



## Love, Technology Style Romance in the Digital Age

Love is in the air—and all over the internet. Online dating now accounts for about 17-25% of all marriages in the past couple of years. While that may not seem like a lot, keep in mind that the figure rose from 0% from the past decade. Stigmas surrounding love and technology have fallen as more and more people use computers to find “the one”—or the one for right now. In honor of Valentine’s Day, let’s take a look at a few other ways that technology has changed our view on love...and how we interact with love, and with each other.

### Love Detector ([www.love-detector.com](http://www.love-detector.com))

Have you ever talked to your beloved and wondered if they really like you? I mean, really, *really* like you? Now you can find out—with a little help from the Love Detector. “Using a series of patented signal processing algorithms, Nemesysco’s SENSE is a “Poly-Layer” voice analysis technology which utilizes information from over 120 vocal parameters to identify various mental states such as whether your subject is excited, confused, stressed, concentrating, embarrassed, anticipating your responses, or unwillingly sharing information. The technology also can provide an in-depth view of the subject’s range of emotions, including those relating to ‘love.’” In other words, this machine will analyze your paramour’s voice to determine whether or not they really dig you.

Available for use on Skype and pocket PCs, this technology can be also be used on cell phones in the US, the UK, Germany, Japan, Israel, Turkey, and Korea.

### Smell-Dating Sites ([www.basisnote.com](http://www.basisnote.com) and [www.scientificmatch.com](http://www.scientificmatch.com))

Studies have linked odor to immune systems and shown that people are most likely to be attracted to the smells of those who have different compatibility genes than their own, while those who have similar immune systems tend to not be attracted to each others’ odors. Scientists hypothesize that there is a biological imperative that promotes different immune systems to be attracted to each other, since their offspring would have the benefits of a stronger combined immune system.

These two dating sites take it a step further, developing technology to match couples based on the genetic components of the human immune system -- and their odor. Clients order a test online and receive it two days later. Then they simply swab their cheeks and put the sample into a machine. Ten minutes later out pops a code of 0’s and 1’s. A client enters their unique code at Basisnote’s Web site, and the software matches them to a person with a completely different immune system.



Since smell is based on a person’s immune system, Basisnote identifies the specific chemicals put out by a person’s immune system to identify an individual’s smell. U.S.-based Scientific Match, meanwhile, matches up its clients by analyzing three genes that largely control an individual’s innate immune system -- and smell.

Maybe we should hold off on buying that expensive perfume after all.

### 8-Bit Dynamic Life shirts [aka Geek Love Shirt] ([www.thinkgeek.com](http://www.thinkgeek.com))

You know how in video games, when the characters have a “life bar” (usually comprised of hearts) and when they get hit by an enemy, they lose a bit of their heart(s)?

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*Little Known Facts*

- ✓ After African-American performer [Josephine Baker](#) expatriated to France, she famously smuggled military intelligence to French allies during World War II. She did this
- ✓ by pinning secrets inside her dress, as well as writing them in invisible ink on her sheet music.
- ✓ When neurosurgeon [Ben Carson](#) was a child, his mother required him to read two library books a week and give her written reports, even though she was barely literate. She would then take the papers and pretend to carefully review them, placing a checkmark at the top of the page showing her approval. The assignments gave Carson his eventual love of reading and learning.
- ✓ Rap artist [Chuck D](#) has a bachelor's degree in graphic design.
- ✓ [Langston Hughes'](#) father discouraged his son from writing, agreeing to pay for his college education only if he studied engineering.

## Love, Technology Style (cont.)

Then thinkgeek.com has a shirt for you!



"These shirts feature six hearts (inspired by such romantic masterpieces as the Legend of Zelda and Castlevania video games) lit by LEDs. When far apart, the pair of shirts will display two and a half hearts lit up, indicating the emptiness you feel inside when away from your true love. But as you near your beloved, the hearts on both shirts will begin to light up until all eight are sparkling as you enter "hugging distance." The shirts use radio frequencies to transmit and detect each other. This does mean that if you come into contact with anyone else wearing the same kind of shirt both sets of hearts will light up -- keep that in mind if you want to avoid awkward technologically inspired bouts of jealousy." [\$17.99 - \$24.99]



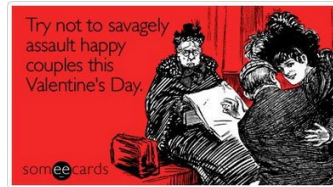
Love has come a long way, baby. But wherever you are, and whomever you're with, we wish you a Happy Valentine's Day!

## Top Smartphone Apps for Valentine's Day

**Epicurious** (free): Search more than 30,000 recipes from Bon Appétit, Gourmet, SELF, and renowned chefs and cookbooks with this app. Save your favorites and create shopping lists for easy, breezy ways to cook fabulous meals for loved ones.

**Black Book** (\$2.99 or free with ads): Black books aren't a thing of the past. They've just become sleeker, digital-based and password-protected. The Black Book app, which launched in Fall 2008 and boasts more than 250,000 users allows users to add names, addresses, phone numbers and even photos for past and future dates, and they can tag the best dates for future reference and easy sorting.

**Someecards** (99 cents): Snarky, humorous holiday cards for the non-traditional romantics.



**What Flower?** (\$2.99): Each flower listing comes with the flower's additional names, regions, seasons, and colors. Also included are the emotions associated with the flower, occasions it's commonly used for and its meanings. Perfect app for choosing the best bloom for your beloved.

## Recipes for Love...

### Lamb for Lovers

2 tablespoons olive oil  
2 (7 bone) racks of lamb, trimmed, fat reserved  
salt and pepper to taste  
4 cloves garlic, minced  
1 large onion, diced  
4 carrots, diced  
1 cup celery tops  
1 cup port wine  
1 cup red wine  
1 (14.5 ounce) can low-sodium chicken broth  
5 sprigs fresh spearmint  
3 sprigs fresh rosemary  
1 cup mint apple jelly  
2 tablespoons olive oil

1/4 cup panko bread crumbs    2 tablespoons olive oil    1 tablespoon garlic, minced



**To Make Demi-Glace:** Heat 2 tablespoons olive oil in a medium skillet over medium heat, and add trimmings from lamb. Season with salt and pepper. Brown the fat, reduce heat, and add 4 cloves minced garlic, onion, carrots, celery leaves, port, red wine, and chicken broth. Transfer the mixture to a slow cooker, and simmer on Low 8 hours, or overnight. Strain the slow cooker mixture into a saucepan over medium-low heat. Mix in the spearmint, rosemary, and mint jelly, and simmer, adding more port, wine, or broth as needed, until mixture leaves a syrup-like coating on the back of a spoon. Strain once more, and keep warm while lamb roasts.

**To Roast Lamb:** Place a cast iron or oven-proof skillet in the oven, and preheat to 450 degrees F (230 degrees C). Rub lamb with 2 tablespoons olive oil, salt, pepper, and garlic. Coat with panko bread crumbs. Carefully remove the heated skillet from the oven, warm 2 tablespoons olive oil in the skillet, and sear lamb on both sides. Return the skillet with the lamb to the preheated oven, and continue cooking 5 to 10 minutes, to an internal temperature of 145 degrees F (63 degrees C). Pour a small amount of the demi-glace on platter and arrange lamb criss-crossed. Drizzle with more demi-glace, and garnish with fresh mint to serve.

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### Hot Strawberry Vodka Flambé

2 large scoops vanilla ice cream, softer  
1 teaspoon hot pepper sauce  
2 tablespoons unsalted butter  
1/4 cup white sugar  
2 cups sliced fresh strawberries  
2 fluid ounces vodka



Stir together the vanilla ice cream and hot pepper sauce in a medium bowl. Place in the freezer until firm. Melt butter in a small skillet over medium heat. Stir in the sugar until dissolved, then add the strawberries. Cook, stirring occasionally until the strawberries are hot. Pour the vodka over the berries, and carefully light with a match. Let the flames burn off, then remove the pan from the heat. Scoop the hot ice cream into two bowls, then divide the strawberry vodka sauce between them. Serve immediately.