

iPhone Sound Menagerie

Author: Jim Cerny, Help Desk Support, Sarasota Technology Users Group, FL

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[jimcerny123 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:jimcerny123@gmail.com)



It can be embarrassing when your phone sounds off when you are in a meeting or someplace quiet. You probably know about the sound “on – off” switch on the side of your phone, right? -- but the many other options for sounds you have available can be surprising. Let’s take a look at a few of the most popular ones and when you would want to use them.

On your iPhone, touch “Settings” and then “Sounds & Haptics.” Haptics, for those of you who are out-of-touch with some technical jargon, has to do with tactile sensations you feel when your phone wants your attention. In other words, among other things, your phone can vibrate. (The sound options for your iPad are fewer because it is not intended to be used as a cellular phone).

Side switch on side of phone – turns sounds “on” or “off.” When “off,” this is called “silent mode.”

The following are found in “Settings” -> “Sounds & Haptics”:

- Vibrate on Ring (on/off) – if “on” will vibrate your phone while it is also ringing.
- Vibrate on Silent (on/off) – if “on” will vibrate even if your phone is on silent.
- Under “Ringer and Alerts” there is a slide volume adjust. Mine is up all the way on this one which means if my phone “rings” with a sound it will be the loudest possible. It’s not that my hearing is failing, it’s that my pants pockets are getting more insulated!
- Right below that is “Change with Buttons” (on/off) – This option, if turned “ON,” means that the volume of the sounds can be adjusted by the “side buttons” which are used to turn the volume up or down.
- If “OFF,” the side buttons will NOT adjust the volume.

Now comes a really fun list of “Sounds and Vibration Patterns” – Look at this list and you can pick and change the sound or vibration pattern of all the events listed. Get a new email? Pick a sound to tell you that event happened. I believe you can get (or purchase through the App Store) more ringtones, but the ones provided for free are enough for me.

Below that list are:

- Keyboard Clicks – if “ON” will make a click sound when you touch a keyboard key on your device.
- Lock Sound – if “ON” will hear a shutting sound (like a door or cupboard door closing) that lets you know you’ve locked your phone without needing to check.
- System Haptics – if “ON” will allow vibrations.

Do Not Disturb – this is a very helpful setting found just below “Sounds & Haptics.” It provides a list of options for you to explore to keep your phone from bothering you at certain times. Thankfully there is a short description of each option to help you decide if it is something you want to use. For example, I have my phone’s “Scheduled” option turned “ON,” and I have a set time span from 10 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. during which I do NOT want to be disturbed. The phone

functions will work (receive calls, etc.) but I will not know unless I am looking at the phone – there will be no noises or vibrations. True to providing options on top of options, there is an “Allow Calls from” option that WILL allow certain calls to come in even if you DO have “Do Not Disturb” turned on.

Ah, remember the old days when you just unplugged the phone when you didn't want it to ring?