Touching Your Music

The latest iPod touch is the best iPod that Apple has ever shipped. Despite that the iPod touch has become much more than just a music player, it still lets you rock out to your tunes better than any other multimedia device. This chapter introduces you to the iPod’s music player and shows you how to get the most use out of it.

The Music Application

Your iPod’s Music app brings all the functionality and ease of use you expect from a music player, but it delivers that functionality in a distinctive touch-based package. Figure 6–1 shows the Music application icon. It’s easy to spot, since it is bright orange and marked with a music note. Tapping this icon launches the music player and allows you to access and play the songs you’ve synchronized to your iPod.

NOTE: Do not confuse the Music and iTunes applications on your iPod. Music is used to play your music tracks. iTunes connects you to the mobile iTunes Wi-Fi Music Store where you can shop for and purchase music and video tracks and is not a general music player.

Figure 6–1. Launch the Music application by tapping its icon.

If you’ve used iPods before, expect to be pleasantly surprised. If you’re new to the world of iPods, expect to be blown away. The iPod touch interface simplifies browsing, locating, and playing music and videos. Here are just a few ways the iPod touch gives you your best music experience yet:
**Touch screen**: With the iPod’s touch screen, there’s no need for scroll wheels. Flick through your lists, and tap the items you want to play.

**Cover Flow**: If you like Cover Flow in iTunes, you’ll love it on the iPod.

**Alphabet index tool**: The iPod application uses the same kind of alphabet index you saw in Chapter 2 (see Figure 2-1). It makes searching through long alphabetized lists a breeze.

**Customizable button bar**: Do you prefer to search by genre or album, rather than artist or song? Just drag the items you use the most onto the configurable button bar.

And that’s just a taste of the ways the Music app changes the way you use your iPod. Read on for more details on how this program works.

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**Browsing Media on the iPod**

Tapping the orange Music icon on your Home screen takes you to the music player application. This program gives you access to all the audio media files you have synchronized to your iPod, including songs, podcasts, and audiobooks. At the bottom of the screen you’ll see blue and black buttons labeled Playlist, Artists, Songs, Albums, and More (see Figure 6–2). Tapping any of these buttons enables you to sort through your music. Tapping the Store button in the top-left corner of the screen takes you to the iTunes Store app (discussed in the next chapter) where you can buy music and videos.

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*Figure 6–2. The music player screen*