

STYLE RADAR

TAP THAT APP

Kwai

There are video apps that make everything look flawless. And then there is Kwai.

Described by the *Wall Street Journal* as “a medium for those in less-developed parts of China to share what they find relevant or amusing,” Kwai gives us first-tier city slickers a chance to peek outside our bubble at the wide world beyond. If you’ve never traveled to rural China, this is the next best thing.

Setting up an account may require some help from a Mandarin-speaking friend, but once you’re on the platform the app is easy to navigate. Bypass the ‘Nearby’ button (which tends to draw a lot of creeps) and head straight to ‘Explore,’ where you’ll find thousands of top-rated video clips – some entertaining, some painfully dull – filmed by users across China.

Examples of duller clips we encountered: a Meituan delivery guy eating lunch; six pans of *hongshao rou* steaming in a kitchen; someone cleaning a shoe with toothpaste. And the entertaining: a PLA soldier doing the Macarena; houses built entirely of corncoobs; an inside look at Beijing’s new international airport, filmed by construction workers on the scene.

If you think you can compete with clips of farmers harvesting sunflowers or five-year-olds hand-pulling noodles, then consider posting a video of your own. If not, just sit back and watch. You might find rural Chinese humor more relatable than you think. Or, as Kwai’s website so eloquently puts it, you might “Wow for the same rainbow and upset by the same traffic jam.”

Kwai is available for both iPhone and Android devices. Visit kwai.com for more info.



INSPECT-A-GADGET

Single-use Power Bank



You’ve been there: the end of a night out, phone battery at 1 percent, Uber on the way – and just before you check the plate number, your phone dies. Now you’ll spend the tail of your Friday looking for a friendly convenience store, begging them to let you charge up, please, just a little.

Enter the single-use power bank – also dubbed the ‘emergency’ power bank – a palm-sized gadget small enough to forget that it’s in your pocket and packing a double-digit charge for modern smartphones.

The design is simple: flip a switch to make the charger live, plug your phone in and wait. But the simplicity also means copycat companies have begun churning them out in scale. An Alibaba search has more than 3,000 results, leading to howls from environmentalists, who are worried cheap, single-use batteries will begin flooding landfills.

But even if you don’t buy into the

charge’n’toss nature of the product, with a shelf life of years, it’s a good idea to store a few with emergency supplies.

Versions sold range from the cardboard-cased (claiming to be more environmentally friendly) to those kept in condom-esque wrappers, which result in a fair few sideways glances in public.

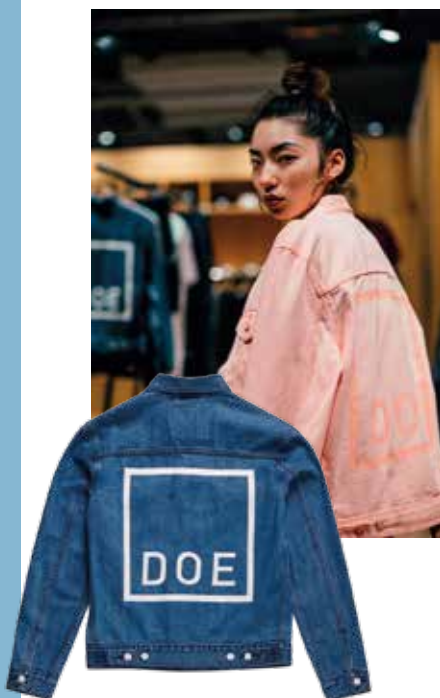
Just make sure you get the right type for your phone – Apple or microUSB – though some now sport ‘universal’ adapters.

In the end, these aren’t a replacement for their larger, reusable cousins – especially considering the prices aren’t much lower than the cheapest power banks. But in a pinch? It can be the difference between getting to bed at a reasonable hour and a long walk home.

Available for about RMB50 on JD.com; search 一次性充电宝 (yī cì xìng chōng diàn bǎo)

COVET

DOE / Levi’s TYPE III Truck Jacket



A longtime collaborator of DOE, Levi’s has recently partnered again with the Shanghai-born streetwear brand to roll out a special edition of their classic TYPE III Truck Jacket (RMB1,299). First introduced 50 years ago in the US, this newest crossover item is available in two colors – ‘indigo’ (blue) and ‘noir’ (black) – each with a large DOE square logo printed in the back of the jacket. There’s also third color – ‘peachy’ (pink) – but it’s only for friends and family and is not available to the public. Find these jackets in DOE outlets and on their official website.

doeshanghai.com