

KICKING the TIRES

by Frank Petrie, MaMUGs, Technology Specialist



PRODUCT: IPODRIP v3.1.5

COMPANY: THE LITTLE APP FACTORY

<WWW.THELITTLEAPPFACTORY.COM>

REQUIREMENTS: MAC OS X 10.2 OR LATER

PRICE: (US) \$10.00

TEST RIG: IBOOK G4 / 933 / 640 MB RAM

REVIEW DATE: 11 MAY 2004

How many of you have amassed a great deal of music from the iTMS? And how many of these tunes have you backed up? Yeah, me too. I promised that I would get to it one day. Unfortunately, that day didn't come around soon enough. Lost eight songs off of my iBook. But they were still safely on my iPod. Trouble was, how to get them back.

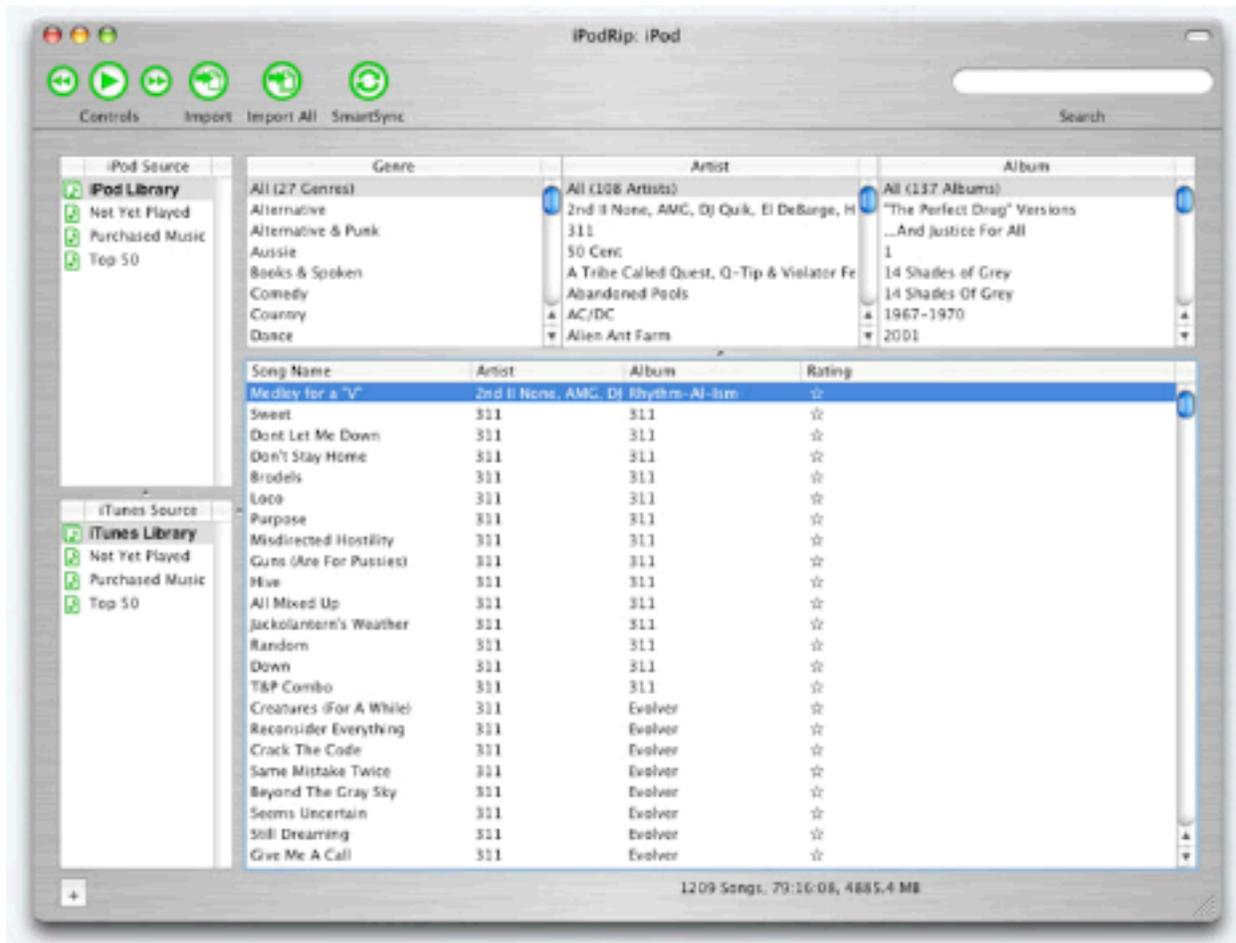
"Your music. Your way.

Put control of the iPod back in your hands with iPodRip, the ultimate iPod companion from The Little App Factory. iPodRip ... maintains your music library in iTunes with SmartSync technology ... gives you unprecedented flexibility. Import songs of any file type including MP3, AAC, Audible.com, and Protected AAC."

There are several apps out there that can perform this. Can iPodRip do it better?

THE GOOD

"Drag this to your yadda, yadda, yadda..." Done. The GUI follows all of Apple's OS X guidelines. In fact, it follows the operation of the iTMS closely, which makes it extremely intuitive. I think I spent the better part of 30 seconds glossing over the manual before I used it.



When you plug-in your iPod, you're presented with a brushed aluminum panel. Two panes on the left side contain your Library and Playlists for both your Mac and your iPod. Along the top you have three columns: Genre, Artist and Album. The main pane contains your selected playlist. And finally, the window is crowned with a taskbar including a search window.

iPR gives you a couple of ways of manipulating files, either through buttons or good ol' drag-n-drop. You can sync your Mac to your iPod. You can also import specific songs and playlists from your iPod. And it doesn't just import the song. It'll also import your ratings, play counts, genre assignation, etc. Very, very thorough.

THE BAD

You could use this program for nefarious purposes. But that would be your bad, not theirs'.

THE UGLY

Nada.

THE CLOSE

In light of the ever increasing popularity of broadband, media distribution is in the midst of making an enormous and permanent shift. And with it, it brings a responsibility for the end user to make hard copies, be it print media, audio or video media.

And apps like this belong in your toolbox to help you ought when you make a mistake. And you will one day. "Accidents will happen."

And at the price of one average iTunes album, it's a smart investment for protecting the dozens of albums that you have paid for and downloaded. This app is a keeper. Give it a test drive.

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The Mid-Atlantic Macintosh User Groups Team (MaMUGs)
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Providing camaraderie, cooperative programs, events, training and knowledge sharing for Apple/Macintosh User Groups **free of charge**.

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