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Taking Your iPod touch to the Max

- ▶ *EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE ALL NEW IPOD TOUCH WITH iOS 4*
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- ▶ *LEARN TO BUY AND READ eBOOKS FROM iBOOKS, KINDLE, AND MORE ON YOUR IPOD TOUCH*



Michael Grothaus and Erica Sadun

TUAW
SECOND EDITION

Taking Your iPod touch to the Max

Second Edition



Michael Grothaus
Erica Sadun

Apress®

Taking Your iPod touch to the Max, Second Edition

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To my niece, who will be born by the time this book is published. I can only wonder what technology will be like by the time you reach my age.

—Michael

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About the Author



Michael Grothaus is an American novelist and journalist living in London. He was first introduced to Apple computers in film school and went on to use them for years to create award-winning films. After discovering many of Hollywood's dirty little secrets while working for 20th Century Fox, he left and spent five years with Apple as a consultant. He's since moved to Europe and written his first novel. Currently, Michael is a staff writer for AOL's popular tech news site TUAW.com, where he regularly interviews tech CEOs and writes about all things Mac. He is also the coauthor of Apress' *Taking Your iPad to the Max*. When not writing, he spends his time traveling Europe, Northern Africa, and Asia. *Epiphany Jones*, a novel about trafficking and America's addiction to celebrity, is his latest book. You can contact him at www.michaelgrothaus.com.

About the Technical Reviewer

Erica Sadun holds a PhD in computer science from the Georgia Institute of Technology. She has written, cowritten, and contributed to almost three dozen books about technology, particularly in the areas of programming, digital video, and digital photography. An unrepentant geek, Sadun has never met a gadget she didn't need. Her checkered past includes run-ins with NeXT, Newton, and a vast myriad of both successful and unsuccessful technologies. When not writing, she and her geek husband parent three adorable geeks-in-training, who regard their parents with restrained bemusement. *Eight Ways to Get the Most out of Your Zune*, the O'Reilly Short Cut, and *Modding Mac OS X*, also from O'Reilly, are her latest books. She also wrote the first edition of *Taking Your iPhone to the Max*.

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—Michael

Introduction

It's been just over nine years since Apple first introduced the iPod to the world. In that short time span, technology—and the iPod itself—has progressed in leaps and bounds. The first iPod had a black-and-white screen and a mechanical scrollwheel interface. This latest iPod, the fourth generation of the iPod touch, has a Retna display that allows you to view videos in high definition and a Multi-Touch screen that lets you interact with your device like never before. The first iPod was solely for music. This iPod touch is for, well, everything it seems.

Apple's latest iteration of its wonder gadget leapfrogs even last year's model. It's so advanced that it seems like a device you've pulled from five years in the future. The newest iPod touch is thinner than ever before. It adds a built-in microphone, a rear camera that can take beautiful still pictures or even record your life in high-definition video, and a high-resolution display. Perhaps most noticeable of all, the latest iPod touch introduces a front-facing camera with FaceTime technology that allows you to video call anyone with a compatible FaceTime device. There are so many new features added to this iPod touch that, even if you've owned an iPod touch before, getting used to everything that has changed can be daunting. That's where this book comes in.

This is the second edition of *Taking Your iPod touch to the Max*. It has been completely revised and updated with entirely new content, images, and tips. We talk you through the iPod touch's new operating system, iOS 4.1, and all of its new features including multitasking, HD video recording, creating folders, and, of course, FaceTime—the revolutionary new way for you to communicate with your friends and family. You'll learn the gesture-based, Multi-Touch vocabulary that allows you to manipulate the iPod and its hundreds of thousands of apps. We'll show you how to connect to the Internet, browse the Web, touch your music and videos, and find and download apps from the App Store. You'll discover how to buy and navigate books using Apple's incredible iBooks app, view slide shows and photos, send e-mail, create notes and calendars, and even stream video from your iPod to your TV.

This book is written for anyone with an iPod touch or who is thinking of getting one (you won't be sorry!). It doesn't matter whether you're a Mac or Windows user or, in fact, even if you've never used a computer at all. This book's thorough coverage and step-by-step discussions allow all iPod touch owners to learn about their device and come away with both the skills and the knowledge they need to use it to its fullest.

How you read the book is up to you. If you are totally new to the iPod touch (or computers in general), we suggest you read the book cover to cover, but feel free to jump around from chapter to chapter if that works better for you. For readers who have owned iPod touches before, you may benefit the most from checking out the chapters on the major new features first. However, there are so many new, subtle changes to almost every aspect of the iPod touch and its iOS operating system that even experienced users will benefit from reading the entire book.

Have fun while you're learning everything that the iPod touch can do. It's the future in the palm of your hands, and it's a blast. Thanks for letting us show it to you.

Bringing Home the iPod Touch

Since 2001, the iPod has changed the way we listen to our music. It has allowed us to carry virtually our entire music collection around with us in a beautiful little package, and thanks to its unique scroll wheel, it has made that beautiful little package easy to navigate. Each year the iPod has evolved, getting physically smaller while its storage capacity and popularity have grown. Then came the iPod touch, and Apple reinvented what the MP3 player was capable of. The iPod touch, like its predecessor, quickly became the best MP3 player on the market, but it was so much more than *just* an MP3 player. It added Internet capabilities, a Multi-Touch display, and hundreds of thousands of apps for almost anything you could imagine. Now Apple's iPod touch offers amazing features such as front and rear cameras with FaceTime video calling, a high-resolution Retna display, and Apple's incredibly fast A4 processor.

You're about to read how to pick and purchase your iPod touch, how to bring that baby home with you, and how to get started using it. This chapter covers the first steps you'll need to take and the decisions you'll need to make.

Buying Your iPod Touch

If you don't already have an iPod touch, your first two decisions are which model to buy and where to buy it. The following sections cover some things to consider in the decision-making process.

Picking Your iPod Touch

In the world of the touch, the choices aren't wide. As with other iPods, usually only a couple of models are available at a particular time. In the iPod touch's case, there are three different models, and their only difference is the size of their memory, or storage capacity.

So, how do you choose the model that is right for you? It all comes down to the storage capacity. Do you want to pay more for a few more gigabytes of memory? It's not as if those extra gigabytes offer an inexhaustible resource. With enough videos and movies, you can easily run out of storage on a 160GB iPod classic, let alone the flash-memory-based iPod touch. Here are some questions you need to ask yourself:

How big is your music library? If it's large, the extra space on some iPod models helps store additional music and podcasts. Remember that you don't need to bring your entire media collection with you—and with the iTunes Wi-Fi Music Store, you can buy music and movies on the go.

How many videos do you want to carry around? A single two-hour movie can occupy more than a gigabyte of storage. If you travel a lot, especially on airplanes, you may want to pay more to store additional movies and TV shows with those extra gigabytes. A few extra gigabytes can make a big difference in deciding whether you have the space to rent or buy a video on the go.

Do you plan to carry a lot of pictures? Although pictures are pretty small, if you carry a few thousand of them around, they do add up to some serious storage consumption. Did you laugh at the idea of carrying that many pictures around on your iPod? Apple's built-in iPhoto support makes it simple to put years of photo archives onto your touch with a single synchronization option.

Do you plan to take a lot of pictures or record a lot of video? The iPod touch can both take and record still photos and HD video. Recording a lot of HD video takes up space. The larger the storage capacity of the iPod touch, the more video you can record.

Are you going to download a lot of apps? There are hundreds of thousands apps available on Apple's App Store. Some apps are very small, taking up less than 1MB of disk space. Other apps—notably games—can take up hundreds of megabytes, even gigabytes, of space. What's more, apps can consume additional space by saving documents, downloading data, and so on. It's not just about the initial download.

The more apps you have on your iPod, the more space you take up.

Do you need to carry a lot of data? You might not think of your iPod as a data storage device, but there are ways to use it to bring data along with you on the road. If you think you might need to do this, those extra gigabytes could be put to good use.

How long do you plan to use this iPod? If you're an early adopter who plans to trade up at the earliest possible opportunity whenever Apple offers a new unit, you may want to save your pennies now and trade space for the fiscal liquidity to support your little habit. But if you want to get the most use out of the iPod for the longest period of time, paying more up front means you won't outgrow the memory quite as fast.

Considering System Requirements

As with all iPods, in order to effectively use your touch, you will need a computer with a Universal Serial Bus (USB) 2.0 port and an Internet connection running iTunes 10.0 or newer. iPods need to connect to your computer on a regular basis to synchronize music, photos, calendars, and so forth. Nearly all music, video, and data management is done through the iTunes program on your computer. You need iTunes for loading media onto your iPod and synchronizing it to your computer-based calendar and bookmarks. At the time this book was written, you'll also need to be running a Mac with 10.5.8 or newer or a PC with Windows Vista, Windows 7, Windows XP Home, or Professional (SP3) or newer.

Before you purchase that iPod, ask yourself whether you have a computer that has all these features available. If not, you might not be able to properly use your iPod.

NOTE: If you haven't yet put iTunes on your computer, grab your free copy from www.apple.com/itunes. Versions are available for both OS X and Windows systems, and installing iTunes is quick and easy.

Deciding Where to Buy Your iPod

After deciding which model you want, you're probably ready to pull out your credit card and get that iPod (see Figure 1–1). Where should you go? To an Apple Store? To another retailer like Target? Or should you buy online? Here are some points to consider.

Availability: Non-Apple retailers may or may not have the most up-to-date Apple units. Apple retail stores and Apple's online store always do. Third-party retailers often have a better repository of cheaper out-of-date units, though. And it's not that Target/Costco doesn't carry new iPods; it's that there's usually a few weeks or month delay in stocking new stuff.

Price: As far as the online/offline question goes, price-wise it's mostly a wash. At a store or online, you'll pay the same amount for your iPod. The taxes are the same, and shipping is free. Non-Apple retailers rarely offer price breaks on Apple products, although they sometimes offer deals, such as included gift cards, that provide extra value for your money.



Figure 1-1. The iPod touch in its acrylic packaging. You can purchase your touch online at <http://store.apple.com>, at a brick-and-mortar Apple Store, or at third-party retailers.

Refurbs: If you want to buy a refurbished iPod touch, select retailers sell refurbished models. Refurbished models usually debut a few months after product rollout.

Wait: Buying at a store means you don't need to wait—the iPod is in your hands immediately. Buying online means your product must be shipped, and you'll need to pay extra if you want expedited service.

Engraving: If you want your iPod engraved, you can do so online at the Apple Store. Apple offers free laser engraving with your iPod purchase. This allows you to add a personal message or identifying information, such as an e-mail address or phone number, that will help your iPod make its way back to you if lost.

Hands-on testing: Whether you make your purchase online or at a retail location, you can always walk into an Apple retail store and test an iPod in person before you buy one. Of course, once you're there, it's pretty easy to hand over a credit card and walk out of the store with a new iPod touch right there and then.

The personal touch: Unless you need an online-only feature (such as engraving), we recommend buying in person at a store. You can ask questions. You can make human connections. If something goes wrong with your purchase, a person is there to help you work through it. This is not to say that calling Apple's support line is insufficient, but being face-to-face with a real person makes solutions happen more readily.

NOTE: A significant, although small, percentage of iPod purchases do not go smoothly. Some people end up with a screen flaw, such as dead screen pixels, which appear as small, black dots on your display. If such a problem is found soon after purchase, it may involve a trade for a new unit. The chances of resolving issues increase significantly when you talk to someone in person. The chances increase further when you deal with certain retailers with superior consumer-protection policies. Apple or (even better) Costco policies generally produce more satisfactory results than Target or Best Buy policies.

Understanding Return and Exchange Policies

When your touch is purchased from Apple, standard iPod return and exchange policies are in effect. These policies are distinct from the ones that apply to iPod touch's cousin, the iPhone. The touch policies are, instead, in line with other iPods:

- You have 14 days from the time of purchase to return or exchange your unit.
- A 10 percent open box fee will be assessed on any opened hardware or accessory.
- You cannot return the iPod if it has been engraved.

In addition to these policies, Apple will usually swap out, without penalty, any unit that's clearly defective because of manufacturing issues.

Bringing Your iPod Home

Once you buy your iPod touch, it's time to take it home and get it set up. This involves several steps. First, you unpack the box and review its contents. Then you connect it to your computer and prepare the touch for day-to-day use. The following sections will walk you through this process.

Unpacking Your iPod Touch

iPod packaging (see Figure 1–2) is a small work of art. The touch ships in an acrylic package that contains the player, a USB connector cable, those famous white earbuds, and a packet of documentation. Each of these items is important and will help you in your day-to-day use of your iPod.



Figure 1–2. *The iPod touch package combines compactness with beauty. It contains your new iPod as well documentation, earbuds, and more.*

Here's a rundown of what's in the box:

Cable: The USB cable attaches your iPod to your computer.

Stereo headset (earbuds): It wouldn't be an iPod without those iconic white earbuds. Seriously, you can do better both in terms of audio quality and protecting your ears, but people do love those white earbuds. They tell the world that you're listening to iPod.

Reviewing the iPod Touch Features

After unpacking your iPod, take a few minutes to discover more about your new purchase. Figure 1-3 identifies the basic features on your touch.

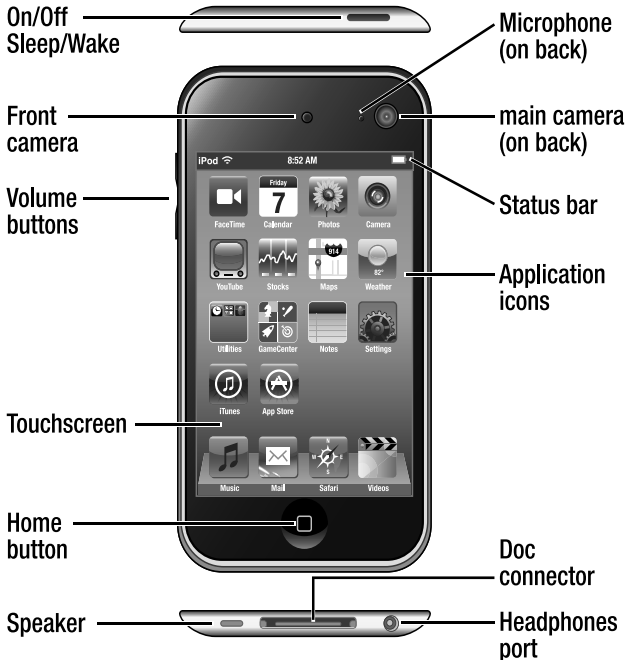


Figure 1-3. Some important iPod touch features include the Sleep/Wake button, which allows you to conserve energy by sleeping the screen; the Home button, which takes you to your iPod’s home screen from any application; and the dock connector at the bottom, which allows you to connect your iPod to your personal computer.

The bottom of the iPod houses a jack (or, as Apple calls it, the “headphones port”), into which you can plug your earbuds; an indented slot for connecting to your USB cable; and a speaker. The top of the iPod offers a Sleep/Wake button that is used to power on and off certain features. The iPod’s front has a large touchscreen, a single Home button at the bottom, and a camera at the top center. Turn your iPod touch over to see the rear camera at the top corner. On the left side of the iPod are the volume control buttons.

Preparing for a Fresh Start

You’ve unpacked your iPod but haven’t yet connected it to iTunes. Now is a good time to review the data on your computer. When you connect your iPod to iTunes, it will synchronize itself to your media library and, depending on your computer, to your bookmarks, your calendars, and so forth. Before you go forward, here are some items you may want to either expand or clean up so your iPod starts its life with the freshest possible data:

Contacts: iPod can sync with Outlook or Outlook Express on Windows, Address Book or Entourage on a Macintosh, and Yahoo! Address Book and Google Contacts on the Internet. To prepare for your first sync, review your existing contacts to make sure they're up-to-date with current phone numbers and e-mail addresses. If you use another program to manage contacts, consider migrating your contacts to one of these solutions. If you would rather not, that's OK, too.

Calendar: Your iPod can also sync with computer-based calendars. The touch supports iCal and Entourage calendars on the Mac and Outlook calendars on Windows. Get your calendars into shape before your first sync, and you'll be ready to monitor your schedule.

Bookmarks: Spend a little time reviewing and cleaning up your Internet Explorer or Safari bookmarks. Some housecleaning now will make it much easier for you to find your favorite web sites from your iPod touch.

Music: iPod touch models offer relatively small storage space when compared to, for example, iPod classic's generous 160GB hard drive. To make the most of this limited space, set up playlists for your favorite songs and podcasts. Since, in all likelihood, you won't be able to synchronize your entire library to your new iPod, invest time now in weeding through your media to find those items you most want to have on hand.

Videos: iPod touch can import any videos you have in iTunes that you've purchased from the iTunes Store. It will also import any videos you have on your computer in your iTunes library as long as you've converted those videos to an iPod-compatible format. Compatible formats are MP4, MOV, and M4V.

Books and PDFs: Make sure any ePub books or PDFs you have on your computer have been added to your iTunes library. This will allow you to sync them with Apple's new iBooks app.

CAUTION: Make sure you've authorized your computer in iTunes (Store ► Authorize Computer) before synchronizing your music. If you don't, your music won't be copied to your iPod. Also note that you can't copy music from more than five accounts.

Software and operating system: Make sure you've updated to iTunes 10.0 or newer. And, if you're using a Macintosh, make sure you've updated your operating system to at least OS X 10.5.8. If you're using Windows, you need to make sure you are using Windows 7, Windows Vista, or Windows XP Home or Professional with Service Pack 3 or newer. You can download the latest version of iTunes from Apple at www.apple.com/itunes/download.

iTunes Account: If you plan to purchase music using the iPod's iTunes Wi-Fi Music Store, Apple requires a current iTunes account. If you don't already have one, you can sign up for a U.S. account, as described next.

Creating a New iTunes Account

Creating a new iTunes account requires a U.S. address and credit card. Here are the steps you'll need to follow in order to create that account:

1. Launch the iTunes application, and wait for it to load.
2. Click the iTunes Store entry in the column on the left side of the window, and wait for the store screen to load. You must be connected to the Internet for this to happen, because all the storefront information is stored at Apple.
3. Click the Sign In button at the top-right corner of the screen. iTunes opens the sign-in dialog box (see Figure 1-4), which will allow you to either sign in with an existing account or create a new one.



Figure 1-4. The iTunes sign-in dialog box allows you to sign in to iTunes with your existing account or begin the process of creating a new account. This figure shows the Sign In screen on a Mac. It will be the same, though Windows-looking, on a PC.

4. Click Create New Account. The screen clears, and a message welcoming you to the iTunes Store is displayed. Click Continue.
5. Review the terms of service, and then click Agree. A new dialog box appears, prompting you to create your account.

6. Enter your e-mail address and a password (you must enter the password twice for verification). Also enter a question and answer that will help verify your identity and the month and day of your birth. Review the other options on the page, and adjust them as desired before clicking Continue. Again, the screen will clear, and you'll move on to the final account-creation step.
7. Enter a valid U.S. credit card and the billing information for that credit card. These must match to finish creating your account. When you have entered the information, click Continue.

After following these steps, you will receive a confirmation e-mail at the address you specified while signing up. The e-mail welcomes you to the iTunes Store and provides you with the customer service web address (www.apple.com/support/itunes/store).

Connecting Your iPod Touch to Your Computer

You're now ready to unpack your unit and connect it to your computer. Here are the steps you need to take:

1. Remove the iPod from its box, and then extract it from its factory wrapping. Also unwrap the included USB cable.
2. Locate the two ends of the USB cable. One is thin and marked with a standard three-pronged USB symbol. The other is wide and marked with a rectangle with a line in it.
3. Orient your iPod. On the back of your iPod, the Apple logo and the word *iPod* show you which way is up (see Figure 1–5). The dock connector is at the bottom of your iPod touch.



Figure 1–5. Orient your iPod by locating the Apple symbol and the word *iPod* on its back. In this figure you can see the dock connector. It's the long thin rectangular opening on the bottom.

4. Connect the wide end of the USB cable to the bottom of your iPod touch. Be gentle but firm, without twisting or forcing the connection. Connect the thin end to a spare USB 2.0 port on your computer.
5. iTunes will launch, and your iPod will chime softly.

The iPod's Connect to iTunes screen (Figure 1-6) has an image that looks like the end of your dock cable pointing to an iTunes logo. If your iPod does not automatically power on and display this screen, press and hold the Sleep/Wake button. With the main screen facing toward you, this button is found at the top left of the iPod. After a few seconds, the iPod should wake up and display the white Apple logo as it powers on. If the iPod does not respond and does not display either the white Apple logo or the Connect to iTunes screen, contact the store where you purchased the iPod.

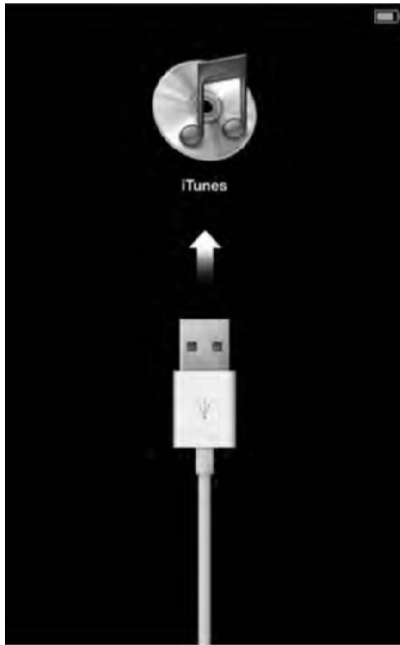


Figure 1-6. *The Connect to iTunes screen*

Startup problems should not be related to battery power. The iPod ships fully charged. The steps shown here, especially steps 2 through 4, ensure that your iPod is receiving power from your computer. So if your touch is not powering up properly and if you're not seeing that Connect to iTunes screen, you need to return the iPod and find out what's wrong.

Setting Up Your iPod Touch

You've plugged in your iPod. iTunes has launched, recognized your new iPod, and opened its iPod Setup Assistant (see Figure 1–7). Now you have your opportunity to set up your new iPod touch, as outlined in the following steps. Be aware that these steps may vary slightly as Apple updates and changes iTunes.

Set Up Your iPod

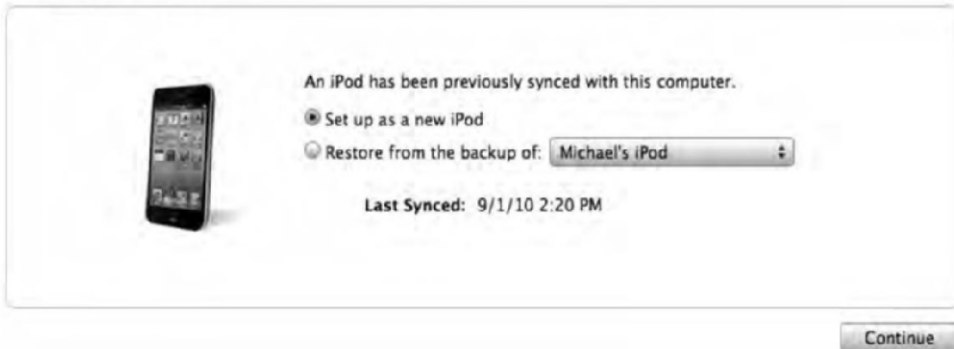


Figure 1–7. The iPod Setup Assistant lets you name your iPod and decide which items to automatically synchronize to it.

1. Choose between “Set up as new iPod” or “Restore from the backup of.” You won’t see the “Restore from the backup of” option if you’ve never owned an iPod touch before. If you have, this option allows you to move all your personal settings of the old iPod over to the new one. If you are setting up this iPod for the first time and have never owned a previous one, choose “Set up as new iPod,” and click Continue.
2. The next screen will allow you to name your iPod and choose what items to automatically sync to it. If you want to name your iPod something other than “your name’s iPod,” enter a new name into the “The name of my iPod is” field. Do not press Enter or Return, and do not click Done.
3. We recommend you uncheck both boxes: “Automatically sync songs to my iPod” and “Automatically sync photos to my iPod.” It’s far easier to manage these choices manually.
4. Click Done. iTunes closes the Setup Assistant and moves you to the Your Apple ID screen (see Figure 1–8).

iTunes Account (Apple ID)

If you have an Apple ID, sign in below. Otherwise choose "I do not have an Apple ID," choose your country, and click Continue.

You may already have an Apple ID if you have made purchases from the iTunes Store, Apple Store, or have previously registered an Apple device.

Use my Apple ID to register my iPod

Apple ID

Example: steve@mac.com

Password

[Forgot Password?](#)

I do not have an Apple ID

I live in:

Figure 1–8. The iPod registration process uses your Apple ID to register your touch with Apple.

5. Assuming you've already set up your Apple account, enter your Apple ID and password into the fields provided. (You can choose the "I do not have an Apple ID" option if you either do not have or do not want an Apple account.) Select your country, and then click Continue. The Registration Information screen opens.
6. In the Registration Information screen (see Figure 1–9), iTunes prompts you to enter or, if you already have an account, to confirm your name, address, and phone number.
7. Notice the "I would like to receive Apple news" check box at the bottom of this screen. Uncheck this option to opt out of receiving Apple marketing e-mail. Apple also requests information about your job, your age, and your iPod use. Because this information request is intrusive, feel free to choose Other, and make up an age and a reason for use. You are under no compulsion to offer truthful ones. This is unrelated to contracts or terms of use. It's simply Apple being nosy and trying to earn money by marketing to you.
8. Click Register to finish your registration.



Figure 1–9. Apple will not let you register your iPod without revealing personal details. Feel free to lie or obfuscate. The company has no legal right to this information.

Synchronizing Your New iPod

Once you’ve named and registered your iPod, you’re ready to perform your first synchronization. In the iTunes source list, which is the light blue column on the left side of the iTunes screen, locate the Devices section, and click the name of your iPod. This opens its Preferences window (see Figure 1–10). The tabs along the top of the Preferences window allow you to set each of the options associated with your iPod. We go into what each of these tabs does in detail in Chapter 2.

TIP: Click your iPod’s name a second time to open a text edit field that allows you to edit the name. You can name your iPod more creatively than the default (your name and “iPod”). We’ve used “foeey,” just for laughs.