1 on the previous page, a discharged or dead battery is to blame. The solutions here are pretty straightforward: **plug your iPod into a wall charger or powered USB or FireWire computer port** to recharge the battery, giving it a few hours to come back to normal. If you've tried the **Hold switch**, a **Hard Reset**, and recharging, but no battery or icon appears on the iPod's screen within 30 minutes, you'll probably need a new battery, screen, or hard drive, depending on what went wrong. You know the in-warranty and post-warranty options already from the previous pages, but if you're trying to exhaust your options before going that route, press play on the iPod, then give it 24 hours, and try one last recharge. If that doesn't work, repair or replace the iPod.

My PC Won't Sync my Pod!

Flakey USB ports, software conflicts, and iPod hardware issues can keep a PC from mounting and syncing an iPod. After a **Hard Reset** of the iPod, **make sure you're using a powered USB port** to connect your iPod - try more than one as a test. No luck? **Uninstall the iPod + iTunes software, restart your computer, and reinstall it.** If your iPod supports Disk Mode (previous page), try running that before connecting the cable to the iPod's Dock Connector port. If this brings the iPod's icon up on your PC, run iPod Updater and restore the iPod to factory settings. Finally, there may be a BIOS, IRQ, or USB conflict with your computer - **try disconnecting other USB devices, or read your computer's manual** for help on turning off unused internal hardware. If your iPod won't mount after all of these steps, it's time to call Apple or visit a local Apple Store.

Step 4: Call or Visit Apple



If the first 3 steps didn't solve your problem, you'll probably want to contact Apple for additional assistance. The company's **web site** provides legitimately useful support at apple.com/support, and an iPod updater is free with iTunes from apple.com/itunes/download. If you need phone-based help, a complete list of **international phone numbers** can be found at apple.com/contact/phone_contacts.html. Customers in the United States can call 800-275-2273.

Apple Stores - the retail locations currently operated by Apple in four countries (U.S., U.K., Canada and Japan) - have Genius Bars, and sometimes iPod Bars, that offer 10-minute help sessions if you're having a serious iPod problem. If long lines deter you, schedule an appointment using Apple's **Concierge** system (shown left), which can be found on a specific Apple Store's web page after selecting its name from the full list at apple.com/retail/. Be patient and friendly.



Selling Your iPod. No guide to an iPod's life would be complete without this: a look at what sellers and buyers can expect used iPods to fetch when they're ready to move on to bigger and better models.

What are average people (not businesses) getting for used iPods on **eBay**? Here are the average sale prices for still functional units as of mid-2007, taking into account only trivial included accessories.

iPod Selling Prices on eBay

Capacity Model Number Average Price

Original (1G) iPod (Mechanical Scroll Wheel)

5GB (Mac/PC)	M8513LL/A, M8541LL/A,	
	M8697LL/A	\$68.13
10GB (Mac)	M8709LL/A	\$53.40

2G iPod (Touch Sensitive Scroll Wheel)

10GB (Mac/PC)	M8737LL/A, M8740LL/A	\$50.06
20GB (Mac/PC)	M8738LL/A, M8741LL/A	\$58.44

3G iPod (Dock Connector / 4 Touch Buttons)

10GB	M8976LL/A	\$66.56
15GB (with Dock)	M8946LL/A	\$61.50
15GB (w/o Dock)	M9460LL/A	\$60.78
20GB	M9244LL/A	\$74.50
30GB	M8948LL/A	\$85.33
40GB	M9245LL/A	\$100.22

4G iPod & Mid-2005 Color-Screened iPods (Click Wheel)

20GB (B&W), U2	M9282LL/A, M9787LL/A	\$83.69, \$136.88
40GB (B&W)	M9268LL/A	\$125.89
20GB (Color), U2	MA079LL/A, MA127LL/A	\$116.75, \$112.00
60GB (Color)	M9830LL/A	\$160.34
30GB (Photo)	M9829LL/A	\$116.36
40GB (Photo)	M9585LL/A	\$123.13
60GB (Photo/10-04)	M9586LL/A	\$164.30
60GB (Photo/2-05)	M9830LL/A	\$159.44

5G iPod (with video)

30GB (White)	MA002LL/A	\$179.55
30GB (Black), U2	MA146LL/A, MA452LL/A	\$174.56, N/A
60GB (White)	MA003LL/A	\$191.30
60GB (Black)	MA147LL/A	\$225.44
E30GB (White)	MA444LL/A	\$168.12
E30GB (Black), U2	MA446LL/A, MA664LL/A	\$172.52, \$199.87
E80GB (White)	MA448LL/A	\$264.69
E80GB (Black)	MA459LL/A	\$283.04

iPod shuffle

512MB plastic	M9724LL/A	\$35.89
1GB plastic	M9725LL/A	\$40.11
1GB silver	MA564LL/A	\$45.12
1GB blue	MA949LL/A	\$42.61
1GB green	MA951LL/A	\$53.00
1GB orange	MA953LL/A	\$58.64
1GB pink	MA947LL/A	\$41.14

iPod mini

1G - 4GB, silver	M9160LL/A	\$59.56
1G - 4GB, blue	M9436LL/A	\$75.67
1G - 4GB, pink	M9435LL/A	\$72.61
1G - 4GB, green	M9434LL/A	\$77.71
1G - 4GB, gold	M9437LL/A	\$83.66
2G - 4GB, silver	M9800LL/A	\$78.47
2G - 4GB, blue	M9802LL/A	\$80.22
2G - 4GB, pink	M9804LL/A	\$82.29
2G - 4GB, green	M9806LL/A	\$82.55
2G - 6GB, silver	M9801LL/A	\$70.50
2G - 6GB, blue	M9803LL/A	\$89.34
2G - 6GB, pink	M9805LL/A	\$101.76
2G - 6GB, green	M9807LL/A	\$96.20

iPod nano

1GB, black 1G	MA352LL/A	\$71.33
1GB, white 1G	MA350LL/A	\$71.67
2GB, black 1G	MA099LL/A	\$86.86
2GB, white 1G	MA004LL/A	\$93.55
4GB, black 1G	MA107LL/A	\$122.33
4GB, white 1G	MA005LL/A	\$113.00
2GB, silver 2G	MA477LL/A	\$86.78
4GB, silver 2G	MA426LL/A	\$117.33
4GB, blue 2G	MA428LL/A	\$120.70
4GB, pink 2G	MA489LL/A	\$122.39
4GB, green 2G	MA487LL/A	\$124.43
4GB, red 2G	MA725LL/A	\$123.84
8GB, black 2G	MA497LL/A	\$155.06
8GB, red 2G	MA899LL/A	\$204.25

Amazon.com Marketplace



Bad news: We've previously listed the "Sell Yours Here" feature of **Amazon.com's Marketplace** as an option for selling used iPods, but scam artists have forced the company to restrict "top-selling" iPod sales to only "pre-approved" sellers - basically companies, rather than individuals. Consequently, the Sell Yours Here button has disappeared from most iPods' pages, and Amazon's application process is designed to filter out most prospective used iPod sellers. As such, consider eBay and the other options here to be more practical alternatives.

Bulk Buyers: Broken iPods

It pains us to say it, but an iPod's only as good as its parts. Worse yet, if one of them doesn't work, the whole thing can become useless, and it might be almost as expensive to repair as it is to replace.

RapidRepair (rapidrepair.com) is willing to buy broken iPods for between \$10 and \$130, possibly more depending on the severity of the issue with your old unit. **iResQ** (iresq.com) has previously paid between \$25-\$125, with one-problem iPods at around \$75.

Several other online iPod repair shops offer to buy iPods, but we'd be careful about dealing with them. One site called iPodmechanic.com has been the subject of numerous reader complaints, and there are many web site owners who would tell you to ship your iPod out, then fail to respond to your e-mails. Know who you're dealing with.

The screenshot shows the iResQ website's 'iPod Purchasing Quote' form. The form includes fields for Name, Email, Phone Number, Your iPod Type, Hard Drive Size, Existing Problems, Physical Condition, and Peripherals/Accessories. There is also a 'Comments' section at the bottom. The website header includes the iResQ logo and contact information: 888-447-3728.

If you don't want to use eBay, a quick way to sell a used, working iPod is to find a company that deals in used iPods. You won't receive as much for your iPod as you might through Amazon or eBay, but you can liquidate your old hardware quickly - sometimes as a trade-in towards the purchase of a newer model. **Small Dog Electronics** (smalldog.com) offers the following trade-in prices for working iPods:

20GB iPod (4G Color):	\$60
30GB iPod (4G Color):	\$70
40GB iPod (4G Color):	\$85
60GB iPod (4G Color):	\$115
30GB iPod (5G):	\$115
60GB iPod (5G):	\$135
80GB iPod (5G):	\$185
2GB iPod nano:	\$40
4GB iPod nano:	\$65
8GB iPod nano:	\$100



Just remember - you'll need to buy something to qualify for Small Dog's prices, a factor that might make other options more appealing. And all of the prices above are subject to change at any time.

Another site, Miami, Florida-based **PodSwap.com**, buys and trades iPods in various conditions. The company has an online iPod value calculator that will determine its pricing for a specific iPod based on working and cosmetic condition, battery condition, personalization and included original accessories. Original boxes are not required. The site will provide locked-in quotes for cash or trade-in transactions, and you have five days to take advantage of them; it sells guaranteed used iPods, too, in your choice of conditions.

Bulk Buyers: Working iPods



A fifth-generation, 30GB iPod can range in trade-in price from \$53 to \$160, depending on whether it's a late 2006 model with a brighter screen, how strong the battery is, and how many scratches it has. The 60GB 5G iPod fetches a maximum of \$154 in cash or \$167 in trade-in credit, while the 80GB iPod nets \$211 in cash or \$229 in credit. Top condition second-gen iPod nanos get \$61-117 in cash or \$70-127 in credit, while similarly excellent metal iPod shuffles are listed as worth a maximum of \$33 in cash or \$38 in credit. The older your iPod, the worse its condition, and the fewer accessories you have, the less you get.

Trading In Your iPod to... Apple?

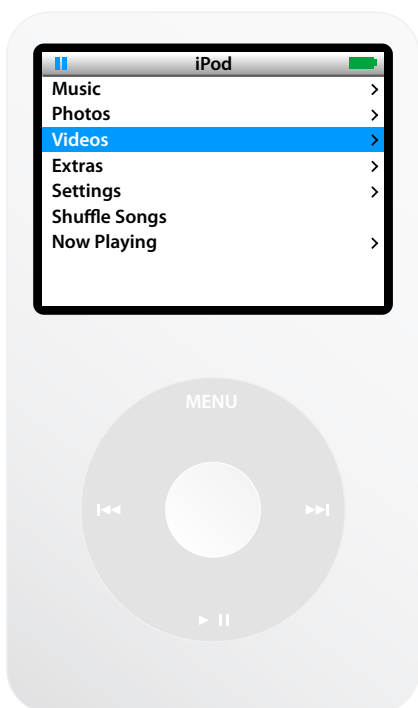
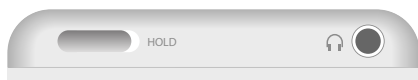
If you're not looking to scour the Internet or local newspapers for selling opportunities, **Apple** has an option: bring in your old iPod as a trade-in on a new one, and get 10% off. Since working iPods fetch way more on eBay than the \$35 you'll save on a 80GB iPod, we'd pass.



12

Buying a New iPod. Our 2007 iPod Buyers' Guide goes into greater detail on how to pick the right iPod - or iPods - for you. Here's a quick summary of the key factors you should consider before a purchase.

iPod (with video)



Top

Both the iPod and nano have a Hold switch on top to prevent accidental button presses, while the iPod and shuffle have headphone ports as well. The nano's headphone port is bottom-mounted, so you hold it upside-down.

Screen

The full-sized iPod has a 2.5-inch, 320x240 pixel, 65,536-color white-lit display, and nano has a 1.5-inch, 176x132 pixel white/blue-lit display. Both can show photos, album artwork, and simple color games, but only the full-sized iPod can display videos.

Body

iPods come in glossy white with a gray wheel, black with a black wheel, or black with a red wheel (U2), each with a mirror-polished metal back. iPod nano is mostly aluminum, in silver, black, blue, green, red, or pink. Its top and bottom are plastic.

Click Wheel Controls

Five buttons and a flat, touch-sensitive scrolling surface control both iPods. Menu brings you back to a menu, while the center Action button selects what's highlighted. Forward, reverse, and play/pause are push-buttons, while volume and scrolling are controlled by brushing your finger over the flat wheel.

Dock Connector Port

Power chargers, speakers, and most other accessories connect to this rectangular bottom port, identical on both iPods with screens.

iPod nano



DEALS ON NEW IPODS

iPod hardware discounts used to be hard to find, and though they're still not super common, certain retailers are more aggressive than others in offering deals. Here are a few ways to save some cash.

Amazon.com: In addition to offering \$10-15 discounts on current model iPods, Amazon's free shipping and no sales tax make their total prices pretty aggressive.

Big Box Retailers: Check your weekly newspaper ads for bundle

deals. Though you won't save much on the iPod, you can save \$20-30 on some accessories purchased at the same time, or get a starter case or similar small add-on for free.

Close-Outs: If Apple discontinues an iPod, expect its price to fall by \$20-30.

Which One's Right For Me? Ranging in price from \$79 to \$349, today's iPod family grows in power, features, and size as prices go up. You'll pay extra for more storage, then a 1.5" photo-ready screen, then a 2.5" video screen.

Body

iPod shuffle is largely aluminum with plastic for its top, bottom, and front controls. You can choose from silver, orange, green, blue or pink shells.

Controls

Apple's simplified controls include five buttons on front for volume up and down, track forward and backward, and play/pause. Power on/off and linear or random playback are selected via switches on its bottom. Two lights - one on top, one on bottom - mirror each other to indicate battery and play status.

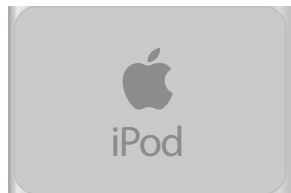
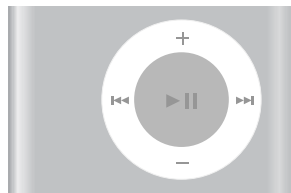
Clip

A non-detachable metal clip on the rear lets you attach shuffle to a shirt, bag strap, or armband.

Dock

To sync or charge shuffle, you flip it upside down and plug its headphone port into the included USB Dock, then your PC/Mac.

iPod shuffle



Why would I prefer one iPod to another?

iPod shuffles are good starter or second iPods.

Designed to play your top songs, either in an order you specify or at random, and to easily store data, they won't let you find songs quickly. You'll want another iPod.

iPod nanos just might satisfy all your needs.

Equipped with a great little screen, the 4GB nano has just enough room for the average person's CD collection at standard bitrates. If you're a serious music or video lover, you'll want more space; the 8GB nano lets you store more or higher-quality music.

The 5G iPod's a top pick on all but size.

For the same price as the 8GB nano, the standard 30GB iPod nets you 22GB more space, plus superior photo and video features. We prefer the 80GB iPod's extra space and battery life, and don't mind its thickness, but if size matters, think smaller.

	iPod shuffle	iPod nano	iPod 5G/video
Battery Life (Music)	12-17 Hours	24 Hours	14-20 Hours
Size & Weight	1.07" x 1.62" x 0.41", 0.55oz	3.5" x 1.6" x 0.26", 1.41oz	4.1" x 2.4" x 0.43" or 0.55" 4.8-5.5oz
Body Colors & Materials	5 Plastic+Metal	6 Plastic+Metal	3 Plastic+Metal
Key Pack-In	Clip	None	Simple Case
Plays Music	Yes	Yes	Yes
Plays Photo	No	Yes (5 Hours)	Yes (4-6 Hours)
Plays Video	No	No	Yes (3.5-6.5 Hours)
Uses iPod accessories	No	Yes	Yes

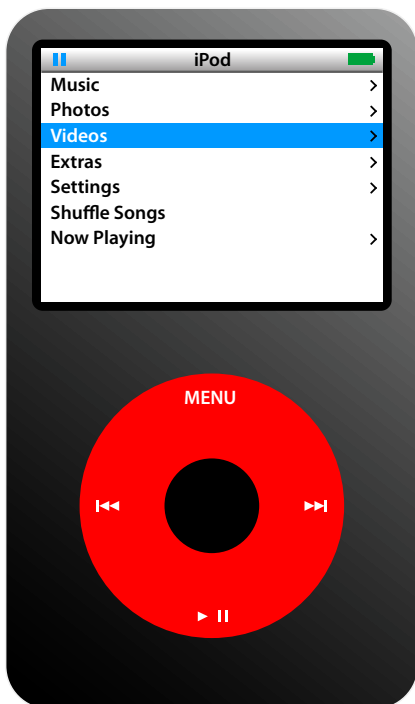
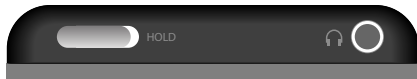
Which iPods do iLounge editors prefer?

We remain split between the new nano and fifth-generation iPod; some of us prefer to refill the nano iPod as necessary, while others enjoy carrying their libraries at all times. Videos and higher-quality music are filling our iPods like never before.

	iPod shuffle 1GB	iPod nano 2GB	iPod nano 4GB	iPod nano 8GB	iPod with video 30GB	iPod U2 S.E. 30GB	iPod with video 80GB
Number of Songs	240	500	1000	2000	7500		20000
Price	US\$79	US\$149	US\$199	US\$249	US\$249	US\$279	US\$349
iLounge Rating	B+	A-	A-	A-	A-	B+	A-
Buy if You'll Carry	20 CDs worth of music, or data.	A 40-160 CD music collection, accessible by track, plus tiny-sized digital photographs.			A large or high-quality music collection, data, photographs, and/or videos.		

The Hidden U2 iPod. Hardly advertised on Apple's web site these days, U2's unique color-tweaked black 30GB iPod remains quietly available at the Apple Store at a \$30 premium over the standard iPod's price. Is it worth that?

iPod U2 Special Edition



Top

The U2 iPod is the same thickness as the standard 30GB fifth-generation iPod, but it is distinctively colored: its top headphone port and Hold switch are made from black metal and plastic rather than white or light silver parts.

Screen

Just like a standard 5G iPod, the U2 iPod has a 2.5-inch, 320x240 pixel, 65,536-color white-lit display, and can display photos, album artwork, simple color games, and videos. Nothing's different here.

Body

Though the front black casing is just like that of a standard black 5G iPod, the U2 iPod has a distinctive red-colored Click Wheel and an even more distinctive black metal rear casing. The casing retains the glossy, mirror-like finish of the prior full-sized iPods, but looks considerably darker, and bears unique markings. At the top are the signatures of U2 bandmates Bono, The Edge, Adam Clayton, and Larry Mullen Jr., while the middle has a special iPod Special Edition U2 logo. Missing is the hard disk capacity badge, since the new U2 iPod only comes in one size - 30GB.

Click Wheel Controls

Exactly like a 5G iPod except for color, five buttons and a flat, touch-sensitive scrolling surface control the U2 iPod. As before, this model's Click Wheel is matte red in color with white icons and text; a glossy black Action button matching the front casing is in the center.

Dock Connector Port

The U2 iPod uses all the same accessories as a standard 5G iPod, connected to its bottom. As with the unit's top, the Dock Connector is ringed with black plastic instead of white.

BOX EXTRAS



Unlike the standard 30GB iPod, Apple's iPod U2 Special Edition includes a couple of U2-specific extras. The interior of the package includes two black and white photos of the band - one young, one old - and a download card entitling you to a 33-minute interview and live music video called Love U2, which is decent.



iPods, Unpacked. Once loaded with plastic and leather goodies, the iPod's boxes have become smaller, thinner, and streamlined to an unusual extreme. Here's what you should expect to find inside, and what you'll need.

Apple's Standard Pack-Ins

Signature Earbuds



Every iPod, nano, and shuffle comes with a pair of Apple's latest iPod Earphones, which were updated in September 2006 to improve bass sound and comfort. They're very good starters, and arguably only worth replacing if you're willing to spend \$50 or more.

Starter Case



Only the polished bodied fifth-generation iPod comes with a starter protective case, designed to help you fend off scratches until you purchase full-body film or another case.

Following an unfortunate tradition, Apple's cases provide no screen or control access, but they're OK as free pack-ins.

USB Sync/Charge Cable



Unless you have an iPod shuffle, Apple packs this cable in to charge and transfer files to and from your iPod. The shuffle includes its own mini Dock for the same purposes. You can buy an extra cable from Apple for a ridiculous \$19.

Wall Power Adapter



Let's say your computer's USB ports don't supply power when the machine's turned off, or that you're not interested in tethering your iPod to the computer for charging. **Apple** sells a \$29 **USB Power Adapter**, and **Griffin's** sells **PowerBlock** (shown), a highly similar alternative. Apple's adapter is smaller, but Griffin's is less expensive at many stores.

Wired Remote Control



Sometimes, you don't need the iPod's screen - a simple, shuffle-style set of controls is more than enough. **Apple** canned its \$39 **iPod Remote** in favor of a \$49 **Radio Remote**; **Brando Workshop's** \$18 **Remote Cable** (brando.com.hk) looks cheap, but works fine; **Logic 3** also sells an **LCD Remote**.

Major iPod Box Omissions

AV Cables



If you want to watch an iPod's video or photo content on its screen, no sweat. But if you want to watch it on a TV, you'll need an AV cable.

Apple's sells for \$19;

Marware's is better, and sells for \$18.

Computer Sync Dock

iPods used to come with computer and audio-out docks, then Apple started to sell them only as optional add-ons. The best computer-only choices we've seen are still **Apple's** \$39 **Universal Docks**, but if you're willing to spend a bit more, you can get a dock with a remote, charger, and included audio/video cables, like **Griffin's** **AirDock**.

13

Goodbye, iTunes Phones, Hello, iPhone. Motorola's three iTunes phones were widely viewed as flops, based on recycled enclosures, old technology, and sluggish interfaces and transfers. Here they are.

ROKR E1



The Good

The first iTunes Phone is the only one with stereo speakers and a colored lighting system. **ROKR E1** (\$175 and up without contract) comes with a 512MB memory card that's capable of storing up to 100 songs, plus both stereo earbuds and a headphone adapter if you want to use your old favorites, instead. It's a decent cell phone, too, but harder to find than the SLVR L7 and RAZR V3i.

SLVR L7



The Good

Significantly slimmer than ROKR E1, **SLVR L7** (\$150 and up without contract) retains virtually all of its predecessor's features, including the 512MB memory card. It's available in near-black and pink casings that look cooler than many phones out there, if not quite iPod nano-level. A nice scratch-proof screen and metal keypad are both nice bonuses; earbuds are also included.

RAZR V3i



The Good

Based on Motorola's popular, thin flip-closed **RAZR** phones, **V3i** (\$170 and up without contract) upgrades the V3 camera to 1.23 Megapixels, changes the body metal to an interesting pink, silver, or blue swirled metal rather than aluminum, and bumps the iTunes Client software to 1.0.1. If you liked the old RAZR and have AAC-format tunes, V3i is an option.

Since Apple has announced iPhone, why would anyone still care about these old models? Pricing. New-in-box Motorola iTunes phones start online at \$150 with no contract, much lower than Apple's \$499 iPhone price.

The Bad

Slow USB 1 uploading speeds and sluggish menu accessing detract from a phone that has more in common with an iPod nano than the iPod shuffle-alike that it's billed as. Cosmetically chunky, has old 640x480 camera, capped at 100 songs regardless of replacement memory cards used, or size of songs. Speakers occasionally reverse their stereo channels.

Verdict: C+

Pass on this one. ROKR offers a sub-par iPod experience, and is bettered by SLVR and RAZR V3i, but not by much. Our strong advice is to buy a nano instead - it's cooler in every way, smaller, faster, and won't play back your music in the wrong channels.

The Bad

Despite the passage of several months between ROKR's release and its own, SLVR preserves virtually all of E1's problems: slow transfer speeds, sluggish menus, and an artificial cap of 100 songs. There's only one speaker now, and no special illumination system. Down to the iTunes Client software, it's almost the same phone, just in a different package.

Verdict: B-

We'd still pass, but fashion-conscious users will find more to like here than ROKR. The SLVR L7 would have been a fine iPod alternative if faster, at least for fans of candybar phones, as its thinness and metal body are at least superficially appealing.

The Bad

Same song cap and song transfer speed issues from earlier phones, menu speed is only a little better. New camera takes pictures that look no better - and are arguably worse than - old RAZR's. Swirled metal look may or may not appeal to you as much as the standard V3 aluminum. Behind the times on features.

Verdict: B-

If you're dying for an increasingly outdated RAZR, this is a smarter purchase than the original V3 - it feels a little zippier and has a glowing M logo on its face. But there are much cooler RAZRs, KRZRs and competing phones out now, with more features.

14

Gifts to iPod Fans. You've seen hundreds (maybe thousands) of possible iPod and accessory gift options in this Book. Below, we've assembled our top picks in each price category for easy reference.

Small: \$50 and Under



If you're trying to spend \$50 or less on a gift, our best advice is: think choice. Apple has made iPod gift-giving exceptionally easy, with an expanding number of cool gift cards and certificates.

Apple Store Gift Cards can be purchased in any denomination from \$25 to \$2500 - enough for one accessory, any iPod, or a deluxe notebook computer. Our favorite card is the one that resembles the top of a MacBook Pro computer - or the front signage at most Apple Stores. Similarly, **iTunes Gift Cards** can now be purchased in small denominations for certain artists, or in varying denominations (\$15, 25, 50, 100) for general use at the iTunes Store. Movie and TV cards are also sold.

If getting something quickly or electronically appeals to you, Apple offers **iTunes Gift Certificates** in two forms: printable and e-mail. Printable Gift Certificates look best coming off of a color printer, and can be customized with a message and \$10-200 denomination. E-mail Certificates are the same, only e-mailed, not printed. You can also purchase anything from the iTunes Store and gift it through e-mail using the Gift This (Item) button.

Medium: \$150 and Under



Once you've committed to spending over \$50 to a gift, you're likely to get something that's going to make a lasting impression. The items we've picked here are "best bang for the buck" gifts - ones that someone will remember and talk about for a long time.

We talk a lot about Vaja's premium leather cases, and there's a reason: when you see them in person for the first or even the twentieth time, you're typically going to be impressed. Our favorite such case for 5G iPods right now is **Vaja's iVolution SP** (\$90), which you'll recognize from our Porsche Boxster iPod Road Test section earlier in the Book. The buyer-selectable two-tone coloration, quality, and protection are all contributors to a great-looking, great-feeling case design. It'll take a few weeks from placement of order to delivery, but the recipient will slobber all over it.

One of our strongest gift recommendations at this price level is a superb pair of earbuds - not just the \$20-30 throwaway types, but ones that will really let you hear your music in the way it was intended to be enjoyed. To that end, our 2005-2006 Headphone of the Year, **Etymotic's ER-6i Isolator** (\$149), is essentially unbeatable for the price. Now available in white or black, we consider its sound to be as crisp and accurate as we've heard for the dollar - the type of earphone that will have listeners wondering why they'd been using mediocre buds for so long.

Finally, it would be impossible to ignore the value of a low-end **iPod nano** (\$149, 2GB) at this price point. It's the coolest gift we know of under \$150 - the only reason not to give one as a gift would be if the recipient already had an iPod... and didn't want another one. Those needing more color choices will either have to step up to the \$199 4GB iPod nano or step down to the \$79 1GB iPod shuffle, which is now available in five different colors. We'd pick the nano any day.

Large: \$300 and Under

Full-sized iPods aside, our top picks at the \$300 and below price point would be high-quality or high-style iPod speakers. A year and a half after we saw it for the first time, we still love the look of **JBL's On Time** (\$250), a shrine-to-iPod design with an integrated clock radio and speakers. Whether it's used it as an alarm clock radio, an iPod audio system, or a backup computer speaker, it's going to blow your giftee away. **Logitech's AudioStation** (\$300) takes a different approach: it also has a clock and radio, but what it lacks in cool looks it makes up for in incredible audio horsepower: its speakers rival more expensive iPod all-in-ones, and put comparably priced competitors to shame.



Inevitably, we get an e-mail or call every few months asking for our opinions on the best way to spend some insane amount of money on an iPod-related gift. Right now, other than an iPod-ready car, we have three easy answers.

Geneva Lab's Model L and XL (\$599-1075) iPod-docking speaker systems are beautiful. They're also huge, a point we've made in great detail in our full web site review of both models. Piano-finished black, white, and red versions are available, and silver stands are sold separately for an additional \$99. Frankly, this isn't cheap, and given that there are thousands of multi-component audio systems out there, 95% of the population won't even consider these viable options. But as simplified "plug them in and enjoy" speakers, they sound great, and come equipped with integrated radios, CD players, and powerful amplifiers. Either one will shake a room; XL's astonishing.

Shure's SE530 earphones take the place of last year's price-no-object recommendation, a pair of custom earphones that sold for \$400 more than SE530's \$500 asking price. There's no pair of in-canal earphones on the market today with better overall sound quality than these, a favorite of multiple iLounge editors.



Deluxe: Price No Object



15

Joining The iPod Community. No matter where you live, iPodders are closer than you think. Our 113,000-member Discussion Forums are a good place to start, and our affiliated sites now span the globe.



Meet people. Learn something.

Where do iPod owners go to find people and advice? **The iLounge Discussion Forums.** With a searchable database of over 1.1 million posts, the Forums contain an incredible amount of sage advice, generated by the world's largest community of iPod fans.

Most recently, we've added new forums for Apple's latest products: the Apple TV and iPhone, but discussions of current iPods and iTunes continue to be much more popular. An older forum, Legacy iPods, features discussions on the iPod mini, black-and-white full-sized iPods, and the short-lived iPod photo/color 4G. Plus, our general discussion group, The Lounge, continues to be exceptionally popular, allowing people to discuss virtually any non-iPod topic they want. So even if you're visiting for iPod advice, say "hi" to the people who make the Forums as great as they are.

More info is only one click away.

Yes - there's an entire web site of information outside of the Discussion Forums. One click on the orange menu bar at the top of the screen will take you to our **News** section, updated multiple times every day; our **Reviews and Accessories** section, full of the world's best iPod and accessory information; our **Articles** section, with weekly iTunes-related tutorials and features, plus opinionated editorials. Our **Music** section will help you find iPod-filling sites, and our **Photos** section is full of both fun and informational iPod and packaging photos, art and pictures submitted by iLounge readers. **Downloads** provides access to useful iPod software and desktop artwork, while **Shop** provides shopping links and price comparison tools. There's more, too - take a look around.

We've also created two easy ways to find helpful tips and advice. Click on **Help!** at the top of the page to see frequently asked questions (and their answers), tutorials, pointers to Apple's official iPod support pages, and software downloads for PCs, Macs, and Linux-based computers.

Still need help? Ask iLounge.

We're willing to bet that you can find the answer to any question you have by using the Search buttons on the main site or the Forums. But if you're still struggling, come and **Ask iLounge**. Found in the center of the left hand column of the main page, this weekly feature has answered at least five reader questions since late 2004. A complete linked archive of past questions is available at the bottom of each week's column, and our six most popular questions appear at the top of each page. Submit your questions to ask@ilounge.com.

If you're looking for iPod information and communities located elsewhere in the world, check out our friends on the next page. They love iPods, report on events taking place all over the globe, and provide quality insight in non-English languages.

International Sites: iLounge Around the World

euPodo.com.br (Brazil)



iFun.de (Germany)



iPodMania.it (Italy)



iPodPortugal.com



99pod.se (Sweden)



iPodTeam.net (Vietnam)



iPodNoticias.com (Spain)



iGeneration.fr (France)



TurkMac.com (Turkey)



iPoding.ru (Russia)



Our friends in Europe, Asia, and South America provide regional and international iPod news in over 10 foreign languages, and often operate their own discussion forums specific to those languages. If you thought the global iPod community was big but haven't seen it for yourself, give each of these great sites a visit.

iLounge Around the World Member List:

Brazil: euPodo.com.br
 France: iPodfanatic.com
 France: iTrafik.net
 Germany: iFun.de
 Greece: iPodgr.com
 Italy: iPodmania.it
 Netherlands: iPodReporter.nl
 Portugal: iPodPortugal.com
 Russia: iPod-Club.com
 Russia: iPoding.ru
 Spain: iPodnoticias.com
 Sweden: 99pod.se
 Vietnam: iPodTeam.net

Do you operate a non-U.S. site that covers iPod and iTunes products? Want to be part of the Around the World network? E-mail us at info@ilounge.com. We'd love to hear from you, especially if your country isn't represented.

The iLounge Report Card. We've reviewed over 1,375 accessories and iPods since Apple's 2001 launch, and summarized them in one simple table. Start your hunt here, then read the site's comprehensive reviews for details.

Adapters and Cables - Data

SendStation PocketDock Combo	A
SendStation PocketDock	A-
SendStation PocketDock Line Out USB	A-
Global Source Retractable USB/FW	B+
Griffin Technology Dock400 Cable	B+
Griffin Technology Dock800 Cable	B+
Kensington Accessory Adapter/shuffle	B
Macally Link360 FireWire 1394A 3D	B+
Macally Link360 USB 3D Adapter	B+
Nyko Stereo Link Cable	B+
SendStation FireWire & Line Out	B+
XtremeMac Audio Kit for iPod shuffle	B+
BTi u-Link Accessory Adapter for nano	B
Incipio IncipioBud for iPod shuffle (2G)	B
Macally Link360 FireWire 1394B 3D	B
Taylor Technologies iPlus+ for iPod nano	B
Targus 9-Pin/30-Pin Accessory Adapter	B/B-
SendStation Dock Extender	B-
Carrot Idea USB Flexible Dock/2G shuffle	B-
Gadget Accessories USB Sync Cable	D

Adapters and Cables - Indoor Power

Griffin PowerDuo Charging Kit for iPod	A-
Sonnet iPod USB Power Adapter	A-
Apple iPod USB Power Adapter (9/06)	B+
Better Energy Systems Solio	B+
Capdase Universal Power Adapter	B+
Capdase USB Power Adapter/shuffle	B+
Logiix The iPower Pro Ultra Slim	B+
Apple iPod USB Power Adapter (2005)	B
Griffin Technology Dock Adapter shuffle	B
XtremeMac InCharge Traveler	B
Griffin Technology PowerBlock travel 2007	B-
Griffin Technology PowerDuo travel	B-
Van Hauser iSuperCharger	C+

Apple TV and Accessories

XtremeMac XtremeHD Audio Cable	B+
XtremeMac XtremeHD Comp. Video Cable	B+
XtremeMac XtremeHD HDMI>DVI Cable	B+
XtremeMac XtremeHD HDMI>HDMI Cable	B+
XtremeMac XtremeHD HDMI Switcher	B+
XtremeMac XtremeHD TOSLINK Cable	B+
Apple Inc. Apple TV (40GB/160GB)	B

Audio/Video Cables

Griffin HomeConnect Audio & Video	A-
Marware AV Cable for iPod photo/5G	A-
XtremeMac RoadShow Car AV Cable	A-
Belkin AV Cable for iPod (Color LCD)	B+
Capdase Come Home Headphone Port	B+
Pacific Rim Technologies Retractable AV	B+
Apple iPod AV Cable	B
Capdase Come Home Dock Conn/Comp.	B
Capdase Come Home Dock Conn/S-Video	B

Gecko Gear iPod Audio and Video Cable	C+
BoxWave iPod Photo AV miniSync	C

Batteries

BTi's The iPod Battery	A
FastMac TruePower 1G/2G	A
Newer Technology NuPower Super 1G/2G	A
Apple iPod shuffle Battery Pack	A-
BTi's The iPod Battery ii	A-
FastMac TruePower 3G	A-
Newer Technology NuPower Hi-Cap 3G	A-
Sonnet Volta	A-
Compact Power Systems Cellboost	B+
ezGear PowerStick Shuffle	B+
iLuv i603/604 Rechargeable Silicone Skin	B+
Tekkeon myPower Battery Pack	B+
Belkin Backup Battery Pack	B
BTi AA iPod Battery	B
ezGear PowerStick iPod Battery Pack	B
FastMac TruePower 4G	B
Griffin TuneJuice BatteryPack	B
Lithium House iCel 201 External Power	B
Nyko iBoost	B
Nyko iBoost mini Battery Pack	B
Belkin TunePower	B-
Compact Power Systems iRecharge	B-
XtremeMac MicroPack Dock + Battery	B-
Compact Power Systems iRecharge Value	C
Gadget Accessories Battery Pack	F

Bluetooth / Wireless Home Audio

TEN Technology naviPlay	A-
Belkin TuneStage for 4G/mini iPod	B+
Belkin TuneStage 2	B+
Griffin Technology BlueTrip LE	B+
Logitech Wireless Music System	B+/B-
Logitech FreePulse Wireless Headphones	B+
Macally BlueWave Headset	B+
Bluetake I-Phono BT420EX	B
Bluetake I-Phono mini BT450	B
Etymotic ety8 In-Ear Bluetooth Earphones	B
Lenntek Hookup Lanyard for nano	B
Mondo Mint DMS300	B
Oakley O ROKR Bluetooth Eyewear	B
Scosche Bluelife Headphones & TX	B
Scosche Bluelife Wireless Home Kit	B
TEN Technology naviPlay Headset Kit	B
Wi-Gear iMuffs Bluetooth Headset	B
FriendTech iDea Wireless Dock/Headset	B-
Logitech Wireless Headphones	B-
GlobalSat iWAG Wireless Bluetooth Set	C+
Lenntek Hookup Bluetooth Kit for iPod	C
Silex Tech wiDock Wireless Dock for iPod	C
d.Muse iBlue Bluetooth Phone Adapter	C-

Camera Adapters

Apple iPod Camera Connector	B+
Belkin Media Reader	B+
Belkin Digital Camera Link	B

Car Mounts

ProClip Padded Adj. Holder w/ Tilt Swivel	A
TEN Technology FlexibleDock/Charger	A
Nyko Universal Car Mount	A-
Power Support Mobile Stand	A-
ProClip In-Car Mount for iPod photo	A-
ProClip Padded iPod In-Car Holder	A-
Belkin TuneBase FM for iPod	B+
Belkin TuneBase FM for iPod nano	B+
Griffin TuneFlex nano Charger/Cradle	B+
GriffinTuneFlex 5G Charger/Cradle	B+
Griffin PodPod/iSqueeze	B+
Kensington Car Mount for iPod	B+
ProClip In-car holder for iPod	B+
ProClip Padded Holder w/ Cable Attachmt.	B+
ProClip Padded Holder for iPod 5G	B+
ProClip Padded Holder for iPod nano	B+
Macally FMCup Transmitter/Charger	B
Pro Fit Ultimount	B
XtremeMac MicroFlex Car/iPod nano	B
Belkin TuneDok	B-
ProClip Padded w/ Tilt Swivel& Charging	B-
HandStands iGrip Sticky Pad	C-
Pacific Rim Tech iCradle FM	D+

Car Power Chargers, Kits and Adapters

Griffin PowerJolt USB Auto Charger (v2)	A-
Harman Kardon Drive + Play	A-
SendStation smartCharge for iPod (2007)	A-
TEN Technology FlexDock	A-
Belkin Auto Kit	B+
Belkin Charging Kit for iPod	B+
Belkin TuneBase FM Version 2	B+
BTi Auto/Air Adapter	B+
Dension ICE-Link Auto Integration Kit	B+
DLO TransPod FM (Boxy, Dock Conn.) V2	B+
iStore iPod2Car Line-Quality Integ. Kit	B+
Monster iAirPlay Charger	B+
SiK imp in-car charger/line out	B+
DLO AutoPod Intelligent Car Charger	B
DLO TransPod FM Late 2005 (Rounded)	B
DLO TransPod FM (Boxy, Dock Connector)	B
ezGear ezCharge for iPod shuffle	B
Griffin PowerJolt USB Auto Charger (v1)	B
Griffin PowerPod FireWire Charger	B
Incase Charger (Version 2)	B
Macally USB iPod Car Charger	B
Monster Ultra Low Profile Charger	B
Pacific Rim Technologies Car FW Adapter	B
XtremeMac InCharge Traveler	B
Belkin TuneBase	B-

As a fully independent company, iLounge has provided impartial reviews of iPods, Apple TV, and related accessories since the 2001 release of the first-generation iPod. Because of a strict separation between the business and editorial sides of iLounge, and our strong belief in the value of an objective resource for iPod owners around the world, our reviews are in no way influenced by advertising revenues or outside concerns. We have no ties to any manufacturer of iPod accessories, and no agenda other than the promotion of a happy global community of iPod lovers.

Belkin TuneBase for iPod shuffle	B	Marware Sportsuit Sleeve for iPod video	B	Incase Music Belt	B+
Capdase USB Power DC Car Charger	B-/D-	Miniot iWood 5g/iWood Red	B	Incase Neoprene Sleeve for iPod	B+
DLO TransPod (for original iPods)	B-	NorthShore International Kaftan Cases	B	Incase Wallet Fashion Case	B+
DLO TransPod for iPod shuffle	B-	Orbino Cambio	B	iSkin eVo 2	B+
Griffin Technology PowerDuo travel	B-	Sena Cases iPod Video Premium Stand	B	Lajo eXo 2 / eXo2fb	B+
Marware Car Charger for iPod	B-	Speck Products Active Sport Armband	B	LifePod Urban Camouflage ModPods	B+
Monster iCharger	B-	Speck Products Active Sport Case	B	Matias iPod Armor 4G	B+
SendStation smartCharge shuffle/USB	B-	Tunewear PRIE Ambassador	B	Moshi/Aevoke iPouch	B+
Belkin TuneBase FM	C+	Tunewear PRIE Ambassador Sienna	B	Pacific Rim Technologies 4gShield	B+
Dension ICE-Link 1.1 Auto Integration Kit	C+	Tunewear PRIE TuneWallet	B	Power Support Silicone Jacket Set	B+
Digiana Audia X iTube-101 shuffle	C+	Tunewear PRIE TuneWallet Sienna	B	Properta Crystal Case	B+
Griffin RoadTrip All-in-One Car Solution	C+	Speck Products Grass FunSkin	B	Secure-It The PodSafe iPod Security Case	B+
Pioneer AVIC-Z1/CD-IB100II iPod Adapter	C+	Vaja Classic AP186 for iPod video	B	Speck Products GripSkin 4G	B+
Van Heusen iSuperCharger	C+	Vaja iVolution Leather Suit	B	Speck Products HandSkin	B+
Macally iPodCarCharger	D	Vakaadoo iVak 5G	B	Speck Products iGuy	B+
Gadget Accessories 3-in-1 Travel Charger	B+/F	Zofunk Zopen Silicone Case	B	Sumo Cases Quilted and Stripe	B+
Cases - iPod 5G (with video)		Belkin Holster Case for iPod	B-	Targus Flip Case for iPod	B+
Agent 18 VideoShield Kit	A-	Belkin Kickstand Leather Case for iPod	B-	Targus Slide Case for iPod	B+
Aquarius iJacket for iPod 5G	A-	Case-Mate Leather Case	B-	Timbuk2 iPod Case	B+
Better Energy Systems Tread Visor	A-	Contexture Design 45 iPod Cases	B-	Tunewear Icewear 4G	B+
Boomwave Podstar Diablo for iPod video	A-	DLO Action Jacket	B-	Tunewear WaterWear 4G	B+
Capdase Crystal Clear Case for iPod	A-	DLO VideoShell	B-	Vaja iVod Crystal	B+
Contour Design Showcase video	A-	Griffin Technology California Roll	B-	Vaja iVod Rasta	B+
ifrogz wrapz Customizable Cases	A-	ifrogz Rana Italian Leather Cases	B-	Speck Products 4G SkinTight Armband	B+/B
iSkin eVo3 for iPod 5G	A-	Innopocket Metal Deluxe Cases	B-	Belkin NE Deluxe Leather Case for iPod	B
Logic3 Crystal Armor Case for iPod video	A-	iPodstreet Flip Leather	B-	Belkin Neoprene Sport Case w/ Drawstring	B
Marware Sidewinder for iPod video	A-	iPodstreet Leather Encased	B-	Burning Love Pouch for iPod	B
Marware Sportsuit Basic for iPod video	A-	Pacific Design 5G/Video Flip Case	B-	Capdase Soft Jacket	B
Otter Products OtterBox for iPod video	A-	Pods Plus Silicone Skin with Beltclip	B-	DLO Relaxed Leather Cases	B
Pods Plus Aluminum V2	A-	Pods Plus Silicone Skin without Beltclip	B-	Gadget Accessories Solid Cover Case	B
Power Support Illusion Case for iPod 5G	A-	Scosche SoundKase Cases for iPod Video	B-	HotRomz Cases for iPod	B
Speck Products ToughSkin 5G	A-	Skymate Designer Series Case for iPod 5G	B-	Incase Folio for U2 Special Edition	B
AB Sutton Video Slip	B+	Speck Products Cloud FunSkin	B-	Incase Journal Fashion Case	B
Agent 18 VideoShield	B+	Sumo Cases Horizontal PlayThru Stripe	B-	Incase Travel Kit	B
Capdase Soft Jacket	B+	Vaja Classic AP181/191 for iPod video	B-	Lajo eXo / eXofb / eXo iPodArt	B
Core Cases Aluminum Case 5G	B+	Vaja Classic AP187/197 for iPod video	B-	Lajo eXo 3x	B
Core Cases Aluminum Swivel Case	B+	Vaja iVod video for 5G iPods	B-	Noreve Tradition Leather Case	B
DC Shoes / Incase Folio for iPod 5G	B+	Womp! Access for iPod video	B-	Piel Frama Luxurious Leather Case	B
Griffin iClear Photo	B+	Apple Computer Leather Case for iPod	C+	RadTech Sleevez for iPod (4G/photo)	B
Handstands iSnug Video Set	B+	Pacific Rim Mktg. iDitti Commuter	C+	Rivet iGrab	B
ifrogz Tadpole	B+	BoxWave Designio Leather Shell Case	C	Target/Aneta Genova Soundgear Sleeve	B
Incase Neoprene Sleeve	B+	iPodstreet iPod Video iTube Silicone Case	C	Timbuk2 iPod Carrying Case	B
iSkin Claro Silicone/Clear Case Combo	B+	RexRegina Conrad 5G	C	Tunewear Prie Hook	B
iSkin Claro Special Edition	B+	iPodstreet iPod Leather Case w/ W. Strap	D+	Vakaadoo iVak 5G	B
iSkin eVo3 Limited Special Edition	B+	SKB Drypod Waterproof/Interactive Hard	F	XtremeMac Silicone Sleeve	B
Marware CEO Classic	B+	Cases - iPod 4G/color (Click Wheel)		Speck Products SkinTight 4G iPod Skin	B/B-
Marware Sportsuit Convertible for iPod 5G	B+	Incase Multifunction Sport Case for iPod	A	Apple iPod Socks	B-
Marware TrailVue for iPod with video	B+	STM Cocoon case	A	Be-Ez Travel Bag	B-
Oakley 99037 Case for iPods	B+	Vaja iVolution 4G with Wheel Protector	A	Booq Venom45 Case	B-
Pods Plus Aluminum Case for iPod Video	B+	Otterbox Waterproof for iPod 4G/photo	A/A-	Chums Flip Case for iPod	B-
Power Support/Miyavix Kimono Case	B+	Belkin NE Sports Leather Case for iPod	A-	Chums iFrame Case for iPod	B-
Power Support Silicone Jacket for 5G iPod	B+	Contour Design Showcase	A-	DLO Jam Jacket Pro	B-
SBS Innovations iShok 5G Video	B+	Handstands iPak/iSnug Set	A-	Hook Casemandu iPod Travel Case	B-
Secure-It The PodSafe iPod Security Case	B+	Handstands iPak/iSnug Set	A-	Incase Leather Sleeves	B-
Speck Products Canvas Sport for iPod	B+	iSkin eVo 2 with Wheel Cap	A-	Incase Pouch Fashion Case	B-
Speck Products See-Thru Sexy Hard Cases	B+	Lajo eXofl	A-	MCA Hautes Coutures Double Stitch	B-
Vaja iVod video 5P	B+	Marware CEO Classic 4G	A-	Pacific Design iPod Flip Case	B-
XtremeMac Iconz Sport for 5G	B+	Marware SportSuit Convertible	A-	Paul Frank iPod Cases	B-
XtremeMac MicroFlip for iPod with video	B+	Marware TrailVue 4G	A-	Power Support Crystal Jacket 4G	B-
XtremeMac MicroGlove for iPod w/ video	B+	Miyavix Kimono	A-	Rivet iGrab with QR Belt Clip/Dash Mount	B-
AB Sutton Video Book	B	OtterBox oPod 4G/photo	A-	Speck Products iKitty for 4G iPod	B-
Aquapac 100% Waterproof MP3 Case	B	Speck Products ToughSkin	A-	Vaja Classic AP96 Leather Studded Case	B-
Axio Deluxe Shock-Resistant Silicone	B	Sumo Cases Flap	A-	Agent 18 Click Shield	C+
Belkin Flip Leather Case for iPod	B	Sumo Cases PlayThru Vertical 4G	A-	Aneta Genova SoundGear Play-Through	C+
dasblau The Versa2	B	Vaja iVod DJ	A-	DLO Action Jacket 4G	C+
DLO PodFolio	B	Speck Products GripSkin	A-	Lajo eXo3	C+
Griffin Technology Centerstage	B	Speck Products PortfolioSkin	A-/B+/C	Marware SportSuit Basic	C+
Griffin Technology Disko	B	Acme Made The Wallet	B+	Mindknob Premium Glove Leather Case	C+
Griffin iClear Polycarbonate Case for iPod	B	Body Glove Fusion Case iPod 4G	B+	Pods Plus Leather Flipcase	C+
Griffin Technology Vizor for iPod	B	Capdase Flip-Top Leather Case	B+	Acme Made The Traveller	C
ifrogz bagz Water Resistant Cases	B	Core Cases/InnoPocket Magnum Case	B+	Lajo Zip4g b	C
ifrogz Exotics Animal Skin iPod Cases	B	DLO Jam Jacket	B+	Lime iPod Peel Cases	C
iStyles 2007 Sleeve Collection	B	ezGear Clear Case	B+	Lime Regular Peel Case for iPod	C
		H2O Audio SV-iP4G Underwater Housing	B+	Mobile Juice Skin Art 4G	C

PRM iDiddy Case/Lanyard/Earbuds 4G	C	Incase Handcrafted Leather Sleeve	B	DLO Twister for iPod nano	B+
Target/Aneta Genova SoundGear Playthru	C	Innopocket Magnesium Case	B	Griffin iClear Photo for iPod and iPod nano	B+
Belkin NE Leather Flip Case for iPod	C-	Kroo Executive Leather Cases	B	Griffin Technology Trio for nano	B+
Belkin Sports Jacket for iPod 4G/20GB	C-	Kroo Laguna Leather Cases	B	iSkin Vibes for iPod nano 2nd Generation	B+
Pacific Design Pouch	C-	Kroo Soho Leather Cases	B	JAVOedge AlloyVision Crystal Metal Case	B+
Krusell Music Multidapt for iPod	D+/D-	Lime Mini Flip Case	B	Noreve Tradition Leather Case for nano G2	B+
Gadget Accessories Aluminum Case	D	Marware Safari	B	Red Snapper Mypod Custom	B+
Cases - iPod mini		Matias Clear iPod Armor mini	B	Vaja Classic Top for Apple iPod nano 2G	B+
Lajo exoflpmi	A	Rivet iGrab mini with Lanyard or Clip	B	Vakaadoo iVak N-type 2 Case for nano	B+
OtterBox for iPod mini Waterproof Case	A	Sena Detachable Flip	B	Aquapac 100% Waterproof MP3 Case	B
Power Support Square Type Sil. Jacket	A	Slappa ShockShell	B-	Capdase Bifold Style Classy Leather Case	B
Vaja iVod mini	A	Speck Mini iStyle	B	Capdase Hip-Hop Style Soft Jacket	B
Speck Products ToughSkin mini	A	Speck Mini Skin	B	Capdase Pattern Leather Case for nano	B
STM Mini Cocoon Travel Case	A	Targus Flip Case for iPod mini	B	FatPengy iStitch Customizable	B
Tunewear Prie Classic Face Case	A	Tunewear Icewear	B	ifrogz bagz Water Resistant Cases for nano	B
a.b. sutton Tokyo '64 Handmade Leather	A-	Burning Love Airpodz	B-	Marware Sportsuit Sensor+/Sport Kit	B
a.b. sutton Mini Clutch Leather	A-	Capdase Soft Jacket	B-	Mophie Relo Radura	B
Capdase Metal Case for iPod mini	A-	Chums iFrame Case for iPod mini	B-	NorthShore International Kaftan Cases	B
Contour Design iSee-mini	A-	DC Shoes / Incase Sleeve	B-	PDO/Pods Plus Aluminum N2 for 2G	B
DLO Jam Jacket & Pro mini	A-	Gadget Accessories Aluminum Case	B-	Proporta Alu-Crystal Case	B
Handstands iPak/iSnug Set	A-	Marware MetroVue mini	B-	Sena MagnetFlipper for iPod nano 2G	B
Incase Multifunction Sport Case	A-	Speck Products iKitty for mini	B-	Speck See-Thru Lucid Case for 2G	B
Incase Neoprene Sleeve for iPod mini	A-	Timbuk2 iPod Mini Carrying Case	B-	Vaja i-Volution with Hook for nano 2G	B
iSkin mini	A-	Aneta Genova SoundGear Play-Through	C+	Capdase Belt Leather Case for nano	B-
Kate Spade mini iPod Cases	A-	Belkin Sports Jacket for iPod mini	C+	Capdase Classy Leather Case for nano	B-
Lajo exo3mini	A-	DLO Action Jacket mini case	C+	Skymate Designer Series Case for nano	B-
Marware SportSuit Convertible	A-	Krusell Music Multidapt for iPod mini	C+	Apple Computer iPod nano Armband 2G	C+
Marware TrailVue	A-	Lajo exomini	C+	ifrogz Clear Case for 2nd Gen iPod nano	C+
Matias iPod Armor mini	A-	Marware Basic	C+	Tunewear Prie Uni for iPod nano	C+
Miyavix Kimono	A-	Marware Runabout	C+	ventureDESIGNworks freeHAND	C+
Pacific Design iPod Mini Flip Case	A-	Modus Design Dopi Cases	C+	Pacific Design Uptown Clutch for nano	C
Power Support Crystal Jacket mini Set	A-	RadTech Sleevez for iPod mini	C+	PodDress PodDress for iPod nano	C
Speck Products GripSkin for iPod mini	A-	Target/Aneta Genova Soundgear Playthru	C+	SwitchEasy RunAway AnyShoe Adapter	C
Speck Products Mini Arm Band	A-	Bird-Electron POCO	C	Cases - iPod nano (1G)	
a.b. sutton Mini Slip Handmade Leather	B+	PRM iDiddy Case/Lanyard/Earbuds mini	C	AVA Lava for iPod nano	A
a.b. sutton Mini Fastback Leather	B+	Burning Love AirPodz for iPod mini	C-	iSkin Duo for iPod nano	A
Agent 18 Mini Shield Case	B+	Proporta Crystal mini Case	C-/D-	Aquarius iJacket for iPod nano	A-
Agent 18 Mini Shock Case	B+	Mobifly iPod mini Mobifly Kit	D+	Better Energy Systems Tread Visor	A-
Belkin Leather Pouch for iPod mini	B+	Tunewear Prie Hook mini	D-	Boomwave Podstar Diablo for iPod nano	A-
Belkin NE Classic Leather Case for mini	B+	Cases - iPod nano (2G)		Capdase Crystal Clear Case for iPod nano	A-
Body Glove Fusion Case mini	B+	Contour Design iSee nano V2	A	Capdase Soft Armor for iPod nano	A-
Booq Venom mini Case	B+	H2O Audio Outdoor Case for iPod nano	A	Carrie Scott/Herchmer Jamband Sport	A-
Eroch Lili mini Waterproof Case	B+	iSkin Duo for iPod nano (Aluminum)	A	DLO nano fling Fashion Wristlet Case	A-
H2O Audio SV-iMini Underwater Case	B+	Aquarius iJacket for iPod nano 2G	A-	Griffin Technology Bookcase nano	A-
Innopocket Metal Deluxe Case	B+	Better Energy Systems Pocket Rock 'It	A-	H2O Audio Waterproof Housing for nano	A-
iSkin Vibes for iPod mini	B+	Core Cases Aluminum Case for nano (2G)	A-	ifrogz wrapz Customizable Cases for nano	A-
Lajo exo2mini	B+	Gizmac Titan Clear for the iPod Nano 2G	A-	Incase Neoprene Sleeve for iPod nano	A-
Lajo exo2mini-fb	B+	Griffin iVault for nano	A-	Incase Neoprene Sports Cases for nano	A-
LifePod Urban Camouflage ModPod minis	B+	Griffin Trio Plus for iPod nano	A-	Marware Sidewinder for iPod nano	A-
Marware Santa	B+	iSkin for iPod nano (Aluminum)	A-	Marware Sportsuit Basic for iPod nano	A-
MCA Hautes Coutures Snow for iPod mini	B+	Marware Sidewinder Spectra for 2G nano	A-	Otter Products OtterBox for iPod nano 1G	A-
Moshi/Aevoe Mini iPouch	B+	Marware Slyder for iPod nano 2nd Gen	A-	Power Support Crystal Jacket for nano	A-
Speck Products iGuy for mini	B+	Otter Products OtterBox for iPod nano 2G	A-	Power Support Illusion Case for iPod nano	A-
Speck Products Mini FlipStand	B+	Power Support Illusion Case for nano (2G)	A-	STM Holster for iPod nano	A-
Speck Products PortfolioSkin for mini	B+	Power Support Silicone Jacket Round	A-	Sumo Cases Stripe for iPod nano	A-
Targus Slide Case for iPod mini	B+	Power Support Silicone Jacket Square	A-	Tunewear Prie Ambassador Sienna	A-
Tunewear WaterWear mini	B+	Speck Products Canvas Sport for nano 2G	A-	XtremeMac SportWrap for iPod nano	A-
Vaja Classic case	B+	Speck ToughSkin 2 Tough Case nano 2G	A-	Agent 18 Shield 4 Nano	B+
Belkin Hard Case for iPod mini	B	SwitchEasy Capsule for iPod nano G2	A-	Apple Computer iPod nano Tubes	B+
Capdase Flip Top Leather Case	B	Tunewear Icewear nano 2G	A-	Axio Thump Shock-Resistant Silicone	B+
ezGear Clear mini Case	B	AB Sutton Nano Slip	B+	Better Energy Systems Tread Ellipse III	B+
Global Source Deluxe Leather Case	B	Boomwave Podstar Bearaphim for 2G	B+	Core Cases Aluminum Case for iPod nano	B+
HotRomz Cases for iPod mini	B	Boomwave Podstar Diablo Spectrum 2G	B+	DC Shoes Incase Folio for iPod nano	B+
iLeath Mini Print Case	B	Contour Design Showcase nano (2G)	B+	DLO Action Jacket for iPod nano	B+

Review grades are provided only as a convenient summary of the comprehensive reviews we publish online. The complete archive of reviews for all of the products above is available on our Reviews page (ilounge.com/index.php/reviews/). We also spotlight new reviews on our main page several times each week, and with only limited exceptions, make an effort to review products by as many different accessory makers as possible. Please address any questions regarding our reviews to jeremy@ilounge.com.

Macally Icesuit Protective Sleeve for nano	B+	Proporta Protective Silicone Case for nano	C+	Kroo Soho Leather Case for iPod shuffle	D+
Marware CEO Billfold Wallet for nano	B+	Belkin Carabineer for iPod nano	C	Speck SkinTight Armband for iPod shuffle	D-
Marware Sport Grip for iPod nano	B+	iPodstreet Metal Case for iPod nano	C		
Marware Sportsuit Convertible for nano	B+	Mr. Smith Jimi nano-case	C	Cases - 3G iPod (with Dock Connector)	
Marware Sportsuit Santa for iPod nano	B+	Speck Products Connect & Protect nano	C	Contour Design Showcase	A
Marware Sportsuit Sleeve for iPod nano	B+	Speck Products SkinTight for iPod nano	C	Lajo eXo1fp	A
Miniot iWood nano	B+	Speck Products SkinTight Deluxe for nano	C	Marware C.E.O. Classic 3G	A
Pacific Rim Tech. nano Magnesium Shield	B+	Incase Leather Wallet for iPod nano	C-	STM Cocoon case	A
Power Support Silicone Jacket for nano	B+	iPodstreet Thong Leather Case for nano	C-	Vaja i-Vod 3G	A
Power Support/Miyavix Kimono for nano	B+	Nike Nike+ Sport Armband for iPod nano	C-	iSkin eXo2 Case	A-
Secure-It The PodSafe iPod Security Case	B+			Self Design BodyMask	A-
Speck Products Canvas Sport for nano	B+	Cases - iPod shuffle (2G)		Eroch Studios Lilipod Waterproof Case	B+
Tunewear Icewear for iPod nano	B+	Power Support Silicone Jacket:	A-	Gravis G-Pod	B+
Tunewear Prie Ambassador for iPod nano	B+	Capdase Protective Case Set	B+	iSkin eVo	B+
Tunewear Prie TuneWallet Sienna	B+	Incipio [performance] Armband	B+	Lajo eXo 2 Case	B+
Vaja iVod nano	B+	JAVOedge JAVOClearCase	B+	Marware CEO Glove 3G	B+
XtremeMac IceFrame for iPod nano	B+	Capdase Leather Case and Syncha Set	B	Matias iPod Armor	B+
XtremeMac Iconz for iPod nano	B+	DLO Action Jacket for iPod shuffle	B	Otterbox oPod	B+
XtremeMac Iconz Sport for iPod nano	B+	Griffin Tempo Armband for iPod shuffle	B	Speck Products iSport	B+
A-1 Quality Products Nano iKeychain Case	B	JAVOedge JAVOShield Stainless Steel Case	B	Teski Roadie Case	B+
Apple Computer iPod nano Armband	B	JAVOedge JAVOSkin Case	B	Aneta Genova SoundGear Sleeve	B+
Axio Deluxe Shock-Resistant Silicone	B	Mophie Bevy w/ Key Chain/Bottle Opener	B	Incase Sleeve 3G Case	B
Belkin Folio Cases for iPod nano	B	Hori Silicone Cover for iPod shuffle	B-	Lajo eXo and eXo Inferno Cases	B
Contour Design iSee nano	B	Mophie Mueva Wraptor	B-	Lajo eXo 3	B
Handstands iSnug Nano Set	B	Speck TechStyle Puck All-in-One Case	B-	Monster iCase Travel Pack	B
Incase Leather Folio for iPod nano	B	Proporta Crystal Sleeves for 2G shuffle	C+	Power Support Silicone Jacket Set	B
Innopocket Metal Deluxe Case for nano	B	Proporta Silicone Sleeves for 2G shuffle	C+	RadTech PodSleevez	B
iPodstreet Bifold Leather Case for nano	B	Proporta Steel Sleeves for 2G iPod shuffle	C+	Piel Frama Leather Case	B
Marware CEO Card Wallet for iPod nano	B			Speck Products FlipStand 3G	B
Marware Sport Grip Extreme	B	Cases - iPod shuffle (1G)		Terforma iSleeve G2	B
Marware Sportsuit Runabout for nano	B	Apple iPod shuffle Sport Case	A	Teski Executive Leather Case	B
Marware Sportsuit Safari for iPod nano	B	iSkin Shuffle Duo for iPod shuffle	A	iLeath Leather Print Case	B-
Moshi nanoPouch	B	TuneWear Icewear Shuffle	A	Speck Products iPod Skin	B-
Nike Sport Armband for iPod nano/shuffle	B	Body Glove Fusion Case shuffle	A-	CaseClosed iPod Cases	C+
Pacific Rim Tech. Gel Shield 3-Pack	B	DLO Action Jacket for iPod shuffle	A-	MacAlly PodCase Armband	C+
Pods Plus iPod Nano Skin	B	iMojo shuffle Sweats	A-	JAVOedge Design 1	C
Shinnorie EZgoing Leather Pouch nano	B	OtterBox for iPod shuffle	A-	Tune Belt iPod Armband Carrier	C-
Speck Products Active Sport Armband	B	Power Support Silicone Jacket Shuffle	A-	Monster iSportCase	D+
Speck Products Active Sport Case	B	XtremeMac TuffWrapz	A-	Proporta Aluminum iPod Case	D-
Speck Products nano Grass FunSkin	B	Agent 18 Shield 4 Shuffle Packs	B+		
Speck Product ToughSkin for iPod nano	B	Apple iPod shuffle Armband	B+	Cases - 1G & 2G iPods (no Dock Connector)	
Sumo Cases Flip for iPod nano	B	Capdase Luxury Metal Case	B+	Incase Pouch	A
Tunewear Prie TuneTag Sienna	B	Capdase Soft Jacket Value Set	B+	Marware C.E.O Classic Case	A
Tunewear Prie TuneWallet for iPod nano	B	Core Cases Aluminum Case	B+	Marware SportSuit Convertible	A
Vaja Classic AP161	B	Exopod Aluminum Magnetic Case	B+	Vaja i-Vod	A
Winzz iFace nano	B	Griffin SiliSkins	B+	XtremeMac Deluxe (New & Improved)	A
XtremeMac MicroGlove for iPod nano	B	Griffin iVault	B+	iGlove Leather Case	A-
XtremeMac MicroShield Clear Case	B	iSkin Vibes for iPod shuffle	B+	J.R. Hill & Co. iPod Sleeve Deluxe	A-
XtremeMac TuffWrap 3-Pack for iPod nano	B	Macally IceSuit shuffle	B+	Krusell Classic Case	A-
Belkin Flip for iPod nano	B-	Pacific Rim Technologies Gel Shield	B+	Waterfield Designs Sooper Dooper	A-
Belkin Holster for iPod nano	B-	Pods Plus Crystal Case for iPod shuffle	B+	XtremeMac Deluxe (Original)	A-
Capdase Luxury Metal Case for iPod nano	B-	Speck Connect & Protect for iPod shuffle	B+	Contour Design iSee	B+
Case-Mate Leather Case for iPod nano	B-	Speck Metal iPod Protection	B+	Groove Jacket	B+
Incase University Collection Wallets	B-	Vaja AP11 for iPod shuffle	B+	Marware SportSuit Sleeve	B+
Pacific Design Nano Flip Case	B-	A.B. Sutton Kidskin Case for iPod shuffle	B	Matias iPod Armor	B+
Pods Plus Aluminum Case for iPod nano	B-	HotRomz Cases for iPod shuffle	B	Incase Designs Sleeve	B
Speck Products nano Cloud FunSkin	B-	Incase Pouch - Multipurpose Version	B	OP/TECH USA MP3i Pouch	B
Speck Products nano iGuy	B-	MCA Hautes Coutures Snow Case	B	The Pouch MP3 Player Carrying Case	B
Speck Products See-Thru Sexy Hard Case	B-	Miyavix/Power Support Kimono Case	B	Vaja Classic Case	B
SwitchEasy Capsule for iPod nano	B-	MP3Band-It Armband (1.5" Version)	B	Belkin iPod Case	B-
Tunewear Prie TuneTag for iPod nano	B-	PodGear JumpSuit Shuffle	B	NeoPod Neoprene Case	B-
Vaja Classic AP171	B-	XtremeMac Shieldz 3-Pack	B	Speck Products FlipStand	C+
XtremeMac MicroWallet Accent	B-	XtremeMac Shieldz Characters	B	Xigma Leather Case	C+
XtremeMac MicroWallet Leather	B-	XtremeMac Shieldz Sport	B	Krusell Handit Case	C
XtremeMac MicroWallet Pastel	B-	Belkin NE Classic Leather Case	B-	OWC Pod Protector	C
XtremeMac TuffWrap Single-Pack	B-	DLO Jam Jackets and Caps	B-	Willow Design BiFold Case	C
Apple Computer Leather Case for nano	C+	Incase Neoprene Wristband for iPod shuffle	B-		
C6 Mfg. Carbon Fiber Nano Case	C+	XtremeMac SportWrap for iPod shuffle	B-	Cases - iPod Hi-Fi	
Capdase Chic Leather Case for iPod nano	C+	Incase Pouch - Five-Pack Version	C+	Gecko Gear Hi-Fi Traveller Carrying Case	B
iPodstreet Horizontal Encased Leather	C+	Pods Plus Leather Cases	C+	Griffin Technology Hi-Way	B-
iPodstreet Jacket Leather Case	C+	Belkin Sports Jacket 3-Pack for iPod shuffle	C		
iPodstreet Jacket with Trim Leather Case	C+	PRM iDiddy Case/Lanyard/Earbuds shuffle	C	Cassette Tape Adapters	
Noreve Tradition for iPod nano	C+	MP3Band-It (1.0" Version)	C-	Belkin TuneDeck for iPod nano	A-
Pacific Rim Mtg. iDitti Commuter for nano	C+	Pods Plus Silicone Skins for iPod shuffle	C-	Philips PH2050W MP3/CD Cassette Adapt.	A-

Griffin SmartDeck Intelligent Adapter 4G	B+	Monster iCarPlay Wireless Plus shuffle	B	XtremeMac FS1 High Definition	B+
Sony CPA-9C Car Connecting Pack	B+	DLO TransDock micro All-in-One	B-	Altec Lansing inMotion iM202 Earphones	B
XtremeMac iPod Cassette Adapter V2	B+	Belkin TuneCast Auto FM Trans/Charger	C+	Apple iPod In-Ear Headphones	B
Griffin SmartDeck Intelligent Adapter 5G	B	Monster iCarPlay FM Transmitter	C+	Apple iPod nano In-Ear Lanyard Headph.	B
Monster iCarPlay Cassette Adapter	B	Dr. Bott iPod Connection Kit w/ FM Trans.	C	Aquapac 1000% Waterproof Headphones	B
XtremeMac iPod Cassette Adapter	C	Irock! Wireless Music Adapter	C	Etymotic Research ety8 In-the-Ear BT	B
Belkin Mobile Cassette Adapter	C-	XtremeMac AirPlay for iPod shuffle	C-	JBL Reference 510 Headphones	B
Coby CA-747 Dual Position Adapter	D	Newer Technology RoadTrip!	D	Lenntek Hookup Lanyard Bluetooth nano	B
CD Ripping Products and Services		FM Transmitters - Portable		Macally mTune Cordless Stereo Headset	B
RipShark	A-	XtremeMac AirPlay FM Transmitter	A	Macally Noise Reduction Headphones	B
Moondog Digital	A-	Griffin iTrip with LCD for iPod 4G/mini	A/A-	Mophie Song Sling Retractable Lanyard	B
MusicShifter	A-	ABT iJet for iPod nano	A-	Sennheiser LX70	B
Ready to Play	B+	Belkin TuneFM for iPod	A-	Sennheiser PMX70	B
RipDigital	B	Belkin TuneFM for iPod nano	A-	Sennheiser PXC450 with NoiseGard 2.0	B
dmp3 Music	B-	Griffin iTrip	A-	Sennheiser PX200	B
MusicRip	C+	Griffin iTrip mini	A-	Shure E3c Earphones	B
Wingspan Partners iLoad	C-	Griffin iTrip for iPod nano	A-	Sony MDR-EX90LP Stereo Headphones	B
Cleaners & Polishes		XtremeMac AirPlay Boost (nano 2G)	A-	Taylor Technologies iPlus+ USB Lanyard	B
Radtech Ice Crème (Version 2)	A-	Belkin TuneCast II FM Transmitter	B+	Apple iPod nano Lanyard Headphones	B-
Applesauce Products Scratch Removal Kit	B	C. Crane FM Transmitter	B+	Apple iPod nano Lanyard Headphones 2G	B-
iCleaner	B	XtremeMac AirPlay Boost (iPod 5G)	B+	Aural New York Earbuds	B-
DLO Care Kit for iPod	C+	Griffin iTrip Pocket	B	Bose QuietComfort 3 Acoustic Noise-Can	B-
Radtech Ice Crème (Version 1)	C+	Kensington Pico FM Transmitter for iPod	B	Bose TriPort IE In-Ear Headphones	B-
Reckitt Benckiser Brasso Metal Polish	C	XtremeMac AirPlay2	B/C+	FriendTech iDea Wireless HiFi Headset	B-
Clips and Cord Managers		BTI FM Transmitter for iPod nano	B-	Griffin EarThumps	B-
BlueLounge cableyyo	A-	DLO nanoTune Transmitter/Radio/Amp	B-	Griffin TuneBuds Earbuds/Lanyard nano	B-
Audio Outfitters earPod Earbud Case	B	Griffin iTrip with Dock Connector	B-	Harman Kardon EP730 Noise-Isolating	B-
Sendstation earBuddy	B	Kensington QuickSeek FM Transmitter	B-	H2O Audio Waterproof Headphones	B-
Sumajin SmartWrap Cord Manager	B	Tekkeon myPower FM Transmitter	B-	Logitech Curve Headphones	B-
Apple iPod mini Lanyard	B-	Sonnet Podfreq FM Transmitter	B-	Shure SE310 Sound Isolating Earphones	B-
Lajo TwistClips	B-	Headphones & In-Canal Earphones		Griffin EarJams	C+
Power Support Cord Gatherer	B-	AKG k701 Reference Headphones	A	Harman Kardon EP720 Noise-Isolating	C+
Tunewear TuneClip	C	Etymotic Research ER-4P Earphones	A	JBL Reference 210 Earphones	C+
Hook Industries BudFrog	D+	Etymotic Research ER-4S Earphones	A	Macally Retractable Headphones	C+
Clips and Guards - iPod shuffle		Etymotic ER-6i Isolator Earphones	A	HeadRoom iPod Earphone System	C
Griffin Technology TuneBuds Lanyard	A-	Shure E500PTH Sound Isolating	A	Plane Quiet Noise Reducing Headset	C
DLO Flip Clip for iPod shuffle	B+	Sony MDR-EX81 Earphones	A	Altec Lansing iM302 Headphones	C-
DVforge The Clips for iPod shuffle	B+	Ultimate Ears UE5c Custom Earphones	A	Fire Fox Technologies Liquid Frequency	C-
Kensington Transporters	B+	Bose QuietComfort 2 Noise Canceling	A-	Pacific Rim Tech shuffle Accessory Kit	C-
Bruddy ShuffleMate	B	Jays d-JAYS Earphones	A-	Ultrasone iCans Headphones	C-
Marware Sport Grip for iPod shuffle	B	Sennheiser MX500	A-	JAVOedge retractable earbuds	D
XtremeMac Shieldz	B	Sennheiser OMX70	A-	Yahba Opus Earphones	D-
Devoted1 iBelieve Crucifix Cap	B-	Sennheiser PMX60	A-	Headphone Expanders	
Rivet Grab for iPod shuffle	B-	Shure E5c Earphones	A-	Griffin SmartShare Headphone Splitter	A-
Tunewear Aluminum ClipWear shuffle	B-	Sony Fantopia MDR-EX70/71LP	A-	Macally PodDuo Headphone Adapter	A-
XtremeMac SuperClip	B-	Sony MDR-E888LP Fantopia Earphones	A-	Monster iSplitter/MusicShare	A-
XtremeMac SuperHook	B-	Ultimate Ears super.fi 3 Studio Earphones	A-	Monster iSplitter 200	B+
Griffin TuneCaps	C+	Ultimate Ears super.fi 5 EB Earphones	A-	XtremeMac Audio Splitter	B+
JP's Clip + Armband for iPod Shuffle	C+	Ultimate Ears super.fi 5 Pro Earphones	A-	XtremeMac Audio Splitter for shuffle (V2)	B+
XtremeMac Bumperz	C+	Ultimate Ears triple.fi 10 Pro Earphones	A-	Simpl Acoustics A1 Audio Amplifier	C
RadTech ClearClip for shuffle	C	Ultimate Ears UE-10 Pro Earphones	A-	Upbeat Audio Boosteroo Revolution	C-
Pacific Rim Tech. iPod shuffle Acc. Kit	C-	Westone UM1	A-	XtremeMac Audio Splitter for shuffle (V1)	D-
ShuffleClip by ShuffleClip	D+	Westone UM2	B+	iPhone Cables - Audio	
FM Radio Receivers		Altec Lansing iM616	B+	Griffin Technology SmartShare	A-
Griffin iFM Radio/Remote/Recorder-4G	A/B+	Altec Lansing iM716	B+	Belkin Stereo Link Cable	B+
Apple Computer iPod Radio Remote	A-	Apple iPod Earphones (9/06)	B+	Monster iSplitter 200 Headphone Splitter	B+
DLO mini fm Radio and Amplifier for mini	A-	Audio-Technica ATH-CM3 Earphones	B+	Belkin Mini-Stereo Link Cable	B
Kensington Digital FM Radio & Transmitter	B+	Design Annex iBeat Illuminating Phones	B+	Griffin Headphone Adapter for iPhone	B
BTI The iPod Tunestir 3-in-1	B-	ezGear ezEars SX50 Earphones	B+	Monster iCable for Car (iPod/iPhone)	B
FM Transmitters - Car Only		Future Sonics Ears Model EM3 Earphones	B+	Monster iCable for iPod and iPhone	B
Kensington Digital FM Trans./Auto Charg.	A-	Harman Kardon EP710 Noise-Isolating	B+	Belkin Headphone Adapter for iPhone	B-
Griffin iTrip Auto FM Transmitter/Charger	B+	Headbanger Audio Ear Subs Earphones	B+	RadTech ProCable Stereo Audio Extender	B-
Macally FMCup FM Transmitter/Charger	B+	Hearing Components Comply NR-10	B+	iPhone Power Chargers/Kits/Adapters	
Newer Technology RoadTrip! 87.9 FM	B+	iSkin Cerulean X1 Sound Isolating	B+	BoxWave VersaCharger PRO	B
Newer Technology RoadTrip!+ (Plus)	B+	iSkin Cerulean XLR Earphones	B+	XtremeMac InCharge Auto/iPhone	B
Kensington RDS FM Transmitter/Car Char.	B	JBL Reference 220 Earphones	B+	Apple iPhone Bluetooth Travel Cable	B-
Monster iCarPlay Wireless 200	B	Logitech Noise Canceling Headphones	B+	Griffin Technology PowerJolt for iPhone	B-
Monster iCarPlay Wireless Plus iPod	B	Philips SHE9501	B+	Macally USB Car Charger for iPhone	B-
		Shure E2c Earphones	B+	Monster iCarPlay Cassette Adapter/iPhone	B-
		Shure E4c Sound Isolating Earphones	B+		
		Shure SE210 Sound Isolating Earphones	B+		
		v-moda Bass Freq Earphones	B+		

iPhone Cases

Marware SportGrip Smooth Silicone	A-
Case-mate Signature Leather Case	B+
Contour Design iSee for iPhone	B+
Marware Sport Grip Backwinder for iPhone	B+
Power Support Crystal Jacket Set	B+
Belkin Sport Armband for iPhone	B
Case-Mate Leather Flip Case for iPhone	B
DLO Jam Jacket for iPhone	B
Incase Fitted Sleeve for iPhone	B
Incase Leather Folio for iPhone	B
Incase Sports Multifunction for iPhone	B
Incipio Executive OVRMLD L. Hard Case	B
iStyles 2007 Sleeve Collection	B
Macally mCase Protective Leather Case	B
Marware C.E.O. Premiere for iPhone	B
Marware Sportsuit Sleeve Discreet	B
Pacific Rim Technologies iShield	B
Speck SkinTight 2-Pack for iPhone	B
Speck ToughSkin for iPhone	B
Belkin Acrylic Case for iPhone	B-
DLO HipCase for iPhone	B-
Griffin Technology Elan Snap-In for iPhone	B-
Marware C.E.O. Sleeve Slim Executive	B-
Marware Sidewinder Smart Holster	B-
Orbino Strada Premium Hand-Stitched Case	B-
Belkin Holster for iPhone	C+
Griffin Technology Elan Holster for iPhone	C+
Incase Protective Cover for iPhone	C+
Macally mSleeve Genuine Leather Case	C+
Marware Quick Vue for iPhone	C+
Vaja iVolution Holster for iPhone	C+
Case-Mate Signature iPhone Holster	C
Incipio dermaSHOT Silicone Case	C
Incipio ECO case and Standard Pouch	C
Incipio Silicrylic Case for iPhone	C
Speck Holster-Pro for iPhone	C
Vaja iVolution Lady Holster for iPhone	C
BoxWave Designio Vertical Flap L. Case	C-
Macally mPouch Protective Leather Pouch	C-
Marware C.E.O. Elite for iPhone	C-
BoxWave Designio Open Screen L. Sleeve	D+
BoxWave FlexiSkin for Apple iPhone	D+

iPhone Headsets - Bluetooth

Plantronics Voyager 520 Bluetooth	B+
Aliph Jawbone Bluetooth Headset	B
Apple iPhone Bluetooth Headset	B
Plantronics Discovery 665 Bluetooth	B
Argard M10 Bluetooth Headset	B-
Bluetake BT400GL Bluetooth Headset	C+

iPhone Headsets - Wired

Apple iPhone Stereo Headset	B+
v-moda Vibe Duo Earphones w/ Mic	B+

iPhone Docks and Stands

Apple iPhone Dock	B+
Apple iPhone Dual Dock	B+

iPhone Stickers, Guards, and Film

NLU Products BodyGuardz for iPhone	B+
Power Support Crystal Film Set for iPhone	B+
Best Skins Ever iPhone Total Body Skin	B+
ShieldZone Front Shield for Apple iPhone	B
ShieldZone InvisibleShield Full Body	B
JAVOedge JavoScreens for iPhone	C+
BoxWave ClearTouch Anti-Glare Screen	C
RadTech ClearCal for iPhone	C-

 iPhones & Tunes Phones

Apple iPhone (4GB/8GB)	B+
Motorola RAZR V3i iTunes Mobile Phone	B-
Motorola SLVR L7 iTunes Mobile Phone	B-
Motorola ROKR E1 iTunes Mobile Phone	C+

iPods

Apple 2G iPod 20GB Mac	A
Apple 3G iPod 15GB	A
Apple iPod U2 Special Edition (Color)	A
Apple 4G iPod 20/60GB (Color)	A
Apple 2G iPod 10GB PC	A-
Apple iPod photo (30GB/60GB)	A-
Apple iPod E5G with video (30GB/80GB)	A-
Apple iPod nano 2G (2GB/4GB/8GB)	A-
Apple 4G iPod (20GB/40GB)	A-/B+
Apple iPod from HP (20GB/40GB)	A-/B+
Apple iPod nano (1GB/2GB/4GB)	A-/B+
Apple iPod 5G with Video (30GB/60GB)	A-/B+
Apple iPod shuffle 1G (512MB/1GB)	A-/B
Apple iPod mini 1G (4GB)	B+
Apple iPod mini 2G (4GB/6GB)	B+
Apple iPod shuffle 2G (1GB)	B+
Apple iPod U2 Special Edition (with video)	B+

iPod Games

Apple Computer iQuiz (aka iPod Quiz)	A-
Electronic Arts Mahjong	A-
Apple Computer Vortex	B+
Electronic Arts Sudoku	B+
Electronic Arts Royal Solitaire	B
Electronic Arts The Sims Pool	B
FreshGames Cubis 2	B
Sony BMG Musika - Interactive Visualizer	B
Apple Computer Texas Hold'em	B-
Electronic Arts The Sims Bowling	B-
Electronic Arts Tetris	B-
PopCap Games Bejeweled	B-
PopCap Games Zuma	B-
Gameloft S.A. Lost	C+
Electronic Arts Mini Golf	C-
Namco Ms. Pac-Man	C-
Namco Pac-Man	D+

iPod Hardware Expanders - General

Apple Nike+iPod Sport Kit	A-
Griffin RadioSHARK	A-
Griffin radio SHARK 2	A-
Apple AirPort Express	B+
B2 miJam Guitar	B
ETCHamac iPod Etching Service	B
Griffin iBeam	B
LUMi Ventures Flasher for iPod	B
ViewSonic ViewDock 22" Monitor w/Dock	B-
Intuitive Devices Blinkit iPod Safety Light	C+
B2 miJam Mixer	C+
Sima Products Hitch USB Transfer Device	C+
DVforge JamPod Audio Mixer	C
B2 miJam Drummer	C

iPod-Specific Clothes

iSoundCap Hat for iPod nano/shuffle	B
Kenpo MKT-0& Jacket for iPod	B
TuneBuckle The Original for iPod nano	B
TuneBuckle Full Moon for iPod nano	C+
Koyono BlackCoat Work Jacket	C-

Karaoke Accessories

Griffin iKaraoke	B
doPi Karaoke	B
CAVS IPS-11G Karaoke System	B-

Portable Video Displays

Memorex iFlip 8.4" Portable Video Player	B+
Sonic Impact Video-55 Video/Speaker	B+
iLuv i1055/Zeon Z1055 7-Inch Tablet	C
ATO iSee 360i Video Recorder/Player	C-

Recorders - Audio

Griffin iTalk	A-
Griffin iTalk (2) Voice Recorder	A-

XtremeMac MicroMemo High-Fidelity	A-
Belkin TuneTalk Stereo for iPod with video	B+
Belkin TuneTalk Microphone	B
Belkin Voice Recorder	B
Griffin iTalkPro CD-Quality Stereo Mic	B
XtremeMac MicroMemo for iPod nano	B
DLO VoiceNote Voice Recorder	B-
Griffin Lapel Mic Stereo Microphone	B-
Belkin Universal Microphone Adapter	C+

Recorders - Video

ADS Tech Instant Video To-Go	NR
Streaming Networks iRecord for iPod	B-
Neuros MPEG-2 Recorder 2	C

Remote Controls

ABT iJet Wireless RF Remote 3G/4G/mini	A-
Griffin AirClick Wireless RF 3G/4G/mini	A-
Targus RemoteTunes Wireless 3G/4G/mini	A-
ABT iJet Wireless Remote w/ Bottom Dock	B+
Apple Remote 3G/4G/mini	B+
Belkin SportCommand Fabric Remote	B+
Engineered Audio RemoteRemote 2 RF	B+
Keyspan TuneView for iPod	B+
TEN Technology naviPro EX 3G/4G/mini	B+
Apple Computer Apple Remote	B
Brando Workshop iPod 5G Remote Cable	B
Nyko iTop Button Relocator 3G/4G	B
Scosche 150' Wireless RF Sport Remote	B
TEN Technology naviPod 3G/4G/mini	B
Griffin AirClick Remote for Dock Connect.	B
Alive Style PopAlive Remote and Dock	B-
DLO HomeDock Music Remote and Dock	B-
iPDA Remote Control for iPod nano	B-
Logic3 In-Line Remote with LCD Display	B-
Monster iEZClick Wireless On-the-Go	B-
ABT iJet Two-Way LCD Remote	C+
DLO iDirect Wireless Remote 3G/4G/mini	C
Logiix The Remote+ for iPods	C-
Zicplay EWOOL Remote + AV Dock	D-

Security Devices

Secure-It The PodSafe	B+
Targus Mobile Security Lock	C+
i2 Electronics iLOCKr neo Anti-Theft	C

Software

Ratajik StationRipper (PC)	A
Griffin iFill (PC/Mac)	A-
Talking Panda iBar (PC/Mac)	A-
Benesch TiVoDecode Manager 2.1	B+
Migo Personal for iPod (PC)	B+
Talking Panda iLingo Translation Software	B+
Elgato Systems EyeTV 2 Recorder (Mac)	B
TV Harmony AutoPilot	B
TiVo Desktop Plus 2.3 (PC)	C

Speakers

Altec Lansing FX6021 2.1 Speakers	A
JBL Creature II 2.1 System	A
Logic3 i-Station7 with Remote	A
Logitech AudioStation High-Performance	A
Pacific Rim Cube Travel Speakers	A
Altec Lansing inMotion iM600 Portable	A-
Altec Lansing inMotion iM7	A-
Altec Lansing iMmini	A-
Athena Technologies iVoice	A-
Ego Music Showcase Water-Resistant	A-
Gear4 PocketParty for iPod nano	A-
Griffin Amplifi 2.1 Sound System	A-
Harman Soundsticks II 2.1 Speaker System	A-
iHome IH5 Docking Stereo Clock Radio	A-
iHome iH7 Dual Alarm Clock	A-
iLuv i552 Portable AM/FM Radio/Dock V2	A-

JBL Encounter 2.1 Speakers	A-	Logitech mm22 Portable	B	Power Support Metal Gear Stand	A-
JBL On Tour	A-	Logitech mm32 Portable	B	Thought Out iPad 2 Adjustable Stand	A-
Logic3 i-Station Shuffle	A-	Macally IP-N111/B Portable Speaker/nano	B	Apple Computer iPod AV Connection Kit	B+
Logic3 i-Station Traveller	A-	Memorex iWake Dual Alarm Clock	B	Apple Computer Universal Dock	B+
Logitech mm50 Portable Speakers	A-	Memorex Mi1111 Home Micro System	B	Belkin Hi-Speed USB 2.0 4-Port Hub	B+
Macally PodWave	A-	Monitor Audio i-deck plus	B	Kensington Entertainment Dock 500	B+
Macally TunePro Flat Panel	A-	mStation Orb 2.1 Stereo	B	Keyspan TuneView for iPod	B+
Memorex iTrek Mi3000 Portable Speaker	A-	mStation Tower 2.1 Stereo	B	Medicom iKub Stand for iPod	B+
Monitor Audio i-deck	A-	MTX Audio iThunder Portable Boom Box	B	ModPod	B+
Nyko Speaker Dock 2	A-	PodGear Shuffle Station	B	Power Support Swivel Fix Stand	B+
Philips AJ300D Docking Entertainment	A-	Rain Design iWoofers	B	Sonance iPort In-Wall Docking System	B+
PodGear PocketParty	A-	Tiger Toys/Hasbro i-Cat Interactive	B	SwitchEasy KuroDock & Power Adapter	B+
Sonic Impact i-P22 Portable Speaker	A-	Tiger Toys/Hasbro i-Dog Interactive	B	Thought Out iPad Shuffle Dock	B+
Timex Ti700 iPod Clock Radio	A-	XtremeMac MicroBlast for iPod nano	B	Apple Dock (for Dock Connector iPods)	B
XtremeMac Luna Alarm Clock	A-	AFT iCarta Stereo Dock/Bath Tissue Holder	B-	Apple iPod AV Connection Kit	B
Altec Lansing iM3	B+	Altec Lansing iM5	B-	Apple iPod nano Dock	B
Altec Lansing iM3c	B+	Boynq iCube	B-	Apple iPod nano Dock 2G	B
Altec Lansing iM9	B+	dreamGear i.Sound Concert to Go	B-	Apple iPod shuffle Dock	B
Altec Lansing iM11	B+	Griffin Technology TuneBox for shuffle	B-	Atech Flash iDuo	B
Altec Lansing M602 Digital iPod Speaker	B+	i.Dream America i-Classic	B-	Bubble Design Habitat	B
Atlantis Music Showcase - Water Resistant	B+	Ignitek iCruiser Speaker System	B-	Belkin Power Dock	B
Bose SoundDock	B+	IntelliTouch EOS Wireless Speaker System	B-	Belkin Power Dock AV	B
Chestnut Hill Sound George	B+	Jada Toys I-Playaz Chub City Chub C.	B-	Belkin TuneCommand AV for iPod	B
Elecom ASP-700i Speakers	B+	Jada Toys I-Playaz Chub City Volkswagen	B-	DLO Flexible Dock for iPod shuffle	B
Geneva Lab Model L Sound System	B+	Jensen JiMS-190 / JiMS-200	B-	DLO HomeDock for iPod	B
Geneva Lab Model XL Sound System	B+	JVC NX-PS1 Compact Component System	B-	DLO HomeDock Deluxe for iPod	B
Griffin Journi Personal Mobile System	B+	Kensington FX 300 Speaker to Go	B-	DLO HomeDock Deluxe for iPod (2007)	B
Harman Kardon Go + Play Loudspeaker	B+	Kensington FX 500 Speaker to Go	B-	Griffin Technology TuneCenter (no Wi-Fi)	B
iHome iH8 Dual-Alarm Clock Radio	B+	Kensington SX2000 Speakers	B-	Marware USB Travel Dock for shuffle (2G)	B
iHome iH26 iHome2Go Portable System	B+	KNG America FUNKit	B-	Pacific Rim Technologies iCradle	B
iHome iH31 iHome2Go Portable System	B+	Memorex iMove Mi3005 Boombox w/ RC	B-	PlasticSmith tux upright Stand for iPod	B
iHome iH52 Home System	B+	Mirage OmniVibe 360 Degree Omnipolar	B-	PodHolder	B
iLuv i177 Clock Radio	B+	Monitor Audio i-deck compact	B-	PodStand	B
JBL On Stage	B+	Mythix iChant Portable Active Speaker	B-	Pressure Drop DecoDock for iPod shuffle	B
JBL On Stage II	B+	Oregon Scientific iBall Wireless Speaker	B-	Speck Products Shuffle Dock	B
JBL On Time - Time Machine for iPod	B+	Philips DCD778 Under-Cabinet AV	B-	Westshore Craftworks iDockCover	B
JBL Radial High Performance Loudspeaker	B+	Saffire JukeBox Station	B-	Xitel HiFi-Link for iPod nano	B
JBL Radial Micro	B+	Sharp i-Elegance DK-A1	B-	Alive Style PopAlive Remote and Dock	B-
JBL Spot 2.1 System	B+	Sharper Image iSphere	B-	Belkin TuneSync Dock and USB Hub	B-
JBL Spyro 2.1 System	B+	Speck Products SpeckTone Retro	B-	DVBaseLtd DVBase	B-
JLab Audio MiniBlaster Portable nano	B+	Techwiz Innovations Musak Bag	B-	Incipio IncipioHitch USB Adapter nano 2G	B-
JVC RA-P10 Portable Audio System/Clock	B+	Tiger i-Fish	B-	JP's/Pods Plus Charger/Hotsync shuffle	B-
Kensington SX 3000R Speakers/FM Radio	B+	XtremeMac Tango 2.1 Digital Audio	B-	Pacific Rim Tech. nano iCradle	B-
Klipsch iFi Speaker System	B+	Altec Lansing inMotion iMV712	C+	PlasticSmith tux tlt Stand for iPod	B-
Klipsch iGroove HG All-in-One	B+	Bosch Power Box Dock for iPod	C+	SwitchEasy PivotDock for iPod shuffle	B/B-
Klipsch iGroove SXT iPod Speaker	B+	dreamGear i.Sound TimeTravel Clock	C+	Thought Out iPad	B-
Logic3 i-Station Portable Speakers	B+	Gear4 PocketParty V2 Micro Speaker	C+	Xitel HiFi-Link for iPod	B-
Logic3 i-Station3 Speaker System	B+	GINI Systems iTube Vacuum Tube 2.1	C+	XtremeMac MicroPack Portable Dock	B-
Logitech AudioStation Express	B+	Ignitek iCheer Speakers	C+	GINI Systems iConec iPod Dock	C+
Macally IceTune	B+	Macally IP-S111 Portable Speakers/shuffle	C+	Power Support Metal Gear Simple Stand	C+
Sierra Sound iN Studio 5.0 Smart Speakers	B+	Miglia MicroSound Micro Speaker	C+	Razer ProType Keyboard with iPod Dock	C+
Sonic Impact i-Fusion Portable System	B+	PodGear PocketParty Shuffle	C+	BookEndz iPodDock	C
Sonic Impact i-F2 Portable with Remote	B+	Portable Sound Laboratories iMainGo	C+	DLO USB Dock Cable for iPod shuffle	C
Sonic Impact T24 Digital Audio System	B+	Sharper Image iPulse	C+	iPodCradle	C
Tivoli iPAL	B+	Sony CPF-iP001 Cradle Audio for iPod	C+	JP's/Pods Plus Dock with Video Out	C
Tivoli iSongBook Portable iPod Music Sys.	B+	Vuum Audio VTi-B1 Vacuum Tube System	C+	Silex Technology wiDock Wireless Dock	C
Tivoli iYiYi	B+	Boynq Sabre	C		
Altec Lansing inMotion	B	Emerson iTone iE600BK Home Audio	C		
Altec Lansing iM500 for iPod nano	B	Excalibur iBlaster Clock Radio	C	Stickers, Guards, and Film	
Apple Computer iPod Hi-Fi	B	iLive iBCD3816DT Portable Docking 2.1	C	Frontfield iPoDonut Wheel Protector	A-
Boynq iCube II	B	iLuv i188 BLK/WHT	C	InvisibleShield Full for iPod 5G	A-
Brookstone SongPlay	B	Saffire iWoogie Blaster Hi-Fi Stereo System	C	InvisibleShield Full for iPod nano	A-
Cyber Acoustics iRhythms A302/A303	B	dreamGear i.Sound Wall Mountable	C-	InvisibleShield Full for iPod nano 2G	A-
Dynex Personal Speaker System/shuffle	B	Monster iSpeaker Portable	C-	iSkin Wheel Cap	A-
Ignitek iCarrier	B	iLuv i7500 2.1-Channel Mini Audio System	D	Power Support Crystal Film Screen Prot.	A-
iLive iHMD816DT Home Docking System	B	DLO iBoom (Version 2)	D-	Power Support 3D Wheel Film	A-
iHome iH4 Single-Alarm Clock System	B	DLO iBoom (Version 1)	F	Tunewear Poptune for iPod shuffle	A-
iHome iH19 Water-Resistant Sport Case	B			JAVOScreen	B+
iHome iH30 iHome2Go Portable System	B			NLU BodyGuardz for iPod 5G	B+
iHome iH36 Under the Cabinet	B	Stands (Docks & Cradles)		Power Support Crystal Film for iPod nano	B+
iHome iH80 OutLoud Portable	B	Atech Flash Technology (AFT) iDuo Hub	A-	Power Support Crystal Film for iPod 5G	B+
iLive iHMD8816DT Home Docking System	B	Griffin Technology AirDock & Remote	A-	Hewlett-Packard Printable Tattoos	B
Klipsch iGroove All-in-One	B	Kensington Stereo Dock for iPod	A-	MacSkinz Podskinz	B
Logic3 i-Station 8 LCD Docking Station	B	Keyspan AV Dock for iPod	A-	Moshi iGlaze nano	B
		Pacific Rim Technologies Shuffle Cradle	A-	Power Support Wheel Film	B

Shufflesome Stickers for iPod shuffle	B
Tatuz International Tatuz for iPod shuffle	B
Tunewear Poptune for iPod nano	B
Mobile Juice Shuffle Art	B-
Moshi/Aevoe iGlaze video	B-
RadTech Portectorz for Dock Connector	B-
Tunewear Poptune Stickers for iPod mini	B-
SkinEFX iPod Stickers	C+
Capdase SkinGuard Stickers for shuffle	C

Wearable Video Displays

MicroOptical myVu for iPod	B+
Iculti iWear for iPod	B
ezGear ezVision Video i-Wear	C

Warning: Astroturfing/Viral Marketing and Product Revving

iLounge's editors have been watching two trends that impact our reviews and ratings, and have tried to keep readers informed about them.

Astroturfing is when a company creates fake grass roots support for its products, or opposition to a competitor's products. This is a form of "viral marketing" used to influence sales, and appears in the form of positive comments ("This is the best ever! I love it!") or negative comments ("This thing broke in 2 minutes, you should really buy ... instead!"). iLounge has been targeted by viral marketers, and though we frequently delete their comments and ban them from the site, some may slip through the cracks. We warn readers to take comments with a grain or three of salt; our editor-written reviews are objectively written and trustworthy.

Product Revving is a process by which companies continue to change features of products after initial shipments, leading sometimes to improved experiences, but also some consumer confusion. We can't track all of the revisions out there, and thankfully, revved products are most often *better* than the ones we tested and rated. But sometimes, comments may alert you to post-review changes you may want to know about, and we've tried to add updates to items - particularly newly iPhone-ready accessories - that we know have been revved in recent mnths.

Understanding our Ratings

Though we'd make a lot of companies happy if we only said nice things about products, we try to present as much of the iPod spectrum as we can: the good, the bad, and the ugly. By looking at the tables on the past three pages, you can get a sense of where we think specific add-ons rank relative to each other. Our letter grade Ratings below break down into excellent, good, okay, and bad marks, with two ratings (D- and F) reserved for products with serious or dangerous defects.

A

A grades are awarded to only the very best products - ones that we **highly recommend**. Fewer than 5% of the products we've reviewed on the site since 2001 have received flat A grades - meaning "superb across the board" - down from 7.5% this time last year. An A- grade indicates one or two small deficiencies that limit a product's universal appeal. What about A+? Even the original iPod didn't receive an A+ grade from iLounge. We haven't awarded one yet, and may never do so.

B

B+ and B grades are awarded to very good and good products - ones that we **recommend** to large but specific audiences. At the flat B level, we consider a product to be one that we would tell our friends are worth considering, with some modest caveats. A B- grade indicates a product that has a few medium to large issues that crimp its appeal, and qualifies for our **limited recommendation**. We recommend a B- product only to a niche of people who really need its functionality.

C

C graded products are "okay" ones that we **neither recommend nor dislike**. They perform all of their stated functions acceptably, but may not be attractively designed, well thought out, or appropriately priced. A C+ grade indicates that the product was a little bit better than okay, but still not "good" or "commendable." The C- grade indicates that the product was on the edge of being bad, and though it worked substantially as promised, possessed some serious design issues.

D

D graded products are ones that we **actively disliked** for some reason. This doesn't happen often, and it has nothing to do with the manufacturer or vendor except for the choices made in designing and selling the product. Typically, the reason is that the product possessed such substantially below- average design, performance or pricing that it was nearly laughable by comparison to other available offerings.

D-

Under iLounge's policy on defective and dangerous products, any product graded with a D- was **defective** in some substantial way when we tested it, or subsequently revealed to be defective based on substantial reader input or manufacturer admission. Since most of the products we review are from major manufacturers who test their products prior to shipments, relatively few products qualify for this rating. However, problem products continue to slip through the cracks, so be careful.

F

F graded products were **potentially dangerous** when we tested them. Under our policy on defective and dangerous products, we only award a grade of F if a product contains a defect that could seriously damage itself, the attached iPod, or the purchaser.

Examples of products that have received F grades include power chargers that do not properly regulate power going to the iPod's electronic components, and a stereo that could burst its batteries when connected to both battery and AC power. For obvious reasons, not many iPod accessories qualify for F ratings.

To make The Free iPod Book 3.3 fit on your iPhone, we've split it into two parts.

Visit iLounge.com/book3/ for part 2 of The Free iPod Book 3.3

