OBSOLETE - *Pre iPhone 7/7th Gen Touch* How to access Recovery Mode

IMPORTANT: AS OF 2/14/2022 THIS GUIDE IS...

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INTRODUCTION

IMPORTANT: AS OF 2/14/2022 THIS GUIDE IS OBSOLETE AND WILL NOT BE UPDATED BY THE AUTHOR. This procedure applies to really old models of iPhones and iPod Touches. iPhones that use this procedure are largely affected by the US 3G sunset and activation blocks (outside of the 6s in the US). For many affected iPod Touch models the issue is software: They often run iOS releases largely left behind by developers (known as "single digit" releases). In addition to these issues, many devices are near the end of their useful life (if not forcefully retired by carriers due to the 3G sunset, or crippled Sprint variants lacking VoLTE or domestic SIM unlocking).
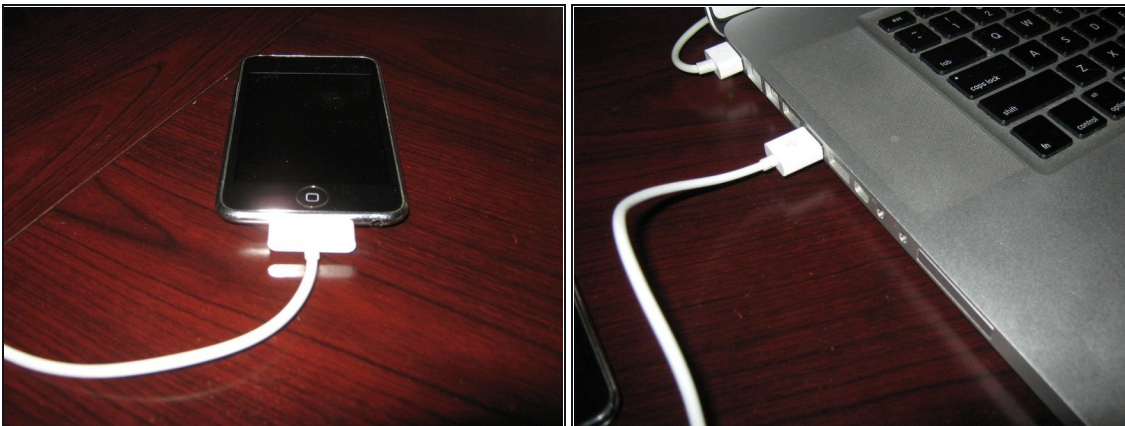
If you own one of these these steps still work but the guide is no longer updated, or supported. Since the guide is still potentially useful I decided to leave it available for public viewing for the foreseeable future.

Guide notes

- **(iPhone only)** This method only works up to the iPhone 6s. The current method varies by the device on newer models.
- **iCloud warning:** Devices running iOS 7 or newer will have an iCloud activation lock. If you restore a device with unknown credentials, you will no longer be able to use the device. Furthermore, devices with an unofficial iCloud unlock will no longer work.
- With iOS 8 and up, the device data is encrypted. **If you need your data, you must guess the password.**
- *WARNING: ALL DATA ON THE DEVICE WILL BE ERASED! IF POSSIBLE, GUESS THE PASSWORD.*

If you purchased a used iDevice or forgot the password on your current device, this guide will show you how to restore the device so you can use it again. If you did not forget the password but are having problems that prevent a normal recovery, this method can also be used for this purpose.
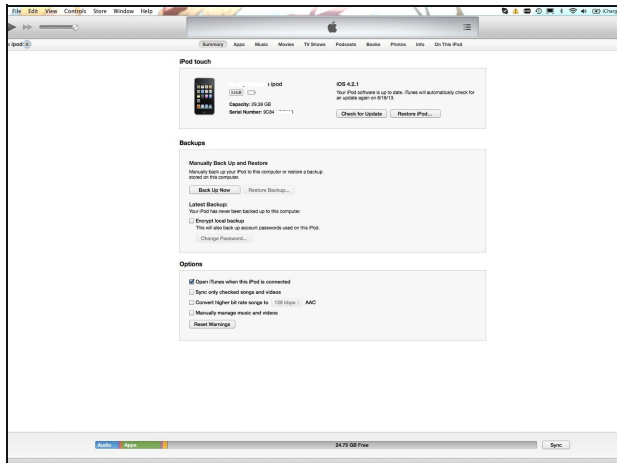
Step 1 — Plug the device into a computer

⚠ **Clearing a unknown password while keeping the data intact is beyond the scope of this guide.**

- Plug your device into your computer. Use the correct cable for your device.

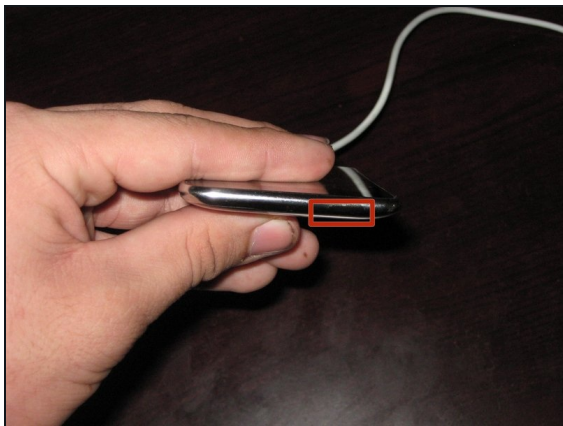## Step 2 — Mount the device in iTunes

⚠️ *Some devices and firmware do not show up in iTunes while locked with a password. This is expected.*

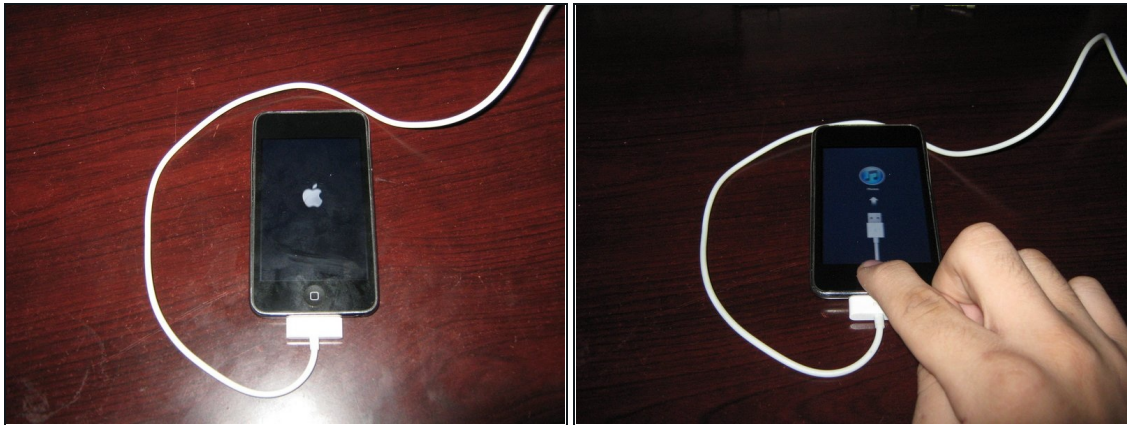ⓘ *Since this is a used device, the previous owner's name has been blurred.*

- Once the device is plugged in, verify it shows up in iTunes. The device will not sync while it is locked, but this is expected.
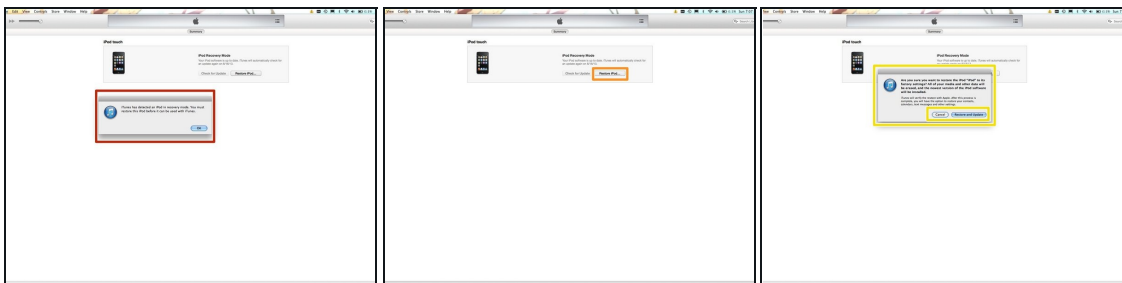
Step 3 — Reset the device

- Reset the device. Hold both the power and home buttons down at the same time. Do this until the device screen turns black.

- This is the power button.

- This is the home button.
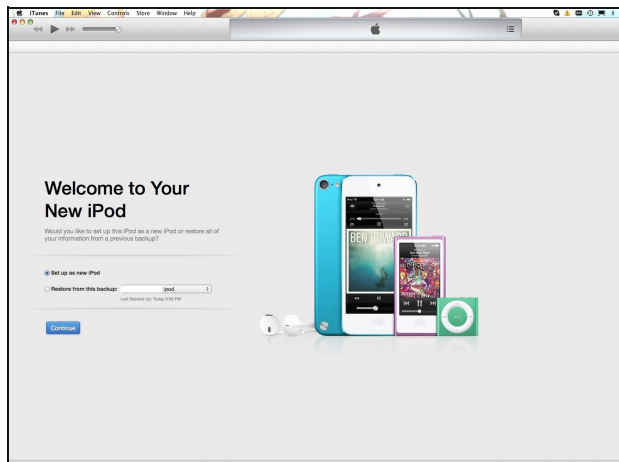
Step 4 — Put the device in recovery mode

📌 This screen may vary based on the version of iOS and device model. Some show the iTunes icon, while others show a computer.

- Once the Apple logo shows up on the screen, let go of the power button. Hold the home button until the recovery mode screen comes up.

Step 5 — Restore the device

- If you have done the previous steps correctly, the device will show in iTunes, but prompt it is in recovery mode.

- Click **Restore iPod/iPhone/iPad** and then **Restore and Update**. Agree to the EULA.

- Once you agree to the EULA (not shown), iTunes will download the latest firmware. Your device will be restored once this is finished.

Step 6 — Set up the device

⚠ Restoring from a backup is NOT recommended. These backups may contain also contain a password, which will force you to repeat this procedure. ***Delete all existing backups known to have the passcode once restored.***

● Once the device is restored, set it up as a new device. Make a new backup to use moving forward.