

ClickShare

The complete guide to video bars

Everything you need to know about video bars to make the best choice for your hybrid meeting rooms



Video bars: the ultimate device for hybrid meeting rooms

Would you like to transform your meeting spaces with one powerful tool? An all-in-one video bar device is your answer.

A video bar integrates high-definition cameras, capable microphones and powerful speakers into one sleek device. It streamlines your meetings with seamless, quality audio and video, and enables effortless collaboration across locations.

IT decision-makers have already embraced this technology, according to industry reports. [Frost & Sullivan](#) reveals that **83% of organizations are consolidating their communications and collaboration tools.**

What's more, **52% of IT decision-makers across more than 20 industries and 15 countries have adopted an all-in-one video conferencing solution**, underscoring the growing importance of video bars in today's hybrid work environments.



But why choose a video bar for your meeting rooms? The answer lies in the blend of **simplicity, cost-effectiveness and efficiency.** These devices simplify installation and deployment with their all-in-one design, so meeting rooms are ready in no time and have fewer failure points. All these benefits will overall **lower the Total Cost of Ownership and bring better Return on Investment.**

Whether you're outfitting a single room or upgrading your entire office, **this guide provides the essential knowledge to make informed decisions.** It will equip you with the **knowledge to choose, install, and leverage video bars to their fullest potential**, ensuring employees are more connected and productive, no matter their location.

What are the key features of a video bar?



Video features

1. Camera resolution

Camera resolution will determine image sharpness, so pick a video bar with higher resolution, that allows zooming in without sacrificing quality and detail. Resolution can range across devices but most all-in-one video bars will have a 4K camera (Ultra HD) built in that will offer high-quality visuals suitable for most hybrid meeting room use cases.



A [2023 study](#) by Frost & Sullivan among IT decision-makers reveals their features of choice:

- Smart cameras and intelligent audio. These rank as two of the most important features.
- Reliability, ease of use, security and compliance are four key qualities in room video conferencing devices.
- Interoperability (making sure the all-in-one device is compatible with the rest of the organization's tech stack) is considered important by 76% of respondents.

2. Field of view

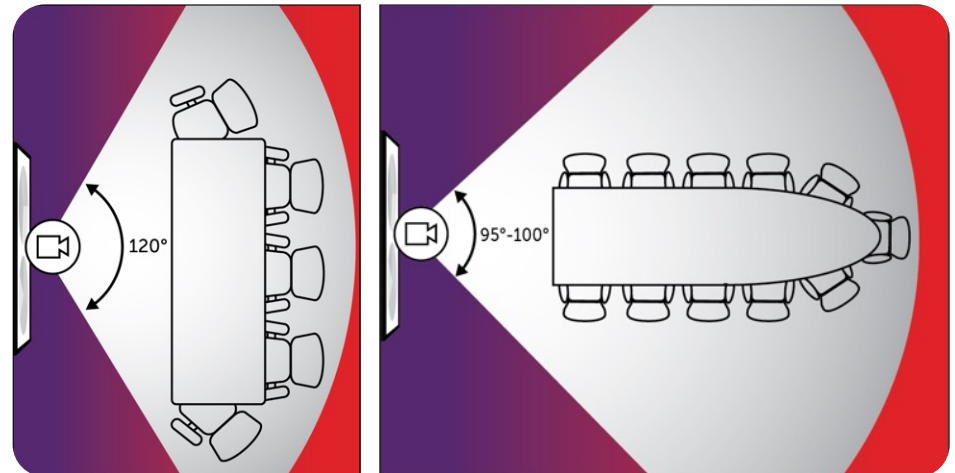
The field of view determines how much of the meeting room the camera can capture, which in turn determines what remote participants can see. Ensuring a suitable field of view for your meeting room will create an inclusive experience and guarantee remote workers feel heard and seen.

In most video bars, **the field of view can range between 95° and 120°** and what you require will depend on the meeting room size.

Small to medium-sized meeting rooms, for up to 5 participants, will benefit from a wide, 120° FOV, to cover the entirety of the room. Make sure to test the device because despite capturing more space, a wider angle can distort the image of people sitting on the sides.

Larger rooms will require a narrower 95° - 100° FOV that keeps the focus on the space where participants are sitting, ideally paired with **optical zoom capabilities** or a camera with a very high-resolution sensor, to close in on participants without losing image quality.

For rooms of more than 7-8 participants, requirements change. Depending on the space, you will need an all-in-one bar with two cameras or even a modular setup with multiple audio and video devices.



3. High dynamic range (HDR) capabilities

HDR technology enables video bars to deliver vibrant and life-like images by improving color and contrast. This means brighter whites, deeper blacks and a wider spectrum of colors. Together, these will deliver a more realistic and immersive visual experience.

This feature is especially important in meeting spaces that have natural light whose intensity, brightness and shadows vary depending on weather conditions and time of day (such as harsh sunlight or dimly lit spaces). **HDR will automatically adapt to changing conditions and adjust for clarity and balance.**

Before investing, **testing the HDR capabilities is key**, as performance can differ between models and meeting room conditions.



Standard dynamic range

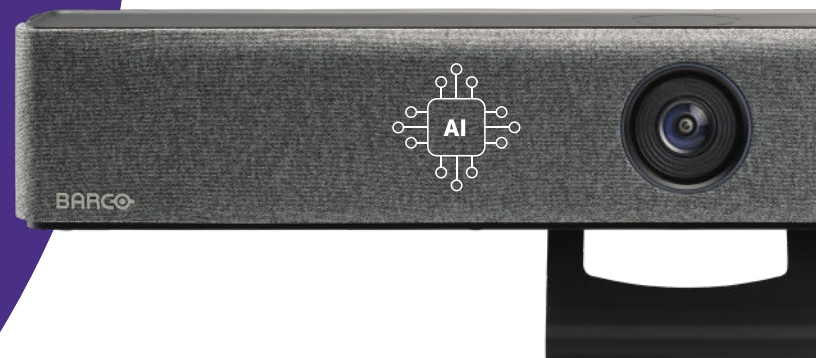


High dynamic range

4. AI-powered framing options

All-in-one video bar cameras often include various framing options to enhance conferencing experiences. Framing options refer to the camera's capacity to automatically adjust its field of view and focus, making sure onsite participants are appropriately framed.

These features will guarantee an enhanced view in meetings, enabling remote meeting participants to clearly see in-room attendees, facilitating communication and ensuring meeting equity.



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With **Group framing**, the video AI will automatically recognize people in the meeting room and smoothly zoom in or out to give a picture-perfect view of the onsite participants.



Composition view will cut out participants and neatly frame them side by side. The goal is to display the view that one would see when all participants join separately in the call.



The **Speaker framing** function will identify the speaker and the camera will zoom in on them to provide a more detailed view.



Audio features

1. Speakers

Speakers play a pivotal role in delivering crisp, distortion-free audio, allowing both in-room and remote participants to hear each other without strain or misunderstandings.

The speakers for your meeting room will depend on its size.



For **small meeting rooms** fitting 2-3 people (<3m/10 ft), mono speakers provide a cost-effective solution. These speakers are perfect for intimate settings, ensuring clear and direct sound delivery.

Small to medium-sized meeting rooms for 4-5 participants (3-4m/10-15ft) will require multiple speakers, both to enhance the audio experience in the room with stereo audio, but also to provide sound that can fill the entire room.

In **large rooms (>4.5m/15ft)** opt for a video bar with multiple speakers and supplement with extension mics for optimal sound pickup.

Room acoustics will play a pivotal role too. Spaces with hard surfaces like concrete or glass can create challenging acoustics, often leading to excessive reverb or echo.

How can you improve acoustics in such conditions?
Add sound absorbing panels, sound diffusers, wall decoration and furniture.

2. Microphones

All-in-one video bars contain microphone arrays which are a cluster of multiple microphones working together towards a high-quality audio experience.

In small rooms, a minimum of three microphones will guarantee clear audio capture.

Medium-sized rooms require at least four for optimal sound.

In larger spaces, it's essential to have at least four microphones in the video bar, supplemented with extension mics for comprehensive audio coverage.



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Microphone pick-up range

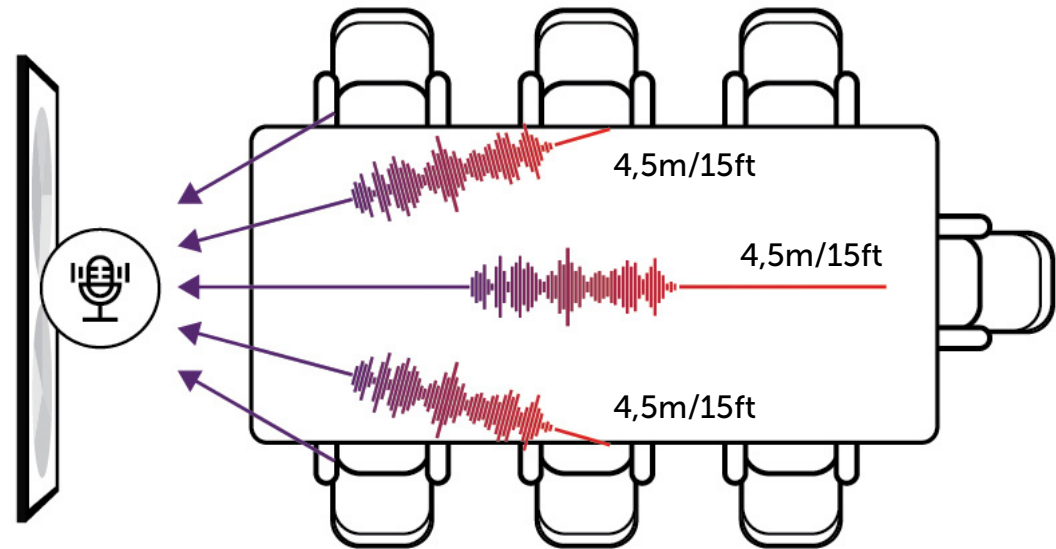
Video bars have clear specifications in terms of mic pick up which are linked to the room size.

Microphone pick-up range represents the distance from the microphone to the meeting room attendees that will deliver an acceptable audio signal level to the microphone system.

Select an all-in-one video bar with a mic pick up that lightly exceeds the size of your meeting room.

If your meeting room is 4m/13ft, choose one of 4.5m/15ft range.

- Smaller rooms for 2-3 people require mics with 3m/10ft pick-up range.
- Small to medium-sized ones need a 4m/13ft pick-up range.
- Larger meeting rooms will require supplementary extension mics next to the existing ones. Depending on the room size, a video bar might not suffice, in which case you will require a modular setup with separate audio and video equipment that is integrated together.



Noise cancellation, acoustic echo cancellation and automatic gain control

These features will ensure clear, distraction-free communication and professional audio quality in your meetings.

Noise cancellation filters out background noises from your audio input such as traffic, fans, and air conditioning. These features are often integrated into platforms like Microsoft Teams, Zoom and Google Meet.

Acoustic echo cancellation prevents echo in your audio output. It's an important feature in meetings where multiple microphones and speakers are used in proximity.

Video bars that offer more advanced echo cancellation will be able to filter out additional noises through AI processing, but in many cases, the additional noise cancellation capabilities built into UC clients such as Teams and Zoom, will be able to handle these.

Automatic gain control complements noise and acoustic echo cancellation by **adjusting the microphone to maintain a consistent and optimal audio volume.** It makes sure that both in-room and remote participants are heard at the same audio volume, no matter how loudly or quietly they speak.



Wireless conferencing and interactive collaboration features

A wireless conferencing system automatically connects your laptop to the meeting room display and to the audio and video equipment. It's a user-friendly device that will help you start your hybrid meeting in a couple of seconds, with one click via an app or a button.

Interactive features on the other hand, such as **touchback**, **annotation** and **blackboarding**, enable meeting attendees to use a touch enabled screen to draw or write. This fosters creativity, interactivity and in-depth collaboration.

These capabilities can usually be found in standalone wireless conferencing solutions (like [ClickShare Conference](#)) or sometimes integrated into all-in-one video bar devices, like the [ClickShare Video Bars](#).



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Other considerations when selecting an all-in-one video bar

1. Flexibility in meeting rooms?

When selecting an all-in-one video bar, consider the flexibility of your meeting room. We suggest a **BYOM approach (Bring Your Own Meeting)** where participants can use their laptop and different video conferencing platforms to host a meeting.

This approach is ideal for organizations that **support a modern and dynamic work environment**, accommodating diverse work styles and facilitating easy collaboration.

How can you enable BYOM and what does that mean when selecting an all-in-one video bar? **Make sure your video bar of choice has multiple connectivity options, such as USB, Bluetooth, or wireless conferencing capabilities.** Look for models that are compatible with multiple video conferencing platforms that ensure seamless integration regardless of the laptop or platform used.

2. One videoconferencing platform to rule them all, or not?

Is only one videoconferencing platform predominating in your workplace, such as Microsoft Teams or Zoom? Or do you use multiple platforms?

The video bar you choose should seamlessly integrate with your preferred platform.

If you plan on using different video conferencing platforms, whether you are picking several devices to set up your room or select a ready-made, fixed-room system (like a Microsoft Teams Room or Zoom Room), then consider a video bar that has a switching feature. This will allow you to host hybrid meetings via different platforms.

Devices with automatic switching features like the [ClickShare Video Bar](#) offer greater flexibility for organizations that often collaborate with external parties using different conferencing platforms.



3. Internal employees only, external guests or both?

Are the meeting rooms in your workplace catering to internal employees, external guests, or both?



1. Internal employees only

Select a video bar that integrates easily with your organization's existing tech stack, that does not require complex installation or additional training and that is straightforward and reliable for daily use.



2. External guests

Choose video bars with versatile connectivity, including easy USB access and wireless options, to accommodate guests' diverse devices and preferences. Ensure compatibility with multiple conferencing platforms and prioritize security and confidentiality.



3. Both internal employees and external guests

Opt for a video bar that combines ease of use with robust security and connectivity options, catering to both internal and external users. Check for features supporting multiple video conferencing platforms, devices and connection methods (both wired and wireless).

4. What about content sharing?

Decide how you want participants to share content and consider if you require features like blackboarding or annotation. Ensure the video bar has the necessary ports (like HDMI™) for these functionalities or that they can be easily added.

Wired sharing via USB or HDMI™ cables offers a stable connection and supports high-resolution content sharing but can be cumbersome and less flexible. They can restrict meeting room setup and participants' movement.

Wireless sharing via an app or wireless device on the other hand offers:



More flexibility and ease when switching presenters



A cleaner setup with fewer cables



Less installation hassle



Wider device compatibility including tablets or smartphones



The best option?

Get an all-in-one video bar device that works wirelessly but can have wired connection added for those moments when sharp visuals are mandatory.

Other video bar features for content sharing enable **displaying both remote participants and content at all times, on either one screen or two screens (dual screen support)**. This will guarantee engagement and make sure attendees joining from other locations feel truly seen and heard.

ClickShare Bar Pro has all these features and more. Discover it [here!](#)

5. How to guarantee full security?

Opt for a device with a security certification that safeguards against data breaches.

Make sure it has undergone strenuous testing and that it meets robust encryption standards that guarantee the confidentiality and integrity of communication.

Check if the video bar is future proof and benefits from regular software updates to ensure data protection meets the highest industry standards and evolving demands.



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6. Can you test and trial your all-in-one video bar?

Trialing and testing is key to making the right video bar purchase. Select a few potential models and test them in your environment.

Despite seemingly-impressive specifications, the real-world performance of a video bar can vary greatly based on how it's installed and on the unique setting of your meeting rooms.

That is especially the case for camera quality and audio clarity. The bar might boast numerous features, but their effectiveness can differ depending on room acoustics and light conditions.

Did you know we have a ClickShare Try & Buy program? Why not **test the ClickShare Bar** for 30 days, for free.

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How important is sustainability to you?

Are you looking to invest in more sustainable products, lower energy costs, reduce the carbon footprint of your organization and reach sustainability goals?

Make sure to examine manufacturers' environmental claims. Not all claims may hold up under scrutiny, so look for devices with robust credentials confirmed by independent third parties such as those from the ISO 14000 environmental management standard.

ClickShare brings sustainability to your workplace.

[Discover how](#)

How to select a sustainable video bar? Make sure to check:



Energy efficiency

Select a product that will have lower power consumption.



Material use

Look for video bars made from recycled or sustainably-sourced materials.



Designed for recycling

Evaluate the materials used in the making of your video bar and check if they are easy to disassemble and recycle.

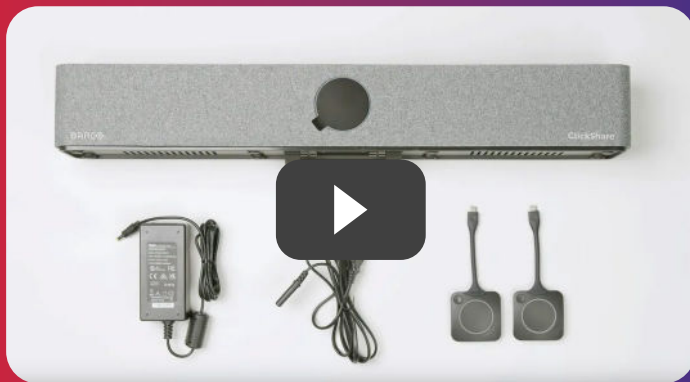


Packaging and logistics

Check for packaging made of recycled material and for transport with a lower carbon footprint such as sea instead of air.

How to install an all-in-one videobar?

Wondering already how you would install an all-in-one video bar? What does it entail? While the exact installation instructions will depend on your specific model, watch the video for 5 generally-applicable steps.



See how easy it is to install the ClickShare Video Bar

1. Choose the optimal position, usually above or below your main display screen, ensuring the camera has a clear view of the meeting area. The best place to install a video bar is at the eye height of in-room participants where they are seated.

However, if you have a meeting room with enhanced collaboration functionalities like a touch screen for annotation, install the video bar on the top of the screen.

2. Mount the video bar using the provided brackets or stand. Make sure to fix the bar so that it cannot fall or move.

3. Connect it to the main display(s) through HDMI™ and to the internet via Ethernet or Wi-Fi.

4. Power up the video bar and configure its settings, adjusting the camera and audio features according to your room's acoustics and lighting.

5. Test the setup by hosting a few meetings to see if everything works well and adjust if necessary.

ClickShare Video Bars

All-in-one video bar for engaging, effortless hybrid meetings

The ClickShare Video Bars enable engaging, effortless collaboration in hybrid meeting rooms with any videoconferencing platform. For IT Managers, these carbon-neutral video bars will guarantee simplified installation, unparalleled flexibility and compatibility.

Empowers you



Ensure crystal-clear, natural communication between meeting participants joining from various locations thanks to stereo speakers, acoustic echo cancellation and background noise cancellation.



Offer a sharp, extensive view of the meeting room and its onsite participants thanks to the 4K camera featuring a 120° FOV and multiple framing options (group framing, speaker framing and composition view).



Display content and remote participants side by side at all times, on one or two screens, to enable a more collaborative and inclusive experience.



In-depth collaboration and high engagement are guaranteed thanks to a range of interactive features: touchback, blackboarding and annotation.





Built around you



Guaranteed compatibility. The ClickShare Video Bars flawlessly work with all major videoconferencing platforms.



Unparalleled flexibility and ease of use. Turn any meeting space into a flexible meeting room with our all-in-one video bar with wireless conferencing capabilities built in.



Guest-friendly. Guests can easily share content with the complementary ClickShare Button.

Makes your life easy

- **Connect wirelessly in 7 seconds.** Open your laptop and your meeting is running in the blink of an eye.
- **Zero learning curve.** The ClickShare Video Bar range is intuitive and ease to use; no training sessions or manual required.
- **Smart Meeting Flows** will guide you through the meeting, from checking room availability to an automated start or advanced sharing options.





Has you covered

- **Simplified installation**, reduced cost and complexity. One easy-to-install device to deploy in your meeting rooms reuniting all collaboration, audio and video functionalities.
- **Designed for deployment at scale**, it is easy to install so you can have your meeting rooms ready in no time.
- **Free firmware updates and no license cost.** Free SmartCare service package with 5 years of coverage and no replacement costs upon registering your ClickShare devices.
- **Enterprise grade product:** highly secure, can easily be integrated in your network.
- **Remotely manage and configure** your installed base and take advantage of extensive user insights with XMS Cloud.
- **Carbon-neutral video bar** range so you can help your organization reach its sustainability goals.



ClickShare Video Bars



Technical specifications

	ClickShare Bar Core	ClickShare Bar Pro
Wireless conferencing capabilities	Yes	Yes
Buttons included	1	2
Sources simultaneously on screen	1	2
Wired content video input	–	USB-C or HDMI™
Wired room dock for 4K content sharing	–	Yes
Automatic switching between room system and BYOM	–	Yes
Interactivity with touchback, annotation and blackboarding	–	Yes
Dual screen support	–	Yes
Built-in camera with 4K sensor and 120° FOV	Yes	Yes
AI-enabled capabilities: group framing & composition	Yes	Yes
Advanced AI capability: speaker framing	–	Yes
Built-in, high-quality audio capabilities	Yes 4.5m/15ft audio pick up	Yes 4.5m/15ft audio pick up
Advanced AV integration	–	–
Advanced network integration: dual network	–	–
Carbon neutral	Yes	Yes

Seamless, cable-free (Button & App)

Guest-friendly & flexible

Smart meeting flows for smart meetings

Bring your own device (BYOD)

Free 5-year warranty with to SmartCare

Easy remote management with XMS Cloud

Enterprise-grade: secure, ISO-27001 certified, centrally managed & network integrated

[Discover ClickShare Bar Core](#)

[Discover ClickShare Bar Pro](#)

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The Barco logo consists of the word "BARCO" in white, uppercase, sans-serif font, followed by a white circle with a horizontal line through its center, all set against a red square background.

ClickShare

About Barco

At Barco, we believe truly great engineering starts with a clear vision. A vision of a better, smarter, and healthier world. Through visualization & collaboration technology, we accelerate innovation in healthcare, enterprise, and entertainment to create a bright tomorrow.

Barco. Visioneering a bright tomorrow.

A large white circle containing the text "Love meeting" in a white, sans-serif font. The word "Love" is on the top line and "meeting" is on the bottom line. The letter "o" in "Love" is replaced by a white heart symbol.

About ClickShare

ClickShare is an award-winning wireless meeting room system for easy video conferencing, collaboration and presentation. ClickShare comes in three ranges: wireless conferencing solutions for effortless hybrid collaboration, all-in-one video bars for sharp views and clear audio in hybrid meetings, and wireless presentation solutions for content sharing in face-to-face meetings.

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www.barco.com/clickshare