iTunes 2 FAQ

Overview

Q. What are the benefits of digitizing and organizing my music collection on my computer?

A. Just as the popularity of compact disc technology revolutionized the way that songs were stored and enjoyed through the '80s and '90s, the personal computer is fast becoming a favorite new choice for collecting and experiencing music today. Building a personal digital music library on your computer allows you to store hundreds of CDs in one convenient place, using a high-quality and efficient compression format called MP3. An application like iTunes gives you instant access to all your music, so you don't have to search through stacks of CDs to find a specific song. And unlike CDs, which store only a song's track number, MP3s generated by iTunes automatically contain detailed information, including the song name, artist, album, genre, year recorded, and more. Music stored on your computer's hard drive provides a level of flexibility that has never before existed. In a few seconds, you can easily create playlists of your favorite music in the order that you want to hear it, allowing you to mix and match songs from different artists and albums. Playlists can be saved, rearranged, and revisited as often as you like, and can be transferred to a portable MP3 player or burned on a CD for tunes to go.

Q. How do I "rip" music from my CDs onto my hard drive?

A. Music on audio CDs is stored in an uncompressed digital format that retains full recording quality. Using iTunes, you can convert, or "rip," tracks into the MP3 format, which compresses the size of the file for more efficient storage. To rip files in iTunes, simply insert a music CD into your CD drive and iTunes automatically looks up the album on an Internet database to retrieve artist, album, and track information. The songs will appear in your iTunes window, and you can select which ones you want to convert to MP3 and click Import. iTunes encodes those tracks into MP3 format and automatically adds them to your music library.[1]

Q. What is MP3?

A. MP3 is short for Moving Picture Experts Group Audio Layer 3. It is the best-known of the digital audio formats and has been adopted by Internet users as the de facto standard for compressed music. The files can be compressed at different rates, but the less they are compressed, the better they sound. The default compression setting for iTunes is 160 kilobits per second (Kbps), which yields extremely high-fidelity music but is still compact enough to fit many songs onto most portable MP3 players. You can adjust the compression setting as desired.

iTunes 2

Q. What is iTunes?

A. Introduced in January 2001, Apple's iTunes is a simple yet powerful application for creating and organizing your digital music library. iTunes turns your Mac into a powerful digital jukebox, complete with easy-to-use tools for converting CD music into high-quality MP3 files, searching and browsing your entire collection, creating and managing playlists, downloading songs to MP3 players, listening to Internet radio stations, and even burning your own custom CDs.[1]

Q. What's new in iTunes 2?

A. iTunes 2 builds on the ease of use of the award-winning original iTunes, adding new features to make your listening experience even more enjoyable. Now you can choose from over 20 EQ presets to optimize your music for your listening environment, or create your own custom settings with a 10-band equalizer. Apple's new Sound Enhancer enlivens your music with additional richness and clarity, and the crossfader provides smooth transitions between songs. New technologies make burning audio CDs in iTunes up to twice as fast and allow you to create MP3 CDs, which store over 150 songs on a single disc.[2]

Q. How can I get iTunes 2?

A. You can download iTunes 2 for both Mac OS 9 and Mac OS X free of charge from www.apple.com/itunes.[3]

Q. Which audio formats does iTunes support?

A. iTunes includes support for the following audio formats:

- *MP3.* iTunes supports MP3 encoding at up to 320 Kbps (the highest available quality), as well as optional Variable Bit Rate (VBR mode).
- *AIFF.* The Audio Interchange File Format, or AIFF, creates an uncompressed file that is a perfect digital copy of the original CD audio track.
- *WAV.* Also known as Waveform Audio, WAV is an uncompressed file format that is recognized on Windows and Macintosh systems.

Q. Are there any restrictions to the MP3 encoding or CD burning features of iTunes?

A. No. One of the great features of iTunes is that it allows you to encode as many MP3 songs as you like, at bit rates of up to 320 Kbps. iTunes also takes advantage of both the PowerPC G4 with Velocity Engine and dual PowerPC G4 processors. On systems with supported CD-RW drives, you can burn as many custom CDs as you like, and iTunes works at the fastest burning speed supported by the drive.

Q. What is CDDB?

A. CDDB, also called Gracenote, is an Internet-based database with detailed information on all kinds of music recordings. When you insert a music CD into your Mac, iTunes goes to the Internet, accesses the CDDB service, and gathers details about the artist, album, track list, and more.[3] If your CD is not found in the CDDB database, you have the option to submit information about it yourself so that other users with the same CD can retrieve it automatically. To ensure that you have access to the most complete information available, iTunes also supports the newer CDDB2 version of this database. To learn more about CDDB, visit www.cddb.com or www.gracenote.com.

Q. Can I import MP3 files from other music management programs?

A. Yes. Because MP3 is a standard file format that is platform and application independent, you can import and play MP3s that were encoded with other programs or downloaded from the web. Simply drag the files from their desktop location into the iTunes window and they will be added to your music library automatically. Keep in mind that while MP3s recorded in iTunes are of the highest quality, the quality of MP3s encoded using other software may vary, and iTunes will reproduce this quality when you play the MP3s.

Q. Can I add MP3 files to my movies?

A. Yes. iMovie can import MP3 files from your iTunes music library and many other audio formats, making it easy to add a soundtrack to your movie or even create your own music videos.[1]

Taking Music with You

Q. How can I listen to my iTunes library when I'm not near my computer?

A. iTunes has built-in support for today's most popular MP3 players, so you can drag playlists to your MP3 player and enjoy your favorite music on the go. If your Mac has a CD-RW drive, you can also burn custom music CDs of your favorite songs to play in your car or home stereo. Simply insert a blank CD, select a playlist, and click Burn. iTunes 2 also supports MP3 CDs, giving you the power to burn more than 150 songs—up to 650MB—on a single disc.

Best of all, iTunes 2 is the perfect companion to Apple's new iPod. Small enough to fit in your pocket, iPod holds up to 1,000 songs[2] and offers 10 hours of playtime from the built-in rechargeable battery[4]—so you can take your entire music collection with you wherever you go. It also integrates effortlessly with your Mac: Just connect iPod to your computer via FireWire and it automatically downloads your entire iTunes music library—up to 1,000 songs—within minutes. Whenever you add new music or rearrange playlists in iTunes, simply plug iPod back in and it's automatically updated in seconds.

Q. What is iPod?

A. iPod is the first digital audio player to pack up to 1,000 songs and 10 hours of battery life into an ultraportable package you can take everywhere. While other music players available today force users to choose 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[5] 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.[1]

Burning Custom CDs

Q. Will iTunes 2 work with my external USB or FireWire CD-RW drive?

A. iTunes 2 supports selected third-party CD-RW drives. For a list of supported drives, please visit www.apple.com/itunes.

Q. What is the difference between CD-R and CD-RW, and which one should I use to create audio CDs?

A. CD-R is short for CD-recordable and CD-RW is short for CD-rewritable. CD-R discs are write-once, read-multiple discs that work just like standard CDs. CD-RW discs can be erased and reused. CD-R discs are not reusable but cost only about half as much as CD-RW discs and can also be used in most standard CD players. If you want to create CDs that work in most CD players and save some money as well, you should use CD-R discs.

Q. How many minutes of audio can be stored on a CD? What's the difference between an MP3 CD and an audio CD?

A. Standard audio CDs store 74 minutes of uncompressed music and offer the greatest compatibility with music players. To create an audio CD, your computer first converts your MP3s back into larger AIFF files before burning them to the CD. Alternatively, creating MP3 CDs allows you to burn the smaller MP3 files directly to CD, which enables you to store more music on the CD. Standard MP3 CDs can store 650MB, or over 150 MP3 songs that are 4 minutes in length and encoded at 128 Kbps. Unlike audio CDs, which lose all the track information (from CDDB) when they are burned, MP3 CDs retain all of the song, album, artist, and genre data.

Q. What devices support playback of MP3 CDs?

A. MP3 CDs can be played on Macintosh and Windows-based computers as well as many new consumer CD players. Check with individual manufacturers to see if their audio players support the MP3 CD format.

Compatibility and System Requirements

Q. Will iTunes 2 run on my Mac?

A. iTunes 2 works with all Apple systems that have built-in USB ports. iTunes 2 for Mac OS 9 requires Mac OS 9.0.4 or later; CD burning in Mac OS 9 requires Mac OS 9.1. Mac OS 9.2.1 is highly recommended. iTunes 2 for Mac OS X is available for systems running Mac OS X version 10.1.

Q. Can I share my music library between the Mac OS 9 and Mac OS X versions of iTunes?

A. Yes. You can make an alias of the iTunes music library in the Finder, then put the alias in the appropriate location for the other version of iTunes. Please see the "iTunes 2 for Mac OS X" Read Me file included with iTunes 2 for details.

Q. How can I tell if my MP3 player is compatible with iTunes 2?

A. iTunes 2 currently supports Apple's iPod as well as MP3 players from Creative Labs, Nakamichi, Nike, SONICblue, and more. Also compatible with iTunes 2 are several USB removable storage–based MP3 players, such as the Iomega HipZip. When plugged into your Mac, these players appear as a hard drive on your desktop. Using iTunes, you simply drag your songs or playlists to the drive's icon. For a complete, up-to-date list of supported MP3 players, check the iTunes website at www.apple.com/itunes.

[1] iPod, iTunes, and iMovie are for legal or rightholder-authorized copying only. Don't steal content.

[2] Capacity varies based on song length and compression rate.

[3] Requires Internet connection; access fees may apply.

[4] Battery life may vary according to use.

[5] 1GB = 1 billion bytes; actual formatted capacity less.

For More Information

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