

making the most of your iPod with Totally Wired



The iPod is the best thing to ever happen for anyone who enjoys music. It's affordable, easy to use, reliable and sounds just great. Anyone who suggests that the iPod really isn't high fidelity, simply has not explored the possibilities open to them. At Totally Wired we believe in the concept of better sounding music for everyone, not just the obsessive. So we have a whole series of options that will allow you to make the most of your iPod.

If you think of the iPod as a source component, there are two parts to enjoying better sound. The first is what you put into it. And the second is what you connect to it.

Let's quickly explore the first part. We'll assume you have a working knowledge of the basics of iTunes - the software that makes the iPod work and are familiar with idea recording your own CDs onto your computer then the simple transfer of that music into your iPod.

In order to allow both fast transfer and storage of many songs and albums, music files need to be compressed. If done appropriately compression has a minimal effect on sound quality. The trick is to find out what system will work best for you. This might not be immediately obvious, but when you get to know your iPod better, you'll appreciate the difference that better quality file formats make.

You can find out more about this in our in depth file format section.

So once you have started a collection of music on your iPod, the next step is to find ways of enjoying this more. There is literally an industry built around things that iPods plug into, and we've researched, listened and crash tested to find the best for you. You'll find we have a great selection in stock covering all the bases with features, looks and sound. **Call us or come in and make the most of your iPod with Totally Wired.**



tivoli

started the whole thing with the original iPAL - the great little PAL radio, shamelessly rebranded and finished to match the first versions of the iPod. After all, what is an iPod if not your very own radio station and Tivoli just happen to make great little radios. Since then, the iPAL has been imitated and ripped off in endless ways but still remains the original design and performance classic.

tivoli iPAL

Best friend to your iPod. Yes, there are bigger iPod players. Tivoli make some of them too. But if you need something that sounds terrific, is easily moved around, and was designed to work with your iPod, nothing does it like the iPAL® radio.

The iPAL radio's auxiliary input connects your iPod, CD player, or any other audio device, delivering sound that must be heard to be believed from a player this small. The radio features the same renowned AM/FM tuner, 5:1 dial, and advanced audio circuitry that have made Tivoli Audio® radios benchmarks of the audio world. *"Whether you're looking for a way to liberate your iPod's tunes or you just want a top-notch radio, you can't go wrong with the Tivoli Audio iPAL. It remains our favorite portable radio."* (CNET)

The iPAL radio's environmentally friendly NiMH battery recharges in less than three hours, and offers up to 16 hours* of listening pleasure. *"In terms of bass, clarity, and loudness, the Tivoli is in a class of it's own. The Tivoli Audio iPAL is the best sounding portable speaker on the market for the iPod, and its got AM/FM to boot when you feel like listening to local radio. Highly recommended."* (NBC's Today Show)

tivoli iSongBook

Take your iPod out and show it a good time. The definitive portable iPod player, the iSongBook® Portable iPod Music System includes innovations found nowhere else. "The flip-down iPod dock on the side of the iSongBook just may be the hottest thing ever seen in an iPod accessory. It fits all dock-connector iPods, even the new Nano, and you can always switch to AM or FM when you want to go live." (Sound and Vision)

The iSongBook system features a detachable speaker for true stereo separation and easy portability. An AM/FM tuner includes five station presets. The alarm offers the choice of waking to your iPod, the radio, or a gentle tone. A credit-card sized remote controls both the iSongBook



system and most iPod functions. "Unless and until someone else comes up with something even better, we have no trouble deeming the iSongBook the king of the hill when it comes to high-quality compact iPod speaker systems." (iProng)



tivoli iYiYi

Wake in the morning to music you select from your iPod. Tune in to your favorite radio stations. Control your music from across the room. The Tivoli Audio® iYiYi® high-fidelity stereo system for iPod is the definitive high-end home iPod player. "With a digital AM/FM radio, built-in alarm/digital clock, credit card-sized remote control, blue backlit LCD display, and Radio Data System (RDS) support, iYiYi offers the ultimate listening experience." (TechEBlog)

The iYiYi system connects and charges all dockable iPods. Its precise digital tuner includes five FM and five AM station preset buttons, a 'seek' function, and built-in AM and FM antennas. The backlit display provides information on station tuning, the time, and the 20-minute sleep timer indicator. It all adds up to the ultimate home audio system for anyone looking for iPod and radio control in one unit. "Yes, the iYiYi has a funny name, but, like a foreign supermodel, also has the looks to back it up." (Uncrate)

The iYiYi high-fidelity stereo system for iPod is available in high-gloss white or high-gloss black. Just like your iPod.

Find out more by exploring the dedicated tivoli audio page on our website - <http://totallywired.co.nz/tivoli.html>

don't forget all other Tivoli radios and systems can be directly connected to ipods or via Docks.

coming soon - Tivoli Networks. You may have noticed that there are a few 'internet radios' out there but as yet Tivoli haven't released a model - this has been a conscious choice by Tivoli and rather than rushing a half baked product to market they have poured a considerable amount of time, expertise and funds into developing something worthy of the Tivoli name that will make the most of not only Internet radio, but also many other digital sources, including iPods. We've seen and heard a pre-production prototype of the Tivoli Networks - we can't say too much but can tell you it sounds great, is easy to use and lacks nothing. The official release date is early June.

iport

is the state of the art docking system for the iPod, offering maximum flexibility, upgrade choices and high performance. From an elegant free standing dock, to complete built in systems with full RS232 and video communication, iPort covers all the bases. As we'll explain iPort is the most elegant way to link Control4 with your iPod and this follows for many other systems. With many options it can take a bit of effort to work out which is the right model but here's our easy version of how to choose.

Why use an iPort instead of the cheaper little units that you'll find in other stores? First up - it sounds demonstrably better. Care has been taken with the design of the audio circuitry and this is immediately apparent in a cleaner, more lively sound with less background noise. The iPort has a separate power supply to isolate the iPod and internals from the mains - and so it is an active device rather than something that just relies on the iPods output. It's a much more safe, stable and robust cradle for your iPod as well. The umbilical cable from the cradle to the isolated connection box also has a USB connection allowing you to connect and sync your iPod while it is in the system. So it really is a quality device that will give you years of use and protect your iPod.

If you just want a simple high performance dock that looks great - in a choice of black or white finishes, the FS1 at NZ\$299 is for you. To gain both front panel operation, volume control and remote control abilities, the FS2 at NZ\$399 is required. The FS 1 and 2 are ideal for single room systems.

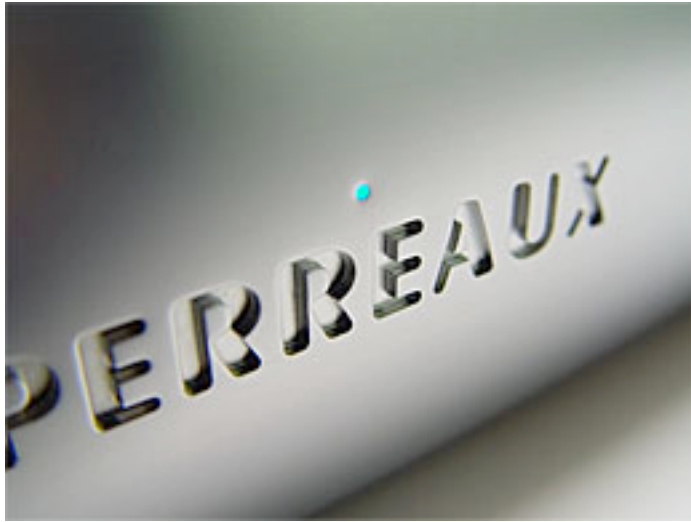
If you'd like to extend the abilities of your iPod to other rooms, iPort comes into its own. If you have CAT5 or CAT6 cable already installed in your home (or plan to) then it is possible to run music from your iPod to any room using high quality balanced audio over up to 150m of CAT5. The FS3 does this and adds both wall mounts and sophisticated circuitry for NZ\$995 inclusive.

To integrate with Control4, the FS4 includes 2 way coms via RS232 for NZ\$1500. And finally to do all of the above and distribute high quality video over distance the FS5 at NZ\$2200 does as much as it's possible to do with an iPod.

If you'd like a completely built in solution, the in wall versions of the iPort allow this, but we like the flexibility and good looks of the free standing units. If there is one certainty in life, it's that change is inevitable and the free standing, modular and upgradable nature of the iPort FS series makes it likely that you'll retain this particular item through many iterations and updates of iPod technology.

<http://www.iportmusic.com/iport.html>





perreaux

Perreaux's new Silhouette range looks like it was designed exclusively for iPod users - it's compact, simple and offers many choices. In fact the genesis of the range predates the iPod. It is much a product of Perreaux's long history in no compromise audio quality and reliability, as any modern sensibilities. So rather than being a 'me-too' product, the Silhouette range represents a happy confluence of thought and design that leads better systems build around the iPod as a source.

Let's start with the easiest concept and then explore the more advanced options - the SX25i Integrated amplifier is an ultra compact design - probably one of the smallest domestic amplifiers ever made and certainly is as simple in connection and operation as it is possible to be. Just add iPod (preferably via a good quality dock), and speakers - our choices being (in ascending order of performance) the new Quad 11L2s, NZ made Image Studio References or Sonus faber Concertino's. However don't feel that you have to restrict yourself to compact speakers - the Image 412 or Quad L22 floor standers also work brilliantly with the little Perreaux.

The next step holds appeal for the more technically savvy and offers considerably higher performance for those who grasp the logic - For this we start at the speaker end with the new Quad Active Studio Monitors - either 11 L or 12L at NZ\$1400 and \$1800 respectively per pair. Control these with the Perreaux SXP2 passive preamplifier and select the iPod as one of 3 possible inputs. The total cost is only fractionally more than the conventional approach with passive Quad speakers but we would suggest that if you follow our lead on this one you'll be pleased you did.

From here, we can progress through a whole series of permutations with Perreaux - pairing preamp with power amps and speakers at progressively higher levels of performance. How far you go is simply determined by how good a sound you want.

Now, if you have an iPod, by implication you have iTunes and a computer - it is logical and almost self evident that if you tap this as a source, you'll be able to overcome any perceived limits imposed by the cost engineering of the iPod. This is where Perreaux have given us a uniquely able component - the SXD2 digital to analogue converter with USB input. Originally conceived as a conventional Up-Sampling DAC to be paired with high quality transports and their own CD players, the purposeful decision to include a USB input has proved to be a real clincher. Assuming you have ripped your discs in either Apple Lossless or a PC equivalent format, all original data is present and with high quality conversion to analogue, your music will sound every bit as good as it does via high quality CD player.

It is then a natural progression to explore Perreaux's amplification options for the aesthetic continuity and sonic synergy within the Perreaux range will ensure an audiophile level system for the design conscious. You can find a lot more detail in our Perreaux webpages at www.totallywired.co.nz/perreaux.html

arcam

One of the best known and highly regarded British brands.

Today's Arcam is considerably more sophisticated, yet retains the easy listening character and simplicity of the original products. And rather than just components, Arcam now deals in complete systems.

The Arcam Solo range is your introduction to the new face of Arcam - this is a complete system - CD player, tuner and amplifier all combined into one sleek and user friendly package - from just NZ\$1600 inclusive. What is unique about the Arcam Solo is its level of integration with the iPod and the performance that accompanies this.

Using Arcam's rDock (\$399) or rLead (\$200) you are able to suddenly have control over your iPod via the Solos own remote control. But better than this is the iPod information is presented on the display of the Arcam - all song information etc and this makes for a much better level of operation. In essence it means the Arcam Solo has a very flexible, efficient and cost effective hard disc option. This is very smart thinking and makes an already worthwhile product much better.

The rDock is a weighty standalone device that expects to sit on or beside your Solo. Independently powered, connections offered at the back include phono audio out, phono video out, S-video out and a connector that will allow you to connect it to the company's Solo Mini, Music and Movie systems.

The brushed metal design is minimalist as it could be and the only detailing is a button on the front accompanied by a blue or red light.

That button isn't, as you might expect, an on/off switch in the traditional sense of the word, but a switch that allows you to decide whether or not while your iPod is in the dock you want it charging.



Arcam say this not only allows you to let the iPod run out before recharging (its better for your battery) but because the more astute listeners at the company believe that without the charging you get a better sound running off the iPod battery alone. There's logic in that, since mains power can induce interference in audio devices. No hiss, no feedback issues, no dropout, just very clear sound. How is this possible? The rDock includes a pre-amp for iPod with high performance op-amps and low noise, double-regulated power supplies. Hooked up and routed through studio amplification and reference monitors, playback sounds better than you'd expect from a device loaded with compressed audio files

<http://www.arcam.co.uk/rDock/index.html>

<http://www.arcam.co.uk/rLead.cfm>

[Review Excerpt](#)

Top products for the home: audio systems

Best High-End Audio iPod Integration: Solo and rLead

"I've often lamented the fact that the high-end-audio industry has largely ignored the iPod. After all, Apple's player supports both uncompressed and lossless music formats, and the iPod's line-level audio output is as good as that of many CD players—in other words, the iPod can be a high-quality source that stores hundreds of full-quality albums. So it was a significant event when upscale U.K. audio vendor ARCAM released its rLead iPod connector. Designed for use with the company's acclaimed Solo all-in-one stereo system, the rLead is, basically, a cable that connects your iPod to the Solo for playback. But the Solo is smarter than your typical stereo: once your iPod is connected, you can control it from the Solo's remote as if the iPod were an integral part of the system—playlists, artists, albums, and genres are all browse-able via the Solo's own screen, as if the iPod's contents were on a hard drive inside the stereo itself. (If you have a USB power adapter handy, the rLead can charge your iPod, as well, via the attached USB plug.)



Of course, to use the rLead, you need a Solo, but that's a good thing, as the Solo is an Apple-like hybrid of functionality and simplicity—in a single, small, attractive enclosure, you get a CD player, a 75-Watt amplifier, and an AM/FM radio, all of audiophile pedigree. As one reviewer put it, "If Apple made amps and CD players, this is what they'd look like. This is what they'd feel like, too." For discerning music fans, iPod listening doesn't get much better than this." —DF

media shifting

Did you know we can get your entire CD collection recorded onto your iPod for you? While iTunes seems easy, the novelty value of ripping CDs wears off pretty quickly after about disc #20. Many of our clients have large collections - in the 100s or even thousands.

We have a service where we can take all your discs and have them professionally transferred to your iPod (or any other disc based system) at high quality levels with all cover art and track listings efficiently done. This is just great for Control4 systems but also an ideal way to safeguard your collection and also get straight into the iPod without all the messing around. The costs are most reasonable - from just \$1.50 per disc, especially if you look at how much you will have spent on discs over the years or consider how long it would take to do several hundred discs one by one.

There is also an archiving service which provides a back up of your collection, so if the unthinkable ever happened, your entire music collection will still be safely preserved.

control4

are the affordable face of whole home music distribution and automation - so it was only natural that they would make it possible to integrate the iPod into their systems. When Control4 talk about the 'digital home', they really mean it. You can take an iPod, hook it up to a Control4 system then suddenly be able to play 4 different songs in 4 different rooms, all off the same iPod at the same time - how cool is that! The iPod becomes a truly digital source within a Control4 system and we're able to access all the music, cover art and information on Control4 colour touchpanels, or even have it displayed on your flat screen.



If you want to use multiple different iPods, the iPort is really the best way to go - these are used to integrate the iPod into all the serious multi-room systems and so all the work has been done - Control4 just taps into this rather than reinventing the wheel. The specific model that has the right feature set and connections is the FS4 at \$1500 in either black or white. We can put this in the living or family rooms as it means iPods can just be slotted into the system and then the track listings etc will just pop up on the Control4 menu screens. They transmit sound via balanced audio and are compatible with lossless formats. RS232 allows 2 way coms from and to the main system.

Whichever option you choose, it means you can have full control and access from any room in the house, not to mention your favorite music on tap, anytime, anywhere.

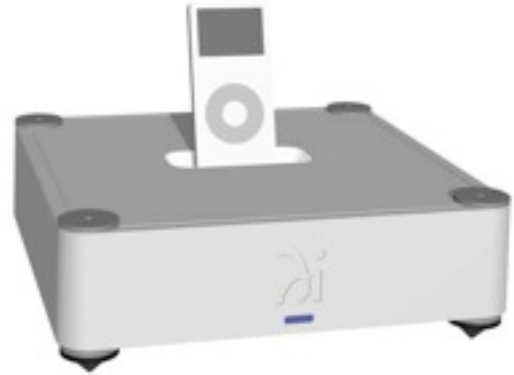
wadia

Wadia Digital are a high-end audio company dedicated to the development of digital audio technologies, have designed and have built the market's first digital player dock to retrieve a direct digital signal from an iPod®. As a result, the audio signal remains pure and unadulterated, providing CD-quality resolution from full-resolution file formats such as .WAV and .m4a (Apple®Lossless).

It's important not to underestimate this development for it transforms the expectations of what is possible with an iPod. That in itself is significant but the real kicker is that Wadia (who could never have been accused of underpricing a product) have made a point of making the iTransport genuinely affordable. At a target price of NZ\$750 it is going to introduce a whole new set of options to just about every iPod owner.

The iTransport which is certified Made for iPod®, turns any currently available iPod player into a high-end media server by providing a bit-perfect digital audio output to an audio/video system, bypassing the player's internal D/A conversion and output stage. Subsequently, the audio signal remains clean and unadulterated throughout the path. The iTransport is compatible with all currently available (Q1 2008) iPod players, as well as iPhone® and iPod Touch® models.

"Until now, there has been no real bridge between the convenience of an iPod and the high-end audio listening experience," commented John W. Schaffer, President, Wadia Digital, Inc. "The goal of making the player a true high-end media server has been hampered by the need to send the digital signal through a portable player's D/A converter rather than that of a high performance audio system. "Instead, we designed iTransport to bypass the player's converter and output stage altogether. When used with an iTransport, the iPod becomes a digital music source equal to some of the finest sounding transports in the high-end audio market."



Along with turning an iPod into a high-performance audio server, iTransport is one of the first such products to access video content stored on currently available iPods. Similar to the audio section, the video signal is made available via high performance component outputs that provide up to DVD-quality video. The iTransport measures 2" x 8" x 8" (H/W/D), making it an easy addition to most racks and entertainment centers. Wadia incorporates a bit-perfect S/PDIF digital audio output and high-resolution component digital video output, as well as analog audio and video outputs for easy connection with most audio/video systems. iPod players are charged while in the dock, and can be operated via Apple's standard IR remote control. We hope to have the Wadia iTransport within the next week or so - for more info visit the Wadia Digital web site - www.wadia.com

grado

the simplest and best way to get more out of your iPod is to use better headphones. The standard little buds are fine for working out or a quick run around the park, but if you find yourself working or just sitting down with your iPod for longer periods then a set of real headphones are in order - they will sound much better, last longer and are more comfortable for many people.

Grado Labs newest product, the "iGrado" (NZ\$99) street style headphone is designed specifically for the iPod user. It is their goal to design a street style headphone that will sonically outperform anything currently available, similarly priced product. This they have accomplished. The new "iGrado" is functionally stylish, lightweight and comfortable. By incorporating the same drivers used in the highly regarded Grado SR60 headphones, they are able to provide a sound that is much clearer and more fun than any other portable type headphone. Available in either black or white colors that are sure to please all. The "iGrado" features a behind the neck headband that is comfortable and stylish. They have indeed kept the highly praised Grado "sound" at a price point that is within reach of all. Truly,



Musical Reality For The iWorld!

"The iGrado reproduces important midrange frequencies that are free of any discoloration and compression, with high frequencies sounding very decent and delicate. As a result there is indeed a tonal balance and characteristic which can hardly be topped in the portable world." HOMEelectronics Magazine/Switzerland

"Comparable sound from earbuds would likely cost twice as much as the Grado. At its price, the iGrado hits a mobile-music sweet spot." Kevin Hunt / Chicago Tribune

"...the iGrado exhibited much detailed information, yet remained relaxed during loud musical passages, while at the same time portraying a very natural musical finesse. Grado continues their success story with this new model" Stereoplay Highlight (Editors Choice).

"Sound is top class with a performance ratio considered outstanding". Stereoplay magazine / Germany

"The iGrado puts out a warm, heavy bass sound in over-ear phones. Take heed: Going back to your standard iPod buds after listening to the Grado models will make your old music sound tinny, and a little irritating." Michael Booth / denverpost.com."

...those, having heard the Grado one time, will be in no hurry to take them off. Out of this acoustic ear muff comes such a crystal-clear and uncolored sound, that people suddenly will sense all the weak-points of data-compressed music." Audio magazine / Germany

"Big sound and bigger quality: Grado has packed a high-quality sound system into a portable package you can use with your MP3 player." HGTV / I Want That! Tech Toys

"...sounds like a "big" Grado; awesome resolution of fine musical detail, very clear and neutral." Audio magazine / Germany.

Of course the iGrado is just the start of the range and we do encourage to explore the better options because as soon as you do, you'll find that the improvement made at each step between models is significant. In fact it's easy to get up to something like the new SR325i's which are undoubtedly and audiophile headphone and cost more than many iPod models - yet they will make music on your iPod compelling to listen to in a way that lesser headphones never will. And they do still manage to look pretty cool in a retro kind of way if you are out and about.

Click here to learn more about Grado headphones
http://www.gradolabs.com/product_pages/igrado.htm



More about formats...

When you import a song into the iTunes library, the song is encoded and stored on your hard disk. The amount of space the file takes up depends on the song and the import settings that are chosen in iTunes preferences. The import settings also affect the audio quality of the imported song. Larger files take up more hard disk space, but generally sound better. A "lossless" file, which can be half to a third the size of an uncompressed CD file, is designed to be mathematically identical to what it is duplicating. "Lossy" formats (like MP3, Apple's AAC, and many others) take up less space—and don't sound as good. You can fit about five songs recorded at the typical lossy bit rate of 128 kilobits per second into the space one "lossless" track takes up.

Depending on the software versions on your computer, the default encoding format could be MP3 or MPEG-4 AAC, a new, compressed format. You can play AAC files using iTunes and other applications that support QuickTime, and on your iPod. You can play MP3 files on your computer or most digital music players.

In iTunes, you can select between five different compression encoders when ripping music files from your CD collection: AAC, AIFF, Apple Lossless, MP3 and WAV. But which is best?

AAC-encoded files will sound as good as or better than MP3 files encoded at the same or even a higher bit rate. For example, a 128 kbps AAC file should sound as good as or better than a 160 kbps MP3 file. Because the bit rate is lower, the AAC file will also be smaller than the MP3 file. AAC files allow you to store the most music on your hard disk or iPod. The High Quality AAC setting creates files that are usually less than 1 MB for each minute of music. The High Quality MP3 setting creates files that are about 1 MB in size for each minute of music.

If you plan to burn high-quality audio CDs with the songs you're importing, you should use the Apple Lossless or AIFF encoder for the best results. (The Apple Lossless encoder uses the least room on your hard disk, but AIFF files can be played in more applications.) The WAV encoder is primarily for use with Windows computers that are not using iTunes, or computers that do not have MP3 software. You can fit the same number of songs on an audio CD whether you use Apple's Lossless, AIFF, or WAV when you import the songs into iTunes, but the songs will take up less space on your hard disk if you use the Apple Lossless encoder.

The AIFF and WAV encoders do not compress the songs. AIFF and WAV are very high quality files that are several times larger than AAC or MP3 files and take up a large amount of hard disk space (about 650 MB per CD or 10 MB per minute of music). Songs imported using the Apple Lossless encoder offer the same quality as AIFF or WAV, but they take up about half the size (about 5 MB per minute of music). Files encoded using the Lossless encoder can be played in iTunes, applications that support QuickTime, and iPods that come with a Dock connector.

If you're into serious listening you'll need to select a WAV, AIFF or Apple Lossless format for your music. While WAV and AIFF are raw audio files from CDs in computer-readable formats, Apple Lossless preserves a CD's original quality while cutting its size in half. You might compare this lossless encoding to a zip file: smaller than the original, but with no data loss. Keep in mind that these three formats take up a lot more file space than the standard AAC and MP3 encodings; you'll get fewer songs on your iPod, but they'll be delivered at a much higher quality.

So the bottom line is, if at all possible - use Apple's own lossless setting with iTunes. PC users can make their compression selection in iTunes by going to the edit drop-down box, selecting preferences and then clicking on the importing tab. For Mac users, it's going to the iTunes drop-down box, selecting preferences and then clicking on the importing tab.

totally wired the terrace houses
217 stuart street **dunedin** 03 4790 444
www.totallywired.co.nz