

Making Your Own Ringtones

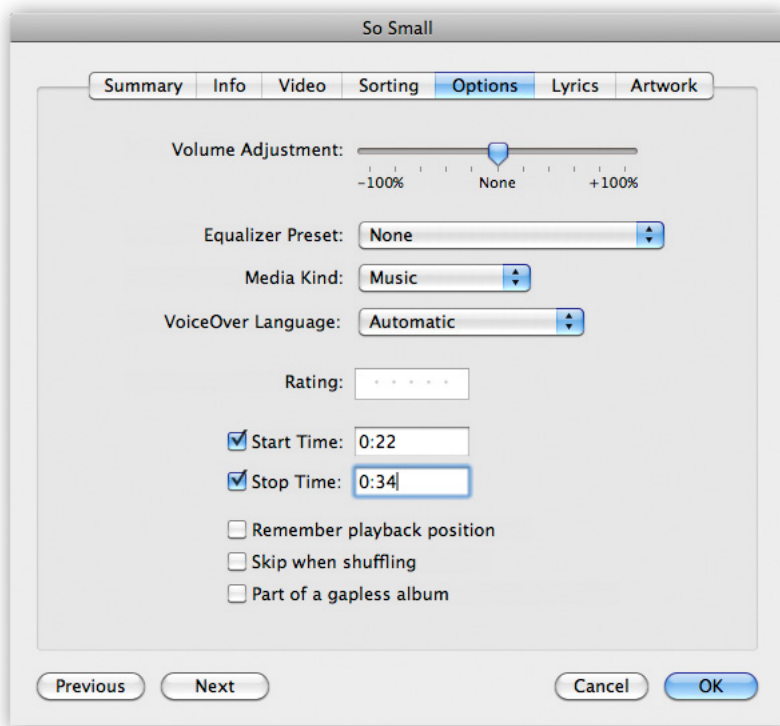
As noted in *iPhone: The Missing Manual*, Apple offers plenty of ways to make your own ringtones. You can buy them online, using the iTunes store, ready-made. On certain songs in the iTunes store, you can carve out a 30-second snippet of your own choosing, and buy that. Or, to save money, you can create them in GarageBand on a Mac.

But there's a longer, hackier method, too, that costs nothing and doesn't require GarageBand. (You do need iTunes—but since you have an iPhone, you have iTunes, too.) Here are the steps, presented separately for Mac and Windows.

Note that this procedure doesn't work if the songs are copy-protected.

1. Open iTunes (version 9.0.1 or later).
2. In List view, find a song you want to make into a ringtone.
3. Play the song. Find the spot where you'd like the ringtone to begin. Write down how many minutes and seconds into the song that spot is—for example, write **0:15** for 15 seconds into the song).
4. Find the point where you'd like the ringtone to *end*, and write that time down, too. It can't be more than 40 seconds after the start time (using our example above, that would be 0:55 max), because that's the maximum length of an iPhone ringtone.
5. Right-click the song's name; from the shortcut menu, choose **Get Info**.
6. In the Info dialog box, click the **Options** tab.

7. In the Start Time and Stop Time boxes, type the start and stop times you recorded earlier. Make sure both checkboxes are turned on.



8. Click **OK**.
9. On the Mac, choose **iTunes**→**Preferences**→**General**→**Import Settings**; on a PC, choose **Edit**→**Preferences**→**General**→**Import Settings**. From the pop-up menu, choose **AAC Encoder**, and then click **OK**.
10. Right-click the title of the song again. From the shortcut menu, choose **Create AAC Version**. After a short wait, iTunes converts your song, creating a duplicate version (listed just below your original song, at least when the list is sorted alphabetically). The ringtone version's duration matches the time you set for the ringtone.
11. Drag the newly duplicated, shorter file right out of iTunes and onto your desktop.
12. Clean up your damage: In iTunes, repeat steps 5 and 6, but now turn off the Start and Stop Times boxes; click **OK**. Now is a good time to delete that shorter version of the song, too -- you can safely send it to the Trash,

since a duplicate of it is on your desktop.

13. On your desktop, change the file's *m4a* filename extension to *m4r*. To do that, right-click or Control-click its name; from the shortcut menu, choose *Properties* or *Get Info*; rename it with the new extension in place of the old one. *Make sure there are no symbols* (underscores, hyphens, apostrophes, etc.) in the file name.

If the Mac warns you about changing the extension, confirm that you want to .m4r as the new extension.

14. Double-click the ringtone filename. iTunes automatically adds it to the Ringtones folder in your iTunes Library. (If you don't have a Ringtones column, on the Mac, choose *iTunes*→*Preferences*→*General*; on the PC, choose *Edit*→*Preferences*→*General*. Turn on Ringtones in the "Show" part of that window.) If you like, add the word Ringtone to the end of the ringtone's name. (Right-click the filename, choose *Get Info*, and edit the the name in the Info section of the resulting window.)
15. Connect your iPhone. In iTunes, click its name in the left column. Click the *Ringtones* tab at the top of the window. Turn on *Sync ringtones* and make that your new ringtone is selected for syncing.
16. Sync your iPhone by clicking *Apply* and *Sync*.

When your iPhone has finished syncing, tap *Settings*→*Sounds*→*Ringtone*; scroll to find the name of your new ringtone. Tap its name to hear it playing on your iPhone—and to assign it as your new ringer sound!

