

Introduction

I love music.

I was a musician back in the day, and today I spend several hours each day listening to or playing music. I have a CD collection that's somewhere north of 1,200 discs (and still growing), and I can't take even a short drive without turning up the tunes in my car.

For me, the iPod is a necessity.

I'm now on my fourth iPod. I started with a second-generation unit, moved on to a bright green iPod mini, and now have both an 80GB 5.5-generation video iPod and a 2G iPod shuffle. I take the big iPod with me when I travel to visit my girlfriend, which I do every few weeks, to provide music in my hotel room. I have the shuffle sitting next to my drumset in my home recording studio, and I use it to play along with my favorite tunes.

Of course, I'm not alone in my reliance on my iPods. There are more than 30 million iPod users out there—people like you and me who like to listen to music no matter where we might be. The iPod lets us do just that, and much more.

It's the much more that inspired me to write this book. *iPodpedia: The Ultimate iPod and iTunes Resource* is for the iPod user who wants to get as much as possible out of the iPod experience. It's not just about listening to songs; it's about downloading songs, ripping and burning them to and from CDs, creating interesting playlists, editing track data and artwork, and making your iPod sound as good as possible. And it doesn't stop with music; iPods can be used to play videos, podcasts, audiobooks, even games. You can use your iPod as a scheduler and a workout trainer. You can also use it to store and view digital photographs and to transfer data files from one computer to another.

And that's what this book is about—learning to do more stuff with your iPod. Much more stuff.

Not an Apple Lovefest

I should note that although I know a lot about what the iPod does and how it works, I'm not an Apple insider. I don't work for Apple and had no official contact with Apple while writing this book. That means I don't always take the company line. I tell you, as honestly as possible, when Apple gets it right and when it doesn't. After all, just because Apple is a benevolent dictatorship doesn't mean that it always acts in our best interests. I'm not obligated to put

on a positive face, which means you get the straight poop, good or bad.

I also try to remove myself, as much as possible, from Steve Jobs' legendary "reality distortion field." (I've experienced the field firsthand; during Jobs' late 1980s sabbatical from Apple, I was present at his introduction of the NeXT computer—and was so mesmerized I almost bought one on the spot.) I don't buy into everything Apple does just because it's Apple; style is fine, but real-world use is more about practicality than it is about Apple cool.

And here's something else. Like the vast majority of iPod users, I use a Windows PC. I don't use a Mac, and I never have, which means I approach the iPod from a purely Windows perspective. If that annoys a few Mac diehards, I apologize, but the reality is that the iPod is living in a Windows world, and that's how I deal with it.

So, don't expect an unquestioning Apple lovefest within these pages. Yeah, the iPod is the height of cool, and it does what it does very well, but it isn't perfect. And that's probably why you're buying this book, after all. If the iPod were flawless and totally self-explanatory to use, you wouldn't be looking for more information, would you? And more information is what this book contains.

How This Book Is Organized

iPodpedia contains a lot of information between its front and back covers. It was my job to supply the information; it's your job to find the information you want.

To make your job easier, this book is organized into six main parts, as follows:

- **Part I, "Background,"** provides an introduction to everything iPod—the history, the various models released over the years, and the new iPhone.
- **Part II, "Operation,"** provides step-by-step instructions for using the iPod, the iTunes software, and the iTunes Store.
- **Part III, "Applications,"** shows how to use your iPod and iTunes for the most popular applications—music, podcasts, audiobooks, photos, videos, and games.
- **Part IV, "Special Uses,"** details some very specific uses for the iPod—in the living room, in the car, as a portable storage device, to record audio and podcasts, for running and exercise, as a calendar/scheduler, and to manage your iTunes purchases.

- **Part V, “Secrets,”** goes inside the iPod and iTunes and presents all manner of fun and useful tips, tricks, and hacks.
- **Part VI, “Support,”** provides a detailed listing of available iPod accessories and software, and offers plentiful advice for troubleshooting iPod problems.

Finally, an appendix offers additional iPod-related resources—websites, blogs, forums, books, and the like.

Although I recommend reading this book in consecutive order, that isn’t completely necessary because each facet of iPod operation exists independent of the other facets. Just as it’s okay to skip around through the iPod’s various modes of operation, it’s also okay to skip around through the various chapters in this book. Read it in chapter order if you want (I think it flows fairly well as written) or read just those chapters that interest you. It’s okay either way.

Conventions Used in This Book

I hope that this book is easy enough to figure out on its own, without requiring its own instruction manual. As you read through the pages, however, it helps to know precisely how I’ve presented specific types of information.

Menu Commands

The iTunes software operates via a series of pull-down menus and submenus. The iPod itself operates via a series of clickable menus and submenus. To indicate navigation through both types of menu system, I use the following notation:

Main menu > Submenu

All you have to do is follow the instructions in order, using the Click Wheel to click through the iPod menus or your mouse to click through the iTunes menus. For example, if I tell you to select Music > Playlists on your iPod, you know to click Music on the main menu and then select Playlists on the next menu. It’s pretty easy.

Shortcut Key and Button Combinations

Some iTunes operations are best accomplished via the computer keyboard, often by pressing two keys at the same time. For that matter, some iPod operations require pressing two buttons at the same time. These two-key or two-button combinations are shown as the key/button names joined with a plus sign (+). For example, Menu + Select indicates that you should press the iPod's Menu and Select buttons at the same time. You know how it works.

Given the preponderance of Windows-based iPod users, I lead with the Windows menu and keyboard commands. When Mac commands differ, I place them in parentheses following the Windows command. But know that all the instructions presented in this book can be used by both Windows and Mac users.

Web Pages

Obviously, there are lots of web page addresses in the book, like this one: www.apple.com. When you see one of these addresses (also known as a URL), you can go to that web page by entering the URL into the address box in your web browser. I've made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the web addresses presented here, but given the ever-changing nature of the Web, don't be surprised if you run across an address or two that's changed. I apologize in advance.

Compatibility

Throughout the book I mention a lot of third-party iPod accessories and software. Most of these items can be used by both Windows and Mac users, but I'll make an effort to point out those that are Windows only or Mac only. (This is especially important when it comes to software.)

In addition, most of the instructions in this book apply to all model iPods, from the earliest first-generation unit to today's fifth-generation iPods, nanos, and shuffles. Note, however, that some operations are possible only on newer units; by necessity, this book covers the very latest models and the most recent version of the iTunes software (iTunes 7). Although you can probably translate some instructions for older models and versions, this book unapologetically focuses on the latest and greatest.

Special Elements

As you read through this book, you'll note several special elements, presented in what we in the publishing business call "margin notes." There are different types of margin notes for different types of information, as you see here.

In many chapters, you'll also find some personal commentary, presented in the form of a sidebar. These sections are meant to be read separately, because they exist "outside" the main text. And remember—these sidebars are my opinions only, so feel free to agree or disagree as you like.

Get Ready to iPod!

With all these preliminaries out of the way, it's now time to get started. But first, a few personal notes.

While you're researching iPod resources on the Web, I urge you to visit my personal website, located at www.molehillgroup.com. Here you'll find more information on this book and other books I've written—including an errata page for this book, in the inevitable event that an error or two creeps into this text. (Hey, nobody's perfect!)

You can also visit **iPodpedia: The Blog**, located at ipodpediatheblog.blogspot.com. This is where you'll find updates to the information presented in this book and the latest iPod-related news and developments.

Finally, know that I love to hear from readers of my books. If you want to contact me, feel free to email me at ipod@molehillgroup.com. I can't promise that I'll answer every message, but I do promise that I'll read each one!

note This is a *note* that presents information of interest, even if it isn't wholly relevant to the discussion in the main text.

tip This is a *tip* that might prove useful for whatever it is you're in the process of doing.

caution This is a *caution* that something you might accidentally do might have undesirable results.

AUTHOR'S PICKS This is a *pick*—an iPod accessory or software program that I personally recommend.