

Appendix

Helpful iPod Resources

As much as I'd like to believe that this book represents all that's worth knowing about the iPod (and a bit more), I understand that even a book as comprehensive as this one can't provide some things: up-to-the-minute iPod information, forums for exchanging ideas about your favorite music player, and an outlet for the coolest new iPod gear. With that in mind, I'd like to direct you to some helpful—and oftentimes entertaining—iPod-centric areas of the Internet. I hope you enjoy them as much as I do.

iPodlounge (www.ipodlounge.com)

Dennis Lloyd's iPodlounge has it all: late-breaking news; user guides; product reviews; interviews with iPod luminaries; links to downloads of iPod-related software; an iPod FAQ; gear giveaways; and lively, well-populated forums. Don't worry—you won't find all this content overwhelming. The site is well organized and easy to navigate.

The forums in particular are worth visiting. Invariably, when a cool new iPod hack hits the streets or a new problem crops up, it's being discussed in the iPodlounge forums by a host of

knowledgeable users and moderators. The forums have a good mix of Windows and Mac iPod users (and even a few Linux folks) and very few “nyah-nyah, my operating system is better than yours” squabbles. If you’re at all serious about the iPod, visit this site frequently.

iPoding (www.ipoding.com)

iPoding is also worth a bookmark. Although some of the links on the main page are a little out of date (for example, it still offers a link that tells you how to record audio with the 2.0 firmware diagnostic test, even though the 2.1 upgrade supports recording directly into the iPod), there’s a lot of good material in here. When a new iPod model comes along, iPoding is one of the first places to check for pictures of its insides.

iPoding stays on top of news on its main page and includes links to the news items being discussed. Like iPodlounge, iPoding lets visitors comment on each news piece. The site’s forums are a little less well attended than those offered by iPodlounge, but the people who frequent them are knowledgeable and helpful.

iPodHacks (www.ipodhack.com)

As its name implies, this site is a good one to visit when you want to muck around with your iPod (or see how others are mucking around with theirs). Like iPodlounge and iPoding, the iPodHacks home page offers lots of helpful news items and links, including links to some of the most interesting forum posts. You’ll also find links to the latest cool iPod-related downloads.

Apple’s iPod Discussion Area (<http://discussions.info.apple.com>)

Apple kindly offers forums in the support area of its Web site. These forums—which Apple terms Discussions—are great places to visit when you want to gauge how a particular iPod or iPod software update is faring among other iPod owners. If there are problems with a new iPod model or update, iPod owners dash to these forums to voice their displeasure. Although a goodly portion of the problems you read about here are of the “Hmm, that doesn’t happen to me” variety, you can

get a sense of how common a problem is (or how cool a new feature is) by scanning the thread headings in the Usage area.

On this page, you'll also find links to the latest iPod software, a feedback section, the iPod FAQ, and the iPod Support Page.

Doug's AppleScripts for iTunes (www.malcolmadams.com/itunes)

I apologize to my Windows readers for this one. Because Windows doesn't support AppleScript—a scripting language created by Apple for automating tasks on the Macintosh—this link will do you little good (other, perhaps, than making you consider purchasing a Macintosh). But for Mac users, this site is a treasure trove of cool scripts that allow you to do wonderful things with iTunes and your iPod.

Such as?

How about a script that uses Apple's built-in speech capabilities to translate a text file into an audio file and then downloads that spoken-word file to your iPod? Or a script that copies files from one mounted iPod to another without leaving those files on your Mac's hard drive? Or a script that uses the name and artist of the current or selected track to pull up the song's lyrics from Google?

The Apple Store (<http://store.apple.com>)

The online and retail Apple Stores have a good collection of iPod accessories—those made by Apple, such as the Dock, Remote Control, and the USB 2.0/FireWire cable for Windows iPods, as well as some third-party gear. The Apple Store isn't the place for bargain shopping, because everything it offers sells for list price, but often, it's the only place you can find certain items.

everythingipod (www.everythingipod.com)

If you're looking for a selection of iPod gear a little broader than what you'll find at the Apple Store, check out EverythingiPod. On this site, you can buy a lot of the gadgets I mention in these pages for a few bucks off list price.