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Best android tv box xiaomi

Buying an Android TV box can be confusing. Chances are you ended up here because you know either what an Android TV box is and want some buying tips - or you've been informed by others that an Android TV box is a solution to your streaming problems, but you have no idea what that means. If it's the latter, we have some bad news: no one really knows what an Android TV box is. There is no generally accepted definition of what constitutes one of these streaming boxes and many do not even run Android TV. Confused? You should be: the android TV box market is a confusing place. However, with our guide, you can safely navigate your way to the right Android TV box for you. Best Android TV Boxes: At a glance How to choose the best Android TV box for you What is an Android TV box? An Android TV box is a small set-top box, about the size of the Apple TV, running either Google's Android TV software or - more frequently - a reskinned version of standard Android. In theory, this makes an Android TV box an incredibly flexible device for streaming content to your TV from the Internet or a NAS player or playing locally stored media on the device itself. Many market themselves as Kodi devices, and in the widest parts of eBay, you'll find devices calling themselves Android TV boxes that claim to come unlocked or preloaded with what would normally be subscription channels or free content. Don't buy them because they may be illegal. However, there are dozens of perfectly legal devices out there and there is nothing illegal about the Kodi platform itself, provided you don't use it with hacking allowing add-ons. If you are concerned that your ISP may see your Kodi activity, we strongly recommend that you use a VPN for your Amazon Fire TV or Fire TV Stick. A good VPN will hide your traffic from your ISP and allow you to virtually change your position so that your Kodi modules work from anywhere. ExpressVPN remains the best full VPN we've tested to date, and this is our first choice for Fire TV Stick and Kodi. What should you look for in an android TV box? Frankly, it's a chaotic market, with the specifications, features and boxes themselves changing on a quasi-weekly basis. If you're buying one of the countless boxes made in China, we recommend you look for one with a quad processor or eight cores, 2GB to 4GB of RAM and 16GB or more of storage - often confusingly labeled ROM. Double band 2.4GHz and 5GHz Wi-Fi plus 4K support are also useful extras, but don't get too excited about them 6K or 8K support: until more TVs and streaming services support resolutions above 4K, they are virtually meaningless and it is doubtful that the boxes have the power to process all these pixels. The other thing to watch out for is the software. Only a handful of Android TV boxes actually run what Google calls Android TV - the most simply run a version of Android with the manufacturer's own TV interface. The latter may or may not have access to the Google Play Store and may run pre-installed versions of and popular video streaming apps. Generally speaking, boxes running real Google Android TV's are easier to use and more reliable, although even on these, you might have problems running Netflix or Amazon Prime without using esoteric workarounds. If you don't like getting your hands dirty with sideloaded apps or reconfiguration, we suggest you stay with an Amazon Fire TV or Nvidia Shield TV device. If you're happy toinker, however, you'll find some bargains - and fun - to have. READ ALSO: The best TV deals in the UK The best android TV1 boxes. Amazon Fire TV Stick (2020): Flexible, stable and readily availablePer: \$40 Buy now on Amazon Okay, it's a stick, not a box and it doesn't look like its running Android, but under Amazon's custom Fire TV interface, you'll still find Google's operating system, and there are streaming apps such as Plex on Amazon's App Store. The same cannot be said of Kodi, but there are ways to download and install it and a range of other user-friendly applications for television via side loading or specific download applications. The entry-level Fire TV stick will do a lot, but with only 1GB of RAM, a quad-core processor and 8GB of storage, it may feel underpowered - although the latest 2020 model has a new processor with 50% more power. If you're more of a Kodi enthusiast, you might want to find the extra for the 4K version, which has a faster processor and 1.5GB of RAM - not to mention support for 4K video. It's also worth looking for the old 4K-style pendant unit, which has a slightly slower processor, but doubles the RAM. You can often pick them up used on eBay. Read our full Amazon Fire TV Stick (2020) review for details Key specs - Basic specifications: Quad-core processor, 1GB of RAM, 8GB storage, 802.11ac Wi-Fi; Operating system: Fire OS 7.2.2.3; Basic apps: Amazon Prime Video, Netflix, BBC iPlayer, ITV Hub, All 4, Demand 5, Plex; Voice remote control: Yes; HDR: HDR10, HDR10, HLG '24.99 Buy now 2. Nvidia Shield TV Pro: The ultimate Android TV box Price: 199lbs Buy now from Currys PC World Nvidia previous Shield TV was the king of Android TV boxes, but the new Shield TV Pro almost makes weedy appear. With the new Tegra X1 processor on board, it's 25% faster, while it features a new high-end 4K enhanced by AI that actually works, improving both HD image clarity and color dynamics for a 4K display. The chip also handles real-time transcoding, so if you have a SIN full of files in different you can broadcast them without a hitch. Add to that the surround dolby Vision HDR, Dolby Atmos and DTS-X sound, and it's a regular av powerhouse. By running Google TV's official operating system, you have access to all the software on the Google Play Store. Plex is preinstalled and you can still install Kodi if you want to go beyond Netflix, Amazon Prime, iPlayer and other usual suspects. And while the 16GB of onboard storage space is limiting, you can still upgrade it using an external USB 3.0 drive. The other big selling point of the Shield TV Pro is the game. Not only The Tegra X1 manage the biggest titles on the Google Play Store, but it will stream games directly from Nvidia's GeForce Now service, so you can play through your PC game library on your TV (provided the games in it are supported by the service). For some Kodi fans, this is exaggerated and the new Shield TV stick can be more enticing - it works the same software and has the same Chip Tegra X1. All in all, however, this is the ultimate Android TV package. Read our full Nvidia Shield TV Pro review for Specs Key details - Basic specifications: Quad-core Tegra X1 - processor, 3GB of RAM, 16GB storage, 802.11ac Wi-Fi; Operating system: Android TV on Android 9.0 Pie; Basic apps: Amazon Prime Video, Netflix, BBC iPlayer, Plex, GeForce Now; Voice remote control: Yes Buy now from Currys PC World 3. Turewell T95S1: A solid budget box for Kodi Price: £23 Buy now on Amazon Amazon and eBay are packed with compact Android TV boxes built around the same basic specification: an Amlogic S905W chipset, 2GB of RAM and 16GB of flash storage. Most ships with an identical remote control and run a variant of the same Android 7.1 reskinned software. Turewell's box doesn't do much to distinguish itself from the pack, but it's reasonably fast, stable and easy to use. The box itself is well designed and surprisingly solid and while the remote has cheap-feeling buttons, they are arranged more logically than they are on the remotes you get with a few cheap basement boxes. As with all these cheap Android TV products, you'll need sideload apps and maybe want to install your own version of Kodi, but, with a few tweaks, it's an inexpensive way to set it up and run it. Key Specifications - Basic Specifications: Quad-core processor, 2GB RAM, 16GB storage, 802.11n Wi-Fi; Operating system: Android 7.1.2; Basic apps: Netflix, Kodi, YouTube, Google Play Movies, Plex; Voice remote control: No Buy now 4. Xiaomi Mi Box S: The Best Budget Alternative to the Nvidia Shield TV Price: 70lbs Buying now from Amazon Xiaomi Android TV box update is not perfect - it's had some problems on/off with lag and stability - but it does some things better than the average unmarked Android TV box. For starters, it runs the Google version of Android TV, which means you get an interface designed from the base for use with a remote control from a couch, as well as a good range of apps from the Google Play store. For another, it has the Google assistant and a remote control with voice commands, which means you can search for content or launch a using voice alone - and it actually works. Until you play with a few Android TV boxes, you won't know how unusual it is. The Mi Box S has also built-in Chromecast features, so you can launch web pages and apps directly from your tablet or smartphone, although you'll need to check that the box and your screen are on before you start because it won't turn on your TV. What's more, it will read 4K hardware from support applications. It is not widely available in the UK and sometimes it may feel a little undernourished, but if you want a cheap, market, alternative to Shield TV, the Mi Box S is the only Android TV box that matches the bill. Key Specifications - Basic Specifications: Arm Cortex-A53 quad-core processor, 2GB RAM, 8GB storage, 802.11ac Wi-Fi; Operating system: Android TV 8.1; Basic apps: Netflix, Google Play Movies and TV, YouTube, Google Play Store; Voice Remote Control: Yes 57.69 Pounds Buy now Please note that many add-ons contain content that is not officially authorized and access to this content could be illegal. It is the user's responsibility to comply with all applicable laws in his country with regard to use. Dennis Publishing Ltd excludes any liability for this content. 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