

3 best WiFi routers of 2026

Whether computers can get a stable and good WiFi connection depends largely on the WiFi router. A high-quality router ensures a faster signal transmission speed.

A wireless router is the foundation of a home network. If your router is old, weak, or malfunctioning, you'll find yourself struggling to get a good connection in certain areas of your house, video conferencing will start to get interrupted if someone is watching Netflix in the next room, and you may find yourself unable to take advantage of your expensive high-speed internet package, wasting money and causing unnecessary inconvenience.

While larger homes or those with complex layouts, or drywall or concrete walls, are better served by a mesh WiFi router network, a single router is all you need in multiple homes. This article tested seven highly-rated routers in a 180-square-foot single-story house and a 110-square-foot two-story townhouse, evaluating their coverage, single- and multi-device speeds, features, and usability. The results found two excellent options: one best suited for a medium-sized home with multiple devices, and a cheaper option that still offers excellent coverage and speeds for smaller apartments and homes.

See also: [Guide to buying a WiFi Router](#)

Best WiFi Router: TP-Link BE3600 Archer BE230



The TP-Link Archer BE230 BE3600 dual-band router is the best router for most people for a number of reasons, starting with price. This router delivers fast speeds at a fairly affordable price. With a suggested retail price of

\$120, the Archer BE230 is only \$20 more expensive than TP-Link's AX55, an impressively small difference considering their performance.

In testing, the Archer BE230's download speed on Internet Health Test averaged 539.18 Mbps, 2.5 times faster than the 209.7 Mbps of the AX55. And with these two routers priced similarly, there seems to be no reason to buy the AX55. Another reason to forget about the slightly cheaper AX55 is that it's a Wi-Fi 6 router. The BE230 is a Wi-Fi 7 router, meaning it has higher data bandwidth capacity and allows more devices to use it simultaneously. TP-Link also supports one of its own EasyMesh routers, if you feel the need to expand your network without buying a completely new mesh router.

Additionally, the Archer BE230 is a fairly modest router, and that's a plus, as it offers what most people really need and nothing more. Those looking for wired Ethernet connectivity for high-priority devices, such as high-end streaming equipment or gaming PCs, will appreciate that this router has 4 ports, with one 2.5GB port and three 1GB ports. There's also a USB-A port for sharing storage and wireless printers. The Archer AX55 only offers 4 Ethernet connections.

If you open the TP-Link Tether app for iOS and Android devices, you'll find a fairly comprehensive set of administrator options, including configuration options that allow you to assign multiple devices to a single user for easier use. These options are crucial for parents who want to closely monitor specific websites, as well as maintain schedules and bedtime routines without constant supervision.

The setup process might take a few minutes because the quick setup guide doesn't indicate which power button to press, and you might not expect to find one. That's just a minor hiccup. The BE230 is also only a dual-band router, covering only 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz channels, so it doesn't work with the newer 6 GHz band, which allows for even faster signals for the latest devices.

Even with those caveats, people will surely be pleased with the Archer BE230. They also love its sleek grille design. It's one of the most aesthetically pleasing routers with a traditional spaceship-like look.

Best budget WiFi router: TP-Link Archer AX21



A mid-range router is overkill for many households. If you don't have many bandwidth-intensive devices using the network simultaneously and simply want a WiFi 6 router with high throughput and better coverage than the router your Internet Service Provider (ISP) rents you, then the TP-Link Archer AX21 is a great and affordable upgrade option.

In the most demanding long-range tests, the Archer AX21's 5GHz speed matched that of the Archer AX50, a router with significantly higher speeds (AX3000 vs. AX1800). The only router that outperformed the AX21 in this test cost more than twice as much.

When the router was moved to a central location within the approximately 180-square-meter test space, the AX21 outperformed the AX50 in all upload and download tests across both the 2.4GHz and 5GHz bands – an overwhelming victory. Its average 5GHz performance was 30% to 40% slower than the Asus RT-AX86U and its closest competitor, the TP-Link Archer AX6000, but it was still an excellent result for its significantly lower price.

The performance gap between the mid-range router and the budget-friendly AX21 only becomes apparent when testing simultaneous gaming traffic, HD streaming, and file transfers. The AX21 easily outperforms its direct competitor, the TP-Link AX50, in most tests, but is significantly slower than the RT-AX86U and TP-Link Archer AX6000. Maximum latency was higher during gaming, file transfers took almost twice as long, and both wireless and Cloudflare connectivity benchmarks were slow.

This means the AX21 is well-suited for small households. If you live alone or with roommates, and do moderate daily activities on the wireless network, everything is fine. Even for gaming, this router still delivers excellent speed and coverage at an affordable price for a solo adventurer or a small group. It's not the best option if you live with a family of gamers, streamers, work-from-home workers, and those who frequently overload the network with high-bandwidth activities. In those cases, the AX21 will meet its match much faster than the Asus RT-AX86U.

The best WiFi router to buy: Eero Pro 7



For those looking to prepare for future home internet use – or maximize the internet speed they're paying for – the Eero Pro 7 is a router worth buying if you have the budget. Upgrading from a WiFi 6 router to this one will

nearly triple your home WiFi internet speed.

Why is the Eero Pro 7 so successful? First, it's a WiFi 7 router , upgrading the maximum speed and bandwidth you get from WiFi 6 and WiFi 6E routers . Furthermore, it boasts a 6GHz radio frequency, something the more affordable Eero 7 lacks. This additional radio frequency gives certain devices their own digital space to operate unhindered. (That doesn't mean the standard Eero 7 is inferior; it boosts download speeds by 1.6 to 2.2 times compared to previous WiFi 6 routers).

Above all, the Eero Pro 7 (like all Eero routers) has a fantastic app that makes system management incredibly simple. No more fumbling through interfaces designed for tech experts. If you need to expand or upgrade your system, setting up Eero is the easiest. Just press a few buttons in the app, plug in the new device, and wait a moment before you're ready to go.

Yes, the Eero Pro 7 is a bit pricey for some, but it's really worth it for those who care about the money they spend on home internet.

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