

# Another iTunes release, another widget kit.

Dissecting the new half-plastic, half-Pro look and feel of iTunes 7. By Daniel Sandler. <http://dsandler.org/gruntle/itunes7/>

Version 1.1, 13-Sep-2006

## 1. The shine is off.

Nowhere in the new iTunes UI will you see a lickable UI control. The only reflective elements remaining are, inexplicably, the selection bars (2) and the music store itself (5).

2. List selection. Bearing no resemblance to any other system selection color, these nearly-black bars bear a slight horizon reflection. They also have a pixel of "fuzz" on the top and bottom, looking for all the world like an anti-aliasing artifact.

5. Who's minding the store? The iTunes Music Store sports a number of new "features":

- A watery, medium-blue colorscheme that evokes nothing so much as, well, Windows Vista.
- Headers [sorry, HEADERS; see (3)] are backed by one of the worst Aqua-glass effects in recent memory; someone revoke the designer's Photoshop filter privileges
- The contents are now officially too wide to fit on my 1024x768 PowerBook. Guess it's time to fork over for a new Mac?

7. The worst scrollbars ever seen on a Mac. Fuzzy gray borders (more sloppy anti-aliasing?), inconsistent shadows (is the control lit from the top or the left?), and yet another color of blue. Looks like a ported GTK app. Paging Strong Bad!

## 3. WHAT'S WITH ALL THE SHOUTING?

Violating years of understated dialogue, Apple makes a strange shift to capital letters for emphasis. Before iTunes 7, the only all-capitalized text commonly seen on the Mac was one word: "OK".

## 4. Count the button styles (★).

- 4a. Push buttons: round, light matte-finish  
Examples: Play/Rewind/FF
- 4b. Push buttons: roundrect, light matte-finish  
Examples: Music store "browser" navigation
- 4c. Push buttons: roundrect, dark matte-finish (camouflaging with bezel and appearing disabled)  
Examples: New Playlist/Shuffle/Browse/Eject
- 4d. Segmented switches: roundrect, light matte-finish  
Examples: View selector

## 6. Visualize your library.

The new "Browse" button is where the old "Visualizer" button was. You could be forgiven for getting this wrong; the icons are very similar.

previously:

