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Quick Take

- Personal devices have a tendency to fail when plugging wires into them all the time.
- Less I/O ports the more secure a personal device.
- Wireless is now useable for both home and travel.
- Full implementation with charging stations everywhere is increasing but we are not there yet.

Considerations

For wireless charging, get a power brick.

Ensure your phone has Qi charging capability.

Removing the ritual of “plugging in” will increase the longevity of your phone.

Wires and Personal Devices

Our personal devices namely the cell phone and our music have relied on wires over the past decade or so. Now, I feel that the wireless technology is now here for our devices. The need for wires for power and sound has been eliminated with affordable and easy to use options.

Our phone has become our life. The constant use and the personal reliance is intense. Thus, we need to protect our phone from the elements and typically the best way is to have a phone that does not have any I/O ports.

I/O ports can be for charging, connecting to a speaker, or replicating data or images to another device. Nevertheless, the more we use such a port the more likely it is to cause a problem. This is especially true if we intend to use our phone every 3 or 4 years instead of the historical 1 to 2 years.

Bluetooth has covered the need to listen to music and take calls. Many manufacturers have concluded that the technology is so good that the traditional DIN plug is no longer

needed resulting in phones that do not have the I/O port for it.

Power on the other hand has been problematic. But recently, the use of Qi technology has made wireless charging a good alternative. Desk lamps, cars, counters and battery packs are now available for wireless charging. With this technology, you can charge your phone, watch, headphones and any other electronic equipment without having the wires.

Without wires, plugging your phone it every day sometimes several times a day can be avoided. This process can be stressful on the phone and the cable used to charge. Phones can be seen hanging on outlets putting the device and cable into a precarious situation. The process of sticking a micro-usb upside down can cause damage to the I/O port. Shoving a cable into your device several times a day is an action that cannot be good for the phone. All of these reasons results in making a personal device unusable after a couple of years. Wireless charging

addresses this problem.

The power stations or docks for wireless charging are in some places but not as ubiquitous as needed for a wireless equipped individual. The trend is escalating almost in an exponential fashion but we are a year or two off for power stations being everywhere.

In the meantime, to address the power without wires, the use of a wireless power brick is very useful. Most anything that can be charged using such a brick. Typically, these bricks have the Qi charger along multiple I/O ports such as micro—usb, usb-c, and usb. I have found that using the brick for travelling takes care of multiple problems. I charge my phone on it at night while having my watch’s stand come off the usb I/O port. This requires me to recharge the brick in the morning but my personal devices are ready to go. So until the charging stations are everywhere, the power brick is a good option to support your wireless needs.

The wireless headphone or

but using Bluetooth has been around for several years. But now, the sound and the power recharge can be totally wireless although power recharge typically comes with a proprietary stand. Carrying the stand while traveling may be awkward so maybe we are not ready yet for the headphones. But again, if you have owned a pair of headphones for a while, if you are like me, you have found that the charging port on the headphones has become dicky. Again, another reason why wireless charging will continue to grow.

Bluetooth for streaming and QI for power, the wireless age for your personal devices is finally here.



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