

TOUCH PLAYS A FUNDAMENTAL ROLE IN HUMAN INTERACTIONS AND BONDING, HELPING FIGHT LONELINESS AND RELEASING ENDORPHINS. LOOP IS A WAY TO TURN TOUCH BETWEEN PEOPLE INTO ACTIONS. IT PUSHES COUPLES WHO LOST INTIMACY TO REGAIN IT THROUGH TACTILE INTERACTION WHILE ENJOYING THE PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL BENEFITS OF TOUCH.

Touch between mammals has been proven to aid in social bonding, reproductive success and raising less violent or stress-prone offspring. It is the main sense involved in fighting loneliness.

With the growing physical distance between people in modern societies, and in a country where tactile interaction between people is highly avoided, loneliness and depression ratings skyrocket. It has been linked to mortality as much as obesity, alcohol and cigarettes. When touch is a taboo between strangers, how can we make sure people are receiving their daily amount of tactile interaction in their own homes?

After childbirth, a couple is highly more likely to lose intimacy, and have drastically reduced physical contact. Society pressures the couple to regain intimacy through sexual intercourse, or head towards failure. New parents are prone to highly exhaustive new routines and lack of focused time for themselves. Most couples interviewed spent their reduced time together sitting on the sofa, watching television. How can their intimacy be regained without the pressure of sexual contact, during their already-existing moments together? How can human touch set aside the distractions of tech gadgets?

Loop is a device that induces touch between two people. In the shape of a wristband, it is worn by one of them, who then uses the second person as a remote control for basic technological needs, so they can set their smartphones aside. The couple may record their own versions of touch-to-actions.

Loop automatically detects movement and proximity to each other through an accelerometer/gyroscope and a simple infrared. For browsing through the TV (Netflix, AppleTv, etc) for example, the person can slide their fingers on the other person's hand, arm, legs, shoulder... Each movement is unique to the couple, so that each couple records their desired movements when the gadget is first turned on. The possibilities are endless.

To turn on the gadget, the couple has simply to hold hands. After activated, the sensor will make sure the device will only work with that person's skin. If wanted, the couple can select on the app to invert the use.

Loop can be controlled through a dedicated app, and can be paired to smartphones, smart tv's, bluetooth sound systems and home lighting and heating systems.

