

RE: iTunes with MCE?

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It is my experience that yes, you can keep your music in MP3 format and synch with the iPod (this is what I do for all my ripped music). It is also my understanding that during iTunes installation, you can tell iTunes to use, but not manage, your MP3 files. If you purchase iTunes music, you can also convert the AAC files to MP3 using iTunes. To only load the MP3 version of those songs on your iPod, you just uncheck the AAC version of the song.

I'm not sure what features you lose if you don't have iTunes manage your music files. You may lose features such as the ability to rate music and create playlist. You'll have to check into that.

NOTE: I haven't downloaded the latest versions of iTunes, so some of the above may have changed, but I doubt it.

BW

"fsda" wrote:

- > OK, I made the choice (mistake?) of buying an iPod for the first time a
- > few months ago. Now, at my home, I have an iPod Nano and the Motorola
- > ROKR. Now, when I decided to go with iPod (after having read about the
- > vast, vast superiority of iTunes – which I actually find with use is no
- > better overall than Windows Media Player, and highly inferior in some
- > ways), I fully knew that this was a commitment to one platform. I.e.
- > you either go with a "Plays for sure" device, a Sony device, or an iPod.
- > Either way, unless you use MP3 exclusively, you are going to start
- > collecting music and building a library for one platform.
- >
- > Now, when I did this, I figured, hey, I've heard such rave reviews about
- > the iPod platform, and the Nano (before I knew about the scratches) did
- > seem a generation ahead. So, I went with, and standardized on, iPod. I
- > figured that maybe in two years I might switch back to the Windows Media
- > platform for audio, or go Sony, etc. I knew all along that a transition
- > would be required at that point. But I figured that any transition
- > pains would be years away.
- >

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- > Over the holidays, I ended up getting a Sony XL1 as a gift. I love the
- > concept of having a centralized Media Center in the house, and so I want
- > to use it for that purpose, including music.
- >
- > Of course, to store all of my music on Windows 2005 MCE, I am now using
- > a platform that is somewhat incompatible with iTunes.
- >
- > Keep in mind that I always want the best sound quality possible, and I
- > don't care about disc space. Therefore, when ripping CD's into iTunes,
- > I always use the Apple Lossless format. And, I use this same format on
- > my Nano – I don't care that it takes up a lot of space.
- >
- > Now that I've started ripping CD's to my Windows2005MCE system, I am
- > using the WMA Lossless format for the same sound quality reasons.
- >
- > So here's my question:
- >
- > **WHAT I WANT TO DO:**
- >
- > I want to keep all of my music and organize it on the Windows2005MCE
- > system (my Sony XL1). The music will all be in the WMA Lossless format.
- > This computer is accessible by my desktop PC, laptops, etc., that I own
- > in my home.
- >
- > My desktop (a Windows XP Pro system) can access the Windows2005MCE
- > system. This desktop has iTunes installed, and this is the system that
- > I use to sync with both my iPod Nano and the ROKR phone.
- >
- > For playing music on other computers, I will use Windows Media Player to
- > access the 2005MCE system. I will not use iTunes for this purpose.
- >
- > I will keep iTunes on my XP Pro desktop, which can access the Windows
- > Media music library installed on the 2005MCE system. I will keep iTunes
- > for the sole purpose of synching with the iPod and RORR only.
- >
- >
- > My understanding is the iTunes can access a Windows Media song library
- > without messing with it and reorganizing it (is this true?).
- >
- > But, what I have read is that iTunes will insist on importing and
- > converting all of my WMA music to ACC (or MP3) before it will allow
- > synching to iPod.
- >
- > Is there anyway to leave all of my music in WMA Lossless, and still
- > access the library from iTunes?
- >
- > Basically I want iTunes to convert the files on–the–fly as it synchs to
- > the iPod – not convert the songs and store copies in ACC...
- >
- >
- > Can this be done?

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> [Note that I don't care about converting my current ripped library. I
> own all of my CD's, so I can easily rip them again. So maintaining my
> existing iTunes library is not a factor here – in fact, I want to get
> rid of the iTunes library to save space.]
>
>
> If I had known that I was going to get a Sony XL1 this December, I
> wouldn't gone iPod/RORR a few months ago, and instead would have gone
> with "Plays for Sure" devices only, just for maximum compatibility.
> But, oh well...
>
>
> Thanks in Advance!
>
>
>

• **References:**

◆ **[iTunes with MCE?](#)**

◇ From: fsda

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