

# StreckTech News

## MP3 Players

### 4 Gigabyte Players

(4,000 songs)

- Apple iPod Mini: \$250
- Creative Nomad MUVo: \$200

### 20+ Gigabyte Players

- Creative Zen Touch: \$270
- Apple iPod: \$300
- Rio Karma: \$300
- RCA Lyra RD 2850: \$325

(MP3 Players keep on dropping in price and get larger storage. These prices will soon be outdated.)

## Helpful Hints

**PC:** Your mouse has two buttons. Try using the right click button. It will give you short cuts and characteristics of whatever you click on.

**Mac:** Always eject your iPod before disconnecting it from the computer. (In the lower right hand corner of iTunes there is an eject button.)

If you would rather not receive this, please call (970-618-0042) or email (streck2@yahoo.com)

## Digital Music! La, La, La!

Digital music is an easy way to store, share, and listen to your music collection. Instead of having thousands of CDs that can be stolen, scratched, or broken, you can store your music in your computer. Once you have your entire collection in your computer, you can play your music from your computer, connect your computer to your stereo system, transfer the music to a portable music player, or create compilation CDs.

The albums you buy from a store hold around 15 songs in CD format. These songs are huge and will take up a lot of room in your computer. When adding music to your computer, usually the songs are compressed. Compression keeps the quality of the song but makes it smaller. MP3 format is the most standardized form; however each company has created their

own format. The other formats are AAC (iTunes,) WMA (Microsoft,) ATRAC (Sony.) Computers play all these formats, however portable music players will not be able to play all the formats. For example, Apple's iTunes will play MP3 songs and AAC songs, but will not play WMA songs or ATRAC songs. I recommend keeping all your songs as MP3s so you will not have a compatibility issue.

Once your music is in your computer, creating compilation CDs is easy. I prefer the program iTunes which works on MAC and Windows systems. It is a free download from Apple's website. It is the easiest to use and easiest to create music CDs. However if you have a portable music player, it comes with its own program and may be easier to learn one program.

## Portable Music Players

The most popular digital music player is the Apple iPod. It works with Macs and Windows based PCs. It is also the easiest to use. However it is also more expensive than most portable music players. Apple has the Shuffle (size of a stick of gum and holds 100-500 songs,) iPod Mini (3.6

and holds 4,000 songs,) and the iPod (comes in 3 different sizes with the highest capacity at 60,000 songs.)

When deciding on a portable music player, one needs to decide on size and weight, play time, capacity, and price. You need to ask if you need your entire collection or just

Apple iPods with cases.



With blank CD-Rs from Walmart or Staples, you can make MP3 CDs which can hold up to 125 songs and play on computers, and MP3 equipped stereos or create a CD that plays on any stereo and holds 15 songs (songs are not compressed.) The same type of CD is used but the formats of the songs are different (CD format and MP3 format.)

Start importing your music to your computer, and enjoying the flexibility of digital music.

select songs, and how long can you go between charging the batteries? Also is size and weight important?

Ask a friend and try the player before you buy.

