



An Extended Guide · No. 1972

Wireless Charging Pads & Stands — Qi2, MagSafe & What Fits Your Phone

A plain-words guide to charging
your phone without a cable

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Let's make sense of wireless charging

If you've seen a little pad or a small stand that charges a phone with no cable plugged in, and wondered whether it would work with your phone — and what all those labels mean — you're in exactly the right place. We'll sort it out together, calmly and without the jargon.

I'm Bill, and I run Bill's Home Tech here in Portage County, Ohio. I've spent 30+ years helping folks get comfortable with the gear in their homes, patiently and in plain language. Think of this guide as me sitting at your kitchen table, setting a charging pad down and showing you how it works.

Wireless charging is simple once you see it: you set the phone on a pad or against a stand, and it charges through the surface — no plugging the little cable into the phone. The trick is knowing whether your phone can do it, and reading the labels so you buy the right pad. That's all this guide does.

★ You don't need to memorize a thing

By the end you'll know whether your phone charges wirelessly, what the Qi2 and MagSafe labels mean, and why a case or poor alignment can get in the way. If you'd rather I just set one up for you, call or text (330) 200-8042.

The whole guide, on one page

If you remember only these things, you already understand wireless charging better than most.

- ❑ **Wireless charging** means setting the phone on a pad or stand instead of plugging a cable into it.
- ❑ Your phone has to support it — not every phone does. When in doubt, check the phone maker's spec page.
- ❑ **Qi** (say 'chee') is the long-standing standard; **Qi2** is the newer one that added magnets so the phone snaps into place.
- ❑ Look for the **Qi2** (or **Qi2 25W**) logo on the pad or stand, and match it to what your phone supports.
- ❑ A thick or metal case, a wallet or card behind the phone, or poor alignment can slow or block charging.
- ❑ Wireless is generally slower and warmer than a good cable — handy, but not the fastest way to fill up in a hurry.

✓ One habit that makes it painless

Pick one spot — a nightstand or a kitchen counter — and leave the pad or stand there plugged in. Then charging is just 'set the phone down,' with nothing to fish for and plug in.

What wireless charging actually is

It helps to picture what's happening, because once you do, the labels and the fussiness all make sense.

A wireless charger is a flat pad or a small stand that plugs into the wall. Inside it is a coil, and inside a phone that supports wireless charging there's another coil. Set the phone on the pad so the two coils line up, and power passes across the small gap — no cable into the phone itself.

Notice that word: line up. The two coils have to sit close to each other, or the charging is slow or doesn't start at all. That single fact explains why alignment matters so much, and why the newer standard added magnets to help — more on that in a moment.

✓ The pad still needs the wall

A wireless pad isn't magic power from the air — it still plugs into an outlet with its own cable and, usually, a charging block. 'Wireless' just means no cable goes into the phone. We cover charging blocks in our guide on reading a charger's fine print.

Qi and Qi2 — what the labels mean

There are really just a couple of names to know, and they're less complicated than they look.

Qi — it's pronounced 'chee' — is the long-standing wireless charging standard. It's been on pads and phones for years. If a pad just says Qi, it charges Qi phones, and you line the phone up yourself by sliding it around until it starts.

Qi2 is the newer version from the group that sets the standard, the Wireless Power Consortium. Its big addition is a ring of magnets — they call it the Magnetic Power Profile — so the phone snaps into the right spot on its own. That design is based on Apple's MagSafe, the magnetic feature on iPhones. Base Qi2 delivers up to 15 watts of charging power.

✓ Watts, in one sentence

A watt is just a measure of how fast power flows — more watts means a faster fill, all else equal. You don't need to do any math; just know a bigger number on the label generally means a quicker charge.

The magnets — why Qi2 snaps into place

This is the friendliest part of Qi2, especially if fiddly little alignment has ever frustrated you.

With plain Qi, you set the phone down and nudge it around until it finds the sweet spot where charging begins. If you bump it, it can stop. With Qi2, a ring of magnets in the pad and the phone pull the two together so they click into perfect alignment every time — no hunting, no guessing.

That magnetic idea came from Apple's MagSafe, the magnetic ring on iPhones. Qi2 brought the same snap-into-place convenience into the shared standard, so pads and phones from different makers can line up the same satisfying way.

✓ A real help for tired hands and eyes

If lining a phone up just so has ever been a nuisance, a Qi2 magnetic pad is a small daily blessing — the phone finds its own spot. Just make sure both your phone and the pad support Qi2, which the next pages help you check.

Qi2 25W — the newer, faster tier

You may see a slightly different label on some newer pads. Here's what it means, without the fuss.

The newest tier was first called Qi2.2 and is now branded **Qi2 25W**. It was finalized in 2025 and can deliver up to 25 watts — more than base Qi2's 15 watts — so it can charge a supported phone faster while still using the same snap-into-place magnets.

The catch is that both pieces have to support it: the pad has to be a Qi2 25W pad, and your phone has to be able to take that faster speed. A Qi2 25W pad will still charge an ordinary Qi2 phone — just at the slower speed that phone supports. It won't make an older phone charge faster than the phone was built to.

✓ Faster only if both agree

Think of it like a conversation: the pad and the phone each say how fast they can go, and charging happens at the slower of the two. A fast pad can't push a phone past its own limit, so match the pad to what your phone actually supports.

Does my iPhone charge wirelessly?

iPhones are the easiest to place, because the rule follows the model era.

The **iPhone 15 series and later** support Qi2, which means up to 15 watts with the snap-into-place magnets. The **iPhone 16 series and later** can reach the faster 25 watts when you use a Qi2 25W certified pad under the right conditions.

Older iPhones aren't left out. The **iPhone 12 through 14** use Apple's MagSafe along with the older Qi standard, so they charge wirelessly too — the magnets and the exact speed just work a little differently. If you're not certain which iPhone you have, the model is listed in the phone's settings, and the phone maker's spec page confirms what it supports.

★ Not sure which iPhone you've got?

This is a two-minute thing I can check with you. Tell me your iPhone and I'll tell you exactly which pad fits and how fast it'll charge — or I'll look at the phone on a visit. Call or text (330) 200-8042.

Does my Android phone charge wirelessly?

Android is a bigger family of phones from many makers, so here the honest answer is: it depends, and the spec page is your friend.

Qi2 began arriving on flagship Android phones — the top-of-the-line models — in late 2024 and into 2025. Many newer Android phones support wireless charging, but not all of them have the ring of magnets built in the way iPhones do.

That matters because some Android phones get Qi2's faster, snap-into-place magnetic charging only when you add a magnetic case — the case supplies the magnets the phone itself lacks. Without that, the phone may still charge wirelessly, just without the magnetic snap. Because it varies so much by model, the surest answer is to check your phone maker's spec page.

! Check before you buy a pad

Don't assume an Android phone charges wirelessly, or that it has magnets built in — plenty don't. Look up your exact model on the maker's spec page first. A pad you can't use is money wasted, and this one checks itself quickly.

Two kinds of households, two sets of needs

Wireless charging fits different lives differently. What you'll want depends on how many phones are in the house and how you like to charge.

If it's mostly just you and your phone

You want one easy, reliable spot to set your phone down, and no worry about wearing out a cable or fumbling a plug in the dark.

- Confirm your phone charges wirelessly on the maker's spec page first.
- A stand by your chair or bed lets you see the screen while it charges.
- If your phone supports Qi2, the magnetic snap means no lining it up.
- Keep your regular cable too — it's still the quickest way to top up fast.

If you're charging a houseful of phones

A busy home — a spouse, kids, grandkids, visitors — means different phones and different needs. You want pads that just work for whoever sets a phone down.

- Check each phone's spec page — iPhones and Androids may differ.
- A plain Qi pad charges the widest mix, even if more slowly.
- Set a shared pad or two by the main gathering spot for guests.
- Label which pad is faster if some phones support Qi2 25W and others don't.

★ Want one simple charging spot that just works?

Setting up a tidy wireless-charging spot — picking the right pad or stand, placing it, and showing everyone how to use it — is a perfect kitchen-table job. I'll make it foolproof in one calm sitting. Call (330) 200-8042.

Why cases and alignment make or break it

This is the part that trips people up, so let's make it plain. The phone and pad have to sit close and lined up, and a few common things get in the way.

Charging passes across a small gap, so anything thick or metal between the phone and the pad can slow it down or stop it. A bulky case, a case with metal in it, or a magnetic mount that interferes can all be the culprit. A wallet case with cards tucked behind the phone is a very common one — the cards sit right where the coils need to meet.

Alignment is the other half. With plain Qi you have to set the phone so the coils line up; nudge it off-center and charging slows or stops. With Qi2's magnets the phone snaps into the right spot for you, which is one of the nicest reasons to choose it.

! The usual suspects when it won't charge

A case that's too thick, a case with metal or a magnetic mount, a wallet or cards behind the phone, or the phone simply set off-center — these are the everyday reasons wireless charging acts up. Remove the card, re-center the phone, or try without the case to test.

Why wireless feels slower and runs warmer

Wireless charging is wonderfully convenient, but it's worth knowing its honest trade-offs so nothing surprises you.

Sending power across a gap isn't as efficient as a direct cable, so wireless charging is generally slower than a good cable, and the phone and pad tend to run a bit warmer while it works. That warmth is normal within reason — it's just the nature of charging through the air.

What this means in practice: wireless is lovely for topping up through the day or charging overnight on a nightstand, where speed doesn't matter. When you need a full battery in a hurry before heading out, reaching for your cable is still the quicker choice.

✓ Give it room to breathe

Charge on a hard, open surface rather than on a bed or under a pillow, and take a thick case off if the phone gets quite warm. A little warmth is fine; a phone that's hot to the touch wants more air and less covering.

Pad or stand — which suits you?

Wireless chargers come in two main shapes, and the better one for you is mostly about where you'll use it.

A **pad** lies flat, and you set the phone face-up on top. It's low and tidy, great on a nightstand where you're not looking at the screen anyway. A **stand** props the phone upright at an angle, so you can see the time, your notifications, or a video call while it charges — handy on a desk or kitchen counter.

Both do the same job; the stand just keeps the screen in view. Either way, the phone still has to support wireless charging, and matching the pad or stand to your phone's standard — Qi or Qi2 — matters more than the shape does.

✓ A stand is often the kinder choice

If reading the screen matters to you — seeing who's calling, glancing at the time overnight, propping it for a video chat — a stand earns its keep. Just set it where a glance is natural and the cord reaches an outlet.

Reading the label on the charger

The box or the underside of a pad tells you what it is, if you know the couple of words to look for.

Look for the word **Qi**, or the newer **Qi2**, or **Qi2 25W** on the packaging or the device. That's the standard the pad supports. A pad marked Qi2 has the magnets; one marked only Qi is the older, line-it-up-yourself kind. Qi2 25W is the faster newer tier.

If a listing shouts a big speed number but never names the standard, be a little cautious — the honest ones state Qi or Qi2 plainly. The standard name tells you far more than a flashy phrase does. We dig into reading charger labels in general in our guide on a charger's fine print.

! Beware vague claims

Phrases a seller dreamed up — 'works with all phones,' 'super-fast wireless' — don't mean much on their own. Look for the actual Qi or Qi2 logo and name, and match it to what your phone supports. When it matters, buy from a seller you'd trust for anything else.

Checking your phone maker's spec page

When you're unsure what your phone can do, the maker's own page is the one source worth trusting — not a guess, not a seller's promise.

Every phone maker lists what each model supports: whether it charges wirelessly, whether it's Qi or Qi2, and how fast. Search your exact model name plus the words 'wireless charging specs,' and look for the maker's own website. That page settles whether a pad will work before you spend a dime.

Match three things and you can't go far wrong: what your phone supports, what the pad's label says, and — for the fastest speeds — whether both agree on Qi2 or Qi2 25W. If the spec page and the pad both say Qi2, you're set.

★ Let me do the looking-up for you

Reading spec pages is fussy, and it's easy to land on a seller's page instead of the maker's. Tell me your phone and I'll confirm exactly what it supports and which pad to get — no commission, just a straight answer. Call or text (330) 200-8042.

Buying a pad or stand without overpaying

You don't need the fanciest pad, and you don't want a no-name one that runs hot or quits. Here's the sensible middle.

First, match the standard to your phone — Qi for an older wireless phone, Qi2 if your phone has it and you want the magnetic snap, Qi2 25W only if your phone can use that faster speed. Then pick the shape, pad or stand, for where you'll use it. A sturdy build from a reputable maker matters more than a flashy name.

Remember a pad often needs a charging block and cable to plug into the wall, and not every pad includes one — check the listing so you're not surprised. Our multi-port charger guide and our guide on reading a charger's fine print can help you pick a good block to run it from.

★ Text me the pad before you buy

Send me a photo of the pad or the listing and tell me your phone, and I'll tell you whether it fits and whether you need a block to run it — so you order once and it just works. Call or text (330) 200-8042.

The mix-ups I see most often

A few honest mistakes account for most wireless-charging frustration. Knowing them ahead of time means you'll breeze right past.

- **Assuming every phone charges wirelessly:** many don't — check the maker's spec page before buying a pad.
- **Expecting a fast pad to speed up an old phone:** charging happens at the slower of the two; the phone sets its own limit.
- **Leaving a card or wallet behind the phone:** cards sit right where the coils meet and can block charging.
- **Setting the phone off-center on a plain Qi pad:** nudge it until it starts, or choose a Qi2 pad that snaps into place.
- **Expecting wireless to match a cable for speed:** it's slower by nature — lovely for overnight, not for a quick top-up.

✓ Test with the case off

If a phone won't charge or charges slowly on a pad you know is good, take the case off and set the phone bare on the pad. If that fixes it, the case — or something tucked behind it — was the problem.

Setting up one simple charging spot

The whole point of wireless charging is that it's effortless. A little setup makes it stay that way.

Pick the spot you naturally set your phone down — a nightstand, the end of the kitchen counter, a desk. Plug the pad or stand in there and leave it, with the cord tucked tidily to an outlet. Now charging is just 'set the phone down,' with nothing to find and plug in each time.

If more than one person charges in the house, a shared pad by the gathering spot works nicely. Our guide on setting up a family charging spot takes this further, and our labeling guide helps if you want to mark which pad is the faster one.

✓ Watch for the sign it started

Most phones show a little light on the pad, a charging symbol on the screen, or a gentle buzz when charging begins. Glance for that after you set the phone down — it's your proof the phone is actually lined up and drinking.

When it won't charge — a calm checklist

If a phone won't charge on the pad, don't assume the worst. A quick, orderly check almost always finds the reason.

Work through it one step at a time. Is the pad itself powered — plugged into a working outlet with its block? Is the phone actually one that charges wirelessly? Is a thick case, a metal case, or a card behind the phone in the way? Is the phone centered, or snapped on if it's Qi2? Try the phone bare and re-centered, and watch for the charging sign.

If it still won't charge, try a different outlet and, if you have one, a different pad or block to tell which piece is at fault. Swapping one thing at a time is the same patient approach I'd use on a visit, and it almost always finds the answer.

✓ A cable is your quick fallback

While you sort out a wireless pad, you can always charge with your regular cable — it's unaffected. Nothing about wireless charging stops the old, reliable way from working.

A few easy habits for happy charging

None of this is a rule you must follow — just small kindnesses that keep wireless charging smooth and your phone comfortable.

Give the phone an open surface so warmth can escape, rather than burying it under bedding. Take a thick case off if the phone gets quite warm. And keep your cable handy for the days you need a fast fill — wireless and cable aren't rivals; they each have their moment.

If you've gone to a Qi2 magnetic pad, enjoy the snap — it's the one part that makes this genuinely easier on hands and eyes. Set the phone near the pad and let the magnets do the lining-up you used to do by hand.

✓ Overnight is wireless charging's happy place

Slow and steady suits an overnight charge perfectly. Set the phone on the nightstand pad before bed, and it's full and ready by morning — no cable to fumble in the dark, no plug to wear out.

Your quick reference, start to finish

The short version you can lean on any time wireless charging has you wondering.

- ❑ Confirm your phone charges wirelessly — check the maker's spec page.
- ❑ Qi is the older standard; Qi2 added magnets so the phone snaps on.
- ❑ Base Qi2 is up to 15 watts; Qi2 25W is the faster newer tier, up to 25.
- ❑ iPhone 15 and later are Qi2; iPhone 16 and later can reach 25 watts.
- ❑ Many Androids charge wirelessly; some need a magnetic case for the snap.
- ❑ Match the pad's label to what your phone supports — faster needs both.
- ❑ Remove cards and thick or metal cases, and center the phone, to charge.

★ Keep this guide handy

You don't have to hold any of this in your head. Keep these pages with your home papers, and when in doubt, I'm a phone call away at (330) 200-8042.

Common Questions

The questions I hear most about wireless charging, answered plainly.

Q: How do I know if my phone charges wirelessly?

Check your phone maker's spec page for your exact model — it will say whether the phone charges wirelessly and whether it's Qi or Qi2. If you're unsure, tell me your phone and I'll look it up with you.

Q: What's the difference between Qi and Qi2?

Qi is the long-standing standard, where you line the phone up yourself. Qi2 added a ring of magnets, based on Apple's MagSafe, so the phone snaps into place on its own. Base Qi2 charges up to 15 watts.

Q: What is Qi2 25W?

It's the newer, faster tier, finalized in 2025 — up to 25 watts instead of 15. To get that speed, both the pad and your phone have to support it; otherwise it charges at the slower speed your phone allows.

Q: Can I leave my case on while charging?

Often yes, if it's thin and has no metal. But a thick case, a metal-containing case, or a wallet with cards behind the phone can slow or block charging. If it won't charge, test with the case off.

Q: Is wireless charging slower than a cable?

Generally yes, and it runs a bit warmer, because power crosses a small gap rather than a direct cable. It's wonderful for overnight or topping up through the day; reach for your cable when you need a fast fill.

★ Still not sure what fits your phone?

Setting up wireless charging is a quick, satisfying job — and I'll make sure you buy the right pad the first time. Call or text (330) 200-8042 and we'll sort it out together.

You don't have to do this alone

You just have to remember that a friendly, patient person is one call away.

I hope this guide made wireless charging feel a little less daunting and a lot more doable. Keep it in a drawer with your other home papers, come back to a page whenever you need it, and don't worry about memorizing anything.

When you'd rather have a hand, that's exactly what I do. I come to your home, work at your pace, and never make you feel rushed or silly for asking. A first visit is a flat \$99, and for the parts that don't need me on-site I can often help right on your screen for \$49. Every visit comes with a 30-day, come-back-free guarantee. I don't do licensed electrical, gas, or appliance-repair work myself — for that I'll help you line up a trustworthy local pro.

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Call or text me at (330) 200-8042, or visit BillsHomeTech.com. Serving Atwater and all of Portage County. 30+ years of patient, plain-English tech help — and if you're ever not 100% happy with a visit, I'll make it right or refund it. That's a promise. — Bill

Qi, Qi2 and Qi2 25W

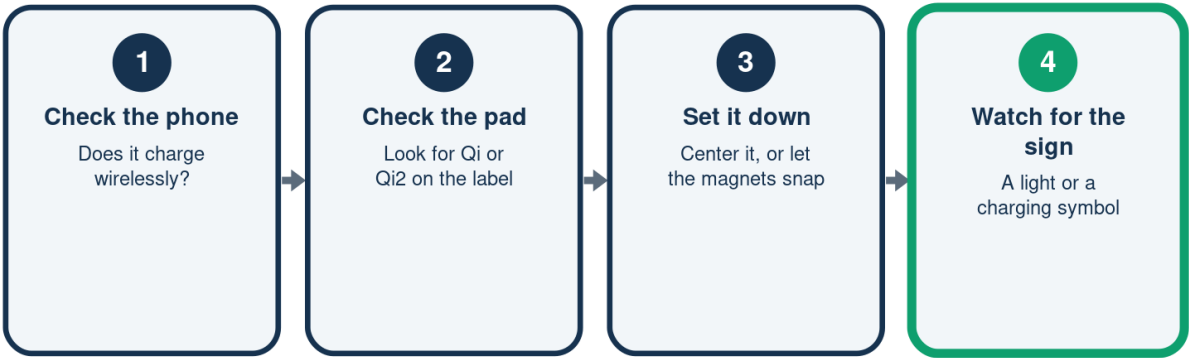
The three labels you'll see, side by side

	Qi	Qi2	Qi2 25W
Magnets	No	Yes, a ring	Yes, a ring
Alignment	You line up	Snaps on	Snaps on
Top speed	Varies	Up to 15W	Up to 25W
Based on	Older Qi	MagSafe idea	MagSafe idea

Match the pad's label to what your phone's spec page supports.

Charging Wirelessly, Step by Step

A simple path from phone to charged



No sign? Remove any card or thick case and re-center the phone.

Pad or Stand?

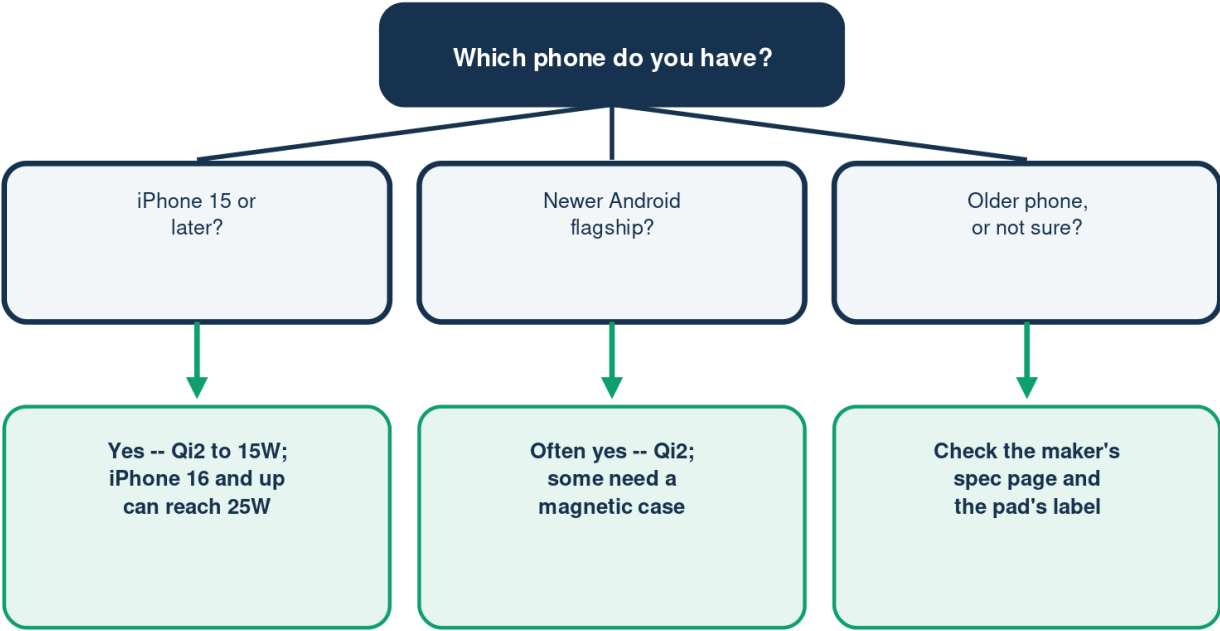
Same job -- the difference is seeing your screen

	Pad	Stand
Phone sits	Lies flat	Props upright
See screen	Not easily	Yes, face up
Best for	Nightstand	Desk, kitchen
Still needs	A Qi phone	A Qi phone

Either way, the phone must support wireless charging.

Does My Phone Charge Wirelessly?

Start with the phone in your hand



When unsure, the maker's spec page is the answer -- not a guess.

Illustration - a schematic, not to scale. Your setup may differ.



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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 comes from using these guides. Thanks for reading, and stay safe out there.

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