

New Bits and Bobs For Your iPod

With Christmas coming up, we'll be doing a series of guides on accessories for your gadgets. The first one is add-ons for iPods:

However, the first warning is that not all accessories are compatible with every iPod; you should always check before buying that what you want to buy will work with your particular iPod model. I'm also not going to cover the standard accessories like cases, headphones and speakers, there are so many around and new ones coming out all the time. For all of this sort of information, look at the iLounge buyer's guide:

[http://iloungeserver.com/iLounge iPod-iPhone Buyers Guide 08.pdf](http://iloungeserver.com/iLounge_iPod-iPhone_Buyers_Guide_08.pdf)

I will look at some more unusual accessories for the iPod:

Recording Accessories

We'll start with a simple recorder, which could be used for recording memos, interviews or simple sound effects recording:

<http://www.griffintechology.com/products/italkpro>

This was demonstrated recently by Shak, at the Summer Shambles Picnic. It can be built on for more serious recording, as it will take an external microphone. You can also transfer the sounds you record to your PC for further processing and distribution.

If your aspirations are for more sophisticated recordings, you can build a mini-studio on your iPod, with the TuneStudio from Belkin:

<http://www.belkin.com/uk/tunestudio/>

This 4-channel audio mixer allows the input of up to four different instruments or audio sources, and records the audio onto your iPod for instant playback. Again, like the italkpro, recordings can be transferred to your PC for further processing.

The other use for mixing is for DJ work, and this again can be done on an iPod with the itrax.

<http://www.geminidj.com/itrax.htm>

The iTrax Mixing Console for the iPod using two video-enabled iPods, a USB port, and input selection switches for added versatility, the iTrax Mixing Console for iPod is the perfect solution for anyone who wants to DJ mix for a party..

If your sound recording interests are less artistic, you can use your iPod for karaoke with the ikaraoke:

<http://www.griffintechology.com/products/ikaraoke>

The iKaraoke plugs into your iPod, and its all-in-one microphone/processor isolates the lead vocal track, then fades it, giving your voice room to make that favourite tune yours.

The final ipod recording solution is for the vinyl generation, you can record and convert albums direct to your iPod from a turntable with its own iPod dock

<http://www.numark.com/tti>

Numark TTI USB Turntable with Universal Dock

If you'd like to be able to use and power your iPod in the smallest room in the house, then there is the Stereo Dock for iPod® with Bath Tissue Holder:

<http://www.atechflash.com/products-icartaplus.html>

This gets around the regulations around using powered devices in a bathroom by having a built in rechargeable battery which it can use to run your iPod whilst it's docked (for up to 8 hours), saving the iPods internal charge. However you do have to take it out of the bath room to recharge it.

Now back to the more mainstream, radio add ons. These add two different functionalities. The first is a radio transmitter, which you can use in a car, to transmit your iPods music to its FM radio. These can be a good way of using an iPod in a car without a dedicated iPod socket, but their performance is very dependant on the car, its radio and aerial. They are also now legal to use in the UK. Griffin were one of the first companies to produce these and are still one of the leading companies for this accessory:

<http://www.griffintechnology.com/category/fmtransmitters>

Apple themselves has an article on using your iPod in your car, but that concentrates more on direct connection, rather than FM connection:

<http://www.apple.com/ipod/carintegration/>

The other type of FM accessory is one which adds an FM receiver to your iPod. As always, Griffin and the other mainstream iPod accessory suppliers have products, most of which now include wired remote control functionality:

<http://www.griffintechnology.com/products/ifm>

Even the traditionalists at Roberts Radio have got in on the act:

http://www.robertsradio.co.uk/Products/DAB_radios/robi/index.htm

Now one for Shak, an iPod running hat:

<http://www.ixoundwear.com/>

All it really does is to provide a different way of carrying your iPod whilst you're running, and keeps the sun out of your eyes.

Finally, the LUMi Ventures Flasher for iPod

<http://www.gradware.com/product/view/752315>

All this is doing is using the rechargeable battery in the iPod to drive a torch and safety beacon:

You get 6 Flash Modes with a Single Button:

- Flashlight
- Low power flash
- High power flash
- Random Flash All RED
- Random Flash All Lights
- Pendulum Flash
- Flash to the Beat