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Recipe Keeper

FIRST IMPRESSION
- Shows overview of app features on first time opening
- App available for several devices and can sync

RECIPE VIEWER
- Source (e.g. website link)
- <mark>Changable serving size</mark>
- Prep and cook time
- Ingredients (dynamically change with serving size and measuring unit)
- Directions (written)
- Nutrition content (static)
- Photo of finished meal

SHOPPING LIST
- Simple to-do list style of shopping list

MEAL PLANNER
- Simple calendar-like meal planner, add a meal to each date

RECIPE CREATOR
- Manual creation
  - Input every detail manually
- <mark>Import from website</mark>
  - Can search for a website with a recipe (like a cooking blog or even from social media like instagram)
  - Can scan the website and fetch the overview, ingredients, directions, and photos
  - Mostly effective
- <mark>Scan from photo</mark>
  - Similar to website, it looks for keywords and fetches ingredients and directions, etc
- Scan from PDF (Same as photo)
- Add from text (same as website)

<mark>COOKBOOK EXPORTER</mark>
- Can export all the recipes into a PDF so the user can print or share it
- Very customizable layout for both the cover and the recipes
- Not perfect, when text extend to multiple pages it sometimes split in awkward spots

PRICING
- Pro costs $24.99 one time purchase (this is not a cheap app, apparently PC version is pricier)
- Free version saves only up to 20 recipes, need pro for unlimited and syncing
- Syncing across devices (PC, Tablet, other phones)*
- Backup to cloud
- Sharing recipes to social media (I *get the others but SHARING being paywalled is absurd*)
- Export meal planner to calendar app
- Amazon Alexa integration

* I didn't buy the pro version but according to google reviews, the pro version purchase isn't shared across different devices. Apparently if a user buys pro version on their phone, they can't sync to PCs, tablets, or other phones unless they re-purchase pro version on those other devices. From my experience using the app for this research, this isn't mentioned anywhere in the purchase prompt, a complaint shared by most 1 star reviews of the app.

Conclusion:

Really good app with the main complaint being the questionable payment services. Even then, a one-time payment is preferred over subscription models.

Tasty

FIRST IMPRESSION
- ==First time opening the app: immediately asks for food preferences==
  - Vegan or no vegan
  - Asks what recipes are you seeking (health, comfort food, easy prep, etc)
  - Doesn't seem to have a way to change these preferences afterwards
- Prompts to create an account for personalized experience (I decided against it for now)
- Prompts permission to share user data (I rejected)

RECIPE BROWSER
- Shows recipes from online database (presumably based on the chosen food preferences)
- The recipe icons shows prep time, ==% of likes from users==, and photo of finished product

RECIPE VIEWER
- Brief paragraph describing what kind of food this is, where is it from, and other fluff
- Show source (seems to mostly based on official cookbooks)
- Show % of likes and prep time
- ==Show 1-2 minute fast forwarded video of the food being prepared==
- Show ingredients list (dynamically change based on serving size)
  - ==If ingredient has a keyword like "minced" or "diced", user can click it to show a short tutorial video on how to do said action==
- Show estimated nutrition
- ==Show option to buy ingredients by connecting to an external shopping app Instacart or Walmart==
- Show tips which are basically comments from users who've made the food
- Show related recipes
- Show instructions for cooking the food
  - ==Instructions also has a step-by-step mode where you can see an excerpt of the aforementioned food prep video, a short excerpt that corresponds to the preparation step.==

COMMUNITY TAB
- Kinda like twitter, show users commenting on what they've cooked along with a link to said recipe.
- Buzzfeed actually found a way to include doomscrolling on a recipe app of all things

CART TAB
- Used to order ingredients as mentioned before
- This tab stores all ingredients you want to order, filling up the cart, allowing to bulk buy ingredients for multiple recipes if desired
- ==Allows swapping of desired brands of ingredient if desired==
- ==Purchasing, delivery, and customization of brands are kinda dependent on external shopping apps which presumably are working together with this app==

ACCOUNT TAB
- Didn't make an account for this research
- Seems to be mostly to bookmark recipes, give likes, and share comments

according to some google playstore reviews, all these fluff and features does end up making the app very expensive in terms of internet data usage

Conclusion:
Incredible app for looking up recipes, incredible instructions with video tutorials and connection to shopping apps. But that's it, it's an app to look up recipes. This doesn't give the users an option of creating their own recipes, so it's not a competition for our app but can be a source of inspiration. It also seems to be completely free as far as I can tell.

ReciMe

FIRST IMPRESSIONS
- On startup shows food goals options (healthy, save money, improve skills, try new cuisines)
- Shows a bunch of metrics like 92% of ReciMe users saved money
- Ask how did you hear about us. Ask how often you cook per week.
- Ask for dietary specifications (vegan, high protein, low carb)
- Ask where do you get recipes from (IG, Tiktok, other websites, cookbooks, etc)
- Ask for how old am I??? Ask how do I organize recipes
- I really don't like how this starts with a blatant data collecting questionnaire
- Also prompts giving a rating on Gplay before I even started using the app

PRICING
- A subscription service for $49.99 per year
- (gives you 7 days free trial)
- Even for the free trial you're forced to register for the subscription (hope you remember to cancel it)

RECIPE CREATOR
- Manual creation possible too
- Can import recipes from photo and website (similar to Recipe Keeper) or from plaintext
- Can import from VIDEOS like youtube or tiktok by using an audio-to-text interpreter (not perfect but neat idea)

RECIPE VIEWER
- Recipe shows the standard ingredients, instructions, and nutrition estimation
- Prep time, cook time, and a photo of the finished product
- Also has a rating system even though this has no social media aspects so why???
- Dynamic ingredient amount adjustment based on serving size
- Can click to add ingredients to cart

MEAL PLANNER
- Standard calendar-like system just like Recipe Keeper

SHOPPING CART
- Supports sending recipe ingredients to InstaCart shopping app (just like tasty)
- Also shows Walmart app as coming soon

OTHERS
- Can show trending recipes which shows which recipes has been imported the most (from social media or websites) on the past week
- Requires an account to use despite having no social media features so there's no reason to have an account outside of saving recipes on the cloud I suppose

Conclusion:
I don't like it. It's almost the exact same as Recipe Keeper, but with the added benefits of importing from videos and tie-in with instacart grocery app. But these additions aren't worth the much worse pricing model (expensive subscription vs RK's one-time payment). Also has some questionable elements like a useless rating system and a blatant data collecting questionnaire at the start of the app.

Note: I've cancelled the free trial subscription so I can't revisit this app in the future. This research is final.

Samsung Food

FIRST IMPRESSIONS
- Another app that needs you to login to use...
- Asks what you want from the app (health, easy recipe, meal planning, grocery)
- Ask for special diet (Dairy free, Keto, Glut free, Vegan, etc)
- Ask for any ingredient tha needs to be avoided
- Ask for amount of meals per week
- Has communities and recommends joining some
- Immediately recommends some recipes to bookmark based on preferneces
- Recommends a pre-made plan to follow if wanted

PRICING
- Pro version at subscription model of $9.49 per month or $82.99 per year

COMMUNITIES
- Kinda like social media groups, allows sharing of recipes and chat room

RECIPE VIEWER
- Has ingredient list that can be added to shopping cart, and modifiable serving size
- Rating of likes-dislikes, recommends similar recipes, and show comments of other users
- Instruction isn't built in but rather shows the website link of the recipe source. This just feels unprofessional as the target website might be filled with popup ads.
- Shows health score based on USDA recommendations? I guess it's not a bad idea but personally would still prefer an macronutrient estimation.
- Has a smart cooking mode that uses AI to summarize the cooking instructions... even though they often end up more bloated than the original instructions. Also this has limited uses for a free user anyways. Plus it's so much slower too since you have to wait like 30 seconds for the AI to generate it's summary.

CART
- Links to a shopping website, not bad though not as good as a direct link to a shopping app

RECIPE CREATOR
- Add recipe from URL or photo available.
- But photo adder is limited for free users, presumably because it uses generative AI instead of a basic text-recognition like the others
- Manual recipe creation possible

MEAL PLANNER
- Standard calendar-style meal planner, UI is a bit better but nothing special

Conclusion:

A social media recipe app that feels like worse than Tasty in every way besides the ability for users to create their own recipes. But the recipe creator is worse than Recipe Keeper and ReciMe's. Subscription model of pricing which nobody likes. And usage of AI that feels unneccessary when the previous apps can get by with (presumably) basic text recognition algorithms.

It has the best preference selector thus far though, with being able to filter specific dietary requirement and ingredients (the others are usually just vegan vs no vegan). And the communities thing is an interesting idea worth exploring.

SuperCook – Recipe Generator

FIRST IMPRESSIONS
- No first time intro, straight to the app

PANTRY
- Add ingredients to the pantry (salt pepper and water are auto assume to have)
- Can use plaintext or clicking UI buttons
- <mark>Can also use voice to add ingredients, suprisingly accurate</mark>
- <mark>Ingredients are automatically categorized (veggies, meat, dairies, herbs, etc)</mark>
- Ingredients cannot be added freely and are limited to a built in catalog (contains almost 300 different types of ingredient divided into 32 categories)
    - Allows user to suggest ingredient to the developer
- Only lists that an ingredient is present, doesn't keep track of quantity

MENU
- <mark>Can look up all recipes that can be made with the available ingredients</mark>
- <mark>Filter by: key ingredient, exclude certain ingredients, meal type, etc</mark>
- <mark>If user wants to, can also show recipes where they're missing 1 ingredient</mark>
- Recipes originate from external websites, not built in

ACCOUNT
- Used to save recipes as favorites

CART
- Simple to do list

PRICING
- Completely free app with neither in-app purchase nor ads

Conclusion:

Simple app to look up recipes from available ingredients. No creation of own recipes, and only looks up recipes from external websites. A good source of inspiration for my app, not a market competitor.

The custom pre-built ingredient list is something I'm unsure of. Allowing custom ingredients should be better, but this custom limited ingredient list might be necessary for the voice recognition. Something to think about

My Recipe Box: My Cookbook

FIRST IMPRESSIONS
- Intro on app capabilities upon first use
- Free version has ads and they're VERY intrusive

PRICING
- Pro version as a subscription service for $2.69 per month or $23.99 per year
- Removes ads
- Enables cloud sync

RECIPE CREATOR
- Import from website, scan from image, or manual creation
- Seems pretty standard, nothing special

RECIPE VIEWER
- Very basic viewer, same functionality as the rest but visually less impressive. Looks more like a note taking app than an app dedicated for recipes.

MEAL PLANNER
- Standard calendar app

CART
- Standard to do list

Conclusion:

Functionally almost the exact same as Recipe Keeper but with imo a worse UI and a much less appealing pricing model. Funny how on the first few apps I try, stuff like import from recipe and dynamic ingredients were stuff I'm impressed with but by now I realized that these are standard bare-minimum features for a recipe app.

Cookpad recipes, homemade food

FIRST IMPRESSIONS
- On first opening, prompts choosing a region and signing up
- Uses external website for login, seems to be a web application turned mobile app

PRICING
- Pro version = Subscription service of $2.69/month
- unlocks custom recipes, top recipes, all time favorites, advanced filters, similar recipes
- free version can only create 3 custom recipes

RECIPE CREATOR
- Standard creator
- <mark>Also allows an AI assistant to generate a recipe if user wants to describe the recipe in a more conversational way.</mark>
- <mark>The AI assistant can also attempt to discern ingredients or cooking process through photos.</mark>
- Cannot fetch recipes from websites, though the AI assistant can discern images and plaintext so that's sort of a workaround.

RECIPE VIEWER
- Standard recipe viewer
- No dynamic serving size
- Social media elements (likes, user comments)

Conclusion:
Like Samsung Food, a mix of recipe app and social media where users can create and share recipes. Most stand out feature is the AI assistant for recipes, especially the part where it can discern photos. Other than that, it's nothing special.

Keep in mind that most of the features are locked behind subscription and there's no free trial so I could be missing out of some of the cooler features.

Paprika Recipe Manager 3

FIRST IMPRESSION
- No intro slides, straight to the app
- No bottom navbar, navigate using nav menu

PRICING
- $4.19 single purchase for full version
- Unlocks unlimited recipes (not mentioned how much is recipe limit without premium)
- Unlocks cloud sync

RECIPE CREATOR
- Manual creator is standard
- Like ReciMe, a rating system despite no social media aspects is weird
- Import from website (seems to have to import from image)
- Has timer so the user can count the actual time needed when trying to make the recipe themselves

RECIPE VIEWER
- Standard, nothing special. No custom UI, mainly shows as plaintext
- Export as PDF for printing

MENU PLANNER
- Can create menus, which are a reusable entire-day meal plan

MEAL PLANNER
- Standard calendar style, but can also use Menus instead of just meals

CART
- Simple shopping list

PANTRY
- Lists available ingredients, basic list, doesn't list quantity

Conclusion:
Basic app, no standout feature besides the timer which is a nice QoL. Menus are an interesting idea too. And I like the single purchase model. Very cheap too at 4.19.

SideChef: Recipes & Meal Plans

FIRST IMPRESSIONS
- Slideshow of features
- forced account
- After login, asks for preferences:
  - Dietary restriction and allergy
  - Types of recipe desired (health, budget, learning, easiness
  - ingredients you dislike (not outright avoid like allergy, just less preferred)

FOR YOU TAB
- Show various recipes based on categories (quick and easy, healthy, trending, etc)
- I only use this for 30 minutes, but since the tab says For You this recommendation presumably will adapt to my presumed preferences

SEARCH RECIPES
- Based on
  - Keyword
  - Main Ingredient
  - Meal (bfast, lunch, dinner, snack, dessert)
  - Category (same as the For You categories

RECIPE CREATOR
- Manual and based on website
- Use AI to attempt to generate recipe based on photo of finished meal
  - I tried it using a meal I cooked. It was like 70% accurate for the ingredients and steps. So less of a one-tap recipe but more like a nice shortcut but one that you'll need to tweak manually afterwards,

MEAL PLANNER
- Standard calendar, but better UI with drag and drop and slide gesture controls
- Can add random meals to each day with a click (presumably based on preferences)
- Can mass add required ingredients to shopping cart with 1 click

GROCERY CART
- Standard shopping list, again with great UI controls
- Also shows all the recipes the ingredients originate with as a reminder

PANTRY
- Lists ingredients (no quantity)
- On first time use, has a button to instantly fill the pantry with 38 commonly owned ingredients (garlic, onion, bread, butter, milk, rice, etc) which is convenient
- Show recipes that can be made with available ingredients

RECIPE VIEWER
- Similar to Tasty, shows a short video for each step for some of them
- On step-by-step cooking mode, has text-to-speech that speaks out the steps
- Every step that has a duration also has a built-in timer to count

PRICING
- There's a 7 day free trial which is followed by a subscription service of$7.83/month or $79.51 / year
- Some recipes are locked behind paywalls (mostly brand partner recipes it seems)
- Most recipe that has a video are locked behind premium
- Settings has a feature to filter paid content

OTHER FEATURES
- Smart device integration (which I don't own so I couldn't test)
- Video tutorials on specific skills (Premium only)
- Collaboration with partners (usually influencer chefs or ingredient manufacturers)

SOCIAL MEDIA ASPECT
- Commenting on recipes
- 5 star rating
- Even with the brand partner collabs, it doesn't seem like it's impossible for regular users to stand out amongst the crowd

Conclusion:
This is probably the toughest competitor of all the apps. Lots of good features I can see here that I was planning on having on my own app or even inspired me to add to my app. It's basically like 95% as good as Tasty and with the ability to create your own recipes.

Biggest complaint is of course the subscription model of pricing which I don't like. But even then the free version seems to be mostly good anyways so this is optional.

Only other complaint is that video tutorial seems to be reserved for brand partners. Not 100% sure on this but as a regular viewer I couldn't see a way to add videos to my recipes.

CookBook – Recipe Manager

FIRST IMPRESSIONS
- Forced login
- Subscription model (Has limited free option)

RECIPE VIEWER
- Basic UI, kinda unintuitive imo
- Timer for the time based steps

PLANNER
- Simple calendar based

SHOPPING CART
- Can integrate with InstaCart app

RECIPE CREATOR
- Manual, Image based, Website based
- AI Recipe generator
    - Based on finished meal
    - Based on existing ingredients (take a picture of your pantry)
    - AI Query: Specify what kind of meal you want and it will generate a recipe that fits the qualification (feels like this should be part of a search engine instead of generative AI)
- Can generate AI Images for your recipe (why? You can just take an actual picture of the thing you cooked)

Conclusion:

Basic recipe app. The AI to extrapolate ingredients based on a finished meal is an interesting idea like with sidechef but feels like a lot of the AI features here are unnecessary bloat.

COOKmate

FIRST IMPRESSIONS
- Login prompt (optional)
- Banner Ads

RECIPE CREATOR
- Manual creator and website import
- Popup ads (intrusive)

RECIPE VIEWER
- No built in recipe sharing, import from websites
- Plaintext display

AI
- Not native AI, directly linked to ChatGPT to generate recipe and images
- Only for registered users

Conclusion

Basic app with some AI fluff and intrusive Ads. Not much to learn from this app tbh. This honestly feels like a student project.

Mealime Meal Plans & Recipes

FIRST IMPRESSIONS
- Slideshow of features
- Pick a dietary preference (keto, lowcarb, vegan, etc)
- Pick allergies, dislikes
- Pick preferred servings per dish
- Prompt account creation (skipped)

PRICING
- Pro version at $2.99 per month
- Exclusive recipes, nutritional info, add own recipes, advanced search filters, meal planner
- (lots of stuff locked behind pro that are free on other apps)

RECIPE VIEWER
- Extremely basic

GROCERY CART
- Integration with Instacart, Walmart, Loblaws, Thrifty Foods

Conclusion:

The preferred servings per dish is a cool idea. Allows the app to automatically adjust the serving size to the user's family size.

Otherwise not much I can say about the app as so much features are locked behind Pro version