

Objects of Our Affection

Oh, how we love our iPods—and our white iPod accessories. Here are some of our favorite necessary (and not so necessary) gadgets and trinkets. BY BEN LONG AND MISSY ROBACK



NaviPod (\$50)

Ten Technology, www.tenttechnology.com

WHY: What good is lying around eating bonbons if you have to drag yourself off the couch to change the music? Thankfully, the NaviPod encourages slothfulness. Just plug its tiny infrared module into the top of your iPod, and you can use the remote to pause, skip tracks, and change volume from across the room. The round remote is a bit awkward to hold, but it's got great range, and Ten even includes an iPod stand for users who don't have a dock.

WORKS WITH: All iPods



Battery Pack for iPod (\$70)

Belkin, www.belkin.com

WHY: Though your iPod may be packed with several months' worth of nonstop music, you'll be lucky to get even one transatlantic flight's worth of play out of its battery. But stick a Belkin Battery Pack onto the back of your iPod (built-in suction cups hold it in place), and you can assault your ears with a whopping 20 hours of constant audio. The battery pack, which runs on four AA alkalines or rechargeables, doubles the weight and mass of your iPod, so we don't advise jogging with it. If you're just sitting on a bus or plane, though, it's a great way to extend your iPod's playback time.

WORKS WITH: Full-size iPods



PocketDock (\$20), PocketDock Combo (\$23), PocketDock with Line Out (\$30)

SendStation, www.sendstation.com

WHY: With a PocketDock adapter, you don't need to take the iPod's special FireWire cable wherever you go—all three versions come with a FireWire port, so you can use any standard six-pin FireWire cable to connect your iPod to a computer or another device. The

PocketDock Combo increases flexibility by including a USB connector, so it's especially handy for PC users. If your ears are sensitive when it comes to audio fidelity, check out the PocketDock with Line Out, which features a line-out jack for connecting to a set of speakers, and includes two cables. It's a light-weight, slightly less expensive alternative to the \$39 Apple Dock.

WORKS WITH: All dockable iPods



The iPod Battery (\$100)

Battery Technology,
www.batterytech.com

WHY: The iPod Battery delivers an astonishing 45 hours of playback from a single charge—or even more, depending on your playback habits. Roughly the size and weight of a laptop computer battery, it comes with three attachable iPod carrying cases (one for the mini and two for full-size dockable iPods) that you slide your iPod into. It's a heavy add-on, and you can't just pop into 7-Eleven for a replacement battery, as you can with the Belkin Battery Pack. But if you've got a long way to go before you get to the next power outlet, the iPod Battery will keep your iPod humming.

WORKS WITH: All dockable iPods

Groove Bag (\$145)

Felicidade (sold by Dr. Bott), www.drbot.com

WHY: This vinyl-and-cotton tote is the iPod girl's boom box: it's white, light, and sleek. There's a zippered pouch inside for showing off your iPod and another compartment for your Mary Quant lipstick. Though the built-in speakers, which connect to the iPod's headphone jack, are by no means high-end, the **Boostaroo Headphone Amplifier and Splitter** (\$30; sold by Dr. Bott) will give you some extra volume. But trust us, this bag is all about being seen. (White go-go boots not included.)

WORKS WITH: Full-size iPods



Media Reader for iPod (\$110)

Belkin, www.belkin.com

WHY: The Media Reader turns your iPod into a temporary storage device for digital photos. Just insert your media card into the media reader and attach it to your iPod's dock connector. The reader copies the images to your iPod, freeing up the card. The only downside is the glacial transfer rate: a 256MB card can take 20 to 30 minutes. Transfer a few gigabytes, and your iPod could be hurting for power. If you plan on lots of in-the-field transfers, invest in one of our battery picks.

WORKS WITH: Full-size dockable iPods



Make Your iPod Listen to You

These handy microphones and adapters let you record the guest lecturer in your night class or the perfect opening line for your novel—just plug one into the top of your iPod. When you sync your iPod, recorded memos automatically transfer to your computer.

iTalk (\$40)

Griffin Technology,
www.griffintech.com

WHY: The built-in speaker lets you review recordings without headphones—and if you do plug in 'phones, the built-in headphone jack means that you don't have to remove the iTalk.

WORKS WITH: Full-size dockable iPods



Voice Recorder for iPod (\$60)

Belkin, www.belkin.com

WHY: Like the iTalk, Belkin's device has a built-in speaker. It also has a built-in level

meter, so you can make sure you're recording at an appropriate volume. However, it has no headphone jack.

WORKS WITH: Full-size dockable iPods

Universal Microphone Adapter (\$39)

Belkin, www.belkin.com

WHY: If you want to record a speaker who's too far away to be picked up by a small built-in microphone, try the Belkin Universal Microphone Adapter. It can record using any mic with a miniplug, so you have maximum recording flexibility. A slider switch lets you adjust sensitivity, so you can get good quality with just about any mic.

WORKS WITH: Full-size dockable iPods



BEN LONG is a writer based in San Francisco. Look for Playlist Editor MISSY ROBACK's album, Just Like Breathing, on iTunes this fall.