The best smart plugs

Smart plugs are among the fastest, easiest, and most affordable ways to automate basic household devices. Plug one in, spend a few minutes setting it up, and enjoy the simple pleasure of turning a distant lamp on and off from the couch.

Beyond the obvious convenience of adding a smart plug — or two — to your home, these handy gadgets also come with cost-saving benefits. Some actively track energy usage and provide a detailed look at how much a given product costs to power. All smart plugs can stop energy-zapping appliances like TVs, streaming devices, game consoles, and charging cables from wasting electricity when you aren't using them.

In addition to offering on-demand control and scheduling in the app, many plugs are also compatible with at least one major smart home platform to enable voice control and automations with third-party products. Select smart plugs now even work with Matter over Wi-Fi or Thread, so you can more easily use Amazon Alexa, Apple Home, Google Home, and others in the same house (at least, that's the idea; more on this below).

a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin [&>a]:shadow-underline-black dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-white">What I'm looking for

a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin [&>a]:shadow-underline-black dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-white">Unobtrusive design

The first smart plugs were positively massive (I'm looking at you, Belkin Wemo Home Control Switch). A one-outlet model would partially obscure the second outlet on a standard wall plate, rendering it completely useless. Things have progressed a ton since then, but I'm scarred by the plugs of yore. While

it’s rare today for a smart plug to fully eclipse the second outlet, some still don’t make enough space for a standard three-prong plug to fit above or below it. No smart plug should obstruct the second wall socket; two smart plugs should be able to stack together on a typical two-outlet wall plate.

a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin [&>a]:shadow-underline-black dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-white”>Ease of use

Smart plugs are simple gadgets designed to add convenience to your daily life. They shouldn’t have clunky configurations, outdated apps or any other needless complexity. These are good things to avoid in any connected product, but smart plugs, in particular, should take very little effort to set up and use.

Whether you’re interested in controlling a single coffee maker so your first cuppa is ready when you wake up or you want to automate several devices with Matter in a multiplatform home, there’s a smart plug here for everyone.

a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin [&>a]:shadow-underline-black dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-white”>The best cheap smart plug

$ 19
$ 19$ 2317 % off

With solid performance and support for all of the major smart home platforms, this affordable Wi-Fi smart plug gives you the

basics you need to control non-smart devices for less. It doesn’t have Matter or energy monitoring, but that’s alright at this price.

Connectivity: *2.4 GHz Wi-Fi /* ***Works with:*** *Amazon Alexa, Apple Home, Google Home, Samsung SmartThings /* ***Max wattage and amperage:*** *1,800 watts; 15 amps /* ***Two or three prongs:*** *Three /* ***Dimmable****: No /* ***Energy monitoring:*** *No /* ***Indoor or outdoor:*** *Indoor*

The Meross MSS110 will set you back just $23 for a pack of two and offers the standard features you’d expect for the price: on / off control, scheduling, and a timer. You can also create scenes in the app like “Party,” “Away,” or “Goodnight” if you have more than one Meross device you’d like to manage simultaneously.

This simple indoor smart plug reliably controlled my entryway table lamp on a set schedule, as well as on-demand in the app. It works with Alexa, Apple Home, Google Home, and SmartThings to enable additional smart capabilities, such as voice control and advanced automations with third-party products.

This Meross smart plug doesn’t support Matter or offer a vacation mode that randomizes on / off control to make it look like you’re home. It also took longer to set up than some other models due to a wonky configuration process that essentially required connecting the plug twice (once in the Apple Home app and again in the Meross app). But its broad compatibility and low price make up for it.

a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin [&>a]:shadow-underline-black dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-white”>The

best smart plug for energy monitoring

$ 40

Not only does this smart plug offer the most detailed energy monitoring of any we tested, but it also works with Matter over Thread and is an especially good choice for Apple Home users.

Connectivity: *Thread /* ***Works with:*** *Amazon Alexa, Apple Home, Google Home, Matter, Samsung SmartThings /* ***Max wattage and amperage:*** *1,800 watts; 15 amps* ***Two or three prongs:*** *Three /* ***Dimmable****: No /* ***Energy monitoring:*** *Yes /* ***Indoor or outdoor:*** *Indoor*

This Thread-enabled smart plug has the most comprehensive energy monitoring of any model I tested. The Eve app gives you information about your consumption, the estimated cost of running the device by the minute, day, or week, and charts detailing the total consumption and the total cost by the hour, day, week, or month. There’s even a usage log updated every ten minutes if you want to get really granular with the stats. Energy monitoring data is only available in the Eve app.

The Eve Energy Smart Plug also works with Matter and all of the major platforms, but it’s especially easy to set up and control in the Apple Home app. That makes this model our favorite Apple Home-compatible smart plug, along with its top-notch energy tracking capabilities. It does require a Thread border router, and in a multiplatform house, Thread can be a bit of a headache.

Spending 40 bucks for a single plug is pretty steep, but Eve does sell a two-pack for $75, so you can at least save a little cash if you know you want more than one.

a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin [&>a]:shadow-underline-black dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-white”>Other smart plugs we tested

Leviton’s Decora Smart Plug (D215P-2RW) is a fine smart plug, but it’s expensive and doesn’t offer anything special that wasn’t already available on our top pick, the TP-Link Kasa KP125M.

The Meross Matter Smart Wi-Fi Plug Mini’s design doesn’t allow for two of its plugs to fit together on a single outlet, though I did fit one Meross plug and a typical three-prong laptop plug on the same two-outlet wall plate.

The Meross Smart Wi-Fi Plug (MSS120) has two outlets per unit, so you can control double the devices for your money. But two MSS120 plugs don’t fit on the same dual-outlet electrical plate. It was also a little fiddly to set up.

The Onvis Smart Plug S4 randomly disappeared from the list of devices in the Onvis app. If you plan to use a smart home platform to control and manage your device, this is less of an issue but otherwise seriously hurts its usability.

TP-Link’s Kasa Smart Wi-Fi Plug Slim with Energy Monitoring (EP25) and the company’s Kasa KP125M we like best overall share a similar list of features, but this model does not support Matter. If you have no interest in Matter, the EP25 is a good alternative.

The Leviton Decora Smart Outdoor Plug-In Switch (D215O-1RE) worked reliably during testing, and it supports Matter. Unfortunately, one of these plugs costs a whopping $56 and just doesn’t do enough to justify its high price.

The Wyze Plug is the most affordable model we tested, but it doesn’t offer as many smart home integrations as our top choice, the Meross Smart Wi-Fi Plug Mini (MSS110).

While the affordable Wyze Plug Outdoor has two outlets and offers energy monitoring, it’s missing the dimming function and well-designed app available on our favorite outdoor plug, the TP-Link Kasa KP405.