

Apple AirPower wireless charging pad: Rumors of a March ship date

How does it work? Will it work with my iPhone? How much is it? We have answers to these questions and more

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Apple

Apple's new AirPower is a **wireless** charging pad to help clean up the mess of charging cables for your iPhone, Apple Watch, and AirPods. Apple unveiled AirPower at its [iPhone X Event](#), but the company didn't provide much detail. We hope to fill the void here. We'll update this article as we get more details, so stay tuned.

Editor's note: Updated on February 23, 2018, with a report that [AirPower may be available for purchase by the end of March](#).

What is AirPower?

AirPower is a wireless charging pad. There are several wireless charging pads on the market, but before the iPhone 8 and iPhone X, you had to use a special case with your iPhone in order to use a wireless charging pad.

AirPower works without the need of a special **case**. Just plop your iPhone on to the AirPower pad, and it starts charging. No need to plug in your iPhone.

How does the AirPower work?

Place the AirPower pad on your desk or wherever you like to charge your devices. Then plug it into a power outlet. To charge your device, just place it on the mat, with front facing up. That's it.

To get a little but more technical, AirPower uses *induction*, where an electromagnetic field is used to transfer power from (in this case) the AirPower to a device. When you place your device on the AirPower, it receives a signal from the pad to basically ‘handshake’ with the device (checks for compatibility, charge capacity, etc). If everything checks out, charging proceeds.



Apple
Apple AirPower

Can my iPhone work with AirPower?

Only three iPhones work with AirPower: iPhone 8, iPhone 8 Plus, and iPhone X. These iPhones not only have glass backs (as opposed to the aluminum backs of the iPhone 6

and 7), but they also have the hardware support to charge wirelessly.

Can my iPad work with AirPower?

The current iPads (as of September 2017) are not compatible with AirPower. It seems as though a glass back is required, and a glass back as big as one for the iPad would be expensive, heavy, and perhaps too fragile to use.

Can my Apple Watch work with AirPower?

AirPower works with the [Apple Watch Series 3](#).

Can my AirPods work with AirPower?

They can, but you need the new AirPods case that Apple introduced at the iPhone X Event. You can't use the original case with the AirPower. Nor can you simply place your AirPods earbuds on the AirPower to charge them. You have to place the earbuds in the new case, and then place the case on the AirPower. Or you can charge the case on the AirPower, take the case off the pad, and then put the AirPods in the case to charge them,

Apple has not release details on the new AirPods case. As of this writing, the new case isn't on the company's website.

Can my MacBook laptop work with AirPower?

No. AirPower is designed to work with the iPhone 8, iPhone 8 Plus, iPhone X, Apple Watch Series 3, and the new AirPods case.



Apple

Can my Beats earphones work with AirPower?

No. See previous answer.

Can my non-Apple Qi-compliant device work with AirPower?

Apple said it was working on the AirPower to be Qi-compliant, and if/when this happens, this could mean compatibility with non-Apple Qi-compliant products. But we don't have confirmation yet. The iPhone 8 and iPhone X are compatible with the [Qi wireless charging standard](#) and can be used with Qi chargers like the [Belkin Boost Up](#) (\$59.95 on [Amazon](#)) or the [Mophie Wireless Base](#).

Can the AirPower fast-charge my iPhone?

Apple has not released specifications on AirPower, which would include the charging rate that the AirPower works at.

The [Qi specification](#) supports fast charging at 15 watts. The rate at which AirPower works at has not been disclosed. So it remains to be seen if it can support fast charging.

According to a report from [MacRumors](#), iOS 11.2 will change the wireless charging performance from a maximum of 5 watts to 7.5 watts. While that's not as fast as some other fast chargers, it's faster than the included iPhone adapter.

How much is AirPower?

Apple has not released price information about AirPower.

When will AirPower be available?

Apple said that AirPower will be available in 2018. [Mac Otakara](#) reports that AirPower will be available for sale by the end of March, according to Mac Otakara sources in the Asian supply chain. This follows a similar report by [The Apple Post](#), who received a tip from a Best Buy supplier. (Best Buy is an authorized Apple seller and service provider.)

Where can I buy AirPower?

You'll be able to buy it on the online Apple store, as well as your nearest Apple retail store. Also check authorized third parties, such as Best Buy.

original article:

<https://www.macworld.com/article/3224389/mobile-accessories/apple-airpower-features-specs-price-faq.html>