Don't include information like passwords or credit card numbers in an instant message.

[P:M]says
hi daniel

[P:T]says
hi

Daniel Gooch says
morning!

sorry; had just popped out to grab a drink before we start...

so how goes things? All exam-type things over and done with and enjoying what's left of the sunny weather?

[P:M]says
got my ast exan this afternoon :/

*last

[P:T]says
Im finished not much sun up here though

Daniel Gooch says
oh dear — sounds like worst of both worlds

[P:T]says
yup

Daniel Gooch says
guess we should crack on so that you can get back to those books then [P:m]...

the usual ethical statement applies; everything you say will be treated in confiendence, no identifiable info will be kept although short extracts may be used (in an anonomised form to illustrate relevant points)

[P:M]says
okay

[P:T]says
okayyy

Daniel Gooch says
right so that's the boring bit over and done with — box ticked

now I'd like you to cast your minds back a few weeks and describe to me what you general thoughts and feelings were about using the hotHands...

[P:M]says
well they didn't work at first which sort of put me off from using them, and then when they were working it was quite a hassle to get all the bits and pieces out to use them

[P:T]says
yeah they were a bit of a pain to actually use

they were such a lovely idea but the temperatures didnt really correspond :/

Daniel Gooch says

so on a logistical level, getting them out and setting them up was difficult/time consuming? And then the technical faults (the temperatures not matching what the other person was doing) was not good?

ok...

so when you did get them to work (if at all) how did you find actually using them?

[P:M]says

it was actually quite a nice idea

but the way you put your hand in them didn't really feel like we were holding hands

[P:T]says

they could do with being more curved so it felt ;ik you were holding something

*like

Daniel Gooch says

ok cool... so that there's actually a holding-type action in there somewhere?

[P:T]says

yeah

[P:M]says

yeah, rather than just a flat thing

Daniel Gooch says

so if it didn't feel like holding hands, how did it make you feel towards the other person? Any different?

[P:M]says

they were quite fun to use, especially with skype

[P:T]says

i think they were quite good if we'd had a bit of an argument, we couldnt really help but talk and smile when we used them

even if they didnt work, it was the only thing we can really do together

Daniel Gooch says

so having something shared between the two of you gave you something you could play with?

[P:M]says

yeah, something like that

Daniel Gooch says

cool...

so you mentioned skype... is that what you used the hands with? because that's what you normally use?

[P:T]says

yeah

[P:M]says

yeah, it seemed a bit weird to use just the hands

Daniel Gooch says

so didn't try with IM or anything like that? or just randomly holding it on the off chance the other person was there?

[P:M]says

no, i think being able to see the other person really helps with it

[P:T]says

well in reality if youre holding hands you tend to be talking or at least be able to see each other

Daniel Gooch says

true, true...

so how did you go about organising to use the hands? were there particular times or places or was it just something you did when you'd organised to skype?

[P:M]says

i think it was if we were feeling a bit separated or missing each other a lot that we got them out

Daniel Gooch says

so when using it, how did it compare to just using skype on it's own? on an emotional level that it... connected, close, intimate, distant, weird...?

[P:M]says

it was weird to begin with, but after a while it definaitely made me feel more connected to [P:t]

[P:T]says

if im honest I did cry one time we used it hhahaah

Daniel Gooch says

 because it made you miss [P:m] more than usual?

[P:T]says

i honestly dont know haha

Daniel Gooch says

well i'm sorry about that!

[P:T]says

i think we'd argued a fair bit and it sort of helped us

and then i got myself into an emotional girly mess

Daniel Gooch says

One last emotional-type question then... do you think using hotHands affected your relationship at all? Do you think it had an impact on how close you felt to one another?

[P:M]says

I think it had an impact at the time, like it made us feel closer for that moment, but in general it didn't really make a difference

[P:T]says

it didnt really stop us missing each other

Daniel Gooch says

so it was good while you were using it but had no longer-term impact?

[P:T]says

yeah

[P:M]says

 yeah

Daniel Gooch says
ok, good...

there are two areas left now... the next is going to be about some of the
design ideas about the hands and then there are just some wrap-up questions
towards the end...

so first off; how did you find making the hands? How (if at all) do you
think making the devices changed how you thought about using them?

[P:T]says
well we made them togethr which was fun

and getting to personalise them was good

[P:M]says
making the hands was a lot of fun

Daniel Gooch says
 what did you find fun about it?

[P:M]says
it was nice being able to do something together when we spend so much time
apart

Daniel Gooch says
awesome

how did you go about personalising them?

[P:M]says
we just painted them in bright colours

Daniel Gooch says
did you paint them together then? and just make them as colourful as
possible or was there any kind of reason for the colours (favourite ones for
example)?

[P:M]says
yeah we did it together, just tried to make them colourful

[P:T]says
yes we did them together, i chose one olour to match my room and one to matc
my hair

Daniel Gooch says
i hope those two colours aren't the same! guess it depends on your room
colour...

[P:T]says
i chose purple and red hahaha

purple for the room, red for the hair

Daniel Gooch says
seems like a good colour match

I missed it earlier but you said that using the devices wasn't much like
holding hands... what did you think about using something loosely based
around holding hands?

[P:M]says
you mean the hot hands we used?

Daniel Gooch says
yeah

[P:M] says

errrm, they were a nice idea, but a bit far away from feeling like actual hand holding

Daniel Gooch says

but you weren't creeped out by the idea of having something which was based on hand holding?

[P:M] says

no

[P:T] says

no...

Daniel Gooch says

good good

this one may seem a little strange but what are your thoughts about using the hotHands with other people e.g. friends, family?

[P:M] says

I think that would be a bit weird, I don't hold hands with anyone except [P:t]

[P:T] says

well i never really hold hands with anyone else....im not the type to be like that haha

although if i go away without family i do get homesick

maybe they would be useful for that

[P:M] says

although, I guess using it with a small child who was closr family might be quite nice

*close

Daniel Gooch says

like a younger sibling/cousin, something like that?

[P:T] says

yeah

[P:M] says

yeah

[P:T] says

my family live in somerset so that might be nice

Daniel Gooch says

why them specifically? because they're cute or you could kind of play with them?

[P:T] says

because little kids like to hold hands and stuff

[P:M] says

^

Daniel Gooch says

cool

only a few more design ones then... what did you think about only being able to use the hands together at the same time? What would you think about having the ability to 'leave' your partner a hand-hold receive later on?

[P:T]says

i dont think it would feel as realistic, not sure id like it

[P:M]says

it's not really the same, holding hands without them being there

[P:T]says

if we do things like that, ill post a message on his facebook for him to see later or [P:m] sends me a sweet text when i go to sleep

Daniel Gooch says

cool... what did you think about using heat as the "message" in the hands? Did you like that or ould you have preferred something else?

[P:T]says

i liked it, just didnt correspond very well

[P:M]says

heat is probably the best way, because that's you feel when you hold hands with someone

Daniel Gooch says

ok... so it's close enough to what you feel when holding hands for it to make sense?

[P:T]says

yeah

[P:M]says

the temperature was okay, but it was localised to the palm of your hand which was a bit strange

[P:T]says

yeah you tend to feel it more between your fingers when you hold hands

Daniel Gooch says

so spreading the heat across the entire hand would have been better?

[P:M]says

yeah

[P:T]says

definitely

Daniel Gooch says

cool

one thing left on the design then... we talked a bit about how setting the hands up to use was a bit of a faff... what were your general thoughts about having a physical thing to communicate through (rather than just a piece of software plugged into skype for example)

[P:M]says

it was nice, physical contact is the one thing you can't have when you live apart

[P:T]says

yeah it was really nice to have

Daniel Gooch says

excellent

nearly done now I promise...

we've talked about the technical problems, spreading the heat and actually
having something to hold... was there anything else you would change or
improve about the system?

[P:T]says
how long it took to change temperature

we'd both have our hands on and sometimes mine would be cold but [P:m]s
would be hot

[P:M]says
making it USB powered would be nice, less stuff to set up

Daniel Gooch says
so easier to set-up and fine tune the heat some more... cool

was there anything you would have liked to have done with the system that
you couldn't? For example (contrived a lil bit), use the hands in a mobile
location...

[P:M]says
not really, but I can see how them being movile would be useful in some
situations

*mobile

Daniel Gooch says
so maybe but not that you particularly thought about?

[P:M]says
yeah

[P:T]says
yeah

Daniel Gooch says
cool

What would your thoughts be about continuing to use the hotHands if it was
possible? (assuming we ironed out the technical issues)

[P:M]says
I'm not sure, maybe with some development of the shape

[P:T]says
im not sure to be honest

Daniel Gooch says
that's ok... just didn't find it that useful?

or the idea was better than the implementation?

[P:T]says
i think the problem is that its difficult to make it any eaiser for the pair
of us, it always comes down to the fact that we're still apart

[P:M]says
it was a nice idea, but the separation is always there and it'll never feel
real

Daniel Gooch says
right, right

going back a step before wrapping up... you spoke about how you found making
the hands a fun thing to do... did you ever think about that when using them
or was it just fun at the time?

[P:M] says
it was just fun at the time

[P:T] says
just at the time

Daniel Gooch says
cool

so the final question... is there anything else you'd like to tell us, share or discuss about the hotHands?

[P:T] says
not that i can thing of

[P:M] says
I don't think there's anything that we haven't already mentioned

[P:T] says
*think

Daniel Gooch says
awesome

well that was very helpful, thank you... I wont detain you for any longer, I already appreciate the time you took out today, especially with your exam this afternoon (good luck!)

[P:M] says
thankyou

Daniel Gooch says
so thanks again and I hope that you (kind of) enjoyed using them...

have a good summer both of you!

[P:M] says
you too!

[P:T] says
thank youuuuu

you too

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Daniel Gooch says
cheers