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Folding Phones

iPhone Duo, Galaxy Z Fold & Flip, Google Pixel and Motorola razr — explained in plain English, one step at a time

A plain-English guide for seniors and their families

Take your time — you can't break it (just be gentle with the hinge)

Written for you by Bill — Bill's Home Tech

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For iPhone Duo, Galaxy Z Fold8 & Flip8, Google Pixel and Motorola razr folding phones · facts current November 2026

What's Inside

This is your guide to the phones that fold: what they are, whether one makes sense for you, how to use the big inner screen for easier reading and video calls, and how to look after the hinge and the crease so the phone lasts. Read it in any order and at your own pace. Every feature comes with what it actually does *for you*, and slow, step-by-step directions. Phone makers move menus around with updates, so when a button has moved, look for the same words nearby.

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PART 1

Getting Started

What a folding phone is, which ones you can actually buy in November 2026, and an honest look at whether one is right for you. Start here.

CHAPTER 1

A Note from Bill

Hello, and welcome. If you've been squinting at a phone screen and wishing it were the size of a small tablet — but still fit in your pocket — you've probably noticed the phones that fold. Open one up and you get a screen big enough to read a newspaper page or see your grandchildren's faces clearly on a video call. Close it and it's a phone again.

I'm Bill. I've spent more than 30 years working with technology, and these days I help folks here in Portage County feel at home with theirs. I wrote this guide the way I'd explain it at your kitchen table: patiently, in plain English, and without trying to sell you anything. Folding phones are wonderful for some people and the wrong choice for others, and I'll tell you honestly which is which.

What this guide will do for you

- Explain, in plain words, how a folding phone works and the handful of new words that come with it.
- Tell you which folding phones are really on sale as of November 2026 — including Apple's first folding iPhone, the **iPhone Duo** — and what they cost.
- Help you decide whether one fits your hands, your eyes and your budget.
- Show you how to use the big inner screen for larger text, easier reading and hands-free video calls.
- Teach you the simple rules that keep the hinge and the inner screen healthy.
- Walk you through what to do if the screen cracks, and what repairs honestly cost.

The big promise: you can't break the software

Every setting in this guide can be switched back. Turn on a feature you don't like, and you turn it off again. The one thing a folding phone asks of you is a little physical care: the inner screen is softer than ordinary phone glass, and the hinge doesn't like sand or keys. Part 5 makes that easy.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Why this matters

A folding phone can give you a bigger, easier-to-read screen without carrying a tablet. Knowing the few care rules up front means that expensive screen stays in good shape for years.

And I'm only a phone call away

If anything here leaves you unsure, call me at **(330) 200-8042**. There's no such thing as a silly question.

Let's start with what a folding phone actually is.

— Bill

CHAPTER 2

What a Folding Phone Is

A folding phone has a screen that bends. A hinge runs down the middle, and the big screen folds closed like a book or a makeup compact. Most also have a second, smaller screen on the outside, so you can check the time or answer a call without opening the phone.

The two shapes

	Book-style (opens like a book)	Flip-style (opens like a compact)
Examples	iPhone Duo, Galaxy Z Fold8 and Fold8 Ultra, Google Pixel 11 Pro Fold, Motorola razr fold	Galaxy Z Flip8, Motorola razr, razr+ and razr ultra
Closed	A full, usable phone	A small square you can slip into any pocket
Open	A small tablet, roughly 7.6 to 8 inches	An ordinary-size tall phone
Best for	Reading, video calls, photos, two apps at once	Small pockets and purses
Price, November 2026	About $1,900 to $2,100 new	About $800 to $1,500 new

The words you'll see

Word	What it means
Inner screen / main screen	The big screen inside, which you see when the phone is open. Apple calls it the **inner display**; Samsung calls it the **main screen**.
Cover screen / outer display	The smaller screen on the outside. Apple calls it the **outer display**. Samsung calls it the **cover screen**, and on the Flip you'll also see the name **FlexWindow**. Motorola calls it the **external display**.
Hinge	The joint that lets the phone fold. It's the most mechanical part of the phone.
Crease	A faint line down the middle of the inner screen where it folds. You may see or feel it, especially at an angle. That is normal.
Half-open / tabletop / Flex mode	Standing the phone up partly folded, like a tiny laptop or tent, so you can watch or video-call without holding it.
IP rating	A code for water and dust resistance, such as IP68 or IP48. Chapter 19 explains it.

GOOD TO KNOW

The crease is normal

Every folding phone on sale has some crease. Makers have made it much less noticeable than early models, but it hasn't disappeared. Look at one in a store, in good light, before you buy.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Once these few words make sense, the store clerk's pitch, the setup screens and the rest of this guide will all be easier to follow.

CHAPTER 3

The Folding Phones You Can Buy Now

New phones get rumored long before they're real. This chapter lists only the folding phones the makers themselves have announced and put on sale, as of November 2026. Prices are U.S. starting prices for the smallest storage size, before tax, trade-ins or carrier deals.

Apple iPhone Duo — Apple's first folding iPhone

Yes, it's real. Apple announced the **iPhone Duo** on **September 9, 2026**. Pre-orders opened October 16, and it went on sale October 23, 2026. It's a book-style phone with a **5.4-inch** outer display and a **7.6-inch** inner display, Apple's **A20 Pro** chip, and it runs **iOS 27**. It starts at **$1,999** in the U.S. You unlock it with **Touch ID**, a fingerprint sensor built into the side button, which works whether the phone is open or closed. The inner screen has a built-in nano-texture (matte) layer, so Apple says **not** to add a screen protector to it.

GOOD TO KNOW

It may take a while to arrive

Brand-new phones are often in short supply in their first months. Before you order, look at the delivery date the store shows you, and don't be tempted by anyone online promising one sooner for extra money (Chapter 24).

Samsung Galaxy Z Fold8 Ultra, Z Fold8 and Z Flip8

Samsung's eighth-generation folding phones were announced in July 2026 and went on sale in the U.S. on **August 7, 2026**. They run Samsung's **One UI** software; One UI 9, built on Android 17, is the current version (sibling check).

Model	Shape	Screens (cover / main)	Weight	Starts at
Galaxy Z Fold8 Ultra	Book-style	6.5 in / 8.0 in	215 g (7.6 oz)	about $2,100
Galaxy Z Fold8	Book-style	5.5 in / 7.6 in	201 g (7.1 oz)	about $1,900
Galaxy Z Flip8	Flip-style	4.1 in cover screen	180 g (6.3 oz)	about $1,200

Those are the 256 GB starting prices. More storage costs more: the Fold8 Ultra is about $2,300 with 512 GB, for example. All three are rated **IP48** for water and dust (Chapter 19 explains what that means).

Google Pixel 11 Pro Fold

Google announced the **Pixel 11 Pro Fold** on **August 12, 2026**, and it reached store shelves on August 20. It's a book-style phone with Google's Tensor G6 chip, rated **IP68** for water and dust, and it started at **$1,899** in the U.S. Google says it's lighter and thinner than last year's Pixel 10 Pro Fold. The Google Store has since run sales on it, so check the current price before you buy.

Motorola razr family

- **razr 2026** — flip-style, $799.99, the least expensive folding phone here.
- **razr+ 2026** — flip-style, $1,099.99.
- **razr ultra 2026** — flip-style, $1,499.99.
- **motorola razr fold** — Motorola's book-style phone with an inner screen of about 8 inches, $1,899.99 on Motorola's U.S. site.

These are Motorola's unlocked U.S. list prices; carriers may charge differently. (Sibling check with the Motorola guide in this series.)

HEADS UP

Older models are still around

Stores and carriers still sell last year's models, such as the Galaxy Z Fold7 and Z Flip7 or the Pixel 10 Pro Fold, often at a discount. They can be good value. Just check how many more years of updates the maker promises for that model before you buy.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

You'll walk into the store knowing the real names and the real starting prices, so you can't be talked into a model that doesn't exist or a price that doesn't add up.

CHAPTER 4

Is a Folding Phone Right for Me?

Here is the honest list. Folding phones are clever, and for the right person they're a real improvement. But they cost more, weigh more and need more care than an ordinary phone. Go through both lists and see which one sounds more like you.

Good reasons to choose one

- **You read a lot on your phone** — news, books, email — and want bigger text without scrolling sideways.
- **Video calls with family matter to you.** The inner screen shows faces much larger, and you can stand the phone up so your hands are free.
- **You'd like a tablet but don't want to carry two devices.**
- **You want a small phone in your pocket** (a flip) that still opens to a normal screen.

Good reasons to think twice

- **Price.** Book-style folding phones start around $1,900 to $2,100 — roughly double a good ordinary phone.
- **Weight.** Book-style models weigh noticeably more than most phones. Samsung lists the Fold8 Ultra at 215 grams (about 7.6 ounces), and published spec sheets put the iPhone Duo at about 254 grams (about 9 ounces). If your hands or wrists get tired, hold one in a store for a few minutes first.
- **Thickness.** Closed, a book-style phone is about twice as thick as it is open — the iPhone Duo is 11.3 mm closed.
- **Care.** The inner screen scratches more easily than normal glass, and dust and sand are hard on hinges. Inner-screen repairs are expensive (Chapter 21).
- **Opening it.** Some people with arthritis find the two-handed opening awkward. Try it in a store.
- **You mostly make calls and texts.** A simpler, less costly phone may serve you better.

TIP

The ten-minute store test

At a Verizon, AT&T, T-Mobile, Best Buy, Apple or Samsung store, ask to hold a display model. Open and close it ten times. Read an email on it with your normal glasses. Hold it up as if on a video call for two minutes. Then hold an ordinary large phone the same way. You'll know which one your hands prefer.

GOOD TO KNOW

A bigger ordinary phone may be enough

If the only goal is bigger text, a large ordinary phone with the text size turned up (Chapter 9) costs much less and is tougher. A folding phone earns its price when you'll actually use the tablet-size screen.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

An honest yes-or-no now saves you from a $2,000 purchase you'd regret — or helps you buy with confidence because you know exactly why you want one.

PART 2

Setting Up and Getting Around

The first day with a folding phone: setting it up, using it closed, opening it up, and unlocking it with your fingerprint.

CHAPTER 5

Setting Up Your Folding Phone

Setting up a folding phone is almost exactly like setting up any new iPhone or Android phone. The phone walks you through it one screen at a time. The only real differences are that you'll see the setup on whichever screen is in front of you, and there are a few extra care steps right out of the box.

Before you start

- **Charge it.** Plug it in for half an hour while you read this chapter.
- **Have your passwords ready**: your Wi-Fi password, and your **Apple Account** (for an iPhone) or **Google Account** (for Samsung, Pixel and Motorola) email and password. A Samsung phone will also offer a **Samsung account**; it's optional but useful for Samsung's own backup and Find features.
- **Keep your old phone nearby and charged.** Most of your apps, photos and messages can move across from it during setup.
- **Have a soft, clean surface** to work on, like a folded towel on the kitchen table, not a gritty countertop.

Setting up, step by step

1. Take the phone out of the box. Leave any film that's **on the inner screen** exactly where it is (Chapter 16 explains why). It's fine to peel off loose shipping stickers from the outside.
2. Press and hold the side button until the logo appears.
3. Choose your language and country, then join your Wi-Fi.
4. When it asks about moving data, pick your old phone. For iPhone to iPhone, hold the phones near each other and follow **Quick Start**. For Android phones, follow the copy-your-data screens; a cable or Wi-Fi both work.
5. Sign in with your Apple Account or Google Account.
6. Set up your fingerprint when it asks (Chapter 8), plus a passcode or PIN you'll remember.
7. Let it finish copying. Leave it plugged in and on Wi-Fi; apps may keep downloading for an hour or so.
8. Open and close the phone a few times. Notice how the screen you were using hands over to the other one.

TIP

Moving from iPhone to Android, or the other way?

Both directions work during setup. Apple's **Move to iOS** app helps from Android to iPhone, and Android phones offer to copy from an iPhone. Messages and some apps don't always come across cleanly, so make sure your photos are backed up first. The *Switching between iPhone and Android* guide in this series goes through it in detail.

Buying from a carrier

If you buy at Verizon, AT&T or T-Mobile, the store can put your number on the new phone and help copy your contacts. Ask them to leave the inner screen film alone, and ask how long you have to return the phone if you decide it isn't for you. Write that date down (Chapter 26).

HEADS UP

Return windows are short

Most stores give you only a couple of weeks to return a phone. Use the folding phone every day during that time so you find out early whether the weight and the opening suit your hands.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

With your old phone's contacts, photos and apps already in place, the new phone feels familiar on day one, and the only new thing to learn is the folding.

CHAPTER 6

The Cover Screen: Using It Closed

The outside screen is where you'll spend more time than you expect. It's perfect for checking the time, reading a text, answering a call or glancing at the weather without opening the phone. How much it can do depends on the shape.

Book-style phones: a full phone on the outside

On the iPhone Duo, the Galaxy Z Fold8 and Fold8 Ultra, the Pixel 11 Pro Fold and the razr fold, the outside screen is a full, normal phone screen. Every app works on it. Apple says the iPhone Duo's 5.4-inch outer display has about 90 percent of the screen area of an iPhone 18 Pro. Many people use the phone closed for calls and texts, and open it only to read, watch or video-call.

Flip phones: a small screen for quick things

On a flip phone such as the Galaxy Z Flip8 or the Motorola razr, the cover screen is smaller. It shows the time, notifications and a few widgets, and it can run some apps. For anything long, you open the phone.

Galaxy Z Flip8: your favorite apps on the cover screen

Samsung's Flip8 has a **favorite apps** widget on the cover screen. You can put up to **five** apps you use most there.

1. With the phone closed, wake the cover screen and swipe left to see the widgets.
2. Touch and hold a widget to go into edit mode.
3. Find the favorite apps widget and add up to five apps, such as Phone, Messages and Camera.
4. Tap outside the widget, or press the side button, to finish.

Widgets (weather, calendar, music and so on) can be added the same way: touch and hold, then choose **Edit**. On older Flip phones, you'll find these under **Settings** > **Cover screen**, and running other apps on the cover screen is under **Settings** > **Advanced features** > **Labs**.

Motorola razr: the external display

On the razr 2026 family, closing the phone locks the external display; unlocking it takes you to the external display's own home screen. The settings are in **Settings** > **External display**. That's also where you'll find **Desk display**, which shows a clock or a photo carousel when the phone stands like a tent (Chapter 14). (Sibling check with the Motorola guide in this series.)

TIP

Make the cover screen easy to read

The cover screen follows your phone's text size (Chapter 9). If the clock or messages there are still too small, look in the cover screen settings for a larger clock style or fewer widgets per page.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Most of the little check-ins of the day — who's calling, what time is it, did my daughter text — happen without opening the phone. That's less wear on the hinge and less fuss for you.

CHAPTER 7

Opening Up: Two Apps on the Big Screen

When you open a book-style phone, what you were doing usually carries on to the big screen, just larger. The big screen also lets you do something an ordinary phone can't do comfortably: show two apps side by side. Think of a recipe on the left and a video call on the right, or an email next to your calendar.

iPhone Duo: Split View

Apple calls this **Split View**, and it's a first for iPhone. It works when the iPhone Duo is open and turned sideways (landscape).

1. Open the iPhone Duo and turn it sideways.
2. Open the first app.
3. Swipe up slowly from the bottom edge and pause in the middle of the screen.
4. Drag the app you're in to the left or right side. Then pick the second app.
5. Or, on the Home Screen or in App Library, touch and hold an app and tap **Open in Split View**.
6. To make one side bigger, drag the divider between the apps. Drag it all the way to an edge to go back to one app.

Pair two apps you always use together

With two apps open in Split View, tap the divider between them to **pair** them. The next time you open either app, the other one opens beside it. To swap sides, swipe up from one app and move it to the other side.

Samsung, Google and Motorola phones

Book-style Android phones — the Galaxy Z Fold8 and Fold8 Ultra, Google's Pixel Fold phones and the razr fold — can show two apps side by side too. Because the exact gesture changes between models and updates, the easiest way to learn yours is to open **Settings**, type "split screen" or "multi window" into the search box, and open the setting it finds.

GOOD TO KNOW

Not every app goes big

Most apps stretch nicely to the big screen. A few older ones show as a narrow strip with black bars on the sides. That's the app, not your phone. Updating the app sometimes helps.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

You can follow a recipe while watching how-to video, or read Grandma's email while checking the calendar, without flipping back and forth and losing your place.

CHAPTER 8

Unlocking with Your Fingerprint

A folding phone is used open and closed, so the unlock method has to work both ways. Most folding phones use a fingerprint reader built into the side (power) button, so the same finger works whichever way you're holding it.

iPhone Duo uses Touch ID

This surprises people who are used to Face ID on recent iPhones. Apple says iPhone Duo uses **Touch ID**, built into the side button, and that it works whether the phone is open or closed. You can also unlock it with an Apple Watch.

1. Open **Settings** and tap **Touch ID & Passcode**. Enter your passcode.
2. Tap **Add a Fingerprint**.
3. Rest your finger lightly on the side button — don't press it — and lift and rest it again as the screen asks, until the fingerprint is complete.
4. Add a second finger, such as the thumb of your other hand, so you can unlock it either way you hold it.

Samsung, Pixel and Motorola

Android folding phones offer a fingerprint during setup. To add or change one later, open **Settings** and type "fingerprint" into the search box at the top. Tap the result, confirm your PIN, and follow the screens. Face unlock is also offered on many Android phones; it's handy, but a fingerprint is usually more reliable in dim light.

TIP

Dry or cracked fingertips?

If the fingerprint reader often fails, register the same finger twice as two separate fingerprints, and try a different finger whose skin is in better shape. A little hand lotion an hour before also helps — but wipe your hands before touching the inner screen.

STAY SAFE

Keep a passcode you'll remember

Your fingerprint is a shortcut; the passcode or PIN is the real key. Choose one you won't forget and write it somewhere safe at home (Chapter 26). Never tell it to someone who calls you on the phone.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

One touch on the side button unlocks the phone whether it's open or closed — no typing on a small screen, no squinting at a keypad.

PART 3

Easier on the Eyes and Ears

The big reason many people choose a folding phone: a screen large enough to read comfortably, see faces on video calls and enjoy photos.

CHAPTER 9

Bigger Text on Both Screens

A big inner screen helps, but the real comfort comes from turning the text size up as well. On a folding phone you have room to make the words large *and* still see a whole paragraph at once. Here's how on each kind of phone.

iPhone Duo

1. Open **Settings** and tap **Display & Brightness**.
2. Tap **Text Size** and drag the slider to the right until the writing is comfortable.
3. For even larger sizes, go to **Settings** > **Accessibility** > **Display & Text Size** > **Larger Text**, and turn on **Larger Accessibility Sizes**.
4. Also in **Display & Text Size**, try **Bold Text**. Many people find it the single biggest help.

(Sibling check with the iPhone guide in this series.)

Samsung Galaxy Z Fold8 and Flip8

1. Open **Settings** and tap **Display**.
2. Tap **Font size and style**.
3. Drag the slider to make the text larger. You'll see it change as you drag. You can also turn on **Bold font** here.
4. Back in **Display**, **Screen zoom** makes buttons and icons bigger too.

(Sibling check with the Samsung Galaxy guide in this series.)

Google Pixel and Motorola

1. Open **Settings** and tap **Accessibility**.
2. Tap **Display size and text**. (On some phones it's under **Settings** > **Display**.)
3. Drag the **Font size** slider, and the **Display size** slider if you want buttons bigger too.
4. Turn on **Bold text** if letters look thin.

(Sibling check with the Google Pixel and Motorola guides in this series.)

TIP

Check both screens

After you change the size, close the phone and look at the outer screen, then open it and look at the inner one. The same setting applies to both, but some apps lay things out differently on each. Pick a size that works on the smaller screen; the big screen will feel roomy.

TIP

The search box is your friend

Can't find a setting? Open **Settings** and type a word like "text" or "bold" into the search box at the top. It jumps straight to the right place.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Text you can read with your everyday glasses, on a screen large enough that you aren't scrolling after every sentence. Fewer headaches, less squinting.

CHAPTER 10

Reading on the Inner Screen

Open a book-style phone and you're holding something close to the size of a small paperback held open. It's a lovely way to read the news, an e-book or a long email.

Make reading comfortable

- **Turn the phone sideways or keep it upright** — try both. Sideways often shows two pages side by side in reading apps, like a real book.
- **Pinch to zoom** on a web page: put two fingers on the screen and spread them apart. Pinch them together to zoom out.
- **Use Reader mode on websites.** On iPhone, tap the page menu in the address bar in Safari and choose the reader option. In Chrome on Android, look for **Simplified view** when it's offered. Ads and clutter disappear, and the text gets bigger.
- **Dark Mode in the evening** — light words on a dark background can be easier on tired eyes. iPhone: **Settings** > **Display & Brightness**. Android: **Settings** > **Display**.
- **Mind the crease.** If the faint line down the middle bothers you while reading, turn the phone sideways so the words run across it less, or zoom slightly so the column sits on one half.

Library books, free

Your local library card works with the free **Libby** app for e-books and audiobooks. On the big screen, Libby's text can be made large and the page looks like a real book. You sign in with your library card number, and the library's PIN if it uses one.

GOOD TO KNOW

The matte screen on iPhone Duo

The iPhone Duo's inner screen has a nano-texture finish that cuts glare from windows and lamps. That makes it pleasant to read on, and it's also why Apple says not to put a screen protector on it.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

The newspaper, a novel or a church bulletin, at a comfortable size, in one hand. Many folks find they leave the tablet at home.

CHAPTER 11

Video Calls on the Big Screen

This is where a folding phone really shines. Faces on the inner screen are far larger than on a normal phone, and because the phone can stand up half-open, you don't have to hold it at arm's length for half an hour.

Make a video call, the easy way

1. Open the app the family uses — **FaceTime** on iPhone, **Google Meet**, **WhatsApp** or **Zoom** on any phone.
2. Start the call with the phone open, so you see faces on the big screen.
3. Set the phone down on the table, half-open, like a tent or a little laptop. The camera faces you; the screen stays in view. (Chapters 13 and 14 cover this standing position on each brand.)
4. Sit back about an arm's length. Check that your face is in the small preview box.
5. Adjust the volume with the side buttons. If the voices are hard to hear, try wired or Bluetooth headphones or hearing aids.

Where the camera is

On the iPhone Duo, Apple says the front camera sits **under** the inner display and is hidden when you aren't using it. On other phones there's a small camera dot near the top edge of each screen. Look at the camera, not the faces, when you want to make "eye contact."

Apps made for the big screen

Apple says apps like **Zoom** have layouts designed for the iPhone Duo's larger inner screen. On Android, Google Meet and Zoom also use the extra space, often showing more people at once in a group call.

> **TIP**
>
> **Light from the front**
>
> Sit facing a window or a lamp, not with one behind you. Your family will see your face instead of a dark shape.

TIP

Turn on captions

If hearing is a struggle, turn on captions. On iPhone, **Live Captions** is under **Settings** > **Accessibility**. On Pixel and Samsung, look for **Live Caption** in the volume controls or Accessibility settings. Words appear on screen as people speak.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Grandchildren's faces life-size enough to see their expressions, with your hands free to hold a cup of coffee or wave back.

CHAPTER 12

Photos and the Camera

Folding phones have good cameras, and the fold gives you a few tricks an ordinary phone can't do. The best one: you can use the **main** camera on the back — the best one on the phone — to take a selfie, because you can see yourself on the outer screen.

Looking at your photos

Open your **Photos** app (or **Google Photos** or Samsung's **Gallery**) on the inner screen. Pictures fill a screen roughly the size of a small tablet, so it's a pleasure to show them around the table. Turn the phone sideways for wide shots.

Pixel Fold phones: Dual Screen preview and rear-camera selfies

Google's Pixel Fold phones (the Pixel Fold, Pixel 9 Pro Fold, Pixel 10 Pro Fold and Pixel 11 Pro Fold) can show the camera view on **both** screens at once, so the person you're photographing can see themselves too.

1. Open the phone and open the **Camera** app.
2. Tap the foldable button on the camera screen, then turn on **Dual Screen preview**.
3. Point the back of the phone at your subject. They can see themselves on the outer screen while you frame the shot on the big screen.
4. For a selfie with the main camera, tap **Switch screen**. The camera view moves to the outer screen; turn the phone around, see yourself, and press the shutter.

Tabletop photos

Fold the phone into an **L** shape and set it on a table with the back cameras facing your subject. Now the phone is its own tripod. On Pixel Fold phones the preview also appears on the outer screen. Use the camera's **timer** (the clock icon) so you can get into the group photo.

Flip phones

On the Galaxy Z Flip8 and the Motorola razr, you can take selfies with the main camera while the phone is closed, looking at yourself in the cover screen. Motorola calls its half-open camera mode **Flex View**, which turns the phone into its own stand (sibling check).

TIP

Steady hands, sharper pictures

Standing the phone half-open on a table is steadier than any hand. It's perfect for low-light photos and short videos of the grandkids opening presents.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Better selfies with the best camera, group photos with you in them, and a picture-frame-size screen for showing them off.

PART 4

Half-Open: Flex Mode and Tabletop

A folding phone can stand up on its own, half-open, like a tiny laptop or a tent. Here's how to use that for hands-free calls, recipes, shows and photos.

CHAPTER 13

Samsung Flex Mode and the Flex Mode Panel

Samsung's name for the half-open position is **Flex mode**. Fold a Galaxy Z Fold8 or Z Flip8 part of the way — somewhere between flat and closed — and set it on a table. Many apps notice and rearrange themselves: the picture moves to the top half and the buttons move to the bottom half, like a little laptop.

Apps that work in Flex mode without any setup

- **Samsung's Camera** — the viewfinder goes on top, the shutter and controls on the bottom. Great for tabletop group photos.
- **Many video and video-call apps** put the picture on the top half, so you can watch or talk hands-free.

The Flex mode panel: help for other apps

For apps that don't rearrange themselves, Samsung offers the **Flex mode panel**. When you fold the phone partway, the app moves to the top half and the bottom half becomes a control panel with handy buttons: brightness, volume, a touchpad, screenshot and so on.

1. Open **Settings**.
2. Tap **Advanced features**.
3. Tap **Flex mode panel**.
4. Turn it on, and choose to have the panel show automatically when you fold the phone.
5. Pick which apps should use it, or choose all supported apps.
6. Open one of those apps, fold the phone partway and set it down. The panel appears on the bottom half.

Some apps don't work with the Flex mode panel; they simply stay full-screen. If an app looks odd in Flex mode, turn the panel off for that app in the same menu.

> **TIP**
>
> **Find the right angle**
>
> The hinge holds steady at most angles. For video calls, about 90 degrees — like an open laptop — usually works best. For watching a show from a little farther away, open it a bit wider.

HEADS UP

Don't press down hard on the fold

In Flex mode it's tempting to tap firmly on the bottom half. Gentle taps are all it needs. Heavy pressure near the crease isn't good for the inner screen.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

The phone holds itself up. You can follow a recipe, watch Sunday's service online or talk to the family without your arm getting tired.

CHAPTER 14

Standing It Up on Pixel, Razr and iPhone Duo

Every folding phone can stand half-open. Each maker uses a different name and offers slightly different extras.

Google Pixel Fold phones: tabletop

Google calls the half-open position **tabletop**. Fold the phone into an **L** shape and set it down. In the Camera app, the preview sits on the upright half and the controls on the flat half; on Pixel Fold phones the preview can also show on the outer screen so your subject can see the shot (Chapter 12). Some video and video-call apps also make use of the shape.

Motorola razr: Desk display and Flex View

Stand a razr 2026 half-open like a tent and it can show a clock or a slideshow of your photos on the external display. Motorola calls this **Desk display**.

1. Open **Settings** and tap **External display**.
2. Tap **Desk display**.
3. Choose the tent or stand position and what to show: a **clock** or a **picture carousel**.
4. If you choose pictures, add a photo album. Leave **Dim pictures & album covers** turned on; it saves battery and protects the screen.

Flex View is Motorola's half-open camera mode: the phone stands on its own and you use the main camera for selfies and group shots. (Sibling check with the Motorola guide in this series.)

iPhone Duo: StandBy

Apple lists **StandBy** — the large clock, photos and widgets view that iPhones show while charging on their side — as working on either of the iPhone Duo's screens. Set the phone on a charger, turned sideways and still, and StandBy appears. To change what it shows, open **Settings** > **StandBy**.

TIP

A bedside clock that's easy to read

StandBy on iPhone and Desk display on razr give you a large, glanceable clock at night. Put the phone on its charger and set the brightness low.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

The phone becomes a picture frame, a bedside clock or a hands-free screen whenever you set it down — no extra stand to buy.

CHAPTER 15

Hands-Free Ideas for Every Day

Once you've got the hang of standing the phone up, it's surprising how often it comes in handy. Here are some favorite uses. None of them cost anything extra.

Where	How
In the kitchen	Prop the phone half-open on the counter (away from the sink and the stove) with a recipe or a cooking video on the top half.
Video calls	Stand it on the table, sit back, and talk with both hands free (Chapter 11).
Watching church or a ballgame	Many churches and teams stream online. Half-open, the phone is a small TV.
Doctor's video visits	Telehealth apps work on the big screen. Stand the phone up so you can show the doctor what you need to and still take notes.
Exercise videos	Chair yoga or a walking workout plays on the top half while you follow along.
Bedside clock	StandBy on iPhone Duo or Desk display on razr (Chapter 14).
Group photos	Tabletop camera with a timer, so you're in the picture (Chapter 12).

A few sensible precautions

- **Keep it away from water and flour.** Folding phones are less dust-resistant than ordinary phones (Chapter 19).
- **Use a stable surface.** A half-open phone can tip on a soft blanket or a tilted lap tray.
- **Don't leave it in the sun** on a windowsill or dashboard. Heat is hard on batteries and screens.
- **Plug in for long calls.** Video calls on a big screen use more battery.

GOOD TO KNOW

Some apps just stay full-screen

Not every app knows how to split itself in half. If an app ignores the fold, open the phone flat, or on a Samsung try the Flex mode panel (Chapter 13).

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

One device that's a phone, a small TV, a recipe stand and a picture frame. Less to carry, less to charge, less to learn.

PART 5

Caring for the Hinge and the Inner Screen

A few simple habits keep an expensive screen in good shape for years. This is the most important part of the guide.

CHAPTER 16

The Inner Screen: Rules That Matter

The big inner screen is the reason you bought a folding phone, and it's also the most delicate part. It has to bend, so it can't be made of the hard glass on an ordinary phone. It's tougher than it used to be, but it still scratches and dents more easily. These rules come from the makers themselves.

The rules for every folding phone

1. **Check before you close.** Make sure nothing is lying on the inner screen — a crumb, a grain of sand, a hairpin, an earring back. Apple says keys, coins and other hard objects left on the inner display when you close the phone can damage it.
2. **Never press hard with a fingernail or a pen.** Tap with the pad of your finger. Don't use a stylus unless the maker says your model supports one.
3. **Keep it out of pockets with keys and coins**, even closed. Grit works its way into hinges.
4. **Don't force the hinge.** Open it to flat and stop. Never bend it backward.
5. **Leave the built-in layer alone.** See below — this one is different for each brand.

iPhone Duo: no screen protector on the inner display

Apple says the iPhone Duo's inner display has a built-in **nano-texture** cover layer. Don't try to remove it, and don't add a screen protector to the inner display — Apple says an added protector can compromise how the display performs. The outer display is different; ordinary iPhone advice applies there.

Samsung Galaxy Z Fold and Flip: leave the factory film on

Samsung foldables come with a protective film already on the main (inner) screen. It's designed to bend with the screen and protect it from scratches and debris. Samsung's U.S. support page says:

- Samsung **does not recommend removing** the screen protector.
- If it needs replacing — it's peeling, bubbling or badly scratched — take the phone to an **authorized Samsung service center**.
- Samsung's standard warranty **doesn't cover damage** caused when the film is removed by you or by a repair shop that isn't Samsung-authorized.

- If the film has been removed and touch stops working properly, Samsung says to go to **Settings** > **Display** and turn off **Touch sensitivity**.

Pixel and Motorola

Google's and Motorola's folding phones also ship with a layer on the inner screen. Treat it the same way: don't peel it off, and if it lifts at a corner, ask the maker's support about a replacement rather than pulling it.

HEADS UP

A lifting corner is not a do-it-yourself job

If the film on the inner screen starts to bubble or lift at the crease or a corner, stop picking at it. Pulling it off can damage the screen underneath, and on a Samsung that damage isn't covered by the warranty.

GOOD TO KNOW

Small dents and lines

With use, you may notice tiny dents or a slightly wavy look near the crease. Some of that is the nature of a bendable screen. A crack, a bright line, a dark patch or a spot that doesn't respond to touch is *not* normal (Chapter 21).

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Five habits that take a few seconds a day protect the most expensive part of the phone and keep you within your warranty.

CHAPTER 17

Cleaning a Folding Phone

Fingerprints show up more on a big screen. Cleaning is easy, but folding screens don't like household sprays, paper towels or compressed air. Here's the gentle way.

Cleaning the inner screen, step by step

1. Turn the phone off and unplug it.
2. Use a **soft, lint-free cloth** — a microfiber cloth like the one that comes with eyeglasses.
3. If the screen needs more than a dry wipe, **slightly dampen** the cloth with water. Never spray anything directly on the phone.
4. Wipe gently, from the top down, without pressing on the crease.
5. For stubborn smudges on an iPhone Duo's matte screen, Apple allows a little **70 percent isopropyl alcohol** on the cloth (not on the screen).
6. Let it dry fully before you close the phone.

Things not to use

- **Compressed air** — Apple says not to use it, and it can push grit deeper into the hinge.
- **Paper towels or tissues** — they can scratch.
- **Window cleaner, bleach or abrasive cleaners.**
- **Water running into the openings** — keep liquid away from the ports, speakers and hinge.

The hinge and the edges

Close the phone and gently wipe the outside and the hinge with a dry soft cloth. If you see lint in the gaps, a clean, soft, dry brush, like a new makeup brush, can lift it out. Don't poke anything sharp into the hinge.

> TIP
>
> **Wash your hands first**
>
> Hand lotion and kitchen grease are the main cause of smudges. A quick hand wash before a long reading session keeps the screen clearer.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

A clear, bright screen without the risk of scratching it — and a hinge that keeps opening smoothly.

CHAPTER 18

Cases for Folding Phones

A case is the cheapest insurance you can buy. Folding phone cases are a little different, because the phone has two halves and a hinge that needs to move.

What to look for

- **Made for your exact model.** A Galaxy Z Fold8 case won't fit a Fold8 Ultra, and last year's case won't fit this year's phone.
- **Covers both halves** and, ideally, the hinge. Hinge protection helps if you drop the phone closed.
- **A raised lip around the outer screen**, so it doesn't touch the table face-down.
- **Easy to open and close.** A case that fights the hinge is one you'll take off. Try it with your hands, not just your eyes.
- **Grip.** A slightly textured case is easier to hold and less likely to slide off a table.
- **Optional: a kickstand or ring** for watching and calls, or a folio with a card pocket.

Where to get one

Apple sells an **iPhone Duo Case** and has a setup page for it on Apple Support; follow those directions when you put it on. Samsung, Google and Motorola sell their own cases too, and the well-known case makers carry folding phone models. Expect to pay more than for an ordinary phone case. Buy from a store you trust, and check the model name on the package against your phone (Settings > About phone, or Settings > General > About on iPhone).

HEADS UP

No magnets near the inner screen

Some cases and stands use magnets. That's fine on the outside. Don't put anything magnetic or metal between the two halves of the inner screen.

TIP

Put it on a soft surface

Fit a new case over a folded towel on the table, open the phone flat, and fit each half separately. Don't press on the inner screen while you do it.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

One drop on a driveway can cost hundreds of dollars. A good case makes that drop a shrug.

CHAPTER 19

Water, Dust and Drops

Ordinary phones are now quite tough against water and dust. Folding phones are good against water, but dust and sand are their weak spot, because of the hinge. The **IP rating** tells you how much protection a phone has.

How to read an IP rating

Part	What it means
IP	Stands for "ingress protection" — how well the phone keeps things out.
First number (dust)	6 means dust-tight. 4 means it only keeps out objects larger than 1 mm, such as a wire — **not** fine dust or sand. An X means it wasn't tested for dust.
Second number (water)	8 means it survived being underwater under the maker's test conditions (depth and time vary). 7 is a shorter, shallower test.

The folding phones, compared

Phone	Rating	What it means for you
Galaxy Z Fold8 Ultra, Z Fold8, Z Flip8	IP48	Good against water; keep it away from sand and dust
Google Pixel 11 Pro Fold	IP68	Good against water and dust
iPhone Duo	See Apple's specs page	Check apple.com/iphone-duo/specs for the current rating

HEADS UP

Water resistance isn't waterproof

Water ratings are tested in clean, still fresh water. Salt water, pool water, soapy water and hot showers are different. And makers' warranties generally don't cover liquid damage. Treat the phone as "survives an accident," not "good for swimming."

If it gets wet

1. Take it out of the water right away and dry the outside with a soft cloth.
2. If it was salt water, chlorine, soda or coffee, Apple's general advice for iPhones is to rinse it briefly with clean tap water, then dry it.
3. Don't use a hair dryer, an oven or a bag of rice, and don't poke anything into the ports.

4. Wait before charging. If the phone warns about liquid in the charging port, follow what it says and let it dry.

The beach, the garden and the workshop

Sand, garden soil and sawdust are the hinge's enemies. Keep the phone closed and in a zippered pocket or bag in those places, and don't open it with gritty fingers.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

You'll know where your phone is tough and where it's not, so a day at the lake or in the garden doesn't turn into a repair bill.

PART 6

Protection, Repairs and Money

What folding phone repairs honestly cost, whether a protection plan is worth it, battery care, and how to trade in or buy smart.

CHAPTER 20

AppleCare+, Samsung Care+ and Other Protection

With an ordinary phone, a protection plan is a maybe. With a folding phone it deserves a serious look, because the inner screen is expensive to replace. Here's how the main options work. Prices change, so always check the current price on the maker's or carrier's own site before you sign up.

AppleCare+ for iPhone Duo

AppleCare+ adds accidental-damage coverage and longer support to an iPhone. With AppleCare+, Apple lists a **$99.00** service fee for iPhone Duo **inner display** damage (as of November 2026). Other damage has its own fees on the same Apple page.

1. If you're buying from Apple, AppleCare+ is offered at checkout.
2. If you've already bought the phone, open **Settings** > **General** > **AppleCare & Warranty** to see whether you can still add it. There's a limited window after purchase.
3. Read the price and whether it's monthly or paid up front. Plans that renew monthly keep charging until you cancel.

Samsung Care+

Samsung's own plan, **Samsung Care+**, covers accidental damage such as a cracked screen, with a fee for each repair (a deductible). It's sold for monthly or multi-year terms, and Samsung has run launch-time discounts on it for the Fold8. Samsung's prices and deductibles vary by model and change often, so check **samsung.com** for the current U.S. price for your phone before you enroll.

Carrier plans and Google, Motorola

Verizon, AT&T and T-Mobile sell their own device protection, usually monthly, with a deductible for each claim. Google and Motorola offer extended coverage for their phones too. When you compare, ask three questions:

1. What does it cost **per month**, and for how long?
2. What is the fee for an **inner screen** repair, specifically?
3. Does it cover **loss and theft**, or only damage?

TIP

A simple way to decide

Add up the monthly cost for two years, plus one screen repair fee. Compare that with the cost of an inner-screen repair without a plan (Chapter 21). If you're careful, rarely drop things and have savings, you might skip it. If a surprise $600 to $1,000 bill would really hurt, a plan is reasonable peace of mind.

HEADS UP

Only buy protection from the real company

Buy a protection plan only at checkout, in the phone's Settings, on the maker's own website or from your carrier. A phone call or text offering to "extend your warranty" is almost always a scam (Chapter 24).

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

You'll know what a cracked inner screen would really cost you, with or without a plan, before it ever happens.

CHAPTER 21

If the Screen Cracks or Stops Working

If something goes wrong with the inner screen — a crack, a line of odd colors, a dark patch, a spot that won't respond — don't panic, and don't take it to the first repair kiosk you see. Here's the calm, money-saving order of things.

First steps

1. **Back up the phone** right away, while it still works: iCloud on iPhone, Google One or Samsung Cloud on Android.
2. **Take clear photos** of the problem, and write down when you first noticed it.
3. **Restart the phone.** A frozen or flickering screen sometimes recovers after a restart.
4. **Contact the maker first**, not a third-party shop: Apple Support, Samsung Support, Google Support or Motorola Support. Folding screens need special parts and tools, and an unauthorized repair can cost you your warranty.
5. **Ask whether it's covered** by the warranty, your protection plan, or a known issue.

iPhone Duo inner display issue

In late October 2026, Apple told MacRumors there was "an issue impacting the inner display on a small number of iPhone Duo units," and that affected phones are being repaired or replaced. If your iPhone Duo's inner display shows a crack, line or dead spot you didn't cause, contact Apple Support or visit an Apple Store **before** paying for anything.

What repairs cost without coverage

These are the figures reported in the press in fall 2026. Always get an official estimate from the maker, because prices change and depend on what's damaged.

Phone	Inner screen, no coverage (reported)	With a plan
iPhone Duo	About $999; other damage up to $1,499	$99.00 inner display fee with AppleCare+
Galaxy Z Fold8 Ultra	About $639	Lower fee with Samsung Care+
Galaxy Z Fold8	About $579	Lower fee with Samsung Care+
Galaxy Z Flip8	About $359	Lower fee with Samsung Care+

For Samsung, outer (cover) screen repairs were reported at roughly $129 to $149. For an official quote, use Apple's repair estimate at **support.apple.com/iphone/repair**, or

Samsung's repair pricing at **samsung.com/us/support**.

HEADS UP

Be careful with cheap screen repairs

A kiosk or online seller quoting a fraction of the maker's price for a folding inner screen is probably using a lower-quality part, and the repair may void what's left of your warranty. For a folding phone, the maker's own service is usually worth the cost.

GOOD TO KNOW

The phone still works closed

On a book-style phone, if the inner screen fails you can usually keep using the outer screen as a normal phone while you arrange the repair.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

A clear plan if the worst happens: protect your photos, call the maker, and don't pay for something that should be free.

CHAPTER 22

Battery and Charging

A big screen uses more power, so folding phones have big batteries split between the two halves. Most people get through a normal day; heavy video calling can use it up faster. A few habits help.

Charging basics

- **Use a good USB-C charger and cable** from the maker or a well-known brand. Cheap gas-station chargers can be slow, or unsafe.
- **Wireless charging works** on many folding phones. Google says the Pixel 11 Pro Fold charges wirelessly at up to 25 watts with Qi2.2 chargers, and about 50 percent in 30 minutes with its 30-watt wired charging.
- **Charge it closed** on a wireless pad, or flat on its back. Don't charge it half-open on a soft surface like a bed.
- **Heat is the enemy.** Don't charge under a pillow or in a hot car.

Make the battery last through the day

1. Use the **outer screen** for quick tasks; open the inner screen when you'll really use it.
2. Lower the brightness a little, or turn on automatic brightness.
3. Turn on **Dark Mode** in the evening (Chapter 10).
4. On a long video call, plug in.
5. Check which apps use the most battery: **Settings** > **Battery**.

Protecting the battery for the long run

iPhones, Samsung and Pixel phones all offer a battery-protection setting that holds the charge below 100 percent or learns your overnight routine. On iPhone look in **Settings** > **Battery** > **Charging**; on Android, open **Settings** > **Battery** and look for battery protection or adaptive charging. Turning it on is a small, free way to keep the battery healthy longer.

> TIP
>
> **The battery isn't easy to replace**
>
> A folding phone battery replacement is a job for the maker's service, not a kiosk. Taking care of it from day one keeps that day far off.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

A phone that lasts the day, and a battery that still holds a good charge years from now.

CHAPTER 23

Trade-In, Updates and Buying Smart

A folding phone is a big purchase. A trade-in can take a real bite out of the price, and knowing how long the phone will get updates tells you how long it's likely to stay safe to use.

Trading in your old phone

- **Apple Trade In**: get an estimate online or in an Apple Store. In a store you get instant credit; by mail, Apple sends a kit and confirms the final value after inspection, which can take a couple of weeks.
- **Samsung**: when you trade in on samsung.com, you generally have **15 days** from receiving your new phone to send the old one. If it doesn't arrive, or its condition differs from what you said, Samsung can charge the difference.
- **Carriers** (Verizon, AT&T, T-Mobile) often give trade-in value as monthly bill credits over up to 36 months. If you leave or pay off the phone early, the remaining credits usually stop.

(Sibling check with the Buying Refurbished & Trading In guide in this series.)

Before you hand over the old phone

1. Make sure everything is on the new phone: photos, contacts, messages, two-factor codes.
2. Sign out of your Apple Account or Google Account on the old phone.
3. Turn off **Find My** (iPhone) or remove the phone from **Find Hub** (Android).
4. Erase the phone: iPhone **Settings** > **General** > **Transfer or Reset iPhone**; Android **Settings**, then search for "factory reset."
5. Take out the SIM card, if it has one.

How long will it get updates?

Updates fix security holes, so a phone that no longer gets them becomes riskier over time. Motorola lists security updates for the razr fold through **March 2033** (sibling check). Apple, Samsung and Google each publish how long they support their phones; look for "software updates" on the maker's page for your model before you buy, especially for a discounted older model.

TIP

Last year's model can be a bargain

When a new folding phone comes out, the previous one often drops in price. It may be the sweet spot — as long as it still has several years of updates ahead.

HEADS UP

Read the payment plan

Many carriers spread a folding phone over 36 months. The low monthly number can hide a total over $2,000. Ask for the full price, and how the trade-in credit is paid.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

You'll get fair value for your old phone, keep your personal information safe, and pay a price that makes sense for how long the new phone will last.

PART 7

Staying Safe

New, expensive phones attract scammers. Here's how to spot the tricks and buy only from the real thing.

CHAPTER 24

Scams Around Folding Phones

Whenever a new, expensive phone is in the news — and the iPhone Duo certainly was — scammers use it as bait. The tricks are old ones with a new phone's name on them. Once you know them, they're easy to spot.

SCAM ALERT

"You've won a free folding phone"

A text, email or social-media post says you've been selected for a free iPhone Duo or Galaxy Z Fold, and you only need to pay shipping or answer a survey. There is no free phone. The "shipping fee" page steals your card number, or signs you up for charges every month. Delete it.

SCAM ALERT

"Skip the wait" pre-orders

A website or seller promises a brand-new model sooner than Apple or Samsung can, for extra money or for payment by gift card, Zelle or crypto. Real stores never ask for those. If it's sold out everywhere real, it isn't magically in stock on a stranger's site.

SCAM ALERT

Fake trade-in and "problem with your order" messages

A message says your trade-in failed inspection or your order is on hold, with a link to "fix it" or "verify your account." Don't tap the link. Open the Apple Store, Samsung Shop or carrier app yourself, or call the number on your receipt, and check there.

SCAM ALERT

"Your screen recall" or warranty calls

Someone calls about a screen recall, a warranty extension or a repair program and asks for your Apple Account or Samsung account password, a code sent to your phone, or a payment. Apple, Samsung and Google don't call out of the blue to ask for those. Hang up and contact the company yourself.

SCAM ALERT

Too-good-to-be-true listings

A "brand-new" folding phone on a marketplace site for half price is usually stolen, locked to someone else's account, a fake, or doesn't exist. Folding phones are rarely deeply discounted by strangers.

How to buy safely

- Buy from the **maker** (Apple, Samsung, Google, Motorola), your **carrier**, or a well-known store such as Best Buy.
- **Type the web address yourself** or use the store's own app, rather than tapping a link in a message.
- **Pay with a credit card**, which gives you the strongest protection if something goes wrong.
- For used or refurbished phones, buy from the maker's own refurbished store or a big retailer with a return policy.
- Never give anyone the **code** that's texted to your phone. That code is a key to your account.

If you already tapped or paid

1. Stop and don't send anything more.
2. If you gave a card number, call the number on the back of the card and ask them to block it.
3. If you gave a password, change it right away from the real app or website, and turn on two-factor authentication.
4. If you bought gift cards, call the gift card company's number on the back of the card as soon as possible.
5. Report it at **reportfraud.ftc.gov**.
6. Call Bill if you'd like a calm second pair of eyes (Chapter 25).

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

You get to enjoy a new phone's excitement without anyone using it to get at your money or your accounts.

PART 8

Help and Quick Reference

When a hand is worth it, and the whole guide on one page.

CHAPTER 25

When to Call Bill

Most of what's in this guide you can do yourself, at your own pace. But part of being helpful is being honest about when a hand saves you time, worry or money. Here's my straight advice, with no pressure.

Times it's well worth a call

- **Deciding whether a folding phone is right for you**, or which one — before you spend $2,000.
- **Setting up a new folding phone** and moving everything over from the old one, including photos, contacts, messages and two-factor codes.
- **Making it comfortable**: text size on both screens, captions, the cover screen and your favorite apps, all set up the way you like.
- **Learning the half-open tricks** — Flex mode, tabletop, Split View — so video calls with the family are easy.
- **Something's wrong with the inner screen** and you'd like help backing up and dealing with the maker's support.
- **Trading in** your old phone safely, with everything erased and the accounts signed out.
- **A message or call about your phone looks suspicious** and you want a second opinion.

What working with me is like

I work at your pace, explain what I'm doing in plain words, and never talk down to anyone. I'll tell you honestly when something isn't worth your money, and I don't sell phones or protection plans. I've been doing this kind of work for more than 30 years, and I serve Portage County, Ohio, in person, and folks farther away by remote help.

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**. This guide is yours to keep for free; if you'd like a hand, I'm only a phone call away.

GOOD TO KNOW

You may meet Sophie first

When you call or visit billshometech.com, you might be greeted by **Sophie**, my AI receptionist. She can answer quick questions and help you book a time. A real person — me — does the actual help.

A folding phone is a wonderful thing once it's set up the way you like it. Be gentle with the hinge, enjoy the big screen, and call if you get stuck.

— Bill

CHAPTER 26

Your Folding Phone Cheat-Sheet

Keep this somewhere handy. The whole guide, boiled down.

The essentials

Topic	Remember
Before closing	Nothing on the inner screen: no crumbs, keys, coins or jewelry.
Inner screen layer	iPhone Duo: built-in, no added protector. Samsung, Pixel, Motorola: leave the factory film on; replacements at the maker's service.
Cleaning	Power off, soft lint-free cloth, slightly damp. No sprays, no compressed air.
Bigger text	iPhone: Settings > Display & Brightness > Text Size. Samsung: Settings > Display > Font size and style. Pixel/Motorola: Settings > Accessibility > Display size and text.
Two apps at once	iPhone Duo: Split View, phone open and sideways. Android: search Settings for "split screen."
Half-open	Samsung: Settings > Advanced features > Flex mode panel. Pixel: tabletop. razr: Settings > External display > Desk display. iPhone Duo: StandBy.
Water & dust	Samsung Fold8/Flip8 IP48 (keep from sand). Pixel 11 Pro Fold IP68.
Screen problem	Back up, photograph it, contact the maker first.
Protection	AppleCare+: $99.00 inner display fee. Samsung Care+: check samsung.com for price.

Write it down once

Keep handy	
My phone model	_____
Bought from & date	_____
Last day to return it	_____
Apple Account or Google Account email	_____
Protection plan & claim number	_____
Carrier & account PIN (keep private)	_____
Maker's support number (from its website)	_____

When something's wrong, in order

1. Restart the phone.
2. Is it a setting? Search Settings for the word ("text," "split," "flex").
3. Screen problem? Back it up and photograph it.
4. Contact the maker: Apple, Samsung, Google or Motorola Support.
5. Message or call about your phone looks odd? Don't tap, don't pay — check in the real app.
6. Still stuck? Call Bill at (330) 200-8042.