SwitchBot’s new robot vacuum mop is the closest thing yet to a sci-fi cleaning robot

Smart home robotics company SwitchBot — of robot finger fame — has come up with another ingenious solution for automating boring chores in your home. This one is a sizable leap toward a Rosie the Robot vision of a fully autonomous robot house cleaner, though without the personality. The SwitchBot S10 is a new robot vacuum and mop that autonomously drains and refills its dirty and clean water tanks using a battery-powered water station that hooks directly into your plumbing.

Combined with an auto-empty charging dock that dries the mop, the S10 is the most fully automated floor cleaner I’ve seen. You won’t need to refill its mopping tank, deal with emptying dirty water post-clean, or mess with its mops. The only dirty work you need to do is empty its dust bag after about 70 days (according to the company). Otherwise, it should trundle around your home, mopping and sweeping until the cows come home.

The yet to be priced S10 is launching next week at IFA and is slated for release on Kickstarter in October. It can use its plumbing tricks to autonomously refill a new humidifier the company is also debuting at the Berlin tech trade show. And SwitchBot has plans to introduce a dehumidifier that the S10 could empty.

Sean Tan, SwitchBot’s PR manager, gave me an exclusive preview of the S10 ahead of IFA, and while the product is still in development, he showed me a working prototype of what the company claims is an industry-first auto-refilling and

draining water station system.

A robot vacuum and mop with an auto-empty charging dock, the S10 comes with a separate compact battery-powered water station that you install in your kitchen (or laundry room or bathroom) and connect to your water inlet and drainage pipes.

The S10’s own battery functions as a power source for the water station, providing reverse power to the station when it fills up with water, so you don’t need to plug it in.

Connecting a robot mop to your plumbing system seems like a much better solution than the current tank systems others use

While ingenious, the idea of connecting a robot mop right into your plumbing seems quite obvious now and a much better solution than the hulking great “auto-empty wash, fill, and dry docks” popularized by companies like Roborock. These take up a lot of space, look kind of ugly, and require you to lug giant gallon-size water jugs from the sink to the robot on a weekly basis.

The plumbing concept isn’t entirely new. Narwhal has a similar idea for its Freo model, although that requires an open drain in your home, has a more complicated installation, and doesn’t include an auto-empty bin.

What really intrigues me about this product is that it’s a multitasking home robot. Using the robot’s now endless supply of water and its sizable onboard battery to refill other household appliances is a clever utilization of those resources. Maybe one day, it could even water your plants and fill up the dog’s water bowl. Perhaps you could pop your smartphone on it for a quick power-up.

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Tan showed me a video demo of the installation, and it looks slightly more involved than installing a bidet toilet seat but not complicated enough to require a plumber. The company plans to offer an external tank solution if you don’t have a way to hook it into your plumbing directly.

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a:hover]:text-black [&>a:hover]:shadow-underline-black dark:[&>a:hover]:text-gray-e9 dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-underline-gray-63 [&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-13 dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-63″>The S10 works with an auto-empty charging dock with a removable dust bag that holds up to 70 days’ worth of dirt and debris.
a:hover]:text-black [&>a:hover]:shadow-underline-black dark:[&>a:hover]:text-gray-e9 dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-underline-gray-63 [&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-13 dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-63″>The K10 is the world’s smallest robot vacuum, according to SwitchBot.