BILL'S HOME TECH

Home & Small Business Tech Solutions

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One-Touch Calling for the People Who Matter

Big, photo-labeled buttons that call family with a single tap — no scrolling, no searching

Plain-English comfort-and-accessibility help from:

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Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

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SUMMARY

The 60-Second Version

One-touch calling turns a hunt through your contacts into a single tap on a familiar face. First add a clear photo to each of the few people you call most. On an iPhone, add them to Favorites in the Phone app, and for the very closest people use the Shortcuts app to put a Call button right on your home screen with their photo as the icon.

On Android, add them to Favorites in the Phone app, and drop a "Direct dial" widget on the home screen so one tap calls them directly. You can also call hands-free by saying "Hey Siri, call [name]" or "Hey Google, call [name]." Pair this with Emergency SOS and Medical ID so a tap reaches family and a button-hold reaches help.

Test each button with a willing family member, then write a small card for beside the phone.

1 The Short Version

Scrolling through a long list of contacts to find the right person is a small daily annoyance — and a real problem in a hurry or an emergency. The fix is to set up one-touch calling: a few large, clearly labeled buttons, right on your home screen, that call the people who matter with a single tap. No scrolling, no searching, just a face and a tap.

This guide shows you how, on both iPhone and Android, from marking people as Favorites to placing big photo buttons on your home screen and even calling by voice. Everything here is free and already on your phone.

- One tap, one person — no scrolling through a long contacts list.
- Use Favorites for a quick list, and home-screen shortcuts for the very closest people.
- A clear photo on each contact makes the right person easy to find at a glance.

- You can also just say "call [name]" out loud, hands-free.

> **TIP**
> Pick only the handful of people you call most — family, a close friend, the doctor. A short list of big buttons is far more useful than a long one. You can always add more later.

2 Why One-Touch Calling Matters

A phone full of hundreds of contacts is wonderful until you need one of them quickly. In a worried moment — a fall, a scare, feeling unwell — scrolling and squinting is exactly what you do not want to be doing. One-touch calling removes that step entirely.

It is also simply kinder day to day. Calling a grandchild should be a single, confident tap on their smiling face, not a hunt through a list. The setup takes a few minutes and pays you back every time you reach for the phone.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> This pairs beautifully with the phone's medical and emergency features. One-touch calling handles the people you choose; Emergency SOS handles the services. Together they make a phone genuinely reassuring.

3 First, Tidy Up Your Contacts

One-touch calling works best when your contacts are clean. A few minutes tidying now makes everything that follows smoother.

1. Open your Contacts and find the handful of people you call most.
2. Make sure each has the right phone number and a clear, friendly name.
3. Add a good photo to each of those key people (the next chapter explains why it matters).

4. Merge or delete obvious duplicates so you are not unsure which entry to use.

> **WATCH OUT**
> You do not need to tidy every contact — just the five or ten you will set up for one-touch calling. Ignore the rest for now; this is about the people who matter most.

4 Add a Photo to Each Key Person

A photo is not decoration — it is the single biggest thing that makes the right person easy to find quickly. The eye recognizes a face far faster than it reads a name, especially in a hurry.

1. Open a key contact and choose Edit.
2. Tap to add a photo, and pick a clear, well-lit picture of just their face.
3. Choose a photo where they are easily recognizable, not a distant group shot.
4. Save, and repeat for each of your one-touch people.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> If you do not have a good photo of someone, ask them to text you one, or take a fresh picture next time you see them. A clear face makes the whole system work the way it should.

5 iPhone: Set Up Favorites

On an iPhone, Favorites are a short, quick-access list of the people you call most, living right at the top of the Phone app.

1. Open the Phone app and tap Favorites at the bottom.
2. Tap the plus (+) sign and choose a person from your contacts.
3. Pick how you want to reach them — Call, FaceTime, or Message.
4. Repeat for each key person; drag to reorder so the most important are on top.

WATCH OUT

Keep Favorites to one screenful so you never have to scroll. The whole benefit is that your most-called people are visible the instant you open the Phone app.

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6 iPhone: Put a Contact Button on the Home Screen

For the very closest people, you can place a button right on your home screen that calls them with a single tap — no need to open the Phone app at all. This uses the Shortcuts app, which comes with the iPhone.

1. Open the Shortcuts app and tap the plus (+) to make a new shortcut.
2. Add the action "Call" (or "FaceTime"), and choose the person.
3. Tap the share button and choose "Add to Home Screen."
4. Give it the person's name, pick a photo for the icon, and add it.

GOOD TO KNOW

Once added, that icon sits on your home screen like any app. A single tap on it starts the call directly. Make the icon their photo, and calling them becomes as simple as tapping their face.

7 Android: Set Up Favorites and Speed Dial

Android phones offer a Favorites list in the Phone app, much like the iPhone, so your most-called people are always at the top.

1. Open the Phone app and look for Favorites (sometimes under a star or a tab).
2. Add each key person to Favorites so they appear first.
3. If your phone offers Speed dial, you can assign a person to a number for quick dialing.
4. Reorder so the most important people are easiest to reach.

> **TIP**
>
> The exact wording varies by phone brand. If you cannot find Favorites or Speed dial, use the Settings search box in the Phone app, or simply add a home-screen shortcut as in the next chapter.

8 Android: Put a Contact Shortcut on the Home Screen

Android makes it especially easy to drop a direct-call button for a person right onto your home screen, with their photo as the icon.

1. Touch and hold an empty spot on the home screen, then choose Widgets.
2. Find the Contact or "Direct dial" widget and drag it to the home screen.
3. Choose the person; a button with their name (and often photo) appears.
4. Tap it any time to call them directly, no app to open.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> A "Direct dial" widget calls the moment you tap it, while a plain "Contact" widget opens their card first. For true one-touch calling, choose Direct dial.

9 Call by Voice, Hands-Free

Sometimes the easiest tap is no tap at all. Both iPhone and Android can call a person when you simply say so out loud, which is a real help if your hands are full or the phone is across the room.

- On iPhone, with Siri on, say "Hey Siri, call [name]."
- On Android, with the Assistant on, say "Hey Google, call [name]."
- Use the exact name as it appears in your contacts so it finds the right person.
- Practice with one or two people until it feels reliable.

TIP

Voice calling shines in an emergency or when you cannot reach the phone. It is worth practicing a few times while all is calm, so the words come easily if you ever truly need them.

10 A Quick Word on Emergency Calling

One-touch calling reaches the people you love; it is worth pairing it with the phone's built-in way to reach emergency services, so both are ready.

- Set up Emergency SOS so holding the side buttons calls for help and can alert your contacts.
- Fill in Medical ID (iPhone) or emergency info (Android) with conditions and contacts.
- Make sure your chosen emergency contacts are current.
- Know that these work even from a locked phone, by design.

WATCH OUT

The combination is what makes a phone truly reassuring: a tap to call family, a button-hold to call for help, and medical details a responder can read. I am glad to set all three up together on a visit.

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11 Test It, Then Make a Card

Finish by testing your new buttons and writing a small card, so the setup is proven and never forgotten.

1. Tap each new button or Favorite and confirm it calls the right person.
2. Try the voice command once with a willing family member.
3. Write a card listing the buttons and what each one does.
4. Keep the card where the phone usually sits.

TIP

Call a family member to test, and tell them in advance so a surprise ring does not worry them. A quick "just testing my new button" call is the perfect trial run.

12 One-Touch Video Calls, Too

Seeing a face is even better than hearing a voice, and a video call can be just as much a one-tap affair. For families spread apart, a button that starts a video chat with a grandchild is a daily joy worth setting up.

- On an iPhone, add a FaceTime Favorite, or make a Shortcut that starts a FaceTime call with a person.
- On Android, a home-screen shortcut can open a video call in your chosen app.
- Pick one video app the whole family already uses, so calls just work.
- Set the contact's photo so the video button shows their face, like the call buttons.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> The secret to easy video calling is everyone using the same app. Agree on one as a family, set it up once, and a single tap brings a face to the screen without any fuss about which app to open.

13 Make Sure Calls Come Through Clearly

One-touch calling is only half the story; the calls also need to arrive loud and clear. A few settings make sure that when someone taps your face to call you, you actually hear it ring.

- Turn the ring volume up and choose a loud, distinctive ringtone.
- Turn on vibration so a call is felt as well as heard.
- Check the silent switch and Do Not Disturb are not quietly hushing calls.
- Allow your Favorites to ring through even when Do Not Disturb is on.

> **WATCH OUT**
>
> Set your closest family member's contact to always ring through, even on silent, using the Emergency Bypass option on an iPhone. Then their call is never the one you miss.

14 Keep the List Short and Current

The power of one-touch calling comes from being short. A page of forty buttons is just another list to scroll; six familiar faces is a genuine comfort. A little upkeep keeps it that way.

1. Review your favorites now and then; remove anyone you rarely call.
2. Update a photo if someone's picture is old or unclear.
3. Fix any number that has changed, so a tap always reaches the right person.
4. Add a new close contact when life changes, but keep the total small.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> A short, current list of the people who truly matter is far more useful than a long one. Resist the urge to add everyone; the whole value is that the few who count are instantly, confidently reachable.

15 When to Call Bill

Setting up one-touch calling is a small, gladdening project, and most people can follow this guide. But the steps differ between phones, the home-screen shortcuts can be fiddly, and it is worth getting the emergency and medical pieces exactly right.

I come to you, tidy the key contacts, add good photos, set up Favorites and big home-screen buttons for your closest people, switch on voice calling if it helps, and make sure Emergency SOS and Medical ID are ready. I leave a simple card by the phone so it all stays clear.

- You want big, photo-labeled one-touch buttons for your closest people.
- The home-screen shortcut steps are not cooperating.
- You want emergency calling and medical info set up alongside.
- You would simply rather have it set up and tested together, once.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

Keep this handy. Set up only the handful of people you call most.

I want to...	Do this...
Make the right person easy to spot	Add a clear face photo to each key contact
Quick list on iPhone	Phone app > Favorites > + > pick the person
Home-screen button on iPhone	Shortcuts app > Call action > Add to Home Screen with their photo
Quick list on Android	Phone app > Favorites (or Speed dial)
Home-screen button on Android	Hold home screen > Widgets > Direct dial > pick the person
Call hands-free	Say "Hey Siri / Hey Google, call [name]"
Be ready for emergencies	Set up Emergency SOS and Medical ID / emergency info
Get help	Call Bill: (330) 200-8042

BEFORE YOU GO

A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill. I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results.

HOW I CAN HELP

Your Visit — and My Promise

You don't have to remember all of it — just that a friendly, patient person is one call away, whenever you'd rather have a hand.

KEY SPECS

In your home — $99 flat for the first visit, no contracts and no surprises, with a 30-day come-back-free follow-up. In-home visits cover Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities.
Outside the area? Remotely — $49 for a screen-share session (free for Support Plan members, $39/mo), refundable if I can't fix it — and credited toward a visit if you'd rather have me in person. Book either at billshometech.com/book.

GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full $99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

Whenever you're ready, I'll come to your home anywhere in Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities, at your pace. Too far for a house call? I also help remotely. Book at billshometech.com/book or call (330) 200-8042. — Bill

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