

Device Comparison

User Guide

Compare two devices side by side — specs, features, and compatibility — to make informed product decisions on site.

Quick Reference

Command: /compare

Devices: Any two devices in the ArklyTech database

Output: Side-by-side feature comparison card

Access: Available to all active subscribers

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1. Getting Started

The device comparison feature lets you place two products side by side to see how they differ in specs, features, and compatibility. This is especially useful when choosing between similar products from the same manufacturer.

Send /compare to start. You will be prompted to select two devices from the database. The bot generates a comparison card showing key differences.

Tip: Use compare when a customer asks why one reader costs more than another, or when you need to pick between two compatible locks for a door.

2. Starting a Comparison

After sending /compare, select your first device by browsing or searching. Then select the second device the same way. The bot works best when comparing devices in the same category (e.g., two readers, two controllers).

- Tap /compare to begin the flow
- Search or browse for the first device
- Search or browse for the second device
- The comparison card appears automatically

Note: You can compare devices from different manufacturers or categories, but the most useful comparisons are between similar products.

3. Reading Results

The comparison card shows key specifications for both devices in a table format. Differences are highlighted so you can spot them quickly:

- Category & manufacturer — confirms what you are comparing
- Technology — credential types, protocols, frequencies
- Compatibility — which panels and systems each device works with
- Power requirements — voltage, current draw
- Form factor — dimensions, mounting style

Tip: Screenshot the comparison card and send it to your project manager or customer when discussing product substitutions.

4. Use Cases

Common scenarios where device comparison saves time:

- Bid alternates: Customer wants a cheaper option — compare the spec'd reader against a more affordable model.
- Upgrades: Compare the installed device vs. the proposed replacement to verify backward compatibility.
- Standardization: When consolidating to one vendor, compare equivalent models across brands.
- Troubleshooting: Verify that the installed reader matches the one specified — wrong model is a common install issue.

5. Quick Reference

- Send /compare to start
- Select two devices to compare side by side
- Review highlighted differences in the comparison card
- Screenshot results for documentation or customer communication
- Best results when comparing devices in the same category