Digital Picture Frames

A digital picture frame is a photo frame with a screen instead of a printed picture. It connects to your Wi-Fi, and family members can send new photos to it straight from their phones — from anywhere in the world.

How they work, in plain words

1. **It connects to Wi-Fi.**
2. **Family installs a free app.**
3. **They send photos.** Anyone invited picks pictures (and short videos, on most frames) and sends them.
4. **It plays a slideshow.**
5. **It plugs into the wall.** There is nothing to charge and no batteries to replace — it just stays on, showing your people.

The three worth knowing

Aura — best overall The Carver (10.1 inch, around $150) and the larger Walden (15 inch) show photos that look like real prints — the screen adjusts its own brightness and color to the room. Family members send photos and short videos from the free Aura app, and cloud storage is unlimited.

Nixplay — most ways to share Nixplay frames (around $140 for the 10.1-inch) take photos through the app and through a special email address — anyone can email pictures to the frame without installing anything. One honest heads-up: Nixplay cut its free cloud storage to a tiny 500 MB. Keeping lots of photos costs $20 a year (100 GB) or $30 a year (unlimited).

Frameo frames — best value Frameo is a free app used by many frame brands, so you shop by screen size and reviews while the app stays the same. Big, bright screens for the money — a 15.6-inch frame runs around $130, 10-inch models around $60 — with generous built-in storage and 15-second video clips.

How to choose

- **Want the simplest gift?** Aura. No subscription, and you can set it all up before you give it.
- **Some relatives will not install an app?** Nixplay — they can just email photos to the frame.
- **Want a big screen cheap?** A Frameo frame — 15 inches for about the price of Aura's 10.

What matters most

- **Someone else does the setup.** The grandparent should only ever plug it in.
- **Family sends the photos.** Nobody at home has to do a thing.
- **Watch out for subscriptions.** Aura and Frameo frames have none; Nixplay's storage costs $20–$30 a year.

When to call Sean

- Connecting the frame to Wi-Fi, or inviting family members so they can send photos.
- New photos not arriving — usually a Wi-Fi hiccup Sean fixes in minutes.
- Choosing between models before you buy — bring who it is for and Sean will match the right one.