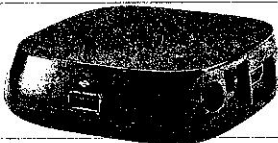


Quick Guide

STREAMING MEDIA PLAYERS

One of the easiest, least expensive ways to add streaming capability to a TV, a streaming media player connects to your TV via an HDMI input, and to your home network via built-in Wi-Fi.



Shopping Tip

Many players let you use your smartphone or tablet as a remote control. With some models, you can mirror the screen of a smartphone or tablet on your TV so that you can enjoy the content on a big screen.

What to Look For

- A player that has all of the streaming services you want right out of the box. More services may be added later, but don't assume that they will—or that the one you want will be among them.
- A stick-style player that plugs into a TV's HDMI port if you don't want to deal with another set-top box.
- A Roku if you want the widest selection of content channels. An Apple TV media player if you have a lot of content stored in iTunes, on a Mac computer, or on Apple's

iCloud. An Amazon Fire TV player if you want a gaming platform and a dedicated kids environment, or if you have an Amazon Prime membership.

What to Skip

- A pricier model with tons of content if all you really want is Netflix.

What You'll Pay

From \$35 to \$100 for most models.

For more buying advice, go to ConsumerReports.org/streamingmediaplayers.

All tested models in performance order.

Recommended	Rank	BRAND & MODEL	PRICE	SCORE	TEST RESULTS					FEATURES & SPECIFICATIONS		
					Picture Quality	Features	Everyday Use	Connectivity	First-Time Setup	App or Channel Store	Streaming Services T	USB Ports
STREAMING MEDIA PLAYERS												
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	Roku 3 (2nd gen.)	\$100	75	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	Roku	A, B, C, GP, H, HBO, M-Go, N, SHO, ST, V	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2	Roku 2 (2nd gen.)	\$70	72	⊕	⊕	○	⊕	⊕	Roku	A, B, C, GP, H, HBO, M-Go, N, SHO, ST, V	1

Ratings Key ⊕Excellent ⊖Very Good ○Good ●Fair ●Poor

CR Best Buy These models offer the best combination of performance and price. All are recommended.

Recommended These are high-performing models that stand out.

Recommended Rank	BRAND & MODEL	PRICE	SCORE	TEST RESULTS					FEATURES & SPECIFICATIONS		USB Ports
				Picture Quality	Features	Everyday Use	Connectivity	First-Time Setup	App or Channel Store	Streaming Services [†]	
✓ 3	Roku 1	\$50	68	⊕	⊕	○	○	●	Roku	A, B, C, GP, H, HBO, M-Go, N, SHO, ST, V	0
✓ 4	Amazon Fire TV	\$100	68	⊕	⊕	○	○	○	Amazon	A, H, HBO, N, SHO, ST	0
✓ 5	Roku Streaming Stick (HDMI Version)	\$50	68	⊕	⊕	○	○	○	Roku	A, B, C, GP, H, HBO, M-Go, N, SHO, ST, V	0
✓ 6	NVIDIA Shield	\$200	67	⊕	⊕	○	⊕	○	GP	C, GP, H, HBO, M-Go, N, SHO, ST, V	2
✓ 7	Google Chromecast	\$35	66	⊕	⊕	⊕	●	⊕	None	GP, H, HBO, M-Go, N, SHO, V	0
✓ 8	Amazon Stick	\$40	64	⊕	⊕	○	●	⊕	Amazon	A, H, HBO, N, SHO, ST	0
✓ 9	Google Nexus Player	\$100	64	⊕	⊕	⊕	●	○	GP	C, GP, H, HBO, iTunes, M-Go, N, SHO, ST, V	0
✓ 10	Apple TV (3rd gen.)	\$70	62	⊕	⊕	○	○	○	None	H, HBO, iTunes, N, SHO	0
11	Mohu Channels	\$100	60	⊕	○	○	○	⊕	GP	B, C, GP, H, HBO, M-Go, N, SHO, ST, V	1
12	WD TV Media Player	\$85	58	⊕	○	○	⊕	○	None	H, V	2
13	Vudu Spark	\$25	37	⊕	●	○	⊕	○	None	V	0

[†] See company website for all available services.

Ratings Key ⊕ Excellent ⊖ Very Good ○ Good ⊖ Fair ● Poor

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✓ **Recommended** These are high-performing models that stand out.