

Organizing a Personal Listening Library

Dr. James L. Tully, Director of Bands at Coastal University in Conway, SC, recently queried his colleagues about a system to organize a personal listening library without adding every CD in your collection to your iTunes library.

"I can never find the piece I need even though I know it's on one of the hundreds of CDs on my shelf," he stated. "I'd like to have a system that will allow me to look up a title and then tell me what CD it's on and where it's located on my shelves."

Jim received several responses and has shared the three solutions that were passed on to him:

- 1) Excel or Filemaker pro spreadsheet: While obviously free of charge, this solution is labor intensive as it requires someone (usually a student worker) to go through all your music and type it in.
- 2) <http://www.ripstyles.com>: This company will do it all for you for a per-CD fee. You have to ship your music to them via specific instructions and they'll input everything, then send your music back to you. They send you details about how to upload, etc.
- 3) iTunes: This appears to be the easiest method. Drop the CD in your drive and iTunes converts it, finds the CD info online and makes it all come together.

His conclusion: "I chose the iTunes option. Since I don't want all that music clogging up my memory, I am going to buy an external hard drive, choose to create a second iTunes library (HELP will show you how to do this), and store everything there. iTunes will allow you to search using various criteria as well. I hope this helps anyone who has a similar issue."

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