

Applies to: Google Home Mini (1st gen). Notes and callouts for Nest Mini (2nd gen) are marked where relevant.

Introduction

The Google Home Mini is a compact, voice-activated smart speaker powered by Google Assistant. Use it to play audio, control compatible smart devices, ask questions, set timers and reminders, manage your calendar, make hands-free calls (where supported), and more.

This manual is written for end users who want comprehensive, practical instructions for setup, operation, privacy controls, and troubleshooting. If your device is the newer Nest Mini (2nd gen) some steps and LED behaviors differ slightly; where relevant this manual includes notes.

Safety, warnings & legal

Important: Read before use.

- Use only the power adapter included with the device or an official Google replacement rated for the Home Mini. Using unapproved adapters may damage the device or create a fire risk.
- Do not expose the device to water or heavy moisture. Keep away from bathtubs, sinks, or areas with high humidity.
- Place the device on a flat, stable surface. Do not block vents or speaker holes.
- Keep the device away from heat sources (radiators, ovens, direct sunlight).
- If the power cable or adapter is damaged, stop using the device and replace the cable/adapter.
- For electrical safety and regulatory details, consult the warranty/regulatory booklet included with the product or view Google support pages.

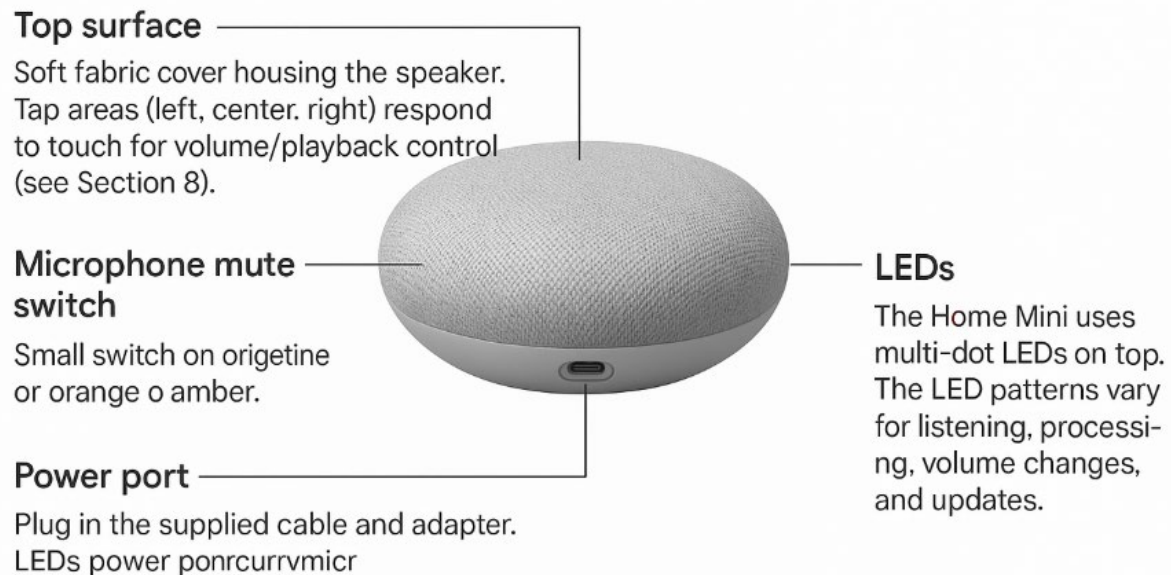
What's in the box



- Google Home Mini speaker (fabric top)
- Power adapter & cable (region-specific plug)
- Quick Start card / setup leaflet
- Safety & regulatory booklet
- Optional (retained by retailer): retail packaging and warranty card.

Device overview (physical features & LEDs)

Device overview



Top surface

Soft fabric cover housing the speaker. Tap areas (left, center, right) respond to touch for volume/playback control (see Section 8).

Microphone mute switch

Small switch on the side that toggles the microphones on/off. When muted the device will not listen for the wake word. The device will show an orange (or amber) LED when mic is muted.

Power port (micro-USB / USB-C depending on revision)

Plug in the supplied cable and adapter.

LEDs

The Home Mini uses multi-dot LEDs on the top. The LED patterns vary for listening, processing, volume changes, and updates. See Section 17 for the LED guide and what each pattern usually means.

Note (Nest Mini): Nest Mini has a dedicated wall mount option and improved bass; the location and behavior of reset/mute functions and certain LED patterns differ slightly from the Home Mini.

Quick Start — 5-minute setup

1. Plug in the Home Mini and place it near your router and where you use it most (living room, kitchen, bedside).
2. Install the Google Home app (Android: Google Play / iOS: App Store).
3. Sign in with your Google Account in the Google Home app.
4. In the app: Tap + → Set up device → New device and follow on-screen steps. When the app finds your device, follow the pairing prompts to connect to Wi-Fi, choose a home & room, and configure basic settings.
5. Test by saying: “Hey Google, what’s the weather?”

If the device does not appear in the app, move it closer to the router, restart the device (unplug & replug power) and try again.

Detailed Setup (step-by-step)

Prepare

- Ensure a stable Wi-Fi network (2.4 GHz or 5 GHz supported by many routers). Keep SSID and password handy.
- Have your smartphone on the same Wi-Fi network and Bluetooth enabled for initial pairing.
- Sign in to the Google account you want linked to the Home Mini.

Install Google Home App

- Android: open Play Store, search Google Home, install.
- iOS: open App Store, install Google Home.

Add Device in Google Home App

1. Open Google Home app.
2. Tap + (Add) → Set up device → New device.
3. Choose your Home (or create one).
4. The app will scan for nearby devices. When your Home Mini is discovered tap Yes to connect.
5. A sound will play from the Mini — verify you heard it.
6. Choose the Wi-Fi network and enter the password if required.
7. Assign the device to a room (Living room, Bedroom, etc.).
8. Configure Google Assistant preferences (voice match, voice & audio activity, linked services).

Choose Default Services & Link Accounts

- **Music services:** set default (Spotify, YouTube Music, Pandora) via Settings → Services → Music.
- **Video services & casting:** Link accounts if you plan to cast to Chromecast/TV.
- **Voice Match (optional):** Train the Assistant to recognize your voice to access personal info (calendar, reminders).

Test Basic Commands

- “Hey Google, play some music.”
- “Hey Google, set a timer for 5 minutes.”
- “Hey Google, turn on the living room lights.” (if you have smart bulbs configured)

Account, privacy and Assistant settings

Microphone & privacy

Use the side microphone mute switch to immediately disable the microphones. The device will not respond to “Hey Google” while muted.

You can view and delete Assistant audio in your Google account. Open myactivity.google.com or use Google Home app → Account → My Activity.

Voice & audio activity

Assistant can save voice snippets to improve recognition. You can turn this off in your Google account settings.

Guest mode

Guest mode lets visitors cast to your device using a PIN without joining your Wi-Fi. Enable via Device settings → Guest mode.

Data shared with third-party services

When linking services (Spotify, Philips Hue, etc.), Google will share limited data necessary for the integration. Review permission prompts during linking.

Daily use — voice commands & gestures

Wake phrases

Say “Hey Google” or “OK Google” to start an interaction.

Touch gestures (Home Mini)



- **Tap center:** Play / Pause music or stop alarms and timers.
- **Tap right:** Volume up (one tap increments; press & hold to continuously raise).
- **Tap left:** Volume down (same behavior as above).

Common command categories

- **Information:** "What's the weather?", "How do I tie a tie?"
- **Timers & alarms:** "Set a timer for 10 minutes."
- **Calendar & reminders:** "Add dentist appointment to my calendar."
- **Smart home control:** "Turn off the bedroom light."
- **Entertainment:** "Play jazz on Spotify."
- **Communication:** "Call Mom" (requires voice match & linked contacts; availability varies by region).

Media, music, podcasts and casting

Default music service

Set via Google Home app under Settings → Services → Music.

Playing media

- **Use voice commands:** "Hey Google, play [song/artist/genre] on [service]."
- **Specify device:** "Play lo-fi on Kitchen speaker."

Casting audio & video

- To cast audio/video from a phone or Chrome browser, use the Cast icon inside supported apps and pick your Home Mini (audio) or Chromecast (video).
- For phones, open the streaming app (YouTube, Spotify) → tap Cast → select the device.

Podcasts & audiobooks

- “Play the latest episode of [podcast name].”
- Audiobooks from Google Play Books or linked services work via voice commands if available in your region.

Smart home control & Works with Google

Supported device types

Smart bulbs, plugs, thermostats, cameras, doorbells, locks, switches, blinds, and more.

Linking a device

1. Open Google Home app → + → Set up device → Works with Google.
2. Choose the brand (e.g., Philips Hue, TP-Link Kasa) and sign in to link accounts.
3. Assign devices to rooms for contextual voice control.

Device naming best practices

Use simple names ("living room lamp", "kitchen light") to reduce misunderstanding. Avoid duplicate names.

Troubleshooting device control

If a linked device fails to respond, check the third-party app, verify the device is online, and relink if necessary. See Troubleshooting (Section 16).

Routines, scheduled actions, and shortcuts

Routines

Create routines in Google Home app or Google Assistant settings. Routines allow a single trigger (voice or scheduled time) to run multiple actions (turn on lights, read weather, start news briefing).

Creating a routine

1. Google Home app → Routines (or Assistant settings → Routines).
2. Create new routine: set trigger (voice phrase or schedule) → add actions ("turn on living room lights", "play morning playlist").
3. Save and test.

Shortcut quick actions

Some simple commands can be saved as Assistant shortcuts for faster access. Use the Assistant settings to add shortcuts.

Multi-room audio and speaker groups

Create a speaker group

Google Home app → Devices → Create speaker group → select speakers. Name the group (e.g., "Downstairs").

Playback control for groups

- Use voice: "Hey Google, play [playlist] on Downstairs."
- Group playback is subject to network quality; prefer wired backhaul or strong Wi-Fi for consistent sync.

Bluetooth pairing and audio playback

Pairing a phone or tablet

1. Put the Home Mini in pairing mode via Google Home app → Device settings → Audio → Paired Bluetooth devices → Enable pairing.
2. On your phone, enable Bluetooth and select the Home Mini to pair.
3. To unpair, remove Bluetooth device from the paired list in the app.

Playing via Bluetooth

Once paired, set Home Mini as output and play any audio from your

Google Home Mini — Quick Reference Card

Quick Setup

1. Plug in your Google Home Mini.
2. Download the Google Home app (Android/iOS).
3. Open the app ® Tap + ® Set up device ® New device.
4. Connect to Wi-Fi and sign in with your Google account.
5. Test: Say "Hey Google, what's the weather?"

Touch Gestures

- Tap center: Play/Pause or stop alarms.
- Tap right: Volume up.
- Tap left: Volume down.
- Side switch: Mute/unmute microphone.

Category	Example Commands
Info	“Hey Google, what’s the time?”
Music	“Hey Google, play jazz on Spotify.”
Timers	“Hey Google, set a 10■minute timer.”
Smart Home	“Hey Google, turn off the living room light.”
Routines	“Hey Google, good morning.”

Troubleshooting Quick Fix

- **Device not found:** Restart device & phone, ensure same Wi-Fi.
- **No sound:** Check volume, reboot.
- **Wi-Fi drops:** Move closer to router, reboot router.