



**VANITY FAIR**  
DIGITAL COVER

THE MOON SHOT  
INSIDE THE MAKING OF THE APPLE VISION PRO

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**Glen's Goodies**

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# iOS 17.3 Stolen Device Protection

In iOS 17.3 there is a new security feature called Stolen Device Protection, which tries to protect your data in case your iPhone has been stolen and the thief has the password.

“The Stolen Device Protection feature comes after the Wall Street Journal’s Joanna Stern investigated a rise in iPhone thieves in restaurants and bars, with one criminal making as much as \$300,000. The attacks were typically carried out by observing victims entering their passcode before stealing the device, changing their Apple ID password, and turning off Find My iPhone to make it impossible to track or wipe remotely. From here, a thief can lock victims out of accounts (i.e., Venmo, CashApp, other banking apps, etc) by using passwords saved to the Keychain password manager.” -9 to 5 Mac







Stolen Device Protection



# Cheap or Pricey: Which Charging Cables Last Longest?

Consumer Reports recently did a study on charging cables to compare some of the pricier brand names with discount brands.

“We recently took a close look at low-priced charging cables from Amazon Basics, Anker, Belkin, Bytech, and Walmart’s Onn brand to see how well they stack up against cords sold by Apple and Samsung—and found a \$6.55 option that really impressed us.”

## Methodology

“For the sake of this exercise, we assumed that the average charging cable gets bent or twisted five times a day in real-world use. Using that math, we estimated how many bends and twists each cable would have to endure to deliver 1.5 years of reliable use.”

### Step 1: The Bend Test

In the first test, the rig repeatedly bent one end of the cable into a 90-degree angle until it surrendered its power, failing to relay electricity to a small plastic fan.

### Step 2: The Twist Test

In the second test, the rig twisted each cord again and again while it powered a makeup mirror illuminated by LED lights.

### So Which Cable Should You Buy?

We can now recommend two charging cables.





# Cheap or Pricey: Which Charging Cables Last Longest?

So Which Cable Should You Buy?

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1. The Apple Lightning cable, \$29, for people who own an iPhone 5 through iPhone 14. (We tested the 2-meter version. There's a 1-meter option, too, for \$10 less.)
2. And for everyone else, the Amazon Basics USB-C cable, \$6.55.

“The Amazon Basics cable was outstanding in our bend test, lasting the equivalent of six years without breaking. The Apple cord was the priciest on our list, but given its performance, it's worth the extra money.”

“All eleven cables aced the twisting test, exceeding our 1.5-year threshold. But only Apple's Lightning cord, the Amazon Basics USB-C cord, and the four Anker and Belkin cords (two Lightning and two USB-C) passed the challenging 90-degree bend test. In fact, the Apple and Amazon Basics cables still worked after 11,500 bends, the equivalent of more than six years of use, according to our estimates.”

“The Anker and Belkin cords exceeded 5,000 bends, which puts them close to three years of use. The Bytech USB-C cable from Five Below died before reaching 710 bends (the equivalent of less than six months), while Lightning cables from Amazon Basics and Walmart's Onn brand both stopped working before 796 bends. (We paused the rig at regular intervals to check on the cables, so we don't know the precise moment when they failed.)”





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“What Else Did We Learn?”

It’s mighty hard to judge a cable without a test rig of your own. You can’t always rely on brand, price, or characteristics such as thickness to guide you. Here’s why:

**Brand:** While the Amazon Basics USB-C cable powered on for more than 11,500 bends, the similarly branded Lightning cable tapped out before 796. Based on our calculations, that’s barely six months’ worth of use. You could buy three of the cables and still fall more than four years short of the performance from a single Apple cable.

**Price:** Yes, the Apple cable delivers premium performance at \$29, but the \$6.55 Amazon Basics cord outlasted Samsung’s \$14.99 cord. So did the \$4.88 Walmart cord.

**Thickness:** Apple’s Lightning cable is noticeably slimmer than those from Amazon Basics, Anker, Belkin, and Walmart, but it significantly outperformed all of them—more than 11,500 bends for Apple (we eventually stopped the test) to 6,510 or less bends for the others.”





# iPhone Survives the 16,000 foot fall from Alaska Airlines Jet

You probably heard about the Alaska Airlines Boeing 737 traveling from Portland, Oregon to Ontario, California that had a door blow out. Fortunately, no one was killed and there were only a few minor injuries. Small objects got sucked out of the plane, including an iPhone that survived the 16,000 ft fall.

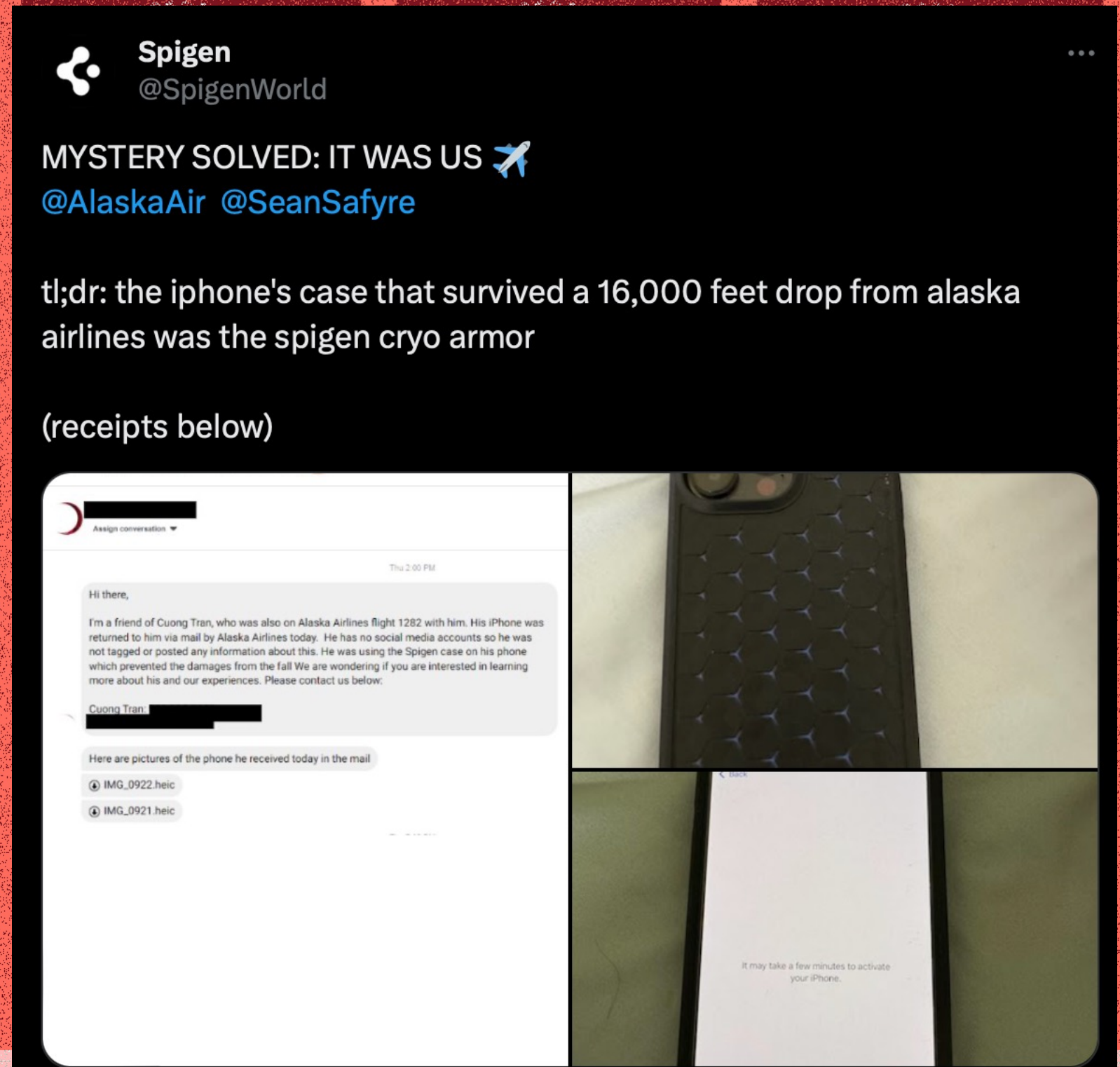
Seanathan Bates posted on X about finding a working iPhone that fell from the flight:



Never one to miss a way to promote his brand, Ryan Reynolds tweeted this after seeing the original post:



Everyone wanted to know what case was on the iPhone that helped it survive the fall. Here is the answer:





# Apple Vision Pro In the Wild

