Syncing Your Phone to Your Car

When your phone is paired with your car, calls and music play through the car's speakers. You answer with a button on the steering wheel and never pick up the phone. Here is how it works for every major brand.

The steps that work in almost every car

1. Park the car and turn it on. Pairing usually will not work while driving.
2. On your phone, go to Settings > Bluetooth and turn Bluetooth on.
3. On the car's screen, find Phone or Bluetooth, then choose Add Device or Add Phone.
4. On your phone, tap your car's name when it appears in the list.
5. A code appears on both screens. If the codes match, tap Pair on both.
6. Say yes when the phone asks to share contacts — that lets you call people by name.

Once paired, your phone connects by itself every time you start the car.

Where to look, by brand

Every brand names its screen a little differently. Below is what each brand's screen looks like, plus the menu words to look for.

- Look for: Settings > Devices > Bluetooth > Add New Device, then pick “Mazda” on your phone. The car holds up to seven phones, so delete an old one if the list is full.
- Newer Fords (SYNC 3 and SYNC 4): tap Phone > Add Phone (or Settings > Bluetooth > Add Phone). Match the code on both screens and tap Pair. Lincoln uses the same Ford SYNC system, so the steps match.
- Older Fords: press the voice button on the steering wheel and say “pair phone.” Follow the voice prompts.
- Look for: Setup > Bluetooth > Add New Device. On some models the word is Settings instead of Setup. Then pick your Toyota on your phone and confirm the matching code.

- Look for: Menu > Setup > Bluetooth > Add New Device. On some models it is Menu > Phone, then Yes to register your phone. Confirm the code on both screens.
- Tap the Phone icon, then Add Phone (or Pair Device). Pick your Chevy on your phone, match the code, and tap Pair. Cadillac uses the same GM screen system, so the steps match.
- You can also press the push-to-talk button and say “pair phone.”
- Tap Home > Phone. If no phone is connected, the screen asks “Would you like to add one now?” — tap Yes, then pick the Subaru on your phone and confirm the PIN.
- Look for: Settings > Bluetooth > Add New Device. You can also start by pressing the phone button on the steering wheel. Match the code on both screens.
- Look for: Settings > Bluetooth > Pair New Device. Then pick your Nissan on your phone and confirm the code on both screens.
- Tap Phone > Phone Settings > Add New Device. Or press the call/answer button on the steering wheel when no phone is connected. Then pick your car on your phone and confirm the code.
- Tap Phone. If the screen asks to pair, tap Yes. Otherwise go to Phone Settings > Paired Phones > Add Device. Pick Uconnect on your phone and confirm the code on both screens.

Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, in plain words

- Apple CarPlay puts your iPhone's apps on the car's screen — maps, music, calls, and messages — with big buttons and Siri reading your texts aloud. iPhones only.
- Android Auto is the same idea for Samsung and other Android phones — maps, music, calls, and messages on the car's screen, read aloud by Google Assistant. Android phones only.
- Wired means you plug the phone in with a USB cable. It is the most reliable way, and it charges the phone at the same time. Use the USB port meant for the phone (often the one closest to the driver).

- Wireless means no cable — the phone connects over Bluetooth and Wi-Fi. Not every car offers it, and it uses the phone's battery faster. Your phone connects by itself once it is set up.
- Not every car has CarPlay or Android Auto. If your car is older, Bluetooth pairing (above) still gives you calls and music through the speakers.

When it does not work

- Won't pair: make sure Bluetooth is on, the car is parked, and your phone is near the screen. Restart the phone, then try again. If the car's list is full of old phones, delete one you no longer use.
- Paired, but no sound: check that the car's source is set to Bluetooth (not FM or USB), and turn the phone's volume up.
- Keeps disconnecting: keep the phone inside the car with you — not in the trunk or a metal box. Make sure your phone's software is up to date.
- CarPlay or Android Auto won't start: try a different USB cable and the car's phone USB port. Make sure CarPlay is allowed on your iPhone (Settings > General > CarPlay) and Siri is on. On Android, Android Auto is built into most phones made since 2020.

When to call Sean

- Your car does not show up on your phone at all.
- Pairing keeps failing even after restarting both.
- You want CarPlay or Android Auto set up and working before you drive.
- Your car's manual uses different menu names than the ones above.

Call Sean at (813) 770-6082.

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