dies-September 2025

Transfer Music From Spotify to Apple Music

- Apple introduced the Apple Music migration tool last year in Australia and New Zealand. Now Apple is releasing the tool in the US, UK, Canada, Brazil, France, Germany and Mexico. It is used to transfer your music from your current service to Apple Music.

- This tool is accessed by going to Settings > Apps > Music and then selecting "Transfer Music from Other Music Services." You can also do this through a browser at music.apple.com. If you use your browser, sign in and click on your picture and then select "Transfer Music." Apple didn't mention the Mac, so I'm not sure if there is a way to do this directly without using your browser. I haven't found a way to do this.

- To transfer, sign into the Spotify or (other music) account, Then choose what content to transfer and add it to the Apple Music library. You aren't transferring actual audio files, but it finds matches within Apple Music's catalog if they exist.

- If exact matches aren't available, Apple Music will offer alternative versions you can review and add to your library. You have up to 30 days following the initial transfer to review unmatched music and consider suggested alternatives.

- For a tutorial check out this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xgpboVXnIV4

"Cue vs. Federighi: Executives Differ On If Apple Should Buy Their Way Out Of AI Crisis"

- Tue Aug 26 2025, 12:53 PM EDT by Andrew Orr

- There was an interesting article recently that Apple Insider ran about the internal debate over the AI crisis inside Apple

- The article discusses contrasting views between Phil Schiller and Craig Federighi, on AI development strategies.

- Phil Schiller's Position:
    - Advocates for acquiring companies to bolster Apple's AI capabilities.
    - Believes buying established companies can rapidly enhance Apple's technology and talent pool.

- Craig Federighi's Position:
    - Emphasizes the importance of building AI solutions internally rather than relying on acquisitions.
    - Argues that developing proprietary technology fosters innovation and aligns with Apple's long-term vision.

"Cue vs. Federighi: Executives Differ On If Apple Should Buy Their Way Out Of AI Crisis"

- It seems that Apple is really taking their AI "failures" seriously. Both executives recognize the competitive landscape in AI, and understand the urgency for Apple to advance in this area.

- Apple understands that there are real strategic Implications and the internal discussion reflects broader concerns about maintaining competitiveness in an evolving tech industry. They are debating the balance between acquisition and internal development in terms of innovation.

Google's $26 Billion Search Deals Lawsuit

- PUBLISHED WED, AUG 27 2025 10:07 AM EDT UPDATED WED, AUG 27 2025 10:54 AM EDT By MacKenzie Sigalos and Kif Leswing

- CNBC ran an article on the Google Search antitrust decision and its impact on Apple:

- Court Ruling:
  - A U.S. judge ruled that Google's agreements to be the default search engine on mobile devices, including Apple's iPhone, violated antitrust law.

- Impact on Apple:
  - Apple has received billions of dollars annually from Google to keep Google Search as the default on iOS.
  - This ruling could disrupt this lucrative revenue stream, which is a significant portion of Apple's "Services" income.

Google Might Lose Its $26 Billion Search Deals

- Default Search Engine Impacts:
  - The decision may require Apple to offer users more choice in selecting a default search engine when setting up devices, which could open the door for competitors like Bing, DuckDuckGo, or AI-powered search engines.

- Update BY LEWIS WALLACE • 4:24 PM, SEPTEMBER 2,2025

- Google can continue its search deal to pay Apple billions of dollars a year for a prime spot as Safari's default search engine, as long as it's not an exclusive placement, a court ruled Tuesday.

- U.S. District Judge Amit P. Mehta said the proposed banning of such payments — which amounted to $26 billion to Apple and others in 2021, and likely grew since then — would actually help Google. Such a move also posed a "substantial risk of harm" to Apple, consumers and Google's other partners, he said.

- "Google will not be barred from making payments or offering other consideration to distribution partners for preloading or placement of Google Search, Chrome, or its GenAI products," Mehta wrote in the 226-page ruling released Tuesday. "Cutting off payments from Google almost certainly will impose substantial — in some cases, crippling — downstream harms to distribution partners, related markets, and consumers, which counsels against a broad payment ban."

What Colored USB Ports and Cables Mean

- Have you ever seen a USB-A port or cable (traditional rectangular shape) that is colored with a different color than normal? These colors aren't just decorative. They actually tell us that the cable or port has specific features or capabilities. You will only find this with USB Type-A ports. USB-C doesn't use a color coding. So what do these colors mean?
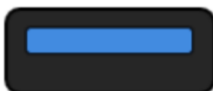
White a USB port that is 1.x standard. They support up to 12 Mbps of data transfer speed and are the slowest USB ports

Black a USB port supports up to 480 Mbps of data transfer speed.

Blue a USB 3.0 SuperSpeed port, It supports up to 5 Gbps data transfer speed.

Teal a USB 3.1 port. They support transfer speed up to 10 Gbps. It might appear green.

What Colored USB Ports and Cables Mean

Red

When the USB port is red, the port is USB 3.2. It supports an transfer speed up to 20 Gbps.
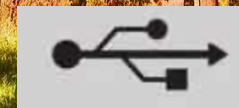
Orange

These USB ports are rarely found on consumer computers. They have always-on charging with passive power delivery.

Yellow

The yellow USB port is different in that it doesn't indicate the port type. Instead, it indicates that the port is always-on, even if the computer is in sleep mode or turned off. This is useful for charging your other devices. A yellow USB port can be USB 2.0 or USB 3.0. You can identify the port from the symbol on the top of the port.

A 2.0 port looks like:

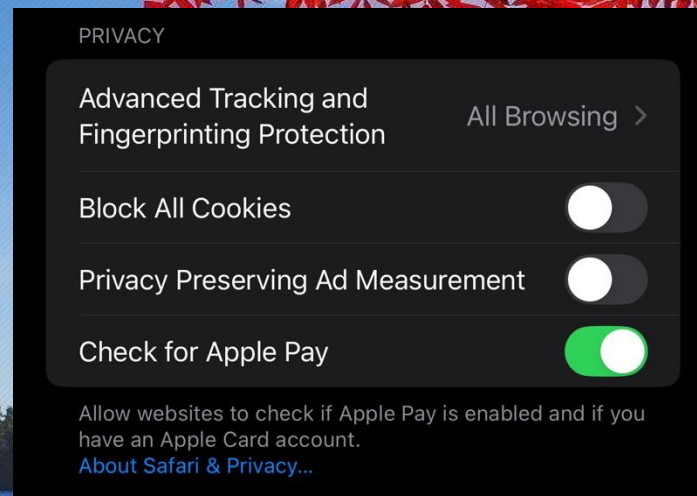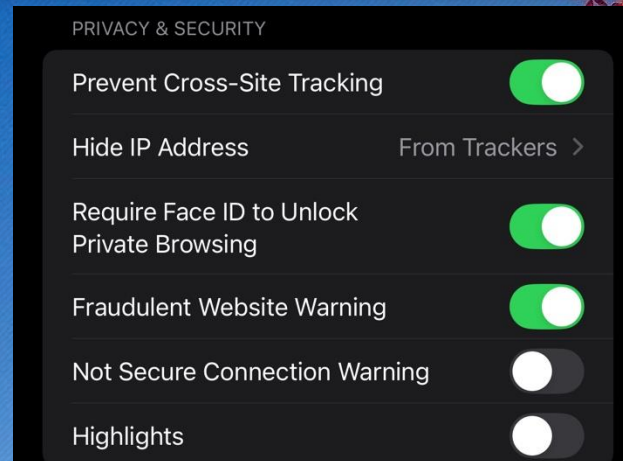If it looks like this it's a 3.0 port: **SS**

How to Use Safari Privacy Features

- Safari has a lot of features built in to help protect your privacy. Just because you have Private Browsing turned doesn't mean your fully protected

- To check what's turned on and to turn on these privacy features follow these steps:
    - iPhone or iPad, open Settings > Apps > Safari
    - On the Mac, open Safari. In the menu bar, go to Safari > Settings and click on the Privacy tab

How to Use Safari Privacy Features
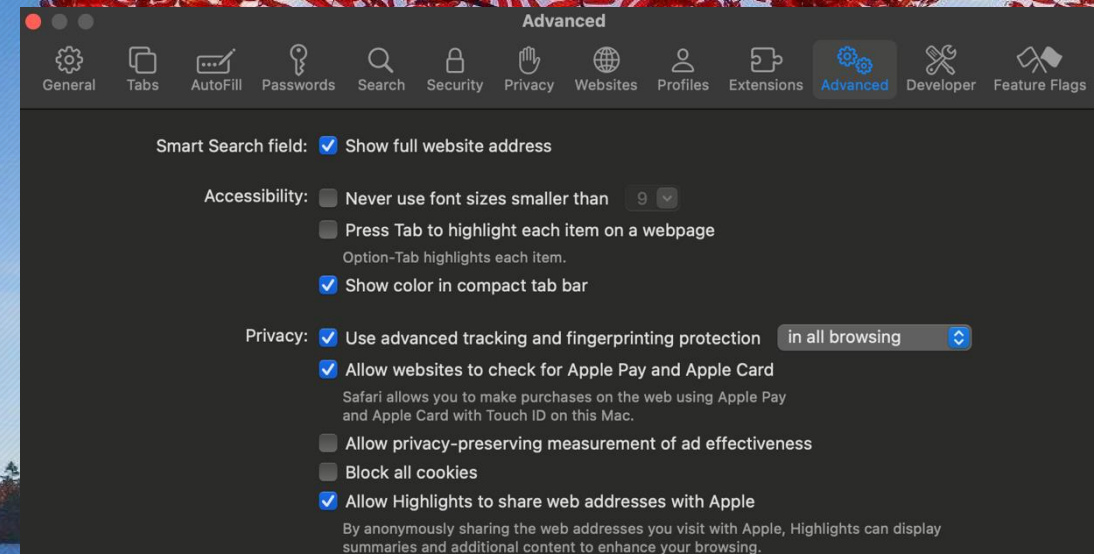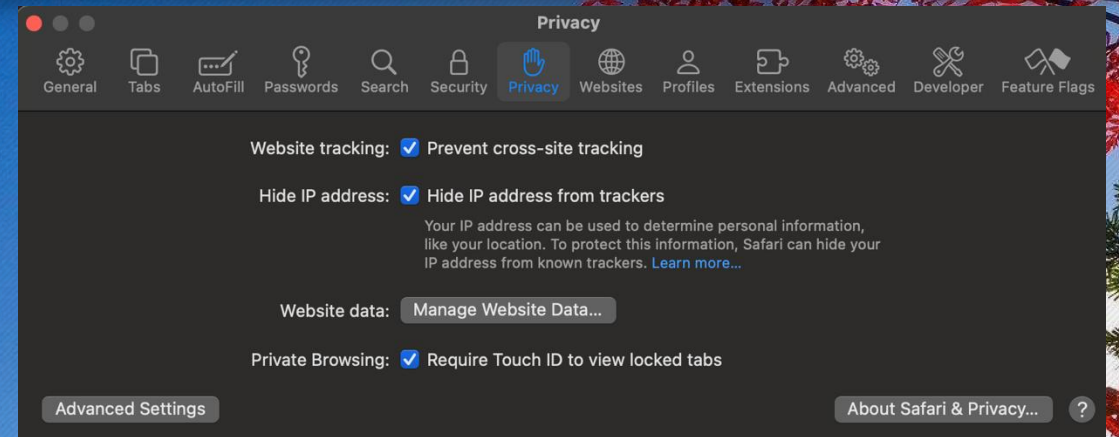
For iPhone/iPad:

- Enable these features: Prevent Cross-Site Tracking, Hide IP Address From Trackers, Require Face ID to Unlock Private Browsing and Fraudulent Website Warning.

- Next, scroll to the bottom and tap "Advanced." Set "Advanced Tracking and Fingerprinting Protection" to "All Browsing." Disable "Privacy Preserving Ad Measurement." You can leave "Block All Cookies" disabled and "Check for Apple Pay" enabled, as changing those settings will break website functionality.

PRIVACY & SECURITY

Prevent Cross-Site Tracking ⬤

Hide IP Address — From Trackers >

Require Face ID to Unlock Private Browsing ⬤

Fraudulent Website Warning ⬤

Not Secure Connection Warning ⚪

Highlights ⚪

PRIVACY

Advanced Tracking and Fingerprinting Protection — All Browsing >

Block All Cookies ⚪

Privacy Preserving Ad Measurement ⚪

Check for Apple Pay ⬤

Allow websites to check if Apple Pay is enabled and if you have an Apple Card account.

About Safari & Privacy...

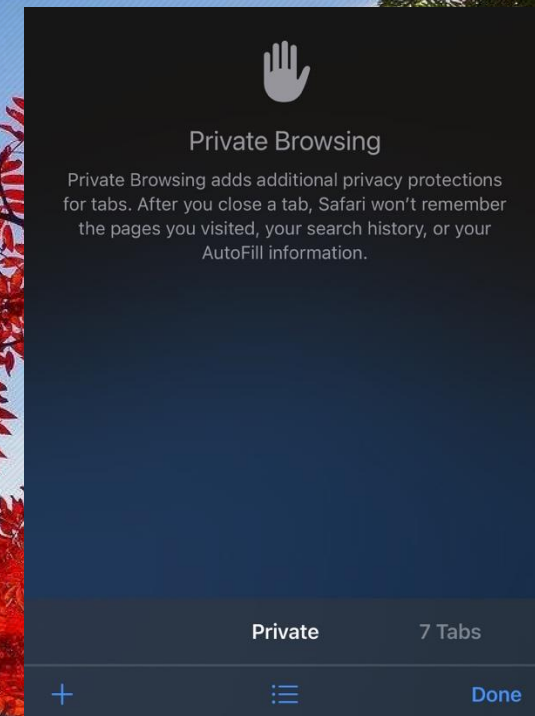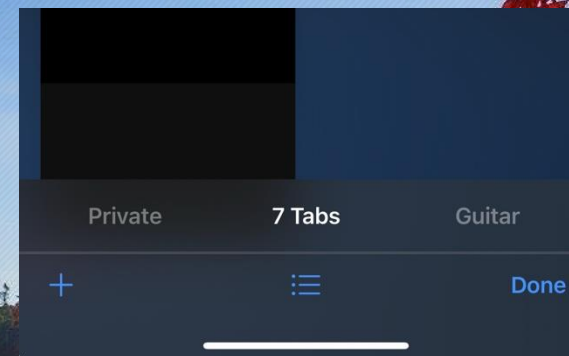# How to Use Safari Privacy Features
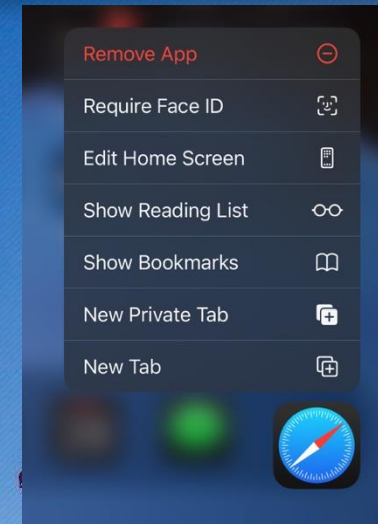
For Mac:

- While in Safari, on the menu bar, click on Safari and select Settings. When that menu comes up, click on the Privacy tab. Click to enable "Prevent cross-site tracking" and "Hide IP address from trackers."

- Next, click "Advanced Settings" In the Privacy section, set "Use advanced tracking and fingerprinting protection" to in all browsing. Leave "Allow privacy-preserving measurement of ad effectiveness" unchecked.

- If you use Apple pay, then Click "Allow websites to check for Apple Pay and Apple Card" checked and "Block all cookies" unchecked; changing these options will change website features.

How to Use Safari Privacy Features
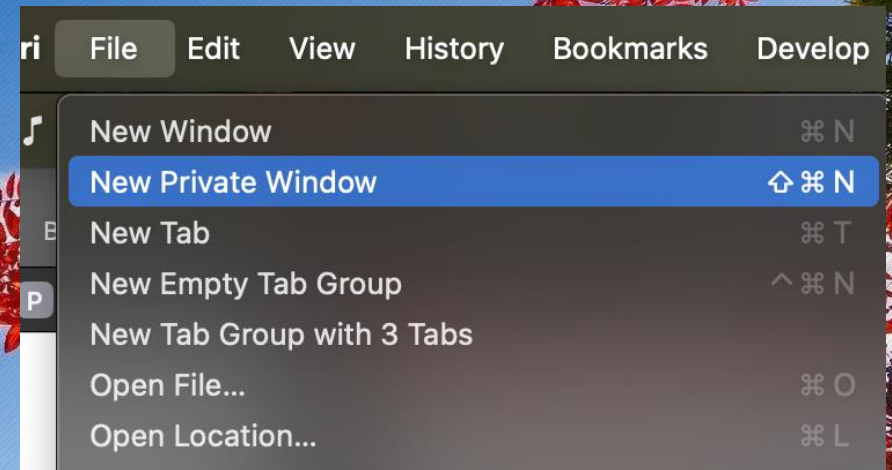
Private Browsing:

- Safari offers another privacy feature called Private Browsing. As Apple says, "With Private Browsing, Safari won't remember the pages you visit, your search history, or your AutoFill information," Apple says. "Private Browsing also blocks known trackers, removes tracking used to identify individual users from URLs, and adds protections against advanced fingerprinting techniques."

- To do this on iPhone or iPad either hold the Safari icon to get a contextual menu and press "New Private Tab" or open Safari and swipe right and click on "Private" at the bottom and then press the "+" icon.

How to Use Safari Privacy Features

Private Browsing:

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- On the Mac, simply go up to the Safari menu bar and click on the "File" menu and then go down to "New Private Window."

What's the difference between USB-C and Thunderbolt?

It can get confusing over the differences between USB-C and Thunderbolt. The connectors look alike, work almost the same, and have the same connectors. However, they're not the same. So, what is the difference?

USB C:

- USB-C came out in 2014 and is now the industry-standard for device charging. It has a 24-pin connector that transfers data and power between devices

- The current version is of USB-C is USB4, that came out in 2019. USB-C connectors are versatile and can replace and add to USB-A, USB-B, HDMI, DisplayPort and 3.5mm audio jacks

- In October 2022, USB-4 2.0 came out and doubled the bandwidth. It can support 40Gbps speeds over 2 meters or less. Longer cables will see the speed drop.

What's the difference between USB-C and Thunderbolt?

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Thunderbolt:

- Thunderbolt came out in 2011 and was a collaboration between Intel and Apple. It adds more functionality than USB-C does. Thunderbolt is labeled with a lightning symbol

- It combines data, video, and power, all in one cable/connector. The first two generations of Thunderbolt used the Mini Display Port connector. Thunderbolt 3-5 use the USB-C connector.

- Thunderbolt is faster than USB-C and better for data transfer. It also delivers more power, but it's not for charging but to get those faster speeds. Thunderbolt 5 can get up to 80 Gbps of bi-directional bandwidth

AirNotch Pro-A Find My Compatible Tracker

- Rolling Square has a pretty good tracker product, the AirNotch Pro. It serves the same purpose as an Apple AirTag, but has some advantages.

- Most notably it works with Apple's Find My network, which makes it easy to use

- It's designed to be more rugged and louder than AirTag

- It's designed to easily be attached to other objects like your keys

Cult of Mac did a recent review of the AirNotch Pro:

https://www.cultofmac.com/reviews/rolling-square-airnotch-pro-review?_bhlid=dd315b910d72b194cba44e280fb3e9edd762f19a

Where the AirNotch Pro beats AirTags:
- Much louder sound: It has dual buzzers on opposite sides and can be heard easily
- Built-in loop: It has an attached loop for easy attachment to keys, luggage, or whatever
- Longer battery life: Uses two replaceable batteries lasting up to 20 months
- Glow-in-the-dark feature: Has glow-in-the-dark strips, making it easier to find in low light

AirNotch Pro-A Find My Compatible Tracker

Where They're Equal:

- The Bluetooth range is about the same in real world testing
- Both are pretty rugged and durable
- Have the same basic functionality with Find My
- Both offer "left behind" alerts
- Same price point at $29.99

Where AirTag Wins:

- Ultra-wideband technology: Recent iPhones can use UWB for precise tracking with arrows and distance measurements (AirNotch Pro lacks this)
- Better design: AirTag is more aesthetically pleasing, while AirNotch Pro looks "industrial"

RollerMouse Red

The RollerMouse Red is a quite unusual "mouse" that sits in front of your keyboard rather than beside it. It uses a roller bar to control your cursor and has a memory foam wrist rest, plus programmable buttons. It comes in both wired and wireless configurations. So, what does this thing look like?

Contour: https://contourdesign.com/products/rollermouse-red

RollerMouse Red

RollerMouse Red

The details:

- It's not cheap! The wired model sells for $374 and the wired model is $394.

- There is a "Plus" model that offers a larger wrist rest for $10 more

Key Features:
- Design: roller bar, scroll wheel, and seven buttons (six programmable)
- Size: 16.75" wide, 6.2" deep, 0.95" tall, weighing 2.34 pounds
- Connectivity: Bluetooth, 2.4GHz wireless dongle, or USB-C wired connection
- Battery: Up to 3 months of use per charge
- Compatibility: Works with Mac and PC systems

Heat It – Smartphone Powered Insect Bite Healer

As the end of summer comes and the temperatures become more bearable, many of us get outside more. However, for those that are tasty mosquito treats it can make being outside unbearable. The good news is there's a smartphone-powered insect bite healer! It's called Heat It.

There is a German company called Heat It, that makes a device that plugs into your iPhone and uses heat to relieve the itch from insect bites. The device doesn't require external batteries, just being plugged into your iPhone. It's chemical-free, and safe for ages 3+.

The company claims it won't impact your iPhone's battery life and according to Heat It, one application requires about 0.1% of your iPhone's battery charge.

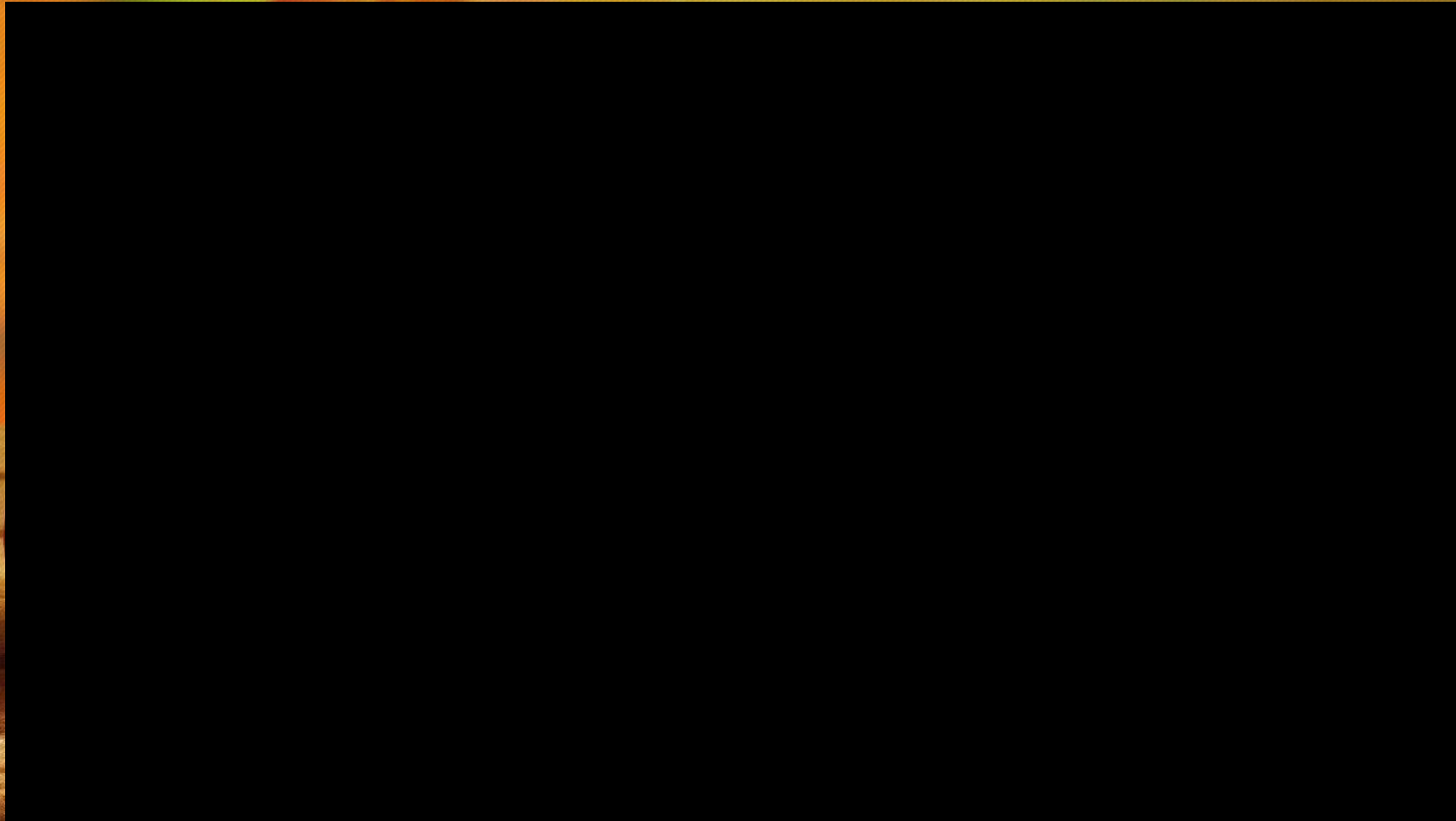# Heat It – Smartphone Powered Insect Bite Healer

According to the company Heat it:

- Will treat itch and pain of bites and stings caused by mosquitoes, bees, wasps, bugs and horseflies.

- Is chemical free and is a natural treatment that works only with concentrated heat (124 °F) and lasts 4, 7, or 9 seconds depending on the setting

- You can individually adjust the treatment to your skin sensitivity. The free app offers 12 modes, including sensitive skin and for kids (over 3 years, self-use 12+).

- It costs $29.99 on Amazon

https://www.amazon.com/stores/heatit/page/3EFA4F33-2956-4C94-A72E-3B1E609941F2?is_byline_deeplink=true&deeplink=B8A42AEC-0D22-4004-85AE-90A8C24B8CEB&redirect_store_id=3EFA4F33-2956-4C94-A72E-3B1E609941F2&lp_asin=B0B5R3VQJ3&ref_=ast_bln

With Lightning
For iPhone 6s to 14

With USB-C
For iPhone 15 - 16 &
Android smartphones

With USB-C
For Android
smartphones

Heat It – Smartphone Powered Insect Bite Healer

LEGO Classic Bondi Blue iMac G3

LEGO has a website that allows fans to submit mockups and suggestions for LEGO sets. One person designed an Apple iMac G3 from 1998 in translucent Bondi Blue. It was built with 700 Legos. So far it has over 7,300 votes on the site and if a proposal gets 10,000 "supporters" or votes, LEGO will review it and will consider it for an official retail set. Here is the site:

https://beta.ideas.lego.com/product-ideas/de0eda3f-84aa-4cfa-9fab-c9eb155ada80

LEGO Classic Bondi Blue iMac G3