Patch Notes

TOOLS, LINKS AND FULL BREAKDOWN

Owly: AirDrop between an iPhone and a Linux laptop

Check your Wi-Fi card, install Owly, and send photos both ways, with nothing installed on the iPhone.

01 Get the tools

REPO

Owly (t4t5)

3.1k stars on Oct 29, 2026

Free, open-source AirDrop for Linux: runs Apple's AWDL Wi-Fi link on your own Wi-Fi card. MIT licence.

github.com/t4t5/owly ↗

SITE

Owly releases

The .deb and .rpm packages.

github.com/t4t5/owly/releases ↗

02 Read more

ARTICLE

TechRadar: Android now works with AirDrop, starting with the Pixel 10

Google's Quick Share and AirDrop, first on Pixel 10 phones (Nov 2025). It has since spread to more Android phones (see the correction below).

techradar.com/phones/google-pixel-phones/its-actually-happened-android-now-works-with-apple-airdrop-for-simple-file-sharing-starting-with-the-pixel-10 ↗

→ Set it up

Owly (t4t5)

github.com/t4t5/owly

YOU NEED

- A Linux laptop or PC with a supported Wi-Fi card (check the list first)
- An iPhone with AirDrop set to "Everyone for 10 minutes"

INSTALL

1. Find your Wi-Fi card:

```
$ lspci -nn | grep -i network
```

2. Debian/Ubuntu: download the .deb from the releases page, then:

```
$ sudo apt install ./owly_*_amd64.deb
```

3. Fedora:

```
$ sudo dnf install ./owly-*.x86_64.rpm
```

4. Arch:

```
$ yay -S owly
```

5. Check what your card can do:

```
$ owly doctor
```

USE IT

1. Start the radio:

```
$ owly radio up
```

2. In another terminal, receive files:

```
$ owly receive --dir ~/Downloads
```

❸ Or find nearby iPhones and send one:

```
$ owly browse
owly send --to "Jane's iPhone" photo.jpg
```

The full story

Will it work on my laptop?

It depends on the Wi-Fi card. On Oct 29, 2026 the supported-hardware table listed **15 cards that work**, 3 that are unreliable and 6 that fail. Working: Intel AX200, AX201, AX210, AX211, BE200, 9260, 9560; MediaTek MT7925; Realtek RTL8852AE/BE/CE, RTL8822BE and some USB adapters. Failing: Qualcomm WCN6855 and WCN7850, Intel AC 7265/8260/8265, Realtek RTL8821CE, MediaTek MT7927.

The catches

- **Exclusive mode turns Wi-Fi off while the radio is up** (every Intel card tested). Shared mode keeps it, but your router must be on channel 6, 44 or 149.
- Slow on channel 6: a 2.4 MB photo took 10–17 s on an Intel AX201.
- A firewall can hide the laptop from the iPhone: allow TCP 8771 on awdl0.
- If the laptop stops showing up, restart the iPhone.

How it works

AirDrop runs over AWDL, a Wi-Fi link Apple devices use to talk directly. Owly's small system service takes over your Wi-Fi card, runs AWDL on it, and gives your Wi-Fi back when you're done. Nothing is installed on the iPhone.

Correction: AirDrop on Android is no longer Pixel 10 only

The video says Google brought AirDrop to "only its Pixel 10 phones". That was true at launch in November 2025, but by the time the video went up on Oct 31, 2026 it had spread further. Thanks to the viewer who pointed this out.

- **Nov 2025:** Quick Share works with AirDrop on the Pixel 10.
- **Feb 2026:** Google adds the Pixel 9, 9 Pro, 9 Pro XL and 9 Pro Fold.
- **Mar 2026:** Samsung adds it to the Galaxy S26 series (off by default; turn it on in Quick Share settings).
- **2026:** Oppo announces it for the Find X9 series, and Google says more Android brands will follow.
- **Still missing:** Linux laptops. Google's Quick Share for Windows shares with Android phones; we found no confirmation that it sends to iPhones. That gap is what Owly fills.

Sources

1. iPhoneSoft (Oct 13, 2026)
   iphonesoft.fr/2026/10/13/airdrop-fonctionne-linux-projet-open-source
2. 9to5Google: Quick Share AirDrop reaches Pixel 9 (Feb 17, 2026)
   9to5google.com/2026/02/17/quick-share-airdrop-pixel-9
3. 9to5Google: Galaxy S26 gets AirDrop via Quick Share (Mar 22, 2026)
   9to5google.com/2026/03/22/samsung-galaxy-s26-airdrop-quick-share
4. Android Central: the AirDrop-to-Android expansion
   androidcentral.com/apps-software/the-airdrop-to-android-expansion-is-finally-happening-here-is-what-to-expect

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