

APPLE INTRODUCES NEW COLOR, U2 IPODS

# Splashy Sound

Apple took the wraps off of its color-screen iPod photo at a special music event featuring U2's Bono and Edge. What was half of U2 doing there? Apple also introduced the iPod U2 Special Edition, a version of Apple's 20GB player clad in black plastic and equipped with a red Click Wheel.



The iPod photo, which comes in 40GB and 60GB models, looks nearly identical to the previous generation of full-size iPods. The big difference is its 220-by-176-pixel screen, capable of displaying photos in 65,536 colors. The new model can display 25 color photo thumbnails at a time, as well as slide shows set to your music, and it lets you scroll through your photos the same way you scroll through music playlists. (Apple promises battery life of up to 15 hours for music, or 5 hours of continuous slide shows.) The iPod photo can also display the album art that's embedded in each song purchased from the iTunes Music Store (or in tracks to which you've added art yourself). An included AV cable lets you connect the iPod photo to a TV or a video projector for display, either directly or via the dock.



Apple has extended support for iTunes' Auto-Sync technology, which syncs music on the iPod and on your Mac, to iPhoto (photo syncing requires iTunes 4.7 or higher).

The iPod U2 Special Edition celebrates Apple's promotional partnership with the legendary Irish rock band. The 20GB iPod U2 stands out with its black and red case, and it has signatures of all four band members laser-engraved on the back. And Apple will offer a digital box set—a first in the online music industry. *The Complete U2* will feature every U2 album (including the new *How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb*), plus more than 25 rare and unreleased tracks (more than 400 tracks in all), for \$149. People who buy the iPod U2 Special Edition will get an iTunes Music Store coupon for \$50 off the box set. Both the iPod and the box set should be available by the time you read this.

Apple also announced that it would open the doors of new iTunes Music Stores to users in Canada, as well as those in the EU nations of Austria, Belgium, Finland, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain.—PETER COHEN

## HALF A DOZEN 'PODS

MODEL	PRICE	CAPACITY	MORE INFORMATION
iPod	\$299	20GB	<a href="http://find.macworld.com/0155">find.macworld.com/0155</a>
iPod	\$399	40GB	<a href="http://find.macworld.com/0153">find.macworld.com/0153</a>
iPod mini	\$249	5GB	<a href="http://find.macworld.com/0154">find.macworld.com/0154</a>
iPod photo	\$499	40GB	<a href="http://find.macworld.com/0175">find.macworld.com/0175</a>
iPod photo	\$599	60GB	<a href="http://find.macworld.com/0176">find.macworld.com/0176</a>
iPod U2 Special Edition	\$299	20GB	<a href="http://find.macworld.com/0182">find.macworld.com/0182</a>

## New Jam Packs Hit the Shelves

At the same time Apple released GarageBand as part of iLife '04, the company came out with Jam Pack, which provided additional loops, instruments, presets, and guitar amps for use with GarageBand. Now, a year later, Apple has added two new collections, Jam Pack 2: Remix Tools and Jam Pack 3: Rhythm Section.

**Jam Pack 2: Remix Tools** offers more than 2,000 loops, 20 new beat kits (including Techno, R&B, House, and Trance), new instruments, and classic drum machines from Roland such as the TR-909 and the CR-78.

**Jam Pack 3: Rhythm Section** also has more than 2,000 loops, as well as more than 50 new instruments—including new drums (such as Jazz Brushes and Indie Rock), basses (such as Motown, Liverpool, and Unplugged), and guitars (such as Bluegrass Banjo, Bluesy Acoustic, and Heavy Metal Electric).—PETER COHEN



## PRODUCTIVITY BEAT



**MouseAnywhere**, from MacSpeech ([www.macspeech.com](http://www.macspeech.com)): ScriptPak for iListen voice-recognition software lets users control many Mac functions with verbal commands (\$20).

**AccountEdge 2005**, from MYOB ([www.myob.com/us](http://www.myob.com/us)): Small-business accounting software adds MYOB Payroll Forms Service for printing and e-filing forms, Process Payroll Assistant for preparing payroll runs, and the ability to create and schedule recurring transactions from a single location (\$299; upgrade, \$139; Network Edition, \$399; upgrade, \$249).

**Print It 2.0**, from MacEase ([www.macease.com](http://www.macease.com)): Printing utility adds autoscaling guide and the ability to create keyboard shortcuts (\$30).

**QuickBooks: Pro 2005**, from Intuit (<http://quickbooks.intuit.com>): Small-business accounting software adds iCal and .Mac integration, improved file-sharing with the Windows version, and the ability to add PDF backgrounds to forms (\$300; upgrade, \$200 after \$100 rebate).—COMPILED BY PHILIP MICHAELS

## EDUCATION BEAT



**eReference**, from Houghton Mifflin ([www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com](http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com)): Interactive dictionary and thesaurus features full text of the *American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, fourth edition, and *Roget's II: The New Thesaurus* (\$35).

**Kurzweil 3000 Version 3**, from Kurzweil Education Systems ([www.kurzweilededu.com](http://www.kurzweilededu.com)): Reading and writing software adds a new network edition for accessing content across a local area network (contact Kurzweil for pricing).

**Sysquake 3**, from Calerga ([www.calerga.com](http://www.calerga.com)): Scientific computational software features a rewritten interface for running applications and developing them with a new Applications Builder (single license, \$2,028; educational license, \$811).—COMPILED BY PHILIP MICHAELS