

Transcript

[scenario 1 – yourglove]

D: So, first question; what are your first thoughts?

L: It's a bit... It's difficult because it's not kind of new...

D: OK then, what are the things you like about the concept?

L: I guess it's quite nice; the stuff about having your favourite glove and bracelet like you said so it's kind of decorated with your stuff what you've already used or whatever...

D: Are there any things about it you dislike or think might be bad?

L: I guess it just being an arm on it's own rather than not attached is kind of, it's getting over that, like, there's this gap between the yourglove and the person is sort of slightly odd kind of situation but if you used sort of you got used to using it it might not be or maybe if you could see the other person on skype using it I guess, if you can see them and see that it's them using it rather than some other person who's hacked into the system and started holding your hand with a stranger...

D: you think that might be creepy, holding hands with just some random guy?

L: yeah [laughs]

D: OK, so last question before using it, do you think this is something you might use in your own relationship?

L: ummm.... Probably not, just because I don't really use skype or anything; I use skype with my parents but not with Kai, just because we talk so often

D: do you talk on the phone then

L: yeah, you talk on the phone; I do text and email sometimes but mainly just talk on the phone and because we talk so often like every evening it sounds really stupid but I have it on the Bluetooth and im doing other stuff while im talking to him; getting ready for bed or whatever because we're quite often on the phone for a long time so if I talk to him and then did anything else it's just the time so setting anything up or whatever is just easier just to ring...

D: Just to put it on the Bluetooth

L: yeah...

D: does that make you feel like he's more around generally then?

L: I guess, I don't know I think it's just cause, I like talking regularly and like there's no, normally, I always find it odd because occasionally say one of us is out in the evening and we haven't been able to speak and then there's stuff which or sometimes a couple of nights and then stuff gets missed and suddenly I hate the feeling at the weekend ive discovered he's done something and hasn't told me [laughs] not casuse like I want to track his ever move or anything but you kind of feel like if you speak every day you tell each other the little things that no one else would care about but it feels doesn't feel like you're living too far apart I guess

[shows prototype]

L: The other way was a tighter grip [with the fingers through]

D: That feels more comfortable than palm to palm? [fingers through]

L: It feels more like you're feeling hands... that's not how I'd hold kai's hand anyway

[scale]

D: Having used the prototype, has your opinion of the concept change at all?

L: I guess not my opinion, it's just kind of explained it, made it more clearer how it would work I guess... that you'd, the position you might hold it in

D: Is there anything about it which you thought you would like which having used you dislike or vice versa? Or not?

L: I guess maybe, probably, if it was held in someway it would be better than if you [mumbled]

D: if it was on a stand?

L: yeah or some kind of moveable... stand I guess, like a ball and socket joint I guess

D: where you can move the arm to wherever's comfortable

L: yeah

D: is there anything else you'd change about it...

L: Maybe like a sort of tighter grip but...

D: firmer

L: yeah so you can feel the pressure a bit more I guess

D: do you think that would be a little worrying because obviously it's a mechanical grip...

L: yeah... or maybe, I suppose if you have control of it as well; you know like say only they could release the grip off it and your stuck there, I can imagine kai doing that [laughs]... but maybe not tighter but like when someone squeezes your hand to kind of say everything's ok... but not holding it really tight for ages, so like they press that and it would go like that but only for a minute, it wouldn't stay like that...

D: In the scenario its described as your top, your bracelet and all the rest which you said you liked... if we changed that and told you that it was just a standard glove and outfit and that's how you got the device delivered, would that change how you think about it...

L: yeah I think it would feel a lot more impersonal, yeah I think youd have to have the personalisation on it for it to be seen not sort of odd, like a robot hand so yeah, that's important...

D: We've talked about kai making you sit at your desk forever, the way it's described is that this switch at the device makes the other glove grip – do you think that's sensible or would you prefer a system where both your hands had to be in the glove at the same time, more like a joint thing

L: yeah, I think that would be a good idea actually cause both of you doing something at the same time is nicer, you wouldn't have it where only one of you were holding the other ones hand; if it's supposed to be an imitation of real life it would make more sense to have you both holding on to the hands and then you actually know that the other person is holding the hand as well and that might make it less weird if you can't see them as well...

[second scenario – hotmit]

D: So, first thoughts

L: It sounds, again like, not a new thing, it sounds I think again it's just I haven't really thought about using it in relation to skype which makes quite a difference, using it with a system like that is better...

D: because...

L: just because seeing the other person using it, getting feedback on it, sort of someones likes you know, you don't know if its working the other side or even if the other person is even there...

D: What are the things that you like about this one?

L: I think I like the fact that compared to the other one its your hand rather than just a generic hand, that it's an imprint of your hand, that makes it a bit more personal...

D: and you think that's significant

L: yeah because like holding the generic hand isn't the same because like some people have giant hands and others have small hands... and this is something that someone has made for you...

D: That's something your familiar with then, how kai's hand feels

L: yeah and like it's a similar thing with the other one, like personalised by painting it or whatever would probably be quite fun [giggles] and its always nice when you have something handmade by someone else, that they put effort into it and you always appreciate that...

D: Are there ay things that worry you or that you dislike about this one?

L: I guess, it burning me! [giggles] I guess how hot it will get because like people's heat tolerances are different

D: Do you think some kind of control would be good...

L: I think you'd have to set it yourself, I for instance have a shower up scalding and like kai will just turn it right down and id be freezing cold and only you know whats good for you...

D: do you think this is something you might use

L: I think it would be something more likely to use, the same kind of thing as before, but I think this seems 1) a bit more practical, smaller, not taking up too much space in your room and I guess it would be, this would make more sense over the phone,,, again I think its better over the phone... again I think its better on skype but I don't think it would be less weird not to see them do it because you wouldn't really see, I guess youd see them put there hand in it but its not, you don't really know what their hands doing...

[use device]

D: so, again, you've now used it, has you opinion changed at all? Less worried about being burnt?

L: It does get quite hot so... but I guess you just make the controls more sensitive, it's just a prototype right... I think its good actually, I think it might be weird if the whole thing heated up but actually I think it's good it's the bit in the middle cause if you're holding someones hand, that's the bit that kind of gets warm... but maybe a bigger area like the whole palm... I quite like putting my hand into it, if that's a bit warm

D: cause it fits...

L: yeah it feels more comfortable, because it's the right kind of size, I don't really know my hand size to kai's but if you had a partner with say the girl had a tiny hand and the guy a massive hand and it wouldn't really fit and that wouldn't be so good... but that definitely feels more comfortable than gripping that one [yourglove] cause you just put your hand down and it feels like it fits and the other one like putting your fingers through felt a bit awkward...

D: And the actual feel of the heat...?

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L: Yeah, I think that's more personal than pressure...

D: was there anything you thought you would like that you didn't or vice versa...

L: I guess I liked the heat more than I thought I would... cause my hands tend to be quite warm... but it would be quite nice in the winter, my rooms quite cold, it could warm my hand up... yeah but its kind of different

D: Is there anything you'd sort of change about this one? Obviously you've mentioned the palm and the heat...

L: cause would you cast it... yeah youd cast it yourself so you could write in it... engrave it... so you could like write messages, something in your or your partner's handwriting

D: something carved rather than painted...

L: I think a bit of both... yeah

D: as the carving is a bit more permanent?

L: yeah, you could repaint it or whatever but I like the two colours, especially, if it's like their favourite colour... although the only thing is like a lot of girls liking pink [giggles]

D: you liked the whole its their hand and the painting and the carving

L: I guess I like to do that kind of thing... so id like it more...

D: What if we told you it was just a standard hand print you just delivered from amazon?

L: I think maybe you'd use it but it would just be like one of those novelty things,

D: would have less meaning to it

L: yeah and you wouldn't have any qualms about throwing it away... whereas if its someone whose made it, I always feel a bit, like cards and even letters, something someone's written or made or when little kids have painted you something, even though you cant keep it forever, you always feel really bad about throwing it away or getting rid of it... so even if you didn't use it, like you'd still have it on your desk

D: as a paperweight

L: You'd feel like someone had made it for you...

[third scenario – hothand]

D: So again, first thoughts, what are you thinking?

L: I'm thinking that I prefer the other one

D: because...

L: I think I prefer the imprint rather than it being an imprint rather than a cast... I don't know, its difficult because I don't know what this ones like... im curious to see actually, what this one feels like when you hold it... cause it's kind of like a static hand... whether it would really feel like a hand cause, and if its just made of plaster like, it heats up doesn't it, so its not going to feel cold... it sounds ok but I think I prefer the concept of the other one

D: because the hand seems a bit weird...

L: yeah... I just cant, im just trying to picture in my head how it would work and its difficult to imagine quite how it would work...

[use device]

D: So how does it meet your expectations?

L: I think like it does, your hand does sit on it quite well, again I think I prefer that, it's less awkward to the first one and it feels a bit more comfortable to hold, your fingers just seem to slot in, perhaps because it just feels a bit smoother... would this be personalised?

D: the idea is that it would be a cast of kai's hand and you would have the option of painting it...

L: with the previous one, it's got a bit you could paint, it feels a bit weird doing it to the actual hand bit, maybe paint it one colour but it's nice you've got the bit around your hand whereas here you'd, it'd be difficult if it's covered all over it you can't see it whereas the other one you can see it...

D: What if we mounted it on a block...

L: yeah I think that would be better, yeah... and then it could kind of be like an ornament though it would be a bit weird to have a hand ornament...

D: weirder than having an imprint ornament?

L: yeah, in someways yeah, just because the imprint it's not something that would be attached to a body whereas these you expect them more to be attached or it's weird to take a part of the body off and have like a dismembered hand or arm or whatever... the imprint is a bit more like, for babies and stuff you'd have like people's hands and stuff just kind of painted like or feet so that's kind of like that kind of thing, maybe not for your partner necessarily but I still don't think it would be that weird

you could like have... cause we kind of did it when we went on holiday in the sand, It might have been feet, and then like wrote our names in the sand and took a photo of that so that's kind of a similar concept I guess...

D: Like the stars in Hollywood

L: yeah, you'd have people casting their hands in stuff, I think its not that a different concept but again I think I like the heat more than the grip...

D: what about if we told you it wasn't kai's hand but a manikin hand?

L: Again, I think it would just be weird...

[scale]

[wrap up]

D: so here's a question: which of the three do you think is the favourite?

L: [the imprint]

D: Why?

L: I guess I kind of said it before really... I prefer heat over pressure, I think that's something, I prefer the way that you personalise that one and I'd be happier to have it out on my desk and happier to use than the others...

D: Is holding hands something you miss while you're away from kai...?

L: I suppose it's just like, someone, I guess holding hands; it's probably more like someone giving you a hug – your down about something and you just want someone to give you a hug... we sort of hold hands walking around but it's not like we'd just sit in our rooms and hold hands [laughs]

D: you don't do that while you're watching tv or anything?

L: no, more likely you'd be cuddled up, maybe holding hands as well... we wouldn't just sit next to each other holding hands...

D: So do you think hugging is something which should be supported while you're apart? Or do you just accept that's not something you can do?

L: Maybe... I don't know, if there was a way that it wasn't weird... if there was a way of doing it that kind of worked, I cant think how, but that would be nice

D: ok, so same question again but for hand holding... do you think the idea of trying to support it is something worth investigating?

L: I think that, cause it's different, it's not the same, the act of holding someone's hand in a way this is just like feeling closer to someone by almost using holding hands as an inspiration but not trying to imitate the same concept of holding hands but what holding hands represents, you're using that to then... that's why I think this, you're not imitating the act of holding hands but you're using hands touching hands together is kind of like an important part of feeling close to someone and that's why your hand is kind of important as a method of connection... having something you can touch, something tangible rather than just talking on the phone is another added method of communication