

Technology

Tech BRIEFS

Apple CarPlay Enhances Vehicle Touch Screens

First it was the desktop. Then it was your pocket. Now, Apple is coming into your car. Billed as the smarter, safer and more fun way to use your iPhone while on the road, CarPlay gives iPhone users an intuitive way to make calls, use Maps, listen to music and access messages with just a word or a touch.

CarPlay integrates your iPhone with your vehicle's infotainment system. You can make calls, get directions, listen to music and more. Motorists can easily control CarPlay from the car's native interface or just push-and-hold the voice control button on the steering wheel to activate Siri without distraction. Vehicles from Ferrari, Mercedes-Benz and Volvo unveiled CarPlay at the Geneva International Motor Show in March. Look for CarPlay to be added to BMW, Ford, General Motors, Honda, Hyundai, Jaguar, Land Rover, Kia, Mitsubishi, Nissan, Subaru, Suzuki and Toyota vehicles down the road.

CarPlay gives drivers access to all of their music, podcasts, audiobooks and iTunes Radiosm with easy navigation through listening choices from the car's built-in controls or simply by asking Siri to pull up what you'd like to hear. CarPlay also supports select third-party audio apps including Spotify and iHeartRadio, and you can listen to your favorite sports broadcast apps while driving.

Once your car detects that your iPhone has been connected, it will automatically open CarPlay. You can switch between CarPlay and your vehicle's native interface by selecting the appropriate icon from the CarPlay menu. ■



Behold, Oppo's 50-Megapixel Smartphone

And the smartphone megapixel camera title goes to – Oppo, which has unveiled an Android device that takes 50-megapixel photographs.

The Oppo Find 7's sensor is really a 13-megapixel Sony, so it takes a little software magic to pump the size up. But early reviews call the results "surprisingly good."

The Find 7 also includes 4K video recording at 30 fps, slow-motion video at up to 100 fps, long exposure for up to 32 seconds, HDR-capable GIF creation and RAW mode. You'll also be able to use some of these features with the 5-megapixel f/2.0 front-facing camera.

The 5.5-inch Find 7 will come in two versions. The \$499 Find 7a features a 2.3GHz Snapdragon 800 processor, 2GB of RAM, 16GB of internal storage, a 2,800mAh battery and a 1080p display. The more premium

\$599 Find 7 features a faster 2.5GHz Snapdragon 801, 3GB of RAM, 32GB of storage, a 3,000mAh cell plus a quad HD (2,560 x 1,440) display. The premium model's battery is removable and has fast-charging technology that allows it to power up to 75 percent capacity in about 30 minutes.

Look for the Find 7 to be available later this spring. ■





Google Chromecast



Roku Streaming Stick

GOOGLE'S CHROMECAST AND THE ROKU STREAMING STICK LOOK LIKE USB FLASH DRIVES – but they're actually entertainment hubs for your HD television. Both plug into an HDMI port in your TV and allow you to stream content from hundreds of sources, including NetFlix, YouTube as well as your own photos and videos from your phone or tablet.

FEATURES	GOOGLE CHROMECAST	ROKU STREAMING STICK
NETWORKING	802.11B/G/N WI-FI (802.11N 2.4GHZ ONLY) WITH WEP, WPA/ WPA2 SUPPORT	802.11 DUAL-BAND (A/B/G/N COMPATIBLE) WITH WEP, WPA, AND WPA2 SUPPORT
VIDEO OUTPUTS	1080P	720P, 1080P
AUDIO OUTPUT	INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE	DIGITAL OVER HDMI (7.1 AND 5.1 SURROUND PASS THROUGH)
POWER	USB POWER CABLE	USB POWER CABLE
DIMENSIONS	2.8 X 1.4 X .5 INCHES	3.1 X 1.1 X .5 INCHES
WEIGHT	1.2 OUNCES	0.64 OUNCES
REMOTE CONTROL	CAN USE SMARTPHONE OR TABLET	INCLUDED
PRICE	\$35	\$49.99