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Project. REMINDME – A smartwatch for you not to forget

INFO

People nowadays are busy and need to keep a lot of things in mind. As the human brain is forgetful, we often need to remind ourselves on birthdays or shopping list items. Remindme is a concept for a smartwatch, which focuses on reminding people to not forget. With the palm as a natural user interface to write down notes with your fingertip, Remindme has set an innovative way for people to remind themselves easily.

CONCEPT

Each of us knows the situation when we've forgot the birthday of a friend or forgot to buy milk. Born out of this habit, we searched for a better solution for reminding people when it comes to the little things in life. People used to tie a knot on their handkerchief or fingers to remind themselves. Nowadays, we use reminders in smartphones or tablets or even write on our hands with a pen to keep reminded. But all these solutions aren't suitable. Either it takes too long to set up a reminder in our smartphone or we don't have a pen with us.

To write with the fingertips is a behavior which can be seen on children. We used this natural behavior to create a new way for setting reminders and combined this with an easy accessible device: a smartwatch. A reminder is always connected to time or space, so the watch is the perfect device to use for.

With Remindme we strive to change the way people remind themselves and sees smartwatches and want to produce a smartwatch which is affordable for our customers. Combined with a new interaction model, two buttons (for confirmation and backwards), a turnable dial and the palm, Remindme abandons the expensive touchscreen. To lower the costs even more, we use an e-ink display. Our design is still contemporary and stylish even with abandonment of colors and just greyscale tones. The minimalism design approach should also appeal attractive to our target group.

The Remindme concept goes off the approach other smartwatches follows. Our product needs no implicit connection to the smartphone and is no remote control. What we strived for was to redefine the way people reminds themselves and associated with that a new way to see smartwatches. We came up with a minimal viable product approach to develop our idea.

What we have now is the first step towards it. A smartwatch, which simply makes reminding easy. No final product, but the first step of a concept in the right direction.

TECHNICAL SOLUTION

On the technology side, we make use of the newest development of very precise motion tracking via Infrared.

People can write text or draw images with their fingertips on the palm. The smartwatch tracks the movement, saves it and displays it.

This precise motion tracking of fingertips can be seen on the Leap Motion device and on the Duo DIY device. For our product we use the DUO because of its open source approach in comparison to the leap motion. It uses two Playstation Eye cameras and a motion tracking software to track the movement of the fingertips.

The product itself is of course still too clunky to implement it one-on-one in our smartwatch, but the development of these products is very fast as we can see already at the release of the leap motion in spring this year.

For the dial of our smartwatch we use the e-ink technology With this the battery lasts for more than a couple of weeks. When not in use Remindme needs no battery power at all, just for refreshing of the time visualization.