Part 2 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

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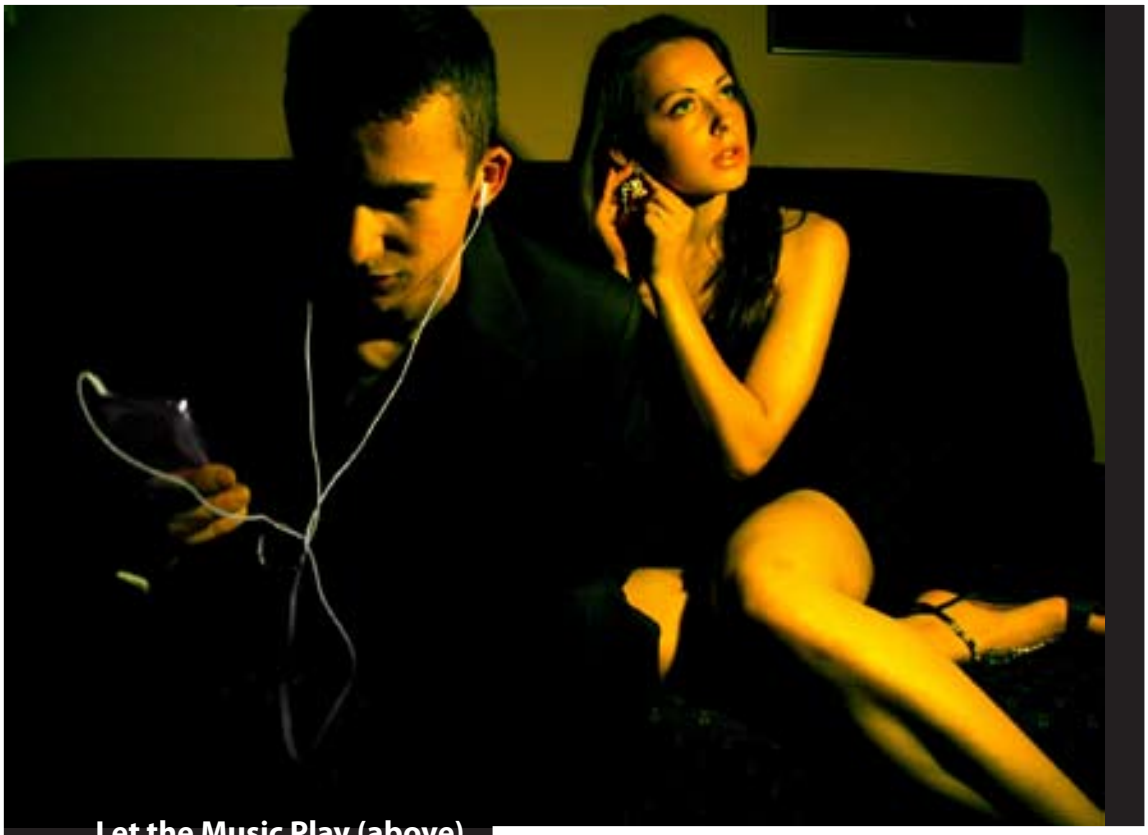
PHOTO & ART GALLERIES

Photo Contest
iPod Fashion: People
Top Submissions

Our iPod Fashion contest challenged readers to create one of two types of photographs: a fashionable picture of at least one person with an iPod, or a picture of an iPod dressed up like something or someone. Here are some of the stunning entries we received.



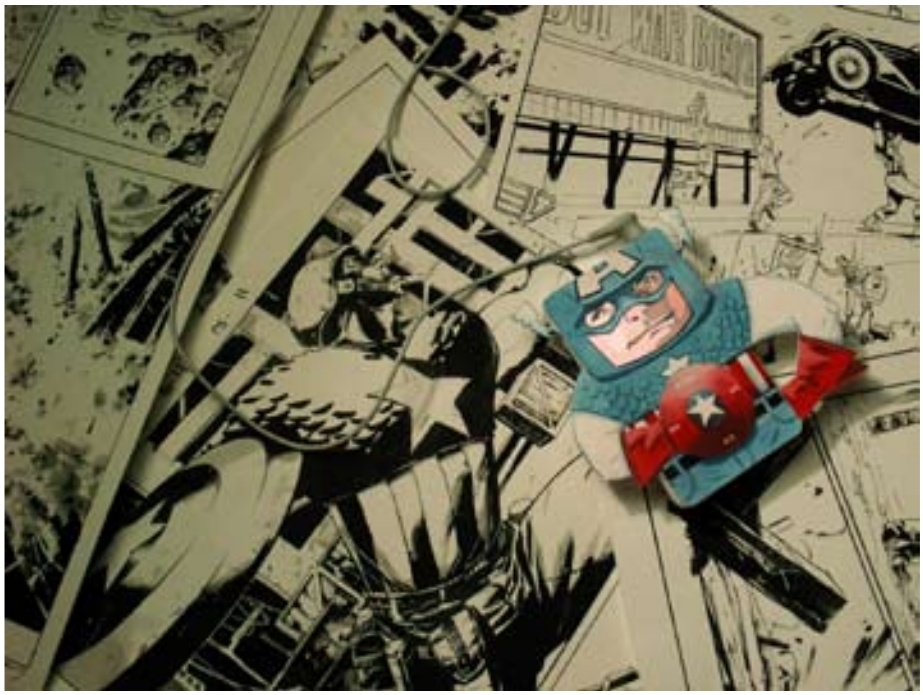
Let the Music Play (above)
Banja Luka, Republika Srpska
Grand Prize: Apple iPhone 8GB ($599)

CHiLL (right)
Canada
Second Prize: Apple iPhone 4GB ($499)

iPod Girls (above)
Guillermo A. Romer, Mexico
Third Prize: $100 iTunes Gift Certificate

Photo Contest
iPod Fashion: iPods
Top Submissions

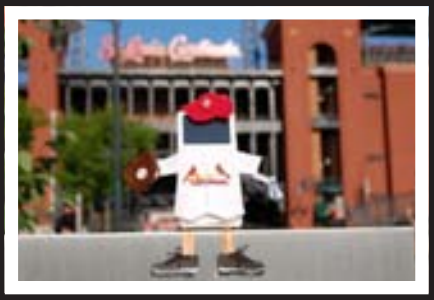
Our initial concern over the quality of our iPod dress-up contest entries disappeared as increasingly impressive entries began to appear. The Grand Prize winner, a Marvel Comics illustrator, used his own amazing background and iPod art to create a highly memorable photo; several awesome entries lost out only for violating our "no use of others' photos" rule.



iCaptain
Mitch Breitweiser, Arkansas, US
Grand Prize: Apple iPhone 8GB ($599)

iPod of Oz
Alfredo José Richner, Puerto Rico
Second Prize: Apple iPhone 4GB ($499)

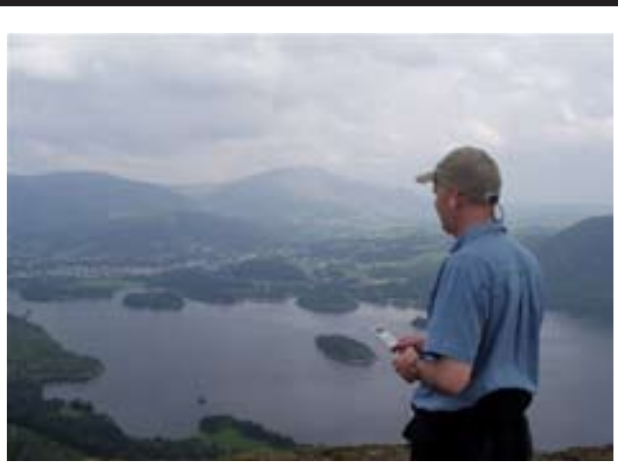
Time for Make Up
Ahmed Shokry Batout, Egypt
Third Prize: $100 iTunes Gift Certificate



Some Favorites From the iPods Around the World Photo Galleries

Now with over 4,150 photos, our iPods Around the World gallery continues to be a favorite destination for iLounge readers. We've gathered some of our favorite pictures from a few of the gallery's top destinations - add yours today!

Leah with the iPod shuffle
Holzkirchen, Bavaria, Germany



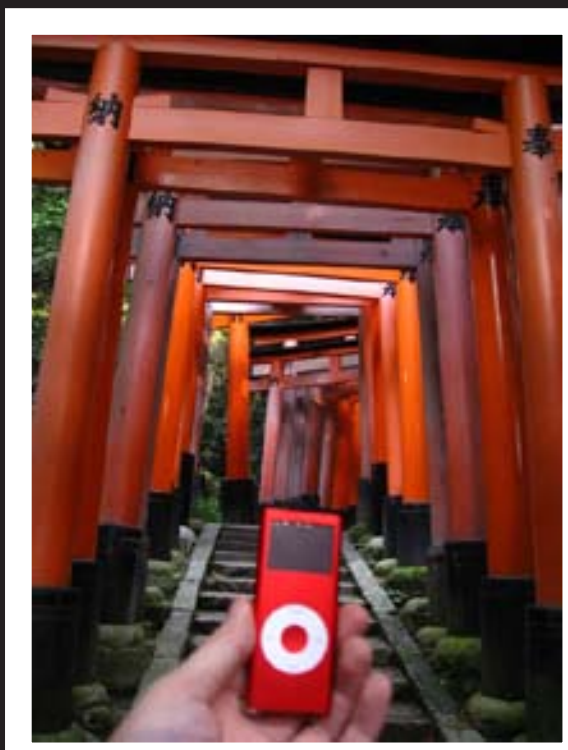
A view of Derwentwater from the Summit of Cat Bells
Cumbria, England

The Marques Tower, Chateau de Chenonceau
Loire, France

Alps Mountains
Aosta, Italy

Europe

Grooving in Thailand
Chiang Mai, Thailand



Fushimi Inari Temple
Kyoto, Japan

With Mao
Lijiang, Yunnan, China

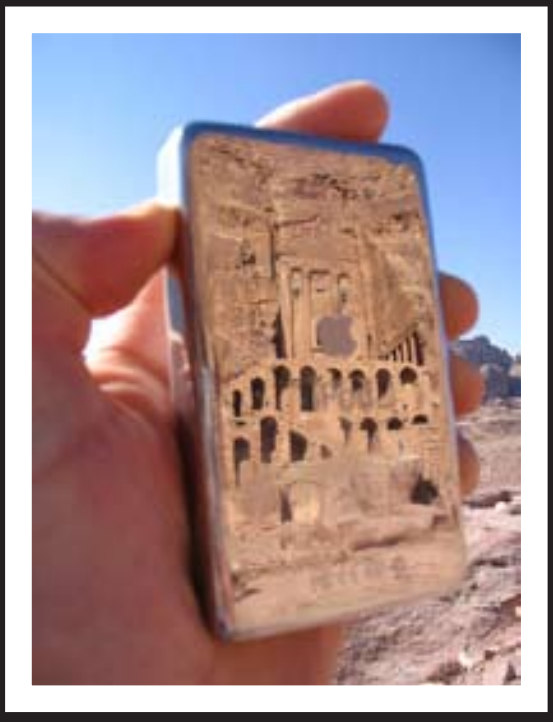
Mt. Ruapehu
North Island, New Zealand

Asia/Pacific

Female member of Mursi tribe
Southern Ethiopia

Hotel Burj al Arab
Dubai, U.A.E.

Sahara Desert
Egypt



Urn Tomb
Petra, Jordan

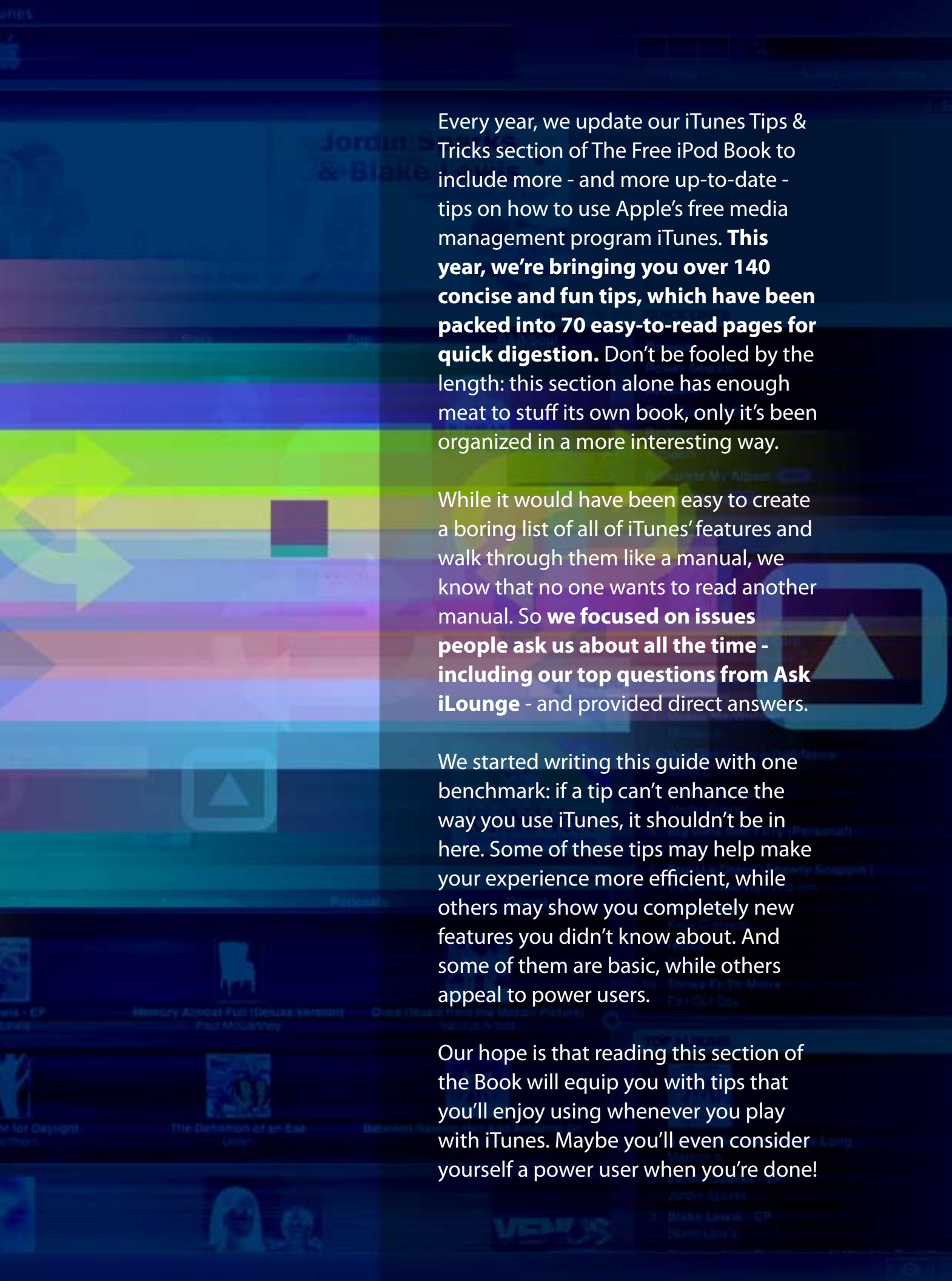
Mars Society Desert Research Station
Utah, USA

Original Mayan Pyramid
Palenque, Chiapas, Mexico

Andreina Experiencia ARS
Isla de Coche, Coche Paradaise, Venezuela

Machu Picchu
Peru

iTunes
Tips & Tricks



Every year, we update our iTunes Tips & Tricks section of The Free iPod Book to include more - and more up-to-date - tips on how to use Apple's free media management program iTunes. **This year, we're bringing you over 140 concise and fun tips, which have been packed into 70 easy-to-read pages for quick digestion.** Don't be fooled by the length: this section alone has enough meat to stuff its own book, only it's been organized in a more interesting way.

While it would have been easy to create a boring list of all of iTunes' features and walk through them like a manual, we know that no one wants to read another manual. So **we focused on issues people ask us about all the time - including our top questions from Ask iLounge** - and provided direct answers.

We started writing this guide with one benchmark: if a tip can't enhance the way you use iTunes, it shouldn't be in here. Some of these tips may help make your experience more efficient, while others may show you completely new features you didn't know about. And some of them are basic, while others appeal to power users.

Our hope is that reading this section of the Book will equip you with tips that you'll enjoy using whenever you play with iTunes. Maybe you'll even consider yourself a power user when you're done!

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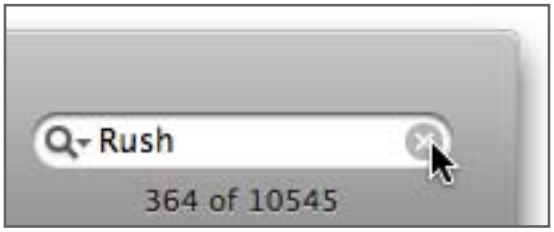
The importance of iTunes Preferences

Throughout these tips, the second most important screen in all of iTunes is the **Preferences** window. Because it wants to keep the main iTunes screen simple and easy, Apple hides almost all of iTunes' most powerful features under various "Tabs" in **Preferences**. To access **Preferences** on a PC, go to the top of the window, select **Edit**, and find **Preferences** near the bottom. You can also hold the Control key and hit the Comma key (,) to bring it up automatically. On a Mac, **Preferences** is under the **iTunes** menu option, or just hit Command and Comma.

We'll explore all of the tabs in the sections that follow.

Quickly clear searches

The **Search** field, located in the upper right-hand corner of the iTunes window, is a great way to find music efficiently. Did you know there is a way to make the searching process even more efficient? Instead of highlighting the text in the Search field and then pressing Delete, all you need to do is click the little grey "X" button on the right side of the field. This clears whatever text is in the field, allowing you to quickly return to your full Library view or start another search.



Kill the iTunes MiniStore

It's incredibly annoying - thank Apple's marketing department for the iTunes MiniStore, a big blue bar with music purchase recommendations that appears by default at the bottom of your Library. After numerous complaints about the MiniStore, Apple now provides clear instructions on how the MiniStore works and requires a new user to specifically opt-in before turning it on.

If you have opted to turn on the MiniStore and later want to get rid of it, the option to turn it off can be found under the View menu. **Simply select "Hide Ministore" and it will disappear from the bottom of the screen and never bother you again.**

iTunes Mini Player

You've heard of the iPod mini and Mac mini - this is iTunes Mini. If you're tight on screen real estate, you can shrink iTunes down two sizes. On a Mac, click the **green zoom control button** in the top-left corner of the application. On a PC, hit **Control-M**. Gone are your Source and Song lists, replaced with a small control window with only Play/Pause, Next/Fast Forward and Previous/Rewind buttons, a volume slider and a status display.

And if the Tunes Mini Player isn't small enough for you, you can go smaller. Just **click and drag the bottom-right edge** of the iTunes mini window a tad to the left and you will be greeted by this even smaller, screenless version of iTunes Mini - we'd call it iTunes Shuffle, but it lacks the same-named iPod's shuffle feature. It hasn't changed much from version to version of iTunes, remaining the simplest way to access your music library

Maximizing the Mini Player

If you like the functionality of iTunes Mini, but hate digging through open windows to find your little pal, this tip is for you. There is an option buried deep within iTunes that keeps iTunes on top of other windows. Go to the **Preferences** (iTunes > **Preferences** on Mac, Edit > **Preferences** on PC) window and select the **Advanced Tab**. Make sure you're in the **General** section. Then, if you look at the bottom of the window, you'll see a check box setting for **Keep Mini Player on top of all other windows**. Check this, and you'll never have to go looking for your iTunes controls again.

Choosing your song format

You already know that iTunes is a digital jukebox - but did you know that iTunes can play different formats of music? This tip provides detailed recommendations on the right format to use for converting your CDs.

Since April of 2003, the Advanced Audio Codec (AAC for short, part of the MPEG-4 compression standard) has been Apple's default for encoding music with iTunes. Other options are still available under the **Preferences** window, under the **Advanced Tab**, under **Importing**. Apart from AAC, you can also choose MP3, AIFF, WAV, and Apple Lossless. While you're on this screen, we also recommend unchecking **Play songs while importing**, due to its adverse affect on importing speed - CD rips will take 25-50 times longer, depending on your CD drive.

Different formats have different benefits, so we discuss them all below. For reference purposes, we'll show you the file size of U2's "Vertigo" encoded in each format, at our recommended settings.

MP3 – Recommended setting: Higher Quality (192 kbps). MP3 is the most popular of the compressed music formats, but it's old, and requires more disk space to get equal sound quality compared to AAC. However, unlike AAC, it is compatible with most non-iPod music players, and is also compatible with virtually all home and car stereos that natively support playback of compressed digital music. We recommend MP3 if you are concerned with compatibility with various players, and aren't worried about storage size. Vertigo size: 4.5MB.

AAC – Recommended setting: at least High Quality (128 kbps). This is the same quality and format that Apple uses for songs purchased from the iTunes Store. However, the iPod is the only major portable music player it will work with, and it's currently incompatible with many home stereo conduits such as TiVo's Home Media option. If you've gone iPod and iTunes, plan never to switch, and want small files, use this format because of its small size and its quality. Otherwise, go with MP3.
Vertigo size: 3.1MB.

WAV and AIFF – Recommended setting: Automatic. WAV and AIFF are uncompressed formats; WAV is a PC format from Microsoft, AIFF a Mac format from Apple. Neither one is wise to use for today's digital music players, and though WAVs play on more devices,, you can get literally identical sound quality from Apple Lossless while consuming less space. Consider WAV only if you need literally perfect CD rips and will use them on non-Apple products. Vertigo size in either WAV or AIFF: 32.8MB.

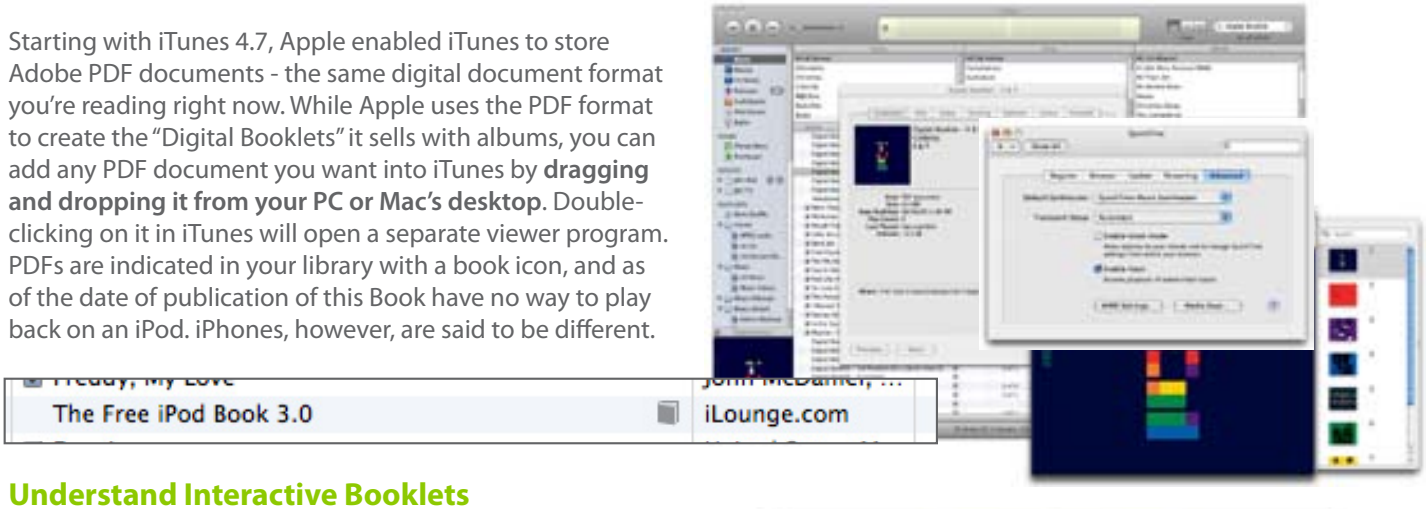
Apple Lossless – Recommended setting: Automatic. Apple Lossless Codec was introduced by Apple in 2004. It provides quality similar to AIFF and WAV, but the files it produces are about 2/3 the size of AIFF or WAV. It is compatible only with Apple products. Use this if you are really concerned about quality and aren't worried about storage size. Vertigo size: 23.6MB.

Additional options can be found by selecting "Custom" from the "Setting" menu, which will allow finer control over the bit-rate and other encoding preferences. Most notable among these is the option for Variable Bit Rate Encoding, or VBR, which is supported in both the MP3 and AAC encoders in iTunes, a setting that offers a better potential trade-off between file size and quality, since a higher bit-rate can be used for portions of the audio track that require it, rather than limiting the entire track to a lower bit-rate. Note, however, that some devices have issues playing VBR files, the reason Constant Bit Rate (CBR) is common.

We feel safest recommending the MP3 format with CBR encoding because it's close to future-proof: almost every device on the market supports it. MP3 format files at 192-224 kbps are similarly close to future-proof, since they'll sound good no matter what hardware, software, or accessories you decide to use in the future. Who uses AIFF, WAV, or Apple Lossless? Relatively few people; those who are obsessed with audio quality and have sophisticated speakers or headphones (typically $300 and up) capable of clearly showing imperfections in compressed audio.

Add PDFs to your Library

Starting with iTunes 4.7, Apple enabled iTunes to store Adobe PDF documents - the same digital document format you're reading right now. While Apple uses the PDF format to create the "Digital Booklets" it sells with albums, you can add any PDF document you want into iTunes by **dragging and dropping it from your PC or Mac's desktop**. Double-clicking on it in iTunes will open a separate viewer program. PDFs are indicated in your library with a book icon, and as of the date of publication of this Book have no way to play back on an iPod. iPhones, however, are said to be different.



Understand Interactive Booklets

Last year Apple also began including "Interactive Booklets" with many of their albums. Like the aforementioned Digital Booklets, **Interactive Booklets are included to provide a form of virtual liner notes similar to those found with a CD,** but as the name implies are interactive, rather than being a static PDF. These Interactive Booklets use Quicktime Flash, which requires the appropriate setting to be enabled in your Quicktime preferences in order to see them. This setting can be found in the Quicktime Preference Pane under System Preferences on a Mac, or in the Quicktime Control Panel in the Windows Control Panel.

Smart Playlists

Smart Playlists are one of the best features in iTunes, especially if you have a large library of music. Instead of forcing you to sift through and manually choose songs, Smart Playlists let you choose conditions for the automatic selection of songs, and also allow you to limit their size to a certain number of songs or storage space. These conditions can be combined to create interesting mixes of songs, or to target a specific type of song. By default, iTunes comes with five pre-made Smart Playlists - 90's Music, My Top Rated, Recently Added, Recently Played, and Top 25 Most Played. To get specifics on these, go to the top of your screen on Mac or window in Windows, and find **File**. Pick **Get Info**, or use the Mac Command-I keyboard shortcut, or PC Control-I keyboard shortcut.

Here's a practical example of how a Smart Playlist can be built. You're throwing a 60's-themed party from 7PM-11PM, and only want good songs that are relatively short and upbeat. You could pick all these by songs by hand and try to make sure the Playlist is about four hours long, or you could take three minutes to set up a Smart Playlist to do it for you. Here are the steps:

1. Go back to **File** and choose **New Smart Playlist** (or use the Option-Command-N Mac / Control-Alt-N PC shortcut).
2. Start by setting the first parameter to **Year**, and select a range of 1960 to 1969.
3. Click the + button to add another parameter.
4. Set this new parameter to **My Rating**, and select a range of 4 stars to 5 stars.
5. Click the + button once more.
6. Set this last parameter to **Time**, and select a range of 2:00 to 4:00.
7. To limit the time, **click the first box next to the Limit parameter**, change the songs tag to **time**, and enter 4 hours.

If done correctly, your screen should look like the example on the next page.

continued

Not only is this a quick and easy way to create specific Playlists, but the Playlist remains dynamic - meaning that it will automatically update itself as you add more music to your Library and edit your ratings. You can use these parameters to create all kinds of custom Playlists, and they're a great tool for selecting content to go onto your iPod. The only hitch: you'll need to have properly tagged and rated music, so do your best.

See videos and more in iTunes' bottom left corner

If you've read the earlier tutorials in this Book, you already know that you can add album artwork to iTunes for viewing on color-screened iPods and nanos. But the latest versions of iTunes are actually capable of more.

If the bottom left of your iTunes window is nothing more than the bottom of your **Source** list, click the **Show Artwork/Videos button** - fourth from the left - or the use the Mac Command-G / PC Control-G keyboard shortcut. A small square window will appear.

If you've downloaded a video from Apple, or imported your own video into iTunes, it can play in this spot - go to iTunes' **Preferences window**, **Playback Tab**, pick **Play Videos: In The Main Window**, and click **OK**. Any video clip in your library will play here; clicking on the video will open up a larger playback window on your screen.

Note: if your library only contains audio files, this window will show album artwork or nothing at all. You can always close the window by clicking on the **Hide Artwork/Videos** button, fourth from the left.

Creating On-The-Go Playlists for editing in iTunes

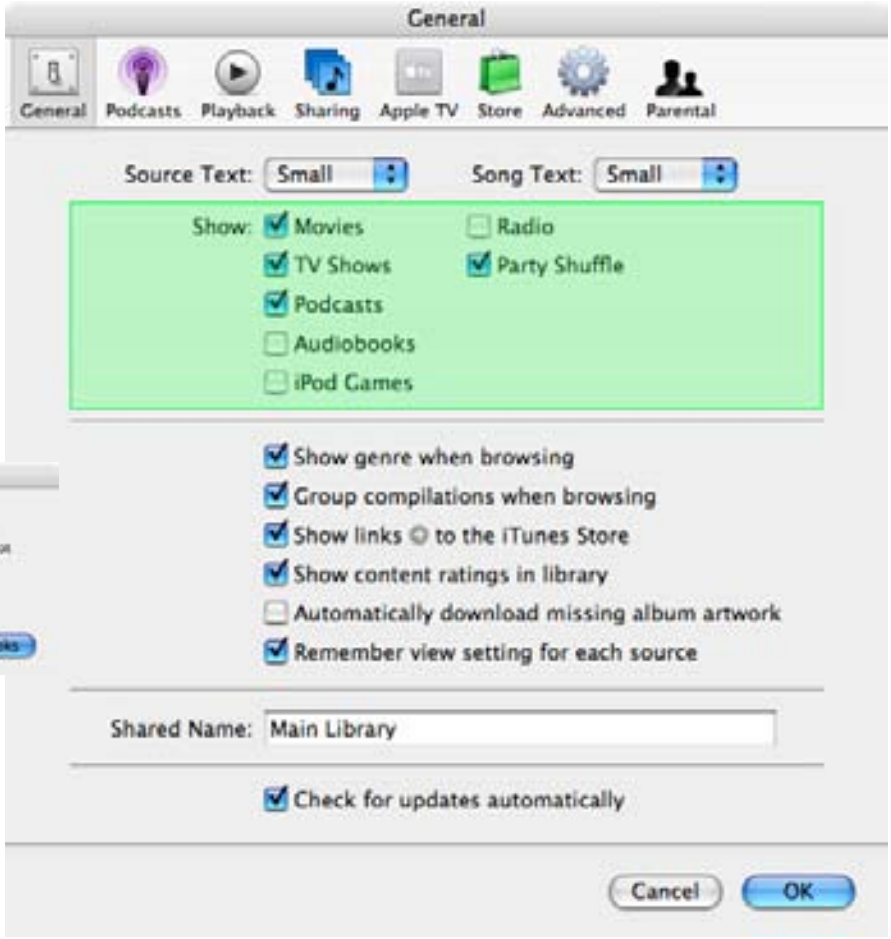
All screened iPods since the third-generation iPod can create their own Playlists. They're called On-The-Go Playlists, a feature perfect for people who don't have time to create Playlists when they're using their computers, but have time to use their iPods.

To add any song to your On-The-Go Playlist, simply scroll to the song you want and hold the iPod's center Action button until the song flashes. This method also works for adding entire Playlists, Artists, Albums, Genres, Composers, and Audiobooks to the On-The-Go list.

You can find your On-The-Go Playlist by navigating to **Music** > **Playlists** > **On-The-Go** on your iPod, and can even listen to it while you continue to add songs. To delete a song from your On-The-Go Playlist, **highlight the song** while viewing the list, then **press and hold Select** until the song flashes. When you release the Select button, the song will be deleted. To clear the whole list, scroll to its bottom and select **Clear Playlists**. This next screen gives you a last chance to hit **Cancel** or **Clear Playlist** to go ahead and finish the deed. But keep your imperfect lists - you can open them later in iTunes and edit them to perfection. Make sure to rename them for easier reference.

Get rid of unused items from the Source List

iTunes 7 added a number of new categories in the Source List for items such as Movies, TV Shows, Podcasts, Audiobooks and iPod Games. If you don't ever use these items you can hide them from your Source List. Just go to the **Preferences window** and deselect the appropriate items. Doing so will eliminate clutter by removing these unnecessary categories.



Note that since all of the different types of content are now segregated into different categories, iTunes will warn you if you're turning off an item that might cause you to lose access to some of your content. Don't despair, however, since even if you hide a section your content remains in your iTunes library and you can see it again simply by returning to the Preferences window and re-check the appropriate options.

Basic iTunes shortcuts

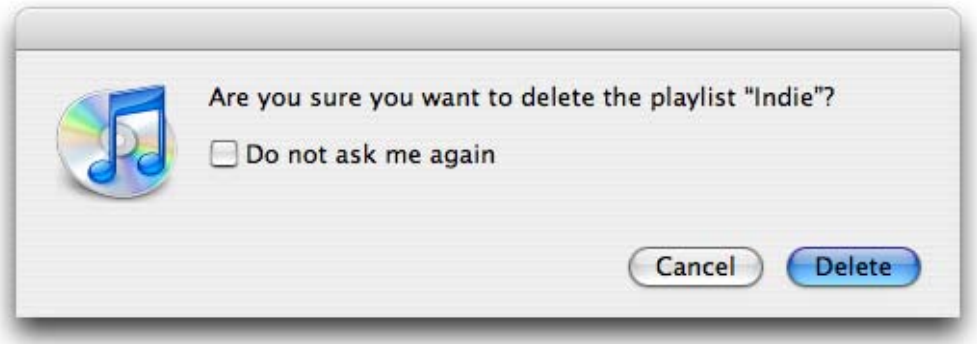
Call them geeky, but if you want to save time, you'll find these keyboard shortcuts handy. Insanely great things can be accomplished at lightning speed if you remember a few easy commands.

Action	PC Keyboard	Mac Keyboard
Play or Pause song	Space Bar	Space Bar
Play next song	Control + Right Arrow	Command + Right Arrow
Play previous song	Control + Left Arrow	Command + Left Arrow
Increase the volume	Control + Up Arrow	Command + Up Arrow
Lower the volume	Control + Down Arrow	Command + Down Arrow
Mute song	Control + Alt + Down Arrow	Command + Option + Down Arrow
Eject a CD	Control + E	Command + E
Fast-Forward	Control + Alt + Right Arrow	Command + Option + Right Arrow
Rewind	Control + Alt + Left Arrow	Command + Option + Left Arrow
Open iTunes preferences	Control + Comma (,)	Command + Comma (,)
Quit iTunes	Control + W	Command + Q
Minimize iTunes window	Control + M	Command + M
Show or hide Artist and Album	Control + B	Command + B
View Visualizer window	Control + T	Command + T
Show iTunes + ITunes Store Help	Control + ?	Command + ?

Delete Playlists without warning

If you create and remove Playlists constantly, you'll find this tip handy. When you try to delete a Playlist, an annoying dialog box pops up asking you if you're sure you want to delete the Playlist. You could select the "Do not ask me again" option - our preference - but novice users will find that this isn't easy to undo later.

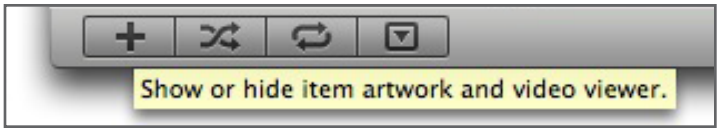
An alternative is to bypass the warning altogether. Highlight the Playlist, then press **Control-Delete** on the PC or **Command-Delete** on the Mac. A harder-core solution is to use **Alt-Delete** on the PC or **Option-Delete** on the Mac to remove the selected Playlist and delete all of the songs it contains from your library. You'll thank us when you've tested this on your Backstreet Boys collection.



Decoding those buttons

They sit there, staring at you, taunting you with their mysterious icons. What do they do? Why are they there?

The first button adds a **Playlist** to your Source list. Next activates **Shuffle** playback mode. The third turns **Repeat Playlist** on, or **Repeat One Song** if you press twice. Fourth opens and closes the **Album Artwork and Video** window. Hold your cursor over any of them, and an explanation will appear in a little yellow box.



Sharing your music

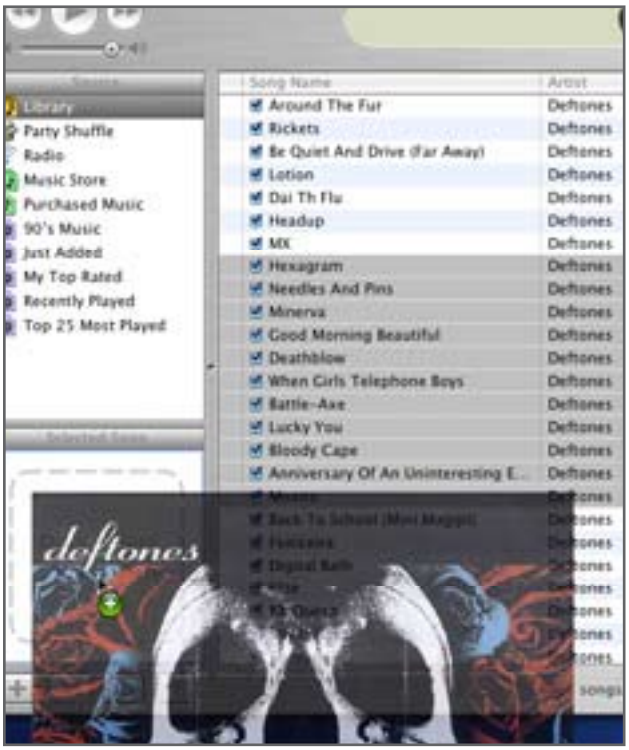
Beginning with version 4.0, iTunes added an easy way to share music with others on your network. iTunes searches for shared music by default, but you must be proactive to share your own. To let other computers share your music, go to the **Preferences** window, and click the **Sharing Tab**. Then select the **Share my music** checkbox and you're off and running.

You should also ensure that you give your library a unique name if you're going to be sharing it in a work or campus scenario. Unlike previous versions of iTunes, the library name is now set on the **General Tab**, rather than within the sharing preferences.

This feature is particularly useful if you have more than one computer at home, but want access to your music no matter which one you're using. Note that there is a way to Password protect your music - we'll look at it later - and also that your music is streamed to computers sharing your music. No files are copied over.

Finding Artwork to add to songs, and more

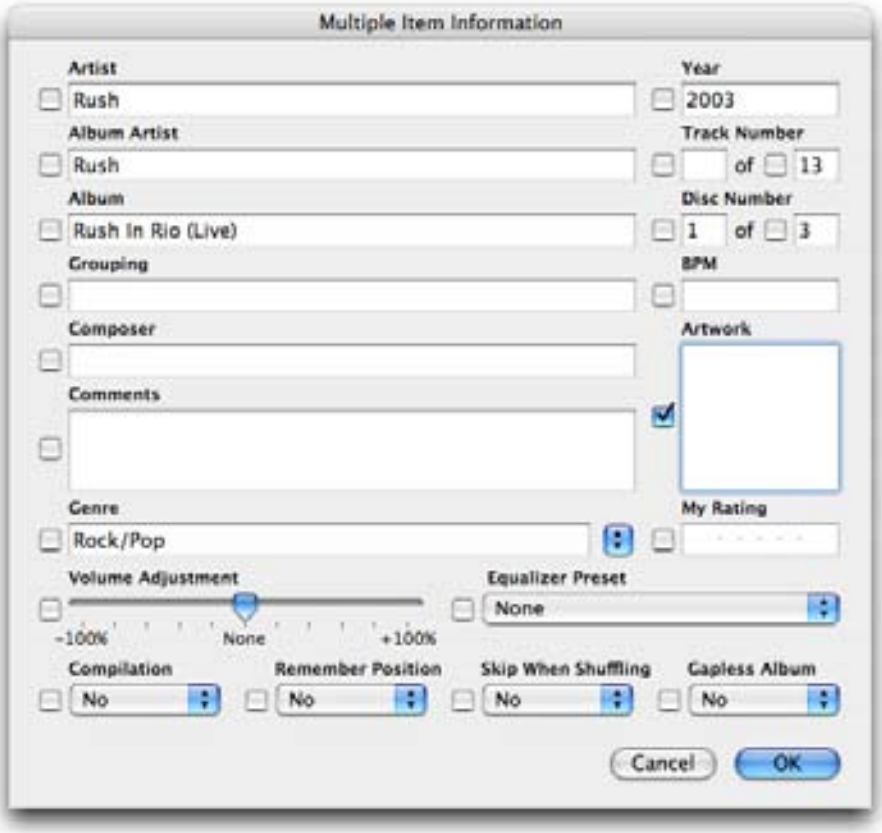
Elsewhere in the Book, we explained how to add Album Artwork to your iTunes collection, but we didn't tell you where to look for it. Assuming you don't have a scanner or the ability to digitally photograph the album covers you own, we recommend Amazon.com, Walmart.com, and Google.com/images as places you can search by album name and artist.



Once you have found and saved your picture, you can add it to a whole CD's worth of songs. **Select all of the tracks in iTunes** before **dragging the cover over to the bottom left of the screen**. You can also copy and paste images from your clipboard.

Delete Artwork from songs

Adding Album Artwork (see previous tip) increases the file size of songs. If you're running low on space on your iPod, you might want to trash a cover from a single track. press **Control-I** on your PC / **Command-I** on your Mac, and find the **Artwork** box. Click on the Artwork once and hit **Delete**. To delete the Artwork from a group of songs, **select them**, press **Control-I** on your PC / **Command-I** on your Mac, and put a **check mark in the empty Artwork checkbox** in the right side of the Song Information window. Hit **OK** and you'll be Artwork-free. Just be careful - it'll take time to replace.



Better viewing for bigger videos

So the tiny little window in the bottom left of the screen isn't your favorite place for videos? Fair enough. Thankfully Apple agrees that a tiny screen isn't the only way movies should enjoyed.

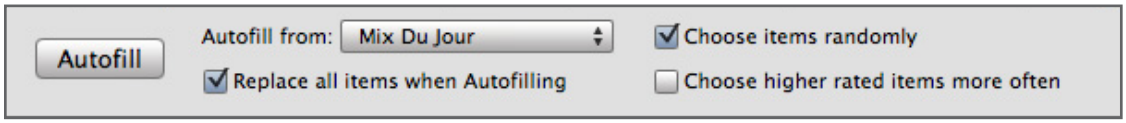
If you go into iTunes **Preferences**, then the **Playback Tab**, you'll see an option called **Play videos:** with four choices. Selecting **in the main window** squeezes videos into the bottom left corner. **In a separate window** creates an iTunes viewer - based on the QuickTime movie player - that you can move wherever you want on the screen.

Both the **full screen** and **full screen (with visuals)** options will scale the video up to take up your entire monitor. Depending on the quality of what you've selected, it might not look great when magnified. The difference between these last two options only applies when working with playlists that mix both music and videos. The standard "full screen" option will return to the normal iTunes window when playing to a normal audio-only music track, while the "full screen (with visuals)" setting will leave iTunes in full screen mode and display the visualizer full-screen for any audio-only tracks. This is a great feature for mixing music videos with normal music tracks in a party setting.

Dealing with your iTunes Phone

Back in our first edition of The Free iPod Book, iTunes Phones were just a rumor, but today, there are three such wireless phones sold in various countries: ROKR, SLVR, and RAZR V3i. Connecting any of them to your computer with a USB cable will bring them up in iTunes, and enable you to **configure them in much the same way as you would an iPod shuffle**, using Autofill to randomly dump songs onto the phone, allocate its 512MB of storage space partially to songs or data, and convert songs automatically into small, 128kbps AAC tracks that consume less space.

Because they're capped at 100 songs by Apple, Motorola's iTunes Phones are more limited than any true iPod, and certainly more than Apple's iPhone. The only non-shuffle benefit is the ability to turn album artwork on or off; you'll see tiny, iPod nano-style album art if it's turned on. You'd might as well keep it on.

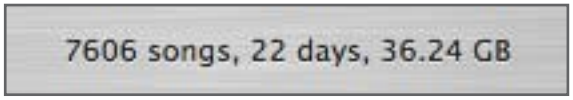


If you're not interested in using Autofill, dropping files onto the phone is just like using an iPod: select files from your library, and drag them over to the phone icon in your Source list.

Simple, eh?

So how big is YOUR Library?

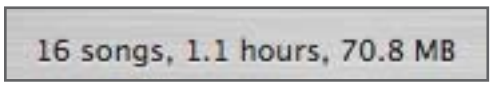
iTunes doesn't obsess much over numbers, but it does have one tiny little display that's worth checking out. If you look at the bottom center of its window, you'll notice three numbers: **Number of Songs, Time, and Storage Space** used (MB or GB).

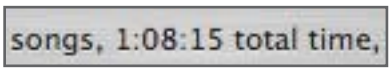


If you switch between your Library and a Playlist, you'll notice that the numbers change - the window always shows you totals for whatever portion of your collection you're viewing. It also separates music, movies, TV shows, and other parts of your Library, so you can see how much space each portion uses.

See the exact play time

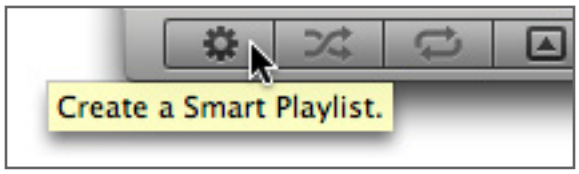
It's not advertised heavily, but there is a way to change the Time display. By simply **clicking on the bottom bar**, you can toggle between an abbreviated Time (1.1 hours, in our example), or Detailed Time (1:08:15 total time). This can be extremely helpful when making Playlists that need to be an exact length, such as Playlists meant for CD burning.





Special click for Smart Playlist

If you're a power user, you usually create Smart Playlists instead of normal ones. And you already know that iTunes gives you an easy-to-use button to create normal Playlists (located at the bottom of the Source list). But did you know you can use this same button to create Smart Playlists? By **holding Option on a Mac or Shift on a PC** when going for this button, the plus symbol changes to a gear symbol. **Clicking while holding** down Option or Shift then brings up the window for you to choose the conditions for your new Smart Playlist.



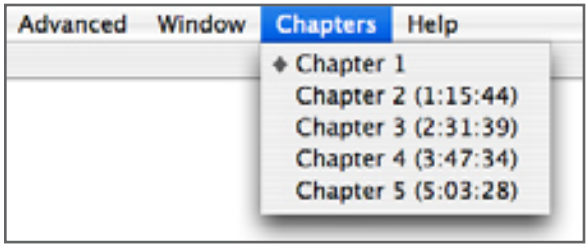
Show off your EQ

You've seen the black and white Apple logo that changes to track information when you play a song. Ever wondered what **that little circle with the triangle inside** did? Not much, but click it and see. Go ahead. We're waiting. Don't want to? Okay. Clicking the button just switches the status display from song/artist/album and elapsed time to a small digital EQ meter. Be sure to share this tip with your friends.

Quickly highlight the currently playing song

There are times when you'll be too mired in a search for Playlist-worthy songs to want to hunt down the song you're currently hearing. It turns out that you can always find the song you're listening to at any given moment by hitting a set of two keys at once. **PC users can hit Control-L, while Mac users should hit Command-L**. The playing song will appear in your window, highlighted, and ready for you to place wherever you desire.

Switching Chapters: the magical appearing option



In the last edition of our iPod Book, we introduced the "Chapters" button, which enabled you to move from section to section of an extended audio or video program. If you had used this feature before, you may have noticed that in iTunes 7, the magical button for this has disappeared from the iTunes window.

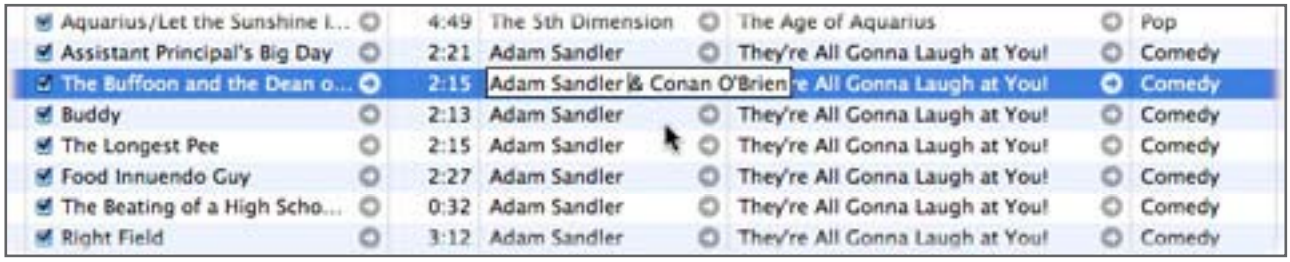
Instead, **iTunes now displays an additional "Chapters" menu** whenever you begin playing content that includes chapter markers. For audiobooks and other audio-only content, the Chapters menu will simply display a text-based list of chapters and their time intervals into the book. For video content such as movies purchased from the iTunes Store, the Chapters menu will display titles similar to those found on the scene selection menu of a DVD, including small thumbnails for each chapter. The video chapter menu can also be accessed from the video playback window, where it appears as a button on the video controls overlay.

In addition, **many podcasts are using the Chapter feature to include photographic or artistic narration for their sections.** In the Ricky Gervais podcast, each chapter specifies a segment of the show; in city guides distributed by Podguides.net, each picture and chapter is for a different stop on the walking tour, so you can see what you're supposed to be seeing when you're walking - ahead of time if you're using iTunes and a black-and-white iPod, or during the walk if you have a color-screened iPod. We can't wait to see what people do next with this great feature - particularly on future iPods.

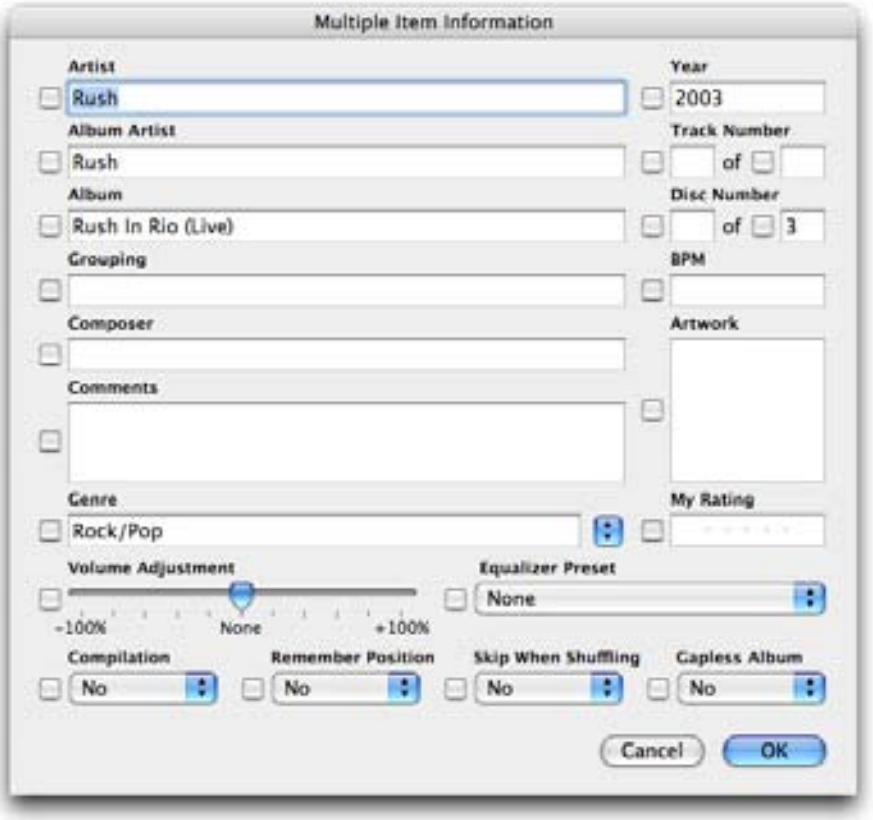
Editing Tags

Having accurate Tags for your songs is key to getting the most from iTunes. You probably got most of them from iTunes, which used an Internet service called the CDDB to come as close as possible to the right details. But what do you do if the Tags from the CDDB aren't correct, or if they aren't there at all? And you might be asking, "Exactly what are these Tags and how do they work?" Fear not, all will be answered here.

ID3 Tags are a block of information in an audio file that describes the audio's contents. You can edit the Tags shown in the Library window by simply clicking on the text and entering whatever you want.

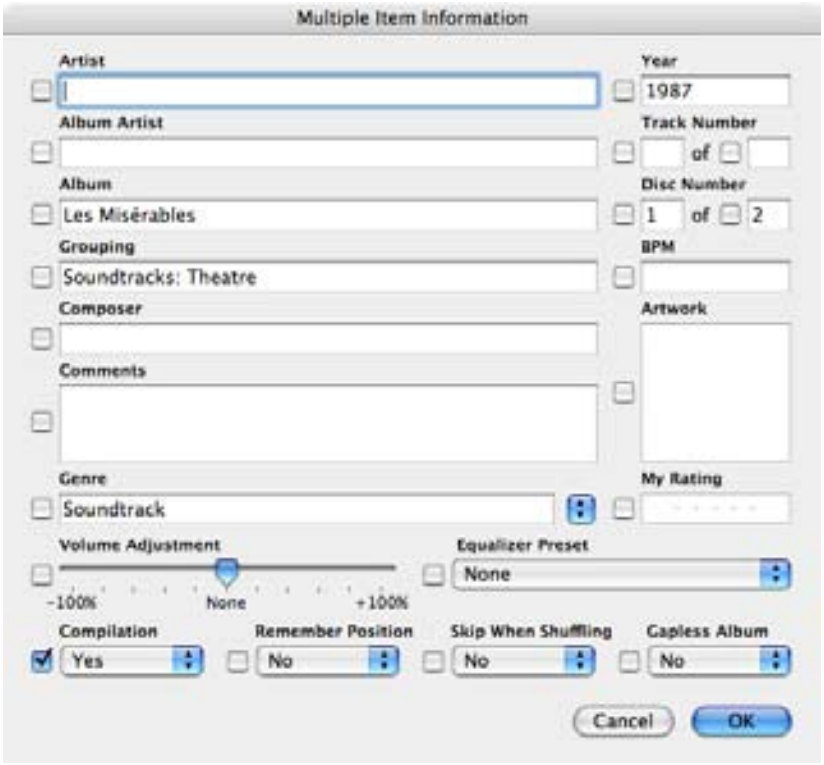


Since you'll often prefer to change more than one Tag for a song, there is a menu for just that purpose. It can be accessed in iTunes by selecting a song and selecting **File** > **Get Info** from the menu or using the Mac's Command-I or PC's Control-I keyboard shortcut. Once here, you need to select the **Info Tab**. Your window should then look something like this:



continued

From here, you can change as many Tags as you need. But it can take a while to edit songs one by one, so if you need to change Tags for multiple songs at once, just **select the songs you want to change** and go through the same steps above (minus clicking the **Info Tab**) to bring up the window. It will look like this:



This is a simple way to fix problems such as a misspelled Album Tag or Artist or to add the Year - if missing.

iTunes, AirTunes, and icons, oh my!

Notice something different between this rack of bottom right corner icons and the ones on your version of iTunes? That little **Speakers** box only appears when you're using Apple's AirPort Express ($129), a small white wireless device that - amongst other things - lets you pump high-fidelity versions of iTunes music directly into a home stereo, using analog or optical output.

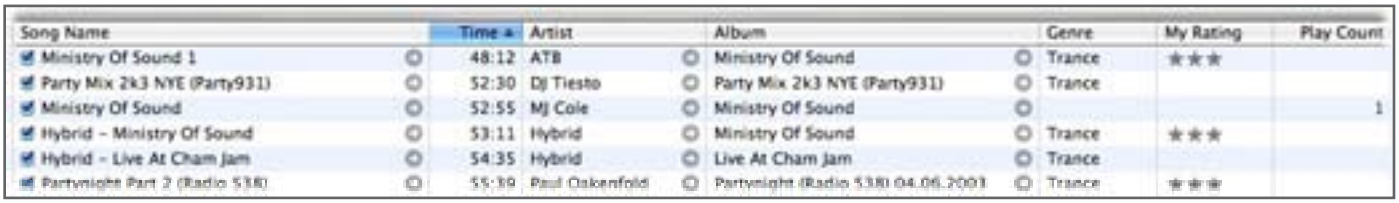
Apple calls this feature **AirTunes**, and assuming that you have more than one pair of speakers connected to iTunes, you can control which speakers are hearing iTunes at a given moment. Better yet, if you have multiple AirPort Express units connected to different sets of speakers, you can broadcast the same iTunes song to more than one speaker set at the same time.

What about the other buttons? The first is a shortcut for the iTunes "Browser" (this was located in the top-right corner on earlier versions of iTunes), and the second is an eject button. It'll open your Mac or PC's CD/DVD drives so you can insert a CD, and then close them with a second button press.

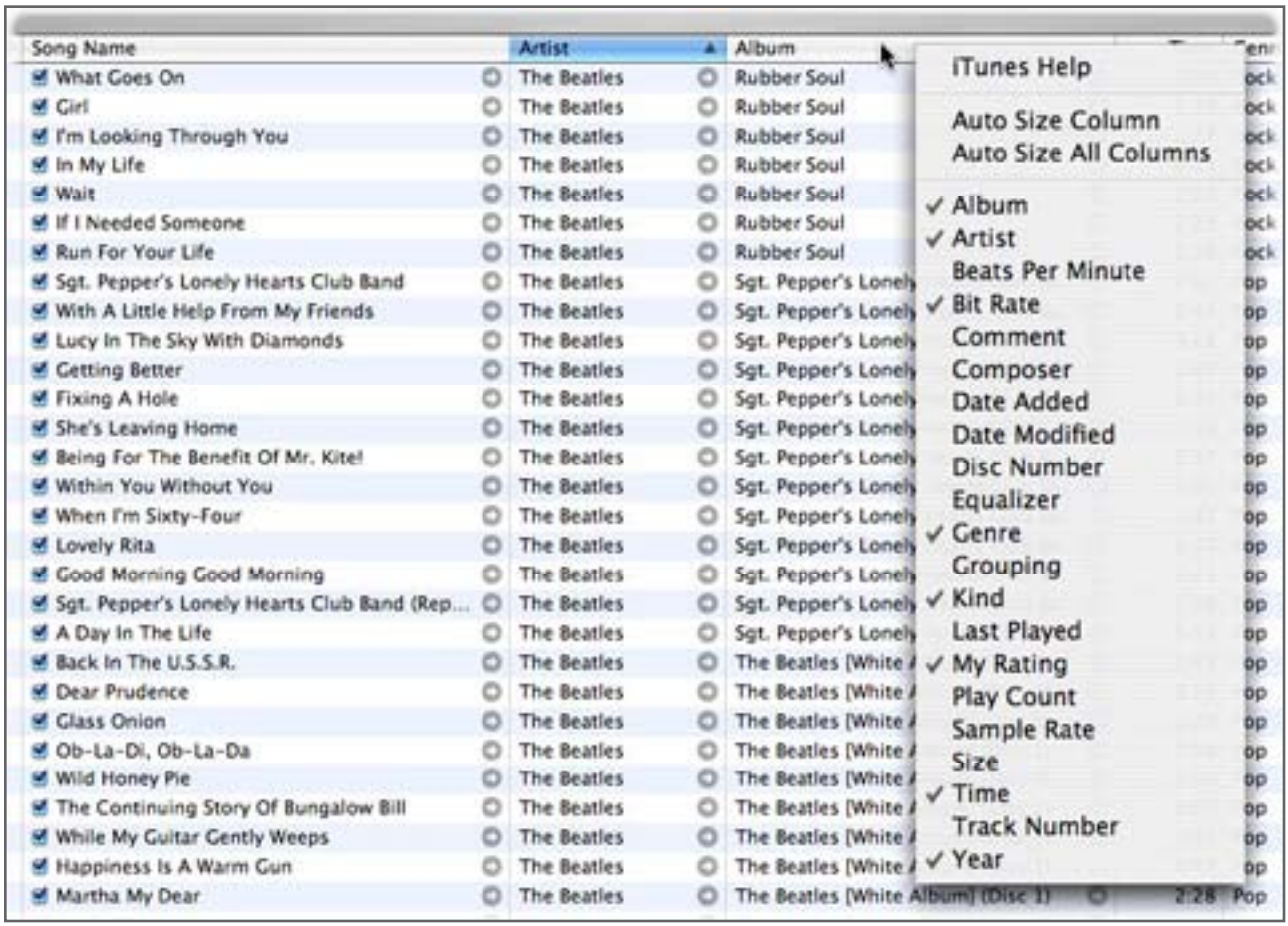
Veteran iTunes users will notice that the Equalizer and VIsualizer buttons are no longer there. These options can now only be accessed from the VIew menu or their corresponding keyboard shortcuts.

Sorting your music - the basics

iTunes is a music player first and foremost, but it also acts as one of the best tools for sorting and finding your music. By default, iTunes sorts your music by Artist, but you can change this simply by **clicking on the top of one of the other columns** - by default they are Song Name, Time, Artist, Album, Genre, My Rating, and Play Count.



You can rearrange these by **clicking their headings and dragging them right or left**, and you can add or remove them by Right Mouse Button-clicking (or Mac Control-clicking) in the heading bar.



As you can see above, you can customize this view to your listening style by adding as many sorting columns as you'd like. This is just one way iTunes' flexibility lets you enjoy your music the way you want.

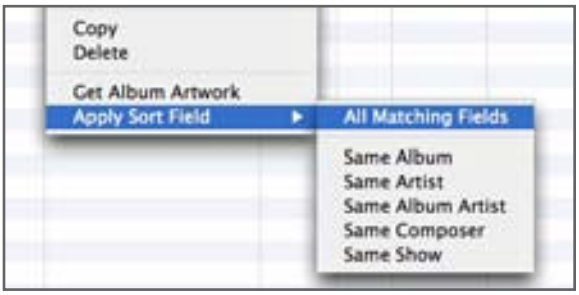
One note: for whatever reason, Apple wants you to keep Song Name on the left. Although the columns can be shuffled around, the Song Name column is not movable. We're still keeping our fingers crossed for an "Artist column first" option.

Sorting your music - Custom

iTunes 7.1 has added some additional sorting capabilities to allow for improved control and the ability to override the sort order for certain tracks and/or artists.

For example, let's suppose that you have some music by an artist such as "50 Cent." When sorting by artist, these tracks would appear at the top of your iTunes Library listing. However, you might want to sort these tracks alphabetically based on the phonetic pronunciation of "Fifty" (or "Fitty," for fans). In either case, the iTunes **"Sorting" tab in the File Info properties** can help you do this:

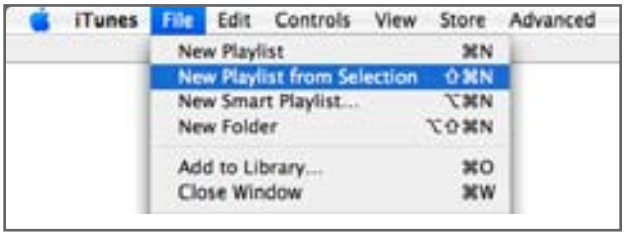
Simply **enter the wording that you would like to use for sorting in the appropriate fields in the second column**. iTunes will still display the correct artist name, but it will now be sorted alphabetically based on the word "Fifty" instead of as a number.



So what if you want to make this change to a lot of tracks at once? To do this, simply **make the change to a single track, and then right-click on that track in iTunes, and choose to "Apply Sort Field" to all the matching tracks**.

Quick Playlists from selections

If you have several songs selected and need to make a Playlist from them, simply select **File** > **New Playlist From Selection** or use the PC Shift-Control-N or Mac Shift-Command-N keyboard shortcut. All the songs you had selected will appear in a new Playlist, ready for you to give it a name.

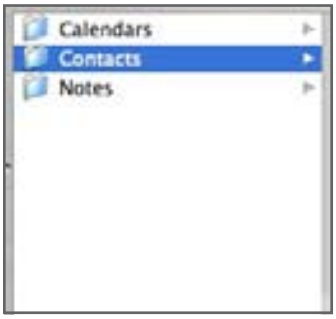


Quicker window resizing (Mac)

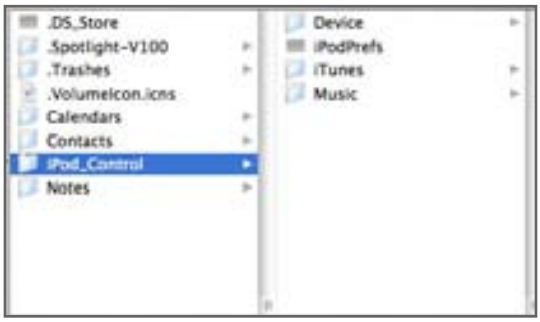
If you have a slower Macintosh, or if you have many applications open at once, you may notice a bit of stuttering when trying to resize the iTunes window. Fortunately, Apple realized this can be an issue and offers an easy workaround. By **holding the Mac's Command key** when you **click in the lower right-hand corner** to resize, you will be dragging an outline of the window, not the window itself. Once the outline is the size you need, let go and the window will appear resized inside the outline.

Folders on a Disk Use mode iPod

You already know about Enabling Disk Use from earlier in this Guide. But do you know what folders you'll find on an iPod with Disk Use enabled?



Regular iPod



Regular iPod with Hidden Files Shown

Color iPod

You should expect to see the **same three folders** on screened iPods: **Calendars**, **Contacts**, and **Notes**. These folders allow you to drop in your own data if you want, but as we explained earlier in the Guide, there are programs that do a better job of processing files for you. The iPod reads ICS (Apple iCal) and VCS (vCalendar) format calendar data, VCF (vCard) format Contacts, and TXT (text) format Notes. Notes can contain HTML-format links to other notes and very limited styling, but nothing sophisticated. There's also at least one hidden folder on the iPod called iPod_Control, containing your iTunes library and preference files. Don't play with the contents of this folder - let our recommended third-party software programs handle the lifting for you. Other files shown above are Mac OS X data you don't need to worry about.

Color iPods may also have additional folders. A folder called **DCIM** holds digital photographs transferred to the iPod from a device such as Apple's iPod Camera Connector. Another folder, **Photos**, will appear if you use iTunes to synchronize photographs for display on the iPod's screen. And a folder called **Recordings** can store audio recordings make with devices such as Griffin's iTalk and Belkin's TuneTalk; this folder name is the same for newer, Dock Connector recorders too.

Of course, you can create your own folders on the iPod, too - that's the point of Disk Use mode. Just don't delete anything you find in the ones up here. And the iPod shuffle? No visible folders. Fill it however you like.

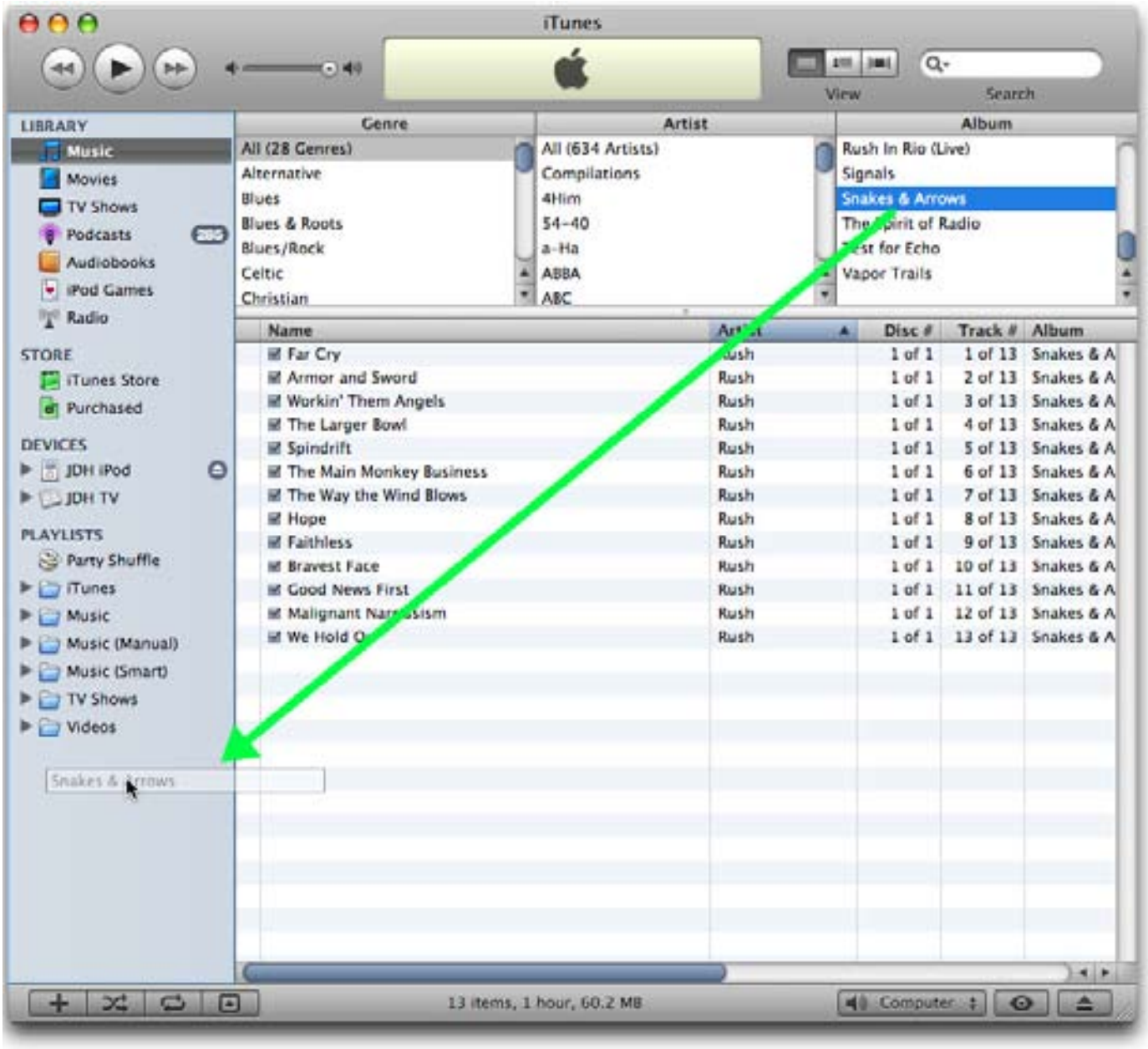
Rate on iPod, synchronize with iTunes

Rating songs in iTunes is a great way to help organize your music, but it's even better to rate songs directly from your iPod. **While playing a song, click the center button** twice (three times for color iPods) to access the rating screen. **Rotate the wheel clockwise** to raise the rating **and counter-clockwise** to lower it. Once you have the rating you want, **click the center button** once more to return to the Now Playing screen.

When you reconnect your iPod to your computer, the ratings you changed on the iPod will transfer into iTunes. This method really helps out Playlists such as the default My Top Rated, and can help you in your quest to make sure so-so music doesn't play unless specifically requested. You can change the ratings in iTunes at any time.

Create a Playlist from the Browser

If you're trying to quickly make a Playlist containing all the songs from an Artist or Genre, open the Browser (**Edit** > **Show Browser** or PC Control-B / Mac Command-B). Then **select the Artist or Genre you want**, and **drag it to an open area in the Source list.** You'll have a Playlist containing all of the songs in the Genre or by that Artist. Remember: if won't automatically update itself, so take the time later to create a Smart Playlist.



Windowed versus full screen Visualizer

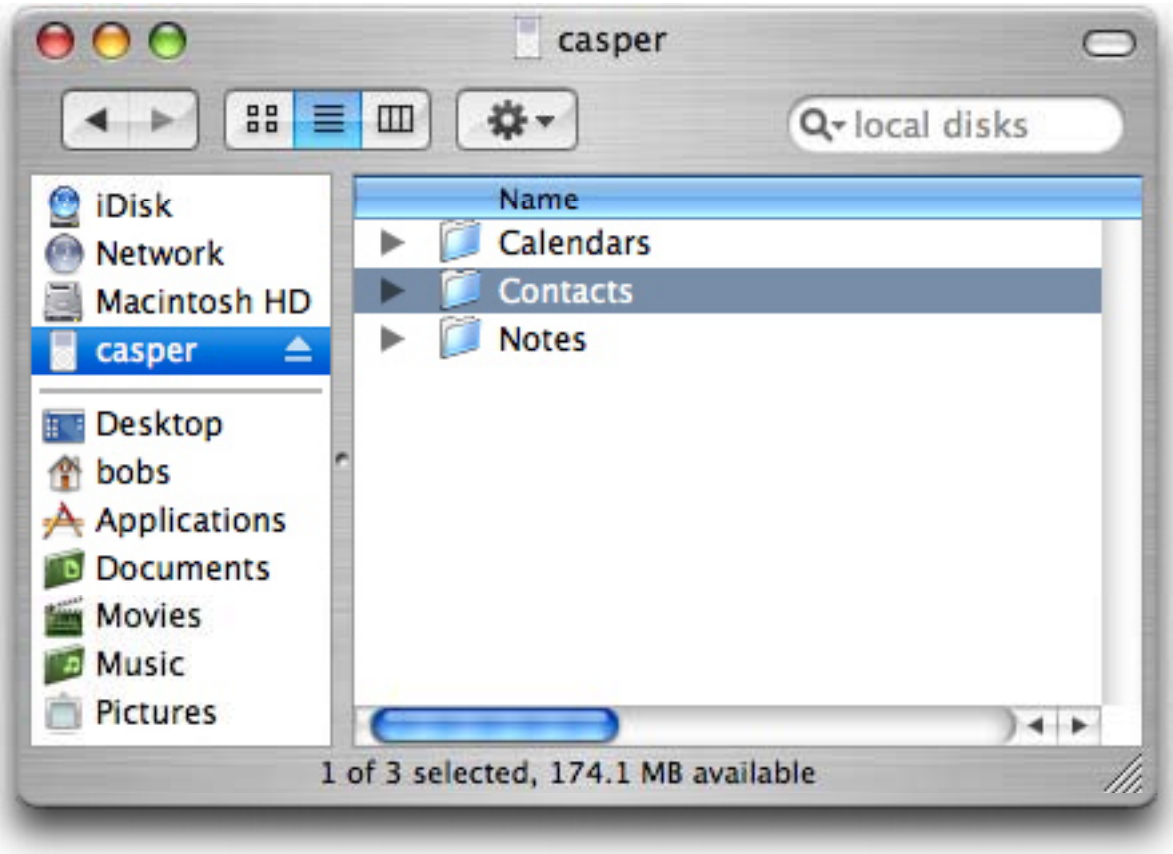
iTunes still includes a visualizer feature, although Apple's taken away the button for it in iTunes 7, so you now have to go to the top-of-window or top-of-screen menu to find it.

If you select **View, Turn on Visualizer**, iTunes will show you some seriously cool fluid art in a window while your music plays. Once the Visualizer is on, you can even take it into full screen mode by selecting View, Full Screen.

If you prefer to always see your visualizer in full screen mode, you can customize these settings under iTunes' Advanced preferences.

Take manual control of contacts

Your iPod is made for playing music, and it does so exceptionally well. It's also handy to have your contact information on it, and you can use the programs we've recommended to do that. But if you feel the need to copy or make a manual change to the contacts on the iPod, don't worry - there's a way. First off, you need to have **Disk Use enabled** on your iPod. Then simply **navigate to the Contacts folder** on your iPod and r**emove or add any contacts** (in VCF, vCard format) that you see fit. Most programs export into VCF format. Don't forget to eject the iPod before disconnecting it, since it will be in Disk Use mode.



Understanding Podcasts

Earlier in the Guide, we discussed Apple's addition of podcasts to iTunes - it's a way for iPod owners to easily download free radio-style programs to iTunes and the iPod. Downloading podcasts one-by-one is relatively easy: **go through Apple's Podcast Directory**, located in the iTunes Store, **find a subject** or broadcaster of interest, and **click on the Subscribe button**.

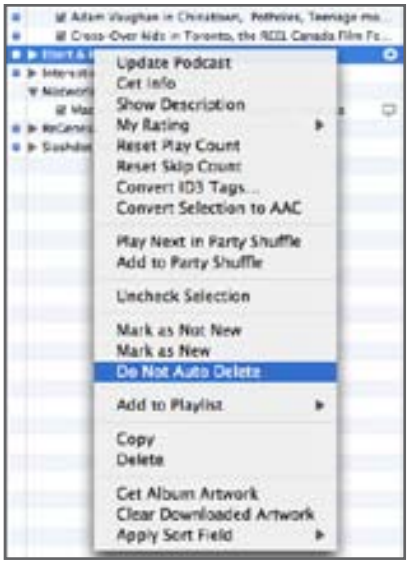
But what happens after you hit the Subscribe button? Initially, iTunes will add the podcast to your Source list. By selecting Podcasts in your Source list, you can **use Get buttons** to download older Episodes of the podcast, and each one will go from gray to black on your list as it's downloaded. You can also **unsubscribe by using a button at the bottom right of the screen**.

Each new podcast will also have a small blue dot appearing next to it, indicating that the podcast has not yet been listened to. Unlike the iTunes play count, which only increments after you've finished listening to a track, this blue dot will disappear as soon as you listen to any portion of an individual podcast episode.

In iTunes **Preferences**, you can control how often iTunes checks for new podcast episodes, how many new episodes to download, and how many episodes to keep.

Unfortunately, the "Keep" setting in the iTunes podcast preferences is a global setting that applies to ALL podcasts. The good news is that although you can't set the number of episodes to keep for each podcasts, you can exempt some of your podcasts from being automatically deleted. Simply right-click a podcast heading, and choose "Do Not Auto Delete" from the menu. This will tell iTunes that you do not want it to delete any episodes of that podcast automatically.

continued



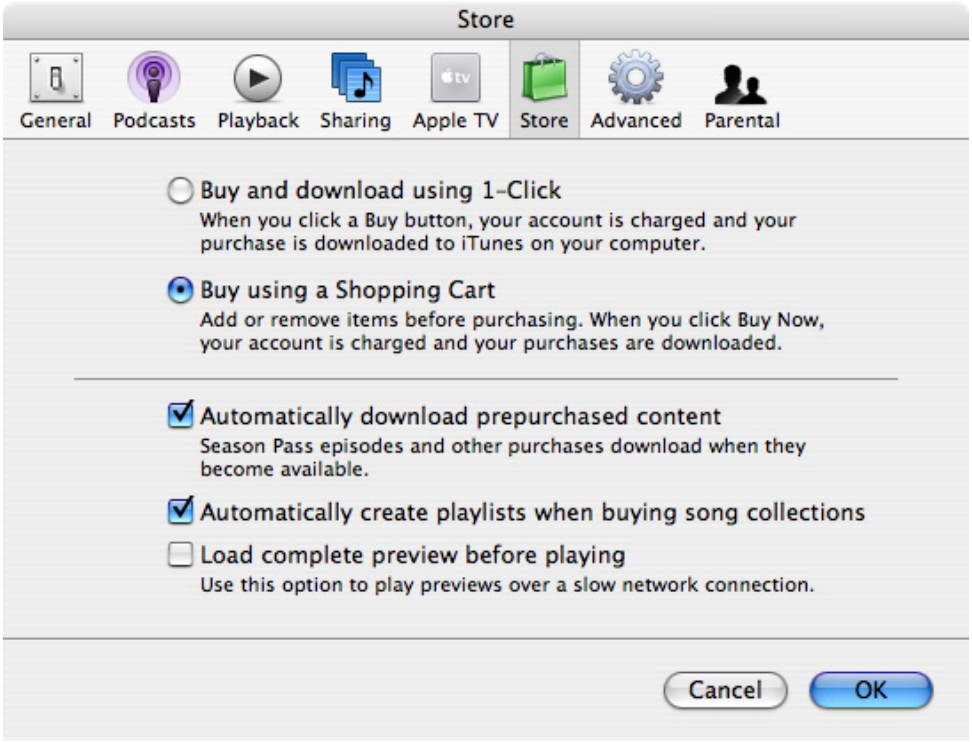
Note that you can also apply this setting on individual podcast episodes, so if there's a particular episode you want to keep around for archival purposes, simply right-click on the episode, instead of the podcast heading, and you can choose to preserve that one episode from automatic deletion.

Once this setting has been applied, you will notice that the next time you bring up the context menu, the "Do Not Auto Delete" option will have changed to "Allow Auto Delete" which allows you to remove the exemption for that particular podcast subscription or episode.

Sometimes when right-clicking on a podcast subscription heading you will also notice that BOTH options appear on the menu. This simply indicates that some but not all of the episodes in the podcast have been individually set to disallow auto deletion. Clicking on either option will reset all individual episodes appropriately.

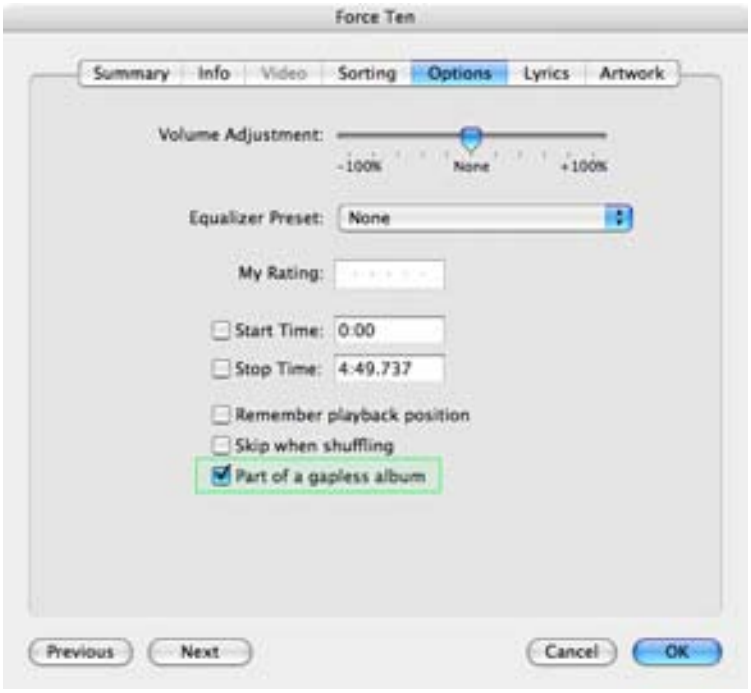
Cut impulse purchases at the iTunes Store

Saving up for that MacBook Pro and matching 30-inch Cinema Display? You may need to curtail your impulse buying. Here's how: disable 1-Click purchasing. Just go to the **Preferences** window and click on the **Store Tab**. Then, check the button that says **Buy using a Shopping Cart**. Now, instead of **Buy** buttons at the store, you'll have **Add** buttons that let you gather several songs or albums in a cart. This way, you can view your cart with a total price after you've loaded it up and decide rationally whether you really need the new Lindsay Lohan single, or whether she's just part of a phase you're ready to pass through.

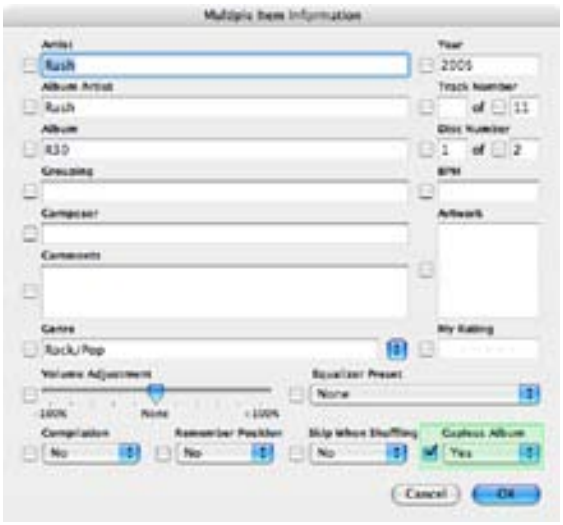


Gapless Playback

Traditionally, joining CD tracks has been the only way to get gapless playback, but now that's just so iTunes 6. iTunes 7 and last fall's firmware updates for the fifth-generation iPod have finally added the long-awaited gapless playback feature, so you can get all of that gapless goodness in iTunes 7 and cheating methods are no longer required to work around it. **The good news is that there's nothing that you have to specifically do to enable gapless playback.** As long as you're using iTunes 7, and either a fifth-generation iPod running firmware v1.2 or later, or a second-generation iPod nano, it should just transparently work - so long as you give iTunes the time to "determine gapless playback information" by scanning your files. Naturally, you'll have to be using material that was gapless to begin with, such as a live concert CD or DJ mix CD that is already gapless. If the original CD plays with gaps between the tracks, chances are that neither iTunes nor the iPod are going to be able to do anything special with this, so don't expect gapless playback to suddenly make all of your music gapless.



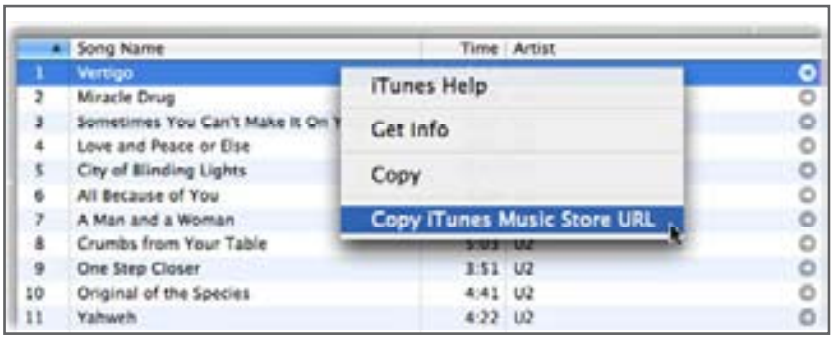
Keep in mind as well that gapless playback only works when you're playing tracks in sequence. Using "shuffle songs" will not provide gapless playback, since that wouldn't really make any sense (the songs can't smoothly transition to each other if they're in random order).



There is one option in iTunes itself that refers to gapless playback, but this actually has nothing to do with the iPod, or with whether tracks even play back gaplessly in iTunes. Rather, it is simply used to override the iTunes cross-fader feature, if you have that turned on. In this case, if you're cross-fading between tracks, the cross-fading will be omitted when moving between tracks that are tagged as being part of a gapless album, since the cross-fade would kind of ruin the whole experience.

Creating links to the iTunes Store

Having a store built into iTunes is nice, but sometimes you want to share a discovery with someone else. That's where this tip comes in. There are three main ways to create links to the iTMS. You can sometimes - particularly on a Mac - **drag a song into an application such as Mail or Entourage**. Dropping the song creates a nice link right in your email or document leading straight back to that song. In any case, you can also create links by **right-clicking (or on Mac, Control-clicking)** a song and selecting **Copy iTunes Store URL.**



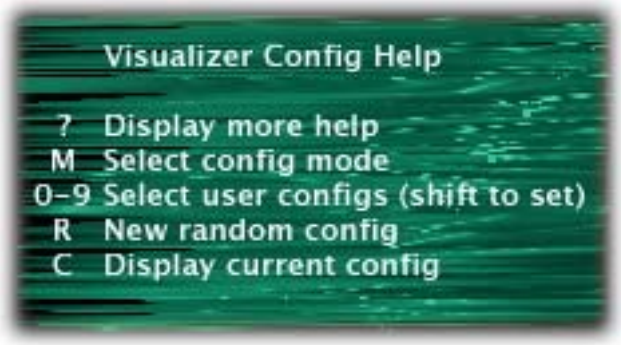
The URL is now ready for you to paste wherever you need it. The third way is to **use Apple's iTunes Store Link Maker**, found at apple.com/itunes/link-maker/. Here you can enter the album, and/or artist to which you wish to link, then search for the right song.

Export your songs to other devices

So you've created a monsterous iTunes library, and now you want to transfer your songs to storage devices other than iPods, like SD or CompactFlash cards. It's easy. **Select as many songs as you'd like, and drag them** to your computer's Desktop, or directly to the device you want to store them on. Copies will be made instantly.

You can export a Playlist full of songs, too. **Open the Playlist from the Source List** on the left, then **hit Control-A (PC) or Command-A (Mac)** to Select All. Drag them all together. Easy, eh?

Take control of the Visualizer



If you've ever tried to show off Visualizer and found that it was misbehaving, showing off the most horrible color combinations imaginable, there's a way to take control. If you **hit the ? key**, a little help nugget will appear on screen, and you can flip to a second nugget with another press of the ? key. But using the bigger list of keyboard shortcuts below, you'll never have to look at the "puke colors" scheme again - that is, unless you want to be grossed out.

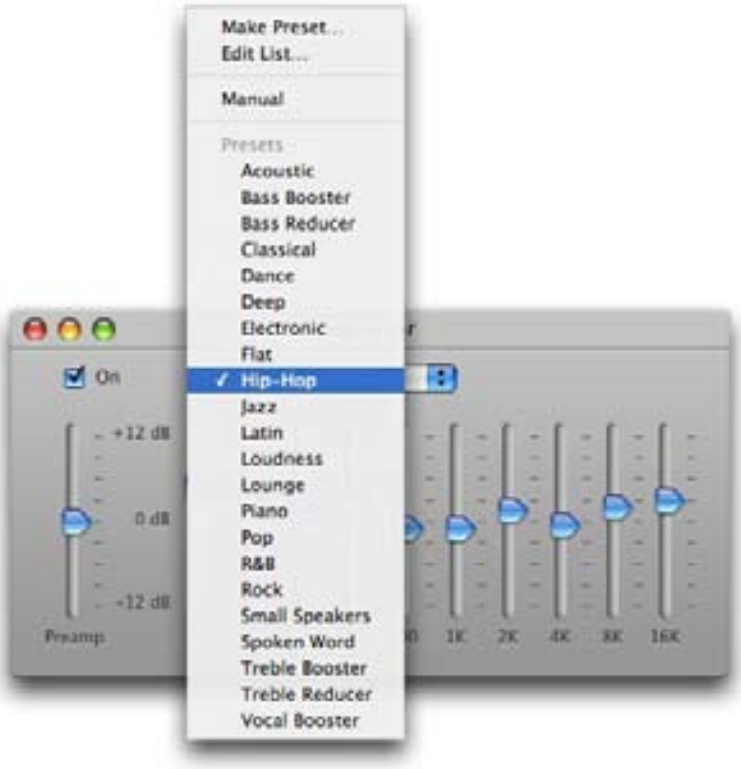
Key	What it does
A or S	Changes Visualization effect
B	Displays Apple Logo in center of the Visual
C	Shows/Hides the current Visualizer settings
D	Resets all settings to default
F	Shows/Hides frame rate display
H or ?	Displays Visualizer help
I	Toggles track info display
M	Switch between configuration modes (random, user-saved only, freeze)
N	Choose between normal or high-contrast color modes
Q or W	Toggle between waveform styles
R	Displays a new Visual based on random settings
T	Toggles frame rate capping – a feature used to keep iTunes' processor demands low
Z or X	Changes the color scheme
0 – 9	Displays the user configuration saved to that number
Shift 0 – Shift 9	Saves the current configuration to a number
Left or Right arrows	Changes to previous or next song
Up or Down	Increases or decreases volume (iTunes' volume, not the system volume)

Equalizers: the final frontier

iTunes includes a built-in Equalizer (EQ) that lets you make tweaks to ten different sound frequencies. changing the way music sounds. You can access it from the **View** menu.

If you want to play with the individual settings, you can, and we'll tell you how. But most people will stick with Apple's presets, which appear as a list above the frequencies. To use the equalizer's basic functions, you can simply **check the On box** and **select a preset** from the popup menu. You can tweak any of them from there, or **go back to the beginning by choosing Flat.**

The first slider (Preamp) is a general volume booster and reducer. Leave this one as-is, and play with the other ten. We'd suggest you experiment with a handful of your favorite songs to see what sounds best across a bunch of them.



Bass: The 32 and 64 Hz sliders cover the lowest notes - ones you'll hear with a sub-woofer. Increasing these bands gives more depth to bass-heavy music, such as dance music, reggae, and rap.

Midrange: The midranges are the next six sliders from 125 Hz to 4K Hz, and are where the majority of audible sound in music actually takes place. This is where the voices are, and where the guitars, pianos, drums and most other instruments reside. There's still some bass at the low end (125 Hz) of this range.

Treble: The last two sliders, 8K Hz to 16 K Hz, affect the high, treble sounds. While most music tends to sit in the midranges, the trebles hold both the very high ends of many instruments, such as violins, cymbals and even high voices, but also contain very important harmonics, or sounds that give music a great deal of depth; if you cut these frequencies off, you'll notice that the music sounds "empty."

Your EQ settings here will affect everything iTunes plays back, unless you use our later tip on selecting individual presets for iTunes songs.

Burning MP3 CDs

As you may already know, iTunes makes it easy to make custom CDs that play in standard CD players. But if you have a player with MP3 CD compatibility, you may want to be burning MP3 CDs instead, since they can hold upwards of 100 songs. iTunes can do this. To turn this feature on, go to the **Preferences** window, and click the **Advanced Tab**, then **Burning** underneath. There, you simply click on the **MP3 CD option**. After inserting a blank CD, the bottom right of your iTunes window will let you burn an MP3 CD. Keep in mind that when creating Playlists that will be made into MP3 CDs, you'll need to keep them smaller than the capacity of a CD (640-700 MB) rather than under a certain time.

Note that you can only create MP3 CDs from tracks that are, well, MP3s. iTunes will not automatically convert tracks that are in any other format (such as AAC) to MP3 for you when burning an MP3 CD. You'll get an error message if you try. If you still have some tracks that are in MP3 format, you can continue burning the MP3 CD, but tracks that are not in MP3 format will simply be excluded.

Apply Equalizer settings to individual songs

Once you start fiddling with the iTunes Equalizer, you'll quickly realize that there isn't a perfect one-size-fits-all solution. Different songs use different instruments and frequencies, and the changes you make to one song's sound will have a very different impact on another song's overall sound. One song may benefit from increased bass, while another may sound muddy. Boosting the treble may help some instruments, but it will make cymbals and other high-pitched instruments sound tinny.

With this in mind, you can apply Equalizer presets to individual songs, or to entire albums, as you wish. Select a song, then select **File > Get Info. Click the Options Tab,** then **select a preset from the Equalizer Preset menu**. For multiple songs, Equalizer Preset is on the bottom right of the Get Info screen.

Make your iTunes window the perfect size (Mac)

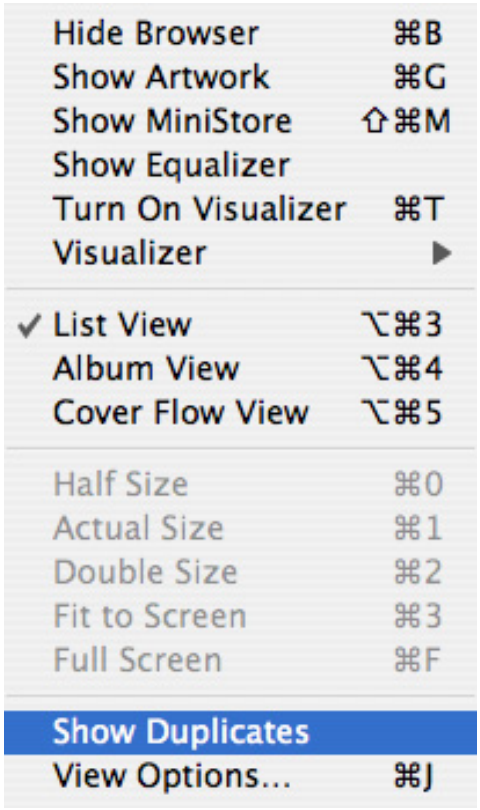
Do you have to scroll horizontally to see all of your columns in the iTunes window? You could just drag the lower-right corner of the window to stretch it out enough to see your hidden columns (such as Time, Genre and Rating) - or you could try something simpler. **On a Mac, Option-click the zoom control (green) button in the upper-left corner of iTunes**. This will automatically make your window an ideal size so you can see everything.

Open the iTunes Store (or a Playlist) in a new window

If you would like to have both your Library and the iTunes Store open at the same time in separate windows, just **double click the store's tiny green icon or the words "ITunes Store"** in the Source list. Now you can mess around in both without switching back and forth within the same window. This tip also works for Playlists - but be sure you double click just its icon and not the name of your Playlist. Otherwise, iTunes will think you want to rename the Playlist that you're trying to open in a new window. Bad iTunes, bad.

Keep your iPod from auto-updating

Every once in a while, you may want full control over the updating of your iPod. Perhaps you just want to play some songs from your iPod, or maybe you want to keep all those Johnny Mathis songs you just imported from finding their way into the public eye (or ear, as it maybe) via your iPod. You can turn manual updating on via the **iPod Tab** in **Preferences**, but if you like your automatic way of life and just want to use manual mode on occasion, you're going to love this tip. **Hold Shift-Control on a PC or Command-Option on a Mac** when connecting your iPod until it appears in the iTunes Source list, and you will be in full manual control of your iPod - but the next time you connect, your iPod will be back to being fully automatic.



Find and delete duplicate songs

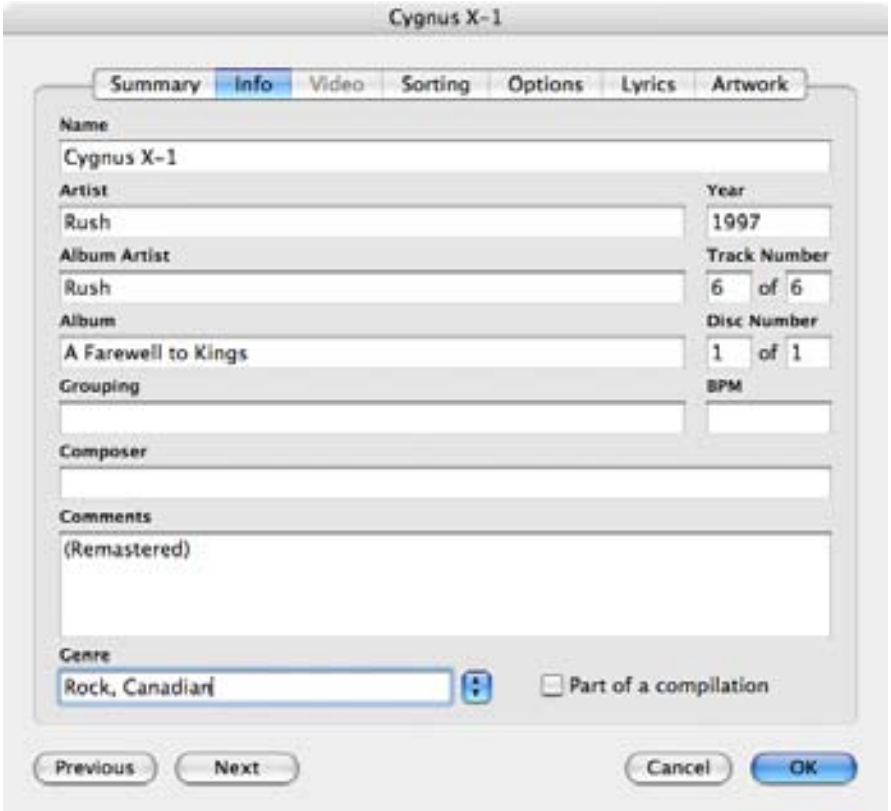
If you have multiple occurrences of several of the same songs in your Library, and want a quick way to weed these duplicates out, fear not. iTunes 4.7 was first to add the much-requested menu item Show Duplicate Songs. Now found under **View** > **Show Duplicate Songs**, this feature does exactly what it says. By showing you only duplicates, it makes it easier for you to pick out the doubles and get rid of them. Just be careful, as it doesn't discern between live and studio tracks or demos and remixes that have the same name.

Evoke Front Row without an Apple Remote (Mac)

Recent Mac owners already know that Apple's Front Row is the best way to browse their iTunes music and video libraries from a distance - the Apple Remotes included with Intel-based Macintosh computers make that easy. But what if you want to access your libraries from within Front Row without a Remote? **Press Command-Escape from virtually anywhere in the Mac OS X interface, and Front Row will pop up.** The Arrow keys will cycle through the icons, while the Space Bar will select them. Hit the Escape key to go back a menu, and eventually exit Front Row, or just tap Command-Escape a second time to go back to OS X.

Setting multiple Genres for a song

So, you have a weird song performed by Nelly and Tim McGraw. Is it Rap? Is it Country? Well, now you don't have to decide between the two. **Select the song**, go to **File** > **Get Info** (or use the PC Control-I / Mac Command-I keyboard shortcut), select the **Info Tab**, and set the **Genre** to "Country, Rap." Now the song will appear in Smart Playlists for both Country and Rap. This technique can be used on any song - just make sure you separate them with a comma.
Note: this tip does not work for Browser mode.

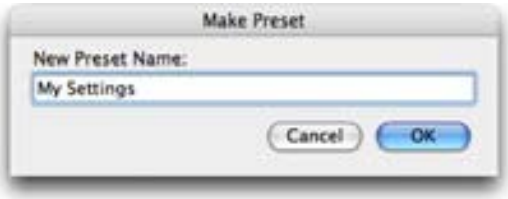


The iTunes Store's Power Search

The simple search feature on the iTunes Store is fine for most of your search needs. However, if you're sick of the tons of results that show up when you search for a specific song title or artist, you should check out the store's **Power Search (near the top of the left hand bar)**. This feature lets you focus your results - for instance, if you search for "The Killers" in the artist field, the results won't include tracks with just "Killers" in the song or album titles. You can also use the heading bar at the top of the power search window to filter your results to only include certain types of content such as music or TV shows.

Create your own Equalizer presets

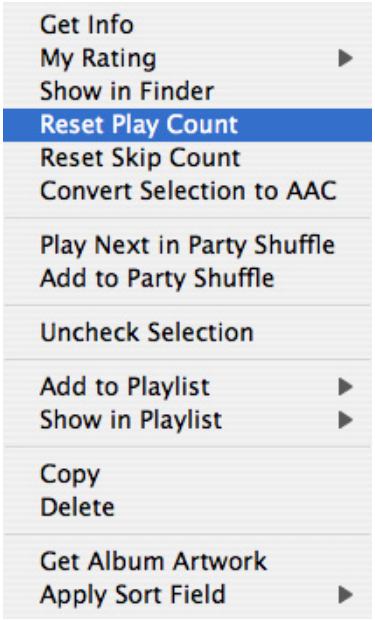
Once you've finished tweaking the Equalizer's settings to perfection, it's easy to save them for future use. **Click the Equalizer's popup menu, select Make Preset, enter a name for your preset, then click OK**. You can then take the preset and apply it to individual songs, or use it across the board for all songs. And if you delete a preset, iTunes will ask if you want to remove it from all songs for which you have set it.



Learn what was hot on the Charts

So maybe you're throwing a 1950's theme party, or perhaps you're just curious to hear what kind of music your parents listened to back when they thought they were hip. Well, the iTunes Store now includes the Billboard Top 100, Top Country, and Top R&B charts going back to 1946. These can be viewed in the US iTunes Store by going to the **Browse** option in the iTunes Store and selecting **Charts** from the left-hand column. Users of international iTunes Stores will need to log out and log into the US store to see the charts.

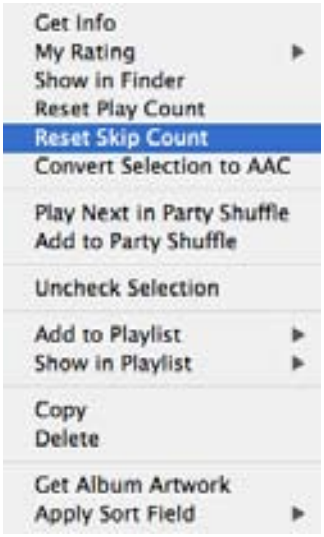
A more grass roots way to find new music is to sort through other users' iMixes, which we'll discuss later.



Resetting the Play Count

As you've probably noticed, iTunes keeps track of how many times you've played a song all the way through in a little tag call Play Count. This tag can be very useful in creating Smart Playlists - especially a Never Heard Playlist. But sometimes it's nice to have a fresh start on the Play Count, especially if a relative has been over cranking your copy of Jethro Tull's Greatest Hits on repeat. The easiest way to reset the Play Count is to **select a song** (or songs - this will work for as many as you can highlight), R**ight-click on a PC or Control-click on a Mac**, and select "Reset Play Count." A dialog box will appear asking if you really, really, really want to do it, and as soon as you **hit Yes**, the Play Counts of the selected songs are set back to zero.

Track how often you skip songs



iTunes 7 now includes the ability to track not only how many times you've listened to a song, but how many times you've skipped it. This works in much the same way as the play count does, and can be shown in column view, added to a smart playlist, and reset in the same way that play counts can. **If you start listening to a track and then skip it (by hitting the "Next" button) within the first 30 seconds, iTunes will add the current time to the "Last Skipped" field, and increase the "Skip count" by one.** This will also work on newer iPod models (fifth-generation iPod with v1.2 firmware, or second-generation iPod nano).

Note that this will only work in iTunes if you actually hit the "Next" button to move to the next track. Simply selecting a new track from the iTunes track list does not increment the skip count. This can be a great way to filter through those playlists and quickly remove tracks that you really don't regularly listen to any more, since if you're skipping them regularly, perhaps they don't need to be in your playlist any more.

Control the volume with the scroll wheel on your mouse

If you have a mouse with a scroll wheel, you're in luck (take that, most Mac owners) - there's an incredible treat just waiting in iTunes for you. Did you know that you can control the music volume in iTunes with your wheel? Just **hover your pointer somewhere near the volume slider** on the iTunes window and **move your scroll wheel** away from you to increase the volume and towards you to lower the volume. It's almost enough to make us want to junk these one-button mice we've been using for all these years. Well, not really, but it's something.

Take control of iTunes from the Dock or Tray

One of the most convenient features of iTunes is the ability to control the application from **the Mac Dock or Windows Tray**. This feature is great for when you're working in another program and have iTunes minimized to the Dock or hidden and want to control it without quitting what you're doing by bringing the iTunes window to the foreground. By **Right-clicking in Windows, Control-clicking on the Mac, or clicking and holding on the Mac**, a menu pops up that lets you: see what song is currently playing, turn repeat on or off, toggle shuffle mode, pause/play the track, skip to the next song or jump back to the previous one.

Rate on the fly

The above controls are all well and good, but this menu is best for rating your tunes. (Remember, ratings are key to getting the most out of Smart Playlists.) **Start up an Unrated Songs Smart Playlist in shuffle mode** while you're working, and **use the Dock or Tray's menu to rate on the fly** without wasting time switching to the iTunes window.

Control iTunes with Widgets: Mac & PC

Back in 2002, two guys came up with a superb free Mac program called Konfabulator, which allowed you to keep handy tools sitting on your computer at any time. The tools were so slick that Apple decided that it wanted to include them in its Tiger operating system, and just copied the idea. So the Konfabulator guys created a Windows version of Konfabulator, then teamed up with Yahoo! to give it away for free.

Here are just a few of the over 90 (PC and Mac total) iTunes-related Widgets available from Yahoo!'s Widgets site (widgets.yahoo.com). **iTunes Remote** is an excellent and beautiful widget for controlling iTunes. **iTunes Bar** is a slim style iTunes remote great for the top or bottom of your screen, plus an album artwork viewer. **Sing that iTune!** automatically downloads the lyrics for the track currently playing in iTunes, and tags them into iTunes' Lyrics field for the track, for viewing on the iPod. **iTunes Companion** seems to do everything: it will fetch a track's artwork, lyrics, and iTunes Store links, enable extra hotkeys for iTunes, and announce (vocally!) the currently playing track. Did we mention it can publish the track information, cover art, and rating of the currently-playing song to a web server? **iLounge** is our Yahoo! Widget, available for both PC users and Mac users, built to help you check out our latest news, headlines, help archives, and photo gallery. Download it from the link in the left-hand column on our main page.

Control iTunes with Widgets: Mac OS X 10.4+

With Dashboard, Mac users are getting the best iTunes Widgets of them all. In addition to all of the Yahoo! Widgets, which work on any Mac, OS X Tiger users can download all sorts of free new ones that were made specifically for Tiger. They benefit from even better visual effects than the impressive Konfabulator Widgets, and offer very similar features. To download them, hit F12, hit the Plus button in the left bottom corner, select Manage Widgets next to it, and click on More Widgets in the Widget Manager that appears. You'll go to Apple's site, where a huge collection of Widgets (iTunes and otherwise) is available. Go to the Music category, and you'll find a whole bunch of iTunes and non-iTunes options. Here are are some of our favorites:

Tempo: Do you DJ? With iBeat, simply tap the big button in time to a song playing in iTunes to get an accurate tempo measurement, then double-click on the number to write the it to the current track's "BPM" tag in iTunes.

iTunes Connection Monitor: Use your laptop's iTunes on your college campus network? Find out who is connected to your iTunes' Sharing feature, and precisely what they're listening to!

Sing that iTune! and lgLyric: Use these widgets to automatically download lyrics to the tracks currently playing in iTunes, and tag them into iTunes' Lyrics field, for viewing on the iPod!

Album Art Widget: This widget automatically fetches the current track's album artwork from internet sources, and can assign it to the track in iTunes. Additionally, it allows you to rate tracks as you listen.

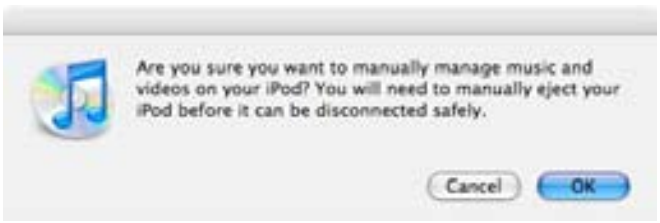
iTunes controllers: iTunes controllers like Apple's standard one, miniTunes, DashTunes, Black 'n' Blue, and BezelTunes allow you to quickly change iTunes' current track, playlist, volume, or -- in some cases -- song rating. Some even display the current album art! Experiment and find one you like.

iLounge. We have a Dashboard widget, too! Like our Yahoo! Widget, it's built to help you check out our latest news, headlines, help archives, and photo gallery. Download it from the left-hand column on our main page, or from Apple's Dashboard site.

Manually managing song, podcast, and video transfers to and from your iPod

iTunes makes it easy to keep your iPod up-to-date with your latest media acquisitions. If your Library is small, it simply copies the whole thing, and if your Library is bigger, you can tell iTunes to automatically update only certain Playlists. If this automatic stuff isn't for you, don't fret. There is a way to keep total control over what goes onto your iPod.

It's called **manual updating**. **Connect your iPod** to your PC/Mac, select it in the source list and look for the **Summary Tab**.



Simply **click the checkbox next to Manually manage music and videos** and you'll be up and running. You can now drag any song or Playlist you want to and from the iPod, and you can also play songs directly from the iPod that may not be present on your hard drive. To revert back to the ease of automatic life, just revisit the iPod settings and UNcheck the same option.

As the name of the option implies, this checkbox will only set manual management of your music and video (TV show and movie) content. The remaining four tabs (Podcasts, Photos, Contacts and Games) have their own checkboxes that let you sync or de-sync their specific types of content, with lists of specific content you can add in whole, in part, or not at all. This isn't truly "manual mode," but it's as close as iTunes gets.

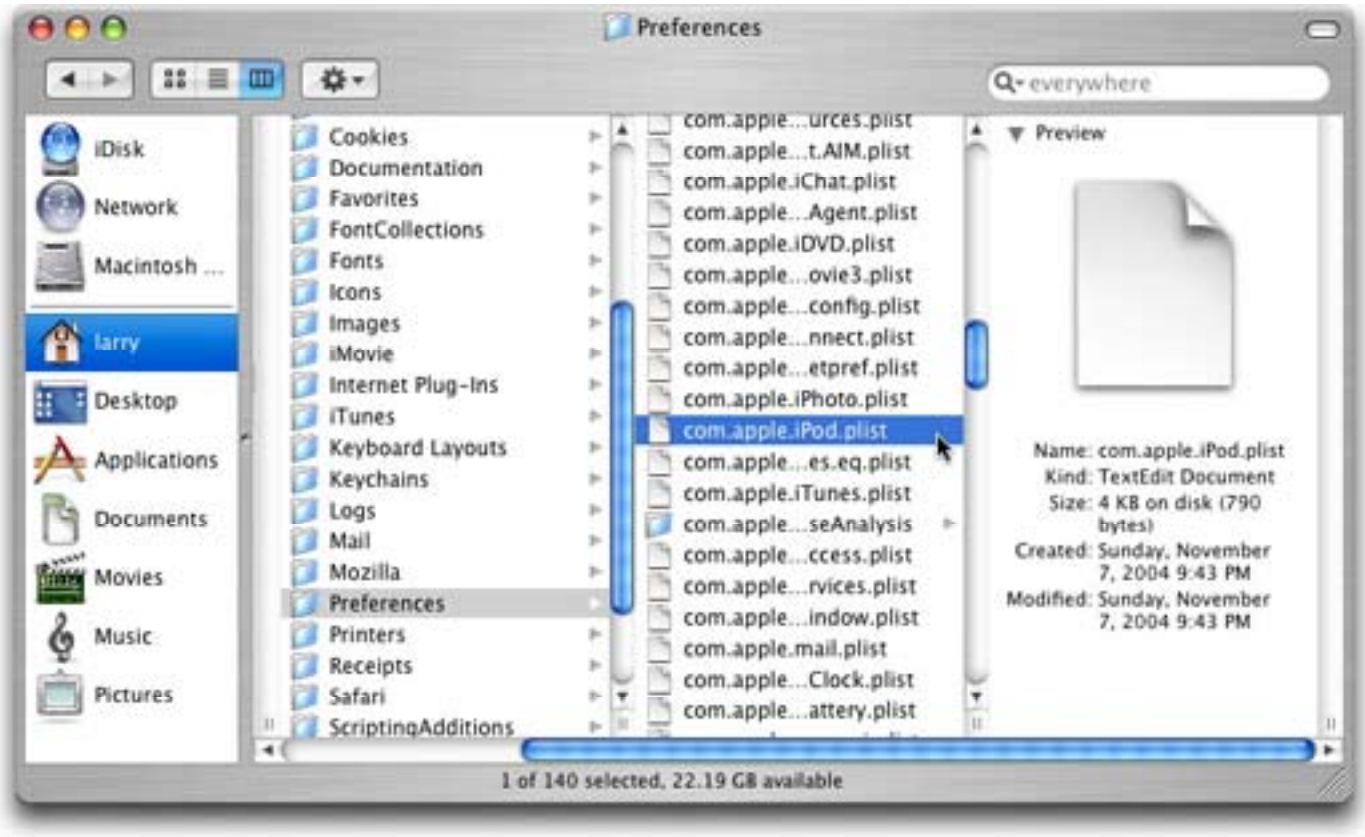
If you want to manage your podcasts manually, individual podcast episodes are treated as normal audio files, and can therefore be dragged to your iPod as any audio track would. However, you can still set your podcast settings to automatically sync new episodes even when managing the rest of your iPod content manually.

Quickly add songs from CDs to Playlists

An easy way to add individual songs from a CD to a Playlist is to simply **drag them from the CD track list to the desired Playlist in the Source list**. iTunes will automatically import them and add them to your Library and to the Playlist. If you want the song to appear in a new Playlist, simply drag it to an unoccupied area in the Source list.

Recover your lost iPod's serial number (Mac)

Hopefully, you'll never have to use this tip. But, in the event that your iPod gets lost or stolen, you'll need its serial number to file a police report or possible insurance claim. If you didn't think to write it down and you've since thrown away the box (or if you never got the box because it was a hand-me-down iPod from your big sister), you're not out of luck - if you have a Mac. Navigate to your **Home directory** (the one you've named) in Mac OS X and go to **Library** > **Preferences**. Find and open the com.apple.iPod.plist file with any text editor and you'll be able to spot your iPod's serial number. If you have a PC, be sure to keep a copy of the serial number handy - it's not as easy to find.



Time for a change

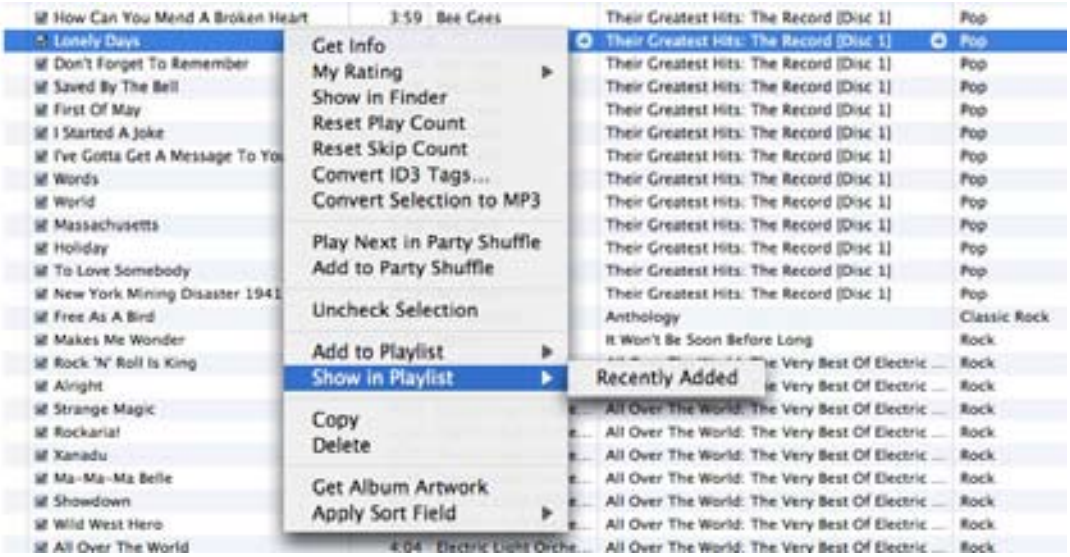
Is the Elapsed Time display just not doing it for you anymore? Well, **click on it when you're playing a song** and it will change the second number to show the Remaining Time of the current track. **Click it again**, and the status window's second number will show you the Total Time of the entire song.

Managing your Library with checkmarks

You're in a quandry: do you want iTunes to always transfer your entire collection to your iPod, or do you want to take full control of which songs get copied? That's what the Automatic and Manual settings seem to force you to decide. But there are two compromises. You can put iTunes in fully automatic mode ("update everything"), have it update only specific playlists, or ignore songs that aren't checked - yes, the **little checkmarks** to the left in your iTunes window. To do this, select your iPod in the source list, and choose the option "Only sync checked items." iTunes will then not copy any unchecked songs to your iPod.

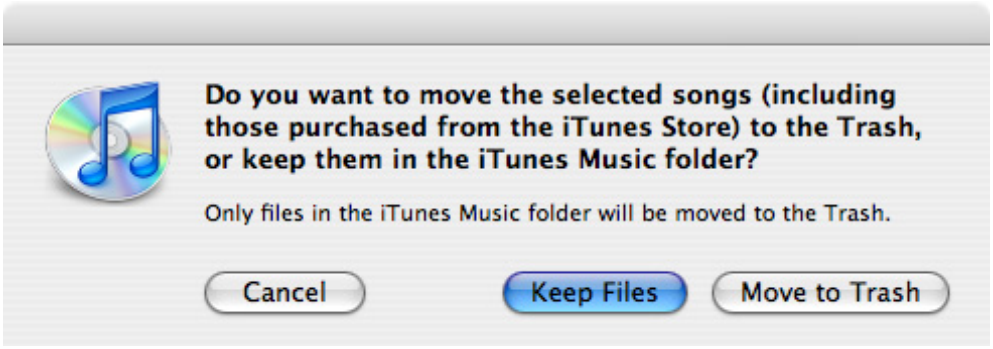
Find out where a song is hangin'

If you're creating Playlists manually, or if you have quite a few Playlists and try to keep them from having the same songs as another, this tip will help you out. By **Right-clicking (or Mac Control-clicking) on a song**, you get a contextual menu containing the Show in Playlist item. From here you can get a list of all the Playlists in which a single song resides. This tip is also handy for making mix CDs when you know you want a song on the CD but can't remember if you already added it.



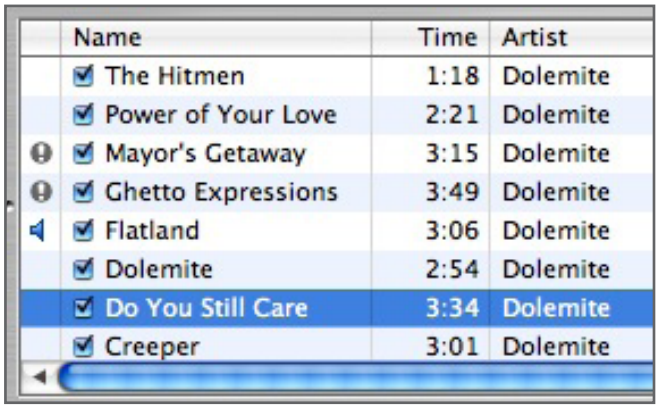
One letter answers

Ever get tired of clicking on seemingly endless Yes and No buttons in iTunes dialog boxes? Well, you don't have to any more. **Hitting the corresponding Y or N key will do the same thing without moving the cursor.** This will also work in dialog boxes that have buttons with other labels. Simply press the first letter of the button name, for example, C, K or M in this dialog box.



Keep computer-deleted files on your iPod

If you automatically manage your iPod, are running out of computer hard drive space, and want to delete songs from your computer without losing them on the iPod, here's a dirty little workaround. **Remove the files from your hard disk, but do not delete them from your iTunes library**. They'll appear in iTunes with an ! next to their names, meaning that iTunes cannot find them. They will not, however, be deleted from your iPod when you sync automatically. If you return them to your iTunes Music folder later, all will be well. We don't advise this tip, but it works.



Getting rid of the arrows

By default, iTunes has a setting turned on that creates a link to the iTunes Store from the Song Name, Artist, and Album tags on any song you select - an improvement over past versions that loaded the whole window full of arrow links.

To get rid of these arrows, go to the **Preferences** menu. Under the **General Tab**, there is a checkbox labeled **Show Links to the iTunes Store**. Un-checking this will rid your window of the links, and of course you can always turn them back on later if you want.

Use an iPod with Mac OS 9

Did you know that it's possible to use an iPod even if you're still stuck in the dark ages of Mac OS 9? Yup, it's true. Just don't expect to be rockin' out with a top-of-the-line iPod (with video) - you can only use a first- or second-generation model (5, 10 or 20GB). And since Apple no longer sells these, you'll have to get one off eBay or dig up your weird friend who was buried with his original iPod in 2002 after a freak PowerBook battery incident. Either way, once you have your little white beauty all you'll need to do is update your software. You'll need Mac OS 9.2.1 (http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=120030), iTunes 2.0.4 (http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=120073), and iPod Software 1.3 (http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=120198).

Edit song info like a pro

This is one of the best advanced keyboard tips out there - one for real iTunes pros. When editing track information for multiple songs, it can be a pain to keep clicking the Next button at the bottom of the Get Info window to start editing another song's details. Instead, just press **Control-N on PCs, Command-N on Macs to go Next, or Control/Command-P for the previous song**. If you want to jump from tab to tab (Summary, Info, Options, Artwork) in the Get Info window, press **Control or Command-] (bracket)**. Bonus: This also works for the **Preferences** window.

Avoid the blank CD warning

Have you ever been ready to burn a CD, inserted a blank, and gotten the annoying dialog box asking you what you want to do with it? To avoid this irritation, **click the Burn Disc button before you insert the CD**. iTunes instinctively then asks you to insert a blank CD. Armed with this knowledge, you'll never have to deal with that dialog box again - in iTunes, at least.

Moving your iTunes Music folder to a different drive

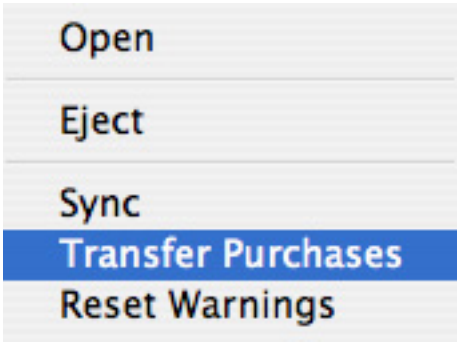
For those with truly huge music collections, the addition of a separate music drive can become a necessity, especially if you use a laptop. iTunes is there to make sure that moving your Library isn't nearly as time consuming or tedious as it sounds. First, **open the Windows Explorer or Mac Finder. Move the iTunes Music folder** (located on the PC at Documents and Settings\(yourusername)\My Documents\My Music\iTunes\ iTunes Music and on Macs at Users > (yourusername) > Music > iTunes) **to the location you've selected** on the new drive.

All you have to do from there is tell iTunes where you've moved the folder. By going into **Preferences** and selecting the **Advanced Tab**, then the **General Sub-Tab**, you can click the **Change button** next to the iTunes Music location box and **direct iTunes toward the new external home of your music folder**. As soon as iTunes recognizes it, you can make all the additions and subtractions you want and they will all take place inside the external Music folder and not the one on your computer. Just be sure the drive is on when iTunes is loaded, or iTunes will be confused.

Sharing iTunes Store songs on multiple computers

If you've purchased songs from iTunes and want to hear them on multiple computers, you will first need to authorize the other computers to play music from your iTunes Store account. This can now be done by selecting the **Authorize Computer option** from the **Store menu** in iTunes 7. You will need to enter your iTunes Store userid and password, and your computer will then be authorized to play any iTunes Store music you might want to add to it.

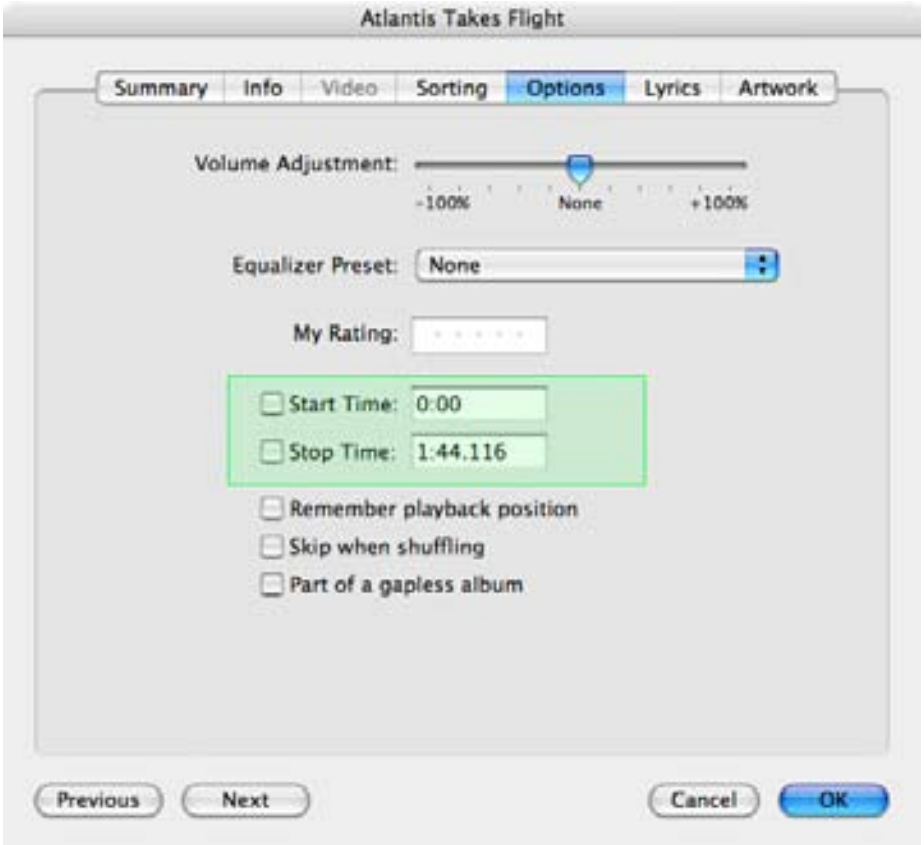
You will then need to actually get the music transferred from your main library over to your other computer. Traditionally, this would be done by manually copying the music files to each computer (either over a network, if your computers are networked, or by burning the music files onto CDs or DVDs - you can use a CD-RW or DVD-RW disc for this to save plastic). While this is still an option, iTunes 7 now offers a much cooler way to do this simply by using your iPod. Purchased tracks stored on an iPod can now be reverse-synced back to any one of your authorized iTunes computers. Simply connect the iPod to the other computer, and choose the option to "Transfer Purchases" when prompted.

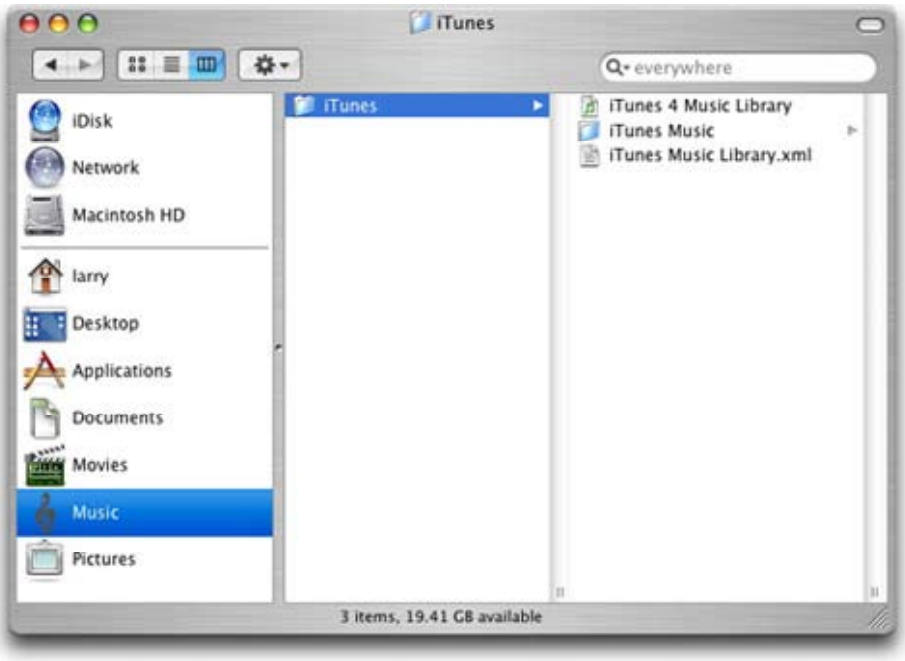


This dialog box will only appear if you are automatically syncing your iPod to a different iTunes library. If you are managing your iPod manually, you can instead initiate this process by right-clicking the iPod in the source list and choosing "Transfer Purchases" from the context menu. Note that this is an all-or-nothing process. iTunes does not provide any way to selectively transfer purchases from the iPod, rather all purchased content that is on the iPod that is not in the current iTunes library will be copied over, including movies, TV shows and even iPod Games, so you'll want to ensure that you have lots of disk space for this process if you're reverse-syncing an 80GB iPod.

Splitting a song

Do you have any CDs with hidden bonus tracks? You know, the ones that are attached to another song via three or more minutes of silence? Well, there's an easy built-in way to make these separate tracks in iTunes. First, **select a song** and **Get Info** on it by going to File > Get Info. In the Get Info window, click on **Options** and then **set the Start and Stop times** for the song. Once these are set, **click OK**, and then with the song still selected, go to **Advanced** > **Convert Selection to AAC** (or whatever your preferred format is). This will create a new track containing just the sound between the start and stop times you set. This tip is also useful for splitting Audiobooks into shorter segments.



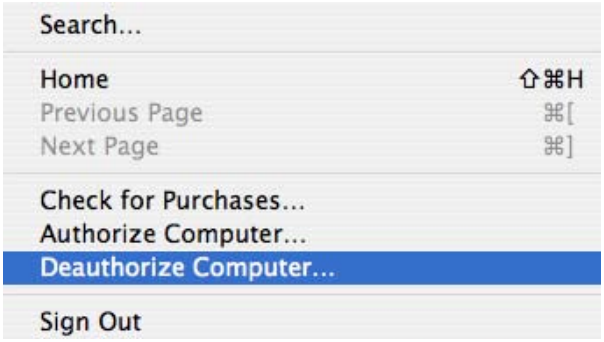


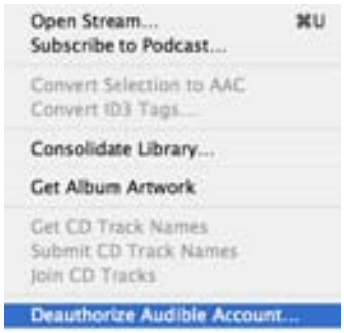
Take your music with you (switching computers)

As you learned in a previous tip, iTunes makes it simple to change the location of your Music folder. iTunes also makes it relatively easy to move from one computer to another and take your Music Library with you.

The first step is to **locate your iTunes folder on your hard drive**, which we discussed in an earlier tip. The second step is to **copy the entire contents of the iTunes folder to the same spot on your new computer**. You can do this via File Sharing, by burning it to CD or DVD (if it will fit), or by using our recommended Mac technique: FireWire Target Mode. Make sure your old Mac is shut down, connect it to the new (and running) Mac, and then startup the old one while holding the "T" key. This will start your old computer in Target Mode, and it should appear in the Finder window of the new computer. You can then drag the iTunes folder to the Music folder in your new Home directory. As long as you **keep the iTunes Music folder in the same space** - either on an external drive or in your newly copied iTunes folder - your fresh copy of iTunes on your new Mac should start up containing your Music Library from the old computer.

Deauthorize your old computer





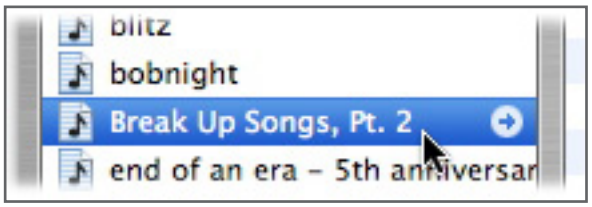
As part of the iTunes Store's FairPlay Digital Rights Management system, you have to authorize a computer to play songs purchased with your account before you can actually play them. This works out fine until the day comes that you want to move on to the new computer you've been dreaming about. iTunes provides a way to deauthorize your computer, but it is important that you do so before you ship it out because as of right now you can only deauthorize a computer from the computer itself. Go to **Store** > **Deauthorize Computer**. This will deauthorize your computer for the iTunes Store account, but if you have an **Audible account**, you'll need to deauthorize it separately. This option can be found under the **Advanced** > **Deauthorize Audible Account** option.

If you should decide to keep the computer and need to reauthorize it, you can either use the **Store** > **Authorize Computer** menu option, or simply try to play a song purchased with the account you deauthorized, and iTunes will walk you through the process of authorizing your machine once again.

Get tips and tricks for your iPod Games

Computer nerds have an old saying: "Are you stuck? RTM!" (Decoded: Read The Manual.) If you've been downloading iPod Games from the iTunes Store, you mightn't realize that you've also received a large, scrollable instruction manual with each game, found in your Library under the iPod Games section. **Select a game title and you'll find a scroll bar off to the right of the iTunes window**; if you haven't tried scrolling down yet, you should. There are pictures and details for most games' later levels, plus helpful hints on how to better control the games with the iPod's Click Wheel. **If you need cheat codes, check the Articles section of iLounge.com** - we've posted some.

Make your own Celebrity Playlist with iMix



Have you ever had a Playlist you liked so much that you wanted to share it with others? Do you think your musical taste is ready for the masses? If so, Apple has a feature for you: iMix. iMix allows you to add any Playlist you want to the iTMS, provided the songs are available. Creating your iMix is easy. First, **create a Playlist containing the songs you want in your iMix**. Then either **click the arrow button next to the Playlist's name**, or if you turned the buttons off, go to File > Create an iMix. From there, you'll be prompted to **give your iTMS account password**, then be taken to a page listing how the iMix will appear to other users. Here you can **add a description of your iMix** if you want. Keep in mind that your iMix can be rated by any other user of the iTMS, and you can always update your iMix by publishing it again from the Playlist.

Set tracks to save where you left off, or slow down

As you may already know, fourth- and fifth-generation iPods, minis and nanos have the ability to change the speed of Audiobooks. By nature, these Audiobooks also have a bookmarking feature that allows you to interrupt your "reading" to listen to a song, then pick up right where you left off when you switch back. These are both great features for Audiobooks, but it might be nice to have them for regular audio lectures and symphonies, or just to use the speed control to experiment with normal songs.

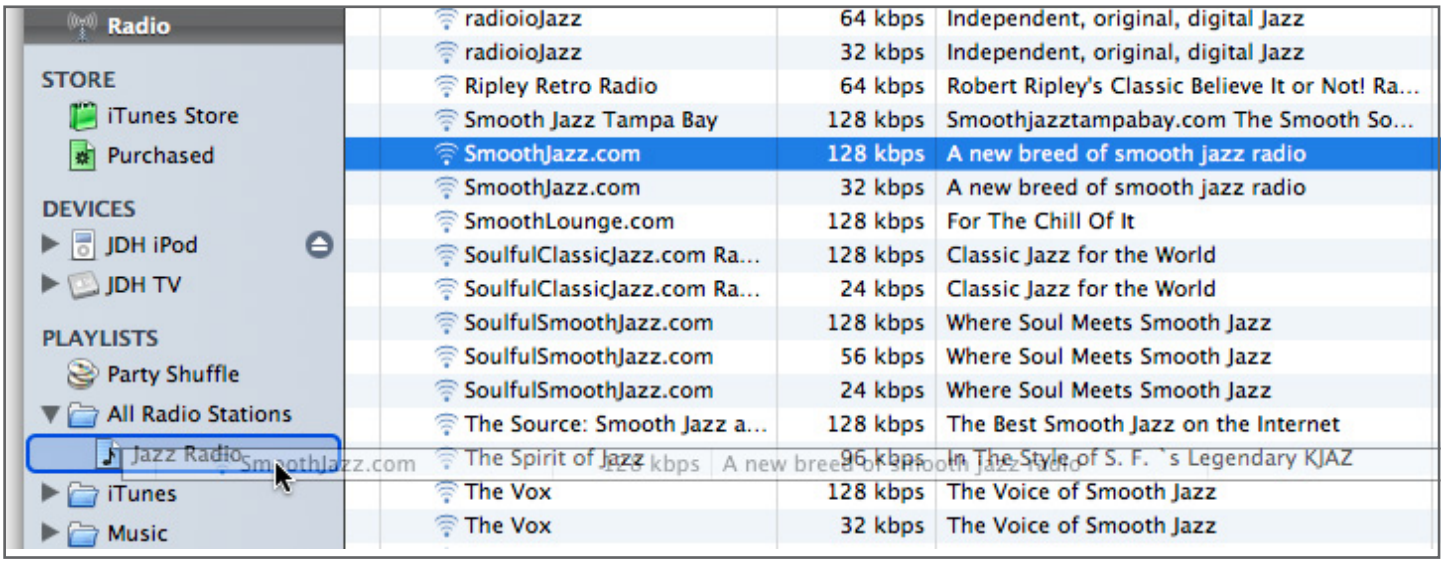
Well, there is a way to do exactly that. By using a free third-party Mac utility called **Quick Change**, you can alter the tag iTunes and your iPod look at to identify the type of file. Essentially, we are using it to fool them into thinking your normal AAC file is one of those privileged Audiobooks. (Sorry, this part won't work with an MP3 unless you convert it to AAC first.)

First, download and open Quick Change (everydaysoftware.net/quickchange/index.html). Next you should go to **File** > **Open** and find a normal file that you'd like to use the bookmarking and or speed adjust feature with. Once you have your file ready, all you need to do is **change the text in the Type field from "M4A" to "M4B "** (both with spaces at the end) and **hit Save**. Now iTunes and your iPod will think that song you just changed is an Audiobook. In fact, it will even appear in the Music > Audiobooks menu on your iPod. If you have several songs you would like to do this with, you can drag and drop them to the drawer below the main Quick Change window, type "M4B " in the Type field, and hit the Batch button and all of the files will be changed at once.

Starting in iTunes 5, Apple added a general-purpose bookmarking feature that can be used with standard MP3 and AAC files: **simply Get Info on your music file and check the Remember playback position box**. This will let iTunes remember wherever you left off - a useful feature if you've created huge individual files that better represent complete albums than their individually separated tracks might. Though outdated somewhat by that addition to iTunes, iPodSoft still offers a $15 PC program called **MarkAble** (ipodsoft.com/index.php?/software/markable) that can help you create bookmarkable non-audiobook and non-podcast files, but you'll really want it for its automated file-merging features, which combine multiple tracks into larger files with ease. Be aware: neither of these solutions will let you adjust the speed of your songs.

Round up your favorite radio stations

One of the best things about iTunes is its huge selection of built-in Internet Radio stations. Unfortunately, this selection of stations is also one of the worst things about iTunes - it's huge and you may not be able to find a station you liked after hearing it once. Luckily, the application quietly allows you to add your favorite stations to any Playlist. Just go through all the stations from time to time and when you find one you like, **drag it over to a Playlist**. (They're differentiated in the Playlist from normal tracks by a tiny blue icon in front of the station names.) Now you can tune in super quick - sort of like those presets on your car radio.



Ditch the battery icon on black-and-white iPods

Okay, this isn't an iTunes tip per se, but we had to toss it in because it's so cool. The iPod battery icon isn't the most detailed way to figure out how much battery life you have left. This tip shows you how to **replace the icon of a 1G, 2G, 3G, or original mini iPod with a voltage number** that is a little easier to gauge. (Around 500 is the maximum, give or take 20-30.) It's not really a countdown timer, but it's better than the limited iPod icons.

To turn on the voltage meter with a Mac, **use Terminal** (Applications > Utilities in Mac OS X) and type:

touch /Volumes/name_of_your_iPod/iPod_Control/Device/_show_voltage

To revert back to the lovely icon, type the following in Terminal:
rm /Volumes/name_of_your_iPod/iPod_Control/Device/_show_voltage

You must have your iPod connected to your Mac and enabled for Disk Use for this tip to work. And you'll need to change the "name_of_your_iPod" part above to the name of your iPod.

To pull this off on a PC, **go to Windows' Tools menu** (inside any Explorer window), **select Folder Options, View, and Show Hidden Files and Folders.** Also be sure you're displaying filename extensions. Then find the iPod's hidden iPod_Control folder, and the Device folder inside of that. **Create an empty text file** (right-click on the folder inside Windows, and choose New > Text Document), then rename it "_show_voltage" without the quotes, and without .txt at the end. That's it. Delete this file when you want your old icon back.

Pre-built Smart Playlists

We've already shown you how to create your own Smart Playlist, so we decided to share with you the top five Smart Playlists that we couldn't live without. Remember, the easiest way to **create a Smart Playlist is by Shift-clicking (PC) or Option-clicking (Mac) the Add Playlist button**.

Unrated Songs

Great for when you have a large music library and you're in the mood to do some rating.

< My Rating - is less than - ★ >

Heavy Rotation

Admit it. You listen to a handful of tracks 90 percent of the time. This Smart Playlist grabs only songs with four or five stars that have been played within the last three days.

< My Rating - is greater than - ★ ★ ★ > < Last Played - is in the last - 3 days >

Never Heard

Another great one for those of us with gigabytes and gigabytes of music. Chances are good that you'll unexpectedly find a gem.

< Play Count - is - 0 >

New Music

This Smart Playlist is perfect for just checking out all the latest tunes added to your collection.

< Date Added - is in the last - 30 days >

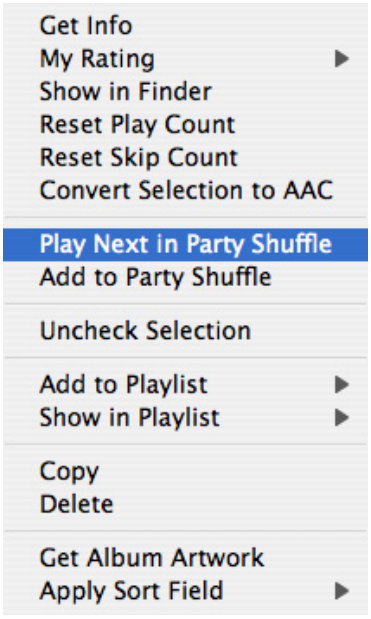
Purchased Music

Yes, we know one of these comes with iTunes by default. But, if you happen to delete it, you're pretty much out of luck - iTunes will create another "Purchased Music" Playlist the next time you buy something from the iTunes Store, but it won't include all of your previous purchases.

< Kind - is - Protected AAC audio file >

Quickly queue up a song in Party Shuffle

If you consider yourself an aspiring DJ, this tip will help you play tracks in the Party Shuffle mode with the quickness. After you've created a Party Shuffle Playlist (just **click "Party Shuffle" in the Source list**) and are jamming to a tune, and get a requested song that you know you have, **find it in your music library using the Search bar** (top right of the window), **Right-click (PC) or Control-click (Mac)** the song, and **select Play Next in Party Shuffle** from the contextual menu. The track will appear in the Party Shuffle Playlist below the currently playing song and will be the next to play.



iSync your iPod (Mac)

If you have a Mac running OS X 10.3 or earlier, you may already know that you can use iSync to keep your calendars, contacts, and other information synced between computers. But did you know that you can also use iSync to keep the calendars and contacts on your iPod up to date? With your iPod attached, **open the iSync application**. Your iPod should show up in the brushed metal bar in the application. **Click on it**, and you will get a window with options to turn on synchronization, sync automatically, sync contacts, and sync calendars. Under the Contacts and Calendars sections there are options to synchronize all or just some of either group. Once you have everything to your liking, **hit Sync Now** and your iPod will be loaded up and ready to go. Apple's integrated this synchronization into iTunes when it runs under Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger, but that's it.

Password protecting your shared music

Sharing your music can be a great convenience, but it can also be a problem if you have music or Audiobooks that shouldn't be heard by all in your house (your child listening to your Chris Rock comedy performance, for example). Fortunately, there is a simple setting in iTunes to keep this from being a problem. By going to iTunes > **Preferences** and then the **Sharing Tab**, you can select the **Require password** checkbox, and then type in a password only you know to keep wandering eyes - or ears, in this matter - out of your Library.

Formatted versus unformatted space

So you've turned on iTunes and discovered that your 80GB iPod doesn't hold 80GB worth of data. Now you want to know why. Here's the reason, as explained by iLounge's resident rocket scientist, Jerrod Hofferth.

"Hard drives are sold and marketed using decimal gigabytes. That is, a 'GB' consists of 1,000,000,000 bytes. However, computers interpret gigabytes in binary. To a computer, 1 GB equals 1,073,741,824 bytes.

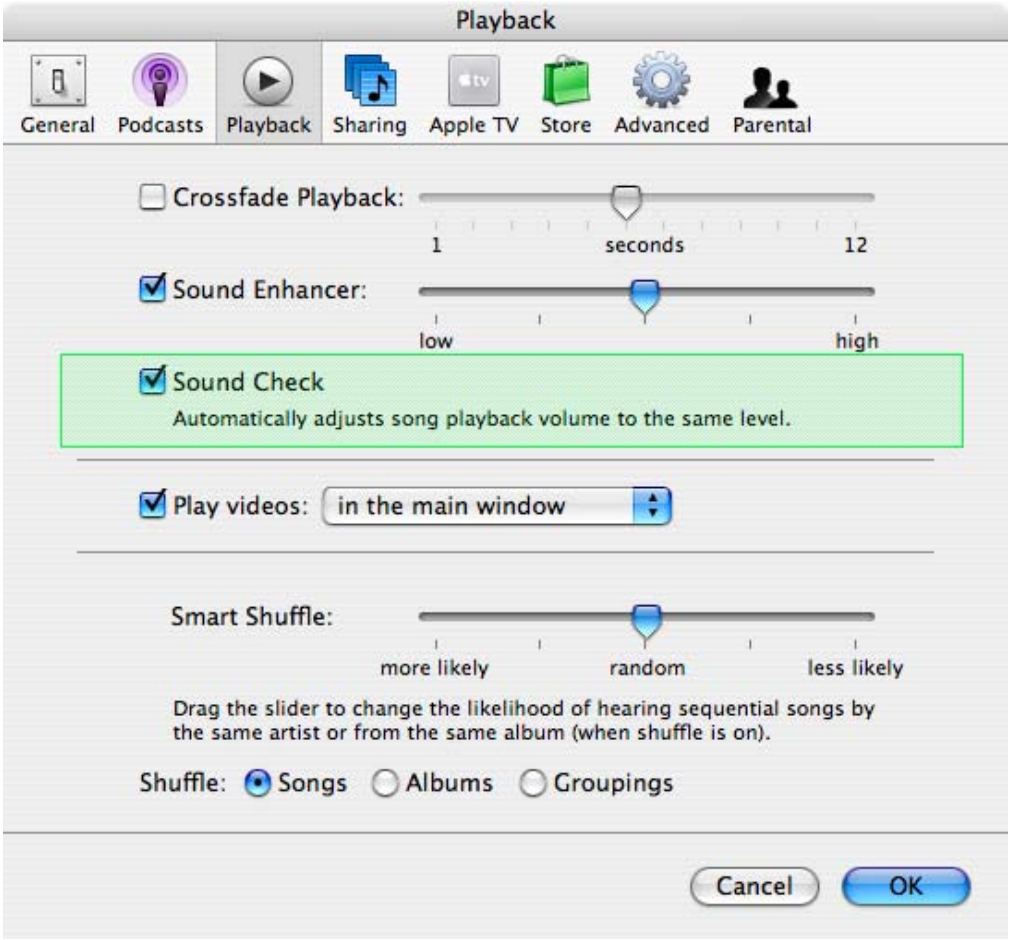
The ratio of 'actual' to 'marketed' file size is the ratio of these two numbers, or roughly 0.9313225. Therefore an X-sized (marketed) drive actually has 0.9313225*X of space usable to a computer."

Make sense? No? Well, anyway, **the table here will tell you how much space you actually have on any given iPod**. Bear in mind that **Apple TV's 40GB drive has only around 32.8GB of available space**, thanks to some pre-installed Apple software.

80GB*0.9313225 = 74.51GB
60GB*0.9313225 = 55.88GB
40GB*0.9313225 =37.25GB
30GB*0.9313225 = 27.94GB
20GB*0.9313225 = 18.6GB
15GB*0.9313225 = 13.97GB
10GB*0.9313225 = 9.31GB
8GB*0.9313225 = 7.45GB
6GB*0.9313225 = 5.59GB
5GB*0.9313225 = 4.67GB
4GB*0.9313225 = 3.73GB
1GB*0.9313225 = 0.93GB
512MB*0.9313225 = 476.84MB

Save your ears with Sound Check

If your musical taste has a large range, or if you don't like being startled by super loud songs, the Sound Check setting in iTunes is for you. Sound Check will automatically adjust the volume of your songs to the same level. This is especially handy if you're a Shuffler and can go from Harry Connick, Jr. to Slipknot. Go to the **Preferences** menu and click the **Playback Tab**. Now just select the **Sound Check** option. In order to use this feature on your iPod, you must turn it on in both iTunes and on your iPod. **After you've turned it on in iTunes, go to Settings > Sound Check on your iPod** and press the **Select button** to turn it from Off to On.



Deleting your entire iTunes Library

You've just discovered that every one of your songs was ripped improperly, and you want to delete everything. We've been through it.

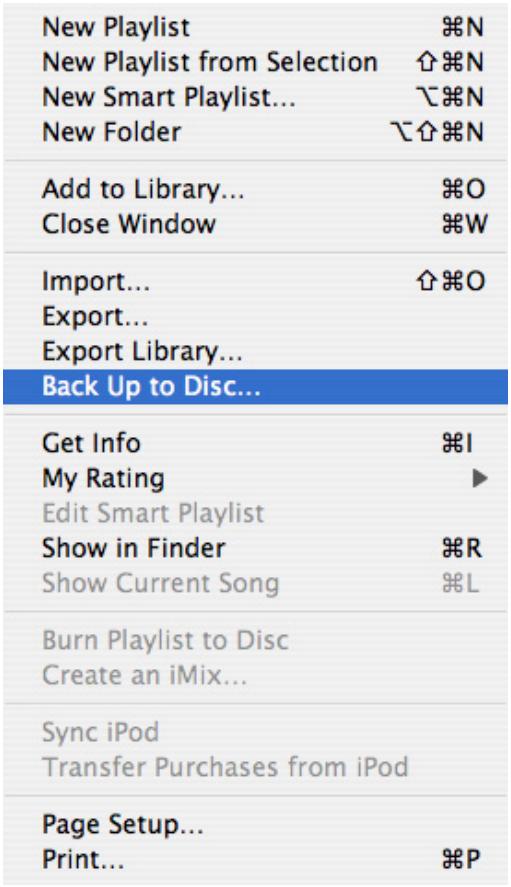
To delete your entire Library, first **make sure you have backups of your songs** - just in case you decide later that you need some of them. Then, **in iTunes, click the Library icon in the Source list. Select Edit** > **Select All** to select all your songs. Press the Delete key, and confirm your deletion.

Need to do the same thing for your iPod? This will depend on whether you sync your iPod manually or automatically. If you sync it automatically and delete your songs from the iTunes Library, the next time you connect the iPod, iTunes will remove all its songs; since the iTunes Library is empty, syncing simply mirrors this empty Library on the iPod. If you sync manually, just do the same thing as you did for the iTunes Library: connect the iPod, select all the songs on the iPod, then press Delete.

Back up your music to DVD

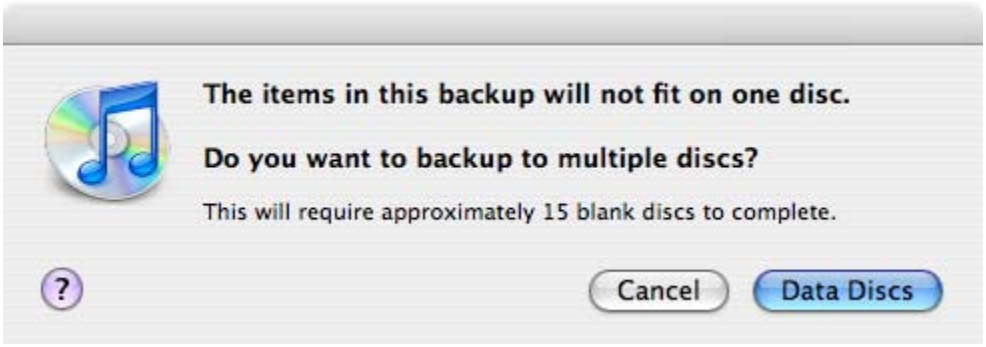
If you have a Library that needs serious backup capacity, and you have a DVD burner for your PC or Mac, you can back your music up on a DVD straight from iTunes.

While this was done in prior versions of iTunes by burning to a Data CD/DVD, iTunes 7 now offers a built-in library backup feature. This new feature can be found on the **File menu, under "Backup to Disc."**



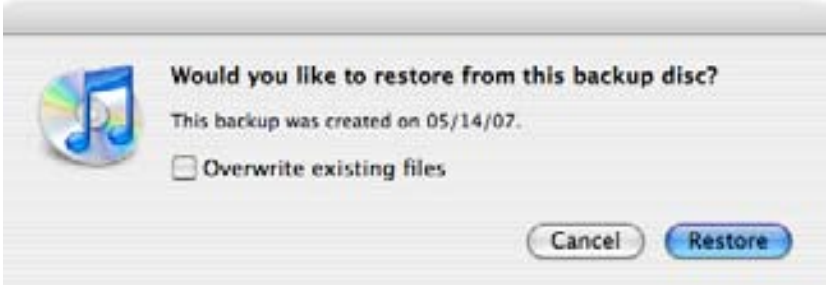
Selecting this option will open up a dialog box that will take you through the process of backing up either your entire iTunes library, including the database and the music, or only your purchased content. You can also choose to only backup those items that have been added or changed since the last backup.

iTunes will first prompt you to insert a CD or DVD, and will then determine how many discs will be required to backup your entire library, based on the capacity of the disc you inserted.



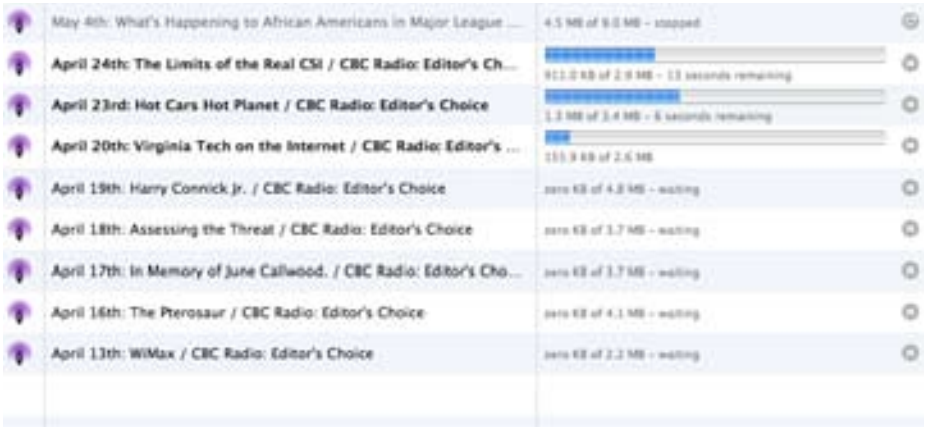
The first disc will contain the iTunes library database and as many media files as it will fit. The remaining media files will be stored on the remaining discs.

Restoring your iTunes library from this backup is as simple as starting iTunes, inserting the first disc of the backup, and clicking the "Restore" button.



Managing iTunes downloads

iTunes 7 now offers a built-in download manager that can be used to track the download progress of iTunes Store purchases, podcasts, and even iPod firmware updates (more on this last one later). **Whenever iTunes is downloading any content from the Internet, a "Downloads" entry will appear in the source list under the iTunes Store**, indicating the number of items being downloaded. Selecting this entry from the source list will provide a detailed list of the items being downloaded and the progress of each.

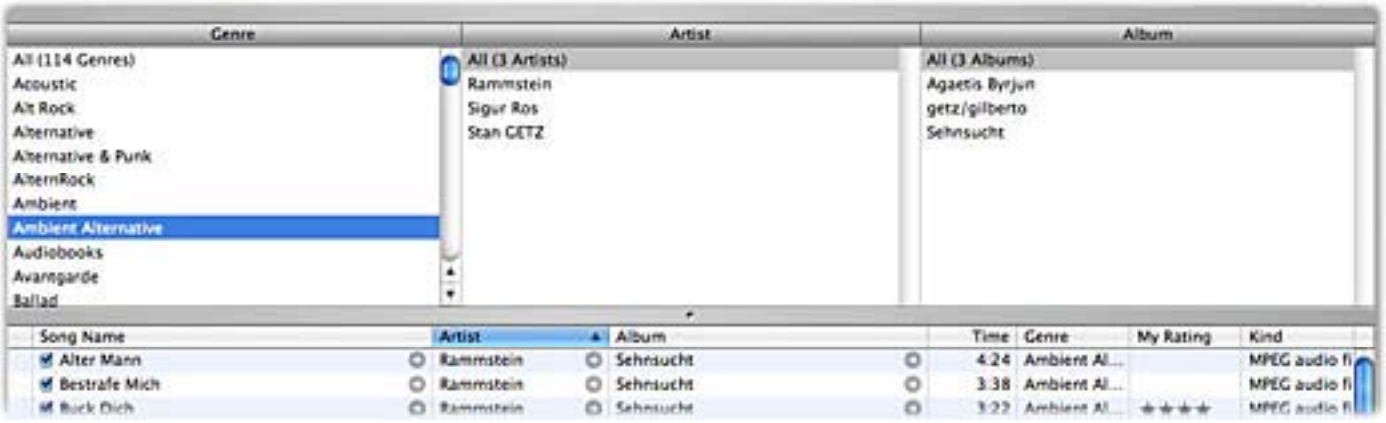


Individual downloads can be paused by clicking on the "Pause" icon at the right-hand side of each item. iTunes will pause the current download and begin downloading the next item in the queue. Paused downloads will indicate a status of "Stopped" and can be resumed by clicking on the same button.

Additionally, **you can drag and drop the entries in the download queue to change their order**. This way you don't have to wait for a two-hour movie to finish downloading before you get the latest tracks on that hot new album you just purchased. Further, if you want to pause or resume all of your downloads at once, you can simply click on the appropriate button in the bottom-right corner of the downloads window.

Finding bad tags with Browse mode

Previously, we showed you how to sort your music in the main window. Now, we'll talk about **Browse** (control-B on PC, command-B on Mac). Three columns will drop down - Genre, Artist and Album.

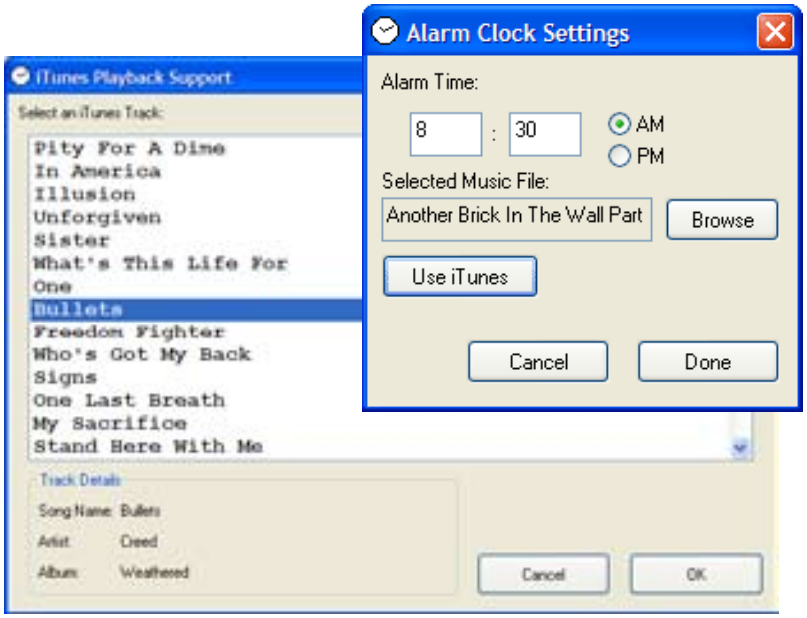


Clicking on a Genre will narrow your search to just Artists in the Genre, and clicking an Artist narrows the Albums to just those by that Artist. As you can tell from the screenshot, the Browse method can be a good way to make sure your Genre Tags are correct. Using this feature also helps you get a feel for the iPod navigation system, since all three are menu options on your iPod.

Use iTunes as an alarm clock

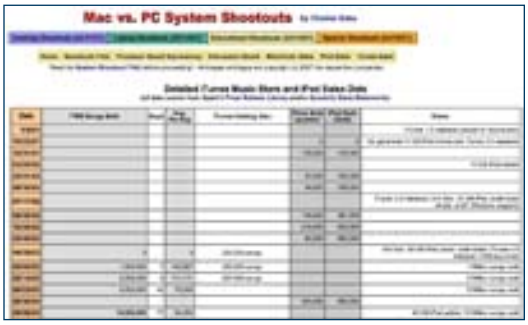
Using the iPod as an alarm is all well and good, but sometimes (OK, most of the time) it's more convenient to use iTunes as a wake-up call. Unfortunately, iTunes doesn't have this functionality built-in, but there is a small, helpful, and best of all - free - application that provides it. Appropriately named **iAlarm**, it can be downloaded at xultrasoft.com/iAlarm/ (capitalization required).

Once installed, open it up and you will see a window full of options. The ones we are concerned with appear at the very top, with a checkbox next to the iTunes label. First, **set the time** in the fields above. Once you have the time you want, **click in the checkbox next to iTunes, and if desired, select a Playlist**. Underneath the Playlist list box is a slider to **set the volume for iTunes** when you wake up. The rest of the options can be explained by rollover helper boxes, but it is worthwhile to know that **at the bottom is the iTunes Sleep Timer**, where you can set iTunes to stop playing at a certain time, and then start up at your set alarm time.



There's also a free Windows PC take on the iTunes Alarm Clock concept called - wait for it - **iTunes Alarm Clock** (rpi.edu/~desimn/alarmclock/). It's not the sexiest application we've ever seen, but it's free, and it will wake you up to a song of your choice at a time of your choosing.

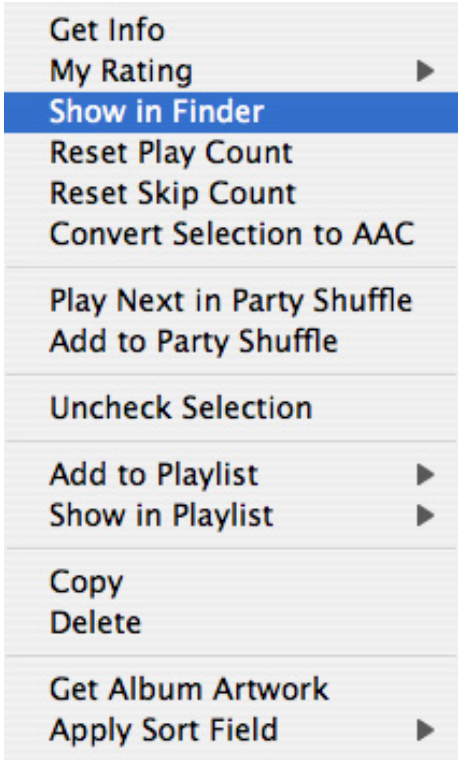
Track iTunes Store Sales



If you're writing a report for school on the popularity of the iTunes Store, you may want to know some of the biggest milestones in its history. We've been tracking the numbers for years, but **Charles Gaba has posted an exhaustive chart based on Apple's press releases and financial statements**, breaking down sales totals as they were published by the company at various points in time, along with the size of the iTunes catalog, and average sales per day. Find it at www.systemshootouts.org/ipod_itunes_sales.html.

Show any song's location

If you're ever using iTunes and need quick access to a selected song's file, try out this tip. By **Right-clicking (PC) or Control-clicking (Mac) on a song** and **selecting Show Song File or Show in Finder**, you can have iTunes instantly bring up the song's file in Windows or the Mac Finder.



Copy from your iPod to your Mac

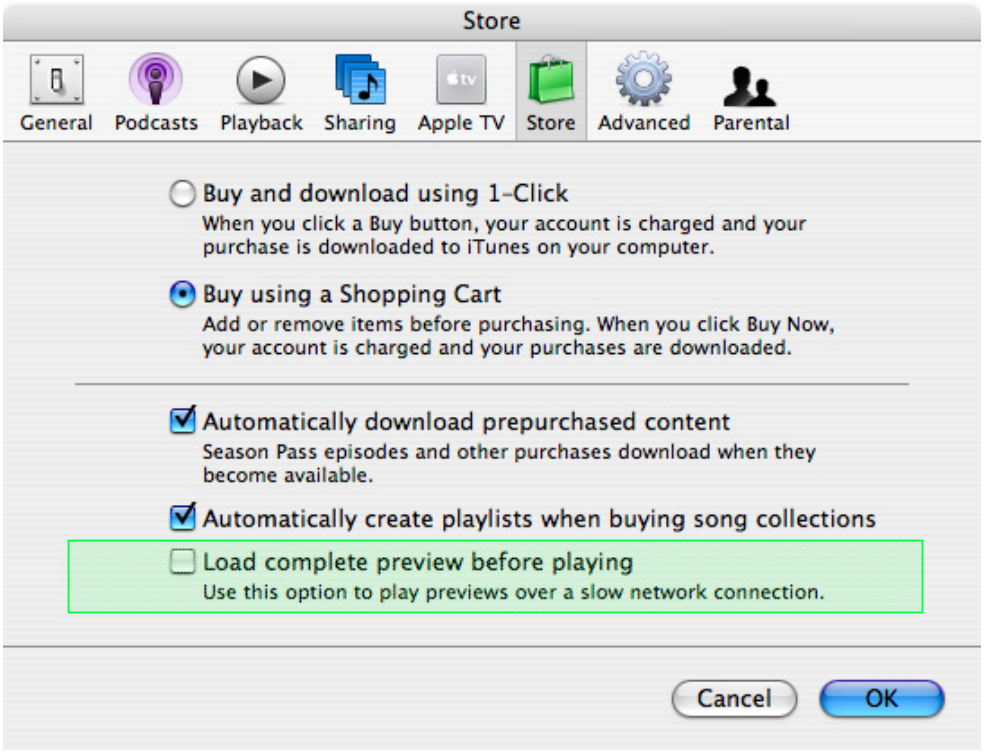
OK, OK - so Apple doesn't really want you doing this, but there are ways to transfer songs from an iPod to your Mac. However, you'll need a third-party application to do it. We recommend a program called **Senuti**, which can be downloaded at ambitiouslemon.com/senuti/. Once you have it installed, make sure your iPod is attached and start the program. It will automatically recognize the iPod and load up every song from the iPod's Library as well as all of its Playlists.

Can't remember which song it was you needed to copy over? Senuti has a Play button for just that purpose. **Once you have the songs you need selected, hit the Copy button** and a window will slide down allowing you to **pick the destination for your songs**. Not only does it get the songs from the iPod and put them where you selected, but it reads the ID3 tags and stores the songs in the same folder structure that iTunes uses.

Another software package that is worth looking at if you ever need to do a "disaster-recovery" restore of your iPod is **iPodRIp** (thelittleappfactory.com, $15). This tool works in much the same way as Senuti, but also provides the capability of rebuilding your entire iTunes library from the information on your iPod, including playlists, ratings, and play counts.

No more crappy previews on dial-up

If you're not using the fastest of Internet connections while doing your shopping at the iTunes Store, you might want to set your options so that song previews have to load completely before trying to play them. Otherwise, they might not sound so swell. Just open the **Preferences** window, and in the **Store Tab** select the **Load complete preview before playing** checkbox.



Multiple iPods, one computer

So, you can't "officially" use an iPod with more than one computer, but you can use more than one iPod with a single computer. Using more than one iPod is simpler than ever - now you just do the same thing you'd do if you were only using one. **Connect the iPod, and it will show up in the source list, arranged alphabetically with your other iPods and media devices such as iTunes Phones and Apple TVs**.

To manage each iPod, simply select it in the source pane. Each iPod device will have its own Summary panel and other related preferences, and each is managed independently of the other.

You can even sync multiple iPods and other devices simultaneously.

Make an iTunes Store wishlist

Instead of adding all the tracks you're lusting after to the iTunes Store's shopping cart (and hoping you can pay your credit card down so you can buy them all later), you might want to c**reate a new Playlist called "Stuff I want"** (or something similar). Now, just **drag 30-second song previews** into the Playlist so you can listen to them even when you're not browsing the store (you can also buy the tracks directly from this Playlist). This way, you can check them out whenever the mood strikes you - and weed out the ones you can live without.

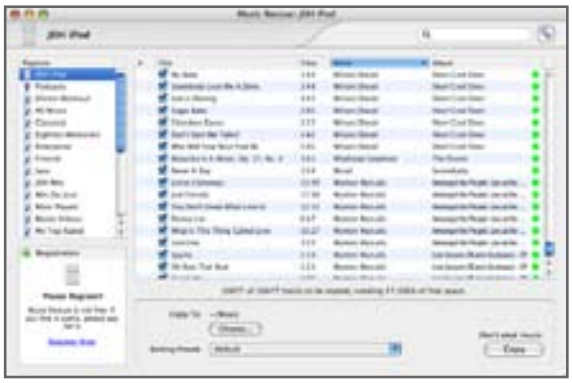
Capturing the Visualizer

If you have a Visual that you particularly like and would like to use as a desktop background or in a presentation, there is an easy way to do it. You need to **have the Visualizer running in Full Screen mode** for this tip to work. Once it's on, and the Visual you want to capture is on screen, **use the PC's Print Screen button or the Mac's Command-Shift-3 Keyboard command to take a Screenshot**. On the Mac, your Visual will be saved as a Picture file on your desktop. On the PC, the screenshot will be sitting in your Clipboard, and you can paste it into a graphics editor or a mail message. These shortcuts work at any time, not just in iTunes.

Copy from your iPod to your PC

While there are many third-party programs that perform iPod-to-PC transfers (and you can find virtually all of them found in iLounge.com's Downloads section), we'll take a look at **Music Rescue (formerly PodUtil)** here - a €10 Shareware program which offers powerful copy features and iTunes playlist regeneration. It works on PCs and Macs, just in case you want an option other than Senuti.

Start on the computer you want to use as an iPod receiving station, and make sure iTunes is installed. Then **download Music Rescue** (kennettnet.co.uk/musicrescue/), and **install it** on your PC. Next, **connect your iPod to your computer** with one of Apple's cables. Whatever you do, **CLICK NO** if and when iTunes asks you whether you want to delete the content on your iPod. And **ensure that Enable Disk Use** is selected for your iPod in the iTunes **Preferences iPod Tab**.



Now **launch Music Rescue**. It will detect your iPod, examine its database, and display a list of all of your tracks in the main window, with a listing of your playlists on the left. In this window, you can search for tracks (in the top right corner) or preview them straight off of the iPod by double clicking on one.

To prepare for the music copying process, you'll need to make a few choices. At the bottom of the main **Music Rescue** window, **pick the computer directory where it should dump iPod music**. Then, at the bottom right of the main window, **hit the Copy Settings** button. PodUtil can create separate subdirectories for each Artist and Album in your collection if you select these two options. If you turn on the additional iTunes features, **Music Rescue** will automatically add the copied songs to your library and recreate your iTunes playlists -- two helpful features when restoring lost libraries.

Next, de-select the songs (either in the main track list or in individual playlists) that you don't want to transfer to the computer. When only the correct tracks are selected, **click Copy** in the bottom right of the main window to begin the process!

When the upload is complete, you'll have a directory (or, if you selected the appropriate options, an iTunes Library) full of your iPod music. With only a few button clicks, you have now transferred your iPod's entire music library to your computer.

Other software packages that are worth looking at if you ever need to do a "disaster-recovery" restore of your iPod are **CopyPod** (Windows only, copypod.net) and **iPodRIp** (Mac and Windows, thelittleappfactory.com). Both of these tools work in much the same way as PodUtil, but also provide the capability of rebuilding your entire iTunes library from the information on your iPod, including playlists, ratings, and playcounts.

Play songs on your iPod from other digital music stores

OK, so there isn't some secret trick that allows you to use your iPod to play songs that you've downloaded from those "other" online music stores such as Napster, Musicmatch, and RealNetworks. There is, however, a dirty workaround. **Using software that actually plays the store's music, burn it to a CD. Then rip the tracks with iTunes** in unprotected AAC or MP3 format, which iTunes and iPod can handle. That's it. You can also apply this tip to the protected AAC songs from the iTunes Store if you want to use your purchased music on other players like the Sony Network Walkman, assuming you're looking for laughs.

Be a protective parent

So your son or daughter has an iPod and you're concerned that the "explicit" version of Chamillionaire & Krayzie Bone's Ridin' will wind up being downloaded and played ad nauseum at upcoming slumber parties. Thank goodness for the new **Parental Tab** in iTunes Preferences, which has three key features: a way to lock down parts of iTunes so that your kids won't see them at all, a feature that prevents kids from hearing, buying, or subscribing to anything marked explicit, and a lock.

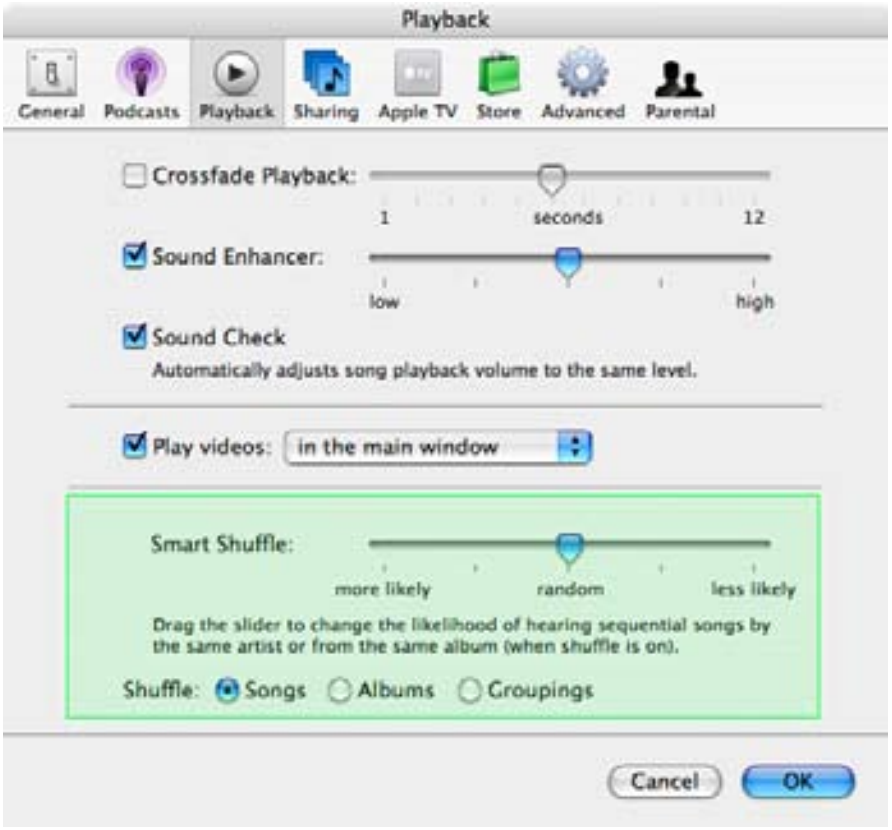
The picture below pretty much says it all about how these various restrictions work - just remember to **click the lock icon** when you're finished checking boxes. iTunes will ask you to enter a password, and once you've clicked OK, you'll have to enter it again on the **Parental Tab** to change the restrictions. Without the lock, restrictions can be removed with ease.

Note as well that as of iTunes 7.1, **you can now also specify rating restrictions for several other countries in which the iTunes Store is available**. While movie and TV show content is not yet available from the iTunes Store in these countries, this feature has presumably been added to provide for future availability. If parental restrictions are being configured based on rating, it will probably be necessary to ensure that you select the ratings that apply to your particular country.

Shuffle, a little less random (Smart Shuffle)

No single playback feature in iTunes has inspired more discussion than Shuffle mode - a randomized play mode that numerous journalists swore up and down was intelligently choosing good or bad songs. Perhaps amused by all the claims, Apple added a new feature to the **Playback Tab** of iTunes Preferences: Smart Shuffle, which will pick songs at random, then either try to clump together tracks from the same artist or album, or actively work to avoid clumping together such songs. Leaving the feature on "random" avoids sorting; "more likely" creates similar clumps, and "less likely" avoids them.

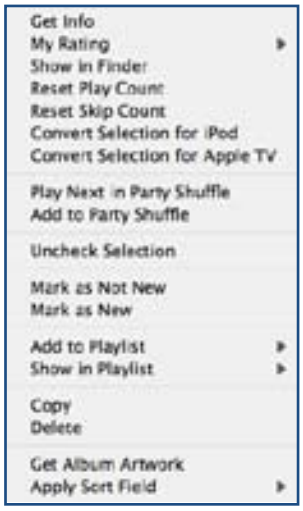
You'll also find three Shuffle options below the Smart Shuffle slider: "Songs," "(Complete) Albums," and "Groupings." Pick Songs to have iTunes randomly play back individual tracks from the Library or Playlist on screen, Albums to randomly choose an entire album to play back before moving to the next one, and Groupings for the collected movements of classical works. Your Shuffle settings won't be activated until you press the second button on the bottom left of the iTunes window, shown below in blue.



Ready your videos for the iPod or Apple TV

Surprisingly, iTunes can store virtually any type of video you have on your computer, but unfortunately, iPods and Apple TVs can't play most of them back... unless you use a conversion feature hidden in iTunes. It appears whenever you select a video file, unless the file's protected and from the iTunes Store, in which case you'll get a Convert Selection to MP3 or AAC option, which oddly won't work.

For unprotected video files, select the file, and either right click (PC) or command click (Mac) to bring up a Convert Selection for iPod option. You can also find it under the Advanced menu at the top of your screen (Mac) or iTunes window (PC). Click it, and iTunes will quietly chug away until the video has been fully converted, allowing you to do other things while it works. **A brand new option, Convert Selection for Apple TV**, will create high-resolution, Apple TV-ready videos if provided the right source materials (such as HD home movies or trailers), but you'll need to re-convert them for the iPod.



Deauthorize all computers on an iTunes account

Ever sell a computer, or had one die on you before you could properly deauthorize it from your iTunes Store account? Frustrated because you've reached your maximum allotment of authorizations, and you physically can't fix the problem?

No worries - once a year, Apple allows you to remotely deauthorize all computers associated with your account. **To do so, access your account information page in the iTunes Store by clicking on your AppleID in the top right of the window, and clicking the "Deauthorize All" button.** You'll then be able to authorize a new set of computers, starting fresh.

Use multiple separate iTunes libraries on one computer

Sure, one copy of iTunes can easily supply music to two different iPods, but when two users have significantly different musical tastes, wouldn't it be less frustrating to simply use entirely separate libraries on the same computer? You can!

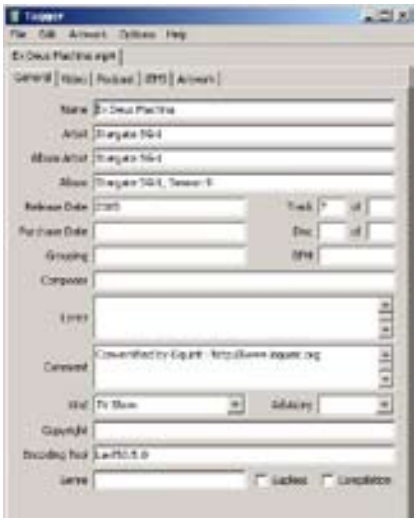
The easiest way to do this is to create multiple operating system user accounts, since iTunes gives each user on a computer a clean, distinct library by default. With this method, you have the added bonus that your desktop settings, eMail, and internet bookmarks are also distinct. **On a Mac, users are managed in the "Accounts" panel of System Preferences. On a Windows machine, look for the "User Accounts" control panel to create a new user.**

Another alternative if you don't want to use separate user accounts just to have multiple iTunes libraries is to use a new feature in iTunes 7 that allows you to choose an alternate iTunes library at startup. To do this, simply hold down the SHIFT key (on Windows) or OPT key (on a Mac) while starting iTunes. Many of your iTunes preferences will still be shared between both libraries, including the iTunes Music Folder location, so this is not as clean as using a completely different operating system user account, but it will work for people who simply want to maintain different playlists, ratings and playcounts.

Tag TV Shows and Music Videos properly

Have TV Shows or Music Videos that you didn't get from the iTunes Store? Chances are, you've found that iTunes won't let you edit all the data fields you need to populate in order for the files to properly organize themselves in the iPod's menu system. While iTunes 7 has improved on this slightly by providing a few of the more strictly required fields in the new "Video" tab, it still lacks the ability to change these tags for more than one item at a time, as well as lacking a way to edit some of the more advanced tags like description and content rating.

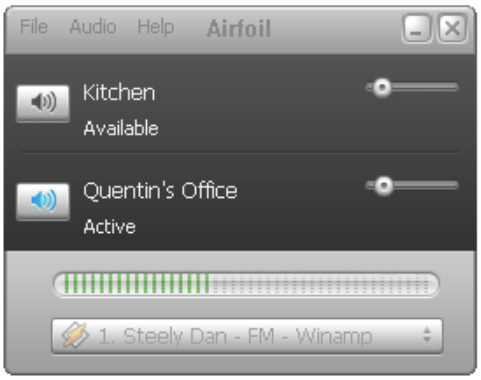
The good news is that there are **third-party programs that make up for these deficiencies**. Mac users can download "Lostify" (http://lowellstewart.com/lostify/about/, Free) and Windows users can try "TV Tagger" (http://tvtagger.wordpress.com/, Free). Either of these programs allow you to easily add data to iTunes fields such as description, rating, and more, as well as allowing bulk changes to multiple items at once. Simply use these programs on the raw TV Show files before importing them into iTunes, and the data will be properly populated in iTunes' lists.



Use Airport Express with other audio applications

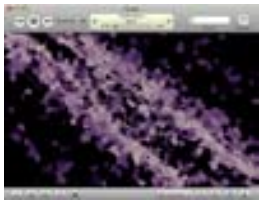
Sure, the Airport Express is an awesome solution for easy streaming of audio from iTunes to a set of nice speakers, but if you want to use Windows Media Player, watch a DVD, or play a game on your computer and stream the audio to your expensive stereo, you'll find that you can't do so with Apple's solution.

Rogue Amoeba (rogueamoeba.com/) has created an application called **Airfoil** ($25, available for both Mac and Windows) that allows you to do use the Airport Express with any application you'd like. Additionally, like recent versions of iTunes, Airfoil has the capability to simultaneously stream to multiple Airport Express units.



Tidy up iTunes' Source column

Have way too many playlists in your iTunes' Source column? Save some vertical space by grouping them into collapsible folders. **To create a new playlist folder, simply choose "File > New Folder" from iTunes' menu bar. Then, simply drag-and-drop playlists into these folders, and collapse the folders you use least.**



Serious users can even create sub-folders inside other folders, several layers deep.

Unfortunately, playlist folder hierarchy does not transfer to the iPod's playlist browsing function: all playlists and folders will still appear in a flat list.

When cleaning up your "Source" list, you'll also find it restrictive that you can't sort your playlists manually. iTunes' only playlist sorting method is alphabetical: folders first, then smart playlists, with manual playlists grouped below. To get around this, add miscellaneous characters before the titles of the playlists you'd like to force to the top. For example, our "Forgotten Favorites" playlist appears at the top of the list when titled "+Forgotten Favorites." This trick does transfer to the iPod, and can be further manipulated by using additional characters.

Find free iTunes Store downloads

Since early 2006, iLounge Discussion Forum Moderator Audrey McGirt has been tracking free iTunes Store TV downloads in a popular thread called **FREE iTMS TV Shows Available** (forums.ilounge.com/showthread.php?t=160271). Recently, **a site called Get Free iTunes Store Downloads** (www.itsfreedownloads.com) popped up with the same idea, but also tracks music, book, and game downloads. It's easy to check the site once in a while and find a bunch of decent freebies to stuff on your iPod. Apple maintains a page called Free on iTunes at phobos.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewRoom?fcId=188575542.

Print CD jewel case inserts and library listings

Sure, iPods are wonderful, but there are still plenty of reasons to burn CDs like backups, sharing with others, or playing music in cars that only have CD decks. Whenever we have to burn an audio CD, we enjoy using iTunes' ability to print professional-looking jewel case inserts. Didn't know it had one? Not many people do - it's a poorly-publicized but incredibly well-executed iTunes feature. **While you're waiting for an audio CD to finish writing, select the playlist that you've burned, and choose "File > Print" from iTunes' menu bar.**

When burning "Data CD" or "Data DVD" backups of your library, use same trick, except choose to print an "Album listing" instead of a "CD jewel case insert," and store it alongside your DVD archive, so that later on, you'll be sure of what you've saved.

Pick a Video's Poster Frame

When a video is purchased from the iTunes Store, it comes with either a thumbnail image of a certain frame taken from the video, or another piece of cover artwork. This "poster frame" is displayed in the thumbnail view of iTunes' video browser, or on the iPod during video-out playback. If you'd prefer to use a different frame of the video - or another image altogether - as the poster frame, iTunes will allow you to do so. This is especially handy for videos not purchased through iTunes.

To set the poster frame from the video itself, simply play the video, pause it, and scrub to the frame you'd like to highlight. Then, right click on the video's image, and select "Set Poster Frame."

To use any other image, simply highlight the video, select "Get Info" from iTunes' "Edit" menu, and drag the image into the box that's in the "Artwork" tab (just as you would to apply album artwork to music).

Correct corrupt iPod album art

Has your iPod suddenly become confused as to which album artwork images belong with which songs in your music library? If you're sure the artwork is properly set up in iTunes, then your iPod's album artwork database is probably corrupted. It's a fairly common problem, but it's also generally easily fixed.

To recreate the iPod's album artwork database, **select your iPod in the Source list, and find the "Display album artwork on your iPod" option under the Music Tab**. Simply uncheck this option, then **click "Apply" to sync the iPod**. This will remove all existing artwork from the iPod, and you can then **put it back on during the next sync by simply rechecking this option and choosing "Apply" button again**. A freshly optimized set of album artwork will be created on your iPod, hopefully fixing any album art errors.

Keep Compilations together

Ever imported a movie soundtrack or "Best of the 80's" CD into iTunes, only to find that its tracks have been littered all over your library since the songs all belong to different artists? iTunes and the iPod have a set of features that can help with these "Compilation" albums.

First, it's necessary to manually inform iTunes that all tracks on such an album are "Part of a compilation." To do so, **select all the tracks on the album (either when importing it, or later), and choose "Get Info" from iTunes' "Edit" menu. Then, check the "Part of a compilation" checkbox, and click OK.**

Next, **change the way iTunes handles the songs by going to iTunes Preferences, and ensuring that the "Group compilations when browsing" option is checked.** This will make Compilations appear in a separate category when you use iTunes' browse mode.

You can make a 5th generation iPod or iPod nano group compilations together, as well. On the iPod, navigate to "Settings" and toggle "Compilations" to "On." A new "Compilations" sub-menu will appear underneath the "Music" menu, alongside "Artists," "Songs," and "Playlists."

Delete songs from within a playlist

Ever find yourself deep into playlist manipulation, when you come across a song inside a playlist that you'd like to see purged from your library for good? You've probably found that the delete key does no good, here -- in a smart playlist, it does nothing, and in a manual playlist, the song is simply removed from the list, not your library and hard drive as well.

The fix? To delete a song from your library and hard drive from within a playlist, **hold the Option key (Mac) or Shift key (PC) as you press the Delete or Backspace key**. This will give you the usual "Are you sure?" prompt, allowing you to delete the song from the playlist, your library, and your computer's hard drive simultaneously -- with the convenience of not having to leave the playlist view.

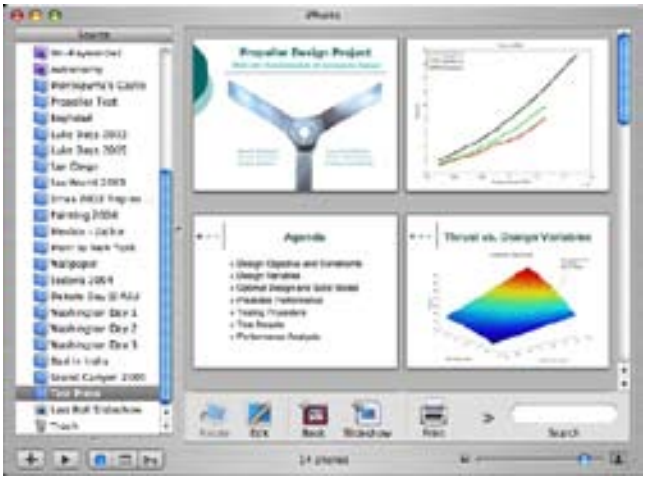
Be careful, though - these same key combinations also serve to delete a playlist and all songs that it contains (!) if you have a playlist selected in the source column instead of a song.

Give presentations from an iPod

Sure, you knew you could give photo slideshows from an iPod photo or fifth-generation iPod, but did you know you can use these devices to give a slide presentation without a computer? Connect your iPod to a TV or projector using an Apple iPod AV Cable, and you have a presentation machine the size of a deck of cards.

How does one get a presentation into the iPod? Simple: **use the "Export" functionality built into either Microsoft's PowerPoint or Apple's Keynote software to create a set of high-quality JPG images, and then add the set to your iPod using iTunes' standard photo synchronization functionality.**

Be aware that the iPod only outputs fairly low resolution images to the external display, so even if you're using a high-resolution projector, you may get fuzzy text. The larger your text, the better it will look. Experiment with your equipment and fonts to find an acceptable font size.



Check/uncheck multiple tracks at once

If you use the checkboxes next to each track in iTunes in order to control your iPod's contents or to manipulate smart playlists, you've probably found that

Luckily, multiple check-boxes can be toggled at once. **Simply hold down the Command key (on a Mac) or the Control key (on a PC) while clicking any single box in a playlist. The entire playlist's checkboxes will be toggled.**

Be careful, though. This will simultaneously toggle the checked status of all songs in the current playlist. If you do this while looking at your entire "Library," you may accidentally lose a lot of checked status information, and you can't "Undo" it. Always mass-check or mass-uncheck in a special playlist, even if you have to create one temporarily just for this purpose.

Enhance iTunes with helpful AppleScripts: Mac

Ever find a task that's difficult, cumbersome, or even impossible to do in iTunes' interface as it stands? Worry not, Mac users - Apple has provided a very powerful back way into iTunes, and developers have been taking advantage of it like crazy. The tool is called AppleScript, and though it's been built into most Mac applications in over a decade, it's never been as useful as it has recently been for iTunes. We can't even begin to describe how useful and versatile AppleScripts can be to mac users.

Here are a few of our favorites AppleScripts from the absolute best source for iTunes AppleScripts on the Mac web: "Doug's AppleScripts for iTunes" (www.dougscripts.com):

Needle Drop: This AppleScript plays every track in a playlist (or your library) for only a few seconds, quickly moving on to the next. How is this useful? Use it in conjunction with a Lyrics- or Artwork-fetching Widget, and populate your library with lots of data, with only a few clicks to get things rolling.

Not in Any Playlist: As its name suggests, this script finds songs in your library which have not yet been added to any playlist. A similar script will find songs without Lyrics.

Tracks without Artwork to Playlist: Commonly requested by our Ask iLounge readers, this script locates songs which don't yet have album artwork, and puts them in a playlist. This is especially handy since Apple still hasn't included "Has Artwork" as a smart playlist condition.

Join Together: Ever want to keep an album together to avoid gaps during playback (Dark Side of the Moon, anyone?), but don't want to lose the ability to skip to a certain track? Use this amazing script to join an album's worth of tracks into one, and preserve track marks as iTunes Chapters, like those used in enhanced podcasts.

Installation and usage for each of these scripts is potentially different, but in most cases, you'll download AppleScripts and place them in your "/username/Library/iTunes/Scripts" folder, which will create a shortcut to them directly within iTunes' own menu bar.

We truly regret that we don't have more space to highlight more of Doug's amazing script library in this edition of the Free iPod Book, but we encourage you to head on over to "Doug's AppleScripts for iTunes" and check them out for yourself!

Enhance iTunes with helpful JavaScripts: PC

PC users: impressed with the previous hint regarding AppleScripts? While Windows-based iTunes users don't have nearly the same selection of iTunes-enhancing scripts, don't worry - you haven't been completely abandoned. On this platform, there's JavaScript, and a few developers have begun to use it. To get yourself started, browse to ottodestruct.com/blog/tag/itunes and try out some of these scripts below, and more:

No Art Playlist / No Lyrics Playlist: These scripts create a playlist of all songs in the library without artwork or lyrics.

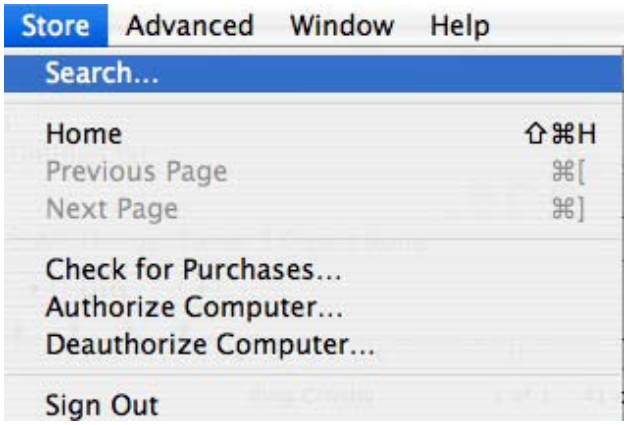
One Hit Wonders: Here's a fun one: this creates a playlist of all songs in the library for which they are the only song by that artist.

Find Dead Tracks / Remove Dead Tracks: Ever been surprised by those annoying exclamation points next to songs that iTunes can't locate? These scripts seek out, and optionally delete from your library, these songs which iTunes can't find anymore.

Explicit Lyrics: This handy script will search out songs which have "bad words" (customizable) in their lyrics fields, and places the word "Explicit" in their "Comments" fields. Neat!

Continue interrupted iTunes Store downloads

It's happened to all of us: you're in the middle of downloading an album of music, season of TV shows, or a shopping cart full of singles, and your internet connection dies. In such a case, there's no need to worry, or even to contact iTunes Support. Instead, simply **choose "Check for Purchases" from iTunes' "Store" menu** - it works like a charm to restart unfinished downloads.

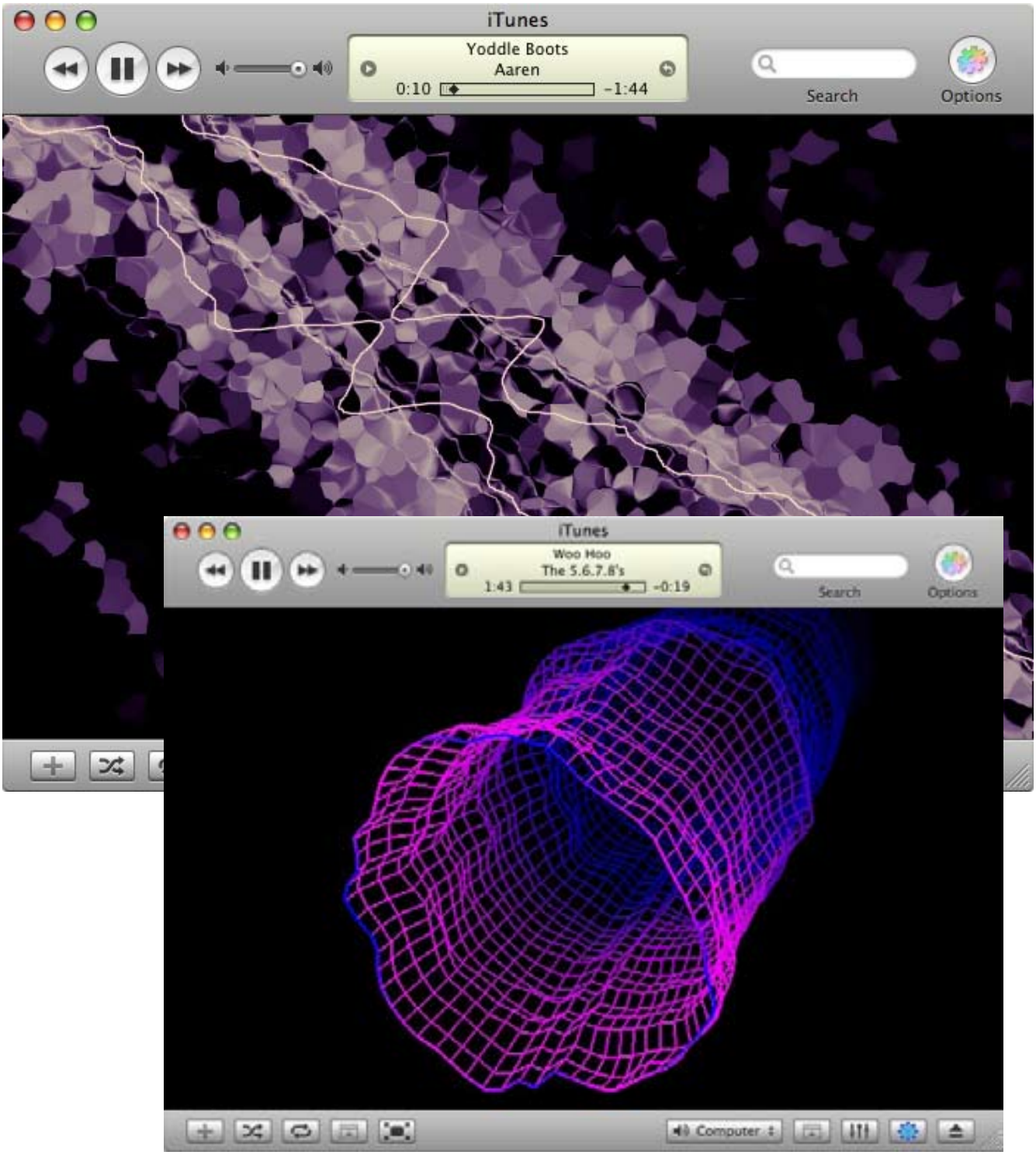


Review previous iTunes Store purchases

Need to track down a previous iTunes Store invoice? Want to shock yourself - just for kicks - with how much you've spent on legal downloads since iTunes' debut? Apple makes it easy. **Log into the iTunes Store, click on your Account bubble in the top-right corner, and click "Purchase History" in the list of options.** Here, you'll be able to see the full detail of any purchase you've made.

Use alternate visualizers in iTunes

Tired of iTunes' current visualizer software? Get a new one! There are plenty of free and shareware visualizers available as plug-ins to iTunes. Our current favorites, available for both the PC and Mac, are **G-Force and WhiteCap**, both available from **SoundSpectrum** (http://www.soundspectrum.com/). They're both gorgeous and infinitely customizable. A new visualizer, SoftSkies, is also available in free form from the site; SoundSpectrum now sells premium versions for $20-30.



Limit your iPod's and iTunes' output volume

Worried about damaging your ears by listening to your iPod? You should be, and Apple agrees: in addition to the Sound Check feature of iTunes, which brings all songs to the same volume level, the company has created a Volume Limit feature for users of updated 5th generation and nano iPods. The feature is extremely easy to use, and also gives parents the ability to pre-determine a safe listening level for their kids, using the iPod's previously developed Screen Lock feature to lock that level in place.

Using Volume Limit is easy. **Select Settings from the iPod's main menu, and you'll see an option called Volume Limit. Then, simply slide the triangle to your new maximum, and press the center button. Then, the iPod will bring up a screen enabling you to set a four-digit combination code that will prevent other users from changing the volume cap.** If you don't want to set a code, choose Done. In either case, you'll quickly notice a subtle change to the iPod's volume operation: the new maximum simply isn't as loud as before, and the volume bar terminates in a "Lock" icon.

Be aware: different headphones and different songs have different maximum volume levels, so set the limit with the same headphones and songs you're concerned about. Also, most bottom-mounting accessories, such as third-party (non-Apple) remote controls, will not support the volume cap.

For the iPod shuffle, since there is no screen or other user interface on the device itself from which to set a volume limit, this is instead done through iTunes. **Simply connect the iPod shuffle to your computer, and you can find the "Limit maximum volume" setting on the Shuffle's "Settings" tab. Enable it, set an appropriate volume level, and then click the lock icon to password-protect the setting** so it can't easily be changed.

Play the songs you want with double Smart Playlists

Our **Ask iLounge** column frequently receives questions from readers asking how to create some fairly complex smart playlists. Some appear simple at first, yet their needs can't be satisfied by a single smart playlist. For example, a playlist collecting all unplayed tracks from either the "Rock" or "Alternative" genres cannot be created in one playlist since its logic contains both OR commands (the genres) and AND commands (Play count = 0). But it can be done with multiple playlists.

Begin by creating an intermediate playlist called "Rock or Alternative" that specifies the genre selection, making sure that you've selected to "Match any of the following rules":

Then, **create a second smart playlist** - the one we'll actually listen to - and make sure that it requires that songs are both present in our intermediate playlist, AND have a Play count of 0.

Such multi-playlist logic schemes can get very complex and very fun - experiment, and see what you can come up with!

Listen to your iPod through computer speakers

Most iPod users synchronize with an iTunes library at home, and take their iPods into work. Many **Ask iLounge** readers who operate in this way want to play the iPod's directly through their work computer's speakers, instead of trying to maintain updated iTunes libraries both at work and at home.
If you synchronize your iPod at home using "Automatic" synchronization mode, you'll find that your work PC's iTunes doesn't allow you to play a connected iPod's tracks - they're "greyed out" and completely inaccessible. However, if you **change the iPod to manual synchronization mode**, the greyed-out tracks become accessible again, and you're able to listen to any track directly off the iPod, using iTunes' excellent browsing interface.

To change this setting, **select your iPod in the source list and select the option to "Manually manage music and videos."**

Enjoy listening to your music at work, and change the synchronization settings back to how you really want them once you get back home. As an added bonus, iTunes will even update ratings, play counts, and last played times on your connected iPod, so when you get back home and switch back to "manual" mode, this information will be updated in your main iTunes library.

Create your own stripped-down iPod interface for kids

If you're a parent of young children, a school administrator, or just a nervous iPod loaner, you'll love the iPod's much underdiscussed "Museum Mode," which (among many other things) allows an iPod's owner to create an incredibly simple iPod menu interface, and preventing all but a select few options from being accessed at all.

For example, we can create an iPod interface a parent would love: only a few kid-friendly movie soundtracks will be accessible from the iPod's controls - there will be no "Music" browsing, "Photos" browsing, "Videos," "Settings," or any other standard iPod menu options -- only what we explicitly specify.

First, we need to create the menu. **Create a text file called "Main.linx," and store it in the "Notes" folder on your iPod's hard drive.** It should look something like this; you change the links to match the tags of the music you'd like to link to:

```
<TITLE>iPod: Kid Mode</TITLE>
<A HREF="ipod:music?album=Curious George (OST)">Curious George Soundtrack</A>
<A HREF="ipod:music?album=Lion King (OST)">Lion King Soundtrack</A>
<A HREF="ipod:music?album=Toy Story (OST)">Toy Story Soundtrack</A>
<A HREF="ipod:music?artist=Sesame Street">Sesame Street Songs</A>
<A HREF="ipod:music?playlist=Kid Tunes">Kid Mix</A>
```

Next, create a text file which contains only the following line:

```
<meta name="NotesOnly" content="true">
```

Save this file as "Preferences" (no file extension) and store it in your iPod's "Notes" folder. Eject your iPod, reset it, and you should be presented with only your limited interface, with no way out. To re-enable access to your iPod's default interface, simply reconnect the iPod to a computer, move these two files out of the Notes directory, and keep them somewhere safe (the iPod's root directory is fine) until you need them again. No reloading of the iPod is necessary since you're not deleting anything, only limiting access.

Add a keyboard shortcut for the Equalizer (Mac)

Experienced iTunes users will notice that iTunes 7 has not only eliminated the equalizer button, but has also taken away the keyboard shortcut for whatever reason. But Mac users can easily assign a keyboard shortcut back to the equalizer option via System Preferences. **Simply go into the "Keyboard & Mouse" preference, and choose Keyboard shortcuts.**

Click the plus sign to add a new keyboard shortcut, and **select iTunes** as the application and ensure that you **enter the exact name** of the menu option (ie, "Show Equalizer") and then **press the key you want to assign to it**.

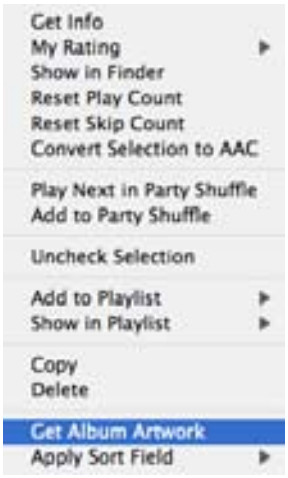
Once you save these preferences and then restart iTunes, you'll see your new shortcut listed on the "View" menu beside the "Show Equalizer" option.

Add Album Artwork automatically

With iTunes 7, Apple has now chosen to make its entire catalog of iTunes Store album artwork available to users who have acquired their music albums from other sources such as their own CD libraries.

Although the album artwork itself is provided by Apple at no charge, you will need to have a valid iTunes Store account in order to use this feature, since it requires access to the iTunes Store.

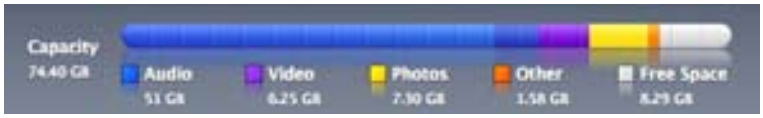
To download artwork for a specific track or set of tracks, simply right-click on the track and choose "Get Album Artwork" from the context menu.



Alternatively, if you simply want to let iTunes go out and find the missing artwork for you automatically, you can **enable the necessary option in iTunes General preferences.** iTunes will ask you to confirm that this is in fact what you want to do, and provide a reassuring disclaimer that it's not in fact secretly collecting data on your music listening habits.

A more colorful way to look at iPod capacity

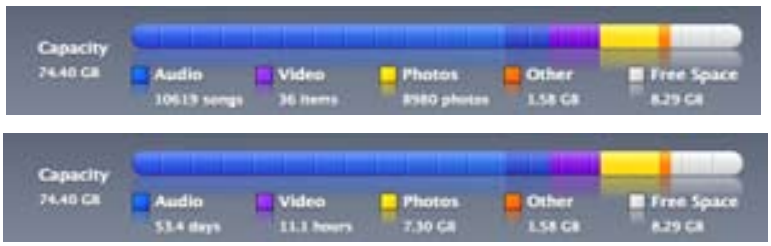
In the Summary for each connected iPod, iTunes now provides a more colorful representation of exactly what is stored on your iPod, broken down by Audio, Video, Photos, and Other content.



You may notice that the Audio bar actually contains two different shades of blue. The darker shade of blue actually represents the space taken up by Music Videos, which are treated as part of your music library for this purpose, rather than as video content. The purple video section includes only Movies, TV Shows, and Video Podcasts.

The "Other" category is frequently the source of much confusion from iTunes users, since it really consists of anything and everything on your iPod that doesn't fit into one of the other three categories. This includes the iPod's own internal operating files and databases, album artwork, iPod Games, calendar and contact data, iPod notes, and files transferred in "disk mode."

Don't be alarmed if your "Other" storage looks a bit high.On a full 80GB iPod with album artwork and the full set of iPod Games, this category can reach 2GB. One neat hidden feature: **clicking on the capacity bar itself will toggle the numeric counts between storage space, number of items, and duration.**



Smarter Playlists for TV Shows

iTunes provides some basic options for controlling the synchronization of TV shows in the iPod and Apple TV sync preferences, but one of the problems with this built-in synchronization feature is that there is no setting for oldest episode. Since most people generally prefer to watch a TV series in order from the first episode onwards, a Smart Playlist can be used to effectively select a group of unwatched episodes to add to your iPod so you can continue to watch fresh episodes of your favorite show.

Simply set up a series of smart playlists like the one above for each of your favorite shows, and then set your iPod or Apple TV to sync these playlists, rather than specified shows. As episodes are watched, the smart playlists will automatically refresh the iPod or Apple TV with the next shows in sequence.

Keeping track of your Music Videos

As of iTunes 7, Apple has taken the approach that music videos are an extension of your music library, and removed the separate category for music videos, instead choosing to organize them alongside your normal music tracks. As a result of this approach, you'll find the music videos listed under the "Music" section in iTunes, organized by artist and album, listed among your song tracks. **If you want to get a list of all of your music videos, the simplest way to do this is to use a smart playlist for them.** As of iTunes 7.1, this playlist is automatically created as one of the default playlists in a NEW iTunes library. However, if you've upgraded your library from any previous version you will need to create this playlist manually.

To create a Smart Playlist, simply choose New Smart Playlist from the File menu in iTunes. You will be presented with a dialog box asking you to specify what criteria you want to apply to the smart playlist in question. A simple criteria of "Video Kind" is "Music Video" should suffice if you simply want to organize all of your music videos in one place, although you can certainly specify any additional criteria if you wanted to limit the selection further (perhaps creating music video lists for different genres or eras, for instance).

Note as well that once you have created the smart playlist, **you can manage your videos and further organize them from within that smart playlist**. For instance, the normal "Browser" function works within any playlist as well, so you can quickly and easily filter by genre, artist, or album when browsing your "Music Videos" smart playlist. **You can delete tracks from your library directly from within the smart playlist by holding down the SHIFT key (Windows) or OPT key (Mac) while pressing the DELETE key.**

Going with the (Cover) Flow

One of the very cool new features in iTunes 7 is the Cover Flow view for browsing through your music or video library by album cover, rather than a boring list of track names. **To select the Cover Flow view, simply choose the third button from among the "View" buttons in the top-right corner of the iTunes window.**

Apple has also added a full-screen Cover Flow mode, which looks much like the iPhone's album display feature, yet has the resolution to look absolutely stunning on a Cinema Display or home entertainment system. It provides a neat way to let your guests browse through your music at a party. **To access the full-screen view, simply click the "Full Screen" button that appears on the windowed Cover Flow view.**

You can then flip through your music albums electronically in much the same way you would have once flipped through your CDs, and can even play an album right from the full-screen view with the provided buttons. Expect it to evolve.

Change photo sync order

When syncing photos to newer iPod models (and the Apple TV), they sync by default in whatever order your folders or iPhoto/ Aperture albums are listed in. This may or may not be practical, and the good news is that you can change this order just by choosing selected albums and dragging and dropping the items in the list.

Simply highlight the item you want to move to a different position, and then drag it up or down the list to its new position and drop it there. Click 'Apply' and iTunes will happily sync the new order to your iPod or Apple TV.

Burning smarter CDs with CD Text

iTunes 7 now provides the ability to burn audio CDs with CD-Text included, assuming that you're using a supported CD recorder. The CD-Text standard allows supported CD players to display song track information while playing back a CD. The information in the iTunes database is used to generate the CD text, and any supported player with the CD-Text logo should be able to display information on which tracks are playing when the CD is inserted. Also, since iTunes can also read CD-Text from a support CD-ROM drive, this information can be used instead of the normal CDDB lookup to fill in track information. Just **enter iTunes Preferences, pick the Advanced Tab, the Burning Sub-Tab, and check the Include CD Text box.** That's it.

Updating or Restoring your iPod

Prior to iTunes 7, updating or restoring the iPod was handled through a separate tool, the iPod Updater Utility. With iTunes 7, these functions have been integrated into iTunes itself. Found in the **Source list** (the left-most column of your iTunes window) **under Devices, the iPod Summary screen in iTunes** now shows the current version of the iPod software, and provides buttons to either Update the iPod to the newest available (if a newer one is available), or to Restore the iPod back to factory settings. Use this if your iPod's become slow or buggy.

Understanding iTunes Plus: High-Quality, No-DRM Music

Only one new feature was conspicuously added to Apple's iTunes 7.2 software in late May, 2007: support for **enhanced "iTunes Plus" music downloads**, the result of deals worked out by Apple, the music label EMI, and certain independent music labels.

Until May 30, 2007, all music downloads from the iTunes Store were digitally protected against copying, and sold in the acceptable but not outstanding 128Kbps AAC format. Users with excellent ears and earphones complained that these iTunes downloads weren't up to the standards of CD quality, and noted that there was no reason besides convenience to prefer downloading copy-protected songs and albums to purchased unprotected, higher-quality CDs from online or local stores. With iTunes Plus, Apple is attempting to eliminate these concerns, offering **higher-quality songs without copy protection - at a slightly higher price**.

iTunes Plus music tracks are described by iTunes as 256Kbps Purchased AAC files rather than 128Kbps Protected AAC files. As that suggests, the new iTunes Plus tracks aren't guarded by Apple's FairPlay digital rights management (DRM) system, so you can copy them freely from computer to computer, and AAC-compatible device to device, without worrying about whether they'll play. Apple still tags each download with your name and e-mail address, most likely to discourage rampant copying. Higher quality demands larger files: new tracks require roughly twice as much space as old ones, so the more iTunes Plus music you have, the fewer songs will fit on your iPod. **There are also iTunes Plus Music Videos, which remain at the prior price, but offer superior (256Kbps) audio**, and increase less in size as the video portion's the same.

Identifying iTunes Plus Songs and Albums

When you visit the **iTunes Plus section of the iTunes Store** for the first time, you'll be asked whether you want to see iTunes Plus or old iTunes content while you browse the store. If you select Cancel, you'll be presented with 99-cent-per-song pricing and standard iTunes albums. iTunes will let you know when an iTunes Plus album or video is available as an alternative to whatever you're looking at. But **if you select iTunes Plus, the 99-cent song pricing will be replaced by a new price whenever iTunes Plus content is available: a plus icon appears, along with a $1.29 per track (US) Buy Song option**. Albums and videos will be tagged as iTunes Plus, and download in that format automatically.

Managing Your iTunes Plus Account Settings

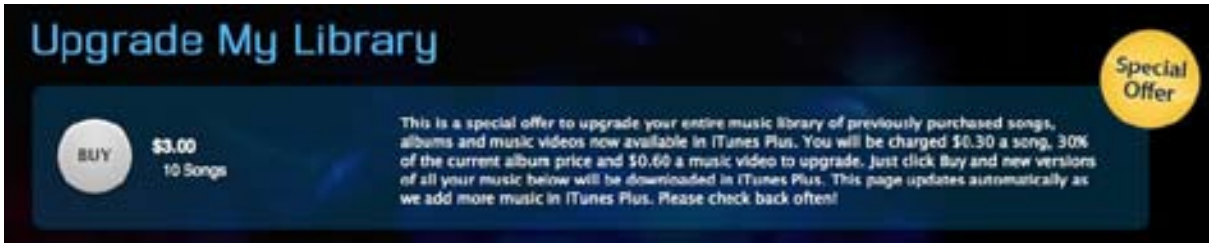
Visiting the iTunes Plus section of the iTunes Store results in a question: **do you care about higher-quality music enough to buy it by default, or do you want the less expensive, lower-quality stuff to be shown instead?** At first, you may think you know the best answer for your own personal preferences, but you may change your mind in the future. That's where the **iTunes Plus Preference** comes in.

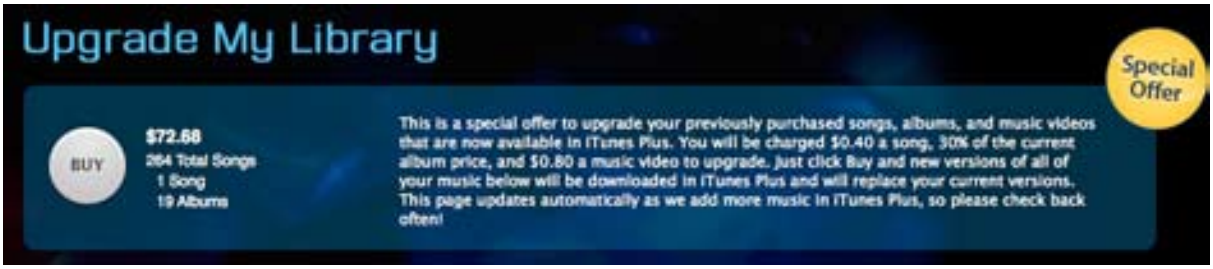
Under the Search iTunes Store box at the top right of your iTunes window, there's a **Sign In or e-mail address box** you can click for your Account Information. **After clicking on this box, and selecting View Account**, you'll see that the top box lists iTunes Plus as enabled or disabled. Clicking on **Manage iTunes Plus** lets you change your preference from one to the other.

If selected, the "Always Show Me" box doesn't obligate you to make higher-priced purchases - it just simplifies the look of the iTunes Store so that you don't have to see low-quality songs, albums, and videos when better ones are available. You can always change back later.

Upgrade (Some) Music to iTunes Plus

If you bought pre-iTunes Plus music from the iTunes Store, and wish you'd held out for better tracks, you're in luck: the iTunes Plus section of the Store now offers "**Upgrade My Library**." This automatically figures out which previously purchased songs, music videos, and albums are eligible for upgrade, and gives you a total price. U.S. prices are 30 cents per song, 30% of the total album price, or 60 cents per music video; foreign currencies have different (and generally higher) prices. Note: you can't upgrade songs unless a label supports iTunes Plus, so plan to wait a while for many songs.





Using iTunes to activate an iPhone

When Apple released iTunes 7.3, it didn't mince words: this was the update designed specifically to bring iPhones into American homes. Though many of the software's new features are hidden away from plain view, connecting an iPhone leads to a collection of new screens and options, starting with an AT&T activation and registration process.

iTunes has made this almost as easy as possible, though Apple is unusually strict about forcing you to go through the process, and perhaps repeat certain steps if you need to restore iPhone's system software. **Activation simply requires you to pick an AT&T service plan, provide billing and credit card information, and wait for a new or old phone number to be assigned or transferred.** Currently, you need to agree to a two-year service contract with AT&T, pay a $36 activation fee, and accept either a $60 (and up) combined voice and data plan, or a $20 per month data plan, in order to activate the phone. Under some circumstances, you'll need to actually visit an AT&T retail store - specifically one listed on the company's web site as a vendor of iPhones, and not one of the many franchise stores out there - in order to have an in-person credit check performed. And under other circumstances, such as failing the credit check, AT&T will decide that you'll only be approved for a monthly pay-as-you-go account, which costs more per month but doesn't require a two-year contract.

Only after activation has been completed will the iPhone's full feature set - phone, web, mail, and iPod - be unlocked. At that point, you'll be able to transfer audio and video to the iPhone, as well as newly critical contacts and bookmarks from your Mac or PC. The process isn't exactly iPod-like, as you'll see below.

Why iPhone's no iPod: no Disk Mode, no Drag & Drop

Once your iPhone has been activated and is starting the synchronization process with iTunes, you'll discover that it doesn't work in the way you'd expect: yes, **it appears under your Devices list, but it operates like an Apple TV, not an iPod.**

What that means is that there's no Disk Mode to allow iPhone to store your data, and rather than just dragging and dropping any music or video file you'd like to store in its flash memory, you need to add music files from playlists, and videos or podcasts by checking boxes found under the Video and Podcasts tabs. All of the details are on the next page; suffice to say that we really hope that Apple changes these limits in an update.

Synchronizing Contacts, Calendars, Bookmarks & Mail to iPhone: the Info Tab

Rather than forcing you to wade through multiple tabs to transfer over your computer's contacts, calendars, bookmarks and e-mail accounts to the iPhone, **iTunes combines all of these synchronization options in a single iPhone Tab: "Info."** It's the first tab you'll find after the Summary Tab, which appears by default when you select the iPhone from your Devices list, showing you your iPhone's telephone number, software version, serial number and storage capacity.

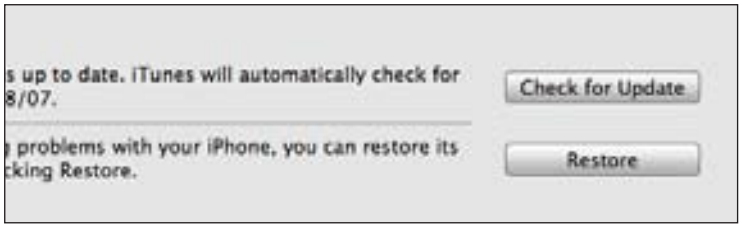
Selecting "Info" on a Mac lets you choose to synchronize contacts from Apple's or Yahoo!'s Address Book programs; on a PC, you can pick from Windows Address Book, Outlook Express, or Outlook (2003 or later). If you're using another program, such as AOL, to manage your contacts, you can import them into one of these formats using a program such as AOL's Service Assistant (apple.com/downloads/macosx/internet_utilities/aolserviceassistant.html), a process that's relatively quick and painless. Mail accounts similarly are synchronized from either Outlook Express or Outlook (2003 or later) on a PC, or OS X Mail on a Mac; iTunes only transfers your account information, and not the e-mail itself, to the iPhone.

Calendars are synchronized from iCal on a Mac, or Outlook (2003 or later) on a PC; iPhone is able to display both the marked dates on your computer's calendar, and details about the events. You can sync web bookmarks from Safari on a Mac or PC, as well as Internet Explorer on the PC; doing this enables you to browse all of your favorite web sites with a single button tap rather than having to enter addresses in manually.

Adding Music, Movies, and Photos to iPhone

Unlike the iPod, all iPhone synchronization - not just photos, contacts, and calendars - is handled through tabs accessed after you select iPhone from the Devices list. **Once you've found the separate tabs for Music, Photos, Podcasts, and Video next to the Summary and Info Tabs, you'll need to take the next step: adding checkmarks to content before it will sync to iPhone.** Movies are checked on an individual basis; TV shows are picked by two criteria: first, the name of the show, and second, how many episodes of the show you want to sync. Podcasts follow the same formula as TV shows.

Music is different. If you haven't been using playlists with your iPod, you'll need to set up at least one for the iPhone, specifying which songs you want to transfer. You can monitor the total size (in Gigabytes) of the playlist at the bottom of the iTunes window, then check it under the Music Tab to send all the songs to your iPhone.



Keep your iPhone's Software and content fresh

The iPhone's Summary Tab is only rarely useful: as shown in the photo, it tells you the name of your iPhone, its capacity, software version, serial number and phone number. There's a pretty good chance that you know at least three of those details already; the software version and serial number are the only parts you will likely need to reference.

Apple has promised that it will regularly update the iPhone with new software to help expand its features and fix bugs; it appears likely that these updates will continue for a given model for roughly two years. **The Summary Tab helps you figure out which version of the software you're running - here, it's version 1.0.1 - and provides a button that lets you check automatically for software updates. A check box lets you update the iPhone's content every time you connect it to your computer, too.** No other cell phone makes syncing and upgrades this easy.

You can also use the Restore button if your iPhone has developed what you suspect to be a software problem; it wipes your phone completely clean, and replaces the software with a fresh copy. You'll need to go through verification of your prior activation - a quick process, assuming you properly activated the phone - and then you'll be have to re-synchronize your audio, video, and "Info."

Back up your iPhone: the Preferences Tab

Most of the Preferences you'll find in iTunes (Control key and the Comma key on the PC, or Command key and Comma key on a Mac) are packed with options. Not so with the iPhone: at least as of iTunes 7.3, the only two options are "Remove Backup" and "Disable automatic syncing for all iPhones."

By default, iTunes backs up your iPhone's settings every time you synchronize, and provides a time and date of the last backup. You don't need to do anything to initiate the backup, and you also can't turn backups off. But you can delete the backup if you want to save space, using the obviously named Remove Backup button. Keeping the backup will help if you need to wipe iPhone clean or replace it with a new iPhone. Disabling automatic synchronization here is little more than an across-the-board alternative to the "Automatically sync when this iPhone is connected" option under the Device Summary Tab. Check this, and you'll uncheck the Summary box for all iPhones.

Help Apple trace iPhone bugs

Congratulations! You just purchased a first-generation iPhone, a cutting-edge piece of technology that's unlike any other product Apple has previously released. Though you might not have realized it, that means that you've just become a beta tester for the iPhone family - assuming you're willing to help.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the iPhone's initial version 1.0 and 1.0.1 software releases are buggy. Safari crashes a lot, Mail doesn't properly download messages all the time, and other applications have issues, too. **To its credit, iPhone quietly takes notes when it's struggling, and stores them to help Apple figure out what went wrong, and why. Afterwards, when you re-sync your iPhone, this dialog box will come up to ask if you mind sharing the information. Go ahead, it's safe.** If you have some reason to keep it quiet, "Don't Send," and make sure "Do not ask me again" is checked. iTunes won't bother you any more.

Use iPhone as a Contact & Bookmark conduit

Once you've used the Info Tab to synchronize one computer's contacts, calendar information, and bookmarks to your iPhone, you'll discover two things: first, **the iPhone is suddenly loaded with excellent shortcuts to speed up your phone calls, web site visits, and event scheduling.** Second, and **unlike an iPod, you can actually edit the content using the iPhone, and transfer it back to a PC or Mac.**

Note that we used the word "a" rather than "the." You're not limited to synchronizing this content - iTunes calls it all "Info" - to the original computer it came from. Instead, you can take one PC or Mac's Info, and transfer it to another machine, regardless of whether the first or second computer is a PC or a Mac. In other words, you can use iPhone to transfer contacts, bookmarks, and calendar information from your Mac at home to your office PC, or from one PC or Mac to another: just use the Merge Info button that appears after connecting the iPhone. A window will let you know how much of a change you're about to make to your computer's existing content, and inform you of each specific conflict between the iPhone's contacts and the computer's, so you can choose which contact to keep. You can also wipe iPhone's initially synchronized Info and replace it with the second computer's Info using the Replace Info button.

Unfortunately, the Merge Info button doesn't work with music, video, or podcasts. For now - probably forever - double-syncing is for Info only, so you'll see an Erase and Sync dialog for this sort of content, instead. We expect that Apple will update these windows to make the difference between "Info Syncing" and "Library Syncing" more obvious for users.

The iPod Directory. Whether you're looking for the contact information for an iPod accessory maker or companies that offer iPod-related services, start with our Directory - all the key players are listed here, and easy to find.

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Adapter/Cable Manufacturers

Addlogix
http://www.addlogix.com
800-344-6921
sales@addlogix.com

Belkin
http://www.belkin.com/
(800) 223-5546 ex 2263
techsupp@belkin.com

Bluelounge
http://www.bluelounge.com/
(626) 564-2802
mail@bluelounge.com

BoxWave
http://www.boxwave.com/
customerservice@boxwave.com

BrightonNet Co.
http://www.brightonnet.co.jp/
81-3-5812-5735
export@brightonnet.co.jp

Dr. Bott
http://www.drbott.com
877-611-2688
support@drbott.com

ezGear (Audio Outfitters)
http://www.ezgear4u.com
(800) 780-IPOD, 801 563-1600
info@ezGear4u.com

FriendTech

(886)-2-87738986
sales1@friendtech.com

Gadget Accessories, LLC, Inc.
http://www.gadgetaccessories.com/
(888) 368-5238
sales@gadgetaccessories.com

Global Source
http://www.glblsrc.com/
info@glblsrc.com

Griffin Technology
http://www.griffintechnology.com/
(615) 399-7000
support@griffintechnology.com

iLuv/jWIN Electronics
http://www.i-luv.com
866-807-5946

Intuitive Devices, Inc.
http://www.blinkitnow.com/
mail@intuitivedevices.com

Kensington
http://www.kensington.com/
(650) 572-2700

Logic3/SpectraVideo
http://www.logic3.com
support@logic3.com

Logiix
http://www.logiix.net/
http://www.logiix.net/contact.htm

Macally
http://www.macally.com/
(626) 338-8787
info@macally.com

Monster Cable Products, Inc.
http://www.monstercable.com/
(415) 840-2000

Newer Technology
http://www.newertech.com/
(800) 275-4576
sales@newertech.com

Nyko
http://www.nyko.com/
(888) 444-NYKO
customersupport@nyko.com

Pacific Rim Technologies
http://www.pacrimtechnologies.com/
(949) 481-2443
info@pacrimtechnologies.com

PodGear
http://www.podgear.net/
+44 (0) 1494 522 721
info@disruptivegroup.com

SendStation
http://www.sendstation.com/
+49 (69)-94413841
info@sendstation.com

SiK
http://www.sik.com/
(650) 701-1745
info@sik.com

Sima Products
http://www.simaproducts.com/
800-345-7462
http://www.simaproducts.com/
contact_us.php

Sonnet Tech
http://www.podfreq.com/
(949) 472-2772
support@sonnettech.com

The iPod Directory is the first comprehensive listing of major providers of iPod-related goods and services, located around the world. We have attempted to include as many companies as possible in the Directory, and do not require advertising or other editorial participation in order to add a qualified business name to this list. If you are the owner of a business and wish to submit or update information on your business, please visit ilounge.com/directory/.

SwitchEasy, Ltd.
http://www.switcheasy.com/

Tunewear
http://www.tunewear.com/
info@tunewear.com

Upbeat Audio
http://www.upbeataudio.com
616-837-9500
services@upbeataudio.com

Xitel Pty, Ltd.
http://www.xitel.com/
(512) 331 5799
nasales@xitel.com

XtremeMac
http://www.xtrememac.com/
866-392-9800
support@xtrememac.com

Battery Manufacturers

Battery Technology, Inc. (BTI)
http://www.batterytech.com/
(626) 336-6878
info@batterytech.com

Belkin
http://www.belkin.com/
(800) 223-5546 ex 2263
techsupp@belkin.com

Better Energy Systems
http://www.solio.com/
solio@betterenergy.co.uk

Bosity
http://www.bosity.com/
(905) 415-0800
customer_service@websecuremail.com

BrightonNet Co.
http://www.brightonnet.co.jp/
81-3-5812-5735
export@brightonnet.co.jp

Compact Power Systems, LLC
www.cpsyst.com
800-833-1070
customerservice@cpsyst.com

ezGear (Audio Outfitters)
http://www.ezgear4u.com
(800) 780-IPOD, 801 563-1600
info@ezGear4u.com

FastMac
http://www.fastmac.com/
(408) 850-6232
support@fastmac.com

Gadget Accessories, LLC, Inc.
http://www.gadgetaccessories.com/
(888) 368-5238
sales@gadgetaccessories.com

iLuv/jWIN Electronics
http://www.i-luv.com
866-807-5946

iPodResQ
http://www.ipodresq.com/
(877) POD-REPA
info@ipodresq.com

Maxell
http://www.maxell-usa.com/
(800) 533-2836
techsupp@maxell.com

Newer Technology
http://www.newertech.com/
(800) 275-4576
sales@newertech.com

Nyko
http://www.nyko.com/
(888) 444-NYKO
customersupport@nyko.com

PDASmart
http://www.pdasmart.com/
(512) 258-4500
info@PDASmart.com

TechRestore, Inc.
http://techrestore.com/
(866) 967-3786
help@techrestore.com

Tekkeon
http://www.tekkeon.com/
(888) 787-5888
Support@Tekkeon.com

Battery Replacement Services

Apple Inc.
http://www.apple.com/
(408) 996-1010

Compact Power Systems, LLC
www.cpsyst.com
800-833-1070
customerservice@cpsyst.com

FastMac
http://www.fastmac.com/
(408) 850-6232
support@fastmac.com

iResQ
http://www.iresq.com/
(877) POD-REPA
info@iresq.com

Other World Computing
http://eshop.macsales.com/
(800) 275-4576

RapidRepair
http://www.rapidrepair.com/
(888) 763-6637
sales@rapidrepair.com

TechRestore, Inc.
http://techrestore.com/
(866) 967-3786
help@techrestore.com

UKiPodRepairs
http://www.ukipodrepairs.co.uk/
info@ukipodrepairs.co.uk

Car Accessory Manufacturers

Alpine Electronics of America, Inc
http://www.alpine-usa.com/
310.326.8000

Audiovox
http://www.audiovox.com/
1-631-231-7750
Web Based Contact

Belkin
http://www.belkin.com/
(800) 223-5546 ex 2263
techsupp@belkin.com

Blitzsafe of America, Inc.
http://www.blitzsafe.com/
(201) 569-5000
blitzsafe@blitzsafe.com

BMW of North America, LLC
http://www.bmwusa.com/
(800) 831-1117

Clarion Corp. of America
http://www.clarion.com/usa/
800-GO-CLARION (462-5274)

iLounge reserves the right to exclude any business from this listing at any time if, in iLounge's sole judgment, such business has engaged in practices in violation of our Policy on Harmful Accessories, or other deceptive practices. However, omission from this list may be inadvertent or for other reasons, and should not be construed as a judgment that any omitted company is engaged in such practices. An updated iPod Directory will be available on iLounge.com.

Connects2
http://www.connects2.com/
+44 1384 291122
sales@connects2.com

Daihatsu Motor Co., Ltd.
http://www.daihatsu.com/
800-777-7070

Dension USA
http://www.densionusa.com
1-866-822-3673
info@densionusa.com

Digital Lifestyle Outfitters (DLO)
http://www.dlo.com/
(800) 866-IPOD
info@dlo.com

Dr. Bott
http://www.drbott.com
877-611-2688
support@drbott.com

FriendTech
(886)-2-87738986
sales1@friendtech.com

GBX Direct
http://www.gbxdirect.com/
(800) 571-2551

Global Source
http://www.glblsrc.com/
info@glblsrc.com

Griffin Technology
http://www.griffintechnology.com/
(615) 399-7000
support@griffintechnology.com

Hebe Styling
http://www.hebestyling.com/
+44 (0)1132 892 637
info@hebestyling.com

iLuv/jWIN Electronics
http://www.i-luv.com
866-807-5946

Kensington
http://www.kensington.com/
(650) 572-2700

Kenwood
http://www.kenwoodusa.com
310-639-9000
http://kenweb1.kenwoodusa.com/KenwoodPortal/KenwoodAudio/email/feedback.aspx?subject=generalquestions

Macally
http://www.macally.com/
(626) 338-8787
info@macally.com

Monster Cable Products, Inc.
http://www.monstercable.com/
(415) 840-2000

Neo Car Audio
http://www.neocaraudio.com/
(619) 819-0758
sales@neocaraudio.com

Newer Technology
http://www.newertech.com/
(800) 275-4576
sales@newertech.com

Nyko
http://www.nyko.com/
(888) 444-NYKO
customersupport@nyko.com

Pacific Accessory Corp.
http://www.pac-audio.com/
(714)835-3022

Pacific Rim Technologies
http://www.pacrimtechnologies.com/
(949) 481-2443
info@pacrimtechnologies.com

Peripheral Electronics
http://peripheralelectronics.com/
(727) 572-9255
Support@peripheralelectronics.com

Pioneer Electronics
http://www.pioneerelectronics.com
http://www.pioneerelectronics.com/pna/contact/us/0,,2076_4351,00.html?fpSiteId=2076

Pioneer Electronics Inc
http://www.pioneerelectronics.com
Web Based Contact

PodGear
http://www.podgear.net/
+44 (0) 1494 522 721
info@disruptivegroup.com

Precision Interface Electronics (P.I.E.)
http://www.pie.net/
(800) 526-8590
info@pie.net

Pro-Fit International, Inc.
http://www.pro-fit-intl.com/
(800) 388-0073
sales@pro-fit-intl.com

Proclip
http://www.proclipusa.com/
(800) 296-3212
support@proclipusa.com

Scosche Industries
http://www.scosche.com/
(800) 363-4490
sales@scosche.com

Scosche Industries
http://www.scosche.com
800-363-4490
techsupport@scosche.com

SiK
http://www.sik.com/
(650) 701-1745
info@sik.com

Sima Products
http://www.simaproducts.com/
800-345-7462
http://www.simaproducts.com/contact_us.php

Sonnet Tech
http://www.podfreq.com/
(949) 472-2772
support@sonnettech.com

Tekkeon
http://www.tekkeon.com/
(888) 787-5888
Support@Tekkeon.com

TEN Technology
http://www.tentechnology.com/
(800) 518-4TEN
info@tentechnology.com

XtremeMac
http://www.xtrememac.com/
866-392-9800
support@xtrememac.com

Case & Clip Manufacturers

A-1 Quality Products (A1QP)
http://www.a1qp.com
866-476-3763
http://www.a1qp.com/shop/contact_us.php

A.B. Sutton
http://www.absutton.com/
help@absutton.com

Abitax Inc.
http://www.abitax.co.jp/
03-3407-2817 (81-3-3407-2817)
info@abitax.co.jp

Acme Made
http://www.acmemade.com/
(888) 486-3191
info@acmemade.com

Agent18
http://www.agent18.com/
questions@agent18.com

Allsop
http://www.allsop.com
800-426-4303
http://www.allsop.com/customerservice.asp

Aneta Genova, Inc.
http://www.anetagenova.com/
(212) 965-1089
info@anetagenova.com

Anya Hindmarch
http://www.anyahindmarch.com

Apple Inc.
http://www.apple.com/
(408) 996-1010

Arty
http://wrappers.typepad.com/arty/
debbieabroad@aol.com

AVA Showcase
http://www.ava.com.sg/
852 8120 3131
sales@avashowcase.com

Axio LLC (Harodesign)
http://www.axio-usa.com
760-557-0123

be.ez Bags
http://www.be-ez.com
sales@be-ez.com

Belkin
http://www.belkin.com/
(800) 223-5546 ex 2263
techsupp@belkin.com

Bird Electron
http://www.bird-electron.co.jp

Body Glove International
http://www.bodyglove.com/
(310) 374-3441
info@bodyglove.com

Boomwave Products
http://www.thepodstar.com/
info@thepodstar.com

Booq, LLC.
http://www.booqbags.com/
(626) 836-9365

BoxWave
http://www.boxwave.com/
customerservice@boxwave.com

Brando Workshop
http://shop.brando.com.hk/
brando@brando.com.hk

BrightonNet Co.
http://www.brightonnet.co.jp/
81-3-5812-5735
export@brightonnet.co.jp

Bruddy, LLC.
http://www.bruddy.com/
info@bruddy.com

Buddiez, Inc.
http://www.podbuddies.com/
admin@ibuddiez.com

Budfrog (Hook Industries, LLC.)
http://budfrog.com/
info@budfrog.com

Burberry
http://www.burberry.com/
(866) 589-0499

Burning Love
http://www.burninglove.biz/

Burton Snowboards
http://www.burton.com/
(800) 881-3138
info@burton.com

C. Ronson
http://cronsonnyc.com/
(212) 497-2121
jennifer@cronsonnyc.com

C6 Manufacturing
http://www.c6mfg.com/
support@c6mfg.com

Capdase
http://www.capdase.com/
(852) 2191 2173
info@capdase.com

Carrie Scott/Herchmer
http://www.carriescott.com
310-315-1716
sales@carriescott.com

Case Closed Bags, Inc.
http://www.caseclosedbags.com/
(866) 366-0913
april@caseclosedbags.com

Case-Mate
http://www.case-mate.net/
(866) 689-3432

Casemandu (Hook Industries, LLC.)
http://casemandu.com/
info@casemandu.com

Catherine's Pita Shop
http://www.catherinespita.com/
cat@catherinespita.com

Chanel
http://www.chanel.com/
(800) 550-0005

Chums, Inc.
http://www.chums.com/
(800) 222-CHUM

COACH
http://www.coach.com/
1-800-444-3611

Colette meets Comme des Garçons
http://www.
colettemeetscommedesgarcons.com/
+81 (0) 3 5468 8301
contact@
colettemeetscommedesgarcons.com

Contour Design, Inc.
http://contourcase.com/
(800) 462-6678
info@contourdesign.com

Core Cases
http://www.corecases.com
866-228-7896
customerservice@corecases.com

Covertec
http://www.covertec.com
http://www.covertecstore.com/clients/
identification.asp?from=contact

Crumpler Bags
www.crumplerbags.com
718-384-3020
mail@crumplerbags.com

Das Blau, LLC.
http://www.dasblau.com/
(212) 254-3724
sales@dasblau.com

DecalGirl
http://www.decalgirl.com/
(866) 841-0922
support@decalgirl.com

Digital Lifestyle Outfitters (DLO)
http://www.dlo.com/
(800) 866-IPOD
info@dlo.com

Dior Homme
http://fashion.dior.com/homme/

Diral
http://d-tokyo.com/
03-3464-4747
info@d-tokyo.com

Dunhill (Alfred Dunhill)
http://www.dunhill.com
212-753-9292
customer.services@dunhill.com

DVForge/MacMice
http://www.macmice.com/
(615) 822-9270
jack@dvforge.com

E&B Company
http://www.ebcases.com/
(858) 385-1976
cs@ebcases.com

Earthly Treasures
http://www.earthlytreasures.co.uk/
0845 838 0765

Eroch Studios
http://www.lilipods.com/
info@lilipods.com

everQuest Design, Inc.
http://www.everquestdesign.com/
(514) 229-4321
customerservice@everquestdesign.com

eXopod
http://www.exopod.net/
(708) 341-7218
exopod@gmail.com

Extreme Limit
http://www.extreme-limit.co.jp/english/
81-3-3847-2994
info@extreme-limit.co.jp

ezGear (Audio Outfitters)
http://www.ezgear4u.com
(800) 780-IPOD, 801 563-1600
info@ezGear4u.com

FeltCafe
http://www.feltcafe.net/
liz@feltcafe.net

Foofpod
http://foofpod.com/
foof@foofshop.com

Fossil, Inc.
http://www.fossil.com/
(972) 234-2525
webguy@fossil.com

Gadget Accessories, LLC, Inc.
http://www.gadgetaccessories.com/
(888) 368-5238
sales@gadgetaccessories.com

Gecko Gear Australia
http://www.geckogear.com.au

Geek Culture
http://www.geekculture.com/
orders@geekculture.com

GizMac
http://www.gizmac.com
(800) 475-1677
Sales@GizMac.com

Global Source
http://www.glblsrc.com/
info@glblsrc.com

Gravis
http://www.gravisfootwear.com
800-223-7450
info@gravisfootwear.com

Griffin Technology
http://www.griffintechnology.com/
(615) 399-7000
support@griffintechnology.com

Gucci
http://www.gucci.com/

H2O Audio
http://www.h2oaudio.com/
(858) 623-0339 x213
support@h2oaudio.com

handmade.kerstinberg.com
http://handmade.kerstinberg.com
handmade@kerstinberg.com

Handstands (American Covers Inc.)
http://www.handstands.com
888-228-8987
info@handstands.com

HeadRoom
http://www.headphone.com/
(800) 828-8184
support@headphone.com

HipTunes (Genre Collection, LLC.)
http://www.genrecollection.com/
(866) 436-7363
mail@genrecollection.com

Hotromz
http://www.hotromz.com/
support@hotromz.com

i2 Electronics
http://www.i2electronics.com/
1-888-8iLOCKr
customerservice@i2electronics.com

ifrogz/Reminderband
http://www.ifrogz.com
877-443-7649
http://ifrogz.com/contact.php

iJacket/Aquarius Industrial
http://www.ijacket.net
(852)2793-2310

iLuv/jWIN Electronics
http://www.i-luv.com
866-807-5946

iMojo
http://www.imojo.com/
service@imojo.com

Incase Designs Corporation
http://www.goincase.com/
(626) 338-6400 x 13
info@goincase.com

Innopocket
http://www.innopocket.com/
(852) 2406-0638
info@innopocket.com

iPoDonut
http://www.ipodonut.com/
esupport@iPoDonut.com

iPodstreet (Moftware/Fommy.com)
http://www.ipodstreet.com
866-820-4554
care@ipodstreet.com

iRock
http://www.myirock.com/
(847) 202-1900
info@fidinc.com

iSkin
http://www.iskin.com/
(416) 924-9607
inquire@iskin.com

iStyles (formerly iPodStyles)
http://www.istyles.com
sales@iStyles.com

itzKitz (iPodKitz)
http://www.ipodkitz.com/
+852 23407584
support@itzkitz.com

J.Crew
http://www.jcrew.com/
(800) 562-0258
contactus@jcrew.com

JAVOEdge Intl, LLC.
http://www.javoedge.com/
info@javoedge.com

JR Hill & Co.
http://www.jrhillandcompany.com/
(800) 258-3654
contact@jrhillandcompany.com

Kate Spade
http://www.katespade.com/home/index.jsp
866-999-KATE

Kensington
http://www.kensington.com/
(650) 572-2700

Kiwali, LLC.
http://www.kiwali.com/
(510) 251-8001
info@kiwali.com

Koyono
http://www.koyono.com
216-373-2569
support@koyono.com

Kroo Cases (Leader Wireless)
http://www.leaderwireless.com
(626) 214-9228
sales@leaderwireless.com

Krusell
http://www.krusell.se
+46-31-338 00 00
info@krusell.se

LifePod
http://www.lifepod.net/
(888) LIFEPOD
salespod@lifepod.net

Logiix
http://www.logiix.net/
http://www.logiix.net/contact.htm

Louis Vuitton
http://www.vuitton.com/
866.V.U.I.T.T.O.N
Web Based Contact

Macally
http://www.macally.com/
(626) 338-8787
info@macally.com

MacSkinz
http://www.macskinz.com/

Marware, Inc.
http://www.marware.com/
(954) 927-6031
info@marware.com

Matias Corporation
http://matias.ca/
(905) 265-8844
info@matias.ca

Maxell
http://www.maxell-usa.com/
(800) 533-2836
techsupp@maxell.com

MCA (Manhattan Cellular)
http://www.manhattan-cellular.com
http://www.manhattan-cellular.com/srt/mca_en/contact/contact?location.id:=2595

Miniot
http://www.miniot.com/
iwood@miniot.com

Mobile Juice (ShuffleArt)
http://www.shuffle-art.com/

Monster Cable Products, Inc.
http://www.monstercable.com/
(415) 840-2000

Mophie Inc.
http://www.mophie.com
888-8-Mophie
team@mophie.com

Moshi (Aevoe)
http://www.aevoe.com/moshi/

MuffGear
http://muffgear.com/
sales@muffgear.com

Nike, Inc.
http://www.nike.com/
(800) 344-6453

NikkiPod
http://www.nikkipod.com/

Noreve
http://www.noreve.com/
info@noreve.com

Nyko
http://www.nyko.com/
(888) 444-NYKO
customersupport@nyko.com

O'Neill, Inc.
http://www.oneill.com/

Ocean Trust Companies
http://ipockets.net/
(954) 427-6125
mosborn@oceantrustcompanies.com

OP/TECH USA
http://www.optechusa.com/
(888) OPTECH-4
info@optechusa.com

Otter Products, LLC.
http://www.otterbox.com/
(888) 695-8820
customerservice@otterbox.com

Paag
http://www.paagpak.com/
customersupport@paagpak.com

Pacific Design Ltd.
http://www.pacificdesign.com/
888-797-8755
info@pacificdesign.com

Pacific Rim Technologies
http://www.pacrimtechnologies.com/
(949) 481-2443
info@pacrimtechnologies.com

Paul Frank Industries USA
http://www.paulfrank.com
(949) 515-7950

Paul Smith
http://www.paulsmith.co.uk
(44) 207 836 7828
info@paulsmith.co.uk

PDair Workshop
http://www.pdair.com/
enquiry@pdair.com

Pelican Products, Inc.
http://www.pelican.com/
(800) 473-5422
sales@pelican.com

Piel Frama
http://www.pielframa.com/
+34 956 46 12 55
info@pielframa.com

Pixelgirlshop
http://www.pixelgirlshop.com/
(734) 929-9603
pixelgirl@pixelgirlshop.com

PodBrix
http://podbrix.com/
info@PodBrix.com

PodGear
http://www.podgear.net/
+44 (0) 1494 522 721
info@disruptivegroup.com

PodShirt
http://podshirt.com/
info@PodBrix.com

Portable Device Outfitters (PDO)
http://www.PDOstore.com/
sales@PDOstore.com

Power Support (USA), Inc.
http://www.powersupportusa.com/
(818) 558-1645
CustomerService@PowerSupportUSA.com

Prada
http://www.prada.com/

Proporta
http://www.proporta.com/
(888) 331-0803
sales@proporta.com

Pyrim Technologies
http://www.pyrim.com/
(469) 366-4440
support@pyrim.com

RadTech, LLC.
http://www.radtech.us/
(314) 209-9993
info@radtech.us

Rhinoskin
http://www.saunders-usa.com/
(800) 341-4674
csr@saunders-usa.com

Rivet International
http://www.rivetnow.com/
(858) 793-4433
customerservice@rivetnow.com

SBS Innovations Inc.
www.ishok.com
contact@shokproof.com

Scosche Industries
http://www.scosche.com/
(800) 363-4490
sales@scosche.com

Sena Cases
http://www.senacases.com/

ShieldZone Corporation
http://www.shieldzone.com/
(801) 263-0699
questions@shieldzone.com

Shufflesome iPod Stickers
http://www.shufflesome.com

SKProducts, LLC
http://www.thecarclip.com
(207)680-4009
sales@thecarclip.com

Speck Products
http://www.speckproducts.com/
(650) 463-8914
info@speckproducts.com

Standard Technical Merchandise (STM)
http://www.stmbags.com.au
info@stmbags.com.au

Sumajin
http://www.sumajin.com/

Sumo Cases
http://www.sumocases.com/
info@sumocases.com

SwitchEasy, Ltd.
http://www.switcheasy.com/

Target
http://www.target.com/
(612) 304-6073
Guest.Relations@target.com

Targus Group International, Inc.
http://www.targus.com/
(877) 482-7487

Tatuz International, LLC.
http://www.shuffletatu.com/
(314) 724-2224
info@tatuz.com

Terforma
http://www.terforma.com/
(866) TER-FORM
info@terforma.com

Teski
http://www.teski.com/
(972) 333-0964
sam@teski.com

Timbuk2
http://www.timbuk2.com/
customerservice@timbuk2.com

Toteplus, Inc.
http://www.toteplus.com/
(650) 331- 0161
info@toteplus.com

TuneBuckle
http://www.tunebuckle.com
404-961-7206
fraser@tunebuckle.com

Tunewear
http://www.tunewear.com/
info@tunewear.com

Vaja Cases
http://www.vajacases.com/
info@vajacases.com

Vakaadoo
http://www.vakaadoo.com/
+44 845 895 1002
info@vakaadoo.com

Waterfield Designs
http://www.sfbags.com/
(877) 546-1040
askgary@sfbags.com

Winzz, Inc.
http://www.theiface.com/
+886-2-8751-0601
info@theiface.com

XtremeMac
http://www.xtrememac.com/
866-392-9800
support@xtrememac.com

Yoshida Kaban
www.yoshidakaban.com
03 - 3862 - 1021

Zofunk Products
http://www.zofunk.com
service@zofunk.com

CD Ripping Services

Awaken Solutions, LLC.
http://www.awaken.com/
(877) 385-2076
info@awaken.com

dmp3 Music
http://www.dmp3music.com
(888) 599-3673
info@dmp3music.com

Get Digital, Inc.
http://www.getdigitalinc.com/
(800) 714-4744
info@getdigitalinc.com

Moondog Digital, Inc.
http://www.moondogdigital.com/
(888) CDS-2-MP3
info@moondogdigital.com

MusicRip, Ltd.
http://www.musicrip.com/
orders@musicrip.com

PacificRip
http://www.pacificrip.com/
(888) RIP-DISC
info@pacificrip.com

Pickled Productions Inc.
http://www.pickledproductions.com
(866) 937-4748
info@pickledproductions.com

ReadyToPlay
http://www.readytoplay.com/
(650) 213-9300
sales@readytoplay.com

RipDigital
http://www.ripdigital.com/
(877) 759-3914

RipIt Digital LLC
www.RipItDigital.com
773-600-4733
info@RipItDigital.com

RipShark, LLC.
http://www.ripshark.com/
(800) 379-3515
contact@ripshark.com

RipTopia
http://www.riptopia.com/
(800) 874-4921

Cleaner / Polish Manufacturers

Applesauce Polish
http://www.applesaucepolish.com
info@applesaucepolish.com

Brando Workshop
http://shop.brando.com.hk/
brando@brando.com.hk

Digital Lifestyle Outfitters (DLO)
http://www.dlo.com/
(800) 866-IPOD
info@dlo.com

iCleaner
http://www.ipodcleaner.com/
info@ipodcleaner.com

PodShop, LLC
http://podshop.com/
info@podshop.com

RadTech, LLC.
http://www.radtech.us/
(314) 209-9993
info@radtech.us

Customizing Services

Colorenvy
http://www.colorenvy.com/
(616) 389-3403
casey@colorenvy.com

ColorWare, Inc.
http://www.colorwarepc.com/
(888) 452-6567
sales@color-ware.com

Devoted1
http://www.devoted1.com/

ETCHamac, LLC.
http://www.etchamac.com/
(480) 964-6352
sales@etchamac.com

Intuitive Devices, Inc.
http://www.blinkitnow.com/
mail@intuitivedevices.com

iPodMods
http://www.ipodmods.com/
(888) 763-6637
sales@ipodmods.com

Simple Solutions Technology (CrystalMini)
http://www.crystalshuffle.com/
(718) 837-8883
mailto:info@crystalmini.com

FM Transmitter Manufacturers

Battery Technology, Inc. (BTI)
http://www.batterytech.com/
(626) 336-6878
info@batterytech.com

Belkin
http://www.belkin.com/
(800) 223-5546 ex 2263
techsupp@belkin.com

C. Crane
http://www.ccrane.com/
(800) 522-8863
ccraneco@aol.com

Digital Lifestyle Outfitters (DLO)
http://www.dlo.com/
(800) 866-IPOD
info@dlo.com

Dr. Bott
http://www.drbott.com
877-611-2688
support@drbott.com

Griffin Technology
http://www.griffintechnology.com/
(615) 399-7000
support@griffintechnology.com

iLuv/jWIN Electronics
http://www.i-luv.com
866-807-5946

Kensington
http://www.kensington.com/
(650) 572-2700

Macally
http://www.macally.com/
(626) 338-8787
info@macally.com

Maxell
http://www.maxell-usa.com/
(800) 533-2836
techsupp@maxell.com

Monster Cable Products, Inc.
http://www.monstercable.com/
(415) 840-2000

Scosche Industries
http://www.scosche.com
800-363-4490
techsupport@scosche.com

Sonnet Tech
http://www.podfreq.com/
(949) 472-2772
support@sonnettech.com

Tekkeon
http://www.tekkeon.com/
(888) 787-5888
Support@Tekkeon.com

XtremeMac
http://www.xtrememac.com/
866-392-9800
support@xtrememac.com

Head/Earphone Manufacturers

AKG Acoustics / Harman Kardon
http://www.akg.com
615-620-3800
akgusaservice@harman.com

Audio-Technica Foldable Compact Speakers
http://www.audio-technica.com
330-686-2600
sales@atus.com

Aural New York
http://www.auralnewyork.com
info@auralnewyork.com

BlueTake
http://www.bluetake.com/
(626) 369-9888
usa@bluetake.com

Design Annex (iBeat)
http://www.ibeatusa.com/
info@designannex.com

DVForge/MacMice
http://www.macmice.com/
(615) 822-9270
jack@dvforge.com

Etymotic
http://www.etymotic.com/
(847) 228-0006
customer-service@etymotic.com

FriendTech
(886)-2-87738986
sales1@friendtech.com

FutureSonics
http://www.futuresonics.com/
(877) FSI-EARS
info@futuresonics.com

GlobalSat Technology Corp.
http://www.usglobalsat.com
626-968-4145
akotoff@usglobalsat.com

Headbanger Audio
http://www.headbangeraudio.com/
(800) 331-3844
support@headbangeraudio.com

HeadRoom
http://www.headphone.com/
(800) 828-8184
support@headphone.com

Icuiti Corporation
http://www.icuiti.com/
(585) 240-8000
technical_support@icuiti.com

iLuv/jWIN Electronics
http://www.i-luv.com
866-807-5946

Logiix
http://www.logiix.net/
http://www.logiix.net/contact.htm

Logitech
http://www.logitech.com/
(510) 795-8500

Macally
http://www.macally.com/
(626) 338-8787
info@macally.com

Oakley
http://www.oakley.com
800-403-7449
info@oakley.com

Philips Electronics
http://www.philips.com
212-536-0500

Plane Quiet (Pro Travel Gear)
http://www.planequiet.com/
(800) 720-5076
customerservice@protravelgear.com

Plantronics, Inc.
http://www.plantronics.com/
(800) 544-4660

Semsons & Co. Inc.
http://www.semsons.com/
(626) 574-5557
info@semsons.com

Sennheiser
http://www.sennheiserusa.com/
(860) 434-9190
info@sennheiserusa.com

Shure
http://www.shure.com/
(847) 600-2000
info@shure.com

Simpl Acoustics
http://www.simpl.com/
support@simpl.com

Sony Electronics
http://www.sony.com/
(800) 222-7669
http://esupport.sony.com/EN/feedback/emailform-cons.html

TEN Technology
http://www.tentechnology.com/
(800) 518-4TEN
info@tentechnology.com

Ultimate Ears
http://www.ultimateears.com/
(800) 589-6531
customerservice@ultimateears.com

v-moda
http://www.v-moda.com
888-866-3252
acquire@v-moda.com

Westone Laboratories
http://www.westone.com
(719) 540-9333
westone@westone.com

Wi-Gear, Inc.
http://www.wi-gear.com/
(866) 434-4930

iPod/iTunes Hardware Manufacturers

Apple, Inc.
http://www.apple.com/
(408) 996-1010

Hewlett-Packard
http://www.hp.com/
(650) 857-1501

Motorola, Inc.
http://www.motorola.com/
(847) 576-5000

Remote Manufacturers

Advanced Bridging Technologies (ABT)
http://www.abtech2.com/
(888) 869-4737

Battery Technology, Inc. (BTI)
http://www.batterytech.com/
(626) 336-6878
info@batterytech.com

Engineered Audio, LLC.
http://www.engineeredaudio.com/
(636) 898-1053
support@engineeredaudio.com

Griffin Technology
http://www.griffintechnology.com/
(615) 399-7000
support@griffintechnology.com

Kensington
http://www.kensington.com/
(650) 572-2700

Keyspan
http://www.keyspan.com/
+1.510.222.0131
info@keyspan.com

Maxell
http://www.maxell-usa.com/
(800) 533-2836
techsupp@maxell.com

Nyko
http://www.nyko.com/
(888) 444-NYKO
customersupport@nyko.com

Onkyo Corporation
http://www.onkyo.com/
(201) 785-2600

Pacific Rim Technologies
http://www.pacrimtechnologies.com/
(949) 481-2443
info@pacrimtechnologies.com

Scosche Industries
http://www.scosche.com
800-363-4490
techsupport@scosche.com

Targus Group International, Inc.
http://www.targus.com/
(877) 482-7487

TEN Technology
http://www.tentechnology.com/
(800) 518-4TEN
info@tentechnology.com

Xitel Pty, Ltd.
http://www.xitel.com/
(512) 331 5799
nasales@xitel.com

Repair Services

Apple Inc.
http://www.apple.com/
(408) 996-1010

BrokeniPods
http://www.brokenipods.com/
(877) 293-0701
sales@brokenipods.com

DT&T Computer Services, Inc.
http://dttservice.com/ipod/
(800) 622-7977
customerservice@dttservice.com

iPod Correctors
http://www.ipodcorrectors.com/
josea@prtcnet.org

iPodMods
http://www.ipodmods.com/
(888) 763-6637
sales@ipodmods.com

iPodResQ
http://www.ipodresq.com/
(877) POD-REPA
info@ipodresq.com

iPodRestore
http://ipod.techrestore.com/
(877) FOR-IPOD
help@techrestore.com

Minilec Service, Inc.
http://www.minilec.com/
(800) 222-6075
info@minilec.com

PDASmart
http://www.pdasmart.com/
(512) 258-4500
info@PDASmart.com

TechRestore, Inc.
http://techrestore.com/
(866) 967-3786
help@techrestore.com

UKiPodRepairs
http://www.ukipodrepairs.co.uk/
info@ukipodrepairs.co.uk

Software Developers (iPod)

Electronic Arts / EA Mobile
http://www.eamobile.com/
http://support.jamdat.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=1228

Elgato Systems, LLC
http://www.elgato.com/

Enrique Quintero Design
http://enriquequinterodesign.com/
enrique@enriquequinterodesign.com

Helmes Innovations, LLC
http://www.helmesinnovations.com/
customerfeedback@helmesinnovations.com

iPodSoft
http://www.ipodsoft.com/

Neuros Technology International
http://www.neurosaudio.com/
866-563-8767
support@neurosaudio.com

PumpPod, LLC.
http://www.pumppod.com/
info@pumppod.com

TalkingPanda, LLC.
http://www.talkingpanda.com/
support@talkingpanda.com

Tanagra, Inc.
http://www.tanagra.com/
info@tanagra.com

ThinkFree
http://www.thinkfree.com/
(408) 432-5074
info@thinkfree.com

WuHan Venus Software, Inc.
http://ipod-application.com/
86-27- 88613551
support@ipod-application.com

Software Developers (Mac)

Avanquest Software
www.avanquest.com
720-330-1400

Bruno Blondeau
http://podmanager.brunoblondeau.com/
contact@brunoblondeau.com

Crisp Softies
http://www.crispsofties.com/
cris@crispSofties.com

Elgato Systems, LLC
http://www.elgato.com/

Findley Designs, Inc.
http://www.findleydesigns.com/
FindleyDesigns@drewfindley.com

Helmes Innovations, LLC
http://www.helmesinnovations.com/
customerfeedback@helmesinnovations.com

iPodSoft
http://www.ipodsoft.com/

KennettNet Software Limited
http://www.kennettnet.co.uk/
support@kennettnet.co.uk

Lighthead Software
http://www.lightheadsw.com/
info@lightheadsw.com

Manfred Schwind
http://www.mani.de/index.html
mani@mani.de

Mibasoft
http://www.mibasoft.com/

Michael Zapp
http://www.cs.umanitoba.ca/~zapp/MacOSX/
zapp@computer.org

Micromat
http://www.micromat.com/
(800) 829-6227
info@micromat.com

Odeo
http://www.odeo.com/
stuff@odeo.com

Pariahware, Inc.
http://www.pariahware.com/
info@pariahware.com

Podfitness.com
http://www.podfitness.com
888-4PODFIT
support@podfitness.com

PumpPod, LLC.
http://www.pumppod.com/
info@pumppod.com

Sci-Fi Hi-Fi
http://www.scifihifi.com/
podworks@scifihifi.com

Sonic Solutions (Roxio)
http://www.roxio.com/
(866) 280-ROXI

TalkingPanda, LLC.
http://www.talkingpanda.com/
support@talkingpanda.com

The Little App Factory
http://www.thelittleappfactory.com/

TiVo
http://www.tivo.com
877-289-8486

Wam Communications Group
http://www.dotpod.net/
+61 2 9869 8066
office@buyitonline.com.au

WuHan Venus Software, Inc.
http://ipod-application.com/
86-27- 88613551
support@ipod-application.com

youPod
http://www.kaisakura.com/youPod/

ZappTek
http://www.zapptek.com/
support@zapptek.com

Zelek Software
http://www.zeleksoftware.com/
support@zeleksoftware.com

Software Developers (PC)

Applian Technologies Inc.
http://www.replay-video.com/

Avanquest Software
www.avanquest.com
720-330-1400

Findley Designs, Inc.
http://www.findleydesigns.com/
FindleyDesigns@drewfindley.com

Helmes Innovations, LLC
http://www.helmesinnovations.com/
customerfeedback@helmesinnovations.com

InterVideo
http://www.intervideo.com
510-651-0888
http://www.explorecommerce.com/members/supportform.asp?Siteid=716

iPodSoft
http://www.ipodsoft.com/

iPodSync
http://www.ipod-sync.com/
support@ipod-sync.com

J. River, Inc.
http://www.jrmediacenter.com/

KennettNet Software Limited
http://www.kennettnet.co.uk/
support@kennettnet.co.uk

Mediafour Corporation
http://www.mediafour.com/
(515) 225-7409

Odeo
http://www.odeo.com/
stuff@odeo.com

Pariahware, Inc.
http://www.pariahware.com/
info@pariahware.com

Podfitness.com
http://www.podfitness.com
888-4PODFIT
support@podfitness.com

PumpPod, LLC.
http://www.pumppod.com/
info@pumppod.com

Red Chair Software, Inc.
http://www.redchairsoftware.com/

TalkingPanda, LLC.
http://www.talkingpanda.com/
support@talkingpanda.com

Tanagra, Inc.
http://www.tanagra.com/
info@tanagra.com

ThinkFree
http://www.thinkfree.com/
(408) 432-5074
info@thinkfree.com

TiVo
http://www.tivo.com
877-289-8486

Wind Solutions
http://www.copypod.net/
copypod@copypod.net

WuHan Venus Software, Inc.
http://ipod-application.com/
86-27- 88613551
support@ipod-application.com

Zelek Software
http://www.zeleksoftware.com/
support@zeleksoftware.com

Speaker & Microphone Manufacturers

Altec Lansing Technologies, Inc.
http://www.alteclansing.com/
(866) 570-5702
csupport@alteclansing.com

Atech Flash Technology (AFT)
http://www.atechflash.com
510-824-6868
sales@atechflash.com

Athena Technologies / Audio Products International
http://www.athenaspeakers.com/
(716) 896-9801
http://www.athenaspeakers.com/custservice.php

Audio Design Associates
http://www.ada-usa.com
800-HD-AUDIO

Bird Electron
http://www.bird-electron.co.jp

Bosch
http://www.bosch.com
224-232-2000

Bose
www.bose.com
1-800-999-2673 ext W99

Bosity
http://www.bosity.com/
(905) 415-0800
customer_service@websecuremail.com

Boynq
http://www.boynq.com
+31 71 4080 960
sales@boynq.com

Cambridge Soundworks
http://www.cambridgesoundworks.com/
(800) FOR-HIFI

Creative Technology, Ltd.
http://www.creative.com/

Cyber Acoustics, LLC.
http://www.cyberacoustics.com/
(360) 823-4100
info@cyberacoustics.com

Denon Electronics
http://www.usa.denon.com/
(973) 396-0810
contactservice@denonnj.com

Digiana
82-2-2040-6211
general@digiana.com

Digital Age Products
http://www.digitalageproducts.com/
(888) 716-6395
info@digitalageproducts.com

Digital Lifestyle Outfitters (DLO)
http://www.dlo.com/
(800) 866-IPOD
info@dlo.com

Dynex
http://www.dynexproducts.com/
(800) 305-2204

Elecom Co., Ltd.
http://www.elecom.eu.com

Emerson Research/Radio
http://www.emersonradio.com
800-909-1240
internet@emersonradio.com

Geneva Lab
http://www.genevalab.com
1-877-GENEVA9
support@genevalab.com

Ignitek
http://www.ignitek.com/
(949) 660-0488
esupport@ignitek.com

iHome/SDI Technologies
http://www.ihomeaudio.com/
(800) 288-2792
ihainfo@ihomeaudio.com

iLive / DPI (HK) Ltd.
http://www.ilive.net/
(314) 621-2881
customerservice@ilive.net

iLuv/jWIN Electronics
http://www.i-luv.com
866-807-5946

iRock
http://www.myirock.com/
(847) 202-1900
info@fidinc.com

JBL
http://www.jbl.com/
(516) 255-4JBL

JVC (Victor Company of Japan)
http://www.jvc.com/
(800) 252-5722
http://www.jvc.com/support/support.jsp?pageID=5

Klipsch
http://www.klipsch.com/
(800) KLIPSCH
support@klipsch.com

Logic3/SpectraVideo
http://www.logic3.com
support@logic3.com

Logiix
http://www.logiix.net/
http://www.logiix.net/contact.htm

Macally
http://www.macally.com/
(626) 338-8787
info@macally.com

Memorex Electronics/Memcorp USA
http://www.memorexelectronics.com
954-660-7100
http://www.memorexelectronics.com/html/online_support_step4.php

Monitor Audio
http://www.monitoraudio.com/
+44 (0) 1268 740580

mStation
http://www.mstationaudio.com
800-213-7232

Mythix, Inc.
http://www.mythix-inc.com/
(888) 885-5858
info@mythix-inc.com

Numark Industries, LLC
http://numark.com/
(401) 658-3131
info@numark.com

Nyko
http://www.nyko.com/
(888) 444-NYKO
customersupport@nyko.com

Onkyo Corporation
http://www.onkyo.com/
(201) 785-2600

Oregon Scientific, Inc
www.oregonscientific.com
949-608-2848
customerrelations@oscientific.com

Pacific Rim Technologies
http://www.pacrimtechnologies.com/
(949) 481-2443
info@pacrimtechnologies.com

Phonic Corporation
http://www.phonic.com/
(813) 890-8872

PodGear
http://www.podgear.net/
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info@disruptivegroup.com

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andrew@psiberaudio.com

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1 800 797 7321

Sharper Image
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care@web.sharperimage.com

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Tiger Toys/Hasbro
http://www.tigertoys.com
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mail@tivoliaudio.com

Tunewear
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Stand & Mount Manufacturers

Atech Flash Technology (AFT)
http://www.atechflash.com
510-824-6868
sales@atechflash.com

Belkin
http://www.belkin.com/
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954-660-7100

MicroOptical Corporation
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Sonic Impact Technologies
http://www.si-technologies.com
http://www.si-technologies.com/info/contactus.html

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iLounge.com

Since 2001, the world's leading resource for iPod news, reviews, forums, photos, guides, tricks, software, and much more.

APPLE'S SEMI-SECRET STORE.

If you love the logo enough to buy corporate gift items that weren't Apple-designed but still look cool, the Apple Company Store is the place for you.

About the Store

The Company Store is near the edge of Apple's corporate headquarters at 1 Infinite Loop, Cupertino, California, and stocks a variety of items we've wanted to see in regular Apple Stores for years: Apple T-shirts, caps, mouse pads, and keychains. You'll also find a number of items from normal Apple Stores, such as iPod and Mac hardware, software, and accessories, though this location is reputably slower to stock Apple's new releases than others, and only open from Monday to Friday, 10AM to 5:30pm. A full map is at www.apple.com/companystore/directions.html.

iPen

It's not really called the iPen, but this **Black Twist Pen** ($10) - one of several pens sold at Apple's shop - has more in common with the styling of an iPhone than any other item at the Company Store. Brushed metal and chrome are mixed for most of its body; you twist a black hard rubber grip near the tip to reveal the ballpoint inside.

iDrink

If you've been to a Starbucks any time in the last year, the design of these beverage containers won't surprise you - the **Fusion Water Bottle** ($10) looks basically identical to the ones sold by the Seattle coffee company, and the **White Travel Mug** ($17) isn't exactly novel, either, but fans of most Apple hardware will find either to be a great fit on a desk with a metallic Mac or Cinema Display; the logo doesn't hurt.

iShirt

Coveted by iLounge's non-California editors and the handfuls of other people who have seen friends wearing them, Apple's **"I Visited the Mothership" T-Shirt** ($16) is at once a testament to geekiness and exclusivity - a trophy for those who make the journey all the way to Apple's campus and want a way to prove as much. Other styles are also available; we've been hoping for similar shirts to appear in Apple Stores for a long time.

BACKSTAGE.

Our editors provide spotlight cool gadgets we've recently been checking out, and offer behind-the-scenes details on the creation of this Book.

Harman Kardon **Guide + Play**

GPS devices - even expensive ones - can be frustrating. Not **Harman Kardon's Guide + Play** ($400), a totally portable unit with an intuitive touchscreen interface, super-current maps, and built-in music and video playback features. A speaker on the back does double-duty, interrupting music to offer voice navigation assistance. We can only hope Apple does GPS as well in a future-generation iPod or iPhone.

Sony **PlayStation 3** with Sega **Virtua Fighter 5**

In all candor, we would never, ever have expected to feature **Sony's PlayStation 3** ($599) game console in any of our Guides. Unlike t's radically overpriced, hemhorraging third-party exclusives as a consequence, and from a company with monsterously bad judgment as of the last decade. But we have to give Sony credit for two things: PS3's iTunes-like PlayStatiton Store is a cool way to buy cheap new games, and its six-month exclusive **Virtua Fighter 5** from **Sega** ($60) is the rare Blu Ray Disc-based game worth the high price of admission. Stunning 3-D graphics finally make proper use of our HDTVs, and a wide roster of amazing martial artist characters keep the one-on-one fighting interesting for weeks on end. Since VF5's coming by mid-year for the $200 less expensive Xbox 360, consider that an option unless Sony drops its price and shows further signs of surviving.

Canon **HV20**

Consumer-priced high-definition video cameras have never looked as good as **Canon's HV20** ($1100), accurately dubbed "the monster" by the Japanese press. Combining true 1920x1080 recording with an optional 24p cinema-style recording mode, HV20 has a flip-out 2.7" screen and direct HDMI video and audio output - all the features people have been clamoring for, in one compact device. MiniDV tapes enable you to store video until you're ready to display it on your HDTV or import it into a video editing program such as Apple's iMovie HD.

Canon **PowerShot SD850IS**

As much as we like video cameras, still cameras are our tools of choice for travel and business. If we had to pick a replacement for our current favorite point-and-shoot - **Canon's** SD700IS - it would be the upcoming **PowerShot SD850IS** ($400, mid-June). Though its improvements over the stellar SD700IS are small - an unnecessarily larger 8-Megapixel sensor and face recognition for redeye reduction - its preservation of features like optical image stabilization, a large 2.5" rear LCD display, DIGIC-aided color optimization, and a fast 4x zoom lens make it an ideal camera for day or nighttime shooting. The reasonable price doesn't hurt, either.

Sony Bravia **KDL-40XBR2**

We've been lusting after the clear-framed **KDL-40XBR2** ($2800) ever since we first saw it paired with an Apple TV. A true 1080p, 40" LCD television, the XBR2 is capable of swapping its grey bezel for white, black, red, blue, or brown alternatives, and has **Sony's** typically excellent color and video quality. Three HDMI ports hide the only reason we're not rushing to buy one: we're holding out for the 2007 model with superior HDMI 1.3 support.

Samsung **SGH-D900**

Okay, cell phones universally became boring after Apple introduced iPhone, but its pricing and uncertain overseas release date had our U.K. editor looking for other options. He went for **Samsung's SGH-D900** ($330), billed as the thinnest slide-open phone out there despite including a 2.2" screen, impressive 3-Megapixel camera, integrated music player and around 7 hours of talk time. Quad-band GSM and EDGE support make it useful for both phone calls and data no matter where you might be using it.

Behind the Book

Our Guides depend on great gear, software, people, and music. Here's what made this Book.

Hardware

Our Free iPod Books are assembled using **Apple MacBook Pro** notebook computers ($2500) equipped with Apple Cinema Displays. One of our two key workhorse machines is a 2.0GHz Core Duo MacBook Pro, the other is a 2.3GHz Core 2 Duo model. Past Guides have been assembled with PowerMac G5 workstations, PowerBook G4 notebooks, and even a Power PC-based Mac mini as a backup machine, but we've now switched entirely to Intel-based Macs for production. PCs are used only for testing of certain Windows-based applications.

People

The Free iPod Book 3.3 was written primarily by **Jeremy Horwitz** with contributions from **Jesse Hollington**, **Jerrod Hofferth**, **Bob Starrett, Larry Angell**, and **Christina Easton.** It was designed primarily by **Dennis Lloyd** from layouts and photography by **Jeremy Horwitz**, and includes additional photographic and artistic contributions from numerous iLounge readers, as well as listed companies. Thank you to all the people who helped in the creation of this Book, especially our families, without whose support these Guides would not be possible.

Software

The Free iPod Book 3.3 owes its life to **Adobe Creative Suite 3 Design Standard** ($1199), licenses for which were purchased on the day of the product's release. During the month of the Book's production, we had only a single crash in CS3's superb InDesign application - it and Photoshop are perhaps the most stable and fastest versions we've ever used. Paired with our MacBooks and Cinema Displays, the Universal Binary versions of these programs are just wicked.

Music

Every iLounge Guide has musical inspiration - past ones, for instance, have been driven by bhangra, dance, or rap. This book's themes were rock and chill. We discovered **The Rapture's Pieces of the People We Love** - both the album and the superb same-named track, produced by Danger Mouse - during the project. **The Beatles' Love** and **Electric Light Orchestra's All Over the World** were key, while **Röyksopp's Melody A.M.** and **Groove Armada's Best Of** album provided much-needed calming vibes while we worked on layouts.

G-Technology **G-Drive Series**

Between our ever-expanding music, video, and photo libraries and the commensurately larger Guides we produce, extra hard disk space is a necessity. After testing and having problems with many competitors, we bought **G-Technology's** 500GB **G-Drive** ($279), 750GB **G-Drive Q** ($519), and 1.5TB **G-Raid** ($1199). The Mac-matching aluminum enclosures are quiet and cool, and the Q version connects to everything from USB to FW800 and eSATA.

Power Support **MacBook Docking Stand**

Mounting a MacBook or Pro next to our monitors used to be a pain. **Power Support's Docking Stand for MacBook** ($40) solved the problem with style. Made from matching aluminum and adjustable to your preferred width by screws, it keeps our MacBooks' ports fully accessible.

Altec Lansing **FX6021**

Our favorite computer speakers just happen to match the Cinema Display. **Altec's FX6021** ($250) has been mentioned in a past iLounge Guide, as its two satellite speakers (one's shown) boast a total of 12 drivers, with a massive subwoofer to add meaty bass. A breakout box and remote control adjust bass, treble, and volume.

Axio **Hardsleeve**

Axio makes some great bags and cases. Even after testing gobs of other MacBook sleeves, **Hardsleeve** ($XX) still blows us away. The outer plastic comes in three colors - black, silver, and white - each lined with padded neoprene. They zip closed, and absorb bumps.

BBP Bags **Hamptons**

Photos don't do justice to **BBP's Hamptons** ($95). An ultra-convenient top zipper lets you slip your laptop in or out in seconds, perfect for airport security and daily use. Better yet, padding and a dual-purposed back strap take pressure off your spine, or converts into a regular shoulder strap. Awesome.

CLOSING THE CURTAIN.

Since Microsoft hasn't given up on last year's "iPod killer" yet, we wanted to offer a few friendly pointers on how it might revive Zune's sagging fortunes.

Hire an Awesome Mascot

Great products need great pitchmen - hell, iPod sales didn't take off until they hired those spooky shadow guys to dance. Zune needs a mascot who speaks to your core demographic, youthful non-conformists who want to get Social. Lucky you: Steven, the "Dell Dude," is totally available, and his old slogans work just as well with Zune as they did to help millions of people experience the phenomenon that was Dell Computer.

Bundle It With Windows

The old "bundle a media player" with Windows strategy is a proven success - it actually worked so well during the 1990s that, well, you got sued by the United States and the European Union. But everyone's probably forgotten about that by now. Certainly no one would mind if you tossed Zunes into your Windows Vista boxes - in fact, you can put out a press release about how you're doing it for the environment, solely to reduce your packaging. People seem to like hearing that.

Pay People to Praise Zune (Oh, Wait, You Already Do)

Ever wonder why the Internet suddenly lit up with all sorts of aggressively anti-Apple, pro-Zune fanatics last year? When you can't generate real buzz for your products, you pay people to start up blogs, and spam comments and forums on web sites related to your products. Microsoft doesn't seem to need this tip: it already has the phony buzz down pat.

```
C:\WINDOWS\Desktop> dear god help me_
```

Add Support for All Those Crazy Things You Say Customers Want

Bill. Steve. Robbie. You guys give lots of speeches - some funnier than others - and you always make a point to say what you've figured out that people really want. Like ads inserted into Media Center content. A way to bring the Windows OS into cars. And a mobile phone that lets you answer your doorbell. Why not build some of these ingenious ideas into a next-generation Zune? Don't forget MS-DOS support; we're holding our breath.

Make Cool Licensed Zunes

Problem: In an iPod world, no current celebrity - even a shill like Paris Hilton - wants to be associated with Zune. Solution: License the youthful likenesses of old celebrities, and create one-offs like the Young, Hip David Hasselhoff Limited Edition Zune (above). Typically, stars of yesteryear need the cash, and if you're lucky, they might just have a huge library of Zune Marketplace-exclusive German-language songs that aren't yet on iTunes.

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