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How to use android phone as remote for android tv

TV remote for Insignia from Mobile Tools Shop is a remote control application. This program helps you to control your Insignia TV through your phone or tablet. That said though, it's not compatible with many models and doesn't offer any support.This app is supposed to add convenience for couch potatoes who want to control their TV from their phone. Unfortunately, it rarely works. Instead of functioning as promised, this app is equivalent to downloading a picture of a remote. It advertises that it works with all Insignia products, but that's not the case. It doesn't allow you to put your model number in at any point and isn't compatible with many Android versions. This remote requires that your mobile device has a built-in infrared blaster. In addition to simply not functioning, this app bombards users with advertisements. These ads made it frustrating to use, and if you have trouble, there's no way to troubleshoot. If you're looking for a mobile solution to replace your old battery-controlled remote, there are many options. One notable alternative is TV Remote for Insignia by IR solutions. Where can you run this program? This app requires Android 4.2 and up. Is there a better alternative? Yes. IR Solutions' TV Remote functions well and is simple to configure. As long as your TV and Android device are connected to the same WiFi network, it works like a charm.This app underperforms. While it claims to offer you convenience and ease, it does the opposite. It's frustrating to use and hardly works. Should you download it? No. If you want a controller for your Insignia TV, you should download the app from IR Solutions instead.LowLagsToo many adsNon-functional controlsRequires an IR Blaster Joe Hindy / Android AuthorityThe IR blaster is officially a niche feature these days. It's becoming rarer and rarer as a feature since phones are trying to remove as many ports as possible. However, those with an IR blaster are useful for all kinds of little things. One such instance is as a remote control for basically anything with an IR receiver. That can include TVs, air conditioners, some thermostats, cameras, and other such things. Today, let's talk about TV remotes. Here are the best TV remote apps for Android!Please note, most ecosystems provide their own remote apps these days. LG TVs have LG-made remote apps. Samsung does the same as well and so does Google, Apple, Vizio, Roku, and most others. Before you start reading, we honestly recommend the remote app made by the manufacturer of the thing you're trying to control. Otherwise, enjoy your stay!AnyMote is one of the better TV remote apps. It boasts support for over 900,000 devices with more added on a frequent basis. It's also not just for TVs. It includes support for DSLR cameras, air conditioners, and virtually any tech that has an IR blaster. The remote itself is simple and easy to read. There are also buttons for things like Netflix, Hulu, and even Kodi if your TV supports those things. It's a tad expensive at \$6.99 and it hasn't seen an update since early 2018 as of the time of this writing. However, it does still work with phones with an IR blaster. Price: Free / Hardware costs moneyGoogle Home is definitely among the best remote apps. Its primary function is to control Google Home and Google Chromecast devices. That means you'll need one of those to make this work. Otherwise, it's fairly simple. All you need to do is pick a show, movie, song, image, or whatever. You then cast it to your screen. It can't do things like change the channel. It also can't change the volume. However, you can change the volume on your phone and that has the same effect. It'll only get better as time goes. The app is free. However, Google Home and Chromecast devices do cost money. The official Roku app is excellent for Roku owners. The app allows you to control pretty much everything on the Roku. All you'd need your actual TV remote for is volume. The remote with the Roku app comes with fast forward, rewind, play/pause, and navigation buttons. It also comes with a voice search. It's not what you'd think of when it comes to TV remote apps. However, those with a Roku don't really need a full fledged remote app anyway. The app is also free. Joe Hindy / Android AuthoritySure Universal Smart TV Remote is a competent TV remote app with an absurdly long name. It's also one of the great TV remote apps. It works on a whole bunch of TVs. Like AnyMote, it also supports other devices with an IR blaster. It has the added bonus of DLNA and WiFi support for casting photos and videos. There is even support for Amazon Alexa. We thought that was rather forward thinking. It also means that Google Home isn't the only app here with support for a personal assistant app. It's a tad rough around the edges. However, you can try it before you buy it. Twinone Universal Remote is one of the better free TV remote apps. It features a simple design. You should have no problems using it once you set it up. It should also work for most TVs and set-top boxes. There is even support for some devices that don't fit into those categories. Right now, the only bad part is the advertising. Twinone doesn't provide a way to get rid of them. We'd like to possibly see a paid version in the future to accommodate that. Additionally, this one only seems to be available on certain devices. Otherwise, it's a good option. Unified Remote is one of the more unique remote apps. It's useful for controlling one's computer. This is advantageous for those who have HTPC (home theater PC) set-ups. There is support for PC, Mac, and Linux. It also comes with a keyboard and a mouse for better input control. It's also great for Raspberry Pi devices, Arduino Yun devices, and more. The free version has a little over a dozen remotes along with most of the features. The paid version comes with everything, including 90 remotes, NFC support, Android Wear support, and more. Price: Free / Requires Xbox OneThe Xbox app is a perfectly good remote app. It allows you to access many parts of Xbox Live. That includes messages, achievements, the news feed, and more. There is also a remote built-in. You can use it to navigate the interface, open apps, and more. It'll give you quick access to play/pause, rewind, fast forward, back, and other buttons that you'd usually need a controller to access. Many people use their Xbox as an all-in-one entertainment package. Those people can use this app to make it a little easier. Joe Hindy / Android Authority Price: Free / Up to \$6.49Vatse is one of the go-to remote apps for Kodi. It has a boat load of features. You can cast media to your streaming devices if needed. It also has native support for Plex and Emby servers. You can access an offline library, control Kodi in its entirety, and it even has support for Muzel and DashClock. We're only at the tip of the iceberg when it comes to things this app can do. However, this is best used on something like a home theater PC connected to your TV. You can try it out for free. You'll get every feature if you go pro. Joe Hindy / Android AuthorityMost TV manufacturers have remote apps for their smart TVs. These apps usually have all kinds of functionality. They connect to your smart TV over WiFi. That means you don't need an IR blaster to make these work. You can change the channel or the volume. It'll even let you select apps on the TV. Some of the manufacturer apps are pretty good. Samsung and LG tend to do an okay job with their apps especially. Some aren't so great. We couldn't test every manufacturer. Thankfully, pretty much all of their remote apps are free to download. Thus, you can try them out without financial risk. We have Vizio's linked up. Just search for your manufacturer in the Google Play Store to find the others. Joe Hindy / Android AuthorityMost phones with an IR blaster come with a remote app. You can typically find these in the Google Play Store. For instance, some Mi devices uses Xiaomi's built-in TV remote app (linked). These are the apps that the manufacturers tested with their devices. Thus, it's fairly likely that they'll work at least okay. You usually don't get a lot of features. However, OEMs include those apps on their devices for a reason. At least they usually do. Sometimes they'll even pre-install the pro version so you don't have to buy it. You might as well give these a shot. First to see if they work since you already have them. Joe Hindy / Android AuthorityAppsBest Apps. Google Play Store Adamaya Sharma / Android AuthorityMost Android TV devices come with a voice-enabled remote for ease of searching content using the Google Assistant. However, there are many times you might not want to use a remote and find it more convenient to control your Android TV with your smartphone instead. For instance, typing on an Android TV is much easier using a phone rather than the remote control. A phone can also help you navigate and use your Android TV if the remote control stops functioning properly.The Android TV Remote Control app is the easiest way of controlling your Android TV device using a smartphone. The app is available for both iOS and Android phones. It is free and works with Android-powered televisions, set-top boxes, streaming sticks, and other devices. How to use the Android TV Remote Control app Adama Sharma / Android Authority Connect your phone and Android TV to the same Wi-Fi network. Open the Android TV Remote Control app on your phone. Tap the name of your Android TV. A PIN will appear on your TV screen. Enter the PIN on your phone and tap Pair. Once you have successfully connected your phone to the Android TV device using the Android TV Remote Control app, you will see a D-pad interface. You can use the up/down/left/right arrows to navigate your Android TV screen. You also have an option to use a Touchpad instead of a D-pad. To do this, select the Touchpad controls from the hamburger menu on the top left corner of your screen. The image below will give you a good idea of how the app looks and functions. The bottom of the app screen shows a back button, a home button, and a play/pause button. If you want to type on your Android TV device using your phone, tap the keyboard icon on the top right corner of the screen. Also read: The best Android TV apps you can get Troubleshooting Adama Sharma / Android AuthorityIf the above-mentioned app pairing method does not work, you can try troubleshooting the problem using the following methods. Check your TV and phone's Wi-Fi connection Both the Android TV and phone should be on the same Wi-Fi network for you to be able to use your phone as a remote control. To ensure this, follow these steps: Press the Home button on your Android TV remote. At the top right, select Settings. Under Network & Accessories, select Network > Advanced > Network status. Find the Wi-Fi network name listed next to Network (SSID). Make sure it's the same as the network on your phone. Use Bluetooth to set up the Android TV Remote Control app You can also pair the Android TV Remote Control app with your Android TV device using Bluetooth. Turn on your phone's Bluetooth. Open the Android TV Remote Control app. Tap the name of your Android TV. You might get a Bluetooth pairing request. If you do, choose Pair. If you don't, go to the next step. On your phone, you'll get a Bluetooth notification. Tap Pair. Want to know more about getting started with your Android TV device? Check out our comprehensive Android TV setup guide. How ToAndroid, Android TV Considering our smartphones are capable of so much already, you would think they'd be perfect replacements for our TV remotes. Unfortunately, the answer is a bit more complicated than you might think. Every television, receiver, set-top box, or media platform is different, and not all of them can talk to our devices as easily as we would hope. To complicate matters further, every smartphone is also different. This means that, depending on your hardware and the streaming solution you use, one app might better suit your needs than another. For example, many TV remote apps can interface with Wi-Fi-connected smart TVs from various manufacturers. But older sets lack network capabilities, which means you'll need a phone with an IR blaster, or you'll need a Wi-Fi-to-IR converter to do the trick. None of Apple's devices or the latest Samsung phones — like the Galaxy S21 — feature IR blasters, which complicates things a little. It's also important to note that whatever TV or entertainment device you own — provided it was made within the last few years — likely has its own first-party app on Google Play or the App Store. This is true of nearly all TV manufacturers, including Samsung, LG, Sony, and Panasonic, as well as devices like the Amazon Fire TV, Apple TV, Chromecast, and various Roku set-top boxes. Bearing that in mind, this article will cover general TV remote apps designed to work with a wide variety of devices from different companies. Some are even able to control various aspects of your home beyond your TV, such as air conditioning, lighting, and other Internet of Things (IoT) devices. That said, if none of these work with your particular setup, it might be best to go with the safe option and check out your device's associated app. With that out of the way, here are some of our favorite TV remote apps available for Android and iOS. Lean Universal Remote Control Lean Remote lets you control all your smart TVs, connected devices, and IR devices — provided your phone has an IR blaster — and features one of the most comprehensive device lists of any app around. Use it to control your Samsung, Chromecast, Roku, or Android TV, or take control of your home theatre, projector, or even your air conditioning. The app is sleek and easy to navigate, and it's been recently updated, so it has all the most up-to-date features. Android AnyMote AnyMote can power all your smart devices and allows you to set tasks called Macros, which are basically chain commands that you can send to multiple devices at once. For example, if you're about to settle in for a movie, you can trigger a saved Macro to turn your TV on, change a channel or launch an app, and dim your lights simultaneously. If you have an IR-enabled Android phone, AnyMote has a separate app called Smart IR Remote that can directly control most devices; otherwise AnyMote sells its own hub. If you're an Amazon Echo user, you can even tell Alexa to initiate commands through AnyMote. The app doesn't work with Vizio, Huawei, or Sony phones, and is only compatible with selected LG phones. Android iOS SURE Thanks to a recent update, Sure can control devices throughout your home — but it really focuses on your entertainment center. One of its more unique features is its ability to control media streaming hardware, and even push local files to those devices. For example, using Sure, you can send music, videos, and pictures to a Chromecast using an iPhone. The opposite also applies, meaning you can pull content saved on a DLNA server and play it back on your phone. There's also a handy in-built media player. But one of Sure's most useful features is its backup capabilities, which prevents you from having to reconfigure everything in your home when you buy a new phone. Like previous apps, Sure also recommends a Wi-Fi-to-IR converter for compatibility with older hardware. We did notice some major brands missing from the compatible TVs list, like Samsung and Panasonic, to name a couple. Android iOS Unified TV (S1) United TV takes a distinctive route that's much different from the other applications listed in this article. First, it only runs via IR — meaning you must have at least one Samsung, LG, or HTC phone or a network-connected IR blaster. Next, the developer, Unified Intents, has created handcrafted remote control accounts for over 80 televisions, set-top boxes, receivers, projectors, game consoles, and media players. All of this eliminates the guesswork out of trying to determine which demands are compatible with your devices and having to produce customized profiles for each one of them. It's an easy answer to a simplistic difficulty, without any extraneous features that might otherwise downplay the experience. Android iOS Mi Remote Xiaomi's Mi Remote app segregates itself from the crowd with an appealing and tidy interface as well as a straightforward setup. Opening the app for the first time enables you to automatically scan for supported machines and leads you through the setup process, which shows you right away whether your phone is compatible with IR connectivity. Mi Remote is available on all types of Android devices. However, Xiaomi's exclusive products will get the most out of it, as most of the manufacturer's most advanced phones include IR blasters. Suppose you're using a Xiaomi device. In that case, you can connect particular remotes to specific areas, so they'll automatically show up on your lock screen. This will depend on whether you're at home or at the office, for example. Android Editors' Recommendations

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