BILL'S HOME TECH
Home & Small Business Tech Solutions

BILL'S COMPLETE MANUALS

AirPlay, Casting & Screen Mirroring

Getting your phone, tablet or computer onto the TV — explained in plain English, one step at a time

A plain-English guide for families and grandparents

Take your time — you can't break it

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What's Inside

This is your guide to putting what's on your phone, tablet or computer onto the big TV: a video, a slideshow of the grandkids, a YouTube clip or your whole screen. Read it in any order and at your own pace. Start with Chapters 2 and 3 to learn which method fits your phone and your TV, then jump to the chapter for your devices. It's written for iPhones and iPads on iOS 26, Android phones on Android 16, Macs, Windows 11 computers, and the TVs and boxes most families have as of November 2026. Menus change a little from year to year, so if a screen looks slightly different on yours, the idea is still the same.

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PART 1

Getting Started

What AirPlay, casting and screen mirroring actually are, which one works with your phone and your TV, and the two or three things that need to be true before any of them will work. Start here.

CHAPTER 1

A Note from Bill

Hello, and welcome. Maybe you've got a phone full of photos from a family trip and you'd love everyone to see them on the TV instead of crowding around a little screen. Maybe a grandchild showed you a funny video and said "just cast it," as if that explained anything. Or maybe you'd simply like to watch something from your tablet on a bigger, easier-to-see screen. Whoever you are, this guide is for **you**.

I'm Bill. Helping people feel at home with their technology is what I do every day, and I've written this guide the way I'd explain it sitting next to you on the couch: plainly, patiently, and without the jargon. When a word like "AirPlay," "Google Cast" or "Miracast" comes up, I'll stop and tell you what it means.

You can't break it by trying

Sending something to the TV is one of the safest things you can try with a phone. If it doesn't work, nothing is harmed: the TV simply doesn't show it, and your phone carries on as before. If it does work and you want it to stop, there's always a **Stop** or **Disconnect** button, and turning off the TV ends it too. So go ahead and experiment.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Why this matters

A big screen turns a phone into something the whole family can share. Photos look wonderful, small print becomes readable, video calls and church services are easier to follow, and nobody has to pass a phone around the room.

What's in this guide

- **The basics**: the difference between streaming and mirroring, and which system your phone and TV use (Part 1).
- **iPhone, iPad and Mac**: AirPlay to an Apple TV or to an AirPlay-compatible TV from Samsung, LG, Roku, Vizio, Sony and others (Part 2).
- **Android phones and Chrome**: Google Cast, mirroring a Pixel, and Samsung's Smart View (Part 3).
- **Roku, Fire TV and Windows computers** (Part 4).
- **Photos, YouTube and Netflix**: slideshows on the TV and why some apps won't cast any more (Part 5).

- **Cables, hotels and guest Wi-Fi** (Part 6), **privacy** (Part 7) and **fixing problems** (Part 8).

And I'm only a phone call away

If you get stuck, you're never stuck alone. Call me at **(330) 200-8042**. No question is too small and no one will make you feel silly for asking. Now let's get your pictures on the big screen.

— Bill

CHAPTER 2

Streaming vs. Mirroring: What's the Difference?

People use a handful of words for "get it on the TV," and they don't all mean the same thing. Knowing the difference saves a lot of confusion, because the right choice depends on what you want to show.

Two ways to send something to the TV

Method	What it does
Streaming (casting)	You start a video, song or photo in an app and tell it to play **on the TV**. The TV fetches it and plays it on its own. Your phone becomes a remote: you can lock it, answer a text or check the weather and the show keeps going.
Mirroring	The TV shows an exact copy of your phone's screen, live. Whatever you see, the TV sees, including messages and notifications that pop up. If you lock the phone, the TV goes blank.

TIP

Which one should you use?

For a movie, a YouTube video or music, **stream** it with the app's own AirPlay or Cast button. The picture is better and your phone stays free. Use **mirroring** for things that don't have a button: showing a website, a recipe, a map, a game or a whole photo album you're scrolling through.

The names you'll hear

Term	Plain meaning
AirPlay	Apple's system, built into every iPhone, iPad and Mac. It sends to an Apple TV and to many TVs from other brands that say "Works with Apple AirPlay."
Google Cast	Google's system. It's built into Android phones, the Chrome web browser and apps like YouTube, and it sends to Google TV devices and TVs that say "Google Cast" or "Chromecast built-in." People often just call it "casting."
Chromecast	The name of Google's older plug-in TV gadgets. Many are still in use and still work.
Smart View	Samsung's name for screen mirroring on Galaxy phones and tablets.
Miracast	An older, brand-neutral mirroring standard used by Windows computers and some TVs, Roku players and Fire TV devices.
Screen mirroring	The general term for showing your whole screen on the TV, whatever the brand.

GOOD TO KNOW

The little icons to look for

The **AirPlay** button looks like a TV screen with a triangle pointing up into it. The **Cast** button looks like a TV screen with three curved lines in the bottom-left corner, like a Wi-Fi signal. When you see either one inside an app, that app can send its video to the TV.

CHAPTER 3

Which Method Works with Your TV?

The single most useful thing to know is this: **your phone and your TV have to speak the same language**. An iPhone speaks AirPlay. An Android phone speaks Google Cast and, on many models, mirroring. Your TV, or the streaming box plugged into it, understands one or more of these. Find your pairing in the table below.

Your TV or box	From an iPhone, iPad or Mac	From an Android phone
Apple TV box	AirPlay (Chapters 5–7)	Not built in
Google TV Streamer, Chromecast, or a TV with Google TV	Cast from apps like YouTube (Chapter 10)	Cast and mirror (Chapters 10–11)
Samsung smart TV	AirPlay on many models (Chapter 8)	Smart View on Galaxy phones (Chapter 12)
LG smart TV	AirPlay on 2019 and newer models (Chapter 8)	Mirroring on many models
Roku player or Roku TV	AirPlay on many models (Chapters 8, 14)	Mirroring, casting and the Roku app (Chapter 14)
Fire TV stick or Fire TV smart TV	AirPlay on some Fire TV smart TVs only (Chapter 15)	Mirroring on most models (Chapter 15)
Vizio, **Sony** and other smart TVs	AirPlay on many recent models (Chapter 8)	Google Cast on many models
An older TV with no smart features	A cable and adapter (Chapter 20), or add a streaming box	A cable (Chapter 20), or add a streaming box

How to find out what your TV supports

1. Look at the TV's box, manual or the sticker on its frame for the words **Apple AirPlay**, **Google Cast**, **Chromecast built-in** or **Screen Mirroring**.
2. Open the TV's **Settings** and look for a menu with AirPlay, Screen Mirroring or Cast in its name.
3. Still not sure? Search the web for your TV's model number (on the label on the back) plus the word "AirPlay" or "Chromecast."

HEADS UP

Model year matters

Support depends on the exact model and year, not just the brand. Two Samsung TVs bought a few years apart can behave differently. If a salesperson says a TV "works with iPhone," ask whether it lists **AirPlay** by name.

TIP

Mixed family? A box can solve it

If Grandma has an iPhone and Grandpa has an Android, a TV (or streaming box) that supports both AirPlay and Google Cast saves a lot of frustration. Many recent smart TVs do. The pairing guide in this chapter helps you check before you buy.

CHAPTER 4

Before You Start: The Same Wi-Fi

Almost every wireless method in this guide depends on one simple rule: **your phone and your TV must be on the same Wi-Fi network**. If they are, the TV shows up in the list. If they're not, it doesn't, and that's the cause of most "it won't work" calls.

Check the phone's Wi-Fi

1. On an **iPhone or iPad**, open **Settings** and tap **Wi-Fi**. The network with a check mark is the one you're on.
2. On an **Android phone**, open **Settings** and tap **Network & internet** (on Samsung, **Connections**), then **Wi-Fi**.
3. Write the network's name down. It should match the TV's.

Check the TV's Wi-Fi

Every TV hides this in a slightly different place, but it's always under **Settings**, usually in a menu called **Network**, **Connection** or **Network & Internet**. Look for the name of the network the TV is connected to.

HEADS UP

Two names for one router

Many home routers broadcast two or three names, for example "Smith-Home" and "Smith-Home-5G," or a separate "Guest" network. Phones and TVs on different names may not see each other. Put both on the same name, and keep them off the guest network (Chapter 21 explains why).

Three more quick checks

- **Both devices are awake.** The TV needs to be on (or in a light standby the manufacturer allows) and the phone unlocked.
- **Software is up to date.** Apple's own troubleshooting starts with updating the phone and the TV or box. Updates fix many casting problems.
- **A VPN is off.** A VPN app (a privacy service that routes your internet through another computer) can stop your phone from seeing devices in your home. Turn it off while you cast, and back on afterward.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Once your phone and TV are on the same network and up to date, everything else in this guide is just a couple of taps. These checks also fix most problems later on, so it's worth learning them once.

PART 2

iPhone, iPad & Mac: AirPlay

Apple's AirPlay sends video, photos and your whole screen from an iPhone, iPad or Mac to an Apple TV or to an AirPlay-compatible TV from Samsung, LG, Roku, Vizio, Sony and others.

CHAPTER 5

AirPlay a Video from Your iPhone or iPad

This is the everyday way to watch something from your iPhone or iPad on the TV. You start the video on your phone, tap one button, and the TV takes over. Your phone becomes the remote.

What you need

- An iPhone or iPad, and an **Apple TV** or a smart TV that supports **AirPlay** (Chapter 3).
- Both on the **same Wi-Fi network** (Chapter 4).
- An app that offers AirPlay. Most video apps do, including Apple's own TV and Photos apps.

Send a video to the TV

1. Turn on the TV (and the Apple TV, if you have one).
2. On your iPhone or iPad, open the app and find the video you want.
3. Start it playing, then tap the screen once to show the controls.
4. Tap the **AirPlay** button: a little TV screen with a triangle pointing up into it. In some apps, including Photos, you may need to tap the **Share** button first, then **AirPlay**.
5. Choose your TV from the list.
6. If the TV shows a four-digit code, type it on your phone. You usually only need to do this the first time.

Stop or switch back to the phone

Tap the AirPlay button again and choose your iPhone or iPad from the list. The video moves back to your hand. Pausing works from the phone, the Control Center, or the TV's own remote.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Your phone is free while the show plays. You can lock it, check a text or set it down, and the video keeps playing on the TV in full quality.

GOOD TO KNOW

No AirPlay button?

Some video apps don't allow AirPlay. Apple suggests checking whether that app is available on the Apple TV itself (or on your smart TV's app store) and watching it there with the TV remote instead. Netflix is the best-known example; see Chapter 19.

CHAPTER 6

Mirror Your iPhone or iPad Screen

Mirroring shows your *whole* screen on the TV, exactly as you see it. It's ideal for a website, a recipe, a map, a photo album you're flipping through, or an app with no AirPlay button.

Start mirroring

1. Make sure your iPhone or iPad and the TV are on the same Wi-Fi network.
2. Open **Control Center**: swipe down from the top-right corner of the screen.
3. Tap **Screen Mirroring** (two overlapping rectangles).
4. Choose your Apple TV or AirPlay-compatible TV from the list.
5. If a passcode appears on the TV, enter it on your iPhone or iPad.

Stop mirroring

1. Open Control Center again.
2. Tap **Screen Mirroring**, then tap **Stop Mirroring**.

On an Apple TV, pressing the **Back** (or Menu) button on the Apple TV remote also ends it.

TIP

Turn the phone sideways

Your phone is tall and thin; the TV is wide. When you mirror photos or videos, turn the phone on its side so the picture fills more of the TV. Rotation Lock (in Control Center) has to be off for this.

HEADS UP

Everyone can see your notifications

While mirroring, a text message or email preview that pops up on your phone also pops up on the TV. Before showing the family your screen, turn on a Focus such as **Do Not Disturb** in Control Center so private messages stay private. Chapter 23 has more.

CHAPTER 7

AirPlay from a Mac

A Mac can send its screen to an Apple TV or AirPlay-compatible TV too. It's handy for showing a slide presentation, a family video call, or a website on the big screen.

Mirror or extend your Mac's screen

1. Make sure the Mac and the TV are on the same Wi-Fi network.
2. Click the **Control Center** icon in the menu bar at the top-right of the screen (two small switches).
3. Click **Screen Mirroring**.
4. Choose your TV from the list. If a code appears on the TV, type it on your Mac.
5. Choose whether to **mirror** the whole screen (the TV shows the same thing as the Mac) or use the TV as a **separate display** (an extra screen you can drag windows onto).

To stop, open Control Center, click Screen Mirroring and click your TV's name again to turn it off.

Play a video from the Mac on the TV

In the Apple TV app, QuickTime and many websites, look for the **AirPlay** button in the video's controls. Click it and choose your TV. Only the video goes to the TV, and you can keep using the Mac.

TIP

If the picture looks too small or blurry

When you mirror to a large TV, text can look tiny. In **System Settings** > **Displays**, choose a larger text size option for the TV while it's connected.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

A video call with the grandkids on the TV means everyone in the living room can see them at once, and nobody has to squint at a laptop.

CHAPTER 8

AirPlay to Samsung, LG, Roku, Vizio & Other TVs

You don't need an Apple TV box to use AirPlay. Many smart TVs from other brands have AirPlay built in. From your iPhone, they work just like an Apple TV: they appear in the AirPlay and Screen Mirroring lists. Each brand puts its AirPlay settings somewhere different, though, so here's where to look.

Samsung smart TVs

1. Press the Home button on the Samsung remote and open **Settings** > **All Settings**.
2. Select **Connection** (on 2022 and older models, **General**).
3. Select **Apple AirPlay Settings**. Make sure AirPlay is turned on.
4. Under **Require Code**, you can choose to ask for a code only the first time a phone connects or every time, or set your own code.

LG smart TVs

LG added AirPlay to its TVs starting with 2019 models (webOS 4.5). On the TV, open the **Home Dashboard** (sometimes called Smart Home Dashboard) and select **AirPlay**, then **AirPlay and HomeKit Settings**. LG asks you to enter a PIN code shown on the TV the first time you connect from a phone.

Roku players and Roku TVs

1. On the Roku, go to **Settings** > **Apple AirPlay and HomeKit**.
2. Make sure **AirPlay** is set to **On**.
3. If you don't see that menu, your Roku model may not support AirPlay, or its software needs updating (**Settings** > **System** > **Software update**). Roku says AirPlay needs Roku OS 9.4 or later.

Fire TV smart TVs

Some, but not all, Fire TV smart TVs (TVs with Fire TV built in, such as certain Fire TV Omni, Toshiba and Insignia models) support AirPlay. Amazon's steps: **Settings** > **Display & Audio** > **AirPlay & HomeKit**, then follow the on-screen instructions. Fire TV *sticks* do not have AirPlay built in.

Vizio, Sony and other brands

Many recent Vizio, Sony and other smart TVs also include AirPlay. Look in the TV's settings for a menu with "AirPlay" in its name, or check your model's support page. If the TV appears in your iPhone's Screen Mirroring list, it supports AirPlay.

GOOD TO KNOW

That code on the TV is a good thing

When a TV shows a short code and asks you to type it on your phone, it's making sure the phone really belongs to someone in the room. You'll meet these settings again in Chapter 22, where they help keep neighbors and visitors off your TV.

CHAPTER 9

Stop Your iPhone Jumping to the TV on Its Own

Some people find that their iPhone suddenly offers to play a video on the TV, or even starts playing there by itself, when they only meant to watch on the phone. That's a setting called **Automatically AirPlay**, and you get to choose how it behaves.

Change the setting

1. Open **Settings** on your iPhone or iPad.
2. Tap **General**, then **AirPlay & Continuity**.
3. Tap **Automatically AirPlay**.
4. Choose one of the three options below.

Option	What happens
Never	Your phone never connects to a TV by itself. You choose the TV yourself each time with the AirPlay button.
Ask	Your phone may suggest a TV with a notification. You can tap to accept it or ignore it.
Automatic	Your phone may connect to an AirPlay device you use often, on its own, and tell you it has.

TIP

Bill's suggestion

Ask is a comfortable middle ground for most people: you get a helpful nudge, but nothing appears on the TV until you say so. Choose **Never** if surprise pop-ups bother you.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

No more home videos accidentally popping up on the living-room TV in front of guests. You stay in charge of when something goes to the big screen.

PART 3

Android, Google Cast & Chrome

Casting from apps, mirroring an Android phone, Samsung's Smart View, and sending a browser tab from a computer to the TV.

CHAPTER 10

Casting with Google Cast

Google Cast is the system behind the little **Cast** button (a TV screen with curved lines in the corner) that you see in YouTube and many other apps. You tap it, pick the TV, and the TV plays the video itself while your phone acts as the remote. It works from Android phones and, in many apps, from iPhones and iPads too.

What can receive a cast

- Google's **Google TV Streamer**, the box Google sells today.
- Older **Chromecast** gadgets, including the Chromecast with Google TV. Google stopped making Chromecasts in 2024 when it introduced the Google TV Streamer, but the ones people already own keep working.
- TVs with **Google TV** built in (many Sony, TCL and Hisense sets) and TVs that say **Google Cast** or **Chromecast built-in** (many Vizio sets, for example).

Cast a video from an app

1. Make sure your phone and the TV are on the same Wi-Fi network.
2. Open an app that supports casting, such as YouTube.
3. Tap the **Cast** button. It's usually near the top of the screen or in the video's controls.
4. Choose your TV or streaming device from the list.
5. Pick a video and press play. It plays on the TV. Use your phone to pause, skip or change the volume.

Stop casting

Tap the Cast button again (it's filled in or colored while casting) and choose **Stop casting** or **Disconnect**.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Casting is the easiest way for a visiting grandchild with an Android phone to share a video: no passwords, no cables, just the Cast button and your TV's name.

GOOD TO KNOW

Guests have to join your Wi-Fi

Older Chromecasts once had a "guest mode" that let visitors cast without your Wi-Fi password. Google has retired it. Today a guest needs to join your home Wi-Fi to cast. Many routers have a way to share the Wi-Fi password by QR code, which saves reading it aloud.

CHAPTER 11

Mirror an Android Phone (Pixel and Others)

Android phones can show their whole screen on a Google TV, Chromecast or a TV with Google Cast built in. On Google's Pixel phones this is called **Cast** or **Screen cast**. Other brands use their own names, such as Smart View on Samsung (Chapter 12).

From Quick Settings

1. Swipe down from the top of the screen twice to open the full **Quick Settings** panel.
2. Tap **Cast** or **Screen cast**. If you don't see it, tap the pencil (Edit) icon and drag the Cast tile into your Quick Settings.
3. Choose your TV from the list.
4. Choose whether to share the **entire screen** or **a single app**, then tap **Start**.

From Settings, if the tile isn't there

On a Pixel, open **Settings** > **Connected devices** > **Connection preferences** > **Cast**, then choose your TV.

From the Google Home app

If your TV or Chromecast is set up in the **Google Home** app, open the app, tap your TV's tile and look for **Cast my screen**. Google notes this works on phones running Android 8.0 or later.

Stop mirroring

Swipe down from the top of the screen and tap **Disconnect** (or **Stop**) on the casting notification. Tapping the Cast tile again works too.

HEADS UP

Single app is the private choice

When Android offers **a single app** or **entire screen**, choose the single app if you only want to show photos or a video. That way notifications and other apps stay on your phone, not on the TV.

TIP

Brand names vary

OnePlus, Motorola and other Android brands put screen mirroring in Quick Settings too, under names like Screen Cast, Cast or Wireless display. The steps are nearly the same.

CHAPTER 12

Samsung Galaxy: Smart View

On Samsung Galaxy phones and tablets, screen mirroring is called **Smart View**. It isn't an app you download; it's a button in the Quick panel. It works best with Samsung smart TVs, and also with many other TVs that accept screen mirroring.

Mirror your Galaxy to the TV

1. Make sure your phone and TV are on the same Wi-Fi network.
2. Swipe down from the top of the screen to open the **Quick panel**, then swipe down again to expand it.
3. Tap **Smart View**. If you don't see it, swipe left through the buttons or use the Quick panel's edit option to add it.
4. Choose your TV from the list. Some TVs ask you to enter a PIN shown on the screen.
5. Tap **Start now** or **Allow** on your phone if it asks.

Stop Smart View

Tap the **Smart View** icon again (or its floating button on the screen) and tap **Disconnect**.

Another route: the SmartThings app

If your Samsung TV is set up in Samsung's **SmartThings** app, you can open the app, select the TV and choose **Mirror screen (Smart View)**.

TIP

Turn the picture sideways

Rotate your phone to landscape when you show photos or videos, so the picture fills the TV instead of sitting in a narrow strip in the middle.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

If you have a Galaxy phone and a Samsung TV, Smart View is the quickest way to put a photo album, a recipe or a video call on the big screen with two taps.

CHAPTER 13

Cast a Browser Tab from Your Computer

The Google Chrome web browser, on Windows, Mac or Chromebook, can send a web page or your whole computer screen to a Google TV, Chromecast or a TV with Google Cast built in. This is handy for a website with no app, like a church livestream or a family photo site.

Cast a tab

1. Open Chrome and go to the page you want to show.
2. Click the **More** menu (three dots) at the top-right.
3. Choose **Cast, save, and share**, then **Cast**.
4. Choose your TV or streaming device. The tab appears on the TV.

Cast your whole computer screen

1. Follow steps 1–3 above.
2. Click **Sources** and choose **Cast screen**.
3. Choose your TV.

To stop, click the **Cast** icon to the right of the address bar and choose **Stop casting**.

GOOD TO KNOW

Where does the sound play?

Google notes that when you cast your whole screen, the sound may keep playing from the computer. If you want sound from the TV, cast the **tab** instead. On a Mac with macOS 15 or later, you may need to give Chrome permission in System Settings the first time.

TIP

Use the video's own Cast button when you can

On YouTube and many video sites, the player has its own Cast button. Using it sends just the video to the TV, which looks smoother than casting the whole tab.

PART 4

Roku, Fire TV & Windows

Mirroring and casting to a Roku, the free Roku mobile app, mirroring to a Fire TV, and the Cast button built into Windows 11.

CHAPTER 14

Roku: Casting, Mirroring & the Roku App

A Roku player or Roku TV can receive things from a phone in three different ways. Which one you use depends on what you want to show.

Method	Use it for
Cast from an app	In YouTube and some other apps, tap the Cast button and choose your Roku.
Screen mirroring	Show your whole Android phone or Windows computer screen. (iPhones use AirPlay instead; see Chapter 8.)
Play on Roku	Show photos, videos and music stored on your phone using the free Roku mobile app.

Cast from an app

1. Put your phone on the same Wi-Fi network as your Roku.
2. Open the app (YouTube, for example) and tap the **Cast** button.
3. Choose your Roku from the list. The video plays on the TV; you don't need to open the app on the Roku first.

Choose who can mirror to your Roku

Before mirroring from an Android phone or Windows computer, check how your Roku handles requests: go to **Settings** > **System** > **Screen mirroring** > **Screen mirroring mode**.

Setting	What it does
Prompt	The TV asks each time a new phone or computer wants to mirror. You allow or block it with the remote. A good everyday choice.
Always allow	Requests are accepted without asking. Convenient, but anyone on your Wi-Fi could mirror to the TV.
Never allow	Turns screen mirroring off.

Mirror an Android phone or Windows PC to your Roku

1. On an Android phone, open Quick Settings and tap **Smart View**, **Screen cast** or your phone's mirroring button. On Windows 11, press the **Windows key + K** (Chapter 16).
2. Choose your Roku from the list.

3. If the TV shows a prompt, use the Roku remote to select **Allow** (or **Always allow** for a device you trust).

Show phone photos with Play on Roku

1. Install the free **Roku** app (by Roku, Inc.) on your iPhone or Android phone.
2. Make sure the phone and the Roku are on the same Wi-Fi network, then open the app.
3. Go to the **Devices** area and select your Roku.
4. Choose **Photos**, **Videos** or **Music**. When the app asks for access to your photo library, allow it.
5. Pick an album or photos. They appear on the TV, and you can start a slideshow.

SCAM ALERT

Use Roku's own app

The app stores are full of look-alike "TV Cast for Roku" and "Screen Mirroring" apps from other companies. Many push subscriptions. Roku's own app is free and made by **Roku, Inc.**; check the developer name before you install. You never need to pay to mirror or show photos on a Roku.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

With the Roku app, the photos and videos already on your phone become a slideshow on the TV in a minute or two, with no cables, no extra gadgets and no cost.

CHAPTER 15

Fire TV: Mirroring from Android

Most Amazon Fire TV sticks and Fire TV smart TVs can show an Android phone's screen (and a Windows computer's) using the Miracast mirroring standard. You turn on mirroring on the Fire TV first, then connect from the phone.

Turn on mirroring on the Fire TV

1. On the Fire TV, open **Settings** (the gear icon).
2. Select **Display & Sounds** (on some models, **Display & Audio**).
3. Select **Enable Display Mirroring**. The TV shows a screen saying it's waiting for a device.

Amazon says that if **Enable Display Mirroring** doesn't appear, your Fire TV doesn't support screen mirroring. Some Fire TV smart TVs use AirPlay instead (Chapter 8).

Connect from your phone

1. Keep the phone within about 30 feet of the Fire TV, on the same Wi-Fi network.
2. Open Quick Settings and tap your phone's mirroring button: **Smart View** on Samsung, or **Screen cast** or **Wireless display** on other phones.
3. Choose the Fire TV from the list.

HEADS UP

Not every Android phone can do this

Fire TV mirroring relies on Miracast, and some Android phones don't offer it. If your Fire TV never appears, the phone may simply not support it. Casting from an app such as YouTube still works; see Chapter 18.

GOOD TO KNOW

What about iPhones and Fire TV sticks?

Fire TV sticks don't have AirPlay built in, so an iPhone can't mirror to one directly. Apps in the store claim to fill the gap, but most cost money and quality varies. A simple HDMI adapter (Chapter 20) or a TV with AirPlay is usually a better answer.

CHAPTER 16

Windows: Cast with Windows Key + K

Windows 11 can mirror or extend your screen to a TV wirelessly, using the Miracast standard. Many smart TVs, Roku devices and Fire TV devices accept it. You don't need to install anything.

Connect to a wireless display

1. Make sure the TV is on and ready to receive (on a Fire TV, turn on **Enable Display Mirroring** first, as in Chapter 15).
2. On the computer, press the **Windows key + K**. The **Cast** panel opens.
3. Choose your TV from the list of available displays.
4. If the TV asks, allow the connection with its remote.

You can also open **Quick Settings** (the Wi-Fi, sound and battery icons at the bottom-right, or **Windows key + A**) and select **Cast**, or go to **Settings** > **System** > **Display** > **Multiple displays** and select **Connect** next to **Connect to a wireless display**.

Mirror or extend?

Press **Windows key + P** to choose how the TV is used: **Duplicate** (the TV shows the same thing as your screen), **Extend** (the TV becomes a second screen), or **Second screen only**.

Stop casting

Press **Windows key + K** again and select **Disconnect**.

GOOD TO KNOW

Windows Cast and Google TV are different things

The Windows Cast panel uses Miracast. It doesn't send to a Google TV Streamer or Chromecast. For those, use the Chrome browser's Cast option instead (Chapter 13).

TIP

If Cast says your PC can't do it

Some desktop computers have no Wi-Fi card, or one that doesn't support Miracast. In that case Windows will tell you. An HDMI cable from the computer to the TV is the dependable fallback (Chapter 20).

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Show a slide show of family photos, a genealogy website or a recorded class to everyone in the room, without moving the computer or buying a cable.

PART 5

Photos, YouTube & Netflix

The things families most want on the big screen: photo slideshows, YouTube videos, and what to do about apps like Netflix that no longer cast from a phone.

CHAPTER 17

Show Your Photos on the TV

Photos are the number-one reason people want to get a phone onto the TV. Here's the easiest way for each kind of phone. For more about organizing your pictures, see the Apple Photos guide.

From an iPhone or iPad: a slideshow with music

1. Open **Photos** and go to the album or pictures you want to show.
2. Tap **Select** and tap each photo you want to include.
3. Tap the **Share** button (or the **More** button, three dots) and choose **Slideshow**. Photos sets the pictures to music automatically.
4. Tap the screen, then tap the **AirPlay** button and choose your TV. The slideshow moves to the big screen.
5. To change the music or style, tap the screen while it plays and tap **Options**.

> TIP
> **Just flipping through?**
> To show photos one at a time and talk about each one, use Screen Mirroring (Chapter 6) and swipe through the album on your phone. Turn the phone sideways for landscape photos.

From an Android phone with Google Photos

1. Open **Google Photos** and open a photo or album.
2. Tap **More** (three dots), then **Cast**, and choose your TV or Chromecast. On some versions the Cast button sits at the top of the screen.
3. Swipe through photos on your phone; the TV follows.
4. To stop, tap the Cast button again and disconnect.

To a Roku

Use **Play on Roku** in the free Roku app (Chapter 14).

On a Samsung TV from a Galaxy phone

Use **Smart View** (Chapter 12) and open your Gallery app.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

A slideshow on the TV turns a family gathering into a shared trip down memory lane. Everyone sees every picture at once, and no one has to hold the phone at arm's length.

HEADS UP

Look before you share

Mirroring shows whatever is on your screen. Before you start, scroll past any photos you'd rather not show the whole room, or make a separate album just for the slideshow.

CHAPTER 18

YouTube on the Big Screen

YouTube is one of the easiest apps to send to a TV. It has a Cast button that works from both iPhones and Android phones to Google TV, Chromecast, many smart TVs and Roku. And if casting won't connect, it has a backup: linking your phone with a TV code.

Cast a YouTube video

1. Put your phone on the same Wi-Fi network as the TV.
2. Open the **YouTube** app on your phone.
3. Tap the **Cast** button at the top of the screen and choose your TV.
4. Pick a video. It plays on the TV, and your phone becomes the remote.

Link with a TV code

If your TV has the YouTube app but won't show up in the Cast list, you can link the two with a code. This also works when the phone and TV are on different networks.

1. On the TV, open the **YouTube** app and go to its **Settings**.
2. Choose **Link with TV code**. A blue code made of numbers appears.
3. On your phone, open YouTube and tap the **Cast** button, then **Link with TV code** (or go to your profile picture > **Settings** > **Watch on TV** > **Enter TV code**).
4. Type the code and tap **Link**.

GOOD TO KNOW

Computers cast instead

YouTube's TV code is for phones and tablets. From a computer, use the Cast button in the YouTube player or in Chrome (Chapter 13).

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Line up a playlist of old songs, a cooking show or a grandchild's school concert and watch it together on the big screen, with your phone as the remote.

CHAPTER 19

Netflix & Apps That Won't Cast

If you used to cast Netflix from your phone to the TV and the Cast button has disappeared, nothing is wrong with your phone. Netflix changed the rules.

What Netflix changed

- Netflix **no longer supports casting from a phone or tablet to most TVs and streaming devices**, including Google TV devices like the Chromecast with Google TV and the Google TV Streamer. It made the change in late 2025.
- Casting still works only to **older Chromecast devices** (the ones that didn't come with a remote) and to some **TVs with Google Cast built in**.
- Members on Netflix's **ad-supported plan** can't cast at all.
- Netflix does **not support AirPlay** from an iPhone or iPad.

What to do instead

1. Use the remote that came with your TV or streaming device.
2. Open the **Netflix** app on the TV, Roku, Fire TV, Apple TV or Google TV.
3. Sign in once with your Netflix email and password (or follow the TV's sign-in code steps). After that, it remembers you.

> **TIP**
>
> **This is often better anyway**
>
> The TV's own app usually gives a sharper picture and better sound than casting, and your phone is free for other things. Many households find it simpler once it's set up.

Other apps that block mirroring

Some paid video apps don't allow screen mirroring. You may hear the sound but see a black picture on the TV. That's the app protecting its movies, not a fault. The fix is the same: use that app's own AirPlay or Cast button if it has one, or open the app directly on the TV.

SCAM ALERT

"Your Netflix account is on hold"

Changes like this one bring out the scammers. Netflix will never ask you to call a phone number, pay by gift card or install an app to "fix casting." If you get a message like that, don't click anything; open the Netflix app or go to netflix.com yourself.

PART 6

Cables, Hotels & Guest Networks

The dependable wired fallback, and what to expect when you try to cast in a hotel, a vacation rental or on someone else's Wi-Fi.

CHAPTER 20

The Cable Option: HDMI Adapters

Wireless is convenient, but a cable never needs Wi-Fi, never asks for a code and works on almost any TV made in the last 15 years or so. If casting keeps letting you down, or you're somewhere with no usable Wi-Fi, a cable is the answer.

What you need

Your device	What to buy
iPhone 15 or later, recent iPads	These have a **USB-C** port. Use Apple's **USB-C Digital AV Multiport Adapter** or a USB-C to HDMI adapter, plus an HDMI cable.
iPhone 14 or earlier	These have a **Lightning** port. Use Apple's **Lightning Digital AV Adapter**, plus an HDMI cable.
Android phones	Many recent models with USB-C can send video over a USB-C to HDMI adapter, but not all. Check your phone maker's support page before you buy.
Laptops	Most have an HDMI port or a USB-C port that carries video. Plug an HDMI cable (or a USB-C to HDMI cable) straight into the TV.

Connect it

1. Plug the HDMI cable into a free HDMI port on the TV. Note its number (HDMI 1, HDMI 2 and so on).
2. Plug the other end into the adapter, and the adapter into your phone or tablet.
3. Press **Input** or **Source** on the TV remote and choose that HDMI number.
4. Your screen appears on the TV. Turn the phone sideways for videos.

> **TIP**
>
> **Keep the phone charged**
>
> Apple's multiport adapter has an extra port for the charging cable, so the phone can charge while it plays a long movie. It's worth having on a trip.

HEADS UP

Cheap adapters and paid video

Very cheap no-name adapters sometimes fail with streaming apps that protect their movies, showing a black screen. Apple's own adapters, or ones from a well-known brand that list your phone model, are the safer buy. Netflix notes that some cables and adapters aren't supported by its app.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

A small adapter in your travel bag means you can show photos at a relative's house or watch a movie in a hotel without wrestling with anyone's Wi-Fi.

CHAPTER 21

Hotels, Rentals & Guest Wi-Fi

Casting in a hotel room or vacation rental is hit and miss. That's usually not your phone's fault. Public and guest Wi-Fi networks are often set up so that devices can't see each other, for everyone's safety, and that also stops your phone from finding the TV.

Why guest networks block casting

Many hotels, coffee shops and home "guest" networks turn on a feature called **client isolation** (or AP isolation). It keeps each device walled off from the others on the network. Google's help pages say plainly that you won't be able to cast to a device on a network set up this way.

What works when you travel

- **AirPlay in hotels.** Since 2024, some hotels with compatible TVs (first at select IHG hotels in the U.S.) let you scan a QR code shown on the room's TV with your iPhone or iPad to AirPlay to it. Apple says the connection is erased at checkout. Ask the front desk whether your room has it.
- **YouTube's TV code** (Chapter 18) works even when the phone and TV aren't on the same network, as long as both are online.
- **An HDMI cable and adapter** (Chapter 20), if the TV's HDMI port is reachable and its input can be changed.
- **Sign in on the TV's own apps**, if it has them. Just remember to sign out before you leave.

STAY SAFE

Sign out before you check out

If you sign in to Netflix, YouTube or any other account on a hotel or rental TV, sign out before you leave. Otherwise the next guest may be able to use your account. If you forget, most services let you sign out of all devices from the account settings on your phone.

At home: keep the TV off the guest network

If your router has a separate guest network, keep your TV and streaming boxes on your **main** network, and invite family members you trust to join the main network when they want to cast. If you don't want to share your main Wi-Fi password, a cable, or YouTube's TV code, works instead.

TIP

A note for travelers with a streaming stick

Some people pack their own streaming stick and plug it into the hotel TV. Be aware that many hotel networks need you to accept terms on a web page before a device can get online, and a streaming stick can't always show that page. The front desk may be able to help.

PART 7

Privacy & Safety

Who can send things to your TV, how to require a code, and how to keep private messages off the big screen.

CHAPTER 22

Who Can AirPlay or Cast to Your TV?

In an apartment building, a dorm or a busy household, you may want a say in who can put things on your TV. Every major system lets you choose. These settings live on the TV or box, not on the phone.

Apple TV: Allow Access and passwords

1. On the Apple TV, open **Settings** > **AirPlay and Apple Home** (on older software, **AirPlay and HomeKit**).
2. Select **Allow Access** and choose who can AirPlay to it (see the table).
3. For extra protection, turn on **Require Password** and choose a password. Anyone who wants to AirPlay will have to type it in.

Allow Access option	Who can AirPlay
Everyone	Anyone nearby can try to AirPlay to the TV.
Anyone on the Same Network	Only people connected to your Wi-Fi. A sensible choice for most homes.
Only People Sharing This Home	Only people you've invited to your home in Apple's Home app.

Samsung, LG and Roku TVs

- **Samsung**: **Settings** > **All Settings** > **Connection** (or **General**) > **Apple AirPlay Settings** > **Require Code**. Choose **Every Time** for the most control, or set your own code.
- **LG**: a phone must enter the PIN shown on the TV the first time it connects with AirPlay.
- **Roku**: for Android and Windows mirroring, set **Screen mirroring mode** to **Prompt** so the TV asks every time (Chapter 14).

GOOD TO KNOW

Google TV and Chromecast

Google Cast devices accept casts from phones on the same Wi-Fi network. Now that guest mode is gone, the way to control who can cast is to control who has your Wi-Fi password.

STAY SAFE

Strange things on your TV?

If photos or videos you didn't send appear on your TV, someone on your network is casting to it. Turn on Require Password or Prompt as above, and if you suspect a stranger has your Wi-Fi password, change it on your router. That's a good time to call for help.

CHAPTER 23

Keep Private Things Off the Big Screen

Mirroring puts *everything* on the TV. A few simple habits keep embarrassing or private things from popping up in front of the family.

Before you mirror

- **Turn on Do Not Disturb.** On an iPhone, open Control Center and tap **Focus**, then **Do Not Disturb**. On Android, tap **Do Not Disturb** in Quick Settings. Message previews stay off the TV.
- **Share one app, not the whole screen**, when Android offers the choice (Chapter 11).
- **Use the app's AirPlay or Cast button** instead of mirroring when you can. Only the video goes to the TV.
- **Close what you don't need.** Close banking, email and private browser tabs before you start.

After you're done

- Stop mirroring with the Stop or Disconnect button, so your phone isn't still showing on a TV in another room.
- Check the TV isn't still signed in to someone's account if you used a hotel or relative's TV.

SCAM ALERT

"Share your screen so we can fix it"

Screen sharing has a dark side. A caller who claims to be from Apple, Microsoft, Amazon or your bank and asks you to share your screen, or to install an app so they can "see your phone," is running a scam. Real companies don't call out of the blue and ask for that. Hang up and call the company on the number you already trust.

SCAM ALERT

Pay-to-mirror apps

AirPlay, Google Cast, Smart View and Windows Cast are built in and free. Be wary of app-store apps that promise to "mirror to any TV" and then ask for a weekly subscription. If you already signed up for one by mistake, cancel it in your phone's subscription settings.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

A little care up front means you can share photos and videos with confidence, without worrying about what might pop up next.

PART 8

Fixing Common Problems

When the TV doesn't show up, when there's sound but no picture, or when the video stutters.

CHAPTER 24

The TV Doesn't Show Up in the List

This is the most common casting problem by far, and it usually has a simple cause. Work down this list in order. You can't make anything worse by trying these.

1. **Is the TV on?** Turn it on with its remote and, if you use a streaming box, make sure the TV is on that box's input.
2. **Same Wi-Fi?** Check that the phone and the TV are on the same network name, not a guest network and not a "5G" twin (Chapter 4).
3. **Is the phone on Wi-Fi at all?** If it's on cellular data only, it can't see your TV.
4. **VPN off?** Turn off any VPN app on the phone or computer and try again.
5. **Is the feature turned on at the TV?** AirPlay on (Chapter 8), Screen mirroring mode not set to Never allow on a Roku (Chapter 14), Enable Display Mirroring on a Fire TV (Chapter 15).
6. **Restart both.** Turn the phone off and on. Turn the TV or streaming box off at the wall for a minute, then on.
7. **Update both.** Install any software update for the phone and the TV or box.
8. **Restart the router.** Unplug it for 30 seconds, plug it back in and wait a few minutes.

TIP

Moving closer can help

If the TV is far from the router, Wi-Fi may be weak in that room. Try casting while standing near the TV. If it works there but nowhere else, weak Wi-Fi is the real problem.

HEADS UP

Is your phone and TV a match?

An iPhone won't show a Fire TV stick or most Google TV devices in its Screen Mirroring list, because they don't support AirPlay. Check the pairing guide in Chapter 3 before chasing a problem that is really a mismatch.

CHAPTER 25

Sound Only, Black Screen, Lag & Other Hiccups

Once the TV connects, a few other things can go wrong. Here are the fixes for each.

Sound, but no picture (black screen)

- The app may block mirroring to protect its movies. Use the app's own AirPlay or Cast button, or open the app on the TV itself (Chapter 19).
- Using a cable? A cheap adapter may not support protected video. Try Apple's own adapter or a reputable brand (Chapter 20).

Picture, but no sound

- Turn up the volume on the phone while casting: with AirPlay and Google Cast the phone's volume buttons often control the TV.
- Check the TV isn't muted and its sound is going to the right speaker or soundbar.
- Casting a whole computer screen from Chrome may leave the sound on the computer; cast the tab instead (Chapter 13).

Only the sound goes to the TV, or to a speaker

If you chose a speaker (such as a HomePod or a soundbar with AirPlay) instead of the TV, only the audio goes there. Tap the AirPlay button again and choose the TV by name.

Lag, stuttering or a blurry picture

- Mirroring always has a small delay, which makes it poor for fast games. For movies, use the app's AirPlay or Cast button instead; the TV then fetches the video directly and plays it smoothly.
- Pause big downloads and other streaming in the house.
- Move the phone closer to the router or the TV.
- Restart the router (Chapter 24, step 8).

It keeps disconnecting

- Turn off Low Power Mode (iPhone) or Battery Saver (Android) while casting.
- Keep the phone unlocked while mirroring; locking it ends the mirror on most phones.
- Restart the phone and the TV, and check for updates.

The TV asks for a code I don't have

Look at the TV screen: the code to type is usually shown there. If an Apple TV asks for a password you don't know, the owner set one under **Require Password** (Chapter 22). The person who manages the Apple TV can see or change it in Settings.

HEADS UP

Before you reset anything

TVs and streaming boxes have a factory reset option, and it erases every app and sign-in. Try the simple steps above first, and ask for help before choosing a reset.

PART 9

When to Call Bill & Your Cheat-Sheet

An honest word about when a hand is worth it, and a one-page summary to keep near the TV.

CHAPTER 26

When to Call Bill

I've written this guide so you can handle most casting and mirroring on your own. But part of being helpful is being honest about when a hand saves you time or worry. Here's my plain advice.

Times it's worth a call

- **Choosing a TV or streaming box** that works with everyone's phones in the family.
- **The TV never shows up**, even after the steps in Chapter 24. It's often the router or a mesh Wi-Fi setting.
- **Setting up a photo slideshow** for a birthday, anniversary or memorial, so it runs smoothly on the day.
- **Setting privacy controls** so neighbors or visitors can't put things on your TV.
- **Getting a computer onto the TV** for video calls with family, with the right cable or settings.
- **Anything that feels like a scam**, such as a caller asking you to share your screen.

What working with me is like

I work at your pace, in your home here in Portage County or remotely over the phone and internet. I explain what I'm doing in plain words, I don't sell you gadgets you don't need, and I'll tell you honestly when a simple cable will do the job. I bring more than 30 years of professional experience to every visit.

FROM BILL

How to reach me

Call **(330) 200-8042** or book a time at **billshometech.com/book**. My help is **$49 remote · $99 in your home**. Bill's Home Tech serves Portage County, Ohio. No question is too small.

GOOD TO KNOW

You may meet Sophie

When you call or visit billshometech.com, you may be greeted by **Sophie**, my AI receptionist. She can answer quick questions and help you book a time with me. The actual help always comes from me.

Thank you for letting me help you bring your photos and favorite shows to the big screen. Take your time, try things without fear, and remember I'm only a phone call away.

— Bill

CHAPTER 27

Your Casting Cheat-Sheet

Keep this summary near the TV. The whole guide, boiled down.

The essentials

To do this	Go here
Golden rule	Phone and TV on the **same Wi-Fi**, VPN off.
iPhone: send a video	Tap the **AirPlay** button in the app > choose the TV.
iPhone: mirror	Control Center > **Screen Mirroring** > choose the TV.
Mac: mirror	Menu bar Control Center > **Screen Mirroring**.
Android: cast from an app	Tap the **Cast** button > choose the TV.
Pixel: mirror	Quick Settings > **Cast** / **Screen cast**.
Samsung Galaxy: mirror	Quick panel > **Smart View**.
Windows 11	**Windows key + K** > choose the TV.
Chrome browser	More (three dots) > Cast, save, and share > **Cast**.
Fire TV	Settings > Display & Sounds > **Enable Display Mirroring**.
Roku mirroring rules	Settings > System > Screen mirroring > Screen mirroring mode.
Apple TV privacy	Settings > AirPlay and Apple Home > Allow Access / Require Password.
Netflix	Open Netflix on the TV with its own remote.
iPhone auto-AirPlay	Settings > General > AirPlay & Continuity > Automatically AirPlay.

Write it down once

Keep handy	
Wi-Fi name the TV uses	_____
TV or box name in the AirPlay / Cast list	_____
TV brand and model number	_____
HDMI number for the cable or adapter	_____
AirPlay password or code (if set)	_____ (keep this out of sight)
Adapter type for my phone (USB-C or Lightning)	_____

When something's wrong, in order

1. TV missing from the list: same Wi-Fi? VPN off? TV on? Feature turned on at the TV?
2. Restart the phone and the TV or box; then the router.
3. Black screen with sound: use the app's own AirPlay or Cast button, or the TV's own app.
4. Netflix won't cast: open Netflix on the TV instead.
5. In a hotel: try AirPlay by QR code, YouTube's TV code, or an HDMI adapter.
6. Suspicious caller asking to see your screen: hang up.
7. Still stuck: call Bill at (330) 200-8042.