

Introduction to iTunes/iPod

iTunes is a proprietary digital media player application, used for playing and organizing digital music and video files. The program is **free**, and can be downloaded at: <http://www.apple.com/itunes/download/>.

The program is also an interface to manage the contents on Apple's popular iPod digital media players as well as the iPhone. Additionally, iTunes can connect to the iTunes Store via the Internet to purchase and download music, music videos, television shows, applications, iPod games, audiobooks, podcasts, feature length films and movie rentals (not available in all countries), and ringtones. It is also used to download applications for the iPhone and iPod touch running iPhone OS 2.0 or later.

You can upload your own CDs or buy songs on the web for roughly \$0.99 each.

Your music will be automatically organized alphabetically by the artist's name, but you can also organize the songs into playlists. When connected to an iPod or iPhone, the music in your iTunes library will be copied to that device (up to 5 other devices).

Click here to enter the iTunes Store

Click here for Internet radio

Previous track/back

Source list

Play/pause

Click to change a digital readout

Next track/forward

Now playing

List view/Grid view/Cover Flow view

Volume

Track list

Track status

Genius sidebar



Hide/show album art or video

Click column heads to sort

Start Genius

Cover flow window

Repeat

Show/hide Genius sidebar

Shuffle

New playlist

Album cover art

Playlists

iTunes/iPod Glossary of Terms

Burn

To record songs onto a CD or DVD.

DRM

Digital rights management (DRM) is a generic term for access control technologies that can be used by hardware manufacturers, publishers, copyright holders and individuals to try to impose limitations on the usage of digital content and devices. The term is used to describe any technology that inhibits uses (legitimate or otherwise) of digital content that were not desired or foreseen by the content provider.

In the past, this meant that you could not email, burn, or copy DRM-protected music files, such as those found in the iTunes music store, without having to provide account password information or being limited in how many times a file was copied. Now, however, the iTunes store is no longer restricted by DRM.

Equalizer

If you've ever tweaked the treble and bass controls on a stereo, you'll appreciate the equalizer. It allows you to adjust sound frequencies to match the genre of a song, the speakers on your system, or the ambiance of the room in which you're listening. Click on "window", then "equalizer" to open it. Make sure the box next to "on" is checked.

Genius

A feature that enables you to find new music—in your library and in the iTunes Store—related to music already in your library.

Gracenote

An online service that contains information about audio CDs. iTunes uses this database to display a CD's name, song titles, etc.

Import

To add music, video, and other media to your iTunes library.

iTunes Store

Online store, which can only be accessed through iTunes, that sells music, audiobooks, tv shows, movies, ringtones, and more. You can also download podcasts, many of them free, in the iTunes store.

MP3, AAC, Apple Lossless, AIFF, and WAV files

These are all acronyms for the format of your music files. There may be variance in sound quality between different formats, with "WAV" files being the highest quality but also taking up the most hard drive space. ALL of these types will play on an iPod or iPhone, though non-Apple music players may not. An iPod or iPhone will not play audio files in the ".wmv" format.

Files in the “AAC” format tend to be slightly smaller and with higher audio quality, but the “mp3” format is the most universally compatible- that is, it will play on apple and non-apple devices, as well as in many CD players.

When copying audio from a CD, you can decide how high you would like the quality to be by going into “Preferences”, and then “import settings”.

Playlist

A collection of songs that you create in iTunes. Create a playlist by clicking the “+” icon in the lower left-hand corner, then type in a name for your playlist, then add songs to it by dragging a song (or multiple) to the name of the playlist.

Podcast

A podcast is an audio or video program formatted to be played on the iPod and made available for free over the Internet. Podcasts may be downloaded from the iTunes store Podcast directory, OR from a website that produces a podcast, such as npr.org.

Shuffle

Play songs from an artist, album, or playlist in a random order.

Sound Check

Sound Check is a feature of iTunes, that can be used on the iPod, that normalizes the volume of the songs in your iTunes library. It does not actually change the volume of the original song.

Sync

To update an iPod, iPhone, or Apple TV so that it contains some or all of the music, video, and other files in your iTunes library.

Radio

With an internet connection, this connects you to streaming broadcasts from radio stations all over the world. It is entirely free, and is organized by musical genre. You can not pause, rewind, or record audio played on the Radio.

Rip/copy a CD

Ripping is the process of copying audio or video content to a hard disk, typically from a CD, or media devices such as an iPod. The word is used to refer to all forms of media. Despite the name, neither the media nor the data in it is damaged after extraction. The name probably derives from the act of "ripping off" the music industry.