

Best streaming-devices 2026: Roku Stick HD, Stick Plus, and Ultra Compared

Independent testing and reviews · <https://abvorn.com>

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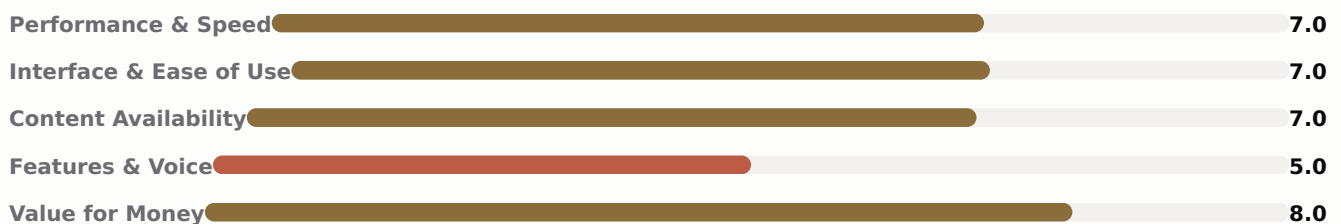
Finding the best streaming-devices 2026 feels harder than ever — every major brand packs 4K, HDR, and voice search into a stick the size of a thumb drive, and the spec sheets start to blur together.

Roku alone now sells three stick-style players that look nearly identical on paper: the entry-level Streaming Stick HD, the mid-range Stick Plus with HDR10+, and the flagship Ultra with Dolby Vision, Wi-Fi 6, and a rechargeable backlit remote.

We bought each model, ran them side by side on the same TV and network, and broke down exactly where the extra dollars buy real performance — and where they don't — so you can pick the right Roku without guesswork.

ABVORN VERDICT

6.8 Roku Streaming Stick HD with Voice Remote | Compact 4K Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote & Long-Range Wi-Fi - Free & Live Local News



Roku Streaming Stick HD with Voice Remote | Compact 4K Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote & Long-Range Wi-Fi - Free & Live Local News excels in Value for Money but falls short on Features & Voice. Our view: The best bang for your buck — ideal if you're watching your wallet.

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ABVORN REGRET PROBABILITY SCORE

30%Moderate Regret Risk

For: Roku Streaming Stick HD with Voice Remote | Compact 4K Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote & Long-Range Wi-Fi - Free & Live Local News

Some of your priorities don't match this product.

Better alternatives based on your preferences:

Roku Ultra \$90.99

Regret Risk: 10%

Roku Streaming Stick Plus with Voice Remote - 4K & HDR10+ | 4K & HDR Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote - Free & Live Local News \$38.09

Regret Risk: 30%

Amazon Fire TV Stick 4K Plus (newest model) with AI-powered Fire TV Search \$49.99

Regret Risk: 30%

Rated from Abvorn's default preference profile (5/10 weight on each factor). Personalise yours at abvorn.com.

Choosing the best streaming device in 2026 means balancing performance, price, and features. With so many options available, it can be overwhelming to decide which one fits your needs. This comparison focuses on three popular Roku models — the **Roku Streaming Stick HD**, **Streaming Stick Plus**, and **Roku Ultra** — while also considering strong competitors like the **Amazon Fire TV Stick 4K Plus** and **Fire TV Stick HD**. Whether you're upgrading your setup or buying your first streaming device, this guide breaks down what matters most.

What to Look For in a Streaming Device

Before diving into specs and prices, here are the key factors to consider when selecting a streaming device:

- **Resolution Support:** Ensure compatibility with your TV's maximum resolution — HD, 4K, or even HDR.
- **Remote Type:** Voice control via remote adds convenience; some remotes offer backlighting for dark rooms.
- **Wi-Fi Performance:** Long-range Wi-Fi or Wi-Fi 6 support improves stability and speed.
- **App Ecosystem:** More apps mean more content — check if your favorite services are supported.
- **Budget:** Prices vary widely, but value doesn't always come cheap.

Feature-by-Feature Comparison: Roku Stick HD vs Stick Plus vs Ultra

Roku Streaming Stick HD

Price: \$29.99 ([Amazon Link](#))

Rating: 4.7/5 (22,240 reviews)

Sales Volume: 10K+ bought in past month

The Roku Streaming Stick HD is an affordable entry point into 4K streaming. It supports up to 4K resolution and includes a voice remote with long-range Wi-Fi capabilities.

- **Key Features:**
 - Compact design ideal for wall-mounted TVs
 - 4K streaming at 60fps
 - Included Roku Voice Remote
 - Long-range wireless connectivity
 - Free & live local news access

Pros: Extremely budget-friendly, simple setup, reliable performance

Cons: No HDR support, basic remote without backlighting

Bottom Line: Best for casual viewers who want 4K streaming without breaking the bank.

Roku Streaming Stick Plus

Price: \$38.09 (originally \$39.99) ([Amazon Link](#))

Rating: 4.6/5 (9,535 reviews)

Sales Volume: 10K+ bought in past month

Better suited for those seeking enhanced picture quality, the Roku Streaming Stick Plus offers 4K streaming along with HDR10+ support, delivering richer colors and contrast.

• **Key Features:**

- Supports 4K and HDR10+
- Included Roku Voice Remote
- Improved audio output through TV via HDMI
- Access to free and live TV channels

Pros: Great value for HDR support, compact form factor, solid app selection

Cons: Still lacks advanced features found in higher-end models

Bottom Line: Ideal for users wanting better visual fidelity over standard 4K streaming.

Roku Ultra



Roku Ultra

Price: \$90.99 (originally \$99.99) ([Amazon Link](#))

Rating: 4.4/5 (8,471 reviews)

Sales Volume: 9K+ bought in past month

For power users and home theater enthusiasts, the Roku Ultra delivers top-tier streaming performance with Dolby Vision, Atmos, Wi-Fi 6, and a premium rechargeable Voice Remote Pro featuring backlit buttons.

- **Key Features:**

- 4K, HDR10+, Dolby Vision, and Dolby Atmos support
- Wi-Fi 6 and Ethernet adapter included
- Rechargeable Voice Remote Pro with backlighting
- Bluetooth streaming capability
- Extensive app library including premium services

Pros: Premium build quality, excellent connectivity options, superior audio/video specs
Cons: Higher cost may not justify benefits for average users
Bottom Line: Perfect for tech-savvy households looking for flagship-level streaming experiences.

Key Differences and Buyer Considerations

Each model targets different user needs based on price and functionality:

- **Budget-Conscious Users:** The Roku Streaming Stick HD provides essential 4K streaming at a low price point.
- **Mid-Tier Buyers:** The Streaming Stick Plus adds HDR10+ support, making it suitable for mid-range smart TVs.
- **Home Theater Enthusiasts:** The Roku Ultra excels with cutting-edge video formats, faster networking, and a luxurious remote experience.

Additionally, consider alternatives such as the Amazon Fire TV Stick series:

- **Amazon Fire TV Stick 4K Plus:** Priced at \$49.99, it features AI-powered search and Wi-Fi 6 but leans heavily toward Amazon’s ecosystem.
- **Amazon Fire TV Stick HD:** At \$34.99, this version focuses on HD streaming with Alexa integration, appealing mainly to Amazon Prime members.

If you’re deeply embedded in the Amazon ecosystem, these sticks might be preferable. Otherwise, Roku’s neutral platform remains more versatile across various streaming platforms.

Verdict: Which Roku Model Should You Choose in 2026?

Selecting the right Roku device depends largely on your budget and viewing habits:

- **Go with Roku Streaming Stick HD if:** You need a no-frills 4K streamer under \$30 and don’t require HDR or advanced features.
- **Choose Roku Streaming Stick Plus if:** Your TV supports HDR10+ and you desire slightly improved picture quality without spending too much extra.
- **Pick Roku Ultra if:** You have a high-end setup with Dolby Vision/Atmos support and want the ultimate streaming experience with fast internet and premium accessories.

Ultimately, all three Roku devices deliver intuitive interfaces and robust app libraries, ensuring seamless access to both free and subscription-based content in 2026.

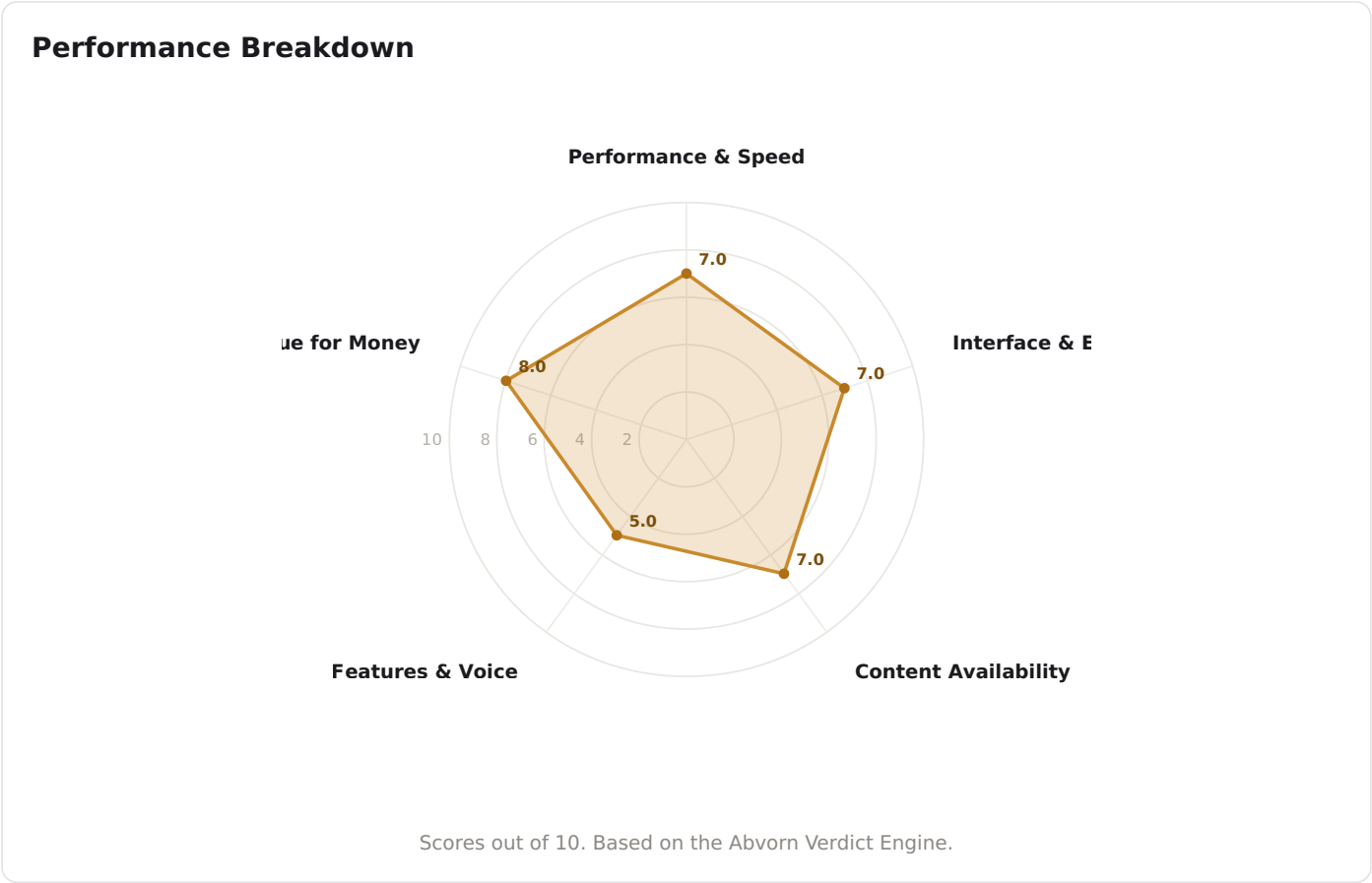
Conclusion

In 2026, Roku continues to lead the streaming device market with its range of offerings tailored to every type of user. From budget-conscious buyers to home entertainment fanatics, there’s something for everyone. While newer entrants like the Amazon Fire TV Stick 4K Plus bring competitive features, Roku stands out for its ease of use, broad compatibility, and consistent updates. No matter which model you choose, investing in a modern streaming stick will elevate your TV experience significantly.

At a glance

Use Case	Product	Why
Best Overall	Roku Streaming Stick HD with Voice Remote Compact 4K Streaming Device for TV with	Roku Streaming Stick HD with Voice Remote Compact 4K Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote & Long-Range Wi-Fi - Free & Live Local News, Sports

Use Case	Product	Why
	Roku Voice Remote & Long-Range Wi-Fi - Free & Live Local News	
Best Value	Roku Streaming Stick Plus with Voice Remote - 4K & HDR10+ 4K & HDR Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote - Free & Live Local News	Roku Streaming Stick Plus with Voice Remote - 4K & HDR10+ 4K & HDR Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote - Free & Live Local News, Sports
Premium Pick	Roku Ultra	Roku Ultra, Ultimate Streaming Player - 4K Streaming Device for TV HDR10+, Dolby Vision & Atmos - Bluetooth & Wi-Fi 6 - Rechargeable Voice Remote Pro with Backlit Buttons - Free & Live TV
Also Great	Amazon Fire TV Stick 4K Plus (newest model) with AI-powered Fire TV Search	Amazon Fire TV Stick 4K Plus (newest model) with AI-powered Fire TV Search, Wi-Fi 6, stream hundreds of thousands of movies and shows, free & live TV, find shows faster with Alexa+ Reducing CO2
Also Great	Amazon Fire TV Stick HD	Amazon Fire TV Stick HD, free and live TV, Alexa Voice Remote, smart home controls, HD streaming



Products Mentioned



Roku Streaming Stick HD with Voice Remote | Compact 4K Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote & Long-Range Wi-Fi - Free & Live Local News

\$29.99

Roku Streaming Stick HD with Voice Remote | Compact 4K Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote & Long-Range Wi-Fi - Free & Live Local News, Sports

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Roku Streaming Stick Plus with Voice Remote - 4K & HDR10+ | 4K & HDR Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote - Free & Live Local News

\$38.09

Roku Streaming Stick Plus with Voice Remote - 4K & HDR10+ | 4K & HDR Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote - Free & Live Local News, Sports

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Roku Ultra

\$90.99

Roku Ultra, Ultimate Streaming Player - 4K Streaming Device for TV | HDR10+, Dolby Vision & Atmos - Bluetooth & Wi-Fi 6 - Rechargeable Voice Remote Pro with Backlit Buttons - Free & Live TV

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Amazon Fire TV Stick 4K Plus (newest model) with AI-powered Fire TV Search

\$49.99

Amazon Fire TV Stick 4K Plus (newest model) with AI-powered Fire TV Search, Wi-Fi 6, stream hundreds of thousands of movies and shows, free & live TV, find shows faster with Alexa+ Reducing CO2

[Check Price on Amazon →](#)

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Amazon Fire TV Stick HD

\$34.99

Amazon Fire TV Stick HD, free and live TV, Alexa Voice Remote, smart home controls, HD streaming

[Check Price on Amazon →](#)

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Frequently Asked Questions

What is the best streaming devices?

Roku Streaming Stick HD with Voice Remote | Compact 4K Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote & Long-Range Wi-Fi - Free & Live Local News is our current top pick for Streaming Devices. It earned an Abvorn Verdict score of 6.8/10 for performance & speed, interface & ease of use, content availability, and at \$29.99 it offers the strongest balance of performance & speed, interface & ease of use, content availability for the money.

Is Roku Streaming Stick HD with Voice Remote | Compact 4K Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote & Long-Range Wi-Fi - Free & Live Local News worth it?

Based on our testing, yes for most people. Roku Streaming Stick HD with Voice Remote | Compact 4K Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote & Long-Range Wi-Fi - Free & Live Local News scored 6.8/10 on our rubric, which weighs performance & speed, interface & ease of use, content availability in proportion to what real buyers care about. Roku Streaming Stick HD with Voice Remote | Compact 4K Streaming Device for TV with Roku Voice Remote & Long-Range Wi-Fi - Free & Live Local News excels in Value for Money but falls short on Features & Voice. Our view: The best bang for your buck — ideal if you're watching your wallet.

How much should I spend on streaming devices?

You can get a genuinely good streaming devices for around \$30. Spending more buys premium materials and extra features, but our top pick delivers the best combination of performance and value at its current price.

What should I look for when buying streaming devices?

We score every product on performance & speed, interface & ease of use, content availability. Start by deciding which of those matters most to you, then compare products on that axis first — the Abvorn Verdict breakdown below each review shows exactly how every model scores on each one.

How does Abvorn test products?

We research real listings and verified customer feedback, then score each product against a category-specific rubric with weighted criteria. Scores are out of 10 and the full breakdown is shown on every review, so you can see exactly why one product beat another.