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How To Connect Your iPod To Your Home Entertainment System?

By Beverly Kane

Music fans everywhere are tuning in to iPods. To get going with an iPod is not difficult. After you purchase one you can download off the computer, your favorite tunes, right onto the iPod. The flexibility of song choices and its small compact size make the iPod great for those seeking portability. Just like the Walkman's of old iPods can be used for exercising, walking, waiting in lines, simply clip it on and plug in your headphones or ear buds and go.

Now that you have taken all the time to search, find, and sort your own personal top 100 or so tunes wouldn't it be nice if you could use your iPod to play them on your supersonic, surround sound home stereo system? Or, if you are planning on throwing a party and have prepared a special song mix for it, you can simply download those tunes to your iPod and play them on your home system. Using some cables and a dock you could be on your way to enjoying your iPod tune selections at home as well.

Using the headphone jack on your iPod you can connect it to your home stereo. Visit a local electronics stores such a Radio Shack, and purchase a 3.5 mm RCA adapter cable. This is the same size as a standard headphone jack. Now you can connect your iPod to the amplifier's sound input. When you try this for the first time you should make sure your iPod's volume is set below its half way point. You will be using the stereo's control to adjust the volume. You don't want to blow your stereo's amplifier speakers by having your iPod volume cranked. If you need to you can always adjust your iPod volume after you have determined that it is necessary.

Curious about universal docking? The universal dock works with multiple electronics devices, just like a universal remote. You can use a universal dock to connect your iPod to your computer. A cable should have come with your iPod when you purchased it for this purpose. When you put your iPod in this you are able to sync and charge it. When you plug your dock into an electrical outlet with your iPod Power Adapter you can also charge the battery. You can also dock your iPod to your stereo or speakers using an iPod AV cable or an audio cable from the stereo and now play music using your iPod. If you want to get really fancy you can control your iPod from a distance using an Apple remote control.

If your iPod has video capabilities or a color display you can connect it to your TV and view photos or watch videos. You can do this by using the iPod's AV cable or a S-video cable.

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You can also connect your iPod to your car's stereo system using the auxiliary input on your car's stereo. Take a 3.5 mm cable with stereo connectors on each end and plug it into the auxiliary input. If your car's system lacks an input jack you can use a cassette adapter.

So, while an iPod with its ability to store your personal favorite tunes, may simply seem like an improvement on the old Walkman it has many more functions that you only need a few cables to utilize.

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How To Convert Video In Your iPod?

By Beverly Kane

Thinking about upgrading your iPod, or maybe making a first time iPod purchase? Did you know that now, iPod is video capable? The majority of people don't yet know how to encode videos to a portable device that have strict format requirements, unless they own something like a PSP. The resolution and bit rates of the videos you can use on your iPod have limits and iPod and PSP's are only capable of playing MPEG-4 encoded videos with AAC audio tracks. I know it sounds complicated but it's really not all that difficult to do.

The Quick Time Pro 7 software is a great program to help you make videos for your iPod. It allows you to convert the video you want to use into the correct format for the iPod, pretty easily. After you've checked to make sure you are using the newest version of Quick Time Pro available, whether it's 7 or higher, you'll want to choose the "Open File", option from the File menu in the toolbar across the top of the window. Locate and select the video you want to convert and then click the "Open" button. Next, you will have to "Export". You can find that option also in the File menu of the toolbar. You'll be given the choice to "Move to iPod (320x240)", then click on "Save". Watch for the Export progress bar, that lets you know when the exporting of your video is complete.

Once the export is complete, taking more time for longer movies, you'll find the newly converted movie on your desktop. Now it's ready for play in your iPod. Before you do anything else, it's important to play the new version of the movie to be sure it has converted correctly. See, much simpler to do, than it sounds!

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Before you can move the video to your iPod, make sure you iTunes version 6. You will need this program for your next step. Here's the easy part; once you've opened iTunes click on the converted video file and drag it to your iTunes library. You can put it into the playlist or folder, it's your choice. Now you'll need to connect your iPod to your computer, making sure it's synchronized with iTunes. If at this point you'd like to play the movie, just click on "Videos", then "Movies" from the iPod's main menu. Any other movies you have will be listed here as well.

Did you know, you can also watch TV shows from your iPod? In order to do this, there are a few things you will need, such as an iPod-compatible video converted, an A/V cable and a video-capable iPod.

Once you have those items, you can configure your iPod video options which allow how you export. Go to your iPod video options screen, here you can decide how the iPod will playback the video. First go to "Videos", and then choose "Video Settings" from the iPod main menu. You'll see several options to choose from like: TV Out, Widescreen and TV Signal. Tweak these settings to your specifications and choose the video playback style you need. To control whether your iPod plays the video from the built-in screen or is transmitted out through the microphone jack, click on "TV OUT", option. Select "No" if you want the video to playback on the iPod, "Yes" if you want a TV signal produced. If this is not the way you intend all playbacks, click the "Ask", option.

The new video iPod is very user friendly as you can see. So now that you know how to convert video files and watch your favorite TV shows, your ready to start making video's on the go!

Beverly Kane is a staff writer at

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