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Finishing Touches for the 'Pod

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Apple Computer's technical support for the makers of accessories for its popular iPod music player has led to the creation of dozens of compatible products.

Protective cases can be found in a variety of materials, including rubberized fabric (\$19 to \$30) and leather (\$32 to \$70) as well as soft transparent plastic (MaClear Zip Clear Case for iPod, \$12.50, online specialty stores) or even aluminum (Matias's iPod Armor; www.halfkeyboard.com/ipodarmor, \$40 to \$46). The clear plastic Flip Stand from Speck (www.speckproducts.com/newflipstand, \$30) includes a connecting dock. Other designs include Felicidade's Groove Purse Tote with built-in speakers (www.drbot.com, \$144) and Speck's iSport waist pack (\$45).

A variety of table stands (\$14 to \$100) are displayed at ipoding.com, which also describes Altec Lansing's inMotion portable speaker system with iPod dock (\$149, store.apple.com).

To listen to your iPod in a car, Digital Lifestyle Outfitters offers the TransPod (\$69, Amazon.com and electronics retailers), which comes with a car-powered charger and an FM modulator to feed music through the car radio. ProClip USA (www.proclipusa.com) makes mounts that can be customized for most cars (\$65), and universal cup-holder mounts are available from Arkon Gripmatic (www.arkon.com; \$35) and Belkin (www.belkin.com, \$30). A connection kit from Dr. Bott (\$35) includes a charger and pouch and an FM modulator or a cassette adapter. Of the modulators available separately, Griffin's iTrip (www.griffintechnology.com/products/itrip, \$33) may be the best match for the iPod's styling. Griffin also makes a plug-in tuner, the iFM (\$35), that receives FM instead of sending it.

For moments when your iPod is not at your fingertips, remote controls are available from Engineered Audio (www.engineeredaudio.com, \$35) and TEN Technology (www.tentechnology.com, \$50).

With [Keyspan's](http://www.keyspan.com) Digital Media Remote (www.keyspan.com), the iPod itself becomes a controller for computers running multimedia applications.

Windows users can find software at mediafour.com (Xplay, \$30), J. River (www.musicex.com/mediacenter; Media Center, \$40) and Red Chair Software (www.redchairsoftware.com; Anapod Explorer, \$15, free trial download). Staylazy.net's Weather for Me (www.staylazy.net/wfm/) can supply your iPod with a week's worth of local weather forecasts downloaded by your PC.

Want to learn more about the iPod? Amazon.com lists "Secrets of the iPod" by Christopher Breen (Peachpit Press), "How to Do Everything With Your iPod" by Guy Hart-Davis (McGraw-Hill Osborne Media) and "iPod, the



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