

Transcript

[first scenario – hothands]

D: So, what are your first thoughts?

M: It, yeah it sounds interesting... so just the warmth itself sounds quite fun because a hand on a table if it moved, it would freak me out a little bit but if it was just the temperature warming up and cooling down, it sounds alright, it sounds interesting... I guess in there [the scenario] there was an emphasis on the packaging it came in as well, I guess that would be important as well because you want to package this in the right way... yeah it sounds interesting, the warming and cooling aspect is the most interesting.

D: Is there anything about it which you find a little disquieting?

M: I don't think so, no nothing sounds disquieting... it's the hotting up and cooling down; if it was just a hand moving and grasping I think it would be a bit surreal...

[prototype]

[prefers palming facing down, hand on top]

D: Having used it, have your thoughts changed at all or is it roughly what you were expecting?

M: No I don't think anything's changed... its ummm, its strange that its only heating up at one particular bit

D: So you'd spread that across the whole

M: yeah definitely,

D: The whole top or the whole hand?

M: Id say the whole hand, yeah... perhaps not so warm as well, I think its probably more subtle warmth than anything else... because that got quite hot and possibly a bit uncomfortable... so if it was a bit more low temperature warm and a bit more gradual cause that came on quite quickly... the warmer it go over the longer time, the longer you were having a conversation for, I think it would make a bit more sense, especially if it was over the whole hand

D: Do you think setting that control would be something you'd want to do yourself or just trust it?

M: No, I think id trust it... I don't think youd want to; depends how much of a control freak you are but on that its more about the experience rather than the actual set up of it... youre not really setting up your personal preferences on your computer, its just a device you want to just pick up and use...

D: Is there anything else you'd change about it?

M: I don't think so... I think it would be interesting if you could have the plaster cast actually of the other person, your partner, that would be interesting but even then it would be a proxy hand... and there'd be a difference... like that's quite a small hand so I guess that would be a female hand... so I guess there would be two different ones...

D: What about painting it, or visually, how do you think about the way its presented?

M: So I quite like it, I like the, I think that's the thing, if it was too realistic it would be strange but as a proxy I think is a good thing, it's an approximation of and it's something you could keep... I wouldn't want it to be realistic, I wouldn't even want it to feel realistic, I quite liked the fact that that was solid... so it's the transmission of the warmth through that object rather than the actual feel of the object...

[second scenario – yourglove]

D: So what do you think about this one?

M: yeah, im slightly less convinced, I think the mechanical movement would freak me out a little bit, im not sure... again it sound slike an interesting idea, I guess its just one movement, no dexterity to it, just opening and closing... I think it's similar to the warmth, I think in my head the warmth would be a more attractive feature than movement... perhaps in my mind it's the separation of the action more... maybe it's just a... maybe my head for this, I want something as subtle as the warming up and the cooling down rather than the movement

D: building on the metaphor rather than trying to replicate it?

M: yeah, I think it's the metaphor of it rather than the realism of it, that's more attractive rather than it opening and closing...

D: Is there anything about this one which you like?

M: the whole aspect of trying to connect the two people, having two things I really like... again it's this separation between how realistic I want it to be and I don't know if the opening and closing moves it beyond that line just a little bit

[prototype – palm to palm, not interlocked]

D: So what are your thoughts now that you've experienced it?

M: I don't think it's as personal... it feels too much like a robot gripping my hand

D: Is that the grip of the feel of the hand or...?

M: a combination of everything, the grip... the feel of the hand yeah, it does feel a bit strange, it doesn't feel like a personal connection...

D: Do you think it would be possible to change it to make it more suitable for striving to be more realistic or do you think it would exacerbate the issues which are already there?

M: I think its impossible... im not sure to be honest, if it was more realistic, I don't know, it feels as though its... for whatever reason, it doesn't feel quite right... like in the grip, the hand doesn't feel right and the movement doesn't feel quite as natural as the single block model... I don't know if making it very realistic would make much sense...

D: With this one, we can't cast the hand, but we can tweak it by customising it with clothes, gloves jewellery of your partner... do you think that would make a difference?

M: I think it would probably make a difference... I don't think it would make it more appealing to me... so I think the realism... it would probably make it look and feel a little less like a robot hand but not enough for me to say that's a personal connection...

[third scenario – hotmits]

D: so what about this one?

M: this one sounds a lot like the first [hothands]... yeah I think this is probably the distinction... although it's a hand, its more about the warming up and the cooling down so I think this one would probably be what my expectation would be... something like to put your hand on something... though the 3d model was interesting because you could rest it on and there was something to hold, this one sounds slightly more impressive or what I thought would be nicer to use than the first one...

D: Is there anything about it which you don't like?

M: no, not initially, no... **its more about forming that personal connection than the specific action**

[prototype]

D: So what do you think now that you've used it?

M: I actually prefer the first one [hothands] to this one... I think this one is more, I don't know if it... if instead of it being a cast of your partners hand, it was a cast of your hand, so it would actually fit in, that would make it a lot better – that [the prototype] was just far too small, and I could only fit my palm in... yeah I prefer the first one to this one... but then if that was my hand [imprint], I don't know if that would make it the same, probably feel the same

D: What about the whole...

M: I think it's the warming that important, not what the actual hand is; so it's the warmth which comes through, if you could fit your whole hand in and the whole thing warmed up and warmed down, it would make it a lot better, definitely..

D: What do you think about the idea of... at the moment, you just get one, what are your thoughts on the actual process of casting them together?

M: yeah, I think it would be interesting to do, I think it would make it a more personal item, but I think you could probably achieve the same effect if instead of having a cast... if that was simply a pane of glass, and you could warm it up and cool it down and when you touched, it just had the outline of your hand in say red, I think you could achieve the same effect... and I think it would be equally as personal

D: Because it's still making that...

M: I think the hand itself, if it was just a flat pane of glass I don't think it would be quite right, but if it did the outline I think that would be ok...

D: Do you think that would be better than the first one [hothands]

M: I think it would be better... possibly... I think with the first one I think, that would be better if it was cast, that would definitely make it a lot more personal, with the flat one I don't think it would make any kind of difference... I think in order to fit your hand in, it's got to be your hand so you're not really exchanging anything...

D: We talked about decorating the other one, this one is obviously painted, thoughts on that?

M: I think it makes sense, just because it's a flat model, if it was all recessed white I don't think it would look quite right... I don't think it makes much difference on this one whereas the cast [hothands] definitely needs to be just one colour...

[wrap up]

D: Do you think any of these are systems you might possibly use?

M: Glove no, hand would, cast would

D: With the cast, would you be more tempted with the glass and outline

M: yeah, I would...

D: Does one particularly stand out as being a favourite?

M: The warming definitely over the moving and I think the 3d cast, yeah I think its really nice and interesting

D: Is that because you get the grip as well as...

M: Yeah, it's that resting on, that's really nice, whereas placing your hand flat on something is not as personal as resting on something is...

D: [activation method] {885}

M: Both of you would have to have your hand on because I think that's where the personal connection comes... if you could put your hand on at any time, it changes it to a different thing...

D: At the moment, they are obviously a synchronous thing... video voicemail... do you think that would be ok or do you think you would lose some of the personal connection there?

M: I don't think you'd lose any of the personal connection... I think the good thing about the warming up and the 3d model is more about the subtlety you can have... maybe instead of the video message, you just hold it for a period of time and the other one warmed up and maybe stayed warm, you have kind of an implied message but nothing like a video message, more subtle again...

D: Obviously this study is about hand holding... is that something you miss while you're apart?

M: Yeah I think the holding hands is one part of it... if you're away every week for a long period of time... it's that intimacy, the subtle things, just holding hands is something you do miss...

D: Are there other things you miss more...

M: yeah within the realms of this study... no I think its holding hands, that's the main thing...

D: Do you think then that trying to support hand holding at a distance is something worthwhile...?

M: I think it is worthwhile... it would be interesting to see what it's like to use it over a longer period of time, whether you just kind of get fed up of it or get used to it... I guess with everything, how it could be used differently to the expected use... I think I would use it, I don't know for how long...

D: Do you think the fact that you got to go home every week would have an impact on that... say you were away for a month at a time, do you think the would change how you perceived it...

M: It's a bit impossible... I think it probably would, I guess probably because you're looking at different lengths of time apart, if you go back every weekend, the week in between, its nice just to chat on the phone, that would be interesting because there's something extra... but if you're away for a month, maybe its not quite as effective... you feel something else, something different else you end up coping in a different way...

