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With the AppleIOS 14 update users got a new, although hacky way to customize their home screen with ios app icons.The functionality is still not native, but it did show what do the users want or have been missing.Some apps like Instagram even added a feature to natively change the app icon from their apps, which is really amazing. Any feature added costs money and resources for the company, development is pricey. They want to give the best user experience possible to their users and make them happy so it makes sense to help them.Apple may also add such home screen features in the future.Maybe IOS 15 already, who knows. But the users really want to personalize and customize their phones and express their creativity. This post will talk about some IOS 17 Home Screen Ideas you can either get inspired from or copy.Table of ContentsIOS 17 Home Screen IdeasFirst thing you need is to find some good app icon themes you like. This Calm icon set is one of the best and popular one out there at the moment and gives you 6 different themes to either use alone or mix and match.Be creative, use your imagination and don't forget to share your ideas.DownloadIOS 17 icons5 IOS 17 Home screen aesthetic ideas for your iPhoneIt's hard to achieve the great design and beautiful aesthetics if you're not a graphic designer. There are a lot of design tools out there, but knowing the tool won't help you. You'd need to understand color theory, composition, layout, systems,... the design field can go really deep. Icons are just a small part of the whole field and there are people that specialize at doing just that.The above icons have been designed by a designer so they're extremely high quality.Here are some home screen ideas on how you can mix & match the icon themes to get a great looking screen.DownloadIOS 17 icons hereClean IOS black theme app icons with wallpaper ideaYou can achieve a really amazing hi-end aesthetic by using a black & white photograph as a background and use the black Icon setfrom the Calm themes. Here's a great example of such a home screenBest design of IOS 17 home screen themesHere's a list of some of the trending ios home screen themes you can find on the internet. Some were also featured on sites like PicMonkey, Mashable etc. so they're really popular. Best aesthetic designs where there's a theme for anyone. Some iPhone app icon themes with wallpapers also come with discount deals.Read this article that explains detailhow to change IOS 17 app icons.With just a tap on a widget, you can add more functionality to your home screen, not just opening apps as shortcuts. Widgets are an aesthetic upgrade and a smart way to improve your experience. The 2 below are one of the best and also the first ones that came out so they're popular and have regular updates.If you search the App Store for widgets you will find loads more with the exact functionality and goal you want the widget to do.GetWidgetsmithGetColor WIdgetsThere are two ways on how to edit home screen IOS 17 widget, first one is to tap on the screen and hold until you see the - icons, then tap on the widget to open settings. The second way is to edit the widgets inside the original app, probably on a settings screen.With IOS 17 being new and these functionalities not being tested, things may change and improve in the future. But for now everything is a bit experimental. But the iPhone users and widget use is going to increase in use and popularity quickly with new aesthetic styles.IOS 17 Home screen setup with app iconsThere are three ways to set up your home screens app icons.The original way is with the Shortcuts app. The problem here is that after a tap you see the Shortcuts app open, and then switch to the chosen app.You can use Icon Themer Really popular, but some people argue installing it may be unsafe as it's a 3rd party app and the way it customizes the IOS 17 icons is a bit hacky.Try the Launch Center Pro This one is on the App Store so it is safe and comes with some really great features. The Home Screen customization on iOS 18 is taking the world by storm. By rearranging the widgets and apps icons, changing the tint, adjusting the size, and finding just the right wallpaper to go along with it, iPhone users around the globe are creating seriously beautiful lock and home screens. Heres a look at what the Redditors of the world are doing with their iPhones: 1. Monochrome Hollow Knight Home Screen Monochrome Hollow Knight Home Screen (iOS 18) byu/Th3_Wrath iniOSsetups 2. McLaren Senna Setup McLaren Senna Setup byu/SeaworthinessIll2544 iniOSsetups 3. Anime My iOS 18 setup byu/benxvs4 iniOSsetups 4. Black minimal I dont mint the big icons. byu/caboose357 iniOSsetups 5. Red Moon My 1st iOS 18 setup byu/Adamddssurgeon iniOSsetups 9. Simple Green iOS 18 themes byu/dipmitra06 iniOSsetups 10. Black and White iOS 18 first theme B/W byu/ResponsibilityNo8672 iniOSsetups 11. Simple grey on white Simple grey on white. byu/Www_freeappicons iniOSsetups 12. Spotify Overload Loving my setup on iOS 18 so far guys byu/xelaxelaexla iniOSsetups 13. Minimal Home screen Minimal Homescreen! byu/hhwnnj iniOSsetups 14. Apple inside Another 1 byu/dazzleb iniOSsetups 15. Sepia New iOS 18 Setup byu/Sumitsikarwar iniOSsetups Podge byu/feloffthetruck iniOSsetups 7. Black minimal I dont mint the big icons. byu/caboose357 iniOSsetups 8. Red Moon My 1st iOS 18 setup byu/Adamddssurgeon iniOSsetups 16. Black Theme Setup black theme setup byu/Relative_External_97 iniOSsetups 17. Unnamed IOS 18 SETUP byu/veksace iniOSsetups 18. Simple and elegant Simple and elegant byu/Maguilar_007 iniOSsetups 19. Unnamed My current setup byu/noliver1987 iniOSsetups 20. Glass effect Heres my current setup byu/Prior-Insect-8693 iniOSsetups 21. Vice City (ish) My setup byu/GreenDependent961 iniOSsetups 22. Fall Bookshelf My Fall Bookshelf byu/Serena1787 iniOSsetups 23. Saturn I see everyones having fun byu/Hahejo iniOSsetups 24. Less is more Less is more byu/digital-designer iniOSsetups 25. Red Samurai My home screen after update byu/Andyzarus iniOSsetups 26. Simple Custom Simple Cusomization byu/themagicalmanmal iniOSsetups 27. Childs play iOS 18 setup what ya think? byu/No_Possession7907 iniOSsetups 28. Calm Calm byu/axienoobhelpme iniOSsetups 29. Clean Dark Setup Clean Dark Setup byu/xndavestar iniOSsetups 30. Pika-Pika My setup byu/natsucule iniOSsetups Privacy Overview This website uses cookies so that we can provide you with the best user experience possible. Cookie information is stored in your browser and performs functions such as recognising you when you return to our website and helping our team to understand which sections of the website you find most interesting and useful. Strictly Necessary Cookies Strictly Necessary Cookie should be enabled at all times so that we can save your preferences for cookie settings. If you disable this cookie, we will not be able to save your preferences. Privacy Overview This website uses Google Analytics and BuySellAds to collect anonymous information such as the number of visitors to the site, and the most popular pages.Keeping this cookie enabled helps us to improve our website. 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Its a personal canvas that reflects your lifestyle, priorities, and aesthetic preferences.With iOSs customization features, you can transform this digital space into something thats both visually appealing and functionally efficient. Whether youre looking to minimize distractions, maximize productivity, or simply create a home screen that brings you joy every time you unlock your device, thoughtful organization can make a significant difference in your daily iPhone experience.This blog post explores ten creative layout ideas to inspire your next home screen refresh, offering approaches that balance form and function in various ways to suit different needs and personalities.Explore: iPhone Camera Tricks To Know1. Minimalist MonochromeThe minimalist monochrome layout embraces simplicity through a carefully curated selection of essential apps against a neutral background.This removes visual clutter by limiting your home screen to only the most frequently used applications, perhaps just 8-12 icons total while relegating everything else to the App Library.Choose a grayscale or single-color wallpaper that creates a calm visual foundation, then complement it with monochromatic icons or custom icon packs in matching shades.The result is a distraction-free environment that reduces decision fatigue and creates a sense of digital calm.The absence of bright colors and excessive options helps users maintain focus on what truly matters.Explore: Pros & Cons of Jailbreaking An iPhone2. Color-Coded CategoriesThe color-coded categories layout transforms your home screen into an intuitive visual system by grouping applications according to their purpose, with each category assigned a specific color family.For example, you might place productivity apps like Calendar, Notes, and Mail in blue tones on one page, entertainment apps like Netflix, Spotify, and YouTube in red tones on another, and communication tools like Messages, WhatsApp, and FaceTime in green hues on a third.This chromatic organization creates a visual language that helps your brain quickly locate apps based on both their function and associated color, reducing the cognitive load of navigating your device.To add visual interest, you can use multiple pages each dedicated to a specific category, or create multiple home screens each dedicated to a different color theme.Finding or creating icon packs that match your chosen colors will enhance this system, though many default icons already work well within this framework.3. Single-Page EfficiencyThe single-page efficiency layout challenges you to distill your digital experience down to what truly deserves immediate access, fitting everything onto just one screen without scrolling.Start by identifying your non-negotiable apps, those you use multiple times daily and place them strategically in a grid or dock.Then leverage iOS widgets of varying sizes to provide glanceable information and quick access to secondary functions, such as calendar events, weather updates, and news headlines.The key to success with this layout is ruthless prioritization and embracing folders for logical groupings of less-frequently used apps.Also Read: iPhone Hacks To Make Your Battery Last Longer4. Aesthetic Theme-BasedThe aesthetic theme-based layout transforms your home screen into a cohesive visual experience that reflects your personal style, whether thats minimalist Scandinavian, vibrant retro, dark academia, or pastel kawaii.Begin with a wallpaper that establishes your chosen aesthetic, then customize app icons to match using iOSs Shortcuts feature or dedicated icon packs.Complement these elements with widgets styled in harmonious colors and designs, creating a unified look across your entire home screen.This turns the functional necessity of organizing apps into an act of self-expression and visual pleasure.While it requires more initial setup time than other layouts, users find the effort worthwhile for the satisfaction of having a phone that feels personally crafted rather than mass-produced.5. Productivity DashboardThe productivity dashboard layout reimagines your home screen as a command center focused on getting things done efficiently.Center your design around medium and large widgets that provide immediate access to your task lists, calendar events, project timelines, habit trackers, and note-taking tools.Arrange your most-used productivity apps in easily accessible positions, while grouping secondary work tools in clearly labeled folders.Choose a clean, distraction-free wallpaper with minimal patterns that wont compete for attention with your informational widgets.This layout works particularly well for professionals, students, and anyone who primarily uses their iPhone as a work tool rather than for entertainment.The emphasis on information visibility rather than app hunting helps maintain focus on priorities and deadlines throughout the day.Also Read: Simple Ways To Free Up Space On iPhone6. Time-Based OrganizationThe time-based organization layout aligns your home screen with your daily routine by arranging apps according to when you typically use them.Your first page might feature morning essentials like weather, news, calendar, and email apps for starting the day informed and prepared.The second page could transition to work-focused applications needed during business hours, while the third showcases evening leisure options like streaming services, games, and social media.This reduces decision fatigue by presenting relevant options at appropriate times.For maximum effectiveness, pair this layout with iOS Focus modes, which can automatically transition between your customized screens based on time of day, location, or activity.This ensures that your morning coffee isnt interrupted by work notifications or your evening relaxation by productivity reminders.7. Action-Centered DesignThe action-centered design layout prioritizes verb-based activities over specific apps, organizing your home screen around what you want to do rather than which app you want to open.Create intuitive folders with action-oriented labels like Create (containing note-taking, drawing, and writing apps), Connect (housing messaging and social media tools), Learn (featuring educational apps and reference materials), and Relax (including meditation, reading, and entertainment options).This task-oriented approach shifts your mindset from mindless app opening to purposeful engagement with your device.To enhance this layout, utilize iOS widgets that offer direct action buttons, such as starting a workout or sending a message.This further streamlines the path between intention and action and helps maintain mindfulness about how you use technology.8. Dark Mode OptimizedThe dark mode optimized layout embraces the sleek, battery-friendly aesthetics of darker color schemes while creating a visually cohesive experience thats easy on the eyes, especially in low-light environments.Begin with a true black or deep gray wallpaper that maximizes OLED screen benefits, then carefully select apps and widgets that support dark mode natively.Organize these elements with generous negative space to create a sophisticated, high-contrast look where each element stands out clearly against the dark background.For apps that dont support dark mode, consider using custom icons or placing them on secondary pages to maintain visual harmony.This layout is particularly appreciated by night owls, those sensitive to screen brightness, and users seeking to reduce eye strain while maintaining a stylish, modern aesthetic that feels intentionally designed rather than simply functional.9. Contextual ZonesThe contextual zones layout divides your home screen into intuitive spatial regions that correspond to different types of activities or mental states.The top portion might contain widgets providing information you consume passively, such as weather, news headlines, and calendar events.The middle section could house communication tools for active engagement with others, while the bottom zone, easily accessible to your thumbs, features utilities and tools for quick actions.This spatial organization creates an intuitive map that your brain quickly learns to navigate, reducing the cognitive load of finding what you need.Some users take this concept further by creating dedicated pages for different contexts, such as work, home, travel, or creative projects, each with relevant apps and widgets positioned consistently across these contextual templates.Check Out: Can Apple Watch Charger Charge iPhone?10. Seasonal RefreshThe seasonal refresh approach embraces change by completely reimagining your home screen layout every few months to align with seasons, major projects, or shifts in your personal priorities.In spring, you might opt for a layout featuring productivity tools and habit trackers to support new goals, while summer could transition to a travel-focused design with maps, translation tools, and photo apps prominently displayed.Fall might emphasize educational resources during back-to-school season, and winter could highlight social connections and entertainment during holiday periods.This dynamic approach prevents layout fatigue, that sense of no longer seeing your home screen because youve grown too accustomed to it.It gives you regular opportunities to reassess which apps truly deserve prime digital real estate as your needs evolve throughout the year.ConclusionYour iPhone home screen is an intimate digital space that you interact with dozens of times daily.It deserves thoughtful curation that aligns with your needs, values, and aesthetic preferences.The layouts explored in this article offer starting points rather than rigid templates, inviting you to mix elements from different approaches to create a home screen experience that feels uniquely yours.As Apple continues to expand customization options with each iOS update, consider setting aside time periodically to reassess and refresh your layout.Enjoyed the post?1Add widgets to your home screen. For instance, if you want to see the weather forecast or your upcoming calendar events at a glance, you can easily do it with a widget. To add a widget:[5]Open your home screen and tap and hold a widget or any blank area on the screen. Any widgets or icons already on the screen should start to jiggle.If you have multiple home screens, swipe through until you find the one where you want to add the new widget.Press the + button that appears in the upper left side of the screen. Scroll down through the options in the pop-up menu or use the Search Widgets bar at the top to find a specific widget.Tap the widget you want and scroll through the different versions of the widget. When you find the one you like best, tap the Add Widget button.When youre finished, press the Done button at the top right side of the screen.Tap and hold widgets to edit or remove them, or tap, hold, and drag them to move them around.You can also add widgets to your Today View by swiping right from your home screen and lock screen. On the Today View screen, tap and hold any area until the widgets begin to wiggle. Tap + in the upper left corner, select a widget and widget size, then tap Add Widget > Done.2Organize your widgets with Smart Stacks. Smart Stacks allow you to stack multiple widgets on your home screen so it doesnt become too cluttered. To add a Smart Stack, press and hold the home screen until the widgets begin to jiggle, then tap the + button. When the widget menu opens, scroll down to Smart Stack. Select the Smart Stack icon you like best, then tap Add Widget.[6]The preset Smart Stack contains a collection of widgets automatically selected by your iPhone. Widgets will rotate through the stack throughout the day to show information relevant to your time, location, or current activity, or you can swipe through them whenever you like.You can also build your own widget stacks with widgets that are already on your home screen. Press and hold the screen until the icons start wiggling, then drag and drop widgets on top of each other. You can also turn the Smart Rotate feature on or off. When youre finished, tap Done.If you have iOS 15 or later, tap and hold a stack, tap Edit Stack, and then select Widget Suggestions On if you want apps relevant to your current activity to automatically appear in the stack whenever you might need them. Tap Done when youre finished.3Change your wallpaper. If you dont like your current wallpaper, tap the Settings gear icon and select Wallpaper, then +Add New Wallpaper. Select one of iPhones built-in wallpapers, or choose an image from your photo gallery. Once youve picked a wallpaper you like, tap Add. Youll also be given the option to Set as Wallpaper Pair if you want to set your selection as both your Lock Screen and Home Screen wallpaper.[7]You can even choose a live or animated image from your gallery, or select one of the built-in dynamic wallpapers, if you want to change the layout style or adding widgets. To do it, touch and hold any spot on your Lock Screen until the Customize Current Wallpaper.Swipe through the options at the bottom of the screen to see different styles you can apply, such as a colour wash or a gradient backdrop.Tap the date and time at the top of the screen to change the style or add a widget. Tap the Add Widgets button to browse your apps and add widgets to the lock screen below the date and time. Tap x to close the menu after adding a widget.Tap Done to save.To change the day, touch and hold any area until you see different styles you can apply, such as a colour wash or a gradient backdrop.Tap the date and time at the top of the screen to change the style or add a widget. Tap the Add Widgets button to browse your apps and add widgets to the lock screen below the date and time. Tap x to close the menu after adding a widget.Tap Done to save.To change the cropping of your lock screen wallpaper.Tap the button in the bottom right corner to access additional options, like Extend Wallpaper and Depth Effect.When youre finished making changes, tap the blue Add button in the top right corner of the screen. Advertisement Who says iPhones lack home screen customization. On newer versions of iOS, you can customize almost every aspect of the home screen and make it more aesthetic and visually appealing. This is made possible with an amazing aesthetic widget and icon apps that are available through the App Store. These apps let you go beyond changing the wallpaper and changing app icons, and add beautiful yet useful widgets to your devices home screen.Read on to find out the best aesthetic widget and icon changer apps for iPhone and iPad that you can download in 2025. Bored with the same old iPhone screen? Say hello to a world where your phone finally reflects you. Themify lets you completely transform your iPhone or iPad with stylish customizations that go far beyond just wallpapers. Its one of the best widget apps out there for giving your Lock and Home Screens a personal, functional upgrade. You can mix and match interactive widgets that track your steps, show the weather, display quotes, or even let you care for a tiny digital pet. Want more control? The Theme Maker gives you full creative freedom to design your own look, while over 2,000 unique icon packs let you ditch the default app icons for something that actually fits your vibe. Whether youre into pastel tones, dark themes, or bold aesthetics, Themify makes it easy to build a cohesive and expressive layout. With live and still wallpapers spanning anime, nature, cars, and more, youll always have a fresh way to reflect your mood and style. Icon Themer: Aesthetic Themekit lets you completely transform your home and lock screens using stunning aesthetic themes, custom app icons, wallpapers, and widgets, all designed to sync beautifully with iOS 16 and iOS 17. Whether youre into dreamy pastels or bold minimalism, you can mix and match from curated screen kits or create your own style from scratch. Choose from 100+ app icon sets, tweak their color and shape with the built-in icon maker, and apply them instantly. Dive into a rich library of wallpapers ranging from anime to nature, and elevate your iPhone with interactive widgets that are both functional and fun. From daily reminders to cute digital add-ons, its one of the top iPhone widget apps for expressing your personality through your screen. It offers a wide range of options, so you can effortlessly keep your device looking stylish and unique, no matter your personal aesthetic. So feel free to enjoy seamless customization that turns your iPhone into a true reflection of your unique style. Looking to turn your iPhone into a personal style statement? App Themes Kit: Icon Themepack gives you everything you need to revamp your device in just a few taps. With sleek iOS 18-inspired themes, stylish widgets, and eye-catching wallpapers, this app lets you create a perfectly coordinated Home and Lock Screen setup that reflects your personality. Whether youre into minimalist elegance, playful vibes, or bold aesthetics, each theme includes matching icons, wallpapers, and widgets that install effortlessly. You can even customize widgets with clocks, quotes, and photos, or use the icon changer to refresh your apps with a modern look. From dynamic island wallpapers to posters, it offers more than just customization, it gives you a whole new way to express yourself. If youre exploring the most creative widget and icon apps available, this one is designed to stand out from the crowd. Tired of the same old home screen layout? Icon Changer Wallpaper+widget is your go-to solution for transforming your iPhone into a personalized masterpiece just a few taps. This app offers a refreshing way to redesign your device with custom app icons for iPhone, stylish wallpapers, and sleek widget options. From the classy Golden Pack to the playful Pink Glitter and moody Dark Cat icon packs, you can pick what speaks to your style. Using the app is super simple! Select a theme kit, tap install, and choose which icons to update. You can even create your own icons by picking backgrounds and symbols from the apps vast library. Plus, if youre into health tracking, the integrated HealthKit step widget displays up-to-date progress while tracking your activity effortlessly and visually appealing. Want to make your iPhone stand out? IconChic has got you covered with the ultimate collection of theme packs for iPhone, designed to transform your device into a personalized masterpiece. With over 500 customizable home screen themes and 200+ lock screen widgets, IconChic offers everything you need to create a fresh look. Choose from a variety of styleswhether its aesthetic themes, motivational quotes, countdowns, or even health tracking widgets that integrate seamlessly with your iPhones HealthKit. The apps extensive library of 5000+ HD wallpapers lets you select the perfect backdrop for every mood, and with weekly updates, theres always something new to discover. You can even tweak fonts, colors, and widget sizes to make everything fit your personal aesthetic. With endless customization options, IconChic ensures your device always reflects your personality. So theres no denying that IconChic allows you to choose from sleek, minimalist vibes or bold, colorful styles, ensuring the perfect design to match your personality. DailyTheme is the ultimate app for personalizing your device with fresh, modern looks. With its wide range of customization options, it allows you to easily change your icons, lock screens, and widgets, making it one of the best icon changer apps for iOS. With 23 different widget collections, including clocks, weather updates, countdowns, and motivational quotes, you can give your device a stunning makeover in no time. The Lock Screen Maker brings exciting new wallpapers, photo patterns, and even GIFs, allowing you to create a personalized atmosphere on your device. Need reminders for big events? Easily set up countdown widgets to stay on track. Plus, with the Lock Launcher, you can quickly access apps and contacts right from your lock screen. For your Home Screen, choose from over 100 icon packs that you can swap out weekly. Whether youre into neon icons, minimalist designs, or glittery pink themes, DailyTheme is the perfect choice for users looking for icon changer apps for iOS, making it easy to update and transform your screen effortlessly. With these beautiful home screen customization apps for iPhone you get access to a wide range of app icons and widgets that change the way your devices home screen looks and feels. You can use these apps to transform the home screen and get more control over its aesthetics. Disclosure: iOSHacker may receive a commission if you purchase products through our affiliate links. For more visit our privacy policy page. Privacy Overview This website uses cookies so that we can provide you with the best user experience possible. Cookie information is stored in your browser and performs functions such as recognising you when you return to our website and helping our team to understand which sections of the website you find most interesting and useful. Strictly Necessary Cookies Strictly Necessary Cookie should be enabled at all times so that we can save your preferences for cookie settings. If you disable this cookie, we will not be able to save your preferences. 3rd Party Cookies This website uses Google Analytics and BuySellAds to collect anonymous information such as the number of visitors to the site, and the most popular pages.Keeping this cookie enabled helps us to improve our website. 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Cookie information is stored in your browser and performs functions such as recognising you when you return to our website and helping our team to understand which sections of the website you find most interesting and useful. Strictly Necessary Cookies Strictly Necessary Cookie should be enabled at all times so that we can save your preferences for cookie settings. If you disable this cookie, we will not be able to save your preferences. 3rd Party Cookies This website uses Google Analytics and BuySellAds to collect anonymous information such as the number of visitors to the site, and the most popular pages.Keeping this cookie enabled helps us to improve our website. Customize your iPhone home screen with themed widgets, folders, app icons, and wallpapers for holidays like Halloween or Valentine's Day. Easily move apps around the home screen, create folders for organization, and personalize app icons with custom photos. Use third-party apps like Color Widgets to add custom widgets to your home screen, complementing the theme and aesthetic you desire. There are so many different ways to add personality to your iPhone. Whether it's choosing a blue iPhone instead of the standard silver or black, adding a funky case to your phone or even adding a PopSocket to the back of your iPhone -- the options are endless. Now, using custom icons, widgets, and folders, you can customize your iPhone home screen (and even the lock screen) beyond just adding a new wallpaper picture. Related Need to catch up on what's new in iOS 17? We gotcha. Here's everything you need to know about your iPhone's latest software update. Customizing your iPhone's home screen for holidays like Halloween or Valentine's Day is a fun way to immerse yourself in the festive spirit. Picture transforming your screen for Halloween with spooky widgets that count down to the big night, accompanied by a wallpaper that's a blend of shadows and jack-o'-lanterns. Beyond that, you can revamp your apps icons to match the theme -- imagine eerie skull icons for your messages or a witch's cauldron for your favorite delivery app. Your apps could be neatly organized into folders named with a bit of Halloween flair too -- think "Witches' Brew" for your food apps. For Valentine's Day, the customization can take a sweeter turn with widgets displaying heartfelt quotes or countdowns to a romantic evening, complemented by a wallpaper adorned with hearts or roses. Custom icons could add to the ambiance, with love-themed icons for your messaging apps like a musical note wrapped in a heart for Spotify. You can organize your apps into romantic folders like "Love Notes" for messaging apps. This level of customization doesn't just celebrate the holiday; it allows you to make a personal statement, showcasing your personality and interests through a device that's with you 24/7. To get started, you need an iPhone, of course, but it needs to be running the latest version of iOS 17. 1 Move the apps on your home screen Now when you press your home screen and tap Edit home screen on the menu that appears. Tap and hold on an app and drag it around the display to move it. Drag it to the edge of the screen to move it to a new screen. Drag it down to your dock at the bottom of your display to add it there. Julian Christ / Unsplash If you're happy with moving app icons around individually, but you'd like to group a bunch of them in one place for convenience, folders are a great way to do just that. Here's how. Long press on an app to move it. Drag and drop the app onto another on your home screen. Next, tap into the new folder and rename it if you prefer, by tapping on the "x" next to its name. If you're looking to remove an app from a folder, just open the folder, then long-press on the app in question and drag it out of the folder back onto the home screen. Troy: MagnifiqueStudio Get your thinking cap on - because this one requires some creativity. Trim your apps Before getting started, trim the number of apps on your home screen. Too many apps can look cluttered. Plus, if you want to change the icon for every app on your home screen, that's a lot of editing. Take less time if you only have a few. To remove an app, hold down on one, select Remove App, and confirm. You aren't deleting it off your phone; just swipe from right on your home screen to find it in the App Library, or you can pull down on the home screen to search for it. Apple has a support page with extra information and tips about how to neatly organize your home screen and make perfect use of the App Library. Related Google's next-gen Pixel 9 flagship lineup is expected to land this fall -- here's what rumors indicate to us right now. Find app icons to use Once you have a select few apps on your home screen, go find some photos on the internet or in your camera gallery that you want to turn into app icons. On Etsy, sellers offer thousands of themed icon packs you can buy ranging from designs in a matter of seconds and for under 2 bucks. There are also apps (like Color Widgets) and websites (like Flaticon) that offer free icons for you to download and use. Or, you can use a photo you took and saved. If you're going for an aesthetic, stick with a theme. Those of you going with Halloween, for instance, could try pics of bats, witches, etc. for icons. Related The iPhone 15 Pro Max has more features compared to the 14 Pro Max, but is it worth the upgrade? Let's take a look. Make app shortcuts Open Apple's Shortcuts app. It's a pre-installed app, so there's no need to download it. You're going to use Shortcuts to replace the app icons on your home screen with all the icons and photos you curated in step two above. You just create a shortcut for an app and then add it to your home screen. It will look like an app and work like one - but it'll have the custom icon and name you gave it. In the Shortcuts app, follow these steps: Tap the + in the corner. On the new shortcut page, tap Add Action. In the menu that pops up, search for and select Open app. On the new shortcut page, tap on 'App' to select the app you want to open. Click the drop-down at the top (next to Open app) to access the details pane. On the details pane, tap Add to Home Screen. On the preview pane, tap the shortcut name field (under Home Screen Name and Icon). Delete the words "New Shortcut" and enter a new name for the app. Tap Perhaps use the name of the app you're trying to open (like "TikTok"). Tap the icon next to the shortcut name (again, under Home Screen Name and Icon). In the edit icon menu that pops up, select Choose photo. Your photo gallery will pop up. Select a photo you want to use as an icon. On the preview pane, tap Add. Now leave Shortcuts and look at your home screen to see the result. You should see the app shortcut you created with a custom icon and name. Remove the original app from your home screen so it doesn't show both apps. Now repeat all the steps above for every app you want to change on your home screen. Again, if you're going for an aesthetic, stick with a theme. With the Shortcuts app, you can get extra creative. You can make custom shortcuts or use Apple's starter shortcuts and save them as "apps" to your home screen - with their own icons, too! The idea is, with a quick tap on the app shortcut you've made, you can have your YouTube video or message your partner on Snapchat or launch Shazam. The possibilities are endless. You can really go overboard creating app shortcuts and icons for everything. Apple has a support page with extra information and tips about how to use the Shortcuts app to maximize your iPhone experience. Etsy: MagnifiqueStudio There are several apps in the Apple App Store you can use to create widgets. Youll find out about new features coming in iOS 18, how to go above and beyond using Shortcuts, and how you can top off your iPhone aesthetic with widgets. Ive scoured the internet (Reddit, mostly) to find the finest examples. Customize iOS 18 Home Screen layout, icons and widgets1. On iOS 18, use a dark backgroundiOS 18 opens up new customization options.Screenshot: Wendell S/Digital_Leader/redditiOS 18 which is available now in Settings > General > Software Update opens up loads of customization options. You can set your Home Screen to use Dark icons or Tinted icons with any color you want. However, bear in mind that the Tinted icons still use a Dark color scheme. That means youll achieve the best results if you employ a moody, dark iPhone wallpaper with a complementary accent color for the icons.If youre already running iOS 18, just tap and hold on your Home Screen to enter jiggle mode. Then tap Edit in the upper left, then tap Customize. If you select Tinted, you can find a color using the sliders, or you can tap the eyedropper icon in the upper right of the panel to select a color based on your iPhones wallpaper. You also can tap the Sun icon in the upper left to darken your wallpaper if you want.If you want a good, unobstructed view of your wallpaper, in iOS 18 you can move app icons and folders to the bottom of your iPhone screen for the first time. Apple really opens up your options for iPhone customization in iOS 18.2. Go all-in on fully custom iconsCompletely change the aesthetic of your iPhone with custom icons.Screenshot: MicrosuedeMouseX/StorageRich3317/redditApples options for custom icons might be limited. For me, the Dark and Tinted icons dont look great with a light theme. If you want any pastel colors, like light pink, lavender or aqua blue, youll need to make your own custom app icons.Ever since custom Home Screens went viral in 2020, custom icon packs for iPhone have been easy to find. You can locate custom icon packs online from websites like Icons8. Click on a collection, then search for an icon inside that collection (like YouTube, Instagram, Mail, etc.) and download the images. You should end up with a series of icons in your favorite design.These custom Home Screens take a lot of commitment to make, but the results speak for themselves.Screenshot: Mark_JCW/trakkito/redditCustom icons dont need to be all about changing your iPhones color scheme. The icon set above looks just as colorful as the stock icons, but it changes the aesthetic gentle colors and softer shadows.Create a custom app launcher using Shortcuts.Screenshot: D. Griffin Jones/Cult of MacTo swap out your apps old icons for new ones, youll need to set up a bunch of Shortcuts. Open the Shortcuts app, tap the + button in the top-right corner, then tap Open App. Tap App, then select the app you want to add. Thats all the Shortcut needs to do. Hit the Share button in the bottom toolbar and select Add to Home Screen.Heres the important part: Type in the name of the app, select the icon on the left, and tap Choose Photo. Then, select the custom icon you added to your photo library. Tap Add to put it on your Home Screen. (Remove the stock icon by tapping and holding on the app, tapping Remove App, then tapping Remove From Home Screen.) It can be a tedious process if you have a lot of icons, but the results speak for themselves.These Home Screens get really creative.Screenshot: oddloop_lol/Carlanator64/XThere is one important thing to note about this kind of setup. Whereas the iOS 18 icon customization feature affects icons everywhere on your iPhone, including the App Library, adding these Shortcuts only affects icons on your Home Screen. Thats because youre not really changing the icons themselves; youre making new ones for your Home Screen. First of all, the custom icon wont show notification badges. Secondly, when you tap on the icon, youll see a banner at the top of the screen reminding you that you just ran a Shortcut. This cannot be disabled, even in iOS 18.Personally, I use custom icons in a more subtle way. I use the stock iOS 18 dark mode, because I like the color differentiation. But for the three third-party apps on my Home Screen Snapchat, Mona and NetNewsWire I made my own dark mode icons that match Apples theme.3. Enhance the look of your iPhone Home Screen with custom widgetsIn iOS 18, you can add custom app icons and more.Screenshot: heartoutchloe/TherelsNoDog96/redditWith Widgetsmith customizing the look and personality of a Home Screen is easy and fun.Screenshot: heartoutchloe/TherelsNoDog96/redditWidgetsmith not only bring out the personality of a Home Screen but also add custom calendar widgets, weather widgets, countdown widgets or simple photos that do nothing but look gorgeous. The options for custom colors and fonts are guaranteed to match your personal style.With new tools coming in iOS 18, people will be able to more easily create their own unique aesthetic, said Stephen Hackett, the managing director for Widgetsmith, in an email to Cult of Mac.The people behind Widgetsmith weigh in on the app.With all the latest iOS features, like widget interactivity, with fresh styles every few months to inspire you. Hackett also told me that this year, when users update to iOS 18, they will be able to customize Control Center with third-party widgets made using the app, too.Price: $1.99 per month or $19.99 per yearDownload from: App StoreMore daily inspirationIf you want to see more of whats possible, you should check out the Cult of Mac Today newsletter. Every edition is delivered to your email inbox with a nifty new wallpaper, in addition to the days top news, reviews and how-tos. You can sign up here for a daily dose of fun and inspiration in your inbox.More top features in iOS 18: And check out the full list for even more.We originally published this post on how to customize the iPhones Home Screen layout in iOS 18 on June 22, 2024. We updated the information.

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