

# Fun with iTunes

Lots of folks use iTunes to play music CDs, but that's only the smallest part of what your copy of *iTunes* can do.

Maybe music is not your thing. How about TV shows, movies, university courses, radio shows, audiobooks, discussions on almost any topic or a good, old fashioned, '60's era, acid trip light show?

To do these things consult the iTunes sidebar. There you see your Libraries of songs and shows, access the *iTunes Store*, share with other *iTunes* users, control how *iTunes* plays (see page 2) and create you own custom media mixes as *Playlists*.

## Your Libraries

Click **Podcasts** to hear and see free discussions on almost any issue, audit courses at major universities. Many public radio shows are available, too. Your subscriptions appear here.

Click **Radio** to hear internet and regular radio stations. Choose a genre and see hundreds of options.

## The iTunes Store

Buy music, TV shows, audiobooks, rent or buy movies, subscribe to free podcasts through the store.

Your connected iPods and iPhones appear here.

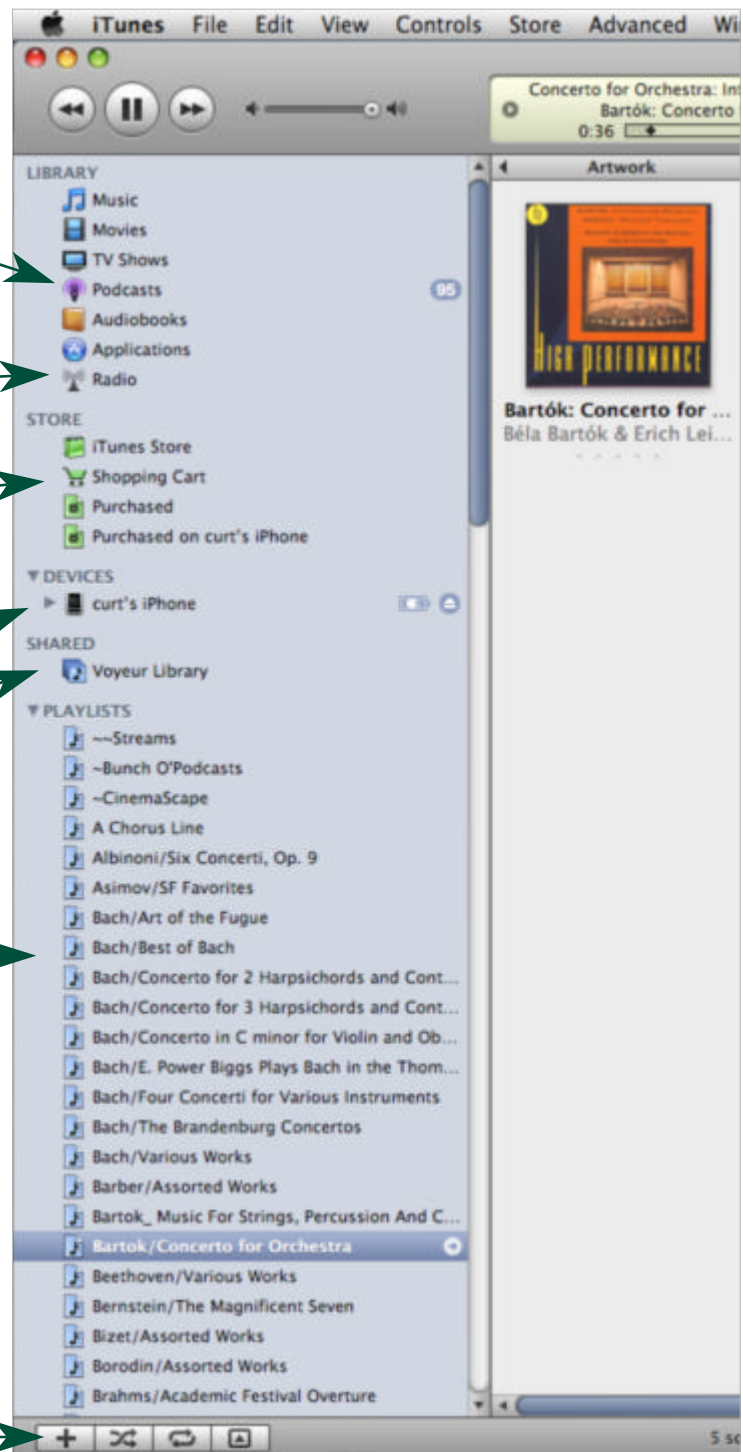
## Don't be stingy. Share!

Other iTunes libraries on other computers that you are connected to, appear here. You can see and play their music and videos. If you want, they can see and play yours.

## Playlists

This is where you create your own mixes. Click the Plus button at the bottom of the column to create a new, empty playlist. Name your playlist and then drag songs and videos to the playlist to create custom mixes. Playlists also appear, automatically, on your iPod or iPhone.

Choose a playlist to burn a custom CD with the mix that you like.



Straight through or shuffle? How do you want to listen to your music and playlists? Do you want to listen to songs in the order that they appear in your Library? Or would you prefer to have *iTunes* pick randomly and surprise you with what comes next? Use these buttons at the bottom of the sidebar to choose.



Create a new playlist.

Randomly shuffle song order.

Play songs through and repeat.

Show artwork (album covers, etc.) associated with the currently playing song or video.

Watch out! When creating playlists, keep in mind that the songs and videos that you add to playlists do not reside in the playlist. Just as pictures in *iPhoto* do not reside in albums, songs in playlists only reside in the *iTunes* Library. If you delete a song from the Library, it is deleted from all playlists as well.

And, what about that light show I promised you? *iTunes* will trip you out with swirling colors and shapes timed to compliment the music you are hearing. Just choose *Show Visualizer* from the *View* menu.

You can change visualizer styles, too. Try out different ones by choosing *Visualizer* from the *View* menu.

Really trip out by having the visualizer fill your Mac's whole screen. To do this choose *Preferences* from the *iTunes* menu, click the *Advanced* button and check mark the *Display visualizer full screen* check box.



## April Tip —

Inkjet printer ink is expensive. *Really expensive.* If you bought ink in gallons, you would think that gasoline was dirt cheap by comparison.

There are many companies that sell kits to refill your empty ink cartridges. In my tests, I have found that these refill inks are poor quality and potentially very messy. I have had a refilled cartridge explode in a printer forcing an hours-long cleanup. The printer was never quite the same after that.

There are also places where you can get “compatible” inks made by other companies. I have tested these as well. The best that I have found had good ink quality, but low quantity. Just because it is a similarly sized cartridge doesn't mean that it contains as much ink. The worst cartridges use ink that is low quality, weak in color, prone to fading and clogging. No bargain these.

So, I recommend this trick: Don't believe your printer the first time it asks you to replace an ink cartridge. Just keep on printing until it asks again or refuses to go on. You will print several more “free” pages in the interim.

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