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iMic Adapter

MAY 2001



COMPANY: Griffin Technology
CONTACT: 615-399-7000, <http://www.griffintechology.com/>

PRICE: \$35 (SRP)

REQUIREMENTS: Mac with built-in USB, Mac OS 9.0.4 or later

MAC Solutions
120gb
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The promise of the Griffin iMic Adapter is simple - with a single inexpensive device, Griffin swears to give you back the microphone port Apple omitted from many of its new designs. Griffin's device, despite a few minor oddities, combines low cost, solid underlying design, and ease of use to create the best audio-in solution for all but the highest-end Mac users.

Installing the iMic is trivial - plug it into a USB port and Apple's built-in audio driver takes over. Once your Mac has recognized the iMic, you'll see new audio input and output sources in the Sound control panel. Select a source, and you can immediately record sounds from anything plugged into the microphone port or listen to headphones or speakers plugged into the output port (depending upon which port you've selected). While the choice of Apple's drivers makes the iMic simple to configure and use, it has a downside: Although in principle the iMic can record and emit sounds at 24-bit resolution, Apple's audio manager limits it to just 16-bit resolution.

The iMic actually outdoes Apple - its audio-input port can record from either line-level signals such as CD players and tape decks or mic-level signals such as most microphones. The implementation of this feature isn't as elegant as it might be - you have to flip a switch on the iMic's case (the two input sources are identical, despite the fact that one is explicitly called line level). Worse, the switch is oriented so the iMic is set to audio in



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when flipped away from the microphone icon on the case!

Despite its minor flaws, the iMic is easily the best option we've seen for putting audio input back into the newest Macs. For higher-end uses you might turn elsewhere - but it's hard to argue with a price of just \$35. - *Ian Sammis*



GOOD NEWS: Simple, powerful, inexpensive sound module.

BAD NEWS: Switch defies logic. Some product capabilities go unfulfilled.

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