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How To Make Your Ipod Uniquely Yours

By Beverly Kane

iPods are extremely popular. People are choosing these personal audio players because they want

their music with them while they are working, playing or at home relaxing. There are so many different ways to personalize your iPod to suit your own taste and style.

If you'd like to make a bold fashion statement with your iPod, there are a multitude of options. Designer skins, also known as tattoos, prevent scratches to your equipment. They come in a variety of colors and styles, but still provide access to all of the iPod's features. You can get ultra-bright colors, zippy designs or even pictures. How about your corporate logo or your zodiac sign? These features can be printed on self-adhesive vinyl, so your case and accessories can be used while they're on. These skins are durable and last long. They'll stay beautiful even with everyday use. You can even get stick-on crystals to make it sparkle; they also come in an array of colors and shapes. It will definitely give your iPod a unique flavor.

A carrying case will allow you take your iPod everywhere you want to go. They protect the case from exposure to the weather and provide the option of clipping your iPod on your clothing, allowing you easier portability. A carrying case will also protect your iPod from all the nasty things that can happen to it, while still, of course, allowing you access to the necessary features. They also come in a variety of styles and colors, from colorful silicon to tasteful black leather.

Armbands will make your iPod even more portable. These allow you to attach your iPod to your upper arm, so you will be able to listen to your music while you exercise. Available in many colors and styles tailored to your individual taste, armbands offer a convenient hands-free alternative.

Neck straps also allow easy portability. It will hang around your neck, allowing easy reach while still having the ability to use your hands for other things. Coming in a variety of colors, they double as wrist straps and also as a cell phone holder.

Portable speakers are yet another way to make your iPod yours alone. Small speakers provide portability, large speakers will allow you to let loose with the sound. Available in a variety of price ranges, portable speakers offer a way to share your personal iPod play list with friends.

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If you prefer to keep your music to yourself, headphones are another alternative. Your options are many: tiny ear buds all the way up to fancy noise cancellation headphones. A Y splitter is also available if you decide to share your music with a second set of earphones.

A variety of chargers are also available. If your iPod needs more battery power, you have the ability to charge it at home or on the road. Some chargers offer protective casings or even the option of picking up FM radio signals.

There are a variety of new things you can plug into your iPod. Mechanical toys, alarm clocks, microphones, nearly anything you can think of can be plugged into your iPod. Even a connector for your digital camera is available, allowing you to download and view photos when you are not near your computer.

In order to keep up with the iPod frenzy, manufacturers are hard at work, thinking up new products that are compatible with your iPod. Kolcraft has made a stroller with an iPod pocket. Thomas Pink is making shirts with pockets specially designed for an iPod and a commuter tie with a hidden iPod pocket in the back. Backpacks, purses, and diaper bags are all being designed with bigger pockets to accommodate them.

But in the end what really makes your iPod unique is what you put on it. Podcasts, movies, music - an enormous selection of media is available to put on it. This is what really turns people on about the iPod: the variety of options. Hip-hop and country, and then how about a little alternative music, a polka or some heavy metal, this is a selection that even satellite radio can't match. Download the latest movie, your favorite television show, or just listen to the news.

It's understandable why the iPod is one of the most popular new devices around; there are many different ways to make it your own. And because there are so many ways to make it yours, you will certainly find one that is perfect for your style and taste.

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How To Connect Your iPod To Your Home Entertainment System?

By Beverly Kane

How To Make Your Ipod Uniquely Yours

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.

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.

Beverly Kane is a staff writer at

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