

Roku Mobile Remote via Phone

The Roku mobile app's remote control feature allows users to control their Roku streaming devices from their smartphones, offering an alternative to the traditional physical remote.

The app connects to a Roku device over Wi-Fi and replicates the physical remote's functions, including volume control, navigation, and voice commands. It also enables a private listening mode by routing audio through the phone.

Losing a physical remote is common, and this app eliminates that frustration. Additionally, it improves the user experience by offering private listening, which is not available on all standard remotes. The app also provides a keyboard for easier text input, making searches faster than using an on-screen remote.

Compared to Apple TV's remote, the Roku app offers more seamless connectivity without requiring an Apple device. Google Chromecast relies on a phone for all interactions, whereas Roku offers both physical and digital remote options, giving users more flexibility.

Roku's private listening mode is great, but it's currently limited to the phone controlling the Roku. A major improvement would be allowing private listening across multiple devices, such as seamlessly switching audio from the mobile remote to wireless earbuds or a smart speaker. This could be helpful if someone starts watching on TV but wants to continue listening while moving around.

I frequently misplace my remote or never have batteries, and this app has saved me from countless frustrating searches. The private listening mode is a game-changer when I want to watch late at night without disturbing others.