The iPod Book: Doing Cool Stuff with the iPod and the iTunes Music Store, Second Ed.
By Scott Kelby
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Reviewed by Ivan “Rich” Richardson, NWAP Member
From Apple Pickin’s Newsletter

Are you or someone you know looking for an introductory iPod and iTunes book that is fun, non-threatening, and full of color pictures so you can actually see (and not just read about) how to use your iPod and iTunes? If so, then Scott Kelby’s book, The iPod Book: Doing Cool Stuff with the iPod and the iTunes Music Store will be just what the doctor ordered. To quote from the back cover: “It’s not a ‘tell-me-all-about-it’ book; it’s a ‘show-me-how-to-do-it’ book.” Mr. Kelby makes good on his promise by creating (again quoting from the back cover) “… a book that focuses on just the most important and most useful stuff about your iPod and the iTunes Music Store... “. The book is aimed at new iPod and iTunes users on either Mac or Windows platforms (differences are noted in the text).

I found Mr. Kelby’s writing style to be fun, irreverent, and a pure joy to read. It’s like having a witty computer-expert sitting next to you leading you through all the most common tasks you’ll need to do to get up and running quickly with your iPod and iTunes. He covers well over 100 tasks, each on its own page, with a full-color picture and just enough text to explain the task with some humor. He covers areas such as navigating on all iPod models through 2005, which would include the first iPod capable of playing video, plus the original iPod nano and iPod shuffle; the most common iPod accessories; bringing music into your iPod via either your existing CD collection or by finding and downloading music from the iTunes Music Store; using iTunes to organize your music collection. There are several additional tips (he calls them "iTips") interspersed throughout the book. The Table of Contents lists each task individually under each chapter; the index is thorough and well-designed, making use of bold-face type for keywords.

The book itself is divided into thirteen chapters and an appendix (plus aforementioned Table of Contents and Index). The thirteen chapters cover the following topics: The Chapter for People Who Must Play a Song Right Now, How to Work the Stuff on the Outside of Your iPod, iPod Essentials, Cool iPod Tips & Tricks, Using the iPod in Your Car, Using Your iPod’s Photo Features, iTunes Essentials, Playlists and Smart playlists, Using the iTunes Music Store, Cool iTunes Tips, iPod Accessories (and the iTunes Phone), How to Use Apple’s iPod shuffle, and How to Download (and Create Your Own) Podcasts. Although there is not a specific companion website for the book, Mr. Kelby’s website, <www.scottkelbybooks.com>, does talk about this book and other books the author has written. One such book, Macintosh: The Naked Truth, is a must read (especially if you deal with Windows users on a regular basis). I highly recommend
Scott Kelby’s book, *The iPod Book: Doing Cool Stuff with the iPod and the iTunes Music Store* is an excellent beginner’s guide to using your iPod and iTunes. I highly recommend this book be given to anyone who recently acquired an iPod. I also strongly recommend this book if you are planning on purchasing an iPod for a loved one this Christmas (especially if this is their first iPod). Even though this is not an O’Reilly publishing “Missing Manual” book, this is without a doubt “The Book that Should Have Been in the Box”.