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FEATURES

Gear Guide: Musical gadgets
Our Gear Guide concludes with five iPod add-ons and five more gadgets aimed at people who love to create music as much as they love listening to it. [MORE](#)

Gear Guide: Family stuff and security gear

Part four of the Gear Guide focuses on gifts for the entire family—parents, kids, teens, and more. Then we turn our attention to four gadgets that will keep your Mac-related merchandise more secure. [MORE](#)

REVIEWS

LaCie d2 DVD+/-RW with LightScribe

Whether you're looking to add DVD burning capability to your system, looking for an easier way to copy optical media, or just want the latest and fastest drives for burning DVDs—even dual-layer DVDs—the LaCie d2 can easily and speedily handle all that and more. [MORE](#)

The Missing Sync for Palm OS 5.1

With Palm Desktop and HotSync you can get by, but The Missing Sync for Palm OS 5.1.1 makes your handheld shine as brightly as your Mac does. It's definitely worth the \$40. [MORE](#)

Script Debugger 4.0

Late Night Software seems to have taken every opportunity to condense and simplify Script Debugger's interface, while providing easier access to powerful tools and better debugging information. If you're serious about scripting, buy it. [MORE](#)

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Inside the iPod Photo Digital Hub

By Christopher Breen and Dan Frakes

Run Presentations from Your iPod

Do you wish you could give a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation without having to lug around your laptop? If you have an iPod photo and a projector with composite or S-Video inputs, you can.

Step 1 Open your presentation in PowerPoint. Choose File: Save As, and set the Format to TIFF. (Since iTunes compresses the file when you import it into your iPod, you should use the highest-quality image possible.) Then save your presentation slides to a new folder on your desktop.

Step 2 Open iPhoto and create a new album for your presentation slides. Drag the folder of presentation images from the desktop to this new album. After iPhoto finishes importing the images, open the new album and make sure all the slides are in the correct order.

Step 3 Copy the new album to your iPod photo by selecting it in the Photos section of your iPod preferences.

Step 4 When it's time to give your presentation, connect your iPod photo to the projector. Go to the iPod's Slideshow Settings menu and set Time Per Slide to Manual—so you can decide when to advance to the next slide rather than having a set timer—and then set TV Out to On. You should also set Music to Off. Then open the album that contains your PowerPoint presentation and begin the slide show. You won't get the variety of fancy slide transitions that you would with a live presentation—the iPod offers only wipe transitions—but you will be able to fit your hardware in the palm of your hand.

For Keynote Users Apple's Keynote presentation software doesn't let you save slides as images. If you want to play your Keynote presentations from an iPod photo, you'll need to either export the presentation to PowerPoint or use a utility such as [ZappTek's \\$18 iPresent It](#), which creates and manages iPod photo-compatible slide shows from Keynote and PowerPoint.

Create iPod FlipBooks

While you probably wouldn't want to watch a three-hour epic on a two-inch screen, it would be fun to play short video clips on the iPod photo—for example, to show off your child's first belly flop or Uncle Joe's dramatic interpretation of the chicken dance at last year's family reunion.

Despite the iPod's lack of video support, you can create your own thumb-powered movies by breaking video into a series of individual frames and then quickly scrolling through them on your iPod. Remember those paper flipbooks from your childhood? Think of this as a digital version. Here's how to create one of your own:

Step 1 Find a video clip you'd like to use. You can use any video format that QuickTime Pro supports





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(go to [Apple's QuickTime page](#) for a list). However, this project works best with movies that don't require sound—though it's possible to sync your scrolling speed to an exported sound file, it's no easy task.

Open the movie file in [QuickTime Pro](#) (\$30) and choose File: Export. Under the Export options, choose Movie To Image Sequence. Then click on the Options button and select an appropriate frame rate (I recommend 15 fps). Set the Image Format to JPEG, and then save the images to a new folder.



Step 2 Although the iPod can import images from any folder on your hard drive, you'll get better results by first importing the images into iPhoto. (The Finder tends to sort files incorrectly—a disastrous move for this project.)

Drag the newly saved images into a new album in iPhoto. Once the import process is complete, go through the album to make sure that the images appear in the right order.

Step 3 Open iTunes and use the iPod preferences to copy the new album to your iPod photo.

Unfortunately, the iPod's fastest slide-show playback speed is a mere 2 seconds per image, which is far too slow to produce smooth video. So you'll have to control the playback manually. Select the photo album that contains your video frames, and then click on the first image to display it in full-screen mode. Use the iPod's Click Wheel to fast-forward through the images (by scrolling clockwise) at whatever speed you like.

[Contributing Editor *CHRISTOPHER BREEN* answers readers' questions in the monthly Mac 911 column. He is also the editor in chief of Playlistmag.com. Senior Writer *DAN FRAKES* is the reviews editor for Playlistmag.com.]

Serious Photo Viewers

Despite its new photographic talents, the iPod photo is first and foremost a *music* player. It's great for taking some of your favorite photos wherever you go, but it can't handle serious photo tasks. Even if you use a device such as Belkin's Digital Camera Link to transfer photos from a digital camera to your iPod, you can't view these photos once they're on your iPod. You also can't zoom in on photos, delete unwanted photos, or organize your photos in separate albums while on-the-go.

If photography is your main interest, you may be happier with a dedicated photo viewer, such as the \$500 Epson P-2000 (see "[Macworld's 20th Annual Editors' Choice Awards](#),") or the \$470, 40GB [SmartDisk FlashTrax](#). Although bigger than the iPod, these compact devices are packed with photographer-friendly features such as large LCDs (the P-2000 has one of the most attractive screens we've seen), photo-management tools, 40GB or larger hard drives, and the ability to download directly from a CompactFlash card. They can also play video and music files—and they cost the same as (or less than) a 40GB iPod photo.—*KELLY LUNSFORD*



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