

Streaming

Watching videos, films or listening to music that is stored on the World Wide Web. It is the modern day equivalent of listening to the radio or TV. You are not 'downloading' a file when you stream – You do not end up with a copy of the video or piece of music on your computer. Popular streaming services include the BBC Iplayer (to catch up with BBC programs you may have missed) and 'Spotify', a music streaming service which works like a massive jukebox! [from Glossary]

In the case of **Podcasts**, you may download the show you wish to hear to your device in order to play it at any time.

What you use to stream

- **Your** TV or Smart TV, DVD player (with streaming), a computer, iPad, phone, OR
- Streaming device such as Roku, Amazon Firestick (costs below), AND
- Streaming services, Subscription and Free:
 - o Movies & TV shows: Amazon Prime, Netflix, Hulu, Disney, PBS, Kanopy, HBO Max, etc.
 - o Music and Podcasts: TuneIn Radio, Spotify, Pandora, Apple 'Podcasts' app, etc.

Smart TV's

What you need to know:

You do NOT need a 'Smart' TV to enjoy streaming Audio and Visual content. Any TV with an HDMI input port will accept one of the devices listed above and become 'smart'. All TV's made in the last 10-15 years have this input port.

If you have a Smart TV or DVD player, you may find the interface cumbersome and not user-friendly for your enjoyment, or you may prefer it. In the former case, one of the above devices is recommended.

Best Streaming Devices from bestreviews.com,

<https://bestreviews.com/best-streaming-devices#widget-579205dc608ba>

Compares bottom line, pros and cons for each

- Amazon Fire TV Stick 4K - \$39.99
 - Roku from \$29.99 up to \$69.00.
or free for PBS members?
 - Apple TV 4K - \$179.00
 - Google Chromecast (3rd generation) - \$29.00
 - NVIDIA Shield TV - \$199.99
-

The best cheap TVs: 4K and 1080p

1. Insignia Fire TV Edition (2020 model) Amazon smarts and Alexa built-in. ...
2. **Vizio 55-inch D-Series (D55x-G1)** ...
3. **Samsung 65-inch NU6900 4K Smart TV.** ...
4. **Toshiba 55-Inch 4K Fire TV Edition.** ...
5. Onn 50-inch 4K Roku Smart TV. ...
6. **Vizio 24-inch D-Series (D24f-F1)** ...
7. **TCL 3 Series 32-inch 32S327.**

CR 'Best buy' TVs in 3 size categories:

60 inch & Larger under \$1K:

Samsung UN65RU8000	\$900
Samsung QN65Q60R	\$800
Samsung UN65RU7300	\$700
Samsung UN65NU6900	\$500
LG 70UM6970PUA	\$580

55 to 59 inch Best Buys:

LG 55SM8100AUA	\$500
Samsung UN55TU8300	\$550
Samsung UN55RU7300	\$500
Samsung UN55RU7100	\$595

46 to 52 inch :

Samsung UN50NU6900	\$330
Samsung UN40N5200	\$240

CR Buying Guide, <https://www.consumerreports.org/video/view/buying-guides/2561822086001/streaming-media-player-buying-guide/>

CR Guide to Free [streaming] Services, <https://www.consumerreports.org/streaming-video-services/guide-to-free-streaming-video-services/>

Streaming Music

Using what is called a 'Squeezebox', people were streaming internet radio stations, podcasts and the like about 14 years ago. It was one of few devices available then. The size of a clock radio with a digital display (time and date) and remote, a dedicated streamer gives access to radio and internet-only broadcasts from the whole world, by country, by genre, by year, plus news, sports, and podcasts. It also gives you access to your own music collection on your computer. Like your radio, there are no subscriptions or fees. Most streamers, also known as 'Network Players', sport a headphone jack and other connections for a stereo hi-fi system. Most are wireless and receive commands through a friendly interface from your devices. Only recently have I gifted my Squeezebox in favor of its successor in a micro computer unit. The basic function is the same.

Music streamers are very popular and can be quite expensive. Unnecessarily so, in my opinion. Some stereos have streamers built in or one may opt for a separate unit to add to your existing system. The control of these devices like so many others has moved entirely to one's phone or device so there isn't more than a black box required.

Squeezebox, \$100 -----



-----Cocktail audio server, all-in-one. \$800

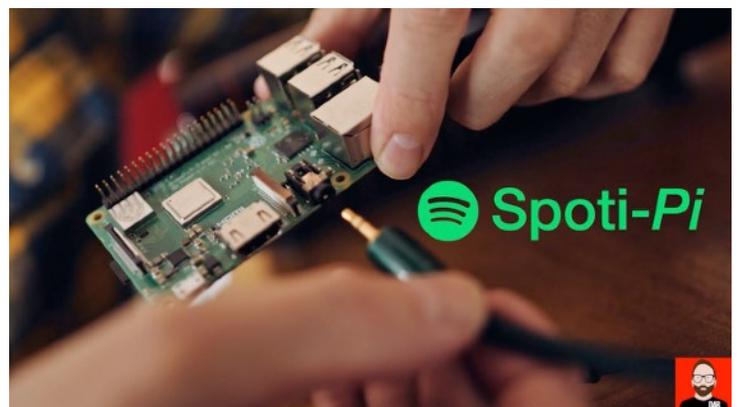
the Volumio Primo is the Volumio music software company's offer and is very well-regarded, ~\$735 (Image is a link)



... a far less expensive method also uses a Raspberry Pi-based setup. Just a micro computer with an audio focus. I use an Allo brand DigiOne. Links are in the descriptions of the videos. \$183-\$230-\$324, depending on your options. (Image is a link)

More recent video and current information

(Image is a link)





That last video mentions the following model, also incorporating a micro computer. AUDIOPHONICS RASPDAC MINI LCD Kit DIY Streamer. \$196

<https://www.audiophonics.fr/en/network-audio-players-raspdac/audiophonics-raspdac-mini-lcd-kit-diy-streamer-for-raspberry-pi-4-dac-es9038q2m-p-15148.html>

The following site is friendly and shows the current range of these devices, <https://www.themasterswitch.com/best-music-streamers>

Another streamer list, <https://downhomedigital.net/audiophiles-gear/music-streaming-device/>



For inexpensive **speakers and systems**, a great place to start is here, The Audiophile, Steve Guttenberg.

I find Soundbars to be unreliable and overpriced so recommend following Steve's advice for a space-friendly and budget friendly, *or not*, small system instead.

Steve has two other videos in two other price tiers, [\$1500 & up, \$2500 and up] and they are well worth the time if you are considering a new Stereo setup in any category. <https://youtu.be/Fdb8wLd73Tg>, <https://youtu.be/c49korQoYpI>

<https://www.parts-express.com/>

Parts Express has numerous options for making today's technology work perfectly well on your older Hi-Fi setup and gear. And they have great pieces with which to start a whole new system.