

Doing the Dance of Death with Dust: Roomba Roomba 跳伦巴，灰尘死光光

We've been hearing the **battle cry** of the technologists, "The Future Is Here!" for many years. And now, from the [Massachusetts](#)-based company [iRobot](#), we have one of the most **anticipated** products in modern history: a robot vacuum cleaner that works while you play!

多年来，科学家一直发出「明日科技在此」的战噪。现在，位于麻赛诸萨州的 iRobot 公司让我们有了近代史上最令人期盼的产品之一：你去快活，它会干活的吸尘器机器人。

It's called the [Roomba](#), a play on the words "room" and the **vigorous** dance called the "[rumba](#)." According to **consumers**, this device really does the dance of death with dust. You place the Roomba on the floor, turn it on, choose your **settings** (including room size) and then watch the little devil go. Or, as most people do, you don't watch it go but instead do something productive (or fun) with the time you've saved.

这台机器人名为 Roomba，此乃结合了「房间」与劲舞「伦巴」二字。消费者表示，这台设备的确会跟灰尘跳起死亡之舞。将 Roomba 放在地上，启动开关，选择设定(包括房间大小)，然后看着这个小家伙执行工作。或是像大多数人一样，你不盯着机器人，而是利用省下来的时间做些有意义(或有趣)的事。

The Roomba covers every corner of a room with its "**random walk**." Along the way, it sucks up dirt, **coffee grounds**, and pretty much anything smaller than an [acorn](#). The machine cleverly avoids stairs, and when it **bumps into** furniture, it **backs up**, turns, and **starts off** in a new direction.

Roomba 会「随意走动」，遍布房间每个角落。在过程中它会吸起灰尘、咖啡粉，可以说几乎所有比橡木果实小的东西。这台机器还会聪明地避开阶梯；当它撞到家具时会倒退，转个弯往新方向前进。

The demand for Roomba products is **unprecedented**; over a million have already been sold. And the **accolades** just keep pouring in. One customer commented that if the machine could learn to **scratch** his back and get him a beer, he might consider marrying one.

Roomba 需求量空前的好。至今已销售超过一百万台，而且佳评如潮。甚至有位顾客反应，若这玩意儿可以学会搔背，并帮他拿啤酒，或许他会考虑「娶」个回家。

-by Murray Walker

Vocabulary

anticipated [æn `tɪsə ,petɪd] adj. 令人期待的

consumer [kən `sjumə] n. 消费者；消耗者

setting [` sɛtɪŋ] n. 设定

random [` rændəm] adj. 随机的

unprecedented [ʌn ` presə,dɛntɪd] adj. 无先例的, 空前的

More Information

battle cry 战斗时的助攻喊杀声; 呐喊

vigorous [` vɪgərəs] adj. 精力充沛的

ground [graʊnd] n. 渣滓; 沉淀物

acorn [` ekɔ:n] n. 橡子, 橡实

bump into : 碰撞上...

start off : 开始; 出发 to set out on a journey

accolade [,ækə ` led] n. 称赞; 盛赞

back up : 后退; 倒退回去; 倒(车) move backward