

Displaying Video, Pictures, and PowerPoint Presentations Using an iPod

Viddy well, little brother. Viddy well.

While you can watch video or look at pictures on the screen of your iPod, it's not feasible to gather a class around the three inch screen. The good news is that video iPods will output an NTSC signal—basically, an analog TV signal (in the US at least). This means you can use the digital projector in a classroom to display video and photos on an iPod. The display quality is what you would expect from a VHS tape—not great, but certainly usable. And since you can export PowerPoint slides as JPEG images, this means you can use an iPod for PowerPoint presentations as well. This document explains how to do this.

Hardware Requirements

In addition to a video iPod, you'll need a video cable. The simplest choice is to use a cable from Apple. The iPod A/V Cable M9765G/A has a four-ring mini-jack on one end and three color-coded RCA connectors on the other end. The cost is about \$20. I'm told you can buy similar cables from Radio Shack for less, but that the color coding doesn't match. If you buy an off-brand cable, you'll need to experiment when connecting to the equipment. (Apple uses a non-standard configuration for the mini-jack but corrects for this with their color coding.) Dave Whisnant has one Apple video cable you might be able to borrow. This cable will allow you to connect to any NTSC compatible projector or to a TV set with RCA sockets.

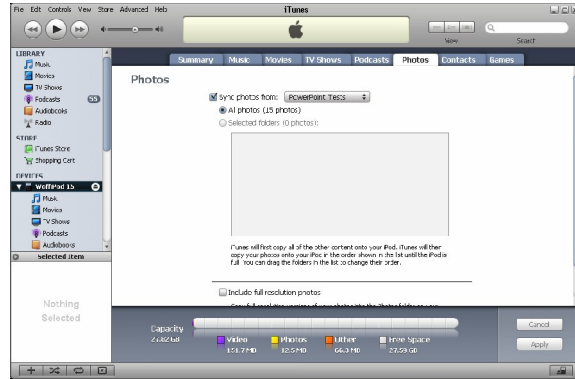
PowerPoint

If you want to give PowerPoint presentation using the iPod, you'll need to save the presentation as a set of JPEG files, i.e., as pictures of your slide. This is easy to do from PowerPoint. First, create and save your PowerPoint presentation as you normally would. Then, with your PowerPoint presentation still open, select *Save As...* under the *File* menu. Enter a name and location to save your slides. But before you re-save the presentation, in the *Save as type:* box at the bottom, scroll down and select *JPEG File Interchange Format (*.jpg)*. Now you can click on the *Save* button. This will create a new folder and will save each slide in the presentation as an individual JPEG file in that folder. From this point on, you'll treat this folder of slides just like you would a folder of pictures. Of course, sound effects, HTTP links, transitions, and the like will be lost.

Transfer to iPod

Before you can begin your presentations, you'll need to move the presentation you're your iPod. With iTunes 7, when you connect the iPod, you'll be given a configuration

screen like the one shown here. Click on the appropriate tab for the type of data you want to transfer. In the figure, *Photos* has been selected. Make sure the *Sync Photos From:* check box is checked and then use the dropdown menu to the right to select *Choose Folder...*. This will open a window that will allow you to navigate to the directory where you have your Photos stored. Once you are in the correct folder, click on the *Apply* button in the lower right-hand corner to transfer the photos. You can transfer video in a similar manner.



Configuring the iPod

Before connecting the iPod, you'll need to configure it for the task at hand. The iPod has two very similar configuration menus depending on whether you are displaying photos or video. To configure video, from the iPod's main menu, select *Video* and then *Video Settings*. For *TV Out*, select *On* and for *TV Signal*, make sure *NTSC* is selected.

For pictures, select *Photos* and the *Slideshow Settings*. Make sure *TV Out* is *On* and *TV Signal* is *NTSC*. You'll probably also want to set *Time Per Slide* to *Manual* so you can decide when to transition to the next picture, *Transitions* to *Off* so you don't get the tacky dissolves, sweeps, etc. that plague so many PowerPoint presentations, and *Repeat* and *Shuffle Photos* to *Off* so you can go through the show once as a linear progression.

Connecting the iPod

Once the iPod is configured, plug the video cable into the headphone socket on the iPod and into the RCA sockets on the TV, classroom desk, or, if necessary, directly into the projector. The RCA connectors are color coded Yellow, White, and Red. While with most RCA connectors the color coding is obvious, Apple hides the color coding at the end of the connector making it easy to overlook and hard to see in the dark—sleek, stylish, and asinine. The color coding on the Apple cable should match the color coding on the desk or projector. If you are using another cable, you may need to try different combinations until you find something that works. Finally, if you are plugged into the desk in a classroom, you'll also need to change the video control box on the desk to the *Auxiliary Video* setting.

Displaying

You should be set to go now. For a slide show, select *Photo* from the iPod's main menu, and then *Photo Library* to get to the slides or pictures. You should see thumbnails for the

individual slides. Use the click-wheel to select the starting slide and then press the play button on the bottom of the click-wheel. The slide show should begin. When the show begins, the slides will not fill the iPod's screen. Rather, you will be given a control screen for the presentation. Use the forward and replay buttons to move forwards and backwards through the slides in your presentation. You can return the iPod to full-screen mode after the presentation by setting *TV Out* to *Off*.

For video, from the main menu, go to *Video* and then select the appropriate category and video segment you want to play. As with the slide show, you'll see a control screen rather than the actual video on the iPod screen. You can restore this later by reconfiguring the *TV Out* to *Off*.