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iPod shuffle Cases



Companies have all but given up on making accessories of any sort for the now all but disposable iPod shuffle, and the result is a drought of case releases. As was the case last year, our top pick overall is Power Support's **Silicone Case for iPod shuffle** (\$13), a translucent silicone rubber enclosure which covers virtually every millimeter of the shuffle's little aluminum body. Most of the rubber cases we've seen expose the shuffle's rear clip or its top and bottom to potential scratches if you're planning to pocket or bag the iPod instead of clipping it on; the Silicone Case is one of only two that does protectiveness right. If you just want to recolor your shuffle, JAVOedge's **JAVOClearCases** come in a 7-pack for \$8, providing the color options shown here as front-only shells. It's cheaper than buying a second or third shuffle just for fashion reasons. Stickers from **shufflesome.com** (not shown) are sold for \$6 and offer partial protection, plus really nice wraparound art.

iPhone Cases



Surprisingly, the iPhone's mid-2007 release has inspired more creativity from iPod case designers than any other model over the past year; here, several long-time case makers went back and reconsidered earlier ideas with impressive results. Except for its lack of screen coverage, Contour Design's **iSee iPhone V3** (\$30, 1) is one of the most protective and reasonably priced iPhone cases we've seen, bundling a very nice clear case with a detachable belt clip holster and smart covers for both ports and buttons. By comparison, Griffin's **Wave** (\$25, 2) offers less top and bottom protection, but uses a beautiful curved, interlocking design for its shell and includes screen film; it's available in six very nice colors. The company's opaque black and gray **ClearBoost** (\$35, 3) isn't as much of a looker, but is the only iPhone case to contain a special antenna booster that can help users in reception-challenged areas to maintain voice and data connections. In terms of sheer attractiveness, Vaja's **iVolution** (\$80, 4) is a deluxe leather case that you pick in one or two colors of your choice; the end results are awesome. If you can afford it, the premium **iVolution Silver** (\$280, 5) adds silver appliques, a mesh speaker grille, and carrying bag.



The iLounge Report Card. We've reviewed over 1,800 add-ons and Apple devices since 2001; this is a snapshot of how they've rated. Start your hunt here, then read our comprehensive reviews for each item's full story.

Adapters and Cables - Data

SendStation PocketDock Combo	A
SendStation PocketDock	A-
SendStation PocketDock Line Out USB	A-
Global Source Retractable USB/FW	B+
Griffin Technology Dock400 Cable	B+
Griffin Technology Dock800 Cable	B+
Kensington Accessory Adapter/shuffle	B
Macally Link360 FireWire 1394A 3D	B+
Macally Link360 USB 3D Adapter	B+
Nyko Stereo Link Cable	B+
SendStation FireWire & Line Out	B+
XtremeMac Audio Kit for iPod shuffle	B+
BTi u-Link Accessory Adapter for nano	B
Incipio IncipioBud for iPod shuffle (2G)	B
Macally Link360 FireWire 1394B 3D	B
Taylor Technologies iPlus+ for iPod nano	B
Targus 9-Pin/30-Pin Accessory Adapter	B/B-
SendStation Dock Extender	B-
Carrot Idea USB Flexible Dock/2G shuffle	B-
Gadget Accessories USB Sync Cable	D

Adapters and Cables - Indoor Power

Griffin PowerDuo Charging Kit for iPod	A-
Sonnet iPod USB Power Adapter	A-
Apple iPod USB Power Adapter (9/06)	B+
Better Energy Systems Solio	B+
Capdase Universal Power Adapter	B+
Capdase USB Power Adapter/shuffle	B+
Griffin PowerBlock for iPod and iPhone (2008)	B+
Logiix The iPower Pro Ultra Slim	B+
Apple iPod USB Power Adapter (2005)	B
Griffin Technology Dock Adapter shuffle	B
Griffin PowerBlock Dual Universal AC Charger	B
XtremeMac InCharge Traveler	B
Griffin Technology PowerBlock travel 2007	B-
Griffin Technology PowerDuo travel	B-
blueLounge The Sanctuary	C+
Van Hauser iSuperCharger	C+

Apple TV and Accessories

Apple Inc. Apple TV 2.0 (40GB/160GB)	B+
XtremeMac XtremeHD Audio Cable	B+
XtremeMac XtremeHD Comp. Video Cable	B+
XtremeMac XtremeHD HDMI>DVI Cable	B+
XtremeMac XtremeHD HDMI>HDMI Cable	B+

XtremeMac XtremeHD HDMI Switcher	B+
XtremeMac XtremeHD TOSLINK Cable	B+
Apple Inc. Apple TV 1.0 (40GB/160GB)	B

Audio/Video Cables

Griffin HomeConnect Audio & Video	A-
Marware AV Cable for iPod photo/5G	A-
XtremeMac RoadShow Car AV Cable	A-
Belkin AV Cable for iPod (Color LCD)	B+
Capdase Come Home Headphone Port	B+
Pacific Rim Technologies Retractable AV	B+
Apple iPod AV Cable	B
Capdase Come Home Dock Conn/Comp.	B
Capdase Come Home Dock Conn/S-Video	B
Apple Component AV Cable	C+
Gecko Gear iPod Audio and Video Cable	C+
Apple Composite AV Cable	C
BoxWave iPod Photo AV miniSync	C

Batteries

BTi's The iPod Battery	A
FastMac TruePower 1G/2G	A
Newer Technology NuPower Super 1G/2G	A
Apple iPod shuffle Battery Pack	A-
BTi's The iPod Battery ii	A-
FastMac TruePower 3G	A-
Newer Technology NuPower Hi-Cap 3G	A-
Sonnet Volta	A-
Compact Power Systems Cellboost	B+
ezGear PowerStick Shuffle	B+
iLuv i603/604 Rechargeable Silicone Skin	B+
Tekkeon myPower Battery Pack	B+
APC Mobile Power Pack UPB10	B
Belkin Backup Battery Pack	B
BTi AA iPod Battery	B
ezGear PowerStick iPod Battery Pack	B
FastMac TruePower 4G	B
Griffin TuneJuice BatteryPack	B
Kensington Mini Battery Pack - iPhone/iPod	B
Lithium House iCel 201 External Power	B
Nyko iBoost	B
Nyko iBoost mini Battery Pack	B
Belkin TunePower	B-
Compact Power Systems iRecharge	B-
Kensington Portable Power Pack	B-
Mophie Juice Pack for iPhone	B-

XtremeMac MicroPack Dock + Battery	B-
Compact Power Systems iRecharge Value	C
Gadget Accessories Battery Pack	F

Bluetooth / Wireless Home Audio

Griffin Evolve Wireless Sound System	A-
Griffin Evolve Add-On Set	A-
TEN Technology naviPlay	A-
Belkin TuneStage for 4G/mini iPod	B+
Belkin TuneStage 2	B+
Griffin Technology BlueTrip LE	B+
Logitech Wireless Music System	B+/B-
Logitech FreePulse Wireless Headphones	B+
Macally BlueWave Headset	B+
Bluetake I-Phono BT420EX	B
Bluetake I-Phono mini BT450	B
Brookstone Wireless Music System	B
Creative Xdock X-Fi Dock/Receiver	B
Etymotic ety8 In-Ear Bluetooth Earphones	B
iLuv i399 2.1-Channel Hi-Fi Audio System	B
iSkin Cerulean F1 Stereo BT Earphones	B
iSkin Cerulean TX+RX Transmitter/Receiver	B
JBL Reference 610 BT Wireless Headphones	B
Klipsch RoomGroove Wireless Speaker	B
Lenntek Hookup Lanyard for nano	B
Mondo Mint DMS300	B
Oakley O ROKR Bluetooth Eyewear	B
Scosche Bluelife Headphones & TX	B
Scosche Bluelife Wireless Home Kit	B
TEN Technology naviPlay Headset Kit	B
Wi-Gear iMuffs Bluetooth Headset	B
FriendTech iDea Wireless Dock/Headset	B-
iSkin Cerulean F1+TX Headset/Transmitter	B-
Logitech Wireless Headphones	B-
GlobalSat iWAG Wireless Bluetooth Set	C+
Lenntek Hookup Bluetooth Kit for iPod	C
Silex Tech wiDock Wireless Dock for iPod	C
d.Muse iBlue Bluetooth Phone Adapter	C-

Camera Adapters

Apple iPod Camera Connector	B+
Belkin Media Reader	B+
Belkin Digital Camera Link	B

Car Mounts

ProClip Padded Adj. Holder w/Tilt Swivel	A
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Fully independent of Apple Inc., iLounge has provided impartial reviews of iPods, Apple TV, and related accessories since the 2001 release of the first-generation iPod. Because of a strict separation between the business and editorial sides of iLounge, and our strong belief in the value of an objective resource for Apple users around the world, our reviews are in no way influenced by advertising revenues or outside concerns. We have no ties to any manufacturer of accessories, and no agenda other than the promotion of a happy global Apple community.

Kensington FX 500 Speaker to Go	B-	Apple iPod nano Dock	B	Shufflesome Stickers for iPod shuffle	B
Kensington SX2000 Speakers	B-	Apple iPod nano Dock 2G	B	Tatuz International Tatuz for iPod shuffle	B
KNG America FUNKit	B-	Apple iPod shuffle Dock	B	Tunewear Poptune for iPod nano	B
Logic3 i-Station Concert	B-	Atech Flash iDuo	B	Mobile Juice Shuffle Art	B-
Memorex iMove Mi3005 Boombox w/ RC	B-	Bubble Design Habitat	B	Moshi/Aeovoe iGlaze video	B-
Mirage OmniVibe 360 Degree Omnipolar	B-	Belkin Power Dock	B	RadTech Portectorz for Dock Connector	B-
Monitor Audio i-deck compact	B-	Belkin Power Dock AV	B	Tunewear Poptune Stickers for iPod mini	B-
Mythix iChant Portable Active Speaker	B-	Belkin TuneCommand AV for iPod	B	SkinEFX iPod Stickers	C+
Oregon Scientific iBall Wireless Speaker	B-	DLO Flexible Dock for iPod shuffle	B	Capdase SkinGuard Stickers for shuffle	C
Philips DCD778 Under-Cabinet AV	B-	DLO HomeDock for iPod	B		
Polk Audio I-Sonic ES2	B-	DLO HomeDock Deluxe for iPod	B		
Saffire JukeBox Station	B-	DLO HomeDock Deluxe for iPod (2007)	B	<u>Wearable Video Displays</u>	
Sharp i-Elegance DK-A1	B-	Griffin Technology TuneCenter (no Wi-Fi)	B	MicroOptical myVu for iPod	B+
Sharper Image iSphere	B-	Marware USB Travel Dock for shuffle (2G)	B	Myvu Crystal 701 iPod Edition	B+
Speck Products SpeckTone Retro	B-	Pacific Rim Technologies iCradle	B	Iculti iWear for iPod	B
Tannoy i30	B-	PlasticSmith tux upright Stand for iPod	B	Myvu Corp. myvu Universal Edition	B
Techwiz Innovations Musak Bag	B-	PodHolder	B	Myvu Personal Media Viewer Solo Plus	B
Tiger i-Fish	B-	PodStand	B	Carl Zeiss Cinemizer	B-
XtremeMac Tango 2.1 Digital Audio	B-	Pressure Drop DecoDock for iPod shuffle	B	Myvu Shades 301 iPod Edition	C+
Zagg RockStic Portable Speaker System	B-	Speck Products Shuffle Dock	B	ezGear ezVision Video i-Wear	C
Altec Lansing inMotion iMV712	C+	Westshore Craftworks iDockCover	B		
Bosch Power Box Dock for iPod	C+	Xitel HiFi-Link for iPod nano	B		
dreamGear i.Sound TimeTravel Clock	C+	Alive Style PopAlive Remote and Dock	B-		
Gear4 PocketParty V2 Micro Speaker	C+	Belkin TuneSync Dock and USB Hub	B-		
GINI Systems iTube Vacuum Tube 2.1	C+	DVBBaseLtd DVBase	B-		
Ignitek iCheer Speakers	C+	Incipio IncipioHitch USB Adapter nano 2G	B-		
Macally IP-S111 Portable Speakers/shuffle	C+	JP's/Pods Plus Charger/Hotsync shuffle	B-		
Miglia MicroSound Micro Speaker	C+	Pacific Rim Tech. nano iCradle	B-		
PodGear PocketParty Shuffle	C+	PlasticSmith tux tlt Stand for iPod	B-		
Portable Sound Laboratories iMainGo	C+	SwitchEasy PivotDock for iPod shuffle	B/B-		
Sharper Image iPulse	C+	Thought Out iPed	B-		
Sony CPF-iP001 Cradle Audio for iPod	C+	Xitel HiFi-Link for iPod	B-		
Vuum Audio VTi-B1 Vacuum Tube System	C+	XtremeMac MicroPack Portable Dock	B-		
Boynq Sabre	C	GINI Systems iConec iPod Dock	C+		
Emerson iTone iE600BK Home Audio	C	Power Support Metal Gear Simple Stand	C+		
Excalibur iBlaster Clock Radio	C	Razer Pro Type Keyboard with iPod Dock	C+		
iLive iBCD3816DT Portable Docking 2.1	C	Apple Universal Dock (2007)	C		
iLuv i188 BLK/WHIT	C	BookEndz iPodDock	C		
Saffire iWoogie Blaster Hi-Fi Stereo System	C	DLO USB Dock Cable for iPod shuffle	C		
dreamGear i.Sound Wall Mountable	C-	iPodCradle	C		
Monster iSpeaker Portable	C-	JP's/Pods Plus Dock with Video Out	C		
iLuv i7500 2.1-Channel Mini Audio System	D	Silex Technology wiDock Wireless Dock	C		
DLO iBoom (Version 2)	D-	Tekkeon NavDock with On-TV Navigation	C		
DLO iBoom (Version 1)	F				
		<u>Stickers, Guards, and Film</u>			
<u>Stands (Docks & Cradles)</u>		Frontfield iPoDonut Wheel Protector	A-		
Atech Flash Technology (AFT) iDuo Hub	A-	FullBodyFilms Protection Pack for iPod touch	A-		
Griffin Technology AirDock & Remote	A-	InvisibleShield Full for iPod 5G	A-		
Kensington Stereo Dock for iPod	A-	InvisibleShield Full for iPod nano	A-		
Keyspan AV Dock for iPod	A-	InvisibleShield Full for iPod nano 2G	A-		
Pacific Rim Technologies Shuffle Cradle	A-	iSkin Wheel Cap	A-		
Power Support Metal Gear Stand	A-	Power Support Crystal Film Screen Prot. 4G	A-		
Thought Out iPed 2 Adjustable Stand	A-	Power Support 3D Wheel Film 4G	A-		
Apple Computer iPod AV Connection Kit	B+	Tunewear Poptune for iPod shuffle	A-		
Apple Computer Universal Dock (2005)	B+	JAVOScreen	B+		
Belkin Hi-Speed USB 2.0 4-Port Hub	B+	NLU BodyGuardz for iPod 5G	B+		
Kensington Entertainment Dock 500	B+	Power Support Anti-Glare Film for touch	B+		
Keyspan TuneView for iPod	B+	Power Support Crystal Film for iPod nano	B+		
Medicom iKub Stand for iPod	B+	Power Support Crystal Film for iPod 5G	B+		
ModPod	B+	Power Support Crystal Film for iPod touch	B+		
Power Support Swivel Fix Stand	B+	Hewlett-Packard Printable Tattoos	B		
Sonance iPort In-Wall Docking System	B+	MacSkinz Podskinz	B		
SwitchEasy KuroDock & Power Adapter	B+	Moshi iGlaze nano	B		
Thought Out iPed Shuffle Dock	B+	NLU Products BodyGuardz for iPod classic	B		
Apple Dock (for Dock Connector iPods)	B	NLU Products BodyGuardz for nano 3G	B		
Apple iPod AV Connection Kit	B	Power Support Wheel Film	B		

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For date order, visit ilounge.com/index.php/reviews/review_grades/. We plan to update these features in the near future.

Understanding our Ratings

Though we'd make a lot of companies happy if we only said nice things about products, we try to present as much of the story as possible: the good, the bad, and the ugly. By looking at the tables on the preceding pages, you can get a sense of where we think specific add-ons rank relative to each other. Our letter grade Ratings below break down into excellent, good, okay, and bad marks, with two ratings (D- and F) reserved for products with serious or dangerous defects.

A A grades are awarded to only the very best products - ones that we **highly recommend**. Fewer than 5% of the products we've reviewed on the site since 2001 have received flat A grades - meaning "superb across the board." An A- grade indicates one or two small deficiencies that limit a product's universal appeal. What about A+? Even the original iPod didn't receive an A+ grade from iLounge. We haven't awarded one yet, and may never do so.

B B+ and B grades are awarded to very good and good products - ones that we **recommend** to specific audiences. At the flat B level, we consider a product to be one that we would tell our friends to consider, with some caveats. A B- grade indicates a few medium to large issues that crimp its appeal, and qualifies for our **limited recommendation**. We recommend a B- product only to a niche of people who really need its functionality.

C C graded products are "okay" ones that **we neither recommend nor dislike**. They typically perform all of their stated functions acceptably, but may not be attractively designed, well thought out, or appropriately priced. A C+ grade indicates that the product was a little bit better than okay, but still not "good" or "recommendable." Our C- grade indicates that the product was on the edge of being bad, possessing some serious design issues.

D D graded products are ones that we **actively disliked** for some reason. This doesn't happen often, and it has nothing to do with the manufacturer or vendor except for the choices made in designing and selling the product. Typically, the reason is that the product possessed such substantially below- average design, performance or pricing that it was nearly laughable by comparison to other available offerings.

D- Under iLounge's policy on defective and dangerous products, any product graded with a D- was **defective** in some substantial way when we tested it, or subsequently revealed to be defective based on reader or manufacturer input. Since most of the products we review are from major manufacturers who test their products prior to shipments, relatively few products qualify for this rating. However, problem products continue to slip through the cracks, so be careful.

F F-rated products were **potentially dangerous** when we tested them. Under our policy on defective and dangerous products, we only award a grade of F if a product contains a defect that could seriously damage itself, the attached iPod or iPhone, or the purchaser. Examples of products that have received F grades include power chargers that do not properly regulate power going to an iPod's electronic components, and a stereo that could burst its batteries when connected to both battery and AC power. For obvious reasons, not many accessories qualify for F ratings, especially as vendors have learned Apple's charging standards.