iPod FAQ

Overview

Q. What is iPod?

A. iPod is the first digital audio player to pack up to 1,000 songs[1] and 10 hours of battery life[2] into an ultraportable package you can take everywhere. While other music players available today compromise between large storage capacity, easy portability, and high-quality sound, iPod combines all these features, along with Apple's legendary ease of use, to provide a superior solution for taking your entire music collection with you wherever you go. Key features include the following:

- *High capacity.* The 5GB hard disk drive[3] can store up to 1,000 songs.
- *Ultraportable.* Measuring 2.43 by 4.02 by 0.78 inches and weighing only 6.5 ounces, iPod easily slips into a pocket to take with you anywhere. The rechargeable lithium polymer battery offers 10 hours of continuous playtime.
- *Premium sound.* A powerful built-in amplifier and high-quality headphones enable iPod to output audio in an extremely wide dynamic range. This allows you to hear heart-thumping bass and crystal-clear highs for a superb listening experience.
- *Easy navigation of your music library.* An intuitive interface and unique scroll wheel provide easy one-handed operation and let you quickly pinpoint the song you want. A high-resolution LCD displays up to six lines of artists, album titles, playlists, or songs, and a white LED backlight enables clear readability in low-light situations.
- *Seamless integration with your Mac.* iPod uses FireWire to transfer music automatically from your Mac—updating your music collection and charging the iPod battery at the same time. It works with iTunes, allowing you to manage your music and create custom playlists on your Mac that automatically transfer to iPod whenever you plug it in.[4]

Q. How much music does iPod hold?

A. iPod has a storage capacity of 5GB. The amount of music it can hold depends on the compression rate of your songs. At 128 kilobits per second (Kbps), the most common compression rate used for MP3s, 5GB is equivalent to approximately 1,300 songs, or 130 CDs. At a higher-quality 160-Kbps compression rate (the default setting for encoding MP3s in iTunes), 5GB equals approximately 1,000 songs, or 100 CDs.

Q. What audio formats does iPod support?

A. iPod supports most of the popular audio formats, including MP3 (from 32 Kbps to 320 Kbps), MP3 Variable Bit Rate (VBR), AIFF, and WAV. Upgradable firmware enables support for future audio formats.

Q. Can I use iPod while running, biking, or doing other activities? Will my music skip?

A. iPod was designed for people with an active lifestyle. It is compact and lightweight enough to take with you wherever you go. It was designed to fit comfortably in the palm of your hand or to be slipped into a pocket or purse for easy transport. iPod offers an industry-leading 20 minutes of skip protection, so you can run, mountain bike, or rock climb without missing a beat.

Q. How does iPod provide skip protection?

A. In addition to the 5GB hard drive, iPod has a 32MB memory cache. The cache is made up of solid state memory, meaning that it has no mechanical or moving parts, so it is not affected by movement of the device. iPod skip protection works by preloading up to 20 minutes of music into the cache at a time. iPod plays music from the memory cache rather than the hard drive, so even rigorous activities won't cause music to skip.

Q. How do I charge iPod?

A. There are two ways to recharge the iPod battery. While you are transferring music or while you work on other desktop applications, you can charge iPod using the FireWire cable connected to your Mac. While you are on the go or away from your Mac, iPod can be charged from a standard electrical outlet using the included FireWire cable and power adapter.

Q. How long does it take to charge the iPod battery?

A. The fast-charge time for iPod is up to one hour. This charges the iPod battery to 80% capacity. The full-charge time is up to three hours.

Q. My iPod doesn't have an on/off switch. How do I turn it off?

A. Your iPod is designed to turn off when you're not using it. After two minutes of inactivity, iPod turns off by itself. To turn off iPod manually, hold down the Play/Pause button for two seconds.

Q. How do I reset my iPod?

A. To reset iPod, hold down the Menu button and the Play/Pause button simultaneously for about ten seconds. When you reset, iPod saves all your music, data files, and customized preferences. To return iPod to its original, "out-of-the-box" state, you will need to use the Updater to reformat the hard drive and restore the software.

Q. Will iPod charge while my computer is asleep?

A. No. FireWire does not charge or transfer music and data when your Mac is asleep or turned off. To prevent your computer from going to sleep, you can set your Energy Saver preferences to "never sleep." Or you can purchase a self-powered FireWire hub, which will allow you to charge and transfer music from your computer all the time, even when it's asleep. You can use the FireWire cable with the included power adapter to charge iPod without your computer.

Q. Does the iPod display support multiple languages?

A. Yes. iPod supports English, French, German, and Japanese. It can even display different languages simultaneously, so users can view their French songs (with native language CDDB tags) next to the American or even Japanese ones.

Transferring Music and Data to iPod

Q. How do I transfer music between iTunes and iPod?

A. iPod offers three ways to transfer music from your iTunes 2 music library. You can select one of the following update modes from the iPod Preferences menu in iTunes:

- *Update all music automatically.* This is the default mode, in which iTunes copies your entire music library, including playlists, to iPod when you connect it to your Mac and deletes songs on iPod that are not listed in iTunes. If your iTunes library exceeds the iPod storage capacity, it prompts you to select a different update method.
- *Update selected playlists.* With this option, iTunes automatically copies selected playlists to iPod whenever you connect to your Mac, and the songs on iPod that are not in the selected iTunes playlists are deleted.
- *Update manually.* You can also choose to transfer music to iPod manually. This enables you to drag and drop songs and playlists from iTunes to iPod.

Q. What if my music collection exceeds the storage capacity of iPod?

A. In the default automatic update mode, iTunes attempts to transfer your entire music collection to iPod when you connect via FireWire. If your music library exceeds the storage capacity of iPod, iTunes detects this, prevents automatic updating, and prompts you to select a different update method.

Q. I have a computer at home and one at work. Can I update my iPod music collection from more than one Mac?

A. Yes. When you first connect iPod to your Mac, iPod recognizes that Mac as its "home" computer. Each time you connect, iPod automatically downloads the music library stored on that Mac. When you connect iPod to a different Mac, iPod asks for permission before updating, or synchronizing, with this music library. If you choose automatic update, your iPod recognizes the second Mac as its home computer, and breaks the link with the original Mac. If you do not choose automatic update, iPod defaults to manual update mode, allowing you to selectively drag and drop songs, albums, or playlists from the second computer to your iPod.

Synchronization only occurs in one direction, from your Mac to your iPod. This means you cannot transfer music, automatically or manually, from your iPod to a computer, and you cannot use iPod to copy a music library from one computer to another.

Q. Can I update more than one iPod with my Mac?

A. Yes. Each iPod communicates a unique device identification number to your Mac, allowing you to take advantage of automatic music transfers to your iPod even if you share a computer with another iPod user. You can choose to automatically update your entire music collection on multiple iPod players or choose to update selected playlists, allowing you to transfer custom playlists to individual iPod players.

Q. How long does it take to transfer my music collection to iPod?

A. The amount of time varies depending on how much music you want to transfer. Using its FireWire connection, iPod can transfer a full 5GB of music from your Mac in less than 10 minutes—that's less than 10 seconds per CD! This is over 30 times faster than transferring music with the standard USB connections on most MP3 players. Best of all, FireWire charges your iPod battery whenever it's connected to your Mac. So while you're downloading your music collection, iPod is automatically charging—without requiring extra cables or adapters.

Q. How does the FireWire hard drive feature of iPod work?

A. iPod can double as a FireWire hard drive for your Mac. This allows you to transfer files and applications from your computer and take them with you wherever you go. To use iPod in FireWire disk mode, just connect it to your Mac using the FireWire cable. Within iTunes, select iPod in the Source list and click the iPod icon in the lower right corner of the screen. The iPod preferences window will come up. Click "Enable FireWire disk use" and click OK. An iPod icon will appear on your Mac desktop. To transfer data files, drag them to the iPod icon. iPod is smart enough to keep your data files separate from your music collection so that they will not be accidentally erased when you are updating your music. Note that music files copied to iPod in disk mode cannot be played in music mode.

As with any portable hard drive, you should drag the iPod icon to the Trash on your Mac desktop before disconnecting it, to avoid losing any information. This is not necessary when iPod is connected to your Mac for charging, but is not mounted on the desktop as an external drive.

Q. How do I remove the data files from my iPod?

A. As with other FireWire hard drives, data files can be removed by dragging them from iPod into the Trash on your Mac desktop.

Q. Since iPod doubles as a FireWire hard drive, can I also start up my Mac using iPod?

A. Yes, iPod can be with preloaded with system software and used to start up your Mac or to install system software on your Mac. Using iPod to start up your Mac with system software is an unsupported feature.

Compatibility and System Requirements

Q. Do I need to have a Mac to use iPod?

A. Yes, iPod is compatible only with Macintosh computers that have built-in FireWire. You use iTunes 2 on your Mac to create MP3s from your CD collection, manage your music library, and create custom playlists. Then automatically transfer your music and playlists from your Mac onto your iPod with the ultrafast FireWire connection. Disconnect the FireWire cable, and you have the freedom to take iPod with you for music anytime and anywhere.

Q. Can I connect iPod to my home stereo?

A. Yes. Third-party stereo adapters are available for listening to your iPod music library using home stereo speakers. Compatible devices must be self-powered and support audio output through a 3.5-mm headphone jack. For optimal sound quality when using external speakers

with iPod, set the iPod volume at less than half the maximum output, and adjust your listening volume through your stereo controls. This prevents overamplification, which can cause distortion and a reduction in audio quality.

Q. What's included with iPod?

A. iPod comes with earbud-style headphones, the Apple iPod Power Adapter, and a 2-meter FireWire cable. You also receive a CD-ROM with iTunes 2 software, electronic documentation, a getting started guide, and a 90-day limited warranty.

Q. What are the system requirements for iPod?

A. iPod requires a Macintosh equipped with FireWire. It is compatible with Mac systems running iTunes 2 for Mac OS X v10.1 or Mac OS 9.2.1.

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1 Based on an average song length of 4 minutes and 160-Kbps encoding.

2 Battery life may vary according to use.

3 1GB = 1 billion bytes; actual formatted capacity less.

4 iPod and iTunes are for legal or rightholder-authorized copying only. Don't steal music.

For More Information

For more information about iTunes or iPod, visit www.apple.com.

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1 Infinite Loop
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