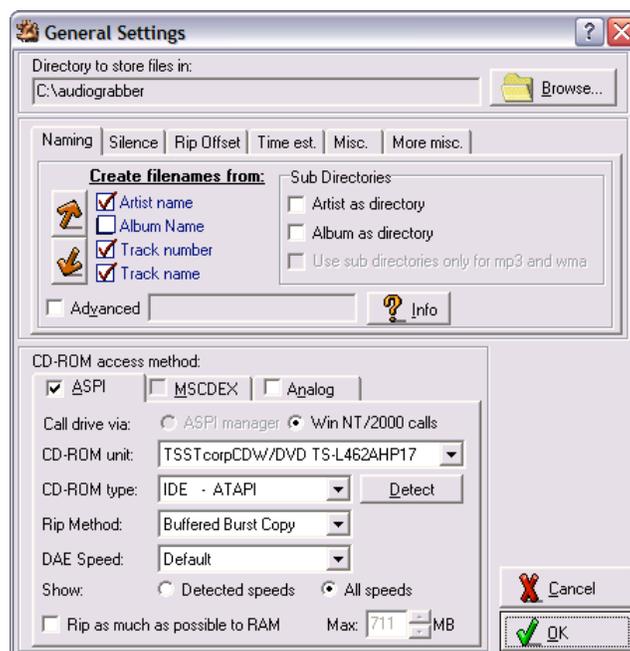# Want to Use an iPod with an Old PC (or a new one)?

Don't have Windows 2000, XP or newer? Feel left out from the Apple iPod scene?

Well, you don't have to, there are ways, and some free that can get you connected to your iPod. The problem rests in the fact that any OS older than Windows 2000 does not allow for the Apple iTunes software to install and run. The following will show you a free way (and simple in comparison to some solutions) to get around this problem.
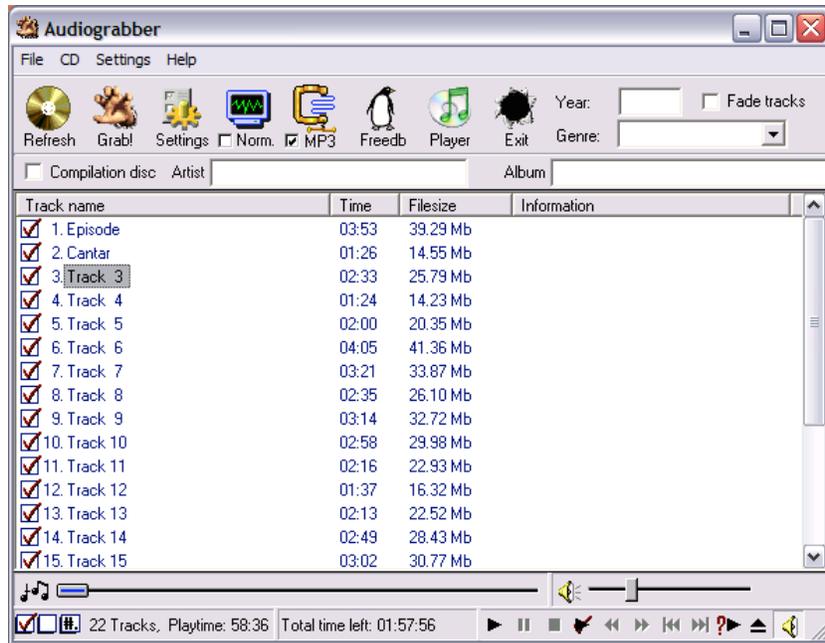
First, you need two pieces of software, Audiograbber (http://www.audiograbber.com-us.net/download.html) and ephPod (http://www.ephPod.com/download.shtml). You may also need a FireWire port or a USB 2.0 port on your computer, make sure you know which iPod you have, and you have the correct port on your computer. Also, it's best to make sure you have all the updates necessary for your specific OS (http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com/)

Audiograbber performs the first step of "ripping" your music from CDs into a format that your iPod can play them. ephPod allows you to copy the music from your computer to your iPod. I'll assume you have all the software and hardware necessary installed and will start from here on how to rip and upload your music to your iPod.
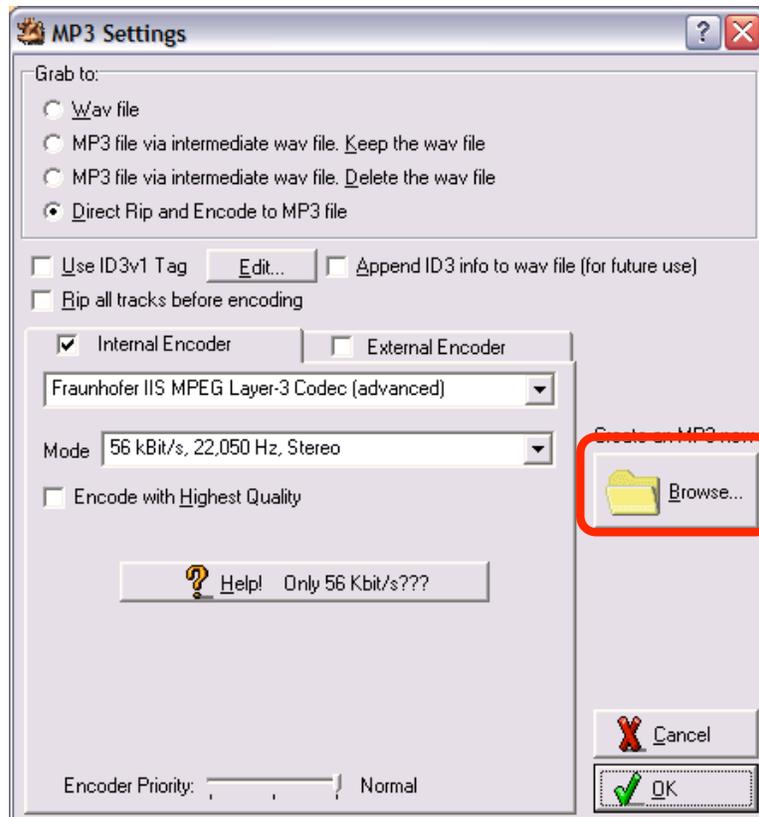
Depending upon the version of your OS you may have to set the "CD-ROM access method" in Audiograbber to "Manual". When you run the application, it will tell you if you will need to do this. The following window shows the "General Settings" window, on the bottom there may be three methods to select from, the third is "Manual". Select this if the application required you to do so and press the "OK" button. You should not need to change this setting again. You can change other settings if you like, but you can stick with the default.
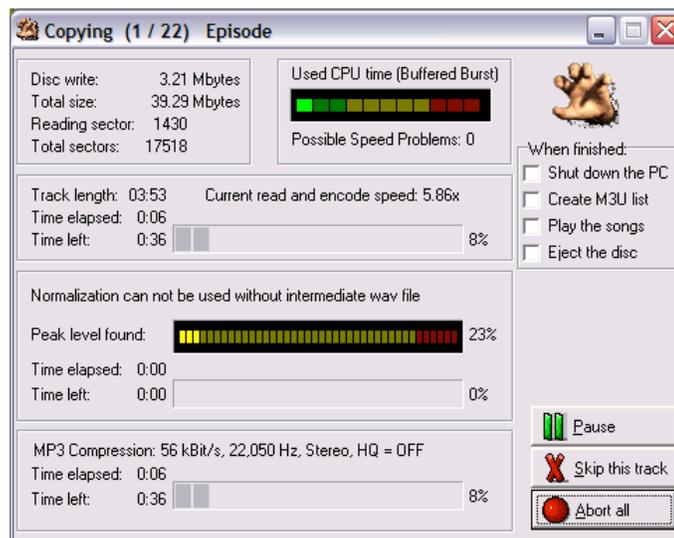
1) Run the Audiograbber application.

2) Inset the music CD you want to put on your iPod.

3) You'll see the following window come up, click on the "CD" drop down and select "Get track names from CD-TEXT". If it states that CD-TEXT does not exist, from the CD drop down, select "Get from freedb". If this still does not get the song names and artist, you'll have to manually type in the names of the music, the artist, etc.

4) Make sure the "MP3" box is checked towards the top of the window.

5) You may want to specify where the resulting files go, if so, press the Button above the MP3 selection. The resulting window appears, and if you press the folder icon you can select the location of where you wish to put the resulting ripped files.
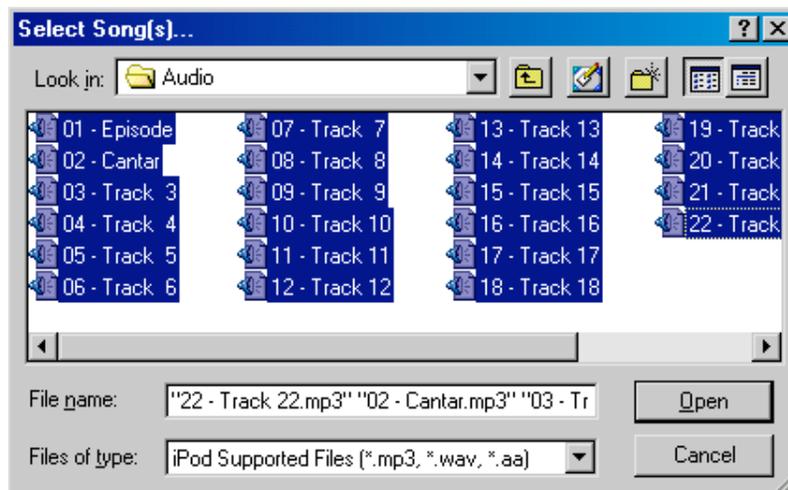
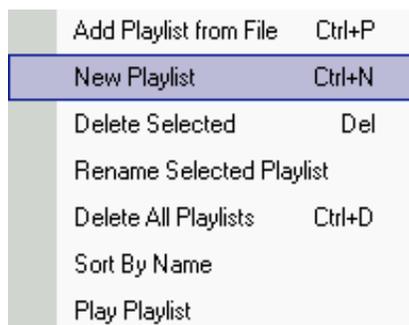6) Click the "Grab" button and you'll see something like the following window (this may take a long time):

7) Ok, if you have more albums, go ahead and load them now, and follow the above steps 2- 5.

8) Now you're done with Audiograbber with all your albums. You'll need to transfer these songs you just ripped to your iPod, so plug in your iPod now. (I am assuming

that your iPod is PC formatted, if not you'll need to get the iPod updater from the Apple web site (http://www.apple.com/ipod/download/).

9) Run the ephPod software once the iPod has been recognized, and drivers installed to access the iPod.

10) If you're running the ephPod for the first time you'll need to go through a quick setup process, which requires you to select the correct drive letter for your iPod (usually drive letter E:). ephPod will go on to the next step when this is complete.

11) Press the "Add Songs" button toward the upper left corner of the ephPod window and drill down to where you saved the files. You can select all the files in the folder by clicking on the first file, then pressing shift and click on the last file in the folder. Press "Open"

12) When you go to the "Recent" list, you'll see all the songs you just imported. Optionally, if you like, you can create new Playlists on your iPod, by clicking on Playlists, then right clicking within the lists of Playlists. Copy the files you want in the play lists from the lower pane of the ephPod window. Playlists are easy ways to look up tracks that may not have a similar relation that would have to be set by you.

13) Now you'll want to update your iPod with the new tracks you loaded, to do this, simply quit ephPod and answer the question that "Yes" you want to update your iPod with the changes. This may take a long time. Don't stop here, though, there's still more to do before you touch your iPod, so read on, as you could damage your iPod or the computer if you don't finish these steps, first.

14) If you've never had to disconnect a device from a Windows machine, you're going to hate me now. The process to unplug is not easy, so pay attention. First, in the taskbar, you'll see a little icon that looks like the following, and if you roll the pointer over it, it will say "Safely Remove Hardware":

15) Right click on the icon and select the option that appears "Safely Remove Hardware"

16) You will be presented a list of items that can be disconnected. Select the iPod and press the "Stop" button.

17) In the next window, press the "OK" button, and then press "Close" in the first window when it states the device has been removed.

18) Unplug the iPod from the computer and you're done!