Ultimate Innovation Wish List
Not sure what gift to give the special people in your life this holiday season? We’ve compiled a list of some of the best new product and service innovations to help you out.

At Kalypso, we live and breathe innovation every day. Throughout the year, we highlight inspirational and breakthrough innovations from companies across the globe. We’ve picked out a few of our favorite InnoSalutes and Innovation Shout Outs from 2015 to help you find the perfect holiday gift for those you love.
For the family on the go

Sometimes life gets crazy. If you know someone who’s always busy, give them the gift of convenience this season. Instacart connects customers to personal shoppers who handpick groceries and can deliver them within the hour or whenever you want them.

Instacart

Instacart is shaking up the on-demand grocery delivery business with a unique business model. Customers are connected to personal shoppers who hand pick ordered products from retailers and deliver them within the hour of purchase. What sets this grocery delivery startup apart from established giants like Amazon? Instacart’s infrastructure is not dependent on warehouses, vehicles or inventory.

In only three years, Instacart has quickly expanded to major US cities such as Los Angeles, Austin, Boston, New York City, and Washington, and has partnered with retailers such as Kroger, Costco and Whole Foods. Ranked America’s most promising company by Forbes, Instacart’s estimated net worth is $2 billion, and the company has received $275 million in funding.
For the family on the go

Saluting innovation at SmartMat for developing a new fitness technology focused on the practice of Yoga. SmartMat is a responsive Yoga mat that interacts with your smartphone or other device via in-mat sensors that give you real-time feedback on your alignment and balance while you practice. Once you download the application on your phone, you will receive guided personalized instructions for your yoga practice.

Creating the world’s first “intelligent” yoga mat, SmartMat enables you to customize your mat based on your body, giving you tailored feedback to achieve the right alignment, balance and pose. The mat is meant to give you a chance to practice outside the studio in the comfort of your own home, and give you comprehensive data points of your body position and balance. Developed with similar materials as regular mats with heat resistance up to 110 degrees, SmartMat is portable and can be used in routine yoga classes as well.

We salute SmartMat for innovating mats used in one of the world’s oldest traditions and enabling yogis to enhance their practice with real-time data.

For the athlete

If you love someone who loves yoga, this intelligent yoga mat is for them. SmartMat is a responsive yoga mat that interacts with a smartphone via in-mat sensors for real-time feedback on alignment and balance. The smartphone app even offers guided personalized instructions for yoga practice.

SmartMat
For new parents

New parents have enough to worry about. This season, give them the gift of peace of mind. Sproutling’s wearable monitor fits on baby’s ankle and is equipped with a sensor that detects heart rate, skin temperature, motion, and position. Sproutling communicates with a smartphone app, and warns the caretaker if something is wrong.

Sproutling

Saluting Innovation at Sproutling for creating a baby monitor every parent dreams of. This wearable monitor fits on baby’s ankle and is equipped with a sensor that detects heart rate, skin temperature, motion, and position. Gone are the days of carrying a receiver around the house while baby sleeps and making guesses about baby’s wellbeing. Sproutling communicates with a smartphone app, and warns the caretaker if something is wrong. This innovative device learns baby’s sleep patterns to predict when the little one is due to wake up while monitoring environmental noise to avoid waking the baby too early. Most importantly, parents are immediately alerted if there is a significant change in baby’s heart rate or skin temperature, or when baby rolls over while sleeping. We salute Sproutling for delivering useful insights about baby’s mood, environment, and vitals to provide peace of mind to parents while their little sprouts are sleeping.
Saluting Innovation at Coravin for creating a proprietary technology that allows wine lovers to enjoy their favorite bottles by the glass without ever pulling the cork. The Coravin System uses a thin, hollow needle to access the wine through the cork. After insertion, the bottle is pressurized with argon, a gas that has zero effect on the taste of the wine, and wine is poured through the needle into a glass. The cork then reseals naturally and allows the remaining wine to continue to age undisturbed because it was never exposed to oxygen.

Pulling the cork on a whole bottle of wine is a big commitment because once the original seal is broken oxidation begins, quickly spoiling any wine that is not consumed. This smart technology eliminates that problem for wine lovers, restaurants, and wineries by simplifying the process of tasting and drinking wine by the glass. No wonder the Coravin was a Gold Winner of the 2014 Edison Award! We salute Coravin for creating a more efficient way to savor a variety of wines without ever exposing a drop.
Saluting Innovation at Oru Kayak for inventing an origami-inspired kayak that folds into a compact carrying case. The founder of Oru, Andrew Willis, was a recreational kayaker who was forced to exile his kayak to storage when he moved to a small apartment in San Francisco. Instead of taking up another sport, Willis, an architect and product designer, viewed his kayak dilemma as an extremely interesting design problem. Inspired by an article discussing the recent advances in the art and science of origami, Willis began drafting sketches for a folding kayak. After months of prototyping, testing, and even one sinking disaster in the Berkeley’s Aquatic Park, Willis designed a twelve-foot long, twelve-inch wide, 25-pound portable kayak that can be folded up, stashed in a closet or even checked on a plane. Naturally, the product launched on Kickstarter and met its goal in only five hours. This incredibly simple to assemble kayak with the same standards of durability and stability as existing models makes the Oru a beginner-friendly boat that’s a truly progressive innovation. We salute Willis and the Oru Kayak team for delivering on their mission to make nature more accessible to city dwellers.

Oru Kayak

For the adventurer

Outdoor adventure types are especially tricky to shop for. Oru Kayak has developed an origami-inspired kayak that folds into a compact carrying case, and transform from “box to boat” in 5 minutes. When folded up, the kayak can be stashed in a closet or even checked on a plane. This kayak offers the best of performance, durability and portability.
For dog lovers

Some dogs just want to play fetch all day. Give these dogs (and their owners) a gift that will keep everyone happy.

iFetch is an interactive ball pitching machine that keeps dogs entertained and exercised, inside or outside, whether you’re home or away. And with a new model especially for larger dogs, you’ll have everyone covered.

Saluting Innovation at iFetch for keeping the pup entertained while I sit back and relax. Technology has taken over our lives and now pets and owners alike are reaping the benefits. The iFetch is an interactive ball pitching machine for small and medium sized dogs needing a little exercise and excitement in their lives. A lack of exercise is the number one cause of bad behavior in dogs and if you live in an apartment or a small home without a backyard, it’s tough for them to get all the exercise they need. Owners can customize the exercise level by choosing how far they want their dog to run with three distance settings. With some training, dogs can learn to use the Fetch themselves, launching the ball and returning it to the funnel for immediate relaunch. Not only will you get to relax while she plays to her heart’s content, you can be assured your pup is not left neglected when you’re out for the day.
Do you have too many credit cards, gift cards, and loyalty cards in your wallet? Saluting innovation at Coin for creating a simple, secure solution that solves this problem. Coin combines all your credit cards and gift cards into a single, secure device the same shape and size as one card.

As retailers move from swipe-based systems to touch and chip-based systems, Coin has responded with a new version that supports contact chip cards (EMV) via near field communications (NFC). This updated tap-to-pay technology not only increases Coin’s relevancy in existing markets, but will prove more successful in Asian and European markets where credit cards require a chip and are rapidly moving towards tap-to-pay via NFC.

As big players like Apple with Apple Pay, Google with Android Pay, and PayPal disrupt the traditional swipe-and-pay credit card marketplace with their new tap-to-pay technology, Coin is embracing the technology and shifting to a new business model to leverage the opportunity. While these innovations and new technologies are being fine-tuned, with more retailer and consumer adoption, the new business model could go a long way for Coin.

For the guy who has everything

Here’s the perfect gift for the typical guy, with too many credit cards, gift cards, and loyalty cards in his wallet. Coin combines all your credit cards and gift cards into a single, secure device the same shape and size as one card. This secure, connected offers tap-to-pay convenience and a lighter wallet.