

STYLE RADAR

TAP THAT APP

Down Dog

We know, we know: yoga falls right after gluten allergies on the list of things we'd rather not talk about at parties. Or maybe ever. But this app is different, and not only because it's been downloaded half a million times and maintains a 5-star rating on both the Apple App and Google Play stores. It's unique because it will make people like us – who haven't practiced 'vinyasa yoga' since it was mandatory in eighth grade gym class – actually want to fire up the app again for a second practice.

From an amateur's perspective, three of the most attractive points of Down Dog are its clarity of instruction (both vocal and visual), the voice (it's not irritating!) and the music. Our first session, which we set at the shortest length option on the 10-80-minute spectrum, unfolded to the peaceful beats of 'Divinity' (Porter Robinson), 'Give Me One Reason' (Tracy Chapman) and 'Aftermath' (Vancouver Sleep Clinic). The playlist was so good that family members previously oblivious to what we were doing on the ground perked up to inquire about the music.

For yoga gurus, Down Dog is appealing because no two practices are ever completely alike – even if you choose the same settings of level, sequence type, duration and pace every time. Seattle-based founders Ben Simon and Carlos Ormachea explain the app is powered by roughly 18 hours of recorded content, which is used to deliver nearly endless amounts of customizable classes.

Though this kind of yoga is known for emphasizing strength, balance and flexibility, it also features a calming 'restorative' sequence, which is great as a bedtime ritual.

Paid membership is available, but you really don't need it to see why Down Dog is everyone's go-to yoga app.

Available for both iOS and Android devices; visit downdogapp.com



COVET

Swarovski x Wuliangye

Last month, Swarovski announced a somewhat surprising crossover with premium *baijiu* label, Wuliangye. The two have collaborated on a new collection named '缘定晶生' – a luxurious *baijiu* bottle perfect as a wedding gift for your *tuhao* friend. With a 'bottle within a bottle' design concept, the two swans inside are adorned with delicate pieces of crystals and form the shape of a heart. Italian craftsmen have also hand-decorated the long glass bottleneck with shimmering rocks. No word on the pricing at the time of writing, but if you want to impress the hosts of a lavish Chinese wedding, you should probably buy it. Or, if budget is an issue, maybe you should wait for their next collab with a soy sauce or Zhenjiang vinegar brand?

www.swarovski.com



INSPECT-A-GADGET

Smart Keybox

Igloohome's slick 'Smart Keybox' is touted as the first that works offline. The box is latched to a railing or fastened to a wall and can be used to secure keys or cards until unlocked via passcode or Bluetooth.

Though you can customize the lock's passcodes when connected via an app, this gadget's most impressive feature is what it doesn't do: connect to Wi-Fi.

Despite a lack of Wi-Fi – which also prevents hacking – you are able to generate valid, time-sensitive passcodes from anywhere, no net connection needed.

Confused? The mobile app is synced with the lock and expiration data is hidden in the passcode itself.

It's the same tech used in those calculator-looking things that spit out single-use passwords for web banking.

This means you can remotely create a code for a friend swinging by your house, or an Airbnb that arrived early, just as long as you have your phone with the app. Hide the box outside your apartment and it'll save you a few hundred renminbi the next time you lock yourself out.

The Apple-like packaging includes instructions and most users will need to read the full directions hosted online.



Sold-separately batteries are said to last about 12 months, but they're set inside the box, so what happens if they die?

Igloohome's solution is, literally, two-pronged: you can press a standard nine-volt battery against two prongs to 'jumpstart' the lock.

The shareable Bluetooth key feature is impressive in principle but less so in person. Shareable via WeChat or QR code, it requires the receiver to download the app. They can then hold their phone next to the lock to open it – after first waking the lock and wrangling with the Bluetooth connection.

For first-time users, a few seconds of wait time is maddening. Our advice: keep it simple with the lockbox's novel tech and use a passcode.

RMB1,150; igloohome.co (contact info@igloohome.co to purchase in China)