

Transcript

[first scenario - HotHand]

D: So what are your first thoughts about the concept or the story...?

J: I think it's a nice idea because... I suppose it would mean your partner is thinking about you which I think is always nice if someone does something out of the blue and then you suddenly realise oh someone's thinking of me... I think that's a nice idea... the fact that it's a hand I find slightly creepy, cause I like the idea that it warms up and it is their hand but it's still solid and it's still a hand... I suppose if you decorated it strangely it would be just like a random object... that sounds quite cool... and it's something which you can do together which I think is a nice thing...

D: but the fact that it's a hand slightly creeps you out?

J: yeah... I still think it's a nice idea though, im still kind of on the fence on that one... I think maybe you could get used to it... when I see a picture of a hand next to a battery thing, it looks like someone's a bit strange, you'd have to make the colours make it not look like a hand to make it not look creepy I think... yeah I think it seems quite sweet

D: There are a lot of likes in there... anything you kind of dislike?

J: Would it be solid, what's it made out of?

D: It's meant to be like a...

J: Is it going to be like holding a block of stone? Like the texture...

D: More like plaster of paris...

J: Ok, I don't think that would be, holding wise, if you were going to hold something warm – you know the things that you snap and they heat up? That kind of texture... I think that would be more nicer... just something, I think that would probably be a nicer feeling than holding something rough cause I think smoothness is preferable... how does it work like the battery situation, like is it always plugged in and then sometimes...

D: The idea, how its set up at the moment is... [shows device]

[prototype]

J: Oh, it's not that bad [smoothness]

D: [explain the link method]

J: Now I've seen it, I thought it was going to be the other way round; so you hold it, holding it that way is quite natural

D: people have done a number of things... some have held it [palm to palm] [hand on top]

[turn it on]

J: So it actually heats up?

D: Yeah...

[demonstrate]

J: It heats up quite a lot under where you're holding it doesn't it

D: yeah...

J: This bit hasn't actually heated... yeah it's really solid, that is one thing id say... id make it more squishy but then I suppose the fingers would just squish as well.

D: But you could put, say you cast it, you could then cover it...

J: Which would make it better... I would say that would be

D: what about the heating – you said that bit was hot but the rest wasn't – is that something you'd change?

J: id say it would be nicer if at least these bits [palm]... cause it just feels like this bit is very hot, like the very centre of the palm of your hand and then the fingers are just cold and rock like...

D: that rock like isn't liked, I can tell...

J: No, not particularly Im afraid...

D: Do you think this is a kind of thing you might use... obviously it's a bit prototypy, but the idea?

J: Maybe... ummm... id go with, yeah if it was, the idea I think is nice, the general concept is nice but there are things that could be changed slightly...

D: So we said in the scenario that it would be a cast of your partners hand; would your opinion change if it was some guys hand and you and your partner had the same kind of manikins hand...

J: so it would just be a hand; you haven't made it; I t wouldn't have the same personal attachment, you wouldn't have the same attachment to it. And especially if youd made them together that would give you more of a personal attachment whereas if it were a hand, its still a nice concept because its

still a hand, it started of being creepy but im warming to the idea... its still kind of a nice idea because holding someones hand is better than holding no ones hand I suppose but yeah I think that it was the fact that it was your boyfriends hand would make it more personal so it would mean to me

D: So I described how it was set up to work... do you think that's a good way of doing it compared to say you both had to put your hand on it to make it work

J: I was just thinking that and I don't think that would be as nice as then youd have to arrange it... cause its not like youd both spend your evenings sat with your hands it in waiting just waiting for that split second featuring heat and holding his hand... whereas I suppose if you were just sitting there and it warmed up it would be nice... maybe... are you thinking that you just have to sense its warmed up by feeling or you could maybe put a light on it or something...

D: The way its kind of set up at the moment is your on skype...

J: ah ok...

D: but having some kind of... as you've said, you both had to be there at the same time whereas if you wanted to leave almost a voicemail on the hand then just some kind of message and touch together...

J: I think its probably nicer that it warms up when somebody touches it because then you're both going to be touching it at the same time essentially aren't you, you just don't both have to say, right touch it now, otherwise it wouldn't work would it... so I think the way you have it with one person touches it and warms up and then the other person touches it...

[second scenario - YourGlove]

D: So first question again, initial thoughts?

J: ummm.... I think it's still sweet and you could decorate it like it was yours... and you're not, it seems the fact that it moves seems a bit better because like a manikin, its not like your not holding one but something that moves... thought it might be a bit creepy...

D: How do you think it compares to the other one?

J: I think it sounds like it's nicer... but again it's an arm without anything else... the whole like random bit of body part is still a bit strange... just going to say it, but it moves so its more like an actual body part rather than it just sitting there doing nothing...

D: Do you think you're more likely to use this one or less likely, or not sure?

J: Im not sure... the other one at least it was small; im picturing this one as somewhat bigger which would be a disadvantage for just having a big arm on your desk... compared to a hand, It might be oh what are you doing, oh im just holding my arm...

D: you think that might weird people out a little bit...

J: Yeah I suppose it doesn't matter what they think if you like it but again its still space; practicality wise... it's not as good... but I like the idea of having a glove because where it says 'is it colourful', mine would have a bright pink glove, you can picture it as being as sort of your own... compared to the other one which I can imagine would be harder to decorate nicely and make it like something you have, this would be really easy... you could turn it into something someone would think of it as yours... easier I think...

[prototype]

J: So you have to cut a sleeve off, I wouldn't like that...in that sense you'd have to find a top you didn't like which wouldn't be so good...

D: or one which youd ripped...

J: yeah, maybe [giggles] ... the fingers are too close together...

J: how would you hold hands if you were holding your partners hand... but it's kind of strange

J: I think the arm is really large which I think is a big turn off...

[end prototype]

D: What about the position of the hand?

J: normally I don't hold hands vertically in the air! I think, I like the other one where you can think someone would actually put their hand over yours like that... I suppose in the same way you could put your hand over this but you'd have to be in a bit of a strange position... I think I prefer the other one now ive seen the physicality of it...

D: Because of the way it looks or the way it feels?

J: The movement wasn't, it didn't feel like you were holding someone's hand; it just kind of felt like it had moved slightly

D: more gripped than held

J: yeah it was a bit, it wasn't what id thought, it didn't feel like holding someone's hand in that sense so I thought... and it's still kind of, it's just an object, I liked the way the other one warmed up, I like that...

J: [activation question]

J: I think both if you were holding would probably be nicer because then you'd get a response; cause this one is kind of holding your hand so it's different isn't it...

D: Again, this one has been made personal by putting the glove and top on... what if it came again like a standard package, just with a random top and glove?

J: No, I don't think that would be as good; I think you should have to provide your own or it's not personal to you, then it's just a mechanical arm that you could hold at length and pick up objects... this one even more so than the other one... cause although the other one you could make together, this one is literally just a bit of mechanical stuff with someone else's clothes on it...

D: so you think going through the process of making the other one was of significance?

J: yeah, I think that would be nice and also the fact that you've made it of someone's hand, and with the bumps in it, it means something, it's not just a big blob of plastic...

J: My thoughts from the idea were completely different to now I've seen it...

D: Do you think that's because it's the one which is most like handholding

J: I suppose it's the one you're most used to but it doesn't, it's not the same in anyway in the sense that it's got the arm and the hand; so you kind of expect it to be normal and then it's not so then it's like oh no I don't like that one... one thing I would say is it didn't move enough, it didn't seem like responsive enough, like if someone else held it I think if it moved more it would feel more like you were holding hands...

D: Would you be...

J: but then you don't want it to crush the persons hand.. yeah so I don't know... I think at the moment its completely up the, you've just bent your fingers, its like you're holding hands and it goes like this [bends fingers] you're not feeling very loved [laughs]

[third scenario - HotMit]

D: so what did you think of this one?

J: ummm... I like the idea cause I think, it sounds more like you get heat on your full hand I think sounds nicer... and you're not holding something so it doesn't matter that its solid...

D: you don't think squidginess...

J: Yeah I don't think that would matter in the same way... ummm.... And you can decorate it and make it together; I really like that idea, I like making things so you could be creative and make it nicer so when you saw it as something someone had given you...

D: and you think this one would be easier to decorate...

J: that the first one? Yeah... definitely and because it's got the bit around the outside, you could decorate that as well and put messages on it... I think that's, I like this one better at the moment

D: is there anything about this one that you're not too keen on?

J: Again it looks kind of large... I don't know, just, well obviously it's got to be hand sized but its something else that you've got to have on your desk... but I suppose you could shove it on a shelf, it's not as big as the arm and not as creepy...I definitely prefer the others to the arm... yeah... I think the idea looks good

D: and likely use of this concept?

J: at the moment I think it looks like number one and then [hothands] and then [yourglove]

[prototype]

J: I think the whole hand should all warm up... I think this one is sweet... see it already has a heart on it – things like this I think that would be sweet! It would be harder to do that without making it uncomfortable on [hothands]... even if you were decorating it you wouldn't be able to change the surface because if you decorated it you couldn't change the surface... whereas with this even though you can see it's all bumpy, you can't feel it...

D: what about if we mounted [hothands] onto a plate similar to this?

J: Then you could still personalise it... I think it would be a bit strange because this is flat; im just thinking of storing it somewhere... if you were storing this you could put it in a drawer; put things on it... whereas this is just a lumpy thing which would have to be a display on the side and it looks like a hand [sounds disquieted]

D: you think showing a hand off might be a bit...

J: I still think it's sweet but... the only thing I could think of with this as compared to this is, is this; this is nicky's hand, when you're going to put your hand in it and it doesn't fit it hasn't got the same comfort as when she puts her hand in your one... and her hand actually fits in... I think my boyfriends hands are a bit bigger than mine, so If I made one, and then he put his hands on top, do you see what I mean – it's not like this where you're holding hands which I think is nice, cause if you picture the difference in size between some people, it can be massive and you'd just be holding onto a block of something...

D: what do you think would happen if we just came up with a standard print, you didn't cast it...

J: maybe do it in a couple of sizes... and even if they are standardised, if you had big hands, you could just order a bigger one... and you could still decorate them for each other

D: and you think that would compensate for it no longer having gone through that process of making it...

J: then see you then you have the making thing...

D: so one of the things which might be possible would say your boyfriend would keep his and you would keep yours but you decorate each others...

J: yeah, you've still made it together – that would be a nice way to do it... or whoever has the biggest hands just does both! Otherwise, if you can't physically put your hand into it, I think that would be disappointing...

D: was there anything else you disliked about this one?

J: ummm... id also say about heat across the whole thing... I think it just feels, like having a warm palm, you want it on your extremities... even if this [the block] was warm as well, though that might not be practical... I just think that if the whole thing was warm, that would be a nicer feeling... cause if you put your hand on this and the outside bits were cold, it would feel nicer if the whole thing was warm

J: I also think this one looks the prettiest, in my opinion that would be the nicest thing... you know when you were younger, and you made hand prints and things, that's the kind of thing you grow up... you know its just a nice thing you grow up with... people don't normally make casts of their hands so it's not so kind of normal... this is more normal I think... it would just be like a piece of artwork... and it doesn't seem as big as I thought it was going to be...

[wrap up]

D: which one is your favourite

J: [hotmits]

D: Is hand holding something you actually miss while you are apart?

J: ive never really thought about it... it's something... maybe, I'd yeah... I miss hugging personally, but I think in the way that you miss hugging, if you had this, this could replace that... when you think about it, hand holding and hugging is just really, contact, touching really... so I think in that way it would actually be.. although I haven't actually missed holding hands, its still kind of contact isn't it which I think is a nice idea....

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D: Do you think hugging might be something to try and explore then? Or do you think that would be too weird?

J: I think that would be quite strange; this seems quite normal because like holding hands... I was just picturing something like this [yourglove] and you wouldn't be able to make it compact... it would have to be quite large and bulky to make it because you don't want to hug paper or cardboard... I mean you couldn't make a mould of your boyfriend! I think that's the kind of thing you have to look forward to and something like this is actually a really nice idea

D: so it fills in the gap

J: yeah...