

CAMP News

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Capital Apple Mac
Performa User Group



Gardiner, Maine
www/campug.org

Touch-a-touch-a-touch-a-touch me

Jeffrey Frankel, Editor

In August 2003 my extended family bought me an iPod 3G for my upcoming birthday. I wasn't sure at first how much I really needed this newfangled device, but it wasn't long before Musicman and I were inseparable. (You can name your iPod in iTunes the same way you can name a volume in the Finder.) It survived a bungled attempt to replace the battery, and avoided death when I noticed that I had only *partially* run it over with my lawn tractor and was able to back up before finishing it off completely.

Fast forward to September 2009, when my extended family again bought me an iPod for my birthday. MyPod is a 32 GB Touch, and it's one sweet machine.

One part of the package I didn't pay much attention to initially has turned out to be an unexpected benefit. This sleeper feature is the earbuds that come with the Touch.

Back in March, Apple eliminated all controls from the teenie-tiny Shuffle, relocating them to the earbuds—more, specifically, to a small oblong module located in line with one of the two earphone cords. (This module is lying on its side in the illustration at right.) As part of the September 2009 refresh of the iPod line, Apple also included the “Earphones With Remote and Mic,” so-called, with the Touch, and ships them with the iPhone as well.

Squeeze either end of the module to raise or lower volume, respectively. Squeeze the recessed middle



area to pause or stop a track. Squeeze the middle area twice to advance to the next track. Squeeze thrice to go back to the beginning of the current track, or hop back to the previous track. Finally, squeezing the middle twice and holding scrubs forward until you release. Squeezing thrice and holding scrubs in reverse.

Although this may sound complicated, these movements quickly become second nature. They're especially useful during exercise, when fumbling with the iPod is the last thing you want to be doing. The in line remote module hangs close to your jaw and is very easy to reach.

This placement is hardly accidental, as the reverse side of the remote module contains a small pinhole microphone. This not only permits talking on an iPhone, but also enables Voice Control on the Touch.

Pressing and holding the recessed middle area of the remote module activates Voice Control. Voice Control allows you to speak a command, such as "play artist (say the name)," "play album (say the name)," or "play playlist (say the name)." Voice Control's voice recognition capabilities are pretty good, with the usual quirks.

More importantly for me, the small microphone works with the Voice Memos app that ships with the Touch. I use Voice Memo to record answering telephone answering machine messages from my daughter. Family memories, you know.

Unfortunately, the earbuds that came with my Touch failed after a week. Apple upgraded me to the In-Ear Headphones with Remote and Mic. If reliability holds up, these newfangled earbuds are a winner. ☀

October 14 Meeting at Jeff Frankel's House

We unfortunately lost the use of Gardiner Area High School as a meeting place, and we're forced to meet at members' homes until we find a substitute venue. This Wednesday we'll be at Jeff's house: 6:45 p.m. for the directors meeting, 7:00 p.m. for the general meeting. Jeff's address is 30 Erskine Road in Windsor. His telephone number is 549-5965.

From Hospital Street in Augusta, turn left onto Eastern Avenue, which is Route 17. Go about 10 miles on Route 17 until you reach the intersection with Route 32 north. There will be a convenience store with a Getty sign on your left. Turn left onto Route 32 (Ridge Road). Continue about .75 miles past the far edge of the Windsor Fairgrounds. Turn right at Resthaven Cemetery onto Maxcy's Mills Road. Maxcy's Mills Road ends at a "T" intersection with Coopers Mills Road. Turn left onto Coopers Mills Road and in about .25 mile, at the top of the hill, you'll see Erskine Road on your right. We're the first house on the left. Look for the two yellow garage doors.

From Waterville or Winslow, travel on Route 32 south until you reach Hussey's Store in Windsor at the intersection with Route 105. Turn left onto Route 105. In roughly 1.25 miles, turn right onto Coopers Mills Road. In roughly a mile, after cresting a series of short, steep hills, turn left onto Erskine Road. We're the first house on the left. Look for the two yellow garage doors.

