



Dental Cruelty?
 'Whole mouth' toothbrushes are a lot to take in **D9**

FASHION | FOOD | DESIGN | TRAVEL | GEAR

OFF DUTY

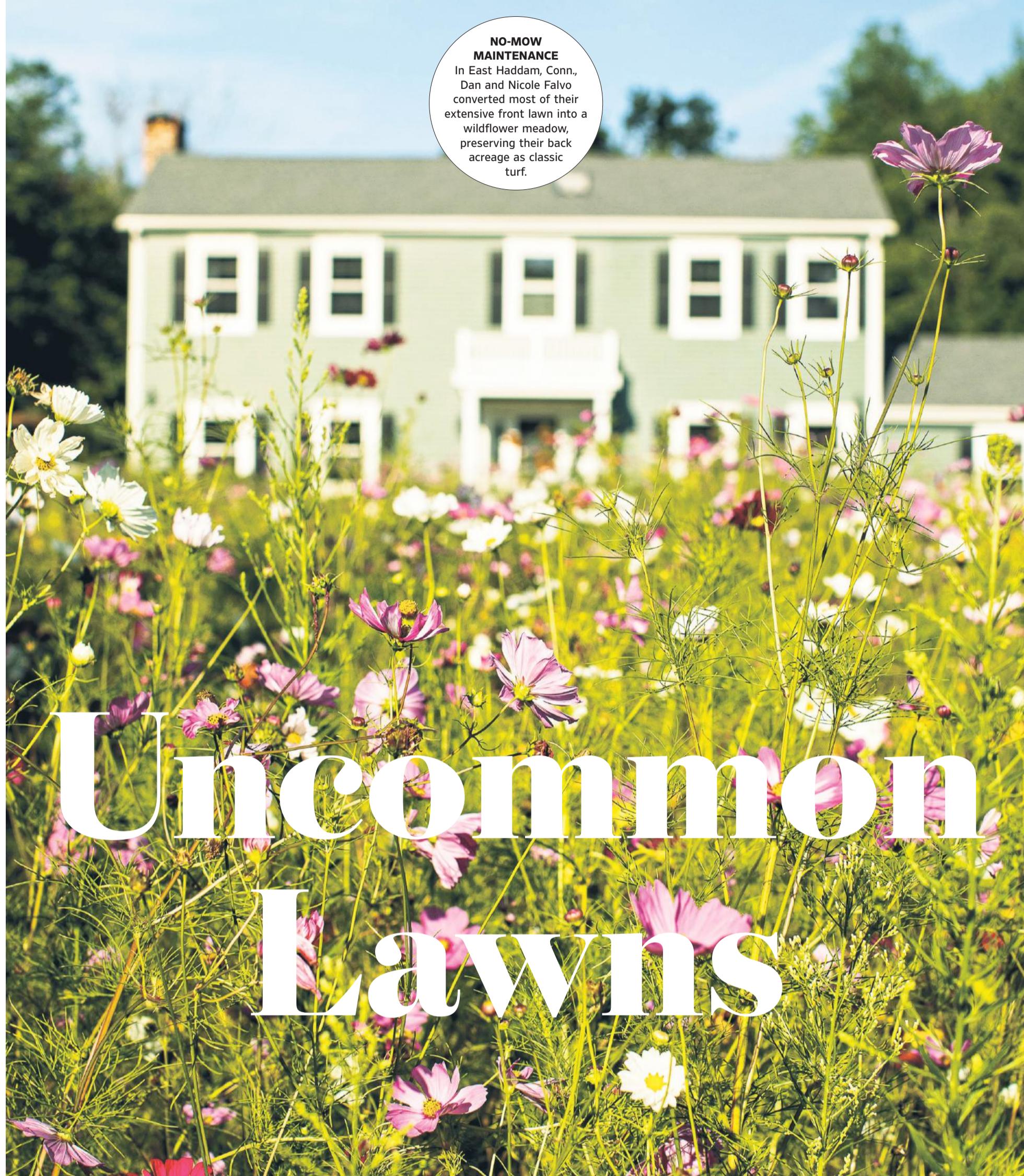
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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Get Hooked
 Crochet fashion, a granny standby, is winning new fans **D2**



NO-MOW MAINTENANCE
 In East Haddam, Conn., Dan and Nicole Falvo converted most of their extensive front lawn into a wildflower meadow, preserving their back acreage as classic turf.



JULIE BIDWELL FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (MEADOW); LISA ROMERIN/OTTO (RED FESCUE)

Conventional grass is costly, high-maintenance and increasingly out of style. If you want to devote at least part of a yard to popular alternatives—from wildflowers to Microclover—here's how to transform your turf.

BY KATHRYN O'SHEA-EVANS

DAN FALVO and his wife, Nicole, nearly didn't make an offer on their 1988 center-hall colonial in East Haddam, Conn., the 33rd property they had mulled. It came with an amenity Mr. Falvo found disconcerting: nearly 3 acres of lawn. "We pulled into here and the house was beautiful, but I saw the lawn and I went, 'No. I don't want to live on a golf course,'" said Mr. Falvo, a branch manager for a plumbing and HVAC firm. "The first time I mowed, it literally took me four hours on a sit-down mower." Three years later, the couple swapped out most of their acre-plus



CATCH A WAVE Creeping red fescue grass left long in front of an Ojai, Calif., studio forms undulating, rather gorgeous patterns.

front lawn for a meadow of wildflowers (shown above).

The Falvos are among the many homeowners who've decided to investigate green alternatives, deeming a perfect carpet of classic grass too taxing on such resources as time, water and money. Others don't want to use chemical fertilizers and weedkillers and prefer to provide a habitat for more diverse fauna than a monoculture lawn supports. Since the pandemic began, for example, sales of one of the lawn proxies, Wildflower Farm's Eco-Lawn, have more than doubled. A blend of five drought-tolerant fescues, the grass demands comparatively less maintenance, said Paul Jenkins, co-owner

Please turn to page D8

Inside



SHAKE A LEG (OF LAMB)
 How to quickly sear a meat that's more associated with slow roasting **D6**



GRAPHIC PRINTS AREN'T NOVEL...
 ...but the stark 1960s look is resonating in the pandemic era **D3**



A SUMMER PLACE
 Basin Harbor, a classic lakeside Vermont resort, inspires intense guest loyalty **D5**



THIS IS NOT A TRANSFORMER
 It's one of the new-breed, robotic massage chairs that are proving divisive **D9**

GEAR & GADGETS

THAT'S DEBATABLE

Can a Chair Replace a Massage Therapist?

We take sides on whether the new super-luxe, robotic massage chairs can let you safely cancel your standing spa appointment

GAME THRONE The Bodyfriend Lamborghini LBF-750 chair will readily measure your stress level and pulse rate and customize massages accordingly. (See sidebar below for more.)



CARLOS ZAMORA (ILLUSTRATIONS)

YES **L**IKE MANY FREQUENT business travelers, Bryan Eisenberg often passed the time before takeoff browsing the gadgets and gizmos in airport Brookstone stores. On a good day, the Austin-based consultant and author even managed to sneak in a spa break, courtesy of one of the store's iconic jumbo massage chairs. Purchasing one became a long-running "one of these days" joke between him and his brother. When the pandemic curtailed both travel and access to massage therapists, Mr. Eisenberg finally stopped joking and bought a high-tech Daiwa Symphony massage chair with undulating air bags, triple reflexology rollers and a list price of \$10,000. (He paid considerably less at warehouse sale.)

Though he initially considered the elaborately soothing seat an indulgence, he soon came to see it as a bargain. "I'm pretty sure we've come close to paying it back already, not even a year in," he said, based on his rough calculation of how much the time that he, his wife and three kids aged 12-to-20 have spent in the chair would cost at a typical rate for massage therapy.

Makers of ultramodern massage chairs are engaged in an arms (and back and neck) race to find new, and sometimes esoteric ways to attract, unknot and de-stress customers. Take, for example, Inada's hulking but sinuously elegant \$11,999 AI Robo, which uses two pairs of what look like mitten hands to grip, stretch and rub your limbs, with AI-enhanced dexterity. When we tested the chair on a visit to HiTrons, a showroom with locations in New York and New Jersey, the sensation struck us as two parts Canyon Ranch and one part "Uncanny Valley." The \$9,999 leather upholstered, gold-bodied Pharaoh S II from South Korean company Bodyfriend, meanwhile, goes beyond the body, offering 10 "brain massage" options on its touch-screen remote. (No probes are involved, thankfully: Speakers in the headrest deliver a mix of "healing" new-agey music and binaural beats, which are combinations of tonally close frequencies purported to be relaxing.) It also offers 16 automatic massage modes and lets you specify techniques like kneading, tapping, chopping, acupressure and more.

A spa-grade chair offers one last benefit, joked Mr. Eisenberg: It brings families together. He asked his college-bound daughter if, when she returns home, it would be "for the chair or for us?" She replied: "Oh, it will be for the chair."

PAST TENSE / FOUR NOTEWORTHY MASSAGERS—FROM THE ULTRA HIGH-END TO THE INCONSPICUOUS

The new **Total Recline Shiatsu Massage Cushion** from HoMedics is designed to be used in a sitting position (with the cushion set up on a chair or sofa) or laying down, for those hard-to-release knots. Select between three zones and two intensity levels, or an "air flex" setting to stretch your lumbar region. \$350, [homedics.com](#)

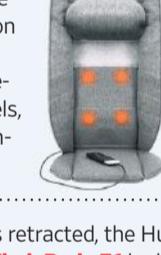


With leg rests retracted, the Human Touch **WholeBody 7i** looks like a regular recliner (it even swivels). It focuses on essentials, like orbital massage rollers for your back and calves and warm air to loosen your lumbar. \$1,999, [humantouch.com](#)



Put your feet up, or better yet, give them a shiatsu massage. The stylishly upholstered **Sync Wellness Rei Ottoman** has a complete foot and calf massage system with heating, vibration and rollers, plus a lid that doubles as a back massager. \$699, [sync-wellness.us](#)

Press the start button beneath the flip-up cover, and you're greeted with a brief supercar engine roar on Bodyfriend's **Lamborghini LBF-750**. From there, set it on cruise control with 15 auto-massage modes. \$29,999, [bodyfriend.com](#)



NO **W**HILE A GOOD massage chair can quickly and automatically find your acupressure points and work your lumbar as many times as you ask it to, it still falls short in one crucial area, said Antoinette Chinonye Nwandum, a playwright and producer whose play "Pass Over" recently opened on Broadway. "Part of healing is communication," she said. "A Brookstone chair isn't gonna say 'Hey, what happened to you?'"

Ms. Nwandum found the sweet spot between personal connection and near-immediate gratification (the sort a massage chair offers) with Zeel, an in-home health and wellness services booking platform available in over 80 markets across the country. The app can send a massage therapist to her New York apartment on short notice, and will even let her schedule a late night "Sleep" massage, a program the company started when they noticed that 27% of their massages were being scheduled for after 9 p.m.

One massage therapist she books regularly even offered to leave a foldable table at her apartment for no charge—a far smaller commitment than a mammoth, full-featured massage chair, which is like parking a smartcar in your home. The bulky Pharaoh S II weighs in at 335 lbs., average for the category. You can't easily stash that Pharaoh chair in another room when guests come, or tuck it in a closet when you tire of it like that bread maker that was also supposed to change your life. Maybe that's why interior designers like Katie Leede, who's based in New York, would much rather you "opt instead for a Theragun or Hyperice hypervolt." These smaller, more targeted mechanical massagers will tenderize your tight bits percussively. And besides taking up minimal shelf space, "they make giving a friend or partner a massage a lot easier," Ms. Leede said. Other massage gear is designed to hide in plain sight. Sync's Rei foot, calf, and lumbar massager, for example, camouflages itself as an ottoman when not in use.

Even Ms. Nwandum, who considers herself "a zealot for human touch," thinks mechanical massage chairs have their place—just not in the home. If there is a fancy massage chair available in the salon when she gets her nails done, she'll use it. "I'll have a little buzz for 10 minutes or whatever. It doesn't make or break the experience."—Matthew Kronsberg

Brush Hour: How to Speed Clean Your Teeth

Ideal for the lazy, 'whole mouth' toothbrushes promise to work more quickly and thoroughly. But do the unnervingly large devices deliver?



OPEN MOUTH, INSERT SCARINESS Though the cuteness of the panda helps. From left: Y-Brush, \$147 for a starter pack, [y-brush.com](#); 360 Sonic Brush For Kids, \$80, [360sonicbrush.net](#); Myst, \$60, [mystoralcare.com](#)

DENTISTS LIKE Dr. Lana Rozenberg are overly familiar with two eternal fibs: that their clients floss regularly, and that they brush their teeth for at least two minutes twice a day. "Most people don't brush their teeth for two minutes," said the Manhattan-based industry veteran. "Thirty seconds is more like it," or under a second for each of their 32 teeth.

But what if, in those 30 seconds, a device could reach the front, back and sides of every tooth at once? That's the proposition of new "whole mouth" toothbrushes, which rely on vibration and a preponderance of bristles packed inside a structure resembling a mouthguard to deliver an up-to-snuff scrubbing in as little as 20 seconds—10 each for top and bottom sets of teeth.

"It helps make things way faster, way easier and feels a little more guaranteed because you actually feel it on each one of your teeth," said Kristopher Paul, a medical-transportation driver in St. Petersburg, Fla., who has bit down on a 360 Sonic Brush Pro (\$70) each morning for the past year. Mr. Paul, 36, also likes the tool's 15-minute whitening mode, which combines a blue LED light and whitening gel to fade both erosive coffee stains.

Parents weary of waging a twice-daily war with their tots over toothbrushing also appreciate the devices. Madison, Wis., homemaker Cindy Kieler is mom to a 9-year-old with a sensory processing disorder

that makes her extra-sensitive to the feeling of a brush moving around her mouth. Sick of chasing her daughter around the house with a toothbrush, Ms. Kieler tried out a Y-Brush sized for children's mouths. Despite its forbidding bulk, it was a hit. "She can now do it herself without me, and knows it'll be over in a few seconds," she said. "So far, she hasn't complained about it at all."

While pricier than a normal toothbrush, the \$147 Y-Brush promises to last three months on a charge; a \$36 replacement brush head should be switched in every six months.

In our own tests, inserting such a mouthful of a toothbrush was initially uncomfortable (though one colleague who owns the Myst version raves about it), and the amount of toothpaste required seemed extreme. (Y-Brush sells a handy rubber applicator for \$6 that you pop onto the top of your tube to paint an ultrathin line.) Pro: teeth that felt clean after 20 seconds. Con: the inability to scour one's tongue.

Though Dr. Rozenberg doesn't think you should toss your ordinary toothbrush yet—she'd like to see more studies on whole-mouth models' efficacy and customization options to fit individual palates—she urges them on her most brushing-averse clients as a "much better than nothing" alternative. "My teenage twins are excellent candidates," she joked. "At almost 16, they still don't like to brush." —Rachel Wolfe

GEAR & GADGETS



GENESIS

RUMBLE SEAT / DAN NEIL



The 2022 Genesis GV70: Killer Style, Inside and Out

DRIVING the 2022 Genesis GV70, I felt a bit like Jimmy Stewart's character in "Rear Window" in that I was witnessing a murder.

The GV70 3.5T with all-wheel drive—ours in Sport Prestige trim, \$64,045, as tested—quietly liquidiates competitors in its price range as well as a few above. Conspicuously cool and self-loving on the outside, with an interior design theme nicked from the Bugatti Chiron, the GV70's particular set of skills make it a formidable adversary in the premium-luxury compact sport SUV market. It will find you, Audi Q5 Sportback, BMW X4, Jaguar F-Pace, and it will...hello?

The upscale imprint of South Korean super-giant Hyundai, the Genesis brand has in its short life launched five new models: three sedans and two crossover SUVs, whose down-the-road family resemblance is unmistakable, thanks to the dual-slit head- and taillamp arrays and the glitzy mesh grilles, worn provocatively like chain mail merkins.

But the company has also burned capital making each model distinctive on the inside, each with its own design theme, atmospherics and unique quotient of surprise and delight. Most car companies have no qualms about commonizing interiors—instrumentation, HVAC plumbing, center-stack switchgear, upholstery and trim materials, seat and door systems—over several vehicle programs for as long as they can get away with. VW has been using the same window switches so

2022 GENESIS GV70 3.5T AWD SPORT PRESTIGE



Base price \$52,600
Price, as tested \$64,045 (incl. \$1,045 destination and delivery)
Powetrain Twin-turbocharged direct-injection 3.5-liter DOHC V6; eight-speed automatic transmission with manual-shift mode; permanent on-demand all-wheel drive with multiple drive modes and electronic limited-slip rear differential.
Power/torque 375 hp at 5,800 rpm/391 lb-ft at 1,300 - 4,500 rpm
Length/width/height/wheelbase 185.6/75.2/64.2/113.2 inches
Curb weight 4,541 pounds
0-60 mpg <5 seconds (est.)
EPA fuel economy 19/25/21 mpg, city/highway/combined
Cargo capacity 28.9 cubic feet

long they say Hinauf and Hinunter.

So I was pleasantly amazed to sit in the GV70 and find yet another sumptuously upholstered, aesthetically ambitious interior scheme. Inspired by the Korean design principle of "white space," the GV70's cabin layout is open and airy, with the low horizon of the leatherette-upholstered dash console aiding forward sightlines. A thin tracer of brightwork ricochets around the doors and across the dash console, where it hides the HVAC outlets and indirect lighting elements.

With a whimsy that is unusual for vast Korean multinationals, the cabin design is unified with a flamboyant ellipse motif. The door

trim on our Sport Prestige comprises stretched ovals of carbon-fiber appliquéd. The front doors' latch and tweeter share an ellipse-shaped bezel, as do the memory-seat selector. Most of the touchable-switchables are embedded in a thin black horizontal spar in the mid-dash shaped like a highly eccentric orbit, with capacitive switches for climate, comfort and cabin functions on the right and, to the left of the steering wheel, controls for lights and auxiliaries.

The company says the inspiration for the ellipse motif was "aerodynamic sections of aircraft wings." Sure, so long as the aircraft is a Douglas DC-3.

A row of clickable, shortcut switches are blended into the lower edge of the pewter-like bezel. However, most inputs will be received via the car's wonderfully daft rotary controller with a touchpad in the center. One of two large, centrally located rotary controls, the Genesis digital user-interface is easily mistaken for the gear selector immediately to its south. So that takes some getting used to—nothing like throwing a car into Neutral at highway speeds as you attempt to tune in NPR.

Once mastered, the selector—with integrated handwriting recognition, allegedly—allows users to whirl through a well-lubricated

PUNCHING ABOVE ITS WEIGHT

The 2022 Genesis GV70 offers a lot of swank and swagger for the cost.

carousel of apps and icons in the widescreen display, mounted just below the dash horizon. A fingerprint reader in the console identifies the driver, signaling the car to load his or her multifarious preferences.

I would like to scribble off one note to the design zeitgeist: In the past five years, consumers have seen cockpit-style black screens grow in size and move from the

The GV70's skill set makes it a formidable adversary to other premium-luxury compact sport SUVs.

margins of the driving experience to the literal and virtual center. The touchscreen that dominates the frontage of Mercedes-EQ EQS stretches from door to door. So we know what that extreme looks like.

Black-glass cockpits show up well in product photography, floating in pools of indirect lighting. But I'm beginning to feel an unexpected fatigue with them, a bored bedazzlement that makes me yearn for something visually softer to lay my eyes upon. Like the GV70's richly upholstered forward console.

Despite its posh appearance, the GV70 is, in fact, a slightly raised version of the rascally G70 sport sedan, with independent front suspension, a multi-link rear around adaptive dampers—with the optional shamelessness of the Sport Prestige package's 21-inch "G-Matrix" dark alloy wheels.

The GV70's base engine is a turbocharged 2.5-liter, 300-hp inline four, paired with the eight-speed automatic transmission and on-demand AWD. That sounds like plenty to me. Our tester was churning a twin-turbo 3.5-liter V6, with a hurricane force of 375 hp and 391 lb-ft of torque. Strong brakes, quick rudder, nice stance—pretty frisky, withal.

When in the past I have marveled at the Genesis brand's ability to punch up at European luxury products, I've always meant to add an asterisk. I don't mean to suggest there is no palpable difference between our test vehicle and, say, a comparably equipped BMW X4 M40i. That would be naive. To the contrary, the BMW is undoubtedly harder, tauter, lighter, faster—metabolically a much more satisfying machine to pilot, because that is the way they build them. Ditto a product like the Porsche Macan, which I would confidently drive off any dealer's lot and onto a racetrack for hot laps. That's the standard to which all Porsches are (hopefully) built. A GV70 would likely poop its skirts in a matter of minutes.

Trouble is, the BMW's base price, before options, is about where a jewel-encrusted, hunting-eagle equipped GV70 tops out.

I thought I heard a scream.

Small, Silent Types

Skip the clunky noise-canceling headphones. Next-generation earbuds use compact tech to 'quiet' cafes, gyms and home offices.



QUIET VIBE A discreet way to shut out commotion without looking like you're sporting Princess Leia's hairdo.

venture far without the charging case—the battery only lasts four hours. \$400, [bowerswilkins.com](#)

3. THE WORKOUT WARRIORS

The **JBL Tour Pro+ TWS**s are water-resistant enough to shake off sweat or rain without crackling and dying like lesser rivals. A bit more bulky but comfy, they deliver clear sound with a customizable equalizer in the app, plus grippy silicone wings that keep the buds in your ears during even the most rigorous workout. \$200, [jbl.com](#)

4. THE BASIC BUDS

While many earbuds are designed to be controlled a la sensitive touchpads, the vigorously tactile **Beats Studio Buds** respond to the basic four commands—playback, noise canceling, calling and Siri—with a satisfying click. The sound quality was good, but you'll likely need to keep your phone handy to adjust the volume. \$150, [beatsbydre.com](#)

5. THE ULTRA ADJUSTABLE

While most earbuds offer three tip options for each bud, you'll find nine packed with the **Soundcore Liberty Air 2 Pros**, which guarantees a proper fit that blocks out noise while keeping bass in. The app includes a quick hearing test; the results help the buds adjust sound to suit your unique eardrum sensitivity. \$129, [us.soundcore.com](#) —Sal Vaglica

1. THE NOISE NEGATORS
Sony is on a noise-canceling roll with these scaled-down versions of their popular over-ear headsets. They blocked noise most capably out of the models we tested. The **WF-1000XM4s'** foam tips helped seal out cacophony, and sat comfortably in our ears for the impressive eight hours the earbuds stayed charged. \$280, [electronics.sony.com](#)

2. THE BASS BOOSTERS
The **Bowers & Wilkins PI7s** gave our tunes the richest, warmest sound out of the models we tried thanks to their hybrid drivers that work like high-end full-size speakers, paired with separate amplifiers. Just don't