BILL'S HOME TECH

Home & Small Business Tech Solutions

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Your Phone's Built-In Level, Measure & Flashlight

Three little tools in your pocket that save a trip to the junk drawer

Plain-English tech help from:
Bill's Home Tech
Portage County, Ohio

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

Bill Davis — Bill's Home Tech
(330) 200-8042 · bill@billshometech.com · Atwater, Ohio

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What's Inside

Everything in this guide, with page numbers. Skip to whichever chapter answers your question right now.

The 60-Second Version 3

The Short Version 3

A Quick Word About Versions 4

The Flashlight: Instant Light, Any Time 4

Put the Flashlight One Tap Away 5

The Bubble Level: Hang Things Straight 5

The Measuring Tool: When You Have No Tape 6

Measure a Person's Height (iPhone) 6

A Few Everyday Uses 7

Where to Find the Apps 7

Hang a Picture Straight, Start to Finish 8

Measure a Room for New Furniture 9

Keep the Light Handy and the Battery Happy 9

When to Trust the Phone, and When to Reach for a Tape 10

When to Call Bill 11

Everyday Cheat Sheet 12

A Note From Bill 13

Your Visit — and My Promise 14

SUMMARY

The 60-Second Version

Your phone has a flashlight, a bubble level, and a measuring tape built in. The flashlight is fastest: swipe into Control Center (iPhone) or Quick Settings (Android) and tap the light; on iPhone, press and hold it for a brightness slider. The Level and Measure tools live in the iPhone's Measure app — Level helps you hang pictures straight, and Measure gauges a space with the camera.

On Android, the flashlight is in Quick Settings and you can add a free level or measure app. Treat the phone's measuring as a good estimate — for anything precise, use a real tape measure.

1 The Short Version

Your phone quietly includes a flashlight, a measuring tape, and a bubble level — three tools you would otherwise go digging in a drawer for. They are free, already installed, and good enough for everyday jobs around the house. This guide shows you where each one is and how to use it, whether you carry an iPhone or an Android phone.

- The flashlight is the quickest — one swipe and tap, any time.
- The level helps you hang pictures and shelves straight.
- The measuring tool gauges a length or a space when you have no tape measure.
- These are handy helpers, not precision instruments — perfect for home jobs.

WATCH OUT

The flashlight is the one you will use most. Learn the one-swipe way to turn it on (below) and you will never fumble in the dark for a light switch again.

2 A Quick Word About Versions

Phones and tablets update their software every year, so a menu is occasionally renamed or moved a little. Everything in this guide works on recent iPhones, iPads, and Android phones, but if a setting is not exactly where it is described, do not worry — the words are almost always the same, just in a slightly different place.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> The fastest way to find ANY setting is the search box at the top of the Settings app. Open Settings, swipe down a little to reveal the search bar, and type what you are looking for — "text size," "back tap," "do not disturb." This works no matter which version you are on, so it is the one trick that never goes out of date.

3 The Flashlight: Instant Light, Any Time

Your phone's camera flash doubles as a bright, steady flashlight. It is the fastest tool of the three, always a swipe away.

1. iPhone: swipe down from the top-right corner to open Control Center, then tap the flashlight icon.
2. Android: swipe down from the top of the screen once or twice to show Quick Settings, then tap the flashlight (torch) icon.
3. Tap the same icon again to turn it off.
4. You can also simply ask — "Hey Siri, turn on the flashlight" or "Hey Google, turn on the flashlight."

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> On an iPhone, press and HOLD the flashlight icon (or hard-press it) to reveal a brightness slider, so you can make it a soft glow or a bright beam. Handy for reading a thermostat at night without dazzling yourself.

4 Put the Flashlight One Tap Away

You can make the flashlight even faster to reach so it is there the instant you need it — fumbling for a keyhole, checking under the sink, walking to the car.

- iPhone: the flashlight also sits on the Lock Screen — press and hold the flashlight icon in the bottom corner without even unlocking.
- iPhone: set a Back Tap (two taps on the back of the phone) to toggle the flashlight.
- Android: press and hold the flashlight tile in Quick Settings to rearrange it to the top so it is the first thing you see.
- Either phone: your voice assistant turns it on hands-free when both hands are busy.

> **TIP**
>
> Setting Back Tap to the flashlight (iPhone) is a favorite — two taps on the back of the phone and you have light, even in your pocket or without looking.

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5 The Bubble Level: Hang Things Straight

Your phone has a bubble level — the tool that tells you when something is perfectly horizontal or vertical. It is wonderful for hanging a picture, a mirror, or a shelf without guessing.

1. iPhone: open the Measure app, then tap "Level" along the bottom.
2. Android: many phones have a Level inside a Google or tools app; if not, search the Play Store for a simple, free "bubble level."
3. Lay the phone flat on a surface, or hold it against a frame, and watch the screen.
4. When it turns green and reads 0°, it is level; the numbers show how far off you are.

GOOD TO KNOW

To check a picture frame, hold the phone against the top edge of the frame. To check a shelf, lay the phone flat on it. Green means straight — adjust until the number hits zero.

6 The Measuring Tool: When You Have No Tape

Your phone can measure a length or a space using the camera — handy when the tape measure is nowhere to be found and you want to know if the new chair will fit.

1. iPhone: open the Measure app; it uses the camera to measure distances — move the phone slowly as it guides you.
2. Point at one end of what you want to measure, tap to set a start point, move to the other end, and tap again.
3. The length appears on screen; you can measure several in a row.
4. Android: search the Play Store for a free measuring app, or use a tape measure for anything that must be exact.

WATCH OUT

Think of the phone's measuring as a good estimate, not a carpenter's tape. It is perfect for "will the sofa fit in this nook?" but for anything that must be precise — cutting wood, ordering a countertop — reach for a real tape measure.

7 Measure a Person's Height (iPhone)

Here is a charming little trick on many iPhones: the Measure app can estimate a person's height just by pointing the camera at them, head to toe.

1. Open the Measure app on the iPhone.
2. Point the camera so the whole person, from the top of their head to the floor, is in view.

3. Wait a moment — a line appears at the top of their head with their estimated height.
4. Great for a quick "how tall are the grandkids now?" without a wall and a pencil.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> This works on iPhones with the right camera and sensor; if you do not see a height reading, your model may not include it — nothing is wrong with your phone.

8 A Few Everyday Uses

Once you know these tools are there, they come in handy more often than you would think. A few real examples:

- Hanging a row of family photos straight down the hallway (level).
- Checking a new shelf bracket is dead level before you drill (level).
- Measuring a window for curtains or a nook for a cabinet (measure).
- Finding a dropped earring under the dresser (flashlight).
- Reading the furnace filter size in a dim basement (flashlight).

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> Keep these in mind the next time you start toward the junk drawer. More often than not, the tool you need is already in your hand.

9 Where to Find the Apps

If you cannot spot the app that holds these tools, here is where to look — and the search box never fails.

- iPhone: the Measure app (gray icon with a ruler) holds both Measure and Level. If it was removed, re-download it free from the App Store.
- Android: the flashlight is in Quick Settings; the level and measure may be in a tools app or a free download.

- Either phone: swipe down to the search box and type "flashlight," "level," or "measure" to find it fast.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> On an iPhone, if an app like Measure seems to have vanished, it is usually just hidden in the App Library or was removed by accident. Searching for it brings it right back, and re-downloading it costs nothing.

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10 Hang a Picture Straight, Start to Finish

Here is the level put to work on the most common job it is good for — hanging a picture so it does not sit crooked and nag at you from across the room.

1. Hold the phone (in Level mode) against the top edge of the frame while it hangs on its hook.
2. Watch the screen and nudge the frame until it reads 0° and turns green.
3. For a row of frames, measure the height of the hook on each from the floor so they line up.
4. Step back and check with your eye too — the level gets it true, your eye confirms it looks right.

> **TIP**
>
> For a heavy mirror or a shelf, mark the wall with a pencil where the level says it is true, then drill. Measuring twice and drilling once saves a wall full of extra holes.

11 Measure a Room for New Furniture

Before you buy a chair, a cabinet, or a rug, the phone helps you check it will actually fit — and that you can get it through the door.

1. Use the Measure app (iPhone) or a tape measure for the width and depth of the space.
2. Write the numbers down, or screenshot the measurement, so you have it at the store.
3. Measure the doorway and hallway too — many a sofa fits the room but not the front door.
4. Compare against the furniture's listed size before you buy.

> **WATCH OUT**
>
> For a purchase you cannot return easily, double-check the important measurements with a real tape measure. The phone is a great first estimate, but a tape is the final word when money is on the line.

12 Keep the Light Handy and the Battery Happy

The flashlight is the tool you will use most, so it is worth making it effortless and knowing it will not drain your phone.

- The flashlight uses very little battery for short bursts — finding a keyhole will not run your phone down.
- Leaving it on for a long time (as a room light) does use more, so switch it off when done.
- Put it one tap away: on the iPhone Lock Screen, or via a Back Tap, or at the top of Android's Quick Settings.
- If the light ever will not turn on, close the Camera app first — the flash cannot be used by both at once.

GOOD TO KNOW

That last one trips people up: if the flashlight seems stuck off, it is usually because the Camera is open and "holding" the flash. Close the camera and the flashlight works again.

13 When to Trust the Phone, and When to Reach for a Tape

These built-in tools are wonderfully handy, but it helps to know their limits so they serve you well and never let you down.

Good enough for the phone	Better with a real tool
"Will this sofa fit the nook?"	Cutting wood or ordering a countertop
Hanging a picture level	Building something that must bear weight
A quick length to jot down	An exact measurement you will spend money on
Light to find a dropped item	Lighting a whole room for a long task

TIP

Think of the phone as the tool you always have on you — perfect for the quick, everyday job. For the careful, costly, or load-bearing job, it is worth walking to the drawer for the real thing.

14 When to Call Bill

None of this is a test, and there is no prize for struggling through it alone. Most of these tricks take a minute once you know where to look, and this guide gets you there. But if a setting has moved on your version of the phone, or you would simply rather have someone set it up beside you and show you once, that is exactly the kind of visit I make.

I come to you here in Portage County, sit down beside you, and set these up on your own phone or tablet so they work the way you like. I show you each step slowly, write down the few that matter, and make sure you can do it yourself afterward. No rush, no jargon, and no question is too small.

- You cannot find the Measure app or the flashlight and want it shown to you.
- You want the flashlight set up to turn on with two taps on the back of the phone.
- You would like the level and measure tools set up and practiced before a project.
- An app you expect — like Measure — seems to be missing and you want it back.
- You would simply rather have it set up correctly the first time, with someone showing you how. Call Bill at (330) 200-8042.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

Keep this handy. Three tools you already carry.

I want to...	Do this...
Turn on the flashlight	iPhone: Control Center flashlight. Android: Quick Settings torch
Dim or brighten the light	iPhone: press and hold the flashlight icon for a slider
Check if something is level	iPhone: Measure app Level. Android: a bubble-level app
Measure a space	iPhone: Measure app point, tap each end
Measure a person's height	iPhone Measure app aim head to toe
Find any of these fast	Swipe to the search box, type “flashlight/level/measure”
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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