Best 12v usb car charger



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We"ve removed our budget pick from ZMI, which is discontinued, and added several other cheap yet reliable options to a new section on other good USB car chargers.

For a few bucks, a good USB car charger can charge your phone and other devices faster than the port built into your car. After testing more than 60 models, we've determined that the best car charger is the dual-port Nekteck PD 45W Type-C Car Charger.

You can fast-charge phones, tablets, and laptops on its USB-C port and simultaneously charge a second phone on its USB-A port. No other charger offers as much power for a better price.

Compared with the familiar USB-A port, the smaller USB-C port can charge most modern phones faster (if you"re using the right cable) and can even charge tablets and laptops. And the Nekteck PD 45W Type-C Car Charger provides the best of both worlds.

When you''re using a USB-C-to-Lightning cable, the charger''s USB-C port can charge an iPhone about three times faster, at 18 watts, than the USB-A wall charger that Apple used to package with its phones. Your phone can charge from empty to 54% in just half an hour while you''re sitting in traffic, say, or running errands around town.

This Nekteck charger's 45 W output and included USB-C-to-C cable also support the maximum charge rate on Android phones (such as the Samsung Galaxy S10), the 2018 and 2020 iPad Pro models, and even many laptops. And you can use the 12 W USB-A port at the same time to charge a second phone or other device with any USB cable you already have.

With two USB-C ports, the Scosche PowerVolt PD40 (CPDCC40) is the charger you should get if you want to fast-charge two modern devices at the same time. Each of the PowerVolt PD40''s USB-C ports supports 20 W charging, so you can charge two modern phones at top speed. That means an iPhone''s battery will go from zero to around 54% charged in half an hour, compared with about 45% on a standard 12 W USB-A charger.

You can also use MagSafe wireless chargers at full speed. The PowerVolt PD40 is one of the most affordable dual-USB-C chargers available from a company we trust, and during our testing it stayed firmly in place in our car charging port. You can still use this charger with older phones, such as an iPhone 7 or earlier--they just won't charge any faster than they would on a USB-A charger.

Senior staff writer Sarah Witman has been a science journalist for more than a decade, covering a wide variety of topics from particle physics to satellite remote sensing. Since joining Wirecutter in 2017, she has written about how to recycle used batteries and electronics, the best wall outlets with USB ports, the best laptop and





tablet chargers, and more.

Even if your car has a USB port designed to sync your smartphone with the car's entertainment system, and even if that port can charge your phone, spending \$20 or so for a dedicated two-port charger can be worth it. The built-in USB ports in most cars put out only 5 W, which isn't enough to charge a tablet or even newer smartphones at full speed.

Even if your car's USB port does offer higher-speed charging, most cars have only one port. All of our picks let you charge two or more devices on a single accessory outlet--something that your family and friends will appreciate.

However, if you recently bought a multiport USB charger that provides at least 2 amps from each of its ports (look for the "output" listing in the small print on the body of the charger), you have less reason to upgrade. Although you"d be able to charge some devices slightly faster with our top picks, the difference wouldn"t be big enough to be worth spending more money on a new model right now.

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Web: https://hollanddutchtours.nl/contact-us/ Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com WhatsApp: 8613816583346

