

Difference Between Chromecast Fire Stick and Roku

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Key Difference - Chromecast Fire Stick vs Roku

The **key difference** between Chromecast [Fire Stick](#) and Roku is the **price difference and the features that these devices possess**. Let us take a closer look at this device and see what they have to offer.

What is Chromecast?

Chromecast is an [adapter](#) used for media streaming. It is a product of [Google](#) that allows the user to pay online for digital content such as music and videos. The adapter is like a dongle that is plugged into the [HDMI](#) of a TV. A [USB](#) port can be used to power the device. A mobile app can be used on a [smartphone](#), [laptop](#), [tablet](#), or [desktop](#) as a TV remote. After the initiation of the stream, it is not essential to keep the app open, since the device can be operated or used for other purposes. Chromecast can be used to stream a variety of content for sources that include [YouTube](#), Hulu Plus, [Netflix](#), movies, music, and the chrome browser.



Figure 01: Chromecast plugged into TV

Chrome cast is competing with other streaming media like Firestick and Roku.

What is Fire Stick?

The Amazon Firestick is a device that can be plugged on to your TV's HDMI port. The device can be used to stream content across Wi fi such as YouTube, Hulu, Netflix, HBO, Pandora and many more. A remote control will accompany the device that can work with its buttons or voice commands. The latest version also supports [Alexa Virtual Assistant](#).



Figure 02: Fire Stick

It can turn any TV into a smart TV by plugging the small device into your TV's HDMI port. The device was introduced in 2014, and it's main competitors include Google Chrome cast and Roku. All these devices are a new breed of streaming TV sticks used to watch movies and TV shows from online sources. Besides using the stick to watch movies and TV shows, it can be used to play games and for voice control using Alexa virtual assistant. Apps can also be used to support and customize Firestick and enhance its ability to what the owner wants to get done. Amazon also produces Fire TV, which is an Android TV box that costs more because it has better hardware.

What is Roku?

There are many new internet streaming devices for viewing TV and listening to music. One of the most popular of these devices is Roku. Roku is an electronic device that can be used to stream media like movies, shows and music over the internet to your TV. The device will not require much setup and connects to the internet as with your PC.



Figure 03: Roku Box with Remote

Roku comes incorporated with an operating system that allows to manage and access streaming content.

There are three types of Roku devices:

Roku Box

This is a standalone box that connects to the internet using the ethernet or Wi-fi from the broadband router. The Roku device through the home theater device or TV via HDMI.

Roku Streaming Stick

Roku streaming stick uses a compact stick that is slightly bigger than a USB [flash drive](#). This stick has to be plugged into an HDMI port. The stick has a built-in Wi-fi connection to connect to your broadband router.

Roku TV

The Roku TV is an all in one solution. It does not require a stick or an external Box. The operating system will be built into your TV. The TV will directly connect to the ethernet connection or broadband router. Many TV brands like Sharp, Hitachi, [Hisense](#) and TCL offer Roku TV inline. Roku TV supports many TV sizes and 720p, 1080p and 4K Ultra HD resolutions. Difference Between Chromecast Fire Stick and Roku

What is the Difference Between Chromecast Fire Stick and Roku?

Chromecast vs Fire Stick vs Roku	
Chromecast	Chromecast is an adapter used for media streaming which is a product of Google.
Fire Stick	The Firestick or Amazon Firestick is a device that can be plugged on to your TV's HDMI port.
Roku	Roku is one of the new internet streaming devices for viewing TV and listening to music.
Price	
Chromecast	35 dollars
Fire Stick	99 dollars
Roku	49-99 dollars
Form Factor	
Chromecast	Stick
Fire Stick	Box
Roku	Stick or Box
Video Apps	
Chromecast	YouTube, HBO, Go, Netflix, Hulu Plus
Fire Stick	Netflix, Amazon Instant Video, YouTube, Hulu Plus, Showtime anywhere, Vimeo
Roku	Netflix, YouTube, Amazon Instant, HBO Go, M-Go, Showtime anytime, Disney Channel, Time Warner cable, Red box, PBS
Operating Method	
Cheromecast	App only
Fire Stick	App, remote, voice search
Roku	App and remote
Sports Apps	
Chromecast	None
Fire Stick	NBA League Pass, Watch ESPN
Roku	NBA league pass, Watch ESPN, MLB.TV, Major League Soccer, Game centre
Music Apps	
Chromecast	Google Play, Songza, Rhapsody, Vevo, Pandora, Rdio
Fire Stick	Vevo, Pandora
Roku	Pandora, Quello, Spotify, iHeartradio
HDMI	
Chromecast	Yes

Fire Stick	Yes
Roku	Yes
Memory	
Chromecast	512 MB
Fire Stick	2GB
Roku	Stream stik supports 256 MB, Box could support 512 MB
Photo, Video and Music Sharing	
Chromecast	Photo wall, Plex, Real player
Fire Stick	Amazon cloud, Plex
Roku	Plex, Aircastlive
Games	
Chromecast	Playable through tablet or phone
Fire Stick	Games can be played through additional remote controller, or through the phone or tablet
Roku	Games are playable through the remote
Cool Features	
Chromecast	Low price, Ability to cast web pages to TV, you can pull up a Youtube video and play it on your screen.
Fire Stick	Comes with a built-in game library with great control. Voce search is a great feature to navigate the content library.
Roku	Remote that comes with earphones, Large app library to stream from.
Limitations	
Chromecast	No remote to control the device
Fire Stick	Does not support HBO Go
Roku	HBO Go is not available with some of the carriers. You cannot watch content on the PC or tablet. It can be only on your TV.

Summary - Chromecast Fire Stick vs Roku

Streaming sticks are a better alternative to powerful boxes when it comes to the cost. But sometimes these tinny devices can perform the same task as its larger brethren. Chrome casting is an aging device but is solid and worth considering. Roku and Fire TV have also gone recent makeovers and ding on adding features and boosting power.

If we compare all the three devices, Roku comes up on top. Roku comes with an excellent echo system and manageable price points. It has an attractive interface and search features that provide the user with exceptional satisfaction.

If you use your phone, computer or tablet regularly, Chromecast will be ideal for you. If you are an Amazon prime partner, The Fire TV stick will be ideal for you. The decisions will be up to you according to what you use and prefer most. This can be described as the difference between Chromecast, Fire Stick and Roku.

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