BILL'S HOME TECH

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Smart-Display Recipes, Hands-Free

Cook from an Echo Show or Nest Hub by voice — clean hands, no splattered cookbook

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Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

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SUMMARY

The 60-Second Version

A smart display (Echo Show or Nest Hub) is a small screen with a voice assistant — perfect for cooking with messy hands. Say the wake word, then "show me a recipe for beef stew," open it, and say "start cooking." It reads one step at a time; say "next step," "go back," or "repeat that" to move at your own pace.

Ask it to play a quick technique video, set named timers ("a 20-minute timer called pasta"), and add items to your shopping list — all without touching the screen. Keep it safely back from the sink and stove.

1 The Short Version

A smart display — an Amazon Echo Show or a Google Nest Hub — is a small screen with a voice assistant built in, and it is a joy in the kitchen. You can ask it for a recipe out loud, have it walk you through the steps one at a time, and move to the next step by just saying "next" — all without touching the screen with floury, wet hands. This guide gets you cooking hands-free.

You do not need to be technical. If you can say what you want out loud, the display does the rest. We will cover finding recipes, going step by step, watching a quick cooking video, and setting timers — all by voice.

- A smart display is a small screen that listens and talks — Echo Show or Nest Hub.
- Ask for a recipe by voice and it reads the steps aloud.
- Say "next" to move on — no need to touch the screen mid-cook.
- It sets timers and adds ingredients to your shopping list by voice too.

WATCH OUT

The whole appeal is keeping your hands free and your screen clean. You can do everything in this guide by voice, so messy fingers never have to touch the glass.

2 What a Smart Display Does in the Kitchen

Think of it as a cookbook, a kitchen timer, a radio, and a little helper, all in one small screen that answers when you talk to it. It is especially handy where your hands are busy and a paper recipe would get splattered.

- Shows and reads recipe steps aloud, hands-free.
- Sets one or several timers by voice.
- Plays music, radio, or a cooking video while you work.
- Answers quick questions ("how many teaspoons in a tablespoon?").
- Lets you make a video call to family while you cook.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> Everything is driven by your voice, so the display earns its place right on the counter where a tablet or phone would be at risk of spills and sticky fingers.

3 What You Need

Getting started is simple — a display, power, Wi-Fi, and its app, which you likely set up once and rarely touch again.

- An Echo Show (Amazon) or Nest Hub (Google) and a nearby outlet.
- Your home Wi-Fi name and password.
- The matching free app on your phone (Alexa app, or Google Home app) for first-time setup.
- A spot on the counter where you can see and hear it while you work.

> **TIP**
> Place it where splashes from the sink and heat from the stove will not reach it, but where you can still glance at the screen while your hands are busy.

4 Find a Recipe by Voice

Start by simply asking. The display searches its recipe sources and shows you options to choose from, which you can also pick by voice.

1. Say the wake word ("Alexa" or "Hey Google"), then "show me a recipe for beef stew."
2. It shows a few options on screen.
3. Say "show me the first one" or tap it to open the recipe.
4. Ask "what are the ingredients?" to hear or see the list before you start.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> You can be as specific as you like — "an easy chicken recipe for four" or "a dessert without nuts." The smarter the assistant, the better it handles a natural request like that.

5 Cook Step by Step, Hands-Free

This is the heart of it. Once a recipe is open, the display reads one step at a time and waits for you, so you are never scrambling to find your place with messy hands.

1. With the recipe open, say "start cooking" or "start recipe."
2. It reads the first step aloud and shows it on screen.
3. When you are ready, say "next step" — or "go back" to repeat one.
4. Ask "repeat that" any time you did not catch a step.
5. Say "stop" when you are finished.

> **TIP**
>
> Say "next" only when you have actually finished the step — the display waits patiently, so there is no rush and no penalty for taking your time.

Rather not do this yourself? I'll come to your home and set it up for you — a flat $99 first visit across Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities. Outside the area? I also help remotely by phone or screen-share. Book at billshometech.com/book or call (330) 200-8042.

6 Watch a Quick Cooking Video

Sometimes seeing a technique — how to fold, chop, or truss — is worth a thousand words. The display can play a short video right on the counter.

1. Say "show me how to dice an onion" (or whatever technique you want).
2. It plays a short video on screen.
3. Say "pause" or "play" to control it hands-free.
4. Say "go back to my recipe" to return to your steps.

GOOD TO KNOW

This is lovely for a new technique or an unfamiliar dish — a quick look at someone doing it, then straight back to your own cooking, all without drying your hands.

7 Set Timers Right From the Recipe

Good cooking is all about timing, and the display handles several timers at once. Name each one so you always know which is ringing.

1. Say "set a timer for 20 minutes called pasta."
2. Add another: "set a timer for 10 minutes called garlic bread."
3. Ask "how much time is left on the pasta?" any time.
4. When one rings, say "stop the pasta timer."

WATCH OUT

Naming timers is the trick that makes multiple timers usable — "the pasta timer" and "the bread timer" never get confused. Our "Set Multiple Timers by Voice" guide goes deeper on this.

8 Scale and Convert Without Stopping

Right in the middle of cooking you can ask the display to do the kitchen math for you — no hunting for a calculator or a conversion chart.

- "How many tablespoons are in a quarter cup?"
- "What's 350 degrees Fahrenheit in Celsius?"
- "If the recipe serves four, what do I need for six?"
- "What can I use instead of buttermilk?"

GOOD TO KNOW

Our "Convert Measurements & Substitute Ingredients" guide covers these in depth, but for most quick questions mid-cook, just asking out loud is the fastest answer you'll find.

9 Add Ingredients to Your Shopping List

When you notice you are low on something, say so and it goes on your list — which you can check on your phone at the store later.

1. Say "add olive oil to my shopping list."
2. Keep going as you cook: "add garlic," "add parmesan."
3. Later, open the Alexa app or Google Home app to see the list at the store.

TIP

Build your list while you cook, the moment you notice something running low. It is far more reliable than trying to remember it all later.

10 If You'd Rather Not Use the Screen at All

You do not have to look at the screen if you would rather not. Everything important can be done by voice alone, which suits many people perfectly.

- Ask for the recipe, the steps, and the timers entirely out loud.
- Say "repeat" whenever you miss something, as often as you like.
- The screen is a bonus, not a requirement — your voice does the work.

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11 Placement and Kitchen Safety

A smart display is an electrical device on a counter with water and heat nearby, so a moment of sensible placement keeps it safe and lasting.

- Keep it well back from the sink and stovetop to avoid splashes and heat.
- Make sure the cord reaches an outlet without stretching across a walkway.
- Wipe the screen only with a dry or barely-damp cloth, never a soaking one.
- Give it a little space so steam from pots does not blow straight onto it.

WATCH OUT

Keep it away from the edge of the counter and out of reach of a sink sprayer. A splash of water on an electrical device is the one real hazard worth avoiding here.

12 When It Mishears or Won't Respond

Kitchens are noisy, so the display occasionally mishears. These quick checks usually sort it out.

- Lower the music or pause a loud fan, then try again.
- Say the wake word clearly and pause before your request.
- Check it is online (it needs Wi-Fi to find recipes and videos).
- If it is stuck, unplug it for 10 seconds and plug it back in.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> If it keeps mishearing one particular word, try phrasing the request a little differently — "show me," "find me," or "look up" often work when one exact wording does not.

13 Handy Phrases for the Kitchen

Nearly everything you will do at the counter comes down to a short list of spoken phrases. Keep these in mind and the display feels effortless.

To do this	Say this
Find a recipe	"Show me a recipe for beef stew"
Start cooking	"Start cooking" (with a recipe open)
Move on / go back	"Next step" / "go back" / "repeat that"
Set a named timer	"Set a 20-minute timer called pasta"
Convert on the fly	"How many tablespoons in a quarter cup?"
Add to your list	"Add olive oil to my shopping list"

TIP

Prop a card with your five favorites by the display for the first week. They become second nature quickly, and then the card comes down.

14 Pairing It With a Recipe App

The display finds recipes on its own, but you can also connect a recipe app or service so your own saved recipes are available by voice. It is optional, and worth it if you already keep recipes somewhere.

- In the Alexa or Google Home app, look for recipe skills or services to enable.
- Some let you push a recipe from your phone to the display's screen.
- If you keep a digital recipe box, you can often open those recipes on the display too.
- Start with the built-in recipes; add an app only if you want your own collection.

GOOD TO KNOW

If you have made a digital recipe box (we have a guide for that), the smart display is a lovely place to cook from it — your own recipes, read aloud, hands-free.

15 Common Questions

A few things people often ask about cooking with a smart display, answered plainly.

- Do I have to touch the screen? No — everything can be done by voice, which is the whole point.
- Will it hear me over a noisy kitchen? Usually — lower the music, say the wake word clearly, and raise its volume.
- Can it set more than one timer? Yes — name each one so you know which is ringing.
- What if I miss a step? Just say "repeat that" as often as you like.
- Is it safe near the stove? Yes, if kept back from splashes and direct heat — a stand helps.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> The thread through these is reassuring: the display is patient and forgiving. Say "repeat," take your time, and it waits for you — there is no way to fall behind or get it wrong.

16 When to Call Bill

A smart display is one of the most genuinely useful gadgets a kitchen can have, and it should be a pleasure, not a puzzle. If getting it online, connecting it to recipes, or learning the handy phrases is giving you trouble, I am glad to help.

I come to you, set the display up in a safe spot, connect it to your Wi-Fi and recipe sources, and cook through a few voice commands with you so it feels natural. You will leave the visit able to call up a recipe, go step by step, and set your timers entirely by voice.

- You cannot get the display online or connected to recipes.
- You want it placed safely and set up on the counter.
- You would like to be shown the handy voice phrases.
- You want timers, lists, and video calls set up while we're at it.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

Keep this handy. Say the wake word ("Alexa" or "Hey Google") first, then speak.

I want to...	Do this...
Find a recipe	"Show me a recipe for beef stew"
Start cooking	Open it, then say "start cooking"
Move through steps	"Next step," "go back," or "repeat that"
See a technique	"Show me how to dice an onion"
Set a named timer	"Set a 20-minute timer called pasta"
Build a shopping list	"Add olive oil to my shopping list"
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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