17 Listening to Music and Other Audio Files

If you have an iPod or other portable digital music player, you can put it aside because your iPad essentially duplicates all the features of an iPod (except for the smaller size). Besides listening to music, you can also listen to podcasts, audiobooks, or even iTunes University lectures.

Before you can play any audio files, you'll need to load them into your iPad, as explained in Chapters 15 and 16.

What You'll Be Using

To listen to music and other audio files on your iPad, you need to use the following:

iTunes on your computer   The iPod app

Playing a Song in Different iPod Modes

The iPod app lets you choose one or more songs and play them on your iPad. When playing a song, you have three options:

▶   **Full screen mode**   Displays album art on the screen.

▶   **Browsing mode**   Displays album art as a thumbnail image while letting you browse in the iPod app.

▶   **Background mode**   Plays audio in the background while you run another app, such as Safari, Mail, or Contacts.

To see how to switch the iPod app into different modes, follow these steps:

1.   From the Home screen, tap **iPod**. The iPod screen appears.
2.   Tap **Music** in the Library category in the left pane of the iPod window. A complete listing of your songs appears in the right pane.
3.   Tap on a song that you want to hear. The Full screen mode appears, displaying the album art that the song came from.
4.   Tap the screen. Controls appear at the top and bottom of the screen, as shown in Figure 17-1.
5.   Tap **Return** (it looks like an arrow in a circle, pointing to the left) in the lower-left corner of the screen. The album art of the currently playing song shrinks to a thumbnail image in the bottom-left corner of the screen, as shown in Figure 17-2. This is the Browsing mode, which lets you browse through the iPod app.
6.   Press the **Home** button. The Home screen appears while your song continues playing in the background.
7.   Press the **Home** button twice. A list of app icons appears at the bottom of the screen.
8.   Swipe these icons to the right until you see the rewind, pause, play, and fast-forward, as shown in Figure 17-3.
9.   Tap **iPod** to return to the iPod screen (or tap the screen to leave the music playing in the background).

FIGURE 17-1: *Tapping the screen in Full screen mode displays the Return button in the bottom-left corner.*

FIGURE 17-2: *In Browsing mode you can hear and control your song while browsing through the iPod app.*

FIGURE 17-3: *In Background mode, you can control a song through a miniature iPod window while running another app, such as Safari.*

Choosing a Song

All your songs get stored in the Music category in the iPod app. Since you might have hundreds of songs stored on your iPad, you need to know all the different ways to find a particular song so you can find what you want to hear as quickly as possible.

To find a song stored on your iPad, follow these steps:

1. From the Home screen, tap **iPod**. The iPod screen appears.
2. (Optional) If you have music already playing, the album art will appear. Tap the screen to display controls, and then tap the **Return** icon (it looks like a left-pointing arrow) in the bottom-left corner of the screen.
3. Tap **Music** in the Library category in the left pane of the iPod window. A complete listing of your songs appears in the right pane.
4. Tap **Songs** at the bottom of the iPod screen.
5. Scroll up or down to see your list of songs.
6. Tap a letter, such as *D* or *T*, displayed on the index that appears on the far right of the iPod window (see Figure 17-4). The iPod window lists all songs that begin with the letter you tapped.
7. Tap **Artists** at the bottom of the iPod screen. The iPod screen displays an alphabetical list of artists, as shown in Figure 17-4.
8. Tap the name of a recording artist. A list of albums from that artist appears, as well as songs from each album, as shown in Figure 17-5.

Hold your finger on a letter to jump to a particular Song, Artist, Album, Genre, or Composer.

You can sort your music collection by these categories.

Return to Full screen mode

Create Genius playlist

Create playlist

FIGURE 17-4: *The Artists tab lets you find songs from a specific recording artist.*

FIGURE 17-5: *A list of songs organized by album from a specific recording artist*

9.   Tap **Albums** at the bottom of the iPod screen. The iPod screen displays your album covers alphabetically by title, as shown in Figure 17-6.

FIGURE 17-6: *The Albums tab*

10.   Tap an album cover. A window appears that lists all the songs from that album that are stored on your iPad, as shown in Figure 17-7.
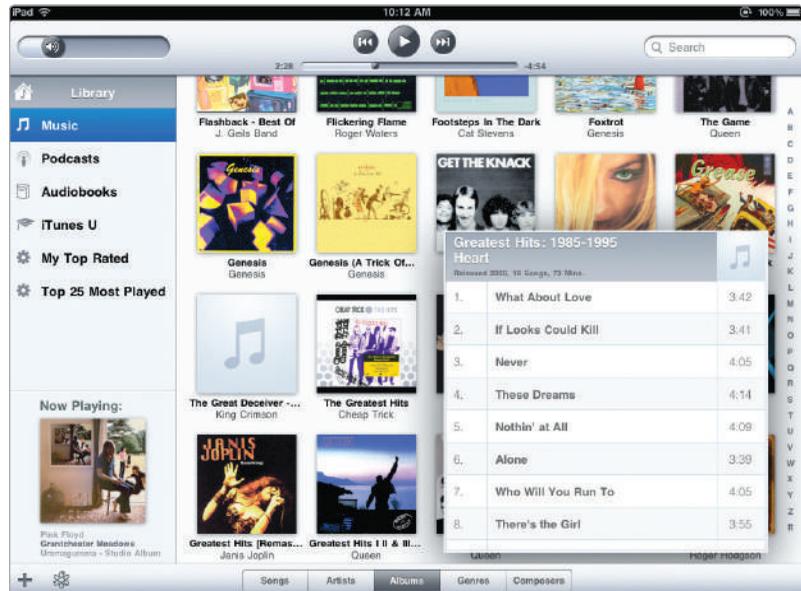

FIGURE 17-7: *Tap a cover to view the songs on that album.*

11. Tap **Genres** at the bottom of the iPod screen. The iPod screen displays different genre icons.
12. Tap a genre icon. A window appears, listing all the songs within that genre that are stored on your iPad.
13. Tap **Composers** at the bottom of the iPod screen. An alphabetical list of composers of songs stored on your iPad appears.
14. Tap a composer name. A list of albums and songs by that composer appears.
15. Press the **Home** button to return to the Home screen.

Controlling Your Music

When you first tap a song or other audio file, the iPad's screen displays a large version of the album art. This makes your iPad more colorful to look at (while showing you which audio file is currently playing) but also gives you a few more controls to manipulate your audio file. You can control the iPod app from this screen, or you can go back to browsing for the next song.

To control your music as you play a song, do the following:

1. Find a song or audio file you want to play and tap it, as discussed in "Choosing a Song" on page 130. The song's album art appears on screen. If you don't have the album art, a set of music notes appears.
2. Tap the image. Controls appear, as shown in Figure 17-8.

Repeat   Volume slider   Playhead slider   Rewind   Play/Pause   Forward   Shuffle

Return   Genius Playlist   Album/Episode List

FIGURE 17-8: *Tapping the full-screen image of an audio file displays controls.*

3.   Try using the following controls:

▶   **Repeat**   Tap once to make a playlist loop, tap a second time to make a single song loop endlessly, and tap a third time to turn off the repeat feature entirely.

▶   **Volume slider**   Drag this left and right to adjust the volume.

▶   **Playhead slider**   Drag this left and right to play different parts of the audio file. If you drag your finger down the screen as you drag left and right, you'll lower the "scrubbing rate," which will allow you to speed up or slow down so you can find a particular spot in a song or lecture.

▶   **Rewind**   Hold to rewind the currently playing audio file, or tap to play the previous audio file in a list.

▶   **Play/Pause**   Tap to pause or resume playing of an audio file.

▶   **Forward**   Hold to fast-forward through the currently playing audio file, or tap to play the next audio file in a list.

▶   **Shuffle**   Tap once to shuffle your audio list; tap a second time to turn shuffle off.

▶   **Album/Episode List**   Tap once to view all the songs or episodes for that album, podcast, or iTunes U course, as shown in Figure 17-9.

▶   **Genius Playlist**   The iPod app will use the currently playing song to create a new playlist of similar songs stored on your iPad.
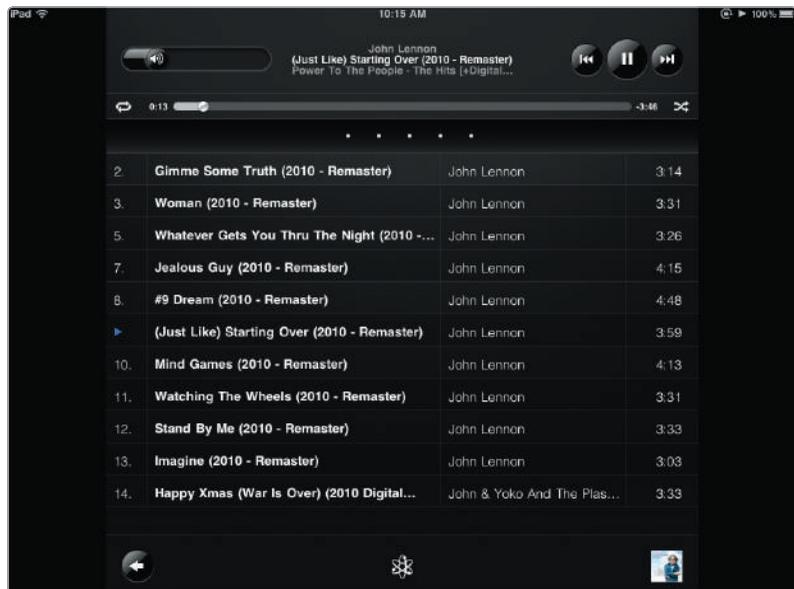

FIGURE 17-9: *When you tap the Album/Episode List button, the list of songs or episodes from an album, podcast, or iTunes U course appears.*

▶ **Return** Tap once to display the iPod screen with the audio file's image shrunk to a thumbnail image in the bottom-left corner of the screen. You can go back to browsing and choose your next song from here, as discussed in "Choosing a Song" on page 130.

Finding a Podcast, Audiobook, or iTunes U Course

Podcasts and iTunes U courses work similarly. You can have multiple podcasts or iTunes U courses, and within each podcast or iTunes U course, you can have multiple episodes. To learn how to find a podcast, audiobook, or iTunes U course stored on your iPad, follow these steps:

1. From the Home screen, tap **iPod**. The iPod screen appears.
2. Tap **Podcasts** in the Library category in the left pane of the iPod window. A list of stored podcasts appears, as shown in Figure 17-10.
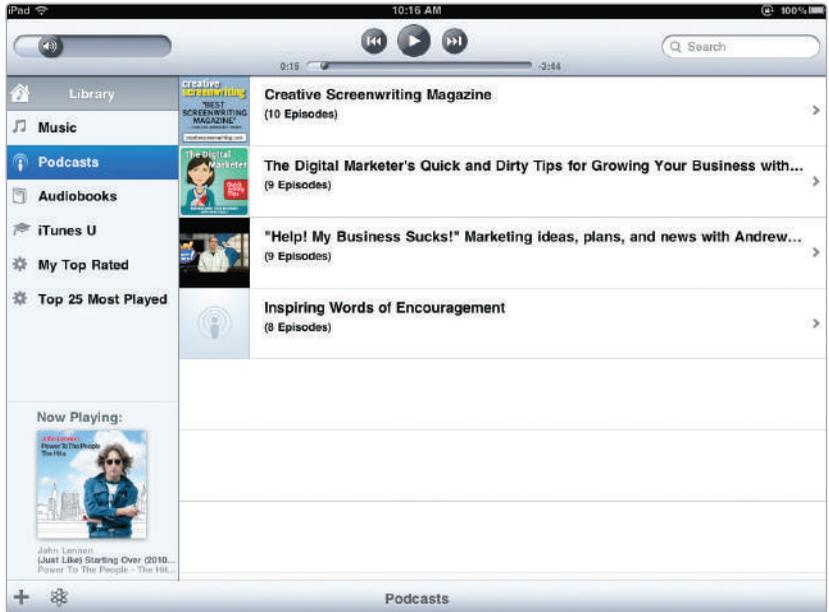
FIGURE 17-10: *The Podcasts category lists all the podcasts stored on your iPad.*

3. Tap a podcast. A list of episodes for that podcast appears.
4. Tap **Audiobooks** in the Library category in the left pane of the iPod window. A list of stored audiobooks appears.
5. Tap **iTunes U** in the Library category in the left pane of the iPod window. A list of iTunes U courses appears.
6. Tap an iTunes U course. A list of episodes for that course appears.

Searching for Any Audio File

Rather than search through individual categories, such as the Music or Podcasts libraries, you might find it easier just to search for a particular audio file by typing part or all of the recording artist's name, song title, or album name.

To search for any audio file stored in your iPad, follow these steps:

1. From the Home screen, tap **iPod**. The iPod screen appears.
2. Tap the **Search** field that appears in the upper-right corner of the iPod screen. A virtual keyboard appears, as shown in Figure 17-11.

Hide Keyboard key

FIGURE 17-11: *Searching for a particular audio file*

3. Type a word or phrase. As you type, the iPod app displays a list of matching items. Tap the one you want to play.
4. Tap the **Hide Keyboard** key at the bottom right of the virtual keyboard.

Additional Ideas for Listening to Audio Files

With the iPad, you have your choice of blasting your audio files through the iPad's speakers or plugging in headphones and listening to your audio files in private. However you choose to enjoy your audio files, your iPad can help you take your audio files wherever you go and enjoy listening to them at any time.

If you suddenly need to access the iPod app, don't forget you can press the Home button twice and swipe to the left to view the iPod controls, or just tap the orange iPod icon and jump into the full app.