

# 22 tips for your new Amazon Echo

A new Alexa speaker can be a tad overwhelming. Here's how to get started.

[Amazon's](#) smart speakers are a great start to making your home smart, and they can do so many things for you. [Alexa](#) -- the artificially-intelligent assistant built into every Echo -- can give you the news, turn on the lights and play audiobooks just by asking. And that's only the tip of the iceberg.

We totally get that using an Echo speaker can feel a little overwhelming at first. Where should you begin? What should you try first? What features truly matter?

Here we'll give you the must-know tips that will help you get started with your new Echo speaker.

## Give it a home

There's not really a "wrong" place to put your Echo speaker. However, how you want to use it will help determine the best place for it in your home.

Not sure where to start? Our guide will help you decide [where to put your smart speaker](#), based on your needs.

Are you worried your new Echo will clash with your home's aesthetic? There are a few ways to [disguise your Alexa speaker](#) so it fits in.

## Learn the basics

Once you've [plugged in your Echo and set it up in the Alexa app](#), what's next? There are a few essential settings you should set first to get the best experience:

- [Change the "wake word" to get your Echo's attention](#) from Alexa to "Computer," "Amazon" or "Echo"
- Have multiple people at home who want to use Alexa? Learn [how to setup and use multiple accounts](#)
- Also make sure to [set up voice profiles](#)
- If you have kids at home, you might want to set up [parental controls](#)

[The 15 coolest things you can do with your Amazon Echo](#)  
[32 Photos](#)

## Voice commands

The most common ways you'll use your Echo speaker is to ask it to do something for you. "Turn down the volume," "Remind me to get milk," "Set a timer for 30 minutes," "What's the first rule of Fight Club?" -- you get the idea.

While the [list of voice commands](#) is ever-growing, there are several you'll actually use regularly:

- Make a shopping list or [to-do list](#)
- [Send text messages hands-free with Alexa...](#)
- [...And make phone calls too](#)
- [Learn how to create reminders with Alexa](#)
- "Alexa, where is my passport?" [How to ask Alexa to remember things](#)

You can also [make your own custom Alexa commands](#) that do exactly what you want.

Also, Alexa can handle multiple voice commands said together, like "Play Madonna on Spotify" and then "lower the volume." Here's [how to string multiple Alexa commands together](#).

## Unique Alexa tricks

- [How to turn your Amazon Echo into a noise machine](#)
- [Turn the Amazon Echo light ring into a night light](#)
- [How to get Alexa to whisper](#)
- [How to use Alexa as an intercom](#)



Play all the music you want on the Echo.

## Play DJ

If you plan to play music on your Echo regularly, there are a few tricks you should know. Of course you can always say "Alexa, play '80s pop," but there's more you can do to enhance your listening experience:

- Wake up to your favorite music by [streaming music on a schedule with Alexa Routines](#)
- Here's how to [create Alexa playlists with your voice](#)
- Want music for studying, or for your next party? Try one of these [themed playlists](#)
- If you have multiple Echo speakers and want music to play from all of them, set up [multiroom playback](#)
- If you have an [Echo Dot](#), but want to play music on a more robust speaker, you can [pair the Dot to a Bluetooth speaker](#)

## Plug into your smart home

One of the best ways to use an Echo is to control your other [smart home products](#), including smart lights, switches and locks.

According to Amazon, there are more than 10,000 smart home devices that are compatible with Alexa. With just a bit of set up, you can use your voice to turn on lights, lock the front door, lower the blinds, turn on the TV and more.

Here's [how to get started with using smart home devices with Alexa](#).



[Here are the smart bulbs that work with Alexa](#)

