

# Geek Out, Don't Freak Out!

## Portable Audio Players (MP3/iPod)

### Resources and Further Reading



#### **Books**

*iPod & iTunes : the missing manual* by J.D. Biersdorfer. **CALL #: 006.5 BIE**

*How to Do Everything With MP3 and Digital Music* by Dave Johnson and Rick Broida

#### **Articles**

“How to buy an MP3 player.” *PC World*, May 9, 2006, <http://tinyurl.com/y5tbl>.

#### **Web Sites**

**CNET Editors' MP3 player Buying Guide**

<http://tinyurl.com/yll36c>

This isn't your average buying guide. Easy questions guide you through all of the various features you should consider when buying an MP3 player or an iPod, to help choose a portable audio player to fit your needs.

**Circuit City: Click & Learn: MP3 Players & iPods**

<http://tinyurl.com/yymj3z>

Basics on getting started, including adding files to your player, ripping (converting) your CDs into player-friendly files, and more

**iPod: About compatible song formats**

<http://tinyurl.com/8rs2w>

Learn the different song formats (codecs) and sample rates that work with iPod.

**MP3 101: Listening it up on the right side of the law**

<http://tinyurl.com/ykg8f4>

A MethodShop.com article about how MP3 files work, different types of MP3 players, and where to find MP3s online.

**Wikipedia: Digital audio player**

<http://tinyurl.com/ybazwo>

All about different types of players, the sound files that go on them, history, brands, and related links.



## **QUICK GLOSSARY**

[Includes information from from <http://pages.ebay.com/buy/guides/mp3-players-glossary/glossary/> and <http://tinyurl.com/yymj3z> (CircuitCity.com)]

### **AAC: Advanced Audio Coding**

Audio file format used by iTunes that provides audio quality close to uncompressed CDs. AAC file size is smaller than MP3 and offers better quality AIFF: Audio Interchange File Format Large, CD-quality audio files used as the standard audio format on computers using the Mac operating system.

### **ASF: Advanced Streaming Format**

Streaming media format developed by Microsoft.

### **Bit rate**

Also called data transfer rate, bit rate describes the number of bits of data transferred between devices in a specific amount of time.

### **CompactFlash Card**

Type of memory card invented by SanDisk and used by digital cameras, MP3 players, PDAs, digital voice recorders, and photo printers.

### **Compress**

Shrink file size using a format not usually employed by a specific file type.

### **FireWire**

Apple's name for the IEEE 1394 high speed external bus standard with data transfer rates up to 400Mbps.

### **GB: Gigabyte**

Data storage measurement. One gigabyte equals 1,024 megabytes.

### **ID3 tags**

Embedded MP3 track information including a song's title, album, and artist. Most audio players with a display can show this info so you can sort and manage music tracks.

### **iPod**

Apple's line of MP3 players.

### **LCD: Liquid Crystal Display**

Type of digital monitor used for PDA and MP3 player displays.

### **MB: Megabyte**

Data storage measurement where one megabyte equals 1,048,576 bytes.

### **Memory card**

Removable storage media used in some digital cameras, MP3 players, PDAs, digital video cameras, cell phones, and photo printers.



### **MP3**

Short for MPEG-1, audio layer 3, this audio compression format removes irrelevant information in a song, shrinking original CD sound data with a bit rate of 1411.2 kilobits per second stereo.

### **MultiMediaCard (MMC)**

Type of memory card used in digital cameras, MP3 players, and PDAs.

### **Podcast**

A method of publishing files to the Internet, allowing users to subscribe to a feed and receive new files automatically by subscription, usually at no cost.

### **Podcatcher, or Podcast Receiver**

A type of software known as an aggregator, used to subscribe to and manage podcast feeds. iTunes and Juice both qualify as podcatchers.

### **Rip (Ripping)**

To copy audio tracks from an ordinary audio CD and save them to hard disk as a WAV, MP3 or other audio file, which can then be played, edited, written back to another CD, or synced to an audio player.

### **SecureDigital (SD) Card**

Popular type of memory card that work in MP3 players, digital cameras, digital video cameras, cell phones, PDAs, and electronic books.

### **Skin**

Fitted portable media player covering designed to protect the player while changing its external appearance. Applying a skin is not permanent and does not void the player's warranty or affect functionality.

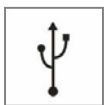
### **Sync**

Short for "synchronization," the process of transferring files from one place to another so that the lists of files in both places match.

### **Stream (Streaming)**

Audio that is transmitted over the Internet and played while it is being received.

### **USB: Universal Serial Bus**



Standard protocol for transferring data to and from digital devices. USB 1.1 offers a data transfer rate of 12 Mbps. USB 2.0 offers theoretical data transfer rates up to 480Mbps. Real-world tests often prove FireWire faster than USB 2.0.

### **WAV: WAVEform audio format**

A standard file format standard for storing audio on PCs. This type of lossless storage keeps all the samples of an audio track, providing maximum audio quality, but the file sizes are much larger than other file types.

### **WMA: Windows Media Audio**

An audio compression format similar to MP3, but with digital rights management (copy protection and usage restrictions) built-in by Microsoft.