

**foo\_pod**  
version 0.9.9n



**Programming**  
Aero

**iTunesDB Code**  
Otto42

**Documentation**  
Quazi



## *Table of Contents*

---

- 3** Introduction
- 4** Installation
- 5** How-to Guide
- 8** Context-Menu Options
- 10** Menu
- 19** Preferences / Main
- 24** Preferences / Transcoder
- 26** Preferences / iPod Service
- 28** Preferences / Advanced
- 33** Preferences / Podcast
- 35** Other Features
- 37** Alternate Metadata Example Strings
- 39** Index



## *Introduction*

---

foo\_pod is a plugin for Foobar2000 that allows you to manage music on an iPod without the use of iTunes. In addition to most iTunes features, it supports transcoding (re-encoding files from formats the iPod cannot play to those it can), allows for alternate metadata (a non-destructive method for transposing tags on-the-fly), converts ReplayGain data to SoundCheck data, and allows basic iTunesDB database maintenance.

foo\_pod is maintained by two members of the Hydrogenaudio forums, Aero and Otto42. Updates are available in the thread:

<http://www.hydrogenaudio.org/forums/index.php?showtopic=19156>

This document is based on foo\_pod version 0.9.9n and is hosted:

[http://www.tinkafoo.com/log/foo\\_pod.html](http://www.tinkafoo.com/log/foo_pod.html)

Everywhere you see "<need information>", these are sections I am not familiar with and therefore need more information.

## *Installation*

---

foo\_pod requires Foobar v0.8 (latest: v0.8.3).

It does not work with Foobar v0.9, which is currently in beta.

### **To install foo\_pod**

- If you have not done so, install Foobar2000.
  - ◊ (foo\_pod cannot run without it)
- download foo\_pod from the Hydrogenaudio forum thread
- unzip the foo\_pod.dll to your Foobar2000\Components folder.

If you plan to transcode files on-the-fly, you must install foo\_podclienc.dll and foo\_podtranscoder.dll. See 'Transcoding' for more details.

Configure iTunes so it does not load when you connect your iPod.  
(not required, but highly recommended)

- Go to: Edit / Preferences / 'iPod' tab / 'General' tab
- Uncheck "Open iTunes when this iPod is attached"

## *How-to Guide*

---

### **Connecting your iPod**

As long as Windows detects that it is plugged in properly, foo\_pod should see it fine.

### **Transferring songs and playlists**

#### **To transfer tracks**

- Select a track, or a lot of tracks
- Right-click 'Send File to iPod'

#### **To transfer a playlist**

- Select a Foobar2000 playlist
- Select: Components / foo\_pod / Send Current Playlist to iPod

#### **To transfer an Audiobook**

- Select a file (or Foobar2000 playlist)
- Right-click 'Send file(s) to iPod as Audiobook'

## Managing playlists on your iPod

- Select: Components / foo\_pod / Playlist Editor
- Create Playlists: press either the New Playlist or New Smart Playlist button
- Move existing files by dragging them
  - ◊ (Interface limitation: you cannot add files here)
- Design Smart Playlists with common iPod data

## Deleting songs and playlists from your iPod

### To delete a song

- Select: Components / Open iPod Songs in Foobar Playlist
- open the iPod playlist
- Select a song
- Right-click 'Delete Selected File(s)'

### To delete a playlist

- Select: Components / foo\_pod / Playlist Editor
- Select the playlist you want to delete
- Click the Remove Playlist button
- Press the Apply button to actually remove the playlist from the iPod (you can click Cancel and undo all of your changes made in the Playlist Editor).

## Ejecting your iPod

- Select: Components / foo\_pod / Eject iPod

## Some Advanced Features

### Organize music on your iPod however you want

- Connect your iPod
- Open Windows Explorer and copy music
- Open FooBar2000, Select: Components / foo\_pod / Preferences / Advanced / Rebuild iTunesDB on iPod

### Sort albums by year on your iPod

- Select: Components / foo\_pod / Preferences / Advanced
- Replace the contents of the "Album" box with:  
[[ \$right(%date%, 2) - ]%album%]
- Transfer music with foo\_pod

## *Context-Menu Options*

---

Right-click files or playlists to use these options.

### **For songs and playlists not on your iPod**

#### **Send file(s) to iPod**

Copies files to your iPod.

Duplicate songs are automatically ignored. This means you can have Song A in Foobar Playlists 1 and 2, and if you send both playlists to the iPod, Song A will be copied once, but still appear in both playlists on the iPod.

#### **Select to Ignore Playlist**

Ignores the the songs in the current database. Allows you to specify an unlimited number of playlists which foo\_pod will not use when syncing or sending playlist. This is useful for keeping playlists of songs that you do not want on your iPod. This list of Playlists is saved between Foobar sessions, so the playlist will remained ignored until you un-ignore it.

## **Send To iPod as Audiobook**

Audiobooks are treated differently on the iPod in a number of respects - they have automatic bookmarking, which allows you to return to a specific point in a song. Also, on newer iPods (4G+), there is a menu item that displays audiobooks, and they can be played faster or slower than normal speed. This feature requires that an AAC encoder is available - the default configuration uses FAAC.exe, located in the FooBar2000 folder, but the settings can be changed in the Preferences/Transcoder tab.

## **For songs on your iPod**

After your iPod is connected, select the iPod playlist.

default name : "iPod (foo\_pod)"

## **Save iPod Files To Disk**

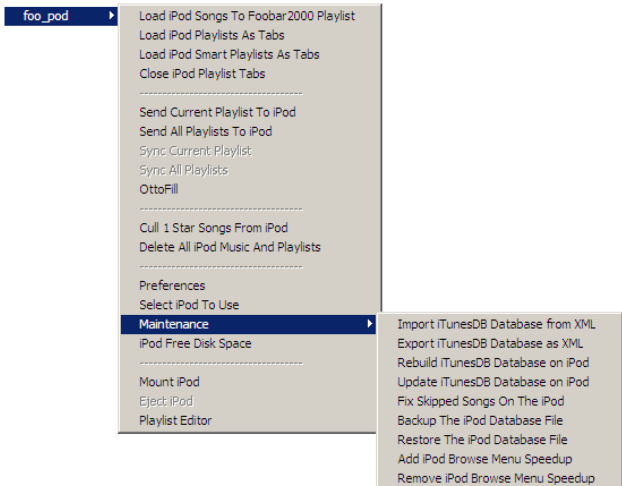
Allows you to copy songs from the iPod to your hard drive in a structured fashion, based on a user-configurable TAGZ format string. To use this feature, select one or more files from the iPod playlist, right click and select "Save iPod files to disk". Then select the starting folder for the files to be copied. The formatting can be modified in Preferences / Main.

## **Delete Selected File(s)**

Manually remove files from the iPod without having to do a sync.

## Menu

---



When foo\_pod is installed, you will get a “foo\_pod” submenu under the Foobar2000 Components menu. You may rearrange the menu however you like.

### **Load iPod Songs to Foobar2000 Playlist**

Creates a new Foobar2000 playlist and populates it with all of the files on the iPod.

See Preferences / Main for options:

- foo\_pod Playlist Name
- Automatically Update
- Sort

### **Load iPod Playlists As Tabs**

Creates a new Foobar playlist for each playlist on the iPod. These playlists are noted by the suffix “ [iPod]” at the end of the playlist name.

### **Load iPod Smart Playlists As Tabs**

Will read any smart playlists on the iPod and display the iPod songs that match the rules (i.e. the songs that are displayed on the iPod).

### **Close iPod Playlist Tabs**

Closes all iPod playlists in Foobar. The iPod playlists can be edited (songs added, removed, reordered) like any Foobar playlist. When you are done, right click on a song in the playlist and select the "Update Playlist On iPod" option. This copies files (if necessary) to the iPod and creates the specified playlist.

### **Send Current Playlist to iPod**

Sends songs in current playlist to your iPod. Does not create the playlist. Duplicate songs are automatically ignored. This means you can have Song A in Foobar Playlists 1 and 2, and if you send both playlists to the iPod, Song A will be copied once, but still appear in both playlists on the iPod.

### **Send All Playlists to iPod**

<need information>

Sends songs in all playlists to your iPod.

Duplicate songs are automatically ignored. What this means is you can have Song A in Foobar Playlists 1 and 2, and if you send both playlists to the iPod, Song A will be copied once, but still appear in both playlists on the iPod.

## Sync Current Playlist

disabled by default - still testing

Copies files to the iPod, and deletes files from the iPod to make it match the list of files you want to sync. If you sync one file, it will delete all songs from the iPod, and leave that one file. Does not transcode files.

(enable with Preferences / Main / "Enable Sync")

## Sync All Playlists

disabled by default - still testing

Copies files to the iPod, and deletes files from the iPod to make it match the list of files you want to sync. If you sync one file, it will delete all songs from the iPod, and leave that one file. Does not transcode files.

(enable with Preferences / Main / "Enable Sync")

## OttoFill

Mimics the "Auto Fill" function in iTunes, except this works on all iPods, not just iPod Shuffles. It will not automatically start on hard drive based iPods, and will warn you if you attempt to delete all songs.

There are 3 sources that OttoFill can source files from:

- the current Foobar playlist
- all open, non-ignored playlists
- another iPod

NOTE: Currently, the slider for selecting how much space to use for music is disabled at 100%. Future versions will enable this setting.

(named after hydrogenaudio forum member Otto42, who wrote the original iPod transfer code from which foo\_pod is based)

### **Cull 1 Star Songs From iPod**

Removes all songs from the iPod that are rated with one star.

### **Delete All iPod Music And Playlists**

Removes all songs and all playlists from your iPod. Use with caution.

### **Preferences**

Allows you to change how foo\_pod works.

### **Select iPod to Use**

Opens a small window and lets you switch between two or more iPods connected at the same time.

### **Import iTunesDB Database as XML**

Overwrites the current iTunesDB file with an XML file, preferably a backup created with the 'Export' function (below).

### **Export iTunesDB Database as XML**

Saves a copy of the current iTunesDB file as an XML file. This allows easy human access to the database.

To edit, I recommend studying the iTunesDB wiki:

<http://ipodlinux.org/iTunesDB>

### **Rebuild iTunesDB Database on iPod**

Scans for iPod-playable music anywhere on the iPod (not just in the Music folders) and re-creates a database of those files without moving them.

This allows you to store your songs in human-readable folders, rather than in F00 - F99.

Deletes existing playlists, and dynamic data: rating, playcounts, and last played time. Preserves Smart Playlists.

### **Update iTunesDB Database on iPod**

Updates information about songs that are already in the iPod database. Use this function if you alter tags or ReplayGain data on files on the iPod.

### **Fix Skipped Songs on the iPod**

Addresses an issue on the iPod Photo/Color where certain songs with long filenames are consistently skipped. This is not necessary on other iPods.

### **Backup the iPod Database**

Saves a copy of the current iTunesDB file.

### **Restore the iPod Database**

Overwrites the current iTunesDB file, preferably a backup created with the 'Backup' function above.

## **Add iPod Browse Menu Speedup**

experimental

Addresses a potentially serious bug when using both foo\_pod and iTunes to add songs to the same iPod. Symptoms of this problem are weird items (missing or out of order entries) in the Artist/Album/Genre browse menus on the iPod.

This is temporary. Adding/removing songs to/from the iPod will disable this. To have this permanently in effect, open the Preferences menu, select the Advanced tab, and use the option "Speed up iPod Browse Menu".

A side-effect is that the iPod browse menus will now list in strict alphabetic order. (For example, "The Beatles" will appear under 'T' instead of 'B'.)

## **Remove iPod Browse Menu Speedup**

experimental

Disables the 'browse menu speedup' function. (above)

## **iPod Free Disk Space**

Reports how much space is remaining on your iPod.

## Mount iPod

Forces the iPod to mount. Useful when you have ejected your iPod but kept it plugged into your computer. Also useful for troubleshooting.

## Eject iPod

Safely disconnects your iPod from Windows.

## Playlist Editor

Manage playlists and Smart Playlists

- New Playlist - creates a normal playlist
  - ◊ Move existing files by dragging them
  - ◊ (Interface limitation: You cannot add files here.)
- New Smart Playlist - creates a Smart Playlist
  - ◊ Design Smart Playlists with common iPod data
- Remove Playlist - removes playlists

No changes take place on the iPod until you press Apply.

## Preferences / Main

Main | Transcoder | iPod Service | Advanced | Podcast

foo\_pod Playlist Name:   Automatically Update

foo\_pod Playlist Sort Format:   Sort

Force iPod Drive Letter:  (blank to disable)

Eject iPod At Exit:

Enable Sync Functions:

Minimize FooBar During Transfers:

"Save iPod Files to Disk" Format:

Send/Sync Playlist Settings

Create iPod Playlists:

Create Randomize Playlists:

Custom Format:

ReplayGain / SoundCheck Conversion

Disable  Prefer Album Gain  Prefer Track Gain  3G iPod Line Out Mode

iPod Pre-amp Volume Adjustment

Songs without SoundCheck data:

Songs with SoundCheck data:

-100% 0% 100% -100% 0% 100%

### **foo\_pod Playlist Name**

The FooBar playlist can have a custom name, but if it is empty, foo\_pod uses the device name. It will first try to find the device name via iPodService. If that is not available, it will use the Windows drive name for the playlist.

### **Automatically Update**

Update the "iPod (foo\_pod)" playlist after any send/sync/delete.

### **foo\_pod Playlist Sort Format**

Sorts the iPod playlist displayed in FooBar.

Default:

`%ARTIST% - %ALBUM% - $num(%TRACKNUMBER%, 3) - %TITLE%`

Enable/Disable using the "Sort" checkbox.

## Force iPod Drive Letter

<need information>

*(My interpretation: This selects the device at a given drive letter. It may be useful for managing an iPod that foo\_pod does not detect any other way. Side-effect: when set to "C:", it may treat your hard drive as an iPod -- "iPod Free Disk Space" is one of the few functions that work in that situation.)*

Default is blank.

## Eject iPod at Exit

Safely ejects the iPod when FooBar2000 exits.

## Enable Sync Functions

disabled by default - still testing

Copies files to the iPod, and deletes files from the iPod to make it match the list of files you want to sync. If you sync one file, it will delete all songs from the iPod, and leave that one file. Does not transcode files.

Automatically skips files with either "IPOD" or "COPY\_TO\_PORTABLE" metadata set to "NO", "FALSE", or "0" (zero). Variables and values are not case sensitive.

## **Minimize FooBar During Transfers**

Minimizes FooBar during copy and sync functions.

## **“Save iPod Files to Disk” Format**

Allows you to copy songs from the iPod to your hard drive in a structured fashion, based on a user-configurable TAGZ format string.

default: %artist%\%album%\%tracknumber% - %title%

example: Aerosmith\Honkin' On Bobo\11 - Stop Messin' Around.mp3

## **Send/Sync Playlist Settings**

<need information>

## **Create iPod Playlists**

<need information>

## **Create Randomize Playlists**

<need information>

## **Custom Format**

<need information>

## **ReplayGain / Sound Check Conversion**

Translation between ReplayGain values and the values used by the SoundCheck feature on the iPod.

There are 3 new preferences dealing with ReplayGain: disable, Prefer Album Gain, and Prefer Track Gain. Prefer Album Gain will use the album gain as the source for SoundCheck. If album gain is not available, it will use track gain.

## **3G iPod Line Out Mode**

Since third-generation iPods do not have SoundCheck available via the Line Out port (it only works via the headphone jack), this feature applies the ReplayGain corrections using a different method. Unlike SoundCheck, this can not be turned off on the iPod.

## **iPod Preamp Volume Adjustment**

Raises the volume of all songs by the percentage shown by the slider. It allows different settings for tracks whether or not they have SoundCheck data. (For example, this can be used to reduce the volume for files without SoundCheck data.)

This is equivalent to the 'volume' feature in iTunes.

## Preferences / Transcoder

---

Main | **Transcoder** | iPod Service | Advanced | Podcast

To use the transcoder, make sure that foo\_poddienc.dll and foo\_podtranscoder.dll are in the Components directory, and lame.exe (version 3.96 or higher) and/or faac.exe (version 1.24 or higher) are in the FooBar2000 directory.

Don't Transcode

LAME (MP3) - Good Quality [128kbps VBR]

LAME (MP3) - High Quality [--preset fast medium -Y]

LAME (MP3) - Best Quality [--preset fast standard]

FAAC (AAC) - Good Quality [-q 100 -c 16000]

FAAC (AAC) - High Quality [-q 115 -c 18000]

FAAC (AAC) - Best Quality [-q 150]

Use Custom Encoder Settings

Transcode MP3 files above  kbps

Transcode AAC files above  kbps

Transcode WAV and AIFF files

AudioBook Encoder Settings

Transcoder Process Priority

Idle  Below Normal  Normal  Above Normal

Transcoding allows audio file formats that the iPod can't play (anything except MP3, AAC, WAV, and AIFF) to be converted to the selected format and copied to the iPod. To use the transcoding feature, you must have the `foo_podclienc` and `foo_podtranscoder` components installed, and a recent version of `lame.exe` (version 3.96 is preferred) in the `Foobar2000` folder.

The Foobar Advanced Limiter will be applied to transcoded songs, to prevent clipping. (Note: due to a bug in Foobar2000, this feature only works on Foobar2000 0.8.3 and higher.)

When transcoding, `foo_pod` writes the tracks to a temporary folder before moving them to the iPod, and writes out the following metadata to the transcoded files:

- ReplayGain metadata
- Exact Audio Copy metadata
  - ◊ `TRANSCODER` - a description of the transcoder and settings
  - ◊ `TRANSCODED_DATE` - timestamp when the file was transcoded
  - ◊ `ORIGINAL_CODEEC` - the codec of the source file
  - ◊ `ORIGINAL_BITRATE` - the original bitrate

### **Transcoder Process Priority**

Allows the transcoder to use more/less CPU time.

## *Preferences / iPod Service*

---

The screenshot shows a preferences window with a tabbed interface. The 'iPod Service' tab is selected. At the top, there are five tabs: 'Main', 'Transcoder', 'iPod Service', 'Advanced', and 'Podcast'. Below the tabs, there is a checkbox labeled 'Don't Use iPod Service (requires restart)'. Below this is a rectangular box containing four settings: 'iPod Device Name' with a text input field, 'iPod Owner's Name' with a text input field, 'Enable Disk Mode' with an unchecked checkbox, and 'Stop iPodService On Exit' with an unchecked checkbox.

Main | Transcoder | iPod Service | Advanced | Podcast

Don't Use iPod Service (requires restart)

iPod Device Name

iPod Owner's Name

Enable Disk Mode

Stop iPodService On Exit

## **Don't Use iPodService**

disabled by default

This is only useful in rare cases, and should normally not be set.

## **iPod Device Name / iPod Owner's Name**

Self explanatory, strings that you can set if you wish.

## **Enable Disk Mode**

Highly recommended. The equivalent of iTunes "Enable Disk Mode".

(When I disable this, it ejects my iPod. I'm not sure why this is an option.)

## **Stop iPodService On Exit**

<need information>

## Preferences / Advanced

Main | Transcoder | iPod Service | **Advanced** | Podcast

Alternate Metadata Settings

Metadata Prefix

FooBar 2000 TAGZ Format Strings (blank to disable)

Title

Artist

Album

Genre

Composer

Comment

Tracknumber

Flag compilation albums

Format

Console Debug Mode

Speed Up iPod Browse Menus (experimental)

Use non-modal progress dialogs (may cause crashes)

iTunesDB Format:  iTunes 4.7/4.8 Compatible  iTunes 4.9 Compatible

ReplayGain Adjustment:

-12dB      0dB      12dB

## Metadata Prefix

Allows the use of a second set of metadata items for the iPod while not disturbing the regular metadata. Default Prefix = "POD\_"

- The following metadata items are supported: TITLE, ARTIST, ALBUM, GENRE, COMMENT, COMPOSER, and TRACKNUMBER
- For example, if the Alternate Metadata Prefix setting is "POD\_" and a "POD\_ARTIST" tag exists and contains a value, the artist field on the iPod will be the value from POD\_ARTIST. Otherwise, it will use ARTIST.

## Global Alternate Metadata

Allows the use of Foobar TAGZ strings to configure how songs are displayed on the iPod, in a global fashion. This does NOT alter the tags of your files in any way. The Metadata Prefix option (above) supersedes this option.

## Metadata Defaults:

```
Title: $if2(%title%,%_filename%)
Artist: $if2(%artist%, '[Artist]')
Album: $if2(%album%, '[Album]')
Genre: %genre%
Composer: %composer%
Comment: %comment%
Tracknumber: %tracknumber%
```

NOTE: Debug your strings before using them. A simple typo can cause you to misplace a lot of music on your iPod.

(see Alternate Metadata for example strings)

## Flag Compilation Albums

Enables the iPod's "compilation bit" for files with certain criteria.

```
Default: $if(%album artist%, 1, 0)
```

- This means that if a track contains the album artist tag, `foo_pod` will set its compilation bit to "1", otherwise it will be "0". The logic behind this is that only compilation albums use the album artist tag. See Foobar2000's Encouraged Tag Standards.

## Console Debug Mode

Controls what type of information is sent to the FooBar console.

“All Debug Messages” can be very verbose, so it should probably only be used if you suspect a problem with foo\_pod and need to report debug information.

Default: “Errors and Warnings”

## Speed Up iPod Browse Menus (experimental)

Addresses a potentially serious bug when using both foo\_pod and iTunes to add songs to the same iPod. Symptoms of this problem are weird items (missing or out of order entries) in the Artist/Album/Genre browse menus on the iPod.

A side-effect is that the iPod browse menus will now list in strict alphabetic order. (For example, “The Beatles” will appear after ‘T’ instead of after ‘B’.)

This is the ‘more permanent’ version of the “iPod Browse Menu Speedup” option -- it is not disabled when uploading/downloading songs to/from the iPod.

### **Use non-modal progress dialogs (may cause crashes)**

Allows you to continue using Foobar while the progress dialog boxes are in operation. (the little windows that pop up during transfer and delete) Even though this option used to cause crashes in earlier versions, it was reinstated by popular demand. Use with caution.

### **iTunesDB Format**

Support for the iTunes 4.9 format has been removed due to problems. The only option is "iTunes 4.7/4.8 Compatible". This should not be an issue even if you are using a much higher version of iTunes.

### **ReplayGain Adjustment**

Changes the ReplayGain target level.

ReplayGain defaults to a target of 83dB which some people find too quiet. If you prefer a level of 89dB for example, adjust the slider to +6dB.

## Preferences / Podcast

---

The screenshot shows the iTunes Preferences window with the 'Podcast' tab selected. The window has a title bar with tabs for 'Main', 'Transcoder', 'iPod Service', 'Advanced', and 'Podcast'. The main content area is titled 'Podcast Support' and contains several paragraphs of text explaining podcast features and TAGZ format strings. At the bottom, there are three input fields: 'Podcast:', 'Bookmarkable:', and 'Shuffle Skip:'. The 'Bookmarkable:' field contains the text '\$if3(\$stricmp(%genre%,Podcast), \$stricmp(%genre%,Speech), 1,0)'. The 'Podcast:' and 'Shuffle Skip:' fields are empty.

Main | Transcoder | iPod Service | Advanced | **Podcast**

Podcast Support

Newer iPod firmware updates (3G models and above with the 2005-06-26 update or later) have special support for Podcasts.

A Podcast can appear in the special Podcast menu and display show notes, be bookmarkable (playback resumes at the last played point in the show, even if you navigate to another song), or both.

One downside to a song being treated as a Podcast is that the Star rating menu is not available. Also, any song can be bookmarkable, independent of its Podcast status.

To enable Podcast or bookmarkable support, enter the designed TAGZ format string below, or leave empty to disable that feature. The TAGZ format string should return the value 1 for true, or 0 for false.

In addition to the other options, any song can be marked to be skipped while in Shuffle mode, by specifying the Shuffle Skip TAGZ string to return the value 1. If the TAGZ string is empty or returns a non-0 value, the song will be played in Shuffle mode.

Podcast:

Bookmarkable:

Shuffle Skip:

More documentation is included on the tab itself, but these functions basically require at least a third-generation iPod with the 2005-06-26 update installed. To enable a function, the TAGZ string must return a "1" for those tracks.

## **Podcast**

disabled by default - still testing

These tracks will appear in a Podcast menu on the iPod.

## **Bookmarkable**

These tracks will support bookmarks. This allows the position in a track to be saved, and when you return to that track, it will continue from its last played position. This is usually for audiobooks, but you may use it for anything.

## **Shuffle Skip**

These tracks will not be played when the iPod is in shuffle mode. This is usually for filtering out podcasts and audiobooks, but you may use it for anything.

## *Other Features*

---

These features of foo\_pod have no settings in the interface but are generally good to know.

### **Files:**

foo\_pod truncates long filenames during transfer because iPods cannot read files with a total path and filename of greater than 127 characters. (This is the only editing it does to your files.) If you manually copy files and rebuild the database, your iPod might skip those with long file paths.

It does not yet transfer album art, Ratings, Playcount, and Last\_Played attributes.

### **Hardware:**

It treats the iPod Shuffle just like any other iPod, with a few iPod Shuffle specific features, including writing two text files, "Track\_Order.txt" and "Shuffle\_Order.txt" to the root folder of the Shuffle. These allow the iPod Shuffle user to determine in which order songs will be played, in either normal or shuffle modes.

For better performance with a large number of files, it uses more folders to store music on the iPod.

It automatically creates all necessary folders, so that a completely blank iPod might be used without being initialized by iTunes or the iPod Updater. (<need information> ..I have never tried this. What about the firmware installation?)

### **Metadata:**

<need information>

Supports "COPY\_TO\_PORTABLE" as a technical info metadata item (i.e. accessible in TAGZ as %\_\_COPY\_TO\_PORTABLE%).

The metadata entries for discs and sets of discs are "DISCNUMBER" and "DISCCOUNT", respectively. For example, to indicate that a song is from Disc #2 of a 6 disc set, you would set DISCNUMBER to 2, and DISCCOUNT to 6. These values are stored in the iTunesDB database.

## *Alternate Metadata Example Strings*

---

This list of metadata strings is designed to transfer the naming schemes used in my Masstagger article.

### **Title**

```
$if2(%title%,%_filename%)
```

Use the title. But if for some weird reason the song doesn't even have a title tag, it's probably not tagged at all. So, we'll have to resort to the filename.

### **Artist**

```
$if(%album artist%, $if($strcmp(VA, %album artist%),  
%album%, %album artist%), %artist%)
```

If this is a compilation disc, use the album artist. If there's no real album artist (it's "VA"), use the album name instead.

### **Album**

```
[[ $right(%date%, 2) - ] %album%]
```

This allows the iPod to sort albums by year. If the album has a date, prefix the name with the last two digits of the year.

## Genre

[%genre%]

Use it if it exists

## Composer

Sif(%album artist%, %artist%, )

Use the track artist for compilation discs.

## Comment

<leave empty>

As far as I can tell, iPods don't use the comment field.

## Tracknumber

[%tracknumber%]

Use it if it exists

## Flag Compilation Albums

Disable this option because these specific Alternate Metadata strings do all the work.

## Index

---

- 3G iPod Line Out Mode 23
- Add iPod Browse Menu Speedup 17
- Advanced 28–32
- Advanced Limiter 25
- Aero 3
- album art 35
- Alternate Metadata Example
  - Strings 37–38
- Audiobook 5
- Auto Fill 13
- Automatically Update 20
- Backup the iPod Database 16
- Bookmarkable 34
- Close iPod Playlist Tabs 12
- Console Debug Mode 31
- Context-Menu Options 8–9
- COPY\_TO\_PORTABLE 21, 36
- Create iPod Playlists 22
- Create Randomize Playlists 22
- Cull 1 Star Songs From iPod 14
- Custom Format 22
- Delete All iPod Music And Playlists 14
- Delete Selected File(s) 9
- DISCCOUNT 36
- DISCNUMBER 36
- Don't Use iPodService 27
- Eject iPod 18
- Eject iPod at Exit 21
- Enable Disk Mode 27
- Enable Sync Functions 21
- Export iTunesDB Database as XML 15
- Fix Skipped Songs on the iPod 16
- Flag Compilation Albums 30, 38
- foo\_pod Playlist Name 20
- foo\_pod Playlist Sort Format 20
- Foobar2000 3–4
- Force iPod Drive Letter 21
- Global Alternate Metadata 29–30
- How-to Guide 5–7
- Hydrogenaudio 3
- Import iTunesDB Database as XML 15
- Installation 4
- Introduction 3
- iPod Device Name / iPod
  - Owner's Name 27
- iPod Free Disk Space 17
- iPod Preamp Volume Adjustment 23
- iPod Service 26–27
- iPod Shuffle 35
- iTunes 3, 4
- iTunesDB Format 32
- Last\_Played 35
- Load iPod Playlists As Tabs 11
- Load iPod Smart Playlists As Tabs 11
- Load iPod Songs to
  - Foobar2000 Playlist 11
- Main 19–23
- Menu 10–18
- Metadata 36
- Metadata Prefix 29
- Minimize Foobar During Transfers 22

- Mount iPod 18
- Other Features 35–36
- Otto42 3, 14
- OttoFill 13–14
- Playcount 35
- Playlist Editor 6, 18
- Podcast 33–34
- Preferences 14
- Ratings 35
- Rebuild iTunesDB Database on iPod 15
- Remove iPod Browse Menu
  - Speedup 17
- ReplayGain 3, 25
- ReplayGain / Sound Check
  - Conversion 23
- ReplayGain Adjustment 32
- Restore the iPod Database 16
- “Save iPod Files to Disk” Format 22
- Save iPod Files To Disk 9
- Select iPod to Use 14
- Select to Ignore Playlist 8
- Send/Sync Playlist Settings 22
- Send All Playlists to iPod 12
- Send Current Playlist to iPod 12
- Send file(s) to iPod 8
- Send To iPod as Audiobook 9
- Shuffle\_Order.txt 35
- Shuffle Skip 34
- Smart Playlists 6
- SoundCheck 3
- Speed Up iPod Browse Menus 31
- Stop iPodService On Exit 27
- Sync All Playlists 13
- Sync Current Playlist 13
- Track\_Order.txt 35
- Transcoder 24–25
- Transcoder Process Priority 25
- Update iTunesDB Database on iPod 15
- Use non-modal progress dialogs 32