

# From quirky to revolutionary, the CES show has them all

January 9 2015, by Anick Jesdanun, Brandon Bailey And Kimberly Pierceall

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The TechSling smart device holster is displayed at the Tech Slinger booth during the International CES, Thursday, Jan. 8, 2015, in Las Vegas. (AP Photo/John Locher)

Sure, the International CES show was chock full of connected cars, smart home sensors, music gear and computer gadgets, as you'd expect. There were even drones buzzing the 160,000-plus people that tromped across the 2.2 million square feet of exhibit space along the Las Vegas Strip. But if you didn't get to see some of these goodies, well, you just haven't lived.

Of the tons of products on display, here are a few that inspired, brought a chuckle, or made you just say, hmmm, yeah, I definitely need that. (Wink.)

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## STOP, OR I'LL TAKE OUT MY IPAD

The gun holsters of old-timey detectives, hidden under an arm and concealed under a coat, have inspired a holder of something else entirely.

Tech Slinger's holster features a pocket large enough for a tablet on one side and a smartphone and accessories on the other. When worn, devices hang below each arm. Think of it as a storage device for Inspector Gadget.

The company says the holster will prevent people from leaving their devices in a cab or the seat-back pocket of a plane. The devices stay with you but won't weigh on a shoulder like a backpack or satchel might.

This year, Tech Slinger introduced a new "side order" sling to go around a person's waist—great for restaurant staffers who carry tablets to take orders.

The company sells the holsters for \$70 to \$75.

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## FLATBREAD FIX

The smell of baking flatbread wafted through the air as a Silicon Valley startup demonstrated a robotic kitchen device.

The Rotimatic uses sensors, software and electric motors to make the Indian staple "roti," or unleavened flatbread, at about one per minute—faster than the half-hour or more it takes to mix, knead and cook by hand. Just add flour, water and oil. The Rotimatic measures the ingredients, kneads and flattens the dough. It even adjusts the dough and cooking temperature for any spices or herbs added for variety.

What to pay for something that makes only one kind of bread? \$599.

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## ABLE TO WALK AGAIN

One touching moment came when Shane Mosko stood up and walked with the aid of a robotic exoskeleton.

Mosko, who has partial leg paralysis from a spinal cord injury, usually needs a wheelchair. The robotic aide from Ekso Bionic now allows him to walk about 500 steps before tiring. The system includes mechanized leg braces, a battery backpack and a walking cane with controls to operate the system. Software and weight sensors are used to adjust the mechanized gait to the ability of each user.

"I think half of what this brings to the table is the psychological aspect of looking people in the eyes," says Mosko. "You don't think about it, but being in a wheelchair, you are down low, you're in your own world."



The Rotimatic flatbread making machine is demonstrated at the Zimplistic booth at the International CES Thursday, Jan. 8, 2015, in Las Vegas. (AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)

Ekso cofounder Russ Angold said the Ekso GT has been used by about 3,500 patients recovering from stroke and spinal injuries since it was first sold in 2012.

"It gives you so much hope that spinal cord injuries are going to be a thing of the past someday," says Mosko.

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**BIKERS BEWARE**

Volvo wants cyclists to know when a car is coming.

In partnership with Ericsson and sports gear maker POC, Volvo demonstrated how its car would get a signal from a nearby cyclist's phone GPS. Meanwhile, the cyclist's helmet would flash a series of lights and vibrate if that person's phone senses that a Volvo is nearby and on a collision course.

Volvo says the connected helmet still needs more testing before it can be sold.

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## LOOK SEGWAY, NO HANDS

Zippering around as if he were floating, hands in his pockets, Kazar Beilerian of Montebello did effortless circles, literally, around the journalists walking from one press conference to the next.

He was riding his company's IO Hawk. The forward-facing auto-balancing board just needed a little pressure from the toes to start moving.

Leaning forward too much, though, could sometimes send a person backward.

The device costs \$1,800 and has a rival: Inventist's Hovertrax.

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## HIGH-TECH SEWING



In this Jan. 7, 2015 photo, The Brother Dream Machine Innov-is XV8500D is on display at the Brother booth at the International CES, in Las Vegas. (AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)

Cameras aren't limited to smartphones anymore. A new sewing machine from Brother has one—and a scanner, too. You can scan a pattern and edit it on the sewing machine's LCD screen. The machine will then embroider the pattern for you (though you can't step away for long, as you need to manually change spools of thread to change colors).

As for that camera? Sorry, it's not for selfies. The camera works with lasers to ensure you're sewing straight.

The Dream Machine sells for \$15,000.

## ILLUMINATED SONGS

Sony's Symphonic Light Speaker looks like a clear cylinder of glass that surrounds an LED light bulb. The glass itself vibrates imperceptibly to act as a speaker to play music from a smartphone or other device.

"It fills your room with music while obviously lighting up your daily life," says Sony Corp. CEO Kazuo Hirai.



A robot plays beer pong at the Empire Robotics booth at the International CES, Thursday, Jan. 8, 2015, in Las Vegas. (AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)

Perhaps totally unnecessary, yet cool.

Sony didn't announce a price or release date.

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## TOMORROW'S GADGETS

A new smartwatch from Samsung has a glass interface to appear transparent, while a new phone has a hologram interface with fingerprint security. There's also a Bluetooth earpiece with a metallic frame for combat-ready durability.

Where can you buy them? Sorry, they exist only in Hollywood. They were custom-made by Samsung for the upcoming "Avengers" movie from Marvel. Financial terms weren't disclosed.

The props were on display at a private event at CES. There are no current plans to make even fake versions for fans.

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