ACROSS THE TABLE

BUSINESS CONSULTING

APP COMPARISON 07 · LOHARE

LOHARE vs Jobber, Housecall Pro and Joist

Quote, photograph, invoice and get paid from the truck — and the payment question that separates these four.

Knowledge Article C07

AI Stack Series · acrossthetable.biz

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BEFORE YOU READ THIS

This guide compares LOHARE against three other products that do a similar job. LOHARE is my own. I build it, and I make money if you buy it.

That is exactly why this guide names the places where one of the other three is the better buy, and says so plainly. A comparison that found my own product best at everything would not be worth your time, and you would be right not to believe it.

> **NOT FOR SALE YET**
> LOHARE is listed as "Coming soon" on acrossthetable.biz. You cannot buy it today. The other three products in this guide are available right now, and if you need this job done this month, one of them is your answer.

WHAT LOHARE DOES

Quote, photograph, invoice, and get paid — from the job site.

LOHARE covers the loop a small trade business lives in: price the job in front of the customer, photograph what you found and what you did, send a branded invoice, and take the money.

The part that is unusual is the payment side. Alongside card payments it supports Zelle, Cash App and Venmo — the ways a lot of small operators actually get paid.

What is in it:

- Quotes and estimates
- Before and after photos
- Branded invoices
- Card, Zelle, Cash App, Venmo

Price: $19.99 per month · $190 per year. There is a 14-day free trial.

THE THREE IT IS UP AGAINST

This is a crowded, mature market and the three below are genuinely good products. The comparison comes down to size: how many people are in your business, and how much system you need around the work.

There is also a second question, about payments, that most comparisons skip and that matters more than it looks.

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Product	What it is	How it charges	Who it suits
LOHARE (mine)	Quoting, job photos, branded invoices and payment, built for the job site	Flat monthly or yearly. Not per user	A one-truck or small-crew trade business
Jobber	Full field-service management — scheduling, dispatch, quotes, invoicing, client records	Per month by plan, with additional users charged on top	Crews of roughly one to ten people
Housecall Pro	Field-service management with strong consumer-facing booking and marketing features	Per month by plan, cheaper billed annually, with user limits per tier	Growing home-service businesses with several technicians
Joist	A lightweight estimate-and-invoice app for solo contractors	Low monthly tiers, with document limits on the cheapest plan	Solo contractors who only need quotes and invoices

Prices move. Every figure for the other three comes from the source listed at the end of this guide, with the date it was published, so you can see how fresh it is and check it yourself. The figures for LOHARE are its own published prices.

WHAT EACH ONE IS ACTUALLY GOOD AT

Jobber

Jobber is the benchmark for small field-service businesses. Scheduling and dispatch, client history, quoting, invoicing, automated follow-ups and a client portal, all joined up.

Per a 2026 comparison of field-service tools, its Core plan runs about $49 a month for a single user, with higher tiers at roughly $139 to $399 depending on plan and user count, and additional users around $29 each.

Once you are dispatching several people it is hard to argue against. The scheduling alone justifies it at that size.

Pick this one if: you have crews to dispatch and you need scheduling and client history, not just invoices.

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Housecall Pro

Housecall Pro competes closely with Jobber and leans harder into the customer-facing side: online booking, reminders, review requests and marketing automation.

The same 2026 comparison put its Basic plan at about $59 a month billed annually or $79 monthly for one user, with Essentials around $149 annually or $189 monthly for up to five users.

For a business that gets work from homeowners searching online, the booking and review machinery is the differentiator.

Pick this one if: homeowners find and book you online and you want that whole journey handled.

Joist

Joist is deliberately small. Estimates and invoices from your phone, professional-looking, almost nothing to learn.

The 2026 comparison listed tiers at roughly $8, $16 and $32 a month, with the cheapest limited by how many documents you send. Sources disagree on whether a free tier still exists, so check that directly.

If all you need is to stop writing quotes on carbon paper, this is the cheapest credible way to do it.

Pick this one if: you work alone, you do not need scheduling, and you want the lowest possible cost.

WHERE LOHARE IS THE WRONG CHOICE

If any of these describes you, buy one of the others instead. You will be happier and I would rather tell you now than take your money.

- You dispatch crews. LOHARE is built around the job and the invoice, not around a dispatch board. Jobber is the answer.
- Your customers find and book you online. Housecall Pro is built for that journey.
- You need the absolute cheapest way to send an estimate and nothing else. Joist is cheaper.
- You need it today. LOHARE is listed as coming soon; the other three are available now.

WHAT ACTUALLY MAKES LOHARE DIFFERENT

The payment options are the real difference, and they matter more than they sound. Jobber and Housecall Pro want you on their card processing, which is reasonable but means a percentage of every job and a few days before the money lands. A large number of small

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operators get paid by Zelle, Cash App or Venmo because it is instant and there is no fee — and then have no record of it attached to the job.

Supporting those alongside cards means the invoice and the payment stay connected regardless of how the customer chose to pay. For a one-truck business that is often the difference between having books and having a shoebox.

The second difference is pricing shape. Jobber and Housecall Pro charge per user and per tier, which climbs fast. LOHARE is flat.

The third is scope on purpose. It does quote, photo, invoice, paid. It is not trying to be a dispatch system, because a one-truck business does not need one and should not pay for one.

The honest limit

LOHARE is coming soon and the other three are shipping today with years of users behind them. If you need this working next Monday, buy one of them.

And if you are going to grow past a few people, you will outgrow it. Jobber exists for a reason and at eight trucks you will want it.

HOW TO DECIDE

Answer these about your own business. The answers point at one of the four.

- How many people need to be dispatched each morning? More than two and you need scheduling.
- How do your customers actually pay you today? If the answer includes Zelle or Venmo, that matters.
- Do customers find you online and expect to book online?
- What would you pay per user per month at next year’s headcount?
- Do you need it this month? That rules some options in and out.

YOUR QUICK REVIEW

- ☐ I know how my customers actually pay me.
- ☐ I know whether I need dispatch or just invoicing.
- ☐ I have priced the per-user options at next year’s crew size.
- ☐ I photograph every job before and after.
- ☐ I know which of these is available today.

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WHERE THESE NUMBERS CAME FROM

Everything stated about the other three products comes from the sources below, on the dates shown. Nothing here is from memory and nothing is estimated.

- Tofu, "Best HVAC invoicing software in 2026: 6 apps compared" — plan structures and pricing for Jobber, Housecall Pro and Joist. Note the page carries conflicting dates (a December 2025 byline and a November 2026 update) and is published by a competing product, so prices are treated as indicative and should be checked with each vendor.
- LOHARE pricing: acrossthetable.biz/lohare/, read from the site's own published pricing data.

Pricing pages change without notice. Before you buy anything in this guide, including mine, open the vendor's own pricing page and check.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Product	Where to find it	What it is for
Jobber	getjobber.com	Crews of roughly one to ten people
Housecall Pro	housecallpro.com	Growing home-service businesses with several technicians
Joist	joist.com	Solo contractors who only need quotes and invoices
LOHARE	acrossthetable.biz/lohare/	A one-truck or small-crew trade business
Across the Table AI Assessment	acrossthetable.biz/#assessment	Fifteen minutes. Tells you which job to fix first, before you buy anything.
The Scaling Edge	acrossthetablebiz.substack.com	Weekly newsletter for owners without a business background.

CONTINUE LEARNING

The knowledge article on the contractor and home services stack puts this tool in the context of the whole business.

The Across the Table AI Assessment is free and starts from the jobs your business performs.

READ AND CONNECT WITH ACROSS THE TABLE

Across the Table website: https://acrossthetable.biz

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The Scaling Edge newsletter: https://acrossthetablebiz.substack.com

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/@AcrossTheTableConnie

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ACROSS THE TABLE BUSINESS CONSULTING

101 N First Ave, Suite 2325-1495, Phoenix, AZ 85003

info@acrossthetable.biz · 480-582-4716 · acrossthetable.biz