

Import a CD into iTunes 4

iTunes 4 features the ability to import tracks from your audio CDs in AAC (Advanced Audio Encoding) format, which, when encoded at 128 kbps (kilobytes per second), produces a smaller, better-sounding file than an MP3 file encoded at 160 kbps.



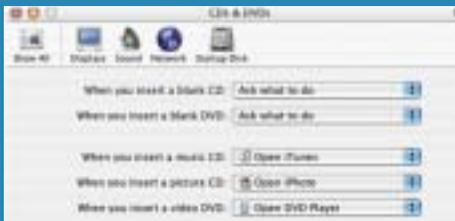
Mac OS X Hands-on Training
by Garrick Chow
0-321-18099-2 \$44.99

Get the Latest QuickTime

QuickTime 6.2 is required to encode your music into the AAC format, so be sure to check Software Update (located in System Preferences) to make sure you have the latest version of QuickTime.



To encode or “rip” a CD, first insert the CD into your Mac. iTunes opens automatically, and the CD appears in the Source pane. Depending on how your preferences are set, iTunes may go online and automatically download the album and track information for the CD. If it doesn’t, select **Advanced > Get CD Track Names**. If you don’t have an Internet connection or if your CD’s information isn’t included in the CD Database, you’ll have to enter this information yourself. To do so, **Ctrl-click** a track, select **Get Info**, and enter its information under the Info tab. Repeat this process for each of the CD’s tracks.



System Preferences

If iTunes doesn’t open when you insert an audio CD into your Mac, click your System Preferences icon in the Dock and then select **CDs & DVDs**. From the pop-up menu next to “When you insert a music CD,” select **Open iTunes**.



Before you rip your CD, select **iTunes > Preferences** from the menu bar. Click the Importing icon. Make sure you’re using the **AAC Encoder** and that it’s set to **High Quality**. Check “Play songs

while importing” if you want to hear the AAC files as soon as the CD is encoded. Check “Create file names with track number” if you want iTunes to place each track’s number in the name of the file. Click OK when you’re done.



With the CD selected in the **Source** pane, click the **Import** button in the upper-right corner of the iTunes window. Uncheck any songs you don’t want to import.

Join CD Tracks

On some CDs, certain tracks are designed to flow from one track right into the next with no break between songs. Because each song is ripped as a separate file, you’ll often hear a brief period of silence between songs that were never meant to have space between them. To prevent this gap from occurring, select the songs that should flow together and select **Advanced > Join CD Tracks** from the menu bar. This produces a single, gap-free track. If you change your mind, you can select **Advanced > Unjoin CD Tracks**.

When iTunes finishes ripping, you can eject the CD. You now have pristinely-encoded AAC versions of the CD’s songs available on your Mac to enjoy yourself or to share with other iTunes 4 users on your network over **Rendezvous**. (Turn on **Sharing** under **Preferences**.)

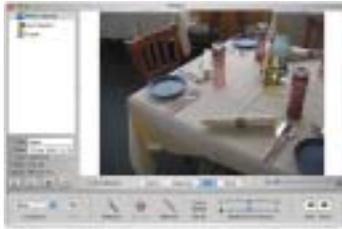


Where Are the Songs Stored?

iTunes stores all the music you import in your Home folder in **Music > iTunes > iTunes Music**. If the CD Database included the album’s track names and artist information when you ripped the tracks, iTunes organizes the tracks into individual artist and album folders. But if this information wasn’t available, the songs are placed into folders named **Unknown Artist** and **Unknown Album** until you enter the proper information in iTunes.

Editing Photos in iPhoto 2

iPhoto 2 comes with a small but useful set of tools for editing and correcting your digital photos. In many cases, iPhoto's editing tools are all you need to make your images look their best before you post them to a Web site or email them to friends.



Enhancing Your Photos

To edit a picture, **double-click its thumbnail** in your iPhoto **Library** (or in an album you created) to enter **Edit mode**. When in Edit mode, iPhoto's editing tools appear at the bottom of the window in the form of buttons and sliders, which can all be used to adjust the selected photo's appearance. For example, you can adjust the brightness and contrast of the image by moving the sliders until you're satisfied with the results. If you prefer to let iPhoto handle the work, however, just click the **Enhance** button.



Comparing the Result with the Original

After enhancing a photo—or after using any of the other editing tools—pressing the **Ctrl** key lets you compare the altered version with the original image. Press **Ctrl** a few times to toggle between the image's two versions and determine whether you prefer the edited or unedited version of your photo. If you're unhappy with an edit's result, you can always undo any changes by pressing **Cmd+Z**. If you've made several edits to your image, iPhoto allows you to press **Cmd+Z** multiple times to step backwards through your changes. You can also choose **File > Revert to Original** if you want to scrap your changes and start over with the original version of the image. You can revert to the original even if you've quit iPhoto and restarted it since making the changes.

Just be aware that editing a picture changes it in your main **Photo Library** and therefore in every album in which it appears. If you want to edit a picture without changing it in all albums, select its thumbnail in the main **Library** and choose **File > Duplicate** to create a copy of the file with which to work.

Fixing Red Eye in iPhoto 2

Another one of iPhoto's editing tools is the **Red-Eye** correction button, which can save an otherwise fantastic picture from being ruined.



Red eye occurs in flash photography when the light from the flash is reflected off the blood vessels lining the back wall of the subject's eyes, causing a slightly demonic appearance.



To fix this problem, open the image in **Edit mode** and then use your mouse to draw a rectangle around the subject's eyes. This makes the **Red-Eye** button available at the bottom of the window.



When you click the **Red-Eye** button, iPhoto scans the selected area for shades of red and eliminates them. Pretty amazing, huh? While you're at it, give the **Enhance** button a click to see if you can further improve the picture.

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