The ultra-complex card game that will take over your weekend

Hi, friends! Welcome to *Installer* No. 27, your guide to the best and *Verge*-iest stuff in the world. (If you're new here, hello, you're awesome, and also, you can read all the old editions at the *Installer* homepage. Oh, and send me some recommendations! The more the merrier!)

This week, I've been playing ***Assassin's Creed Nexus*** on the Quest 3, reading about **obsessive ramen makers** and **Noah Kahan's journey to TikTok superstardom**, finally watching ***Dune*** so I can be ready to see the sequel, also finally watching ***Patriot***, and trying desperately to learn to make crispy Brussels sprouts.

I also have for you a mega-viral new camera, a better way to manage your smart home, a new book about Twitter, and a whole bunch of awesome games to play this weekend.

And I have a question. **What's your favorite food-related stuff on the internet?** I'm talking recipe apps, cooking blogs, creators you like, shows you can't get enough of, those silly people who exclusively cook rage-baitingly bad stuff, anything. We're going to do a whole food-internet issue here in the next few weeks, and I want to know everything you like. (Thanks to Michael for suggesting this, too. This'll be super fun!)

(As always, the best part of *Installer* is your ideas and tips. What are you reading, playing, watching, charging, transmogrifying, or building right now? Tell me everything: installer@theverge.com. And if you know someone else who might

enjoy *Installer,* or you want to get it in your inbox a day before it hits the web, you can subscribe here.)

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Francesco D’Alessio might be the only person on the planet who has used more productivity apps than I have. He has a website, **Tool Finder**, dedicated to the best of them and is perpetually reviewing new stuff on the YouTube channel as well.

I asked Francesco to share his homescreen because, in part, I wanted to see if he uses a nutty number of to-do list apps. (Alas.) I also wanted to see what had actually stuck for him; when you’re using new stuff all the time, it’s a big deal when something actually manages to become a part of your life and routine. So anything on Francesco’s homescreen had to really earn its slot.

Here’s Francesco’s homescreen, plus some info on the apps he uses and why:

The phone: iPhone 15 Pro.

The wallpaper: A picture of my wife and little ones, blurred, as I review a lot of productivity apps.

The apps: Spotify, Camera, Amazon, Apple Health, Huckleberry, Whoop, Messages, Todoist.

People expect me to have every single productivity app. I’ve reviewed over 750 in the last 10 years. I use very little. I think people think the car salesman sometimes drives all the cars. I do, but I keep to a basic few. That’s really the key

to productivity apps.

- is a genius app my wife and I use to manage our 6-month-old – we used it with our now four-year-old to manage sleep, nap predictions, feeding patterns. As new parents, we were tired and shared the load, so it was nice not having to wake each other up each time we do feeds, etc. and seeing it all in one spot. This is as hacky as I get as a parent. Lifesaver.
- I used **Whoop** for two years, then had a one-year break, and now am back on again using it. The impact it has when you know how your body is working in the background is insane. I use it daily to really pinpoint how to improve routines, sleep quality, and track new habits. This is my ultimate productivity app.
- **Todoist**: I've been using it for 10-plus years now. Ideas, thoughts, links get saved here into one base. Just a special place for me to constantly manage workload.

I also asked Francesco to share a few things he's into right now. Here's what he sent back:

- ***The Money Lab*.** Love this podcast. Matt [Giovanisci] is back with talking about his business and the business of marketing. Very interesting.
- **Models of Ferraris.** I started a collection of model Ferrari F1 cars from over the years, some from the 1950s to 1980s. I've started to get a nice collection.
- **Weight training.** My co-founder at Tool Finder taught me how to lift weights, and ever since, I actually do this routinely two to three times a week, so great to see progress.
- **Sleep.** I enjoy this a lot. Just getting used to it with two little ones now.

a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin [&>a]:shadow-underline-black dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-white”>Signing off

Apple launched a new app, , this week, which I find completely fascinating. It’s either a simple thing with a good idea — just tell me the score of the game and let me move on with my life — or a signal that Apple is ready to get really deep into the sports world. And maybe the betting world. But we’ll see where it goes.

Right now, though, Apple Sports is missing a lot of stuff. Which gives me a good excuse to tell you about my favorite “just tell me the score” thing: **Plain Text Sports**. It is ultra-simple, blisteringly fast, shows scores and stats from all over, and leaves you alone. I have it bookmarked on every device everywhere (always in dark mode), and I can’t recommend it enough.

See you next week!

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