



**Isolation Alleviation
Device**



Scenario

Anne 19, has a heavy workload, and is regularly working, usually alone.

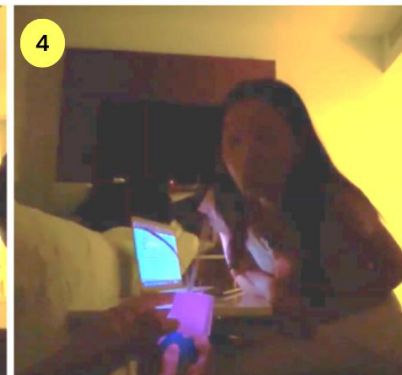
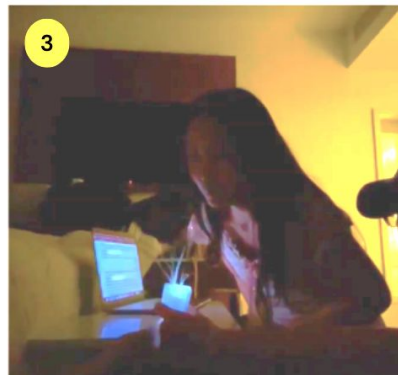
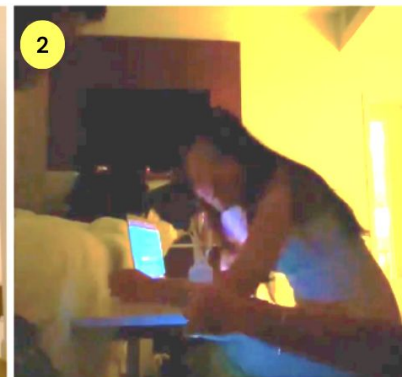
Anne goes to the study lounge. Anne is stressed and has difficulty concentrating. Then she sees a product, labeled *flo*, on the table. Anne thinks it looks nice as desk decor. The naturistic form improves her mood and concentration.

Anne sees a post-it next to *flo* that says, “Take a deep breath.” She does, and the light slowly brightens. Enjoying the calming glow and sway of *flo*’s leaves, Anne, intrigued, wonders what will happen with another deep breath. The light turns purple.

The deep breathing exercise and the delightful surprises *flo* generates make a short, pleasant distraction and wonderful refreshment, which Anne enjoys using through her busy schedule.

Role Play

[Link to Role Play Video](#)



Morphological Chart

Chart

3 design alternatives:

- 1 A5+B2+C1+D1/D2+E5+F5
- 2 A2+B3+C3+D1/D3+E2+F3
- 3 A3+B5+C1+D5+E3+F2

Rankings

Person 1

- 1: physical thing you can play with when bored
- 3: visual, zen; distracts from anxiety of isolation
- 2: cute, seems heartwarming

Person 2

- 2: comforting + cute, Disney/ fairytale vibes
- 3: blowing at grass is a different way of interaction, shape creates calm atmosphere
- 1: nice to have someone share emotions with you

Person 3

- 1: can play around with, seems relaxing, cute
- 3: puts you 'outside' - changing lights is relaxing
- 2: like to sleep with a bit of light on, like pet

Person 4

- 3: swaying is calming, makes you breathe+calm
- 1: interesting that colors change
- 2: wouldn't need it but might be good for safety

Person 5

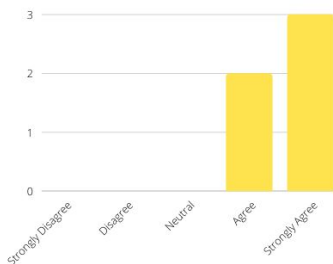
- 1: can share emotions, see myself in it
- 3: like playing with dandelions as a kid
- 2: always losing power at home - friendly companion when lost in the dark



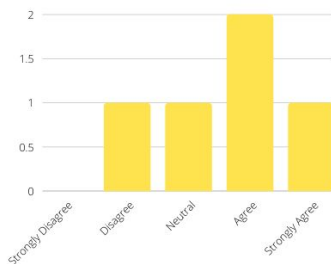
Morphological Chart

UX Survey Responses

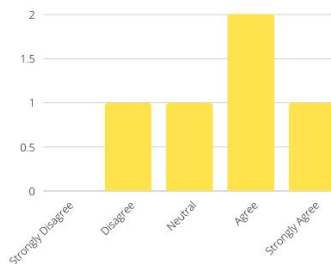
The purpose of this device is clear.



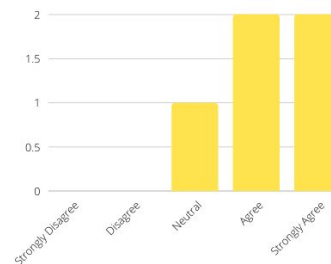
The device is VISUALLY ATTRACTIVE.



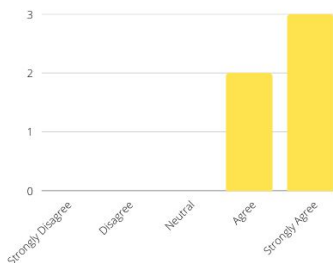
The device would effectively help me to RELIEVE STRESS.



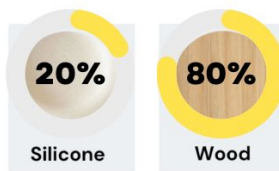
The device would effectively ENCOURAGE CALMING BEHAVIOR.



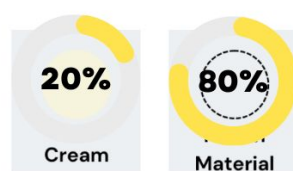
This is a device that I would CONTINUALLY USE.



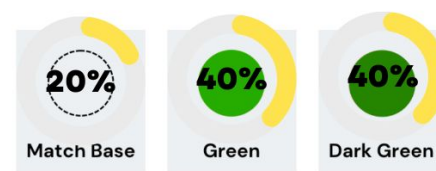
Which material will work best for the base?



What color will work best for the base?



What color will work best for the plant?



What first comes to mind when you see this device?

Response 1: Looks like a box

Response 2: The first thing that comes to mind when I see this device is small desk plants, like succulents. One thing that stands out is the changing colors.

Response 3: office desk plants/succulents, flower (windmill/wind turbines), desk lamp, tissue box the function reminds me of fidget spinner or stress relief balls

Response 4: something you can probably find in a Zen meditation class, or like a shelf decor that has multi-functions

Response 5: windmill/dandelion

What first comes to mind when you see this device?

Response 1: I would make the flower be able to grow after blowing breath

Response 2: One thing that I would change is ratio of the size of the base to the plant. Currently, the prototype looks slightly bulky due to the small size of the plant compared to the large base. Also, I think that a circular or square base configuration could more strongly remind users of a plant. I think that the design currently relies on a translucent or transparent base material to show the change of colors. If you end up going with a base that is not translucent, it might be interesting to put slits in or maybe a small section of translucent material to show the light. Also, it would be cool to see if the light could be dispersed evenly/symmetrically across the device.

Response 3: the flower (the way it looks), size of the box, add scent function, remote controller (easier way to choose colors, etc)

Response 4: IF I had to change it, I would probably make the plant customizable, with like different flowers or vegetable plants. Like make the Plant portion detachable(or something) such that the user can pick and choose what kind of aesthetic they may like to help them release stress.

Response 5: Probably would use alternative materials, maybe switch to plastic/silicon/bendable wires that swing back and forth

UX Survey Responses -> New Prototype

Key findings to act upon

- 1 Finding:** Device attractiveness and effectiveness in relieving stress is ambiguous, but people's first impression of the device connects to something calming.
Action: Decreased ratio of plant/base (also based on survey responses), light diffusion altered (from slits in box) (based on preferred material and survey suggestion) (more "intentionally" matches current lighting effect).
- 2 Finding:** People wanted alternative/
*customizable plant options, similar to previous study responses.
Action: Plants can be inserted through top for customizability, breath is detected with temperature/humidity now vs roly poly before (more reliable + less real estate on top surface)
- 3 Finding:** People primarily prefer a wooden base and green plant color
Action: New prototype is approximately adjusted to meet visual preferences, limited materials for now

Prototype Before



Prototype After



Print Ad

WIRED

flo offers a breath of fresh air to provide clarity in lonely hours of struggle.

**steady breath,
steady flo**



how it works: humidity sensors on the device detect deep breathing and produce calming light patterns!

