

by Alan J. Pierce, EdD

IPods + Mikey=’s High Quality Voice & Music digital Recorder

Do you use a digital ‘tape’ recorder to record important events? If you do you might be surprised to learn that most iPods can double as a voice recorder right out of the Apple box. To perform this function an iPod needs a microphone.

If you have earbuds with an inline microphone, the kind that some people use for hands-free cell phone calls, you basically have all that you need to record voice conversations using your iPod’s voice memo option. In class this approach might make you look like a slacker trying to listen to some tunes while your teacher lectures on what some might consider a boring topic. The solution is a microphone that tells whoever sees what you are doing that you have the equipment for serious recording. See photo 1.

The microphone in the picture is named Mikey (\$79.99) and it is made by Blue Microphones. The Mikey is an Apple certified product that will work with the iPod Classic, iPod Touch, and even your iPod Nano (2nd Gen or above).

Mikey directly plugs into the recharging dock location on your iPod. It even has a 3.5mm (1/8") stereo input jack to allow you to establish a direct hookup to your favorite music source. To enhance your recording experience Blue worked with the audio engineers at Audiofile Engineering to develop a higher quality app than the memo option that is built into your iPod. You just need to go to the Apple App Store and download Blue’s free Blue FiRe app.

Please note I only tried Mikey on an iPod Classic and an iPod touch. Since it doesn’t work with all iPods I recommend that you double check compatibility at www.bluemic.com or an apple store before purchasing it.



*Alan is co-author of **Introduction to Technology Glencoe McGraw-Hill 2010** and a **TechDirections Magazine** Columnist . Visit www.technologytoday.us for past columns, reviews, and resources.*