

# Solio

## INGENIOUS IPOD CHARGER

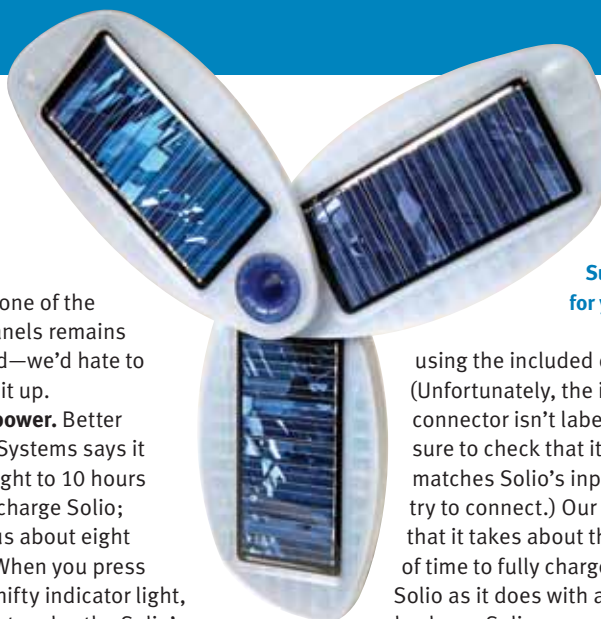
Our iPods now have a near-endless supply of power thanks to Solio, a portable solar-powered iPod battery charger. Solio itself contains a replaceable Lithium Ion battery that you charge with sunlight or through a power-outlet connection. After Solio's battery is charged, you simply attach it to your iPod and your iPod battery will recharge.

When folded, Solio measures 4.72 by 2.56 by 1.34 inches. When unfolded, Solio is like a flower in bloom, with solar panels on each of the three petals. It's rather fetching in a geeky way, and you can use the included suction-cup mount that fits in Solio's center hole to mount the device on a window. Our only gripe about the design is that when

folded, one of the solar panels remains exposed—we'd hate to scratch it up.

**Sun power.** Better Energy Systems says it takes eight to 10 hours to fully charge Solio; it took us about eight hours. When you press Solio's nifty indicator light, it blinks to relay the Solio's power capacity by blinking. Each blink represents a 25-percent increment; one blink means 25 percent, two blinks mean 50 percent, and so on.

To charge your iPod, you connect Solio to the iPod's Dock connector



Sunny delight for your 'Pod.

using the included charging cord. (Unfortunately, the iPod-cable connector isn't labeled, so make sure to check that its slotted self matches Solio's input port when you try to connect.) Our testing showed that it takes about the same amount of time to fully charge your iPod with Solio as it does with a Dock. You can also leave Solio open and in the sun while charging your iPod to keep your Solio fully powered.

**The bottom line.** Solio is a near-perfect iPod companion. You won't be caught with a lifeless iPod again.

—Roman Loyola

**COMPANY:** Better Energy Systems  
**CONTACT:** +44 0 870 607 6546, www.solio.com  
**PRICE:** \$99.95

**REQUIREMENTS:** iPod, sunlight

**GOOD NEWS:** Excellent design. Can also charge from outlet power.  
**BAD NEWS:** Folded compact form still leaves a solar panel exposed. iPod-cable connector lacks labeling for proper insertion.



# Drive Genius

## COMPLETE DISK-UTILITY SOFTWARE

Prosoft's Drive Genius lives up to its name by providing comprehensive disk-repair tools and performance-enhancing defragmentation routines to keep your Mac's drive in tip-top condition.

Drive Genius's brushed-metal interface features three separate panes. Eight tools lie along the bottom of the interface, ranging from the straightforward Repair and Defragment options to the less-useful (but far more dangerous) Sector Edit, a tool that performs surgery by directly editing disk data. If you're squeamish, stay away from that particular digital scalpel.

**More tools.** Other tools include a useful Duplicate feature that can make a bootable clone of your hard drive. Because Duplicate does a bit-for-bit copy, it's a lot faster than using

Finder operations. The Shred function overwrites everything on your hard drive with gibberish, using an overwrite standard more rigorous than what the Pentagon demands. Integrity, Benchtest, and Scan tools provide ancillary services by testing the health of your hard drive. Benchtest tells you how fast and efficient your drive is, and Scan marks faulty physical sectors.

If you use Drive Genius to maintain a secondary drive, you can run Drive Genius from your startup disk; but if you want to do any repair work or operations on the startup disk, you need to boot from the Drive



Reliable repair, defragmentation, duplication—and so on, and so on, and so on.

Genius CD. Also, there's no RAID support.

**The bottom line.** Drive Genius deserves a space in your Mac toolkit.

—Mark Sparrow

**COMPANY:** Prosoft Engineering  
**CONTACT:** 925-426-6100, www.prosofteng.com  
**PRICE:** \$99 (single-user license), \$249 (unlimited-user license)

**REQUIREMENTS:** Mac OS 10.2 or later

**GOOD NEWS:** Bootable CD. Includes defrag routines. Nondestructive repartitioning. Handles all non-RAID drives. Fixes disk permissions.  
**BAD NEWS:** Must boot from CD to work on startup disk.

