PORTFOLIO
Elias Grieninger

Functional design, technology curious & lots of creativity.
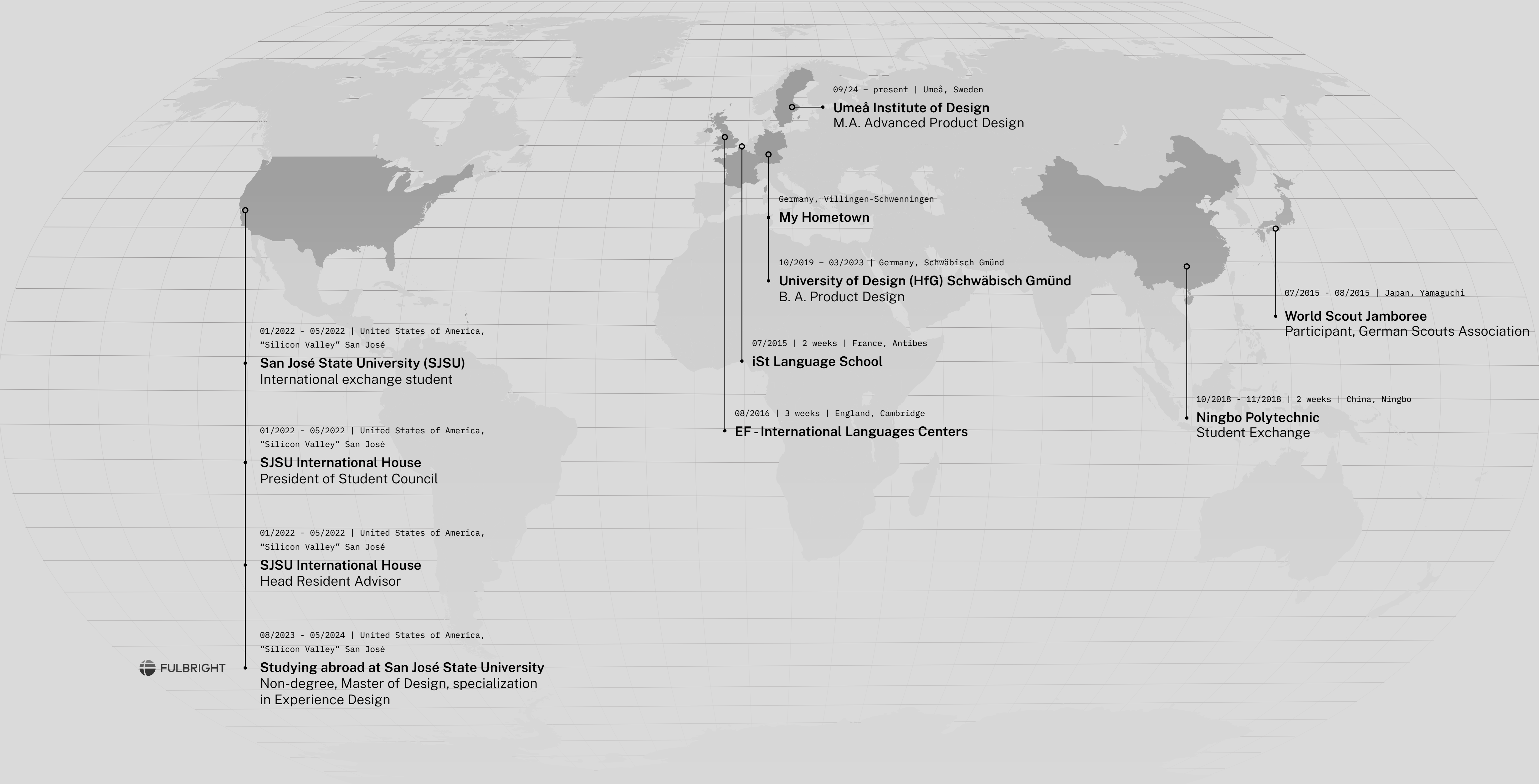
Elias Grieninger
› Graduating 2027

Welcome! I am Elias, a 25 year old student in the first year of Umeå Institute of Designs Master of Advanced Product design. I graduated with a bachelors degree in Germany. I spent one year in the United States studying Experience Design on a graduate level with a Fulbright scholarship.

In this portfolio you can expect works that demonstrate the following: My focus is on developing user-centered and relevant design solutions. I follow technological advancements closely and am curious about finding ways for its meaningful applications. I am driven by a functional design philosophy, but also have a high emphasis on aesthetics and details.

Experiences around the world

09/24 – present | Umeå, Sweden
Umeå Institute of Design
M.A. Advanced Product Design

Germany, Villingen-Schwenningen
My Hometown

10/2019 – 03/2023 | Germany, Schwäbisch Gmünd
University of Design (HfG) Schwäbisch Gmünd
B. A. Product Design

07/2015 | 2 weeks | France, Antibes
iSt Language School

08/2016 | 3 weeks | England, Cambridge
EF - International Languages Centers

07/2015 - 08/2015 | Japan, Yamaguchi
World Scout Jamboree
Participant, German Scouts Association

10/2018 - 11/2018 | 2 weeks | China, Ningbo
Ningbo Polytechnic
Student Exchange

01/2022 - 05/2022 | United States of America,
"Silicon Valley" San José
San José State University (SJSU)
International exchange student

01/2022 - 05/2022 | United States of America,
"Silicon Valley" San José
SJSU International House
President of Student Council

01/2022 - 05/2022 | United States of America,
"Silicon Valley" San José
SJSU International House
Head Resident Advisor

08/2023 - 05/2024 | United States of America,
"Silicon Valley" San José

FULBRIGHT

Studying abroad at San José State University
Non-degree, Master of Design, specialization
in Experience Design

Twyne

Turning binoculars into a shared experience.

2025 [10 weeks]

THULE SWEDEN
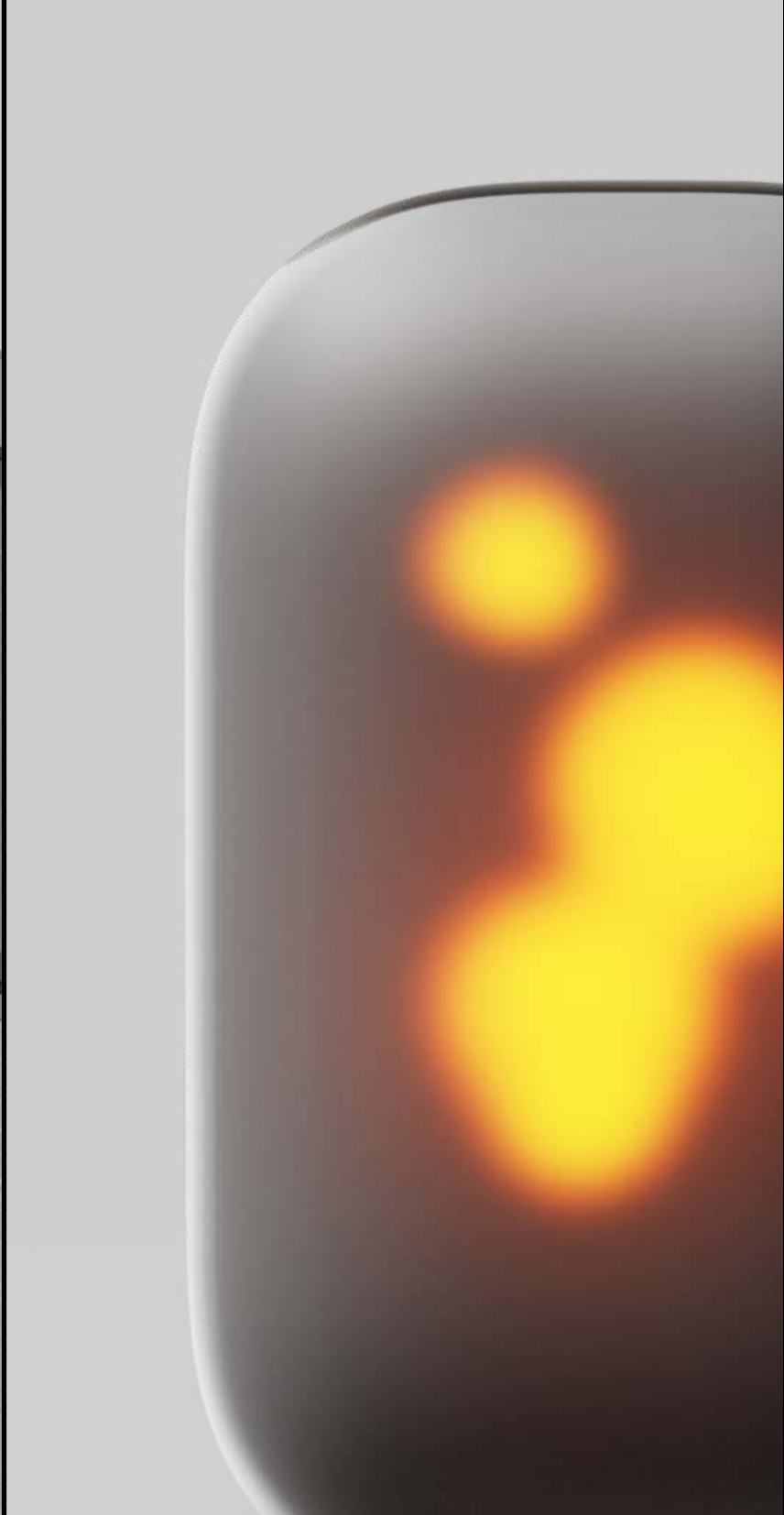
Habitat

Reinforcing good habits and wellbeing by rewarding less screentime.

2025 [4 weeks]

Scrubber

An electric scrubber for HOTO with focus on manufacturing.

2025 [4 weeks]

HOTO

Prizma

Smart gas mask for environmental crime scene investigation

2025 [10 weeks]

Polisen

Connect 4

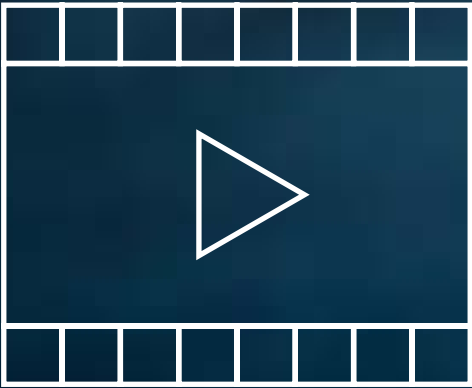A quick 10-hour design sprint designing an accessory for the phone brand NOTHING.

2025 [10 hours]

2D

A selection of Sketches

2025

Project length: 8 weeks
When: 2025
Team: Individual work
University: Umeå Institute of Design

01

Twyne

Turning binoculars from a solo
tool into a shared experience

THULE
SWEDEN

Watch the 1:15 Video here

Official collaboration
with THULE

THULE
SWEDEN

Binoculars are a great way to explore Nature.
But wouldn't it be nice if we could just....

...share?

See where the other person is looking!

Capture what you see

10mm ultra wide camera for simultaneously capturing the surroundings

10x zoom telephoto lens for taking photos of what you see

Trigger

Made from titanium sheet metal and durable Neoprene rubber

Adjust diopter

Adjust focus plane

Split & Share

Take photos

Pair with phone to live-stream
& transfer images

Wi-Fi antennas

Twyne | Shared Binoculars

Top view

Bottom view

Snappy, Tactile & Techy
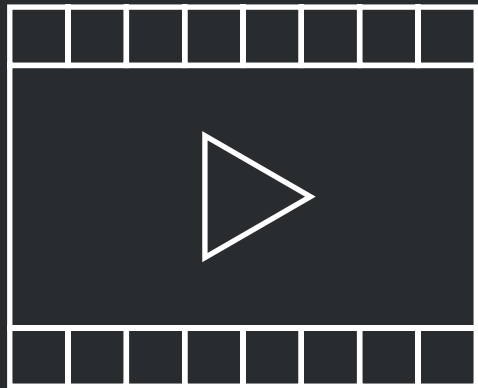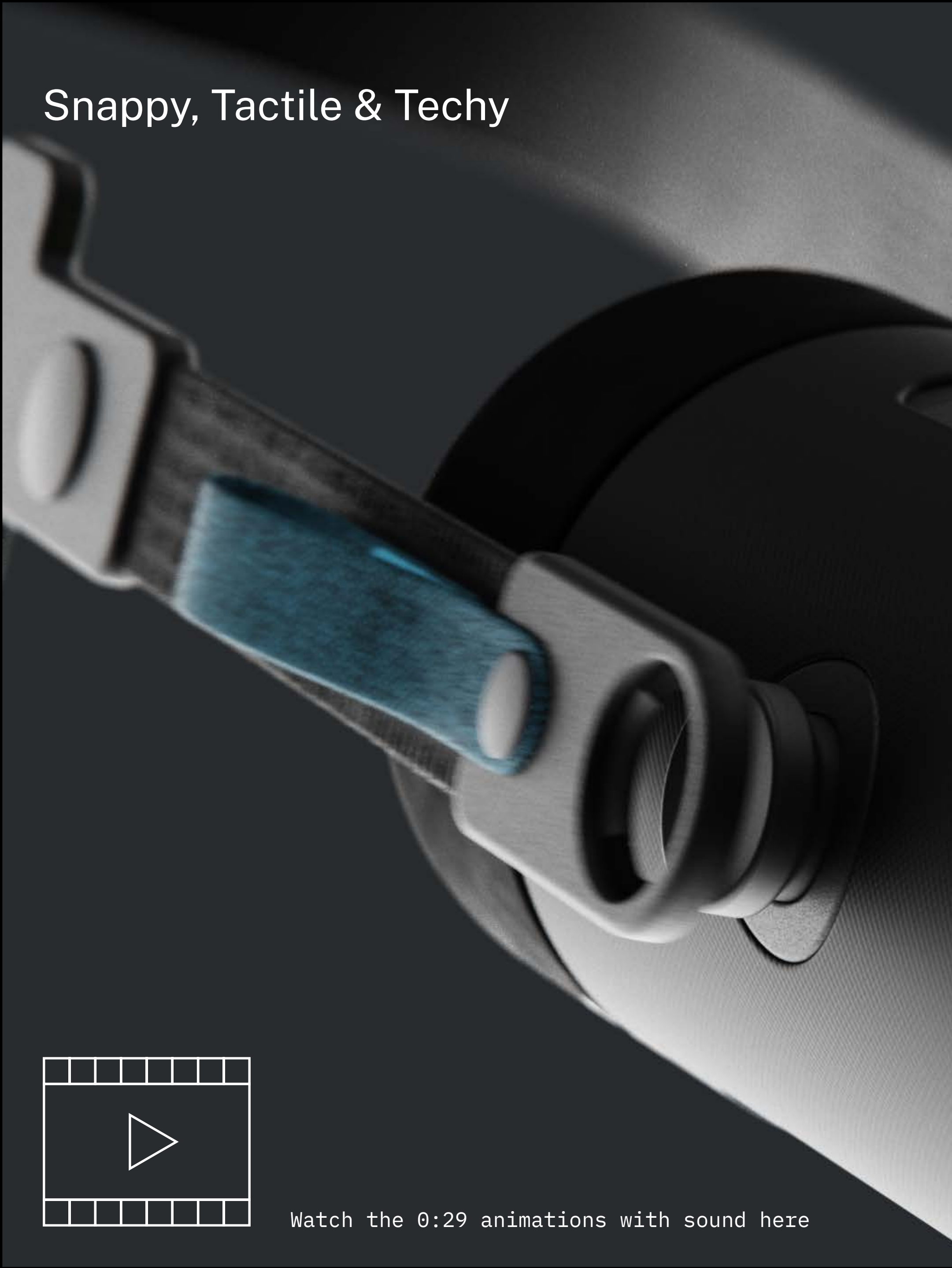
Watch the 0:29 animations with sound here

Project length: 4 week design sprint
When: 2025
Team: Mai Eigel, Shelley Xiao
University: Umeå Institute of Design

02 **habitat**

Reinforcing good habits with a
habitat for the phone.
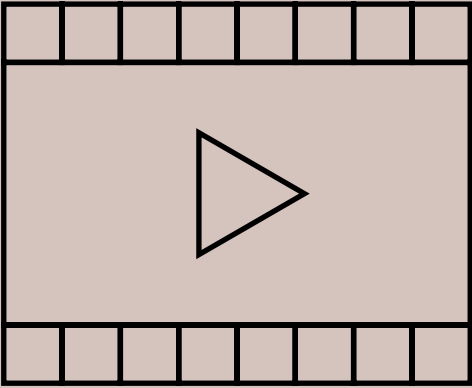
Watch the 2:35 Video here

How might we help people to use
their phones less at home?

The average person spends 2h and 24
minutes on social media every day.

Many people would like to change their
habits, but have difficulty doing so.

After the daily limit is reached, black bubbles slowly take presence on the screen.
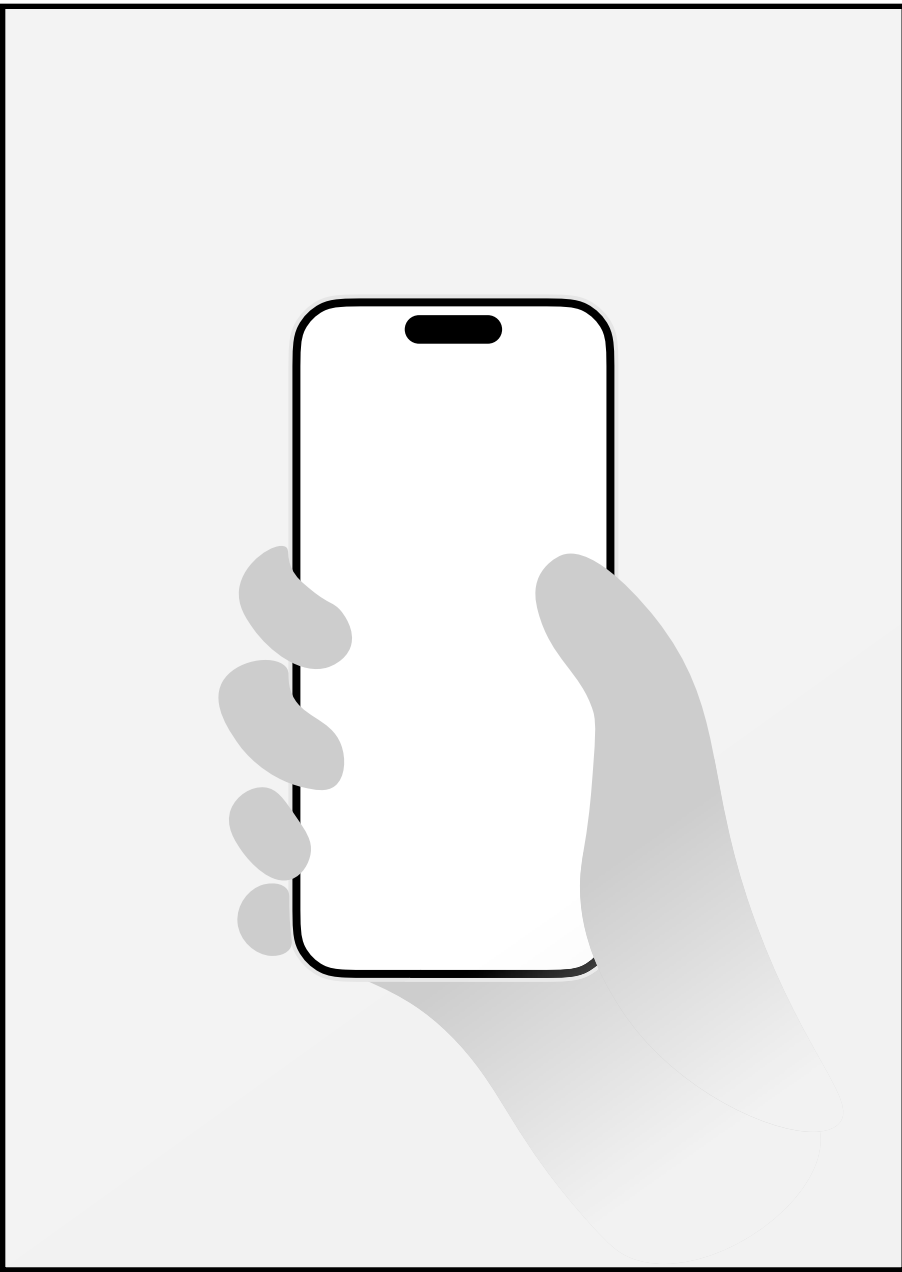
The animation starts after the self-set daily limit on a an App is reached.

The screens borders "liquify and start slowly moving.
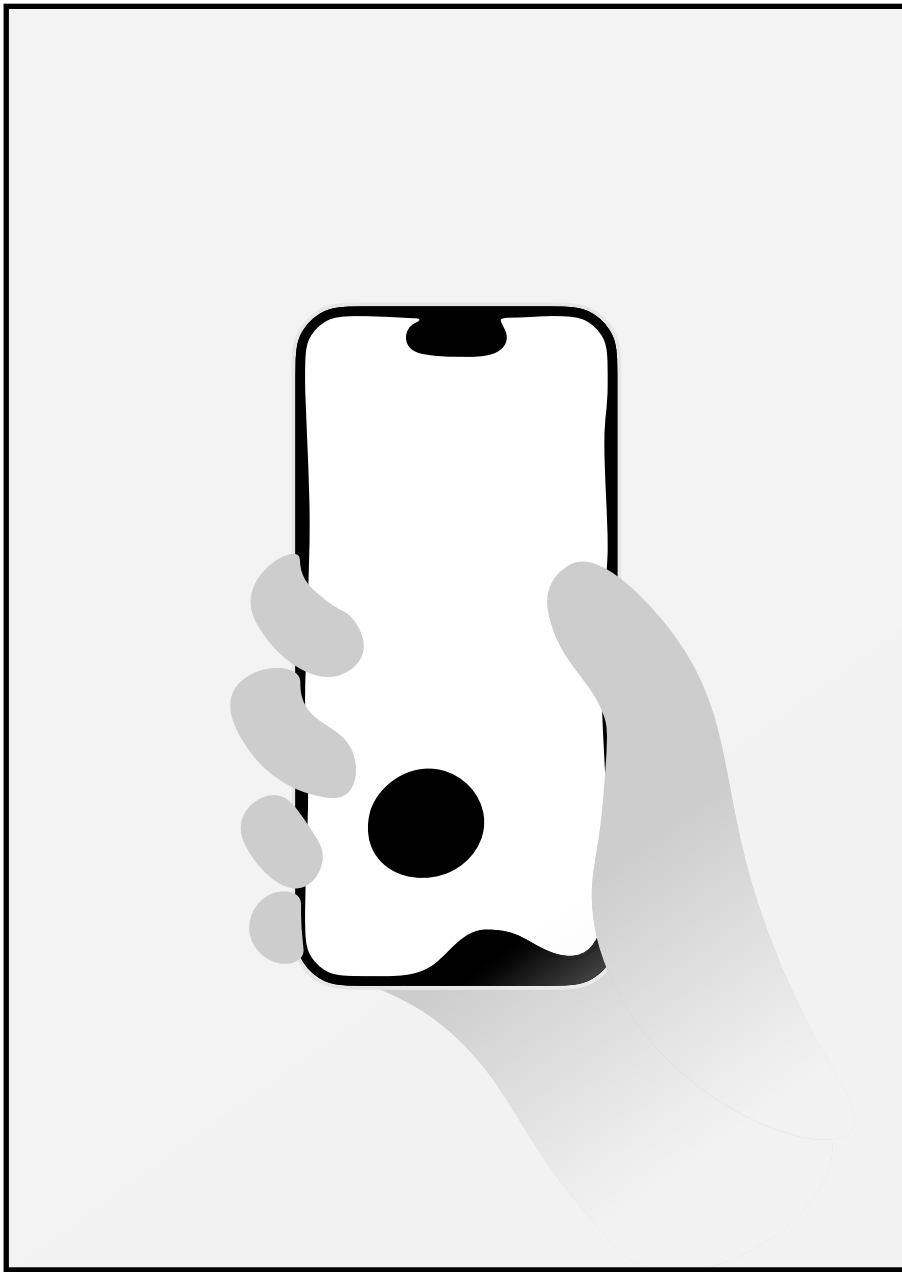
Bubbles start to form and wander across the screen. They start out as very little and being a minor inconvenience.

Eventually bigger bubbles form and interact with each other taking more and more attention from the user.
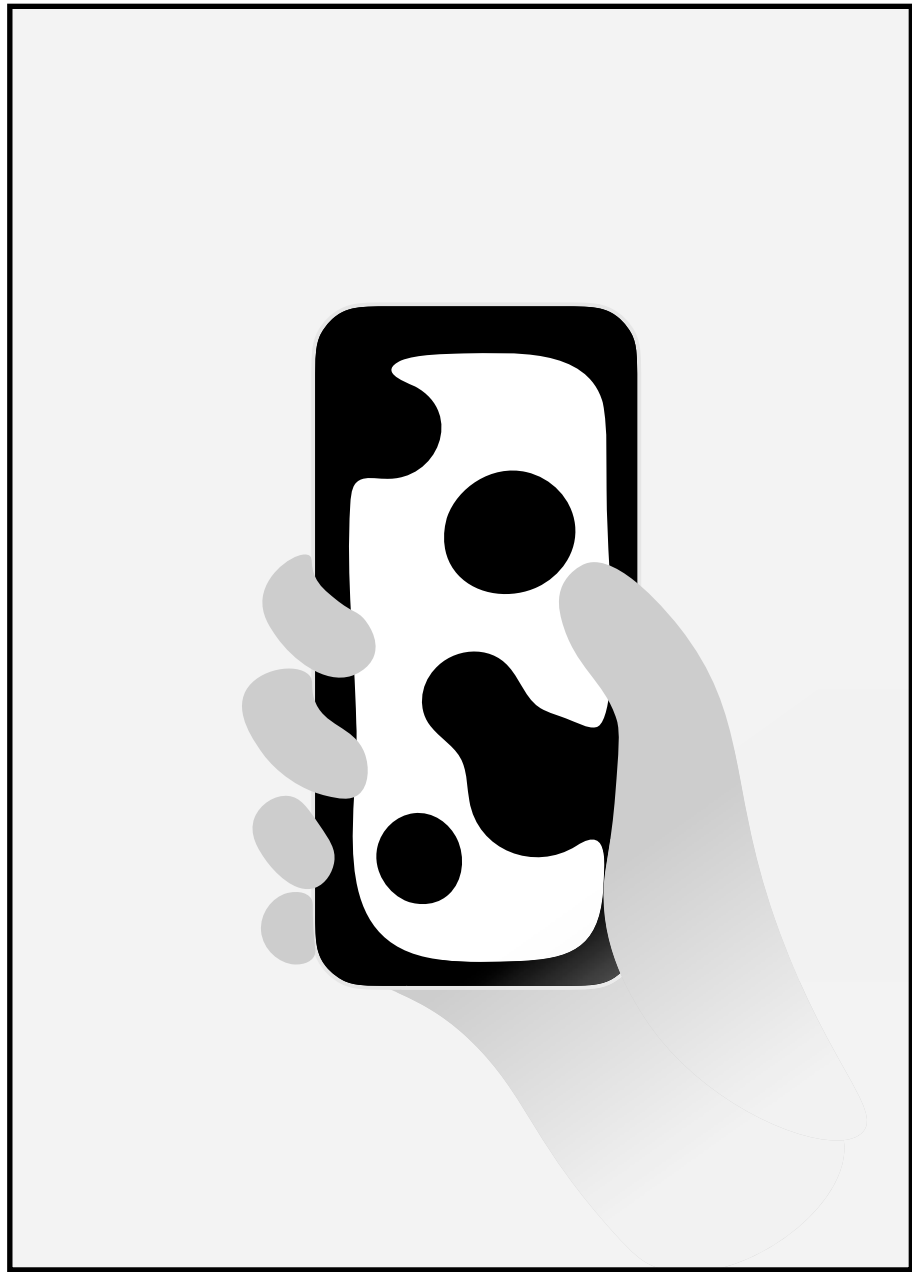
Finally, the screen starts to clutter so much, that the app becomes unusable.

Clean your phone and your mind.

The phone gets virtually "cleaned"
from the bubbles as you put it inside
the device.
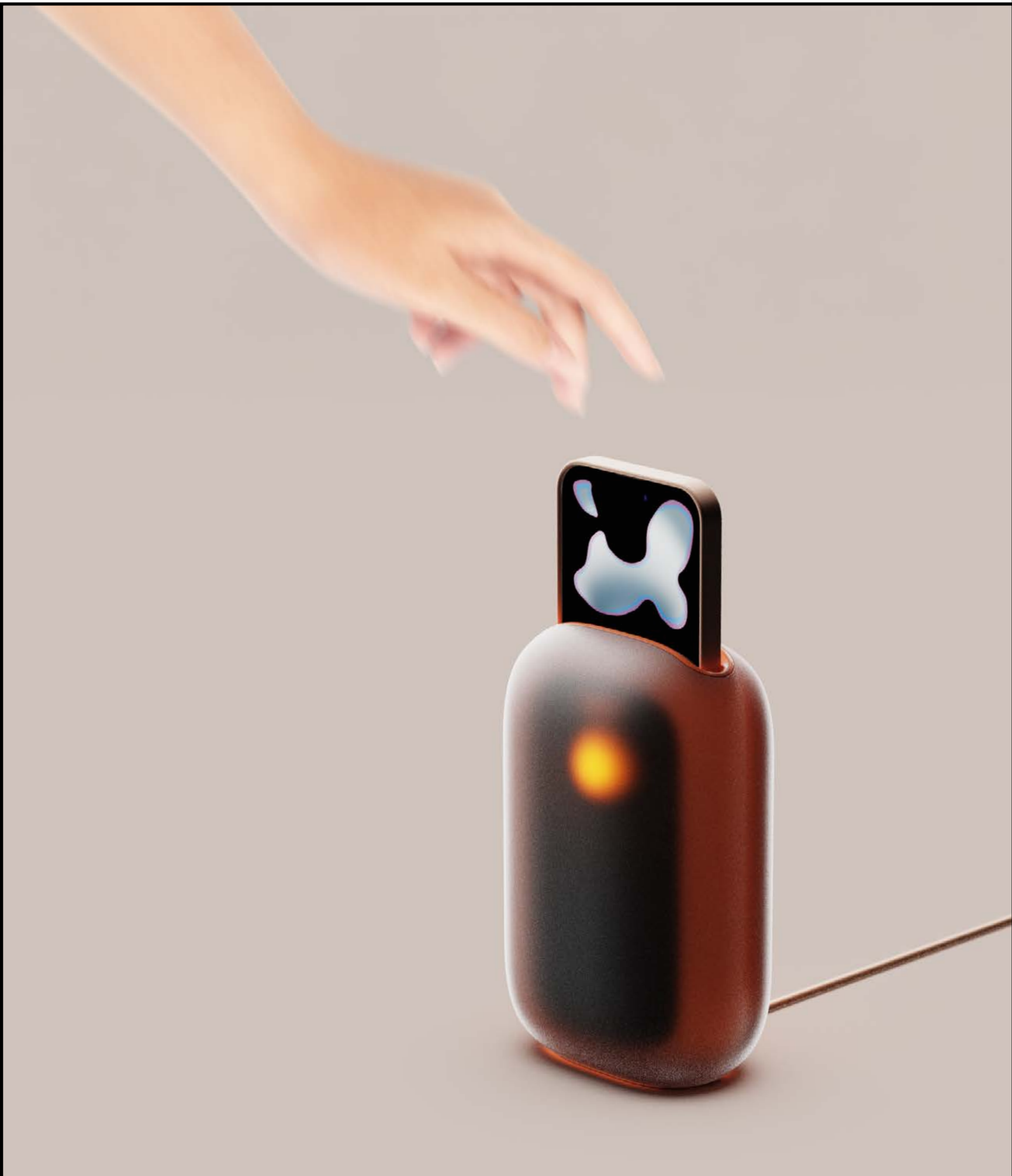
The frosted glass distorts the
display through the materials physical
characteristics.

A calming lava animation starts,
rewarding the user with soft, ambient
light for less screen time.
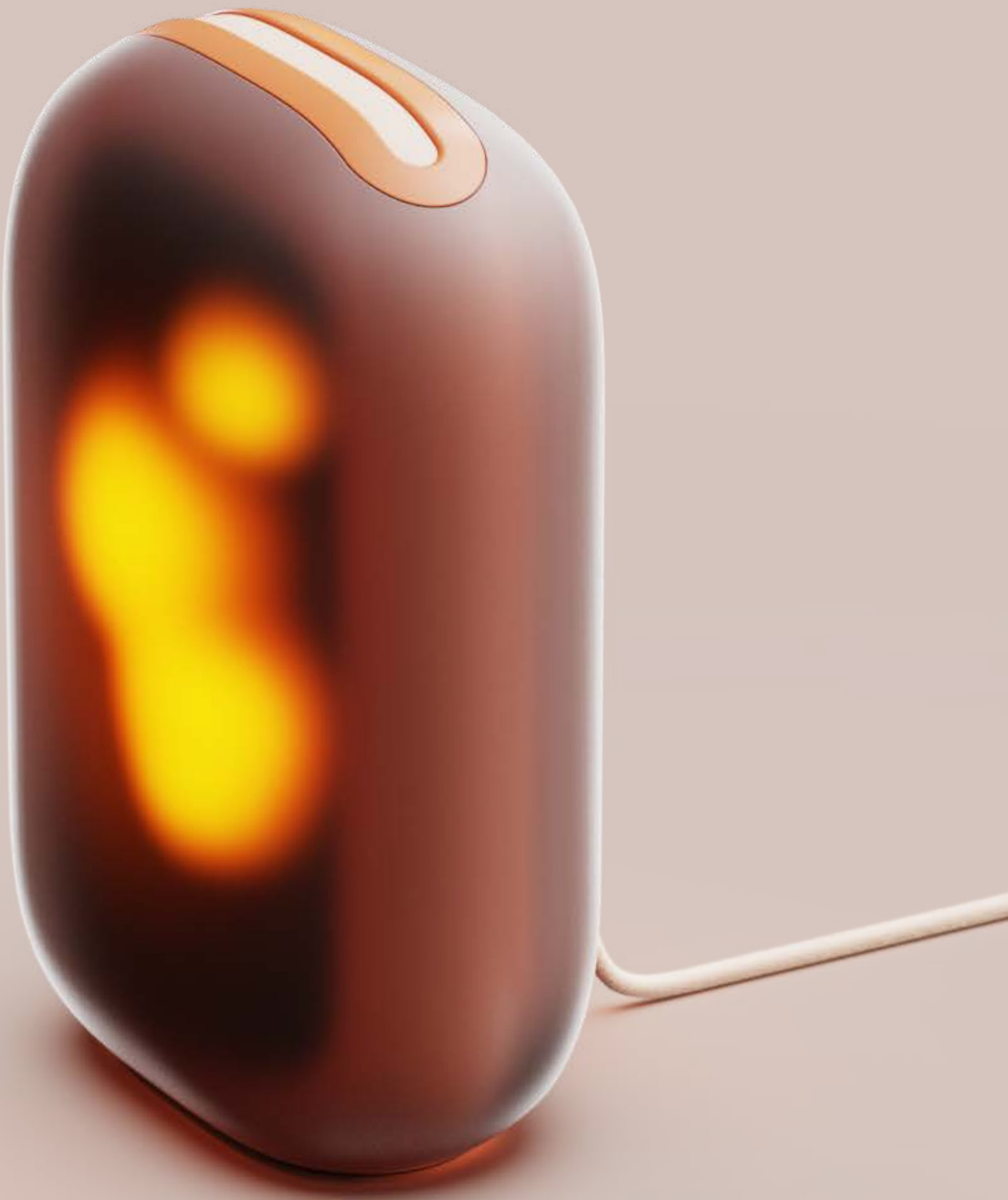
Fear of missing out? Rest assured. Intelligent message filtering detects messages you would not want to miss.

You decide what kinds of notifications should still be able to reach you.

Jonas Kimmig — now
Luca and I are heading to the beach this evening, do you want to join?

Luca Heilmann — now
Haha that's terrifying 😂

Mary Wang — now
I found sooooo much stuff on the fleamarket today!!!

New Episode — 2m ago
A new episode of Severance is now on Apple TV+.

Thomas Degn — 21m ago
APD program council meeting 3 - Agenda and link to folder with attachments

"Knock knock"

Details. Because they matter.

Status LED

Microphone for voice interaction

Big speaker for low frequency, calm sound effects.
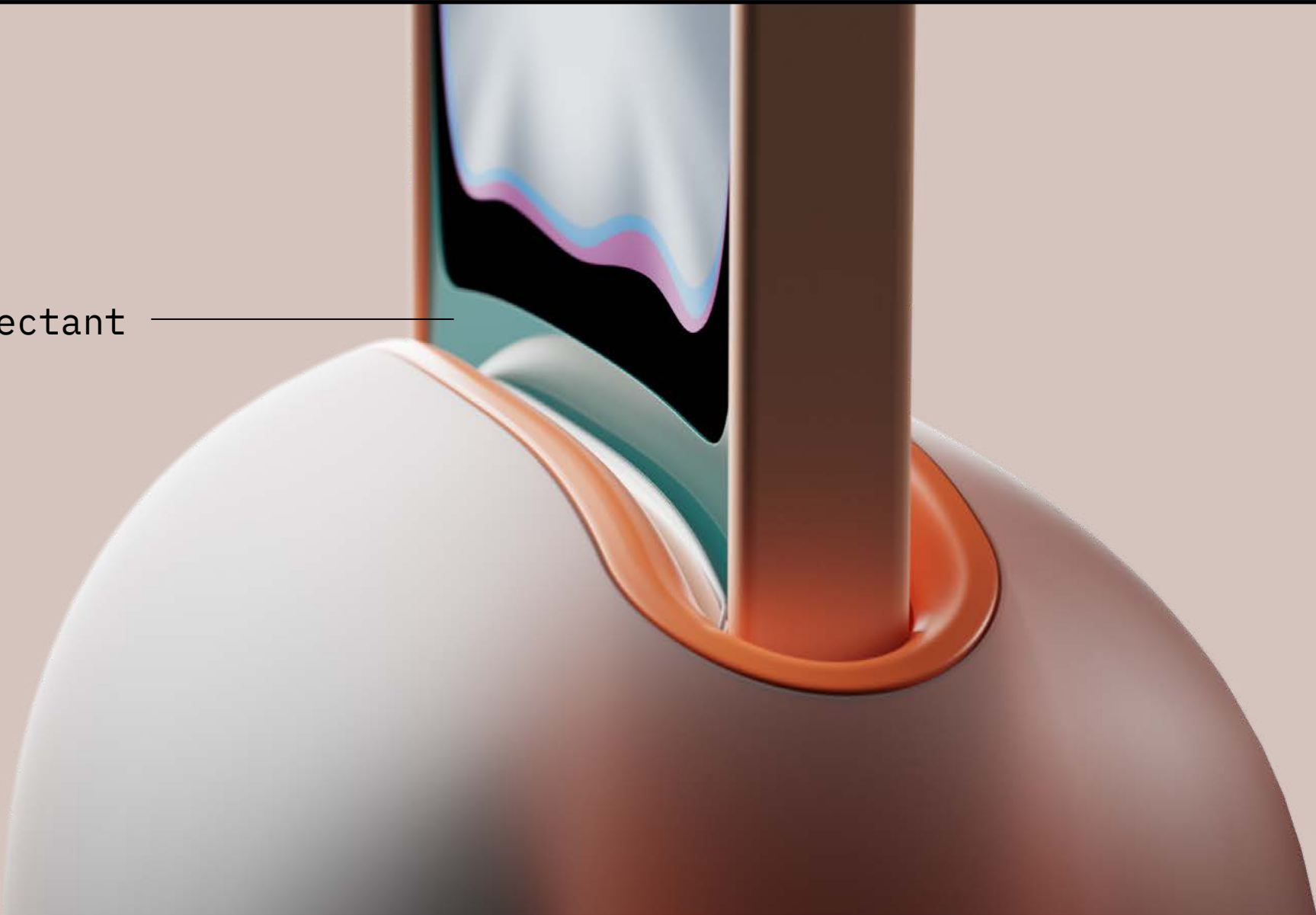
Speaker

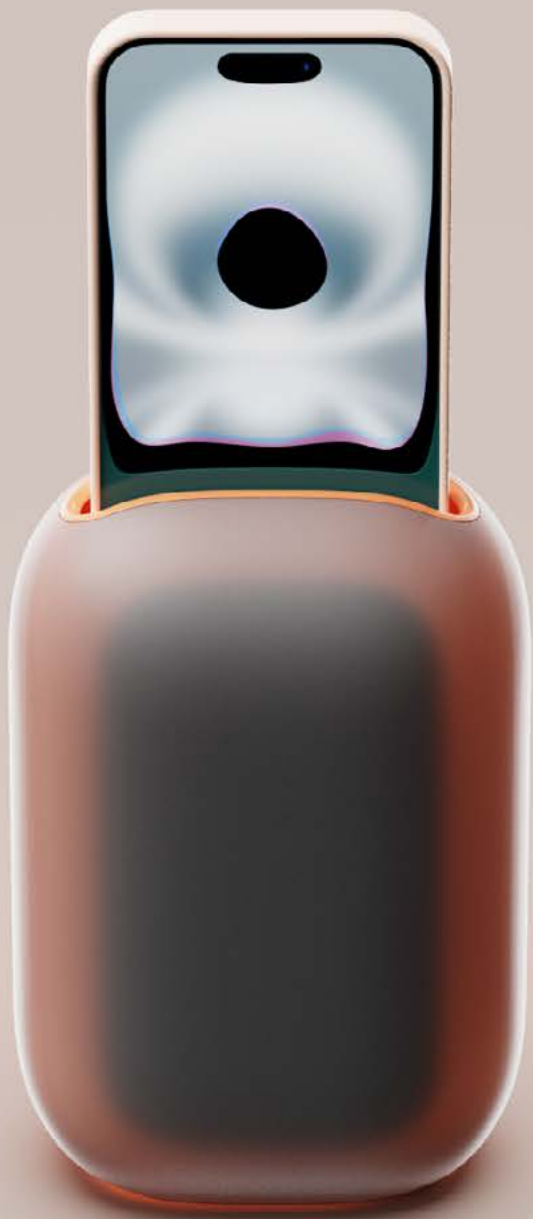# Cleanliness you can see and smell.

A Push-to-open compartment holds the liquid disinfectant. Scent adds another dimension to the experienced reward.

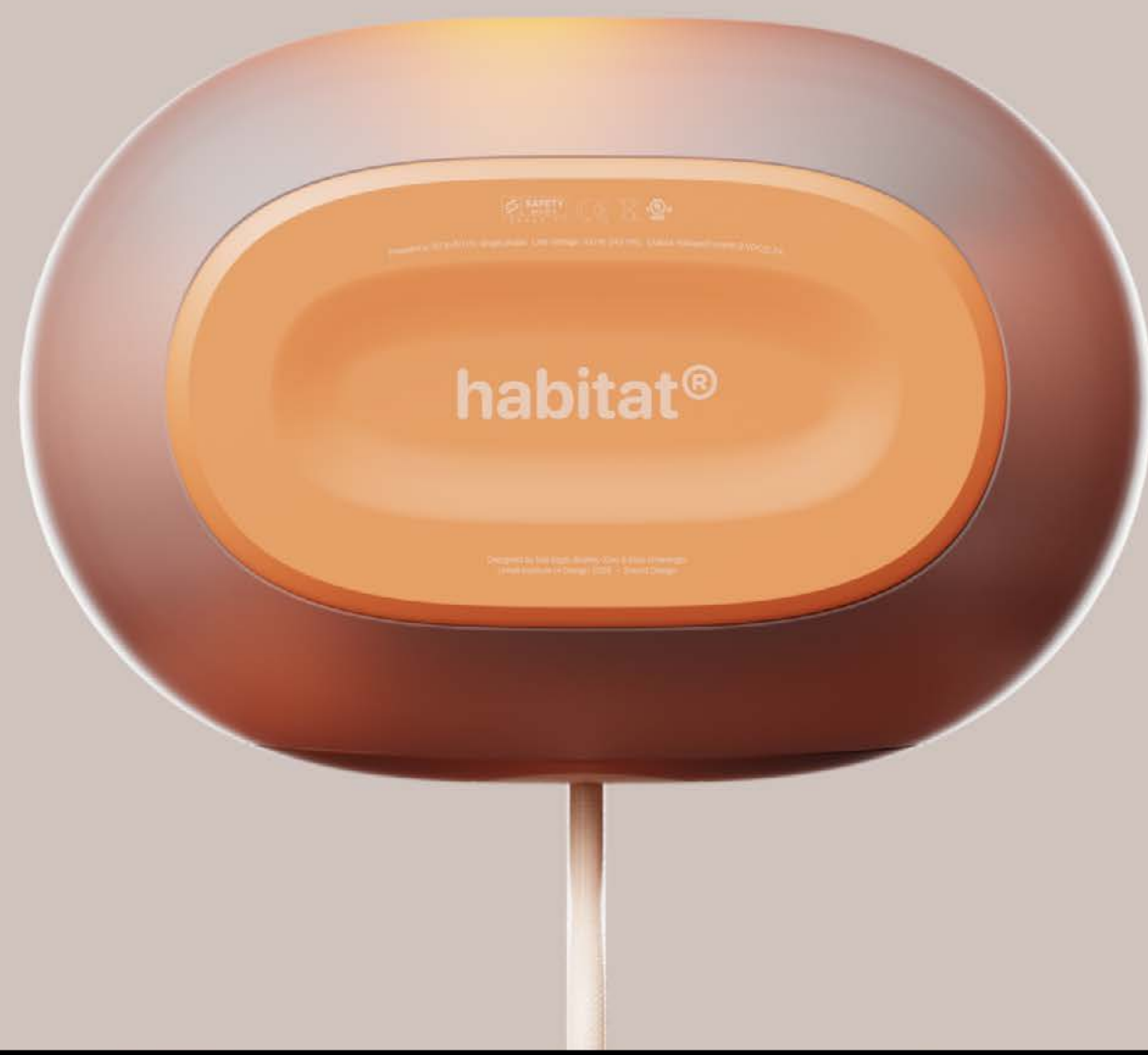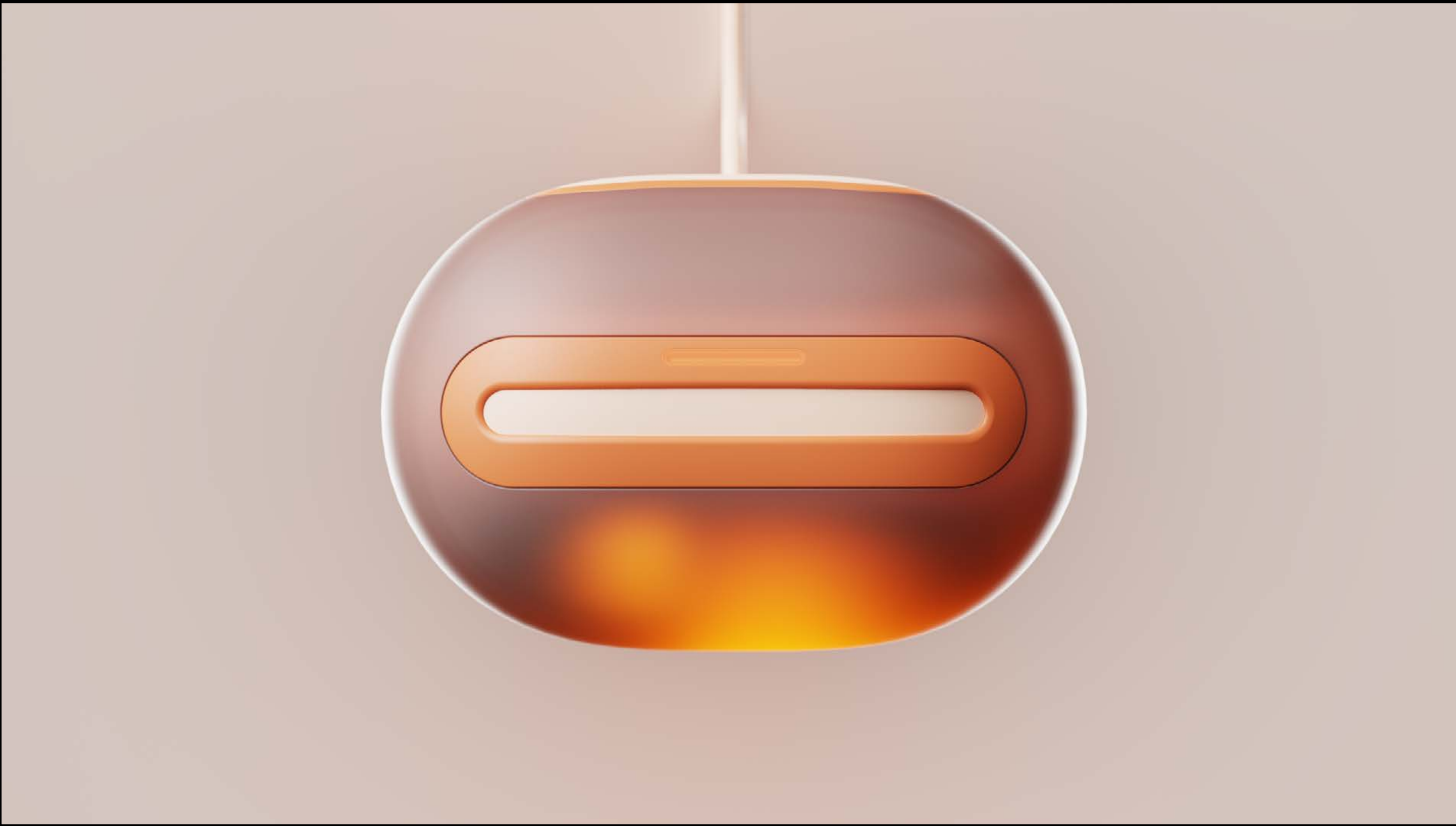

Disinfectant Refill
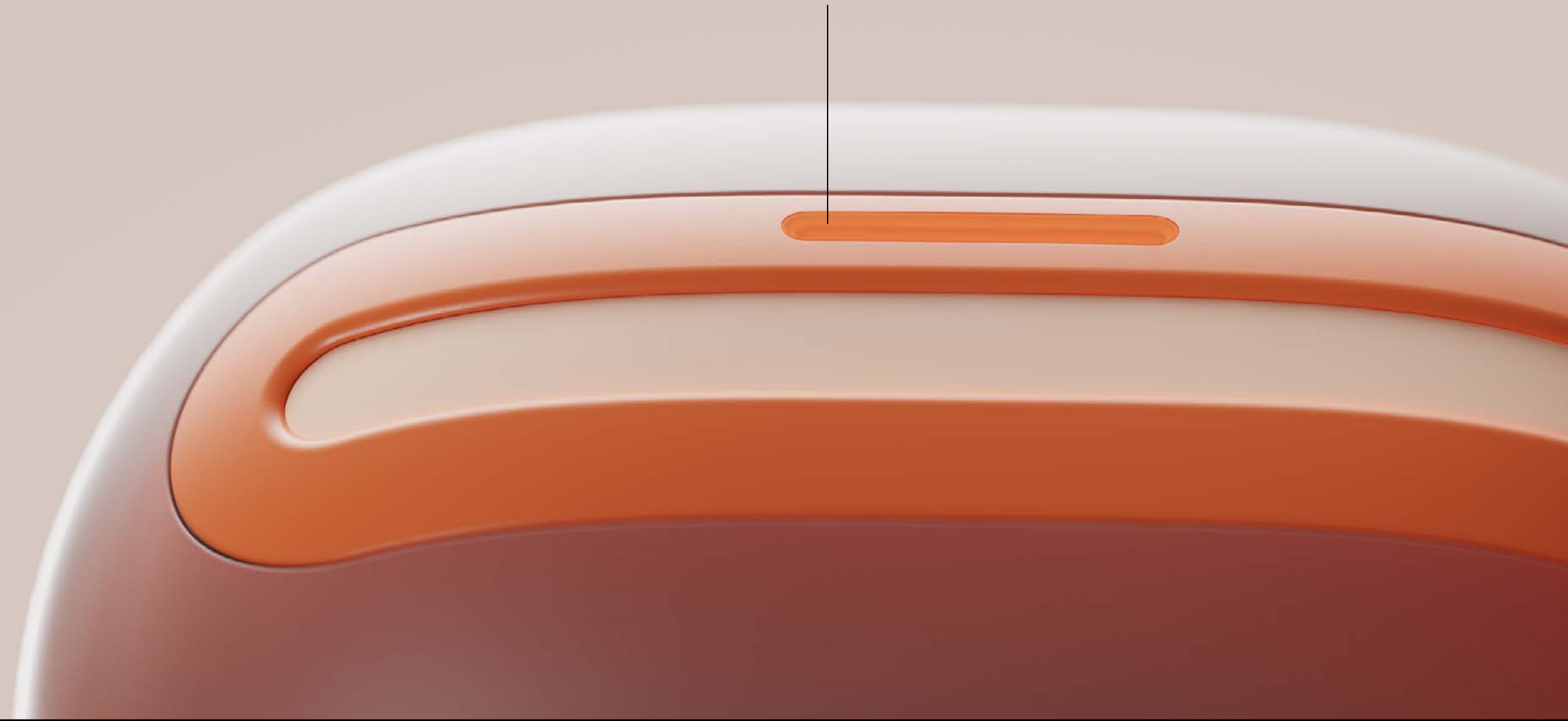
Refreshing Oranges

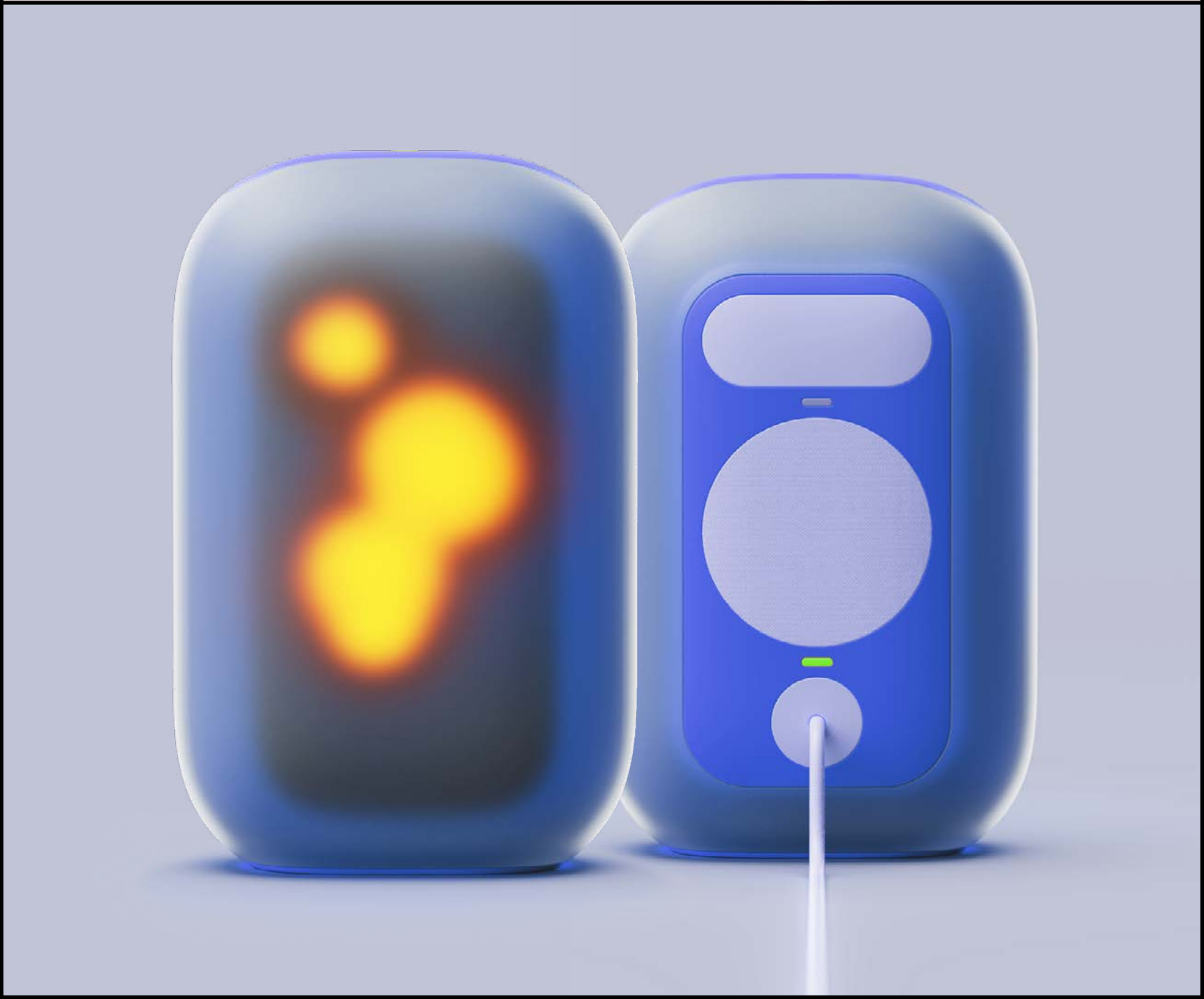Disinfectant

The phone is disinfected while coming out.

Always a 100% clean phone as reward.

Motion detection sensor triggers
the phones movement

What will it be? Neutral or vibrant colors that lean into the retro vibe?

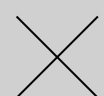The black versions inner parts
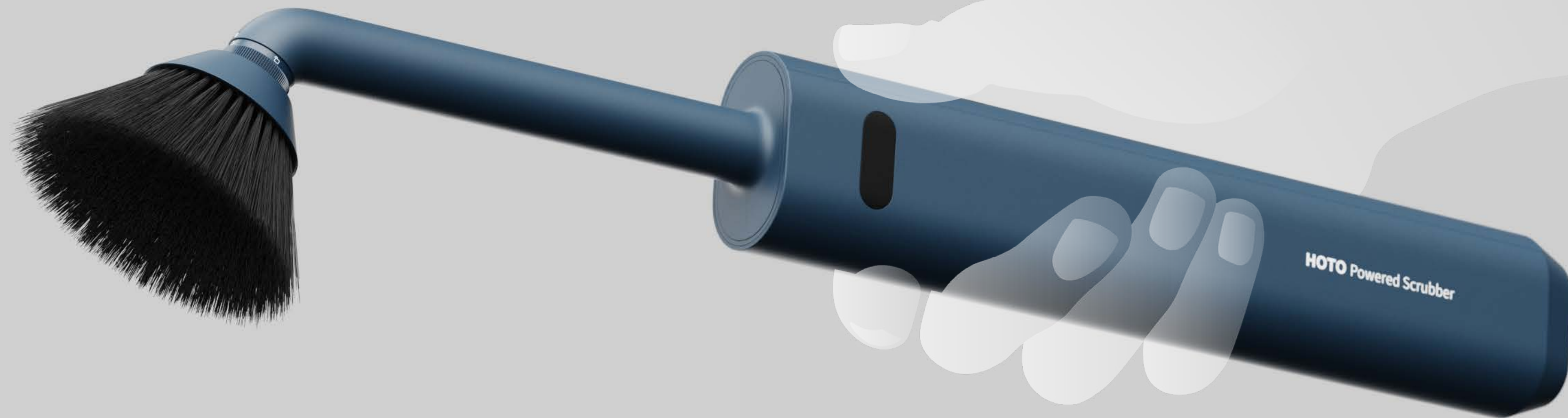result in a borderless appearance.

Project length: 4 weeks
When: 2025
Team: Individual work
University: Umeå Institute of Design

03 **HOTO** Powered Scrubber

An electric scrubber for Hoto with
a focus on manufacturing

HOTO Powered Scrubber

Official collaboration
with HOTO

HOTO makes minimalist precision home tools with
high emphasis on aesthetics and user centered design.

Analyzing HOTO's design DNA with the team

HOTO sponsored us tools to get a closer look

Understanding the brand

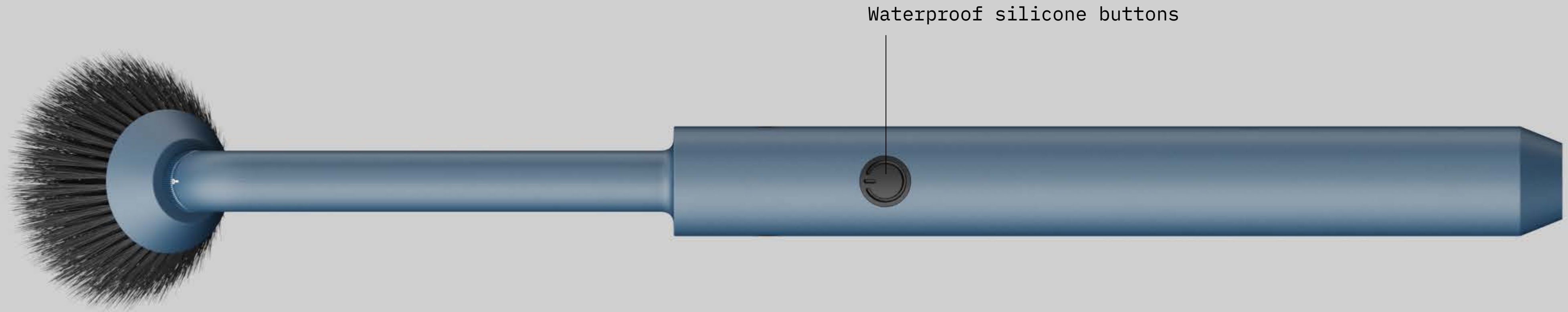# Maximizing ergonomics whilst prioritizing function and aesthetics

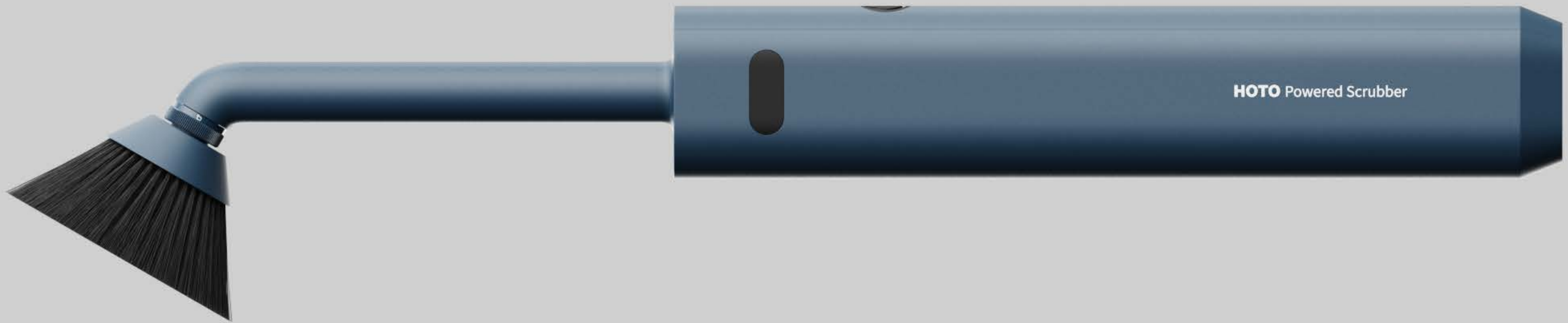Experimenting with different brush head attachments

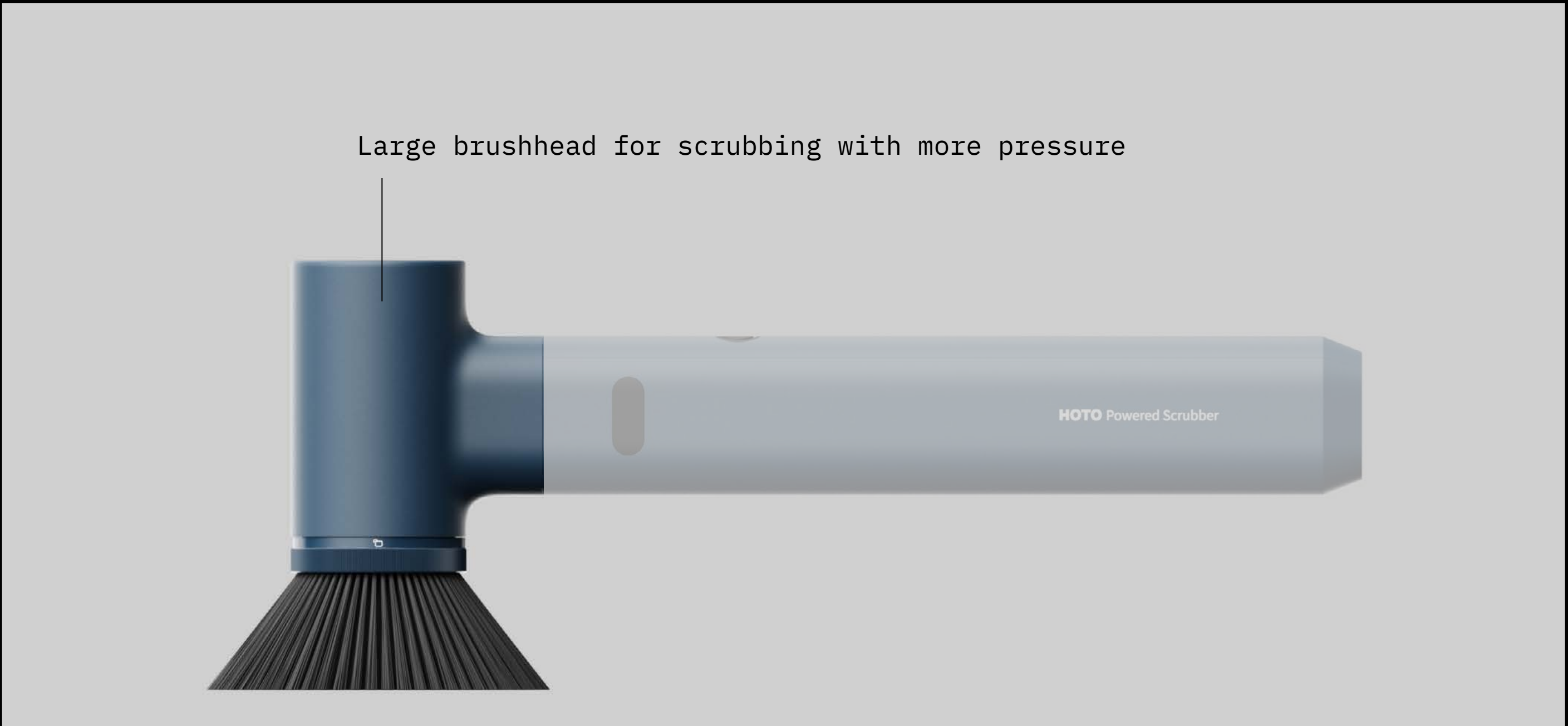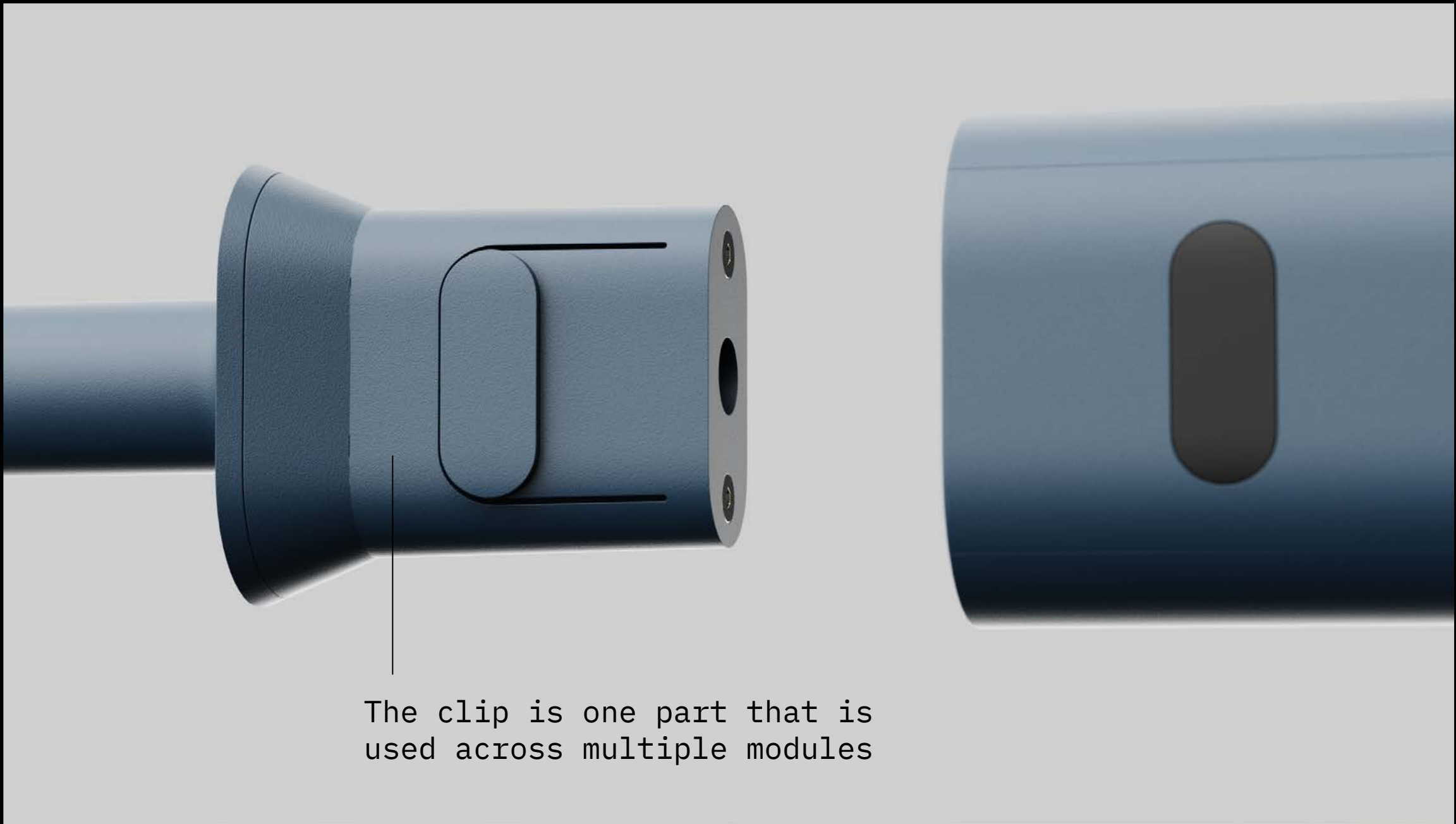More pressure needs a different grip

Slim profile, pill shaped handle

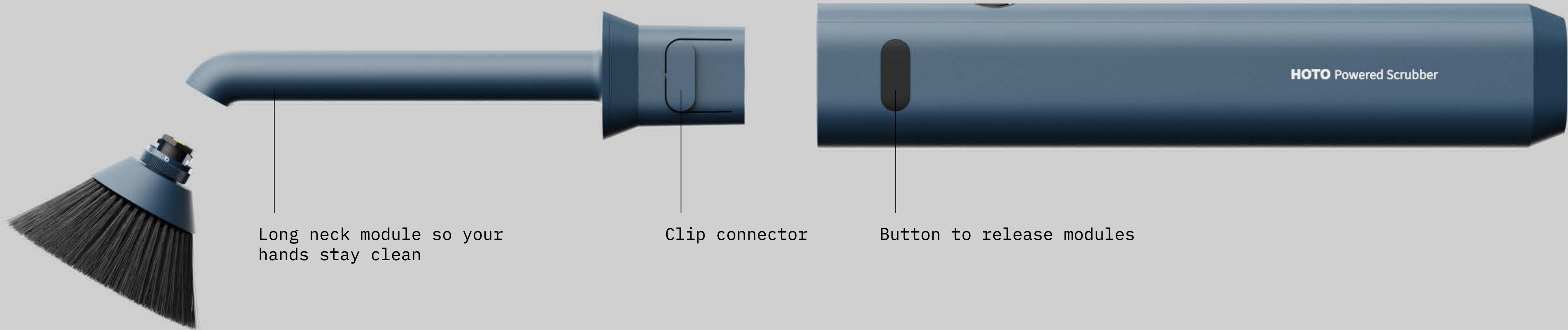Waterproof silicone buttons

HOTO Powered Scrubber

The perfect tool for the perfect job

Long neck module so your hands stay clean

Clip connector

Button to release modules

The clip is one part that is used across multiple modules

Large brushhead for scrubbing with more pressure

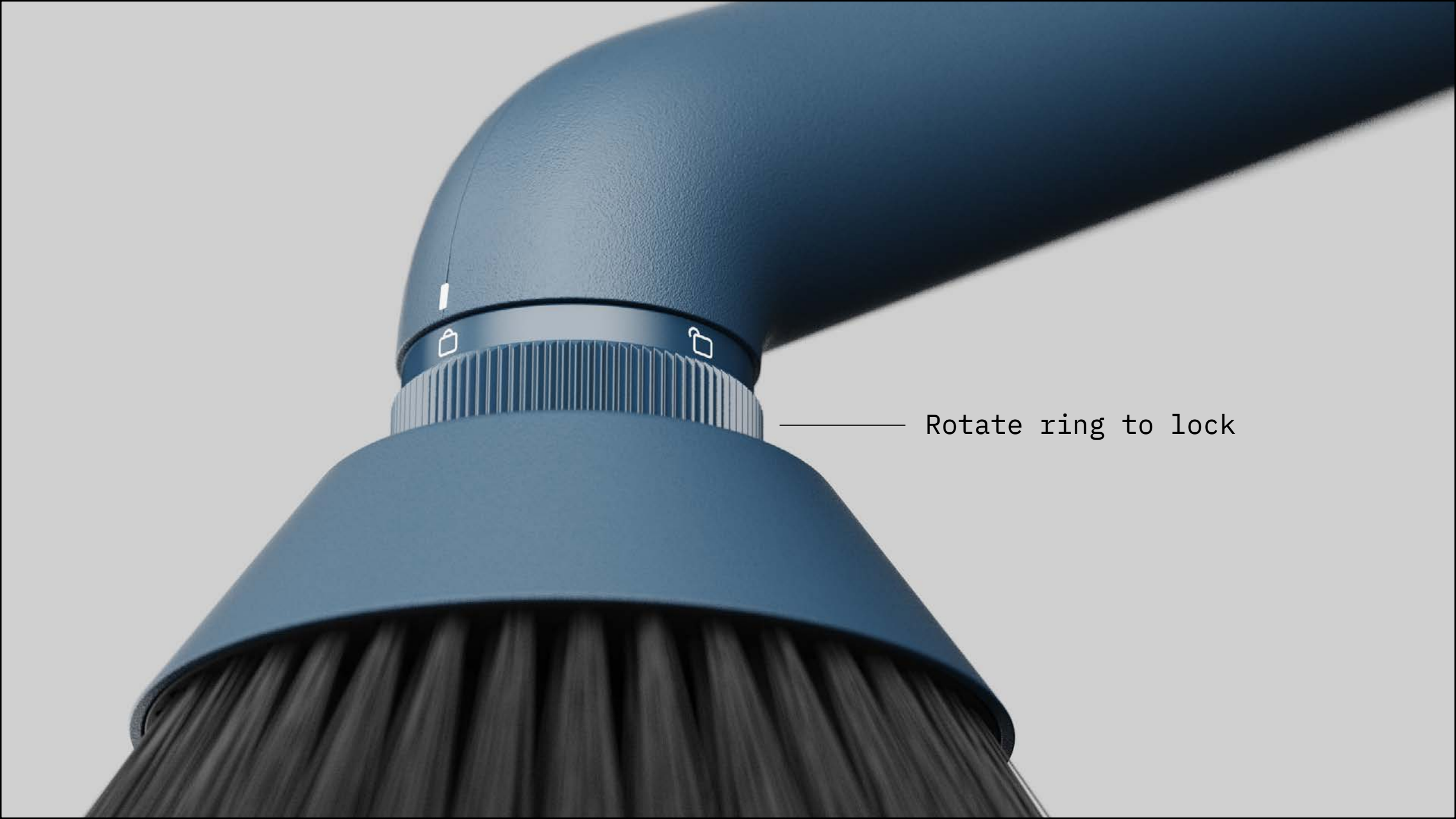HOTO Powered Scrubber

Interchangeable brush heads reduce plastic waste.

The brush head being the part experiencing
most wear and tear has been designed to be
as small as possible and interchangeable.

Rotate ring to lock

Details with intention
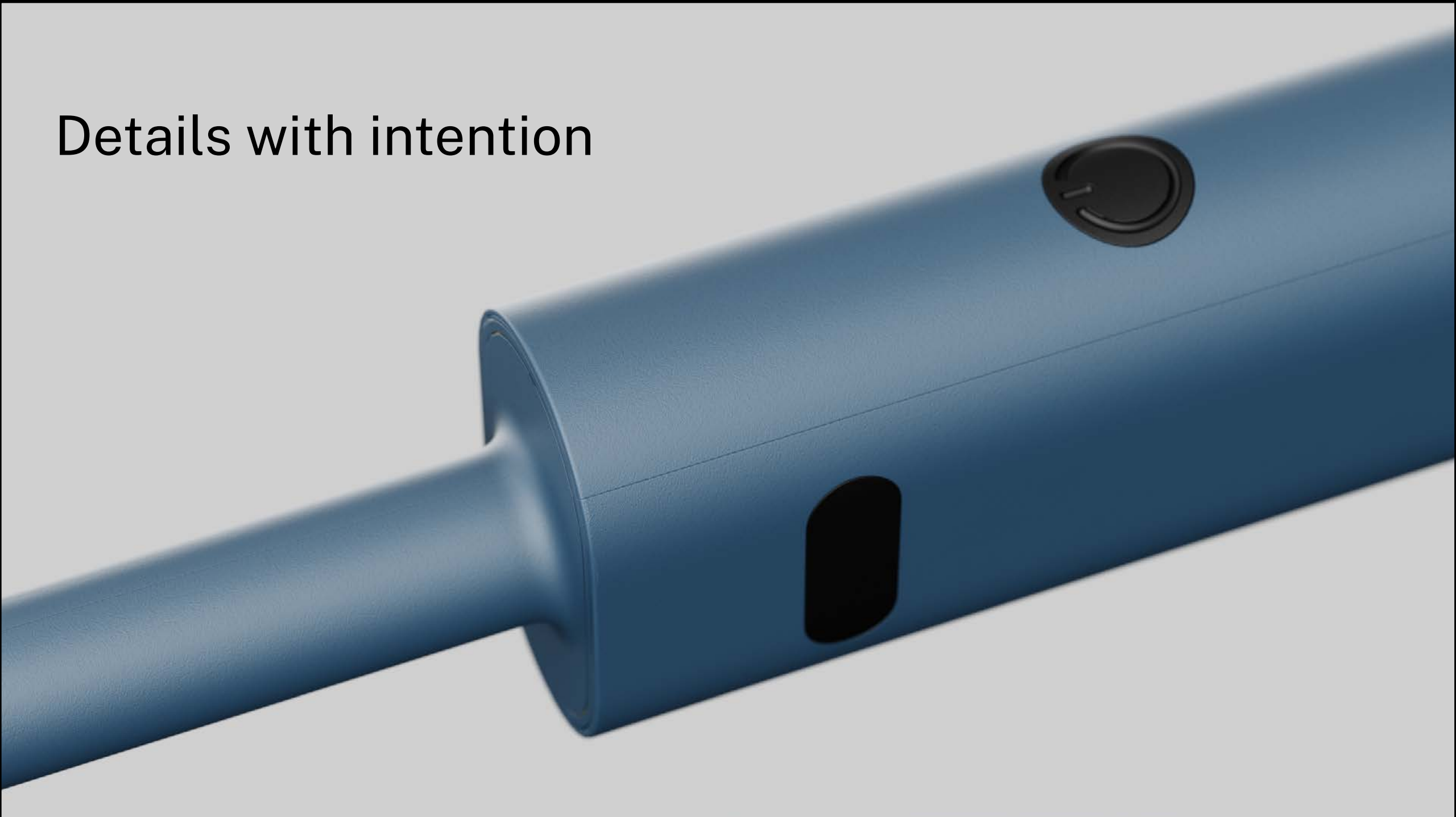
Functional, efficient & compact design

1° draft angles on all parts
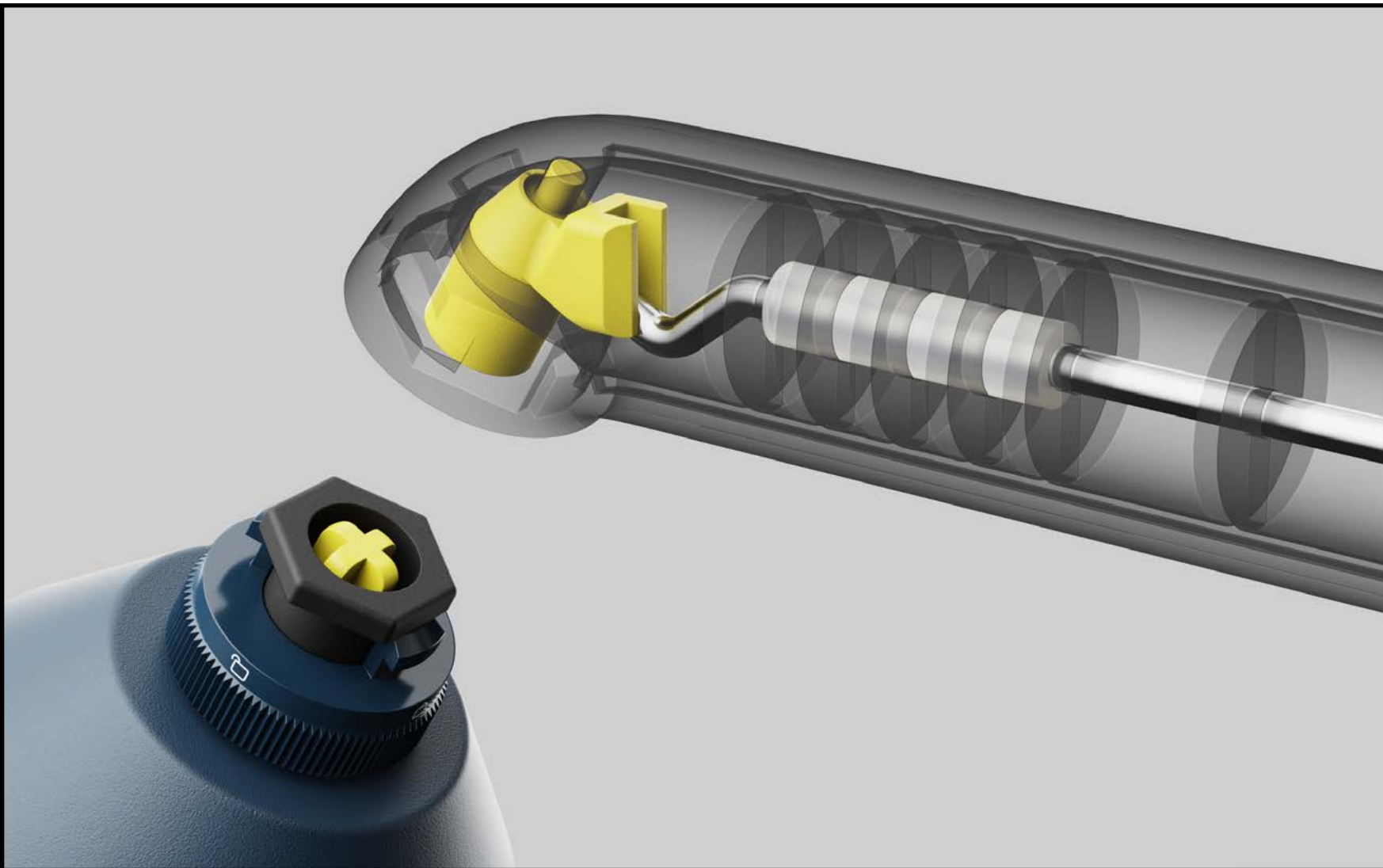
Conversion from linear movement to oscillating

Click-in assembly

Designed to be made
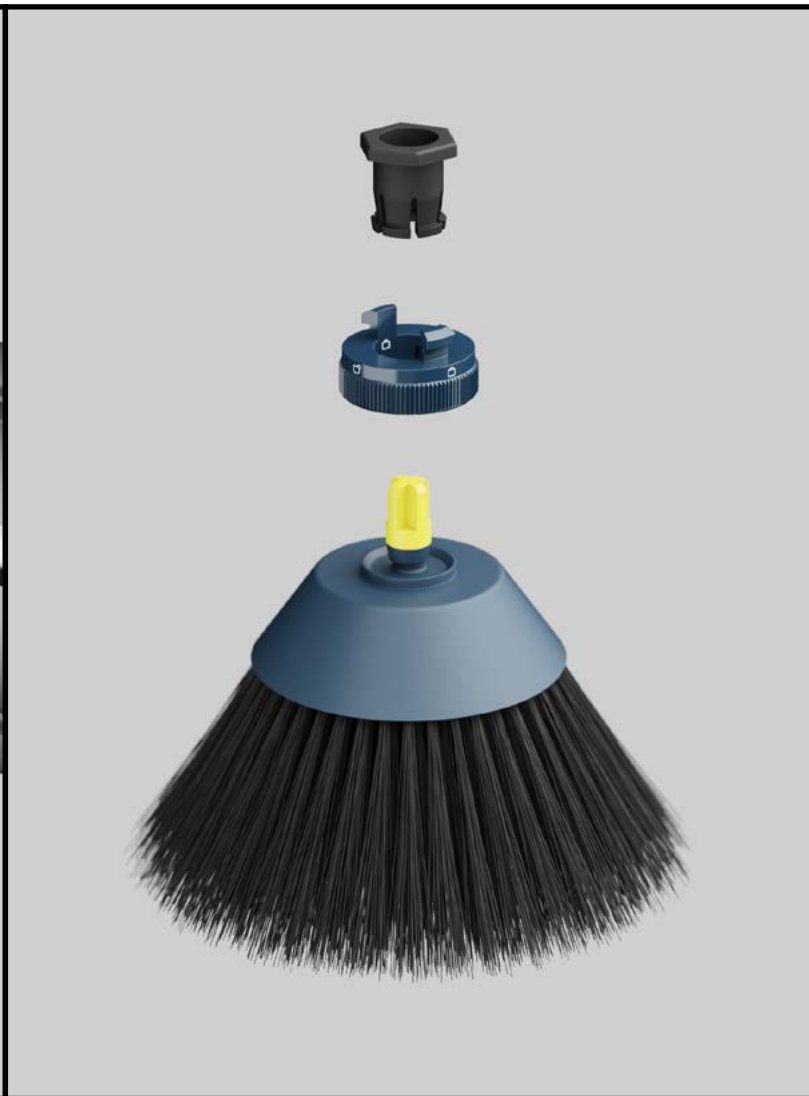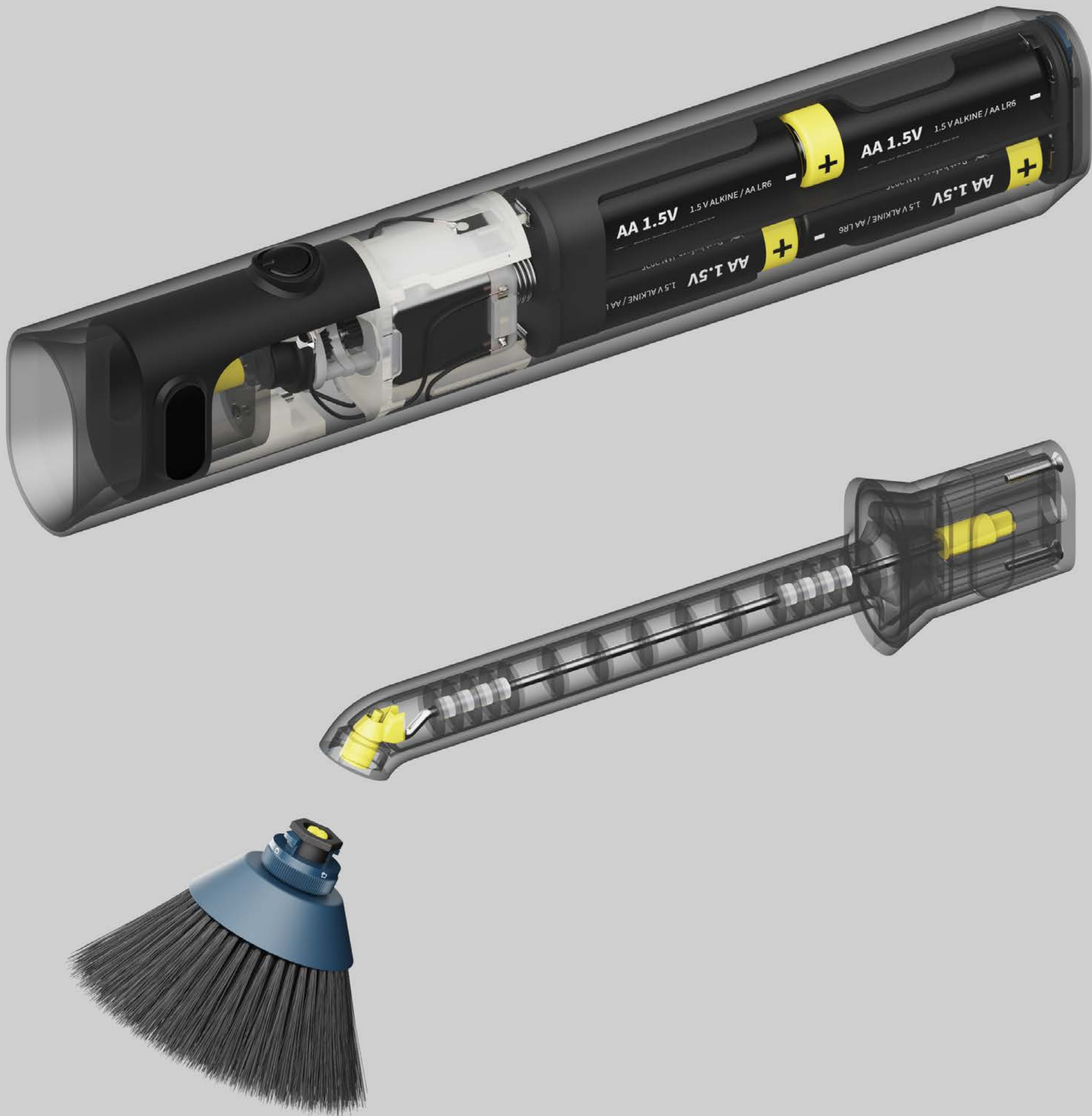
The powered scrubber for HOTO was the
first project I did that has been designed
through and through.

Project length: 12 weeks
When: 2025
Team: Artyom Shpagin
University: Umeå Institute of Design

04 **PRIZMA**

Smart gas mask for environmental
crime scene investigation
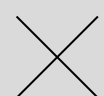
Pencil

Handwritten label

Notepad

"We are still taking notes with pen and paper and then need to transfer them to the computer [in the police station]."

Stated in our interview by Crime Scene Investigator
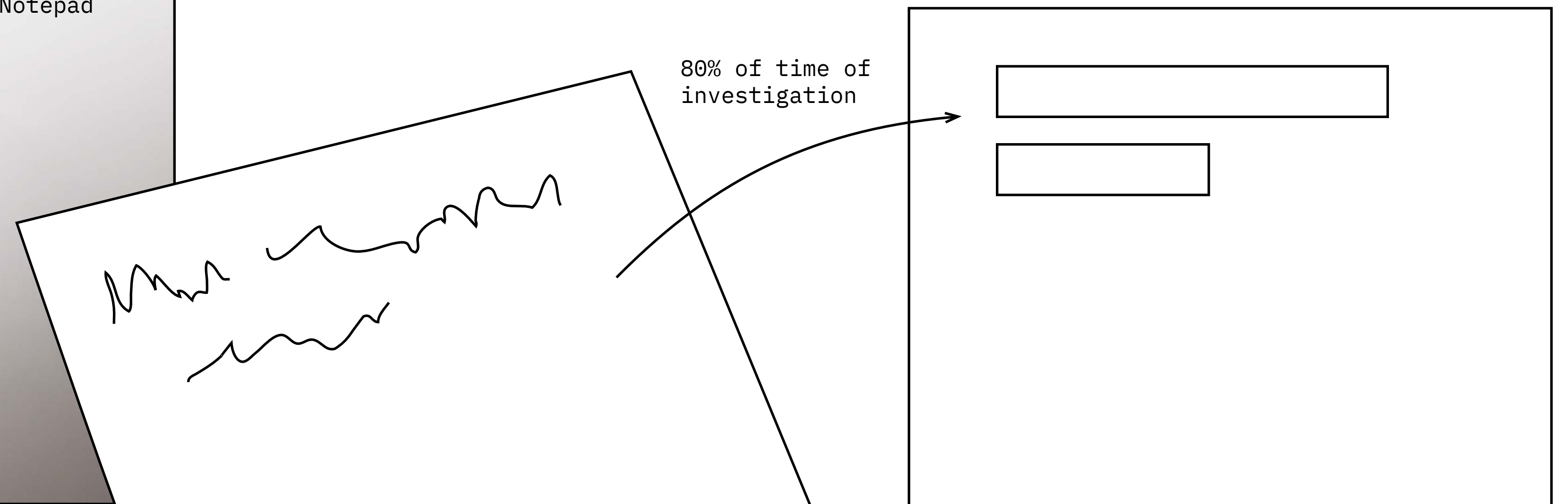
80% of time of investigation

"We cannot use forensic glasses [to detect traces under UV light] with the full-face mask."

Crime Scene Investigator

"Very often these headlights come off when we wear them on a helmet."

Crime Scene Investigator

PRIZMA eliminates the need of
analouge documentation equipment...

Integrated lights

Helmet compatible

Highly adjustable for
comfort and safety

Soft face seal,
Sturdy shell

Weight distribution
across five straps

Full face coverage

...by integrating augmented reality into a gas mask

"It would be nice if we could talk without needing to shout across spaces or rely on external systems that everyone can hear."

Crime Scene Investigator

Space for ponytail

Integrated microphone

Directional Speaker

Improved communication.

Slimmer filters, close to the face.

Release filter

Gas Filter SR 287 A9EK1
Particle Filter SR510P3R

POLIS

Slim filters reduce the experienced
weight by sitting closer to the face

Improved agility and reduced weight.

Touch-controlled integrated lights
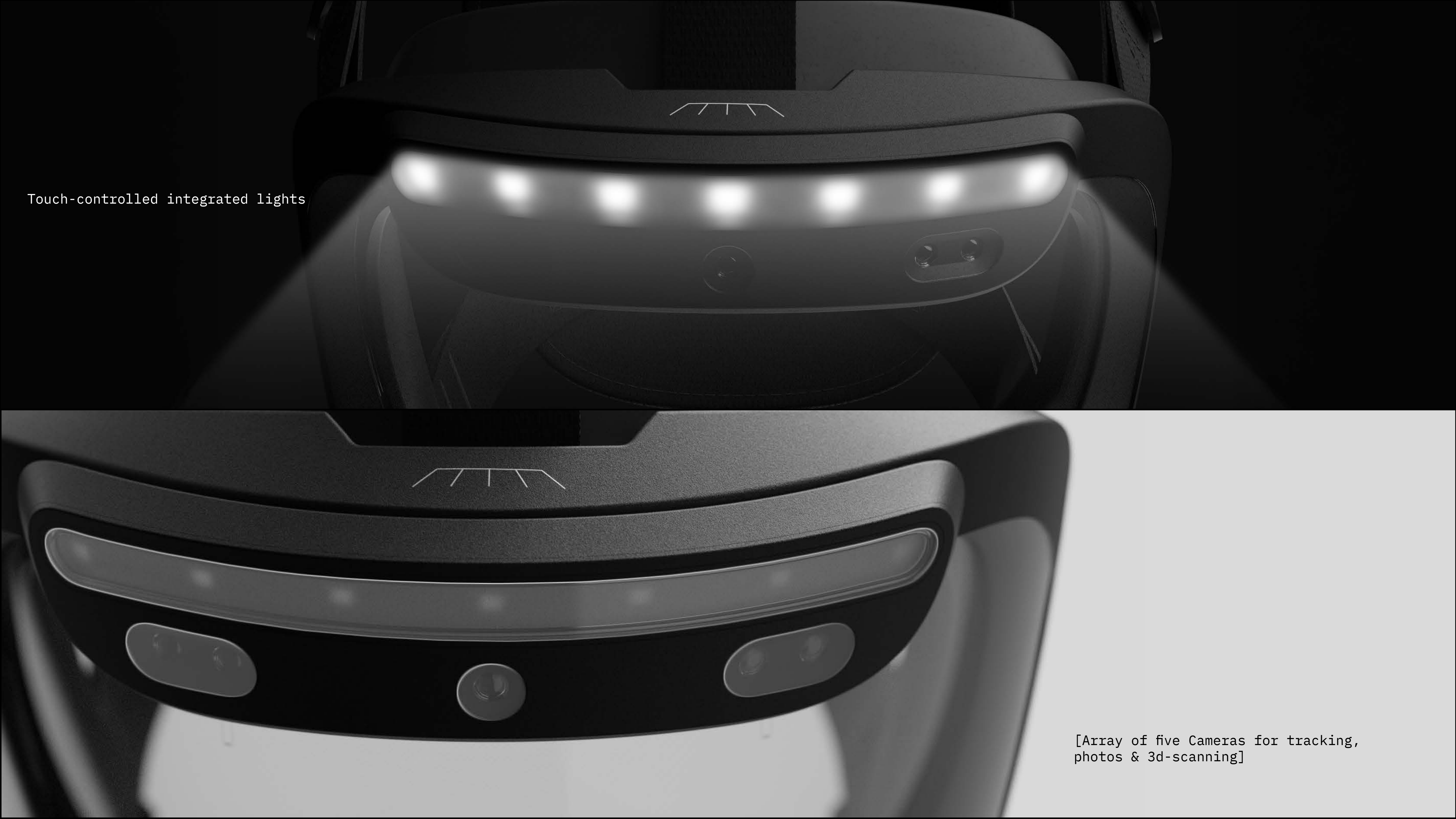
[Array of five Cameras for tracking, photos & 3d-scanning]

Removable augmented reality glasses on the inside

One waveguide display covering each eye

120° field of view

Removable for cleaning and maintenance

Change the way crime scenes are documented

View and edit documented cases in the desktop software

The crime scene is passively 3d scanned by PRIZMA and uploaded

Efficient case management and progress tracking
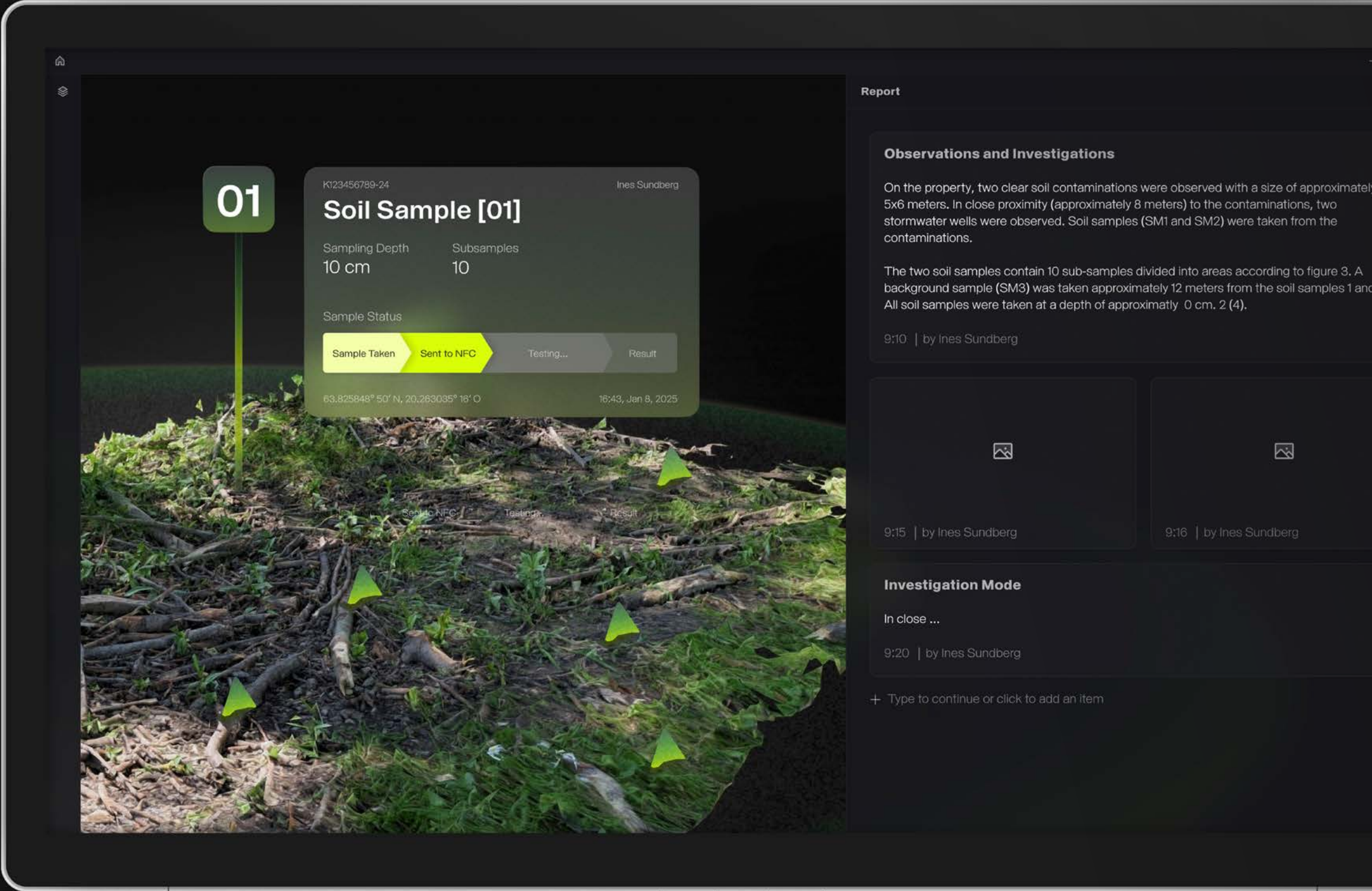
"We cannot use forensic glasses [to detect traces under UV light] with the full-face mask."

Crime Scene Investigator

Handle for easy removal

Complete vision coverage

Snap-on forensic glasses.

02

03

K123456789-24   Ines Sundberg

Soil Sample [01]

Sampling Depth   Subsamples
10 cm   10

Sample Status

Sample Taken ▶ Sent to NFC   Testing...   Result
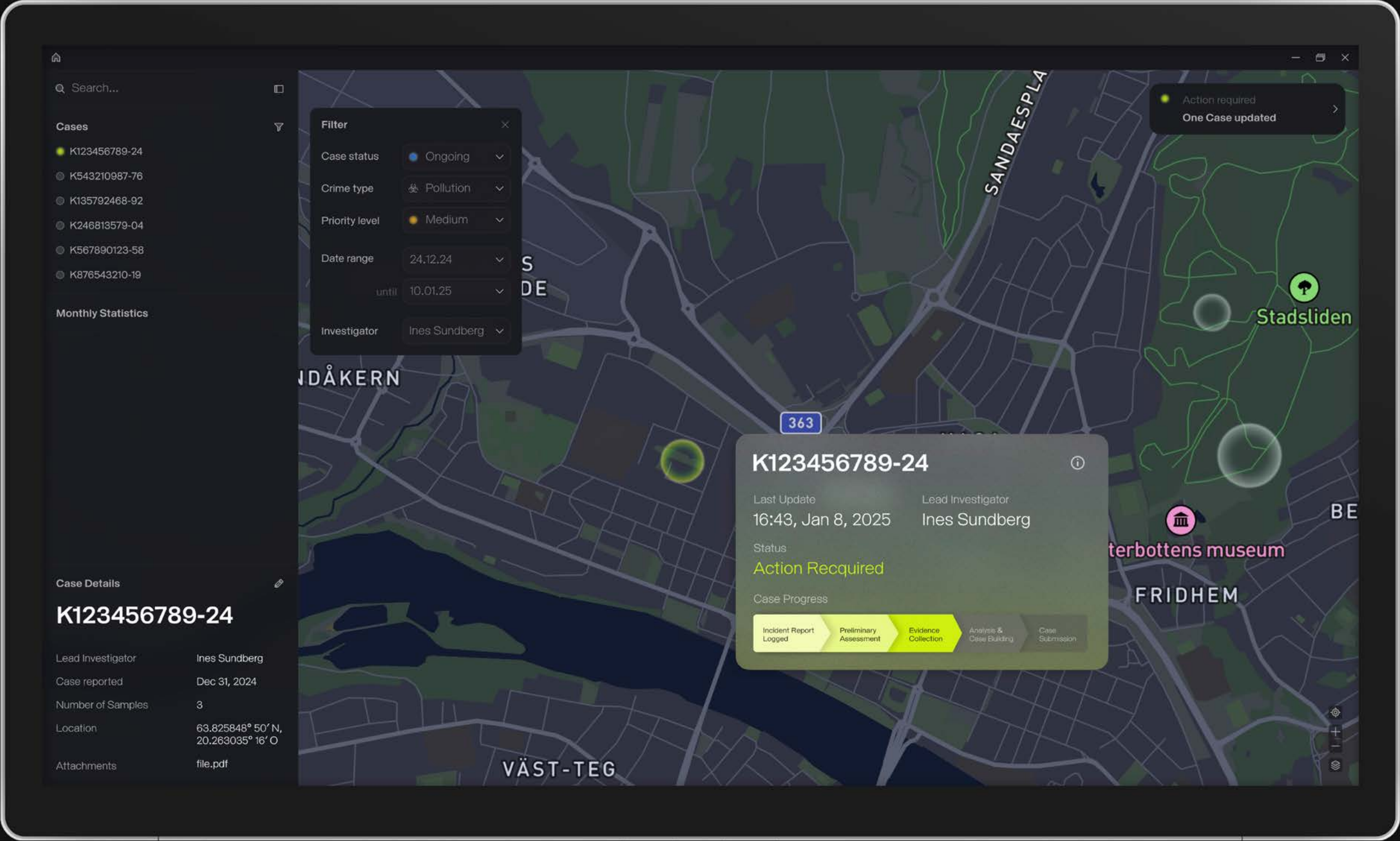
63.825848° 50' N, 20.263035° 16' O   16:43, Jan 8, 2025

Project length: 10 hours
When: 2025
Team: Mai Eigel (graphic design & Idea)
University: Personal project

05 **CONNECT 4**

10 hour sprint: An accessory for NOTHING

Nothing brand DNA
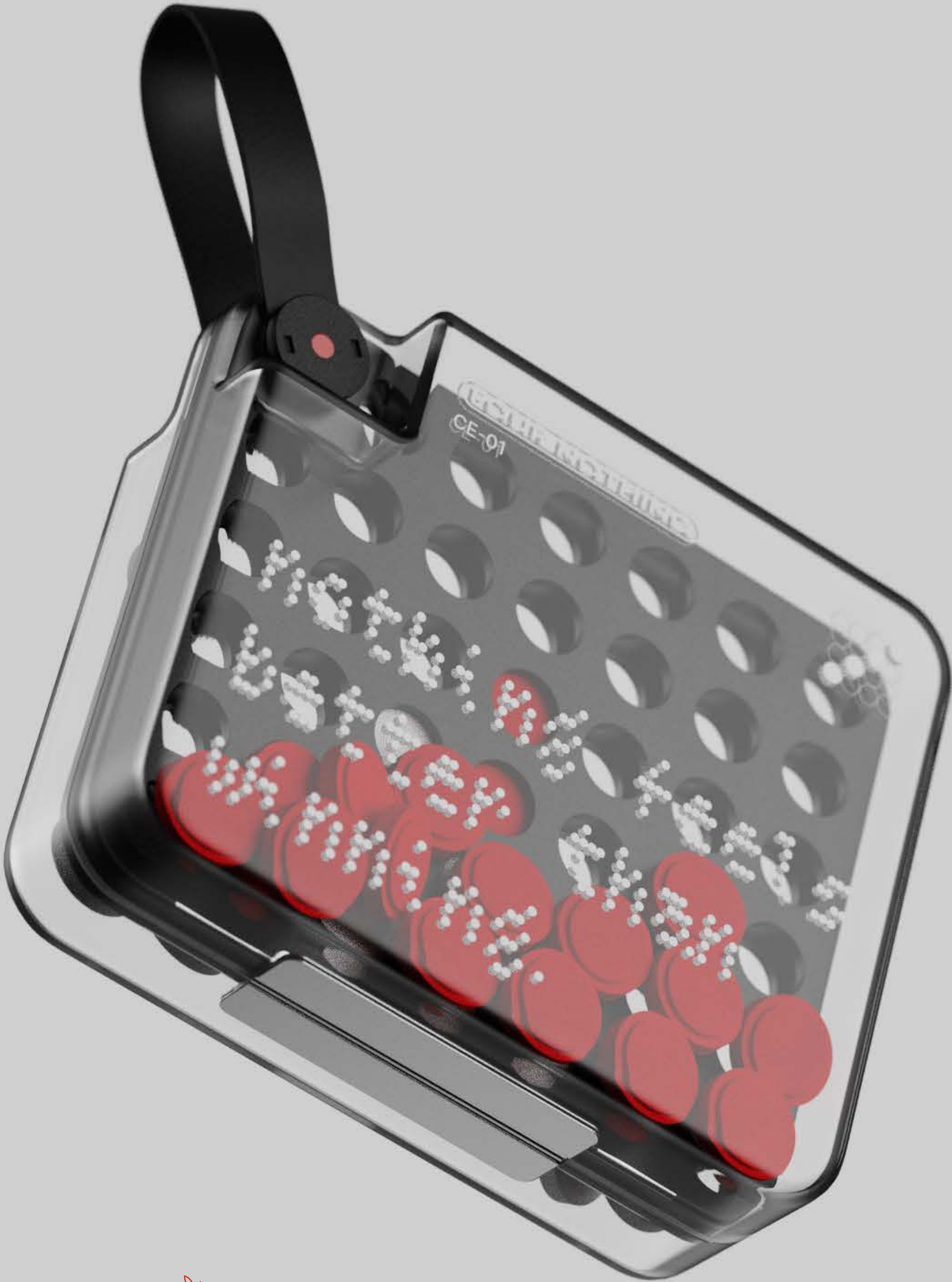
Awarded Runner-Up in the NOTHING Community Challenge

Two shells, held together by a loop
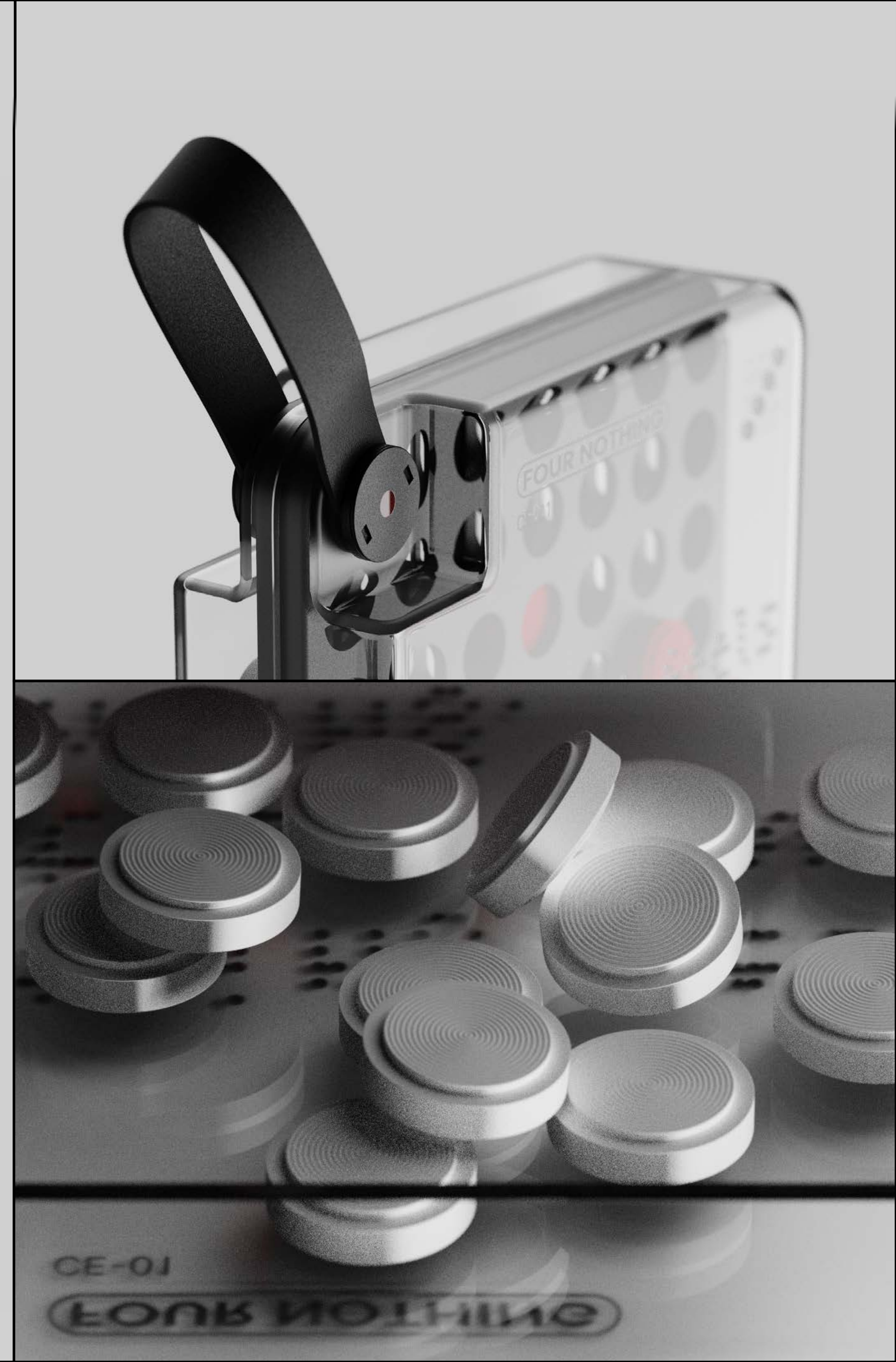
06

2D

Everything, from quick sketches to high quality renders done in 2D.

Procreate, 45min

Procreate, 45min

Procreate, 1h

Procreate, 2h

"SPOT & CATCH"

FIND LOCAL BIRDS

COLLECT BY "SCANNING"

SEE COLLECTION AND ADDITIONAL INFO ON DISPLAY

IN THIS AREA:

STREAM TO PHONE FOR PARENT

PARENT SEES WHAT KID IS SEEING

TAKE PHOTO

THULE X POLAROID

BRING YOUR MEMORIES

SHARED BINOCULARS EXPERIENCE

PARENT VIEW

KIDS VIEW

SEE WHERE THE OTHER PERSON IS LOOKING

SPLIT APART BINOCULARS

SPLIT
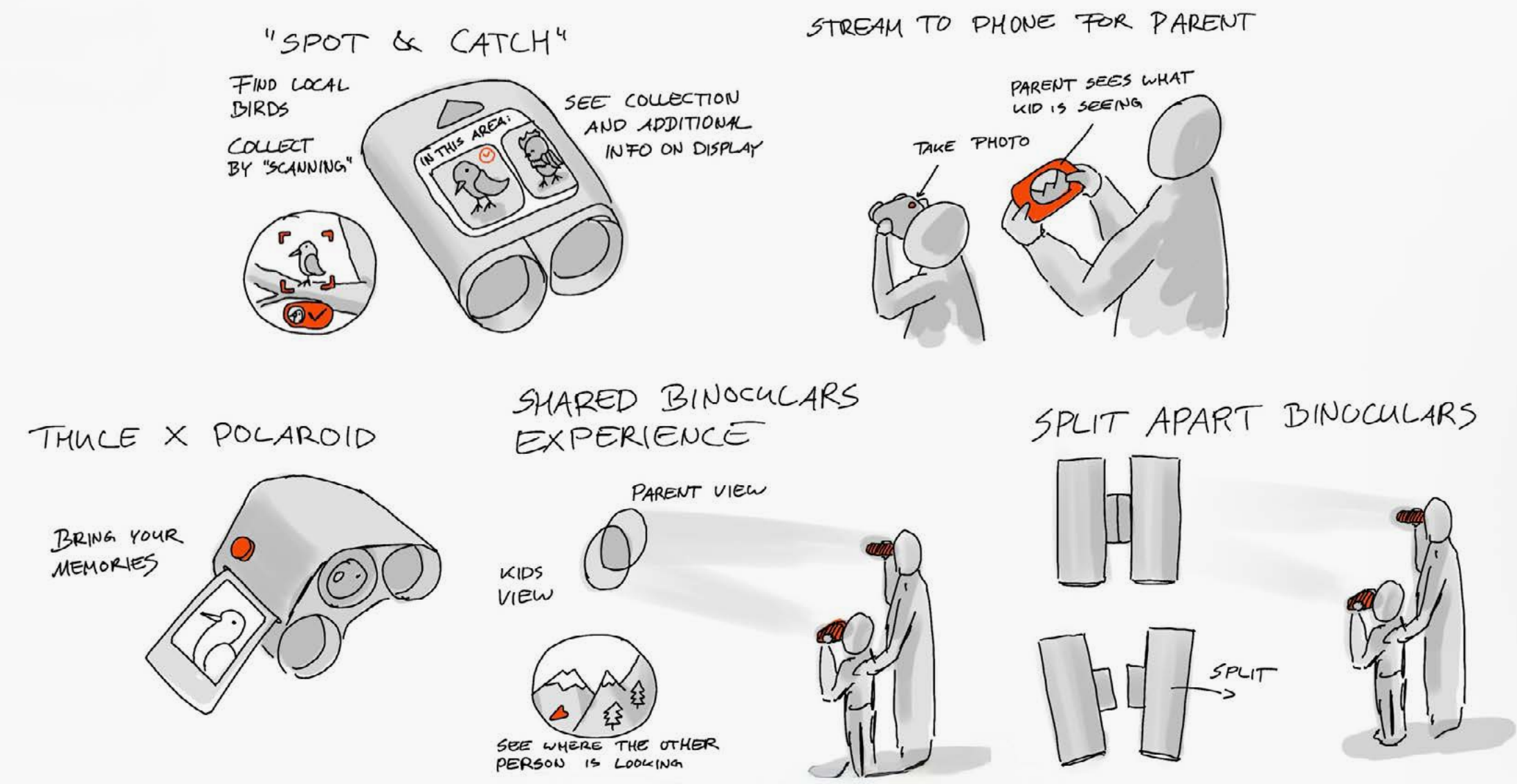
Procreate, 15 mins

Procreate, 2h

Screenshot with annotations, 10 mins

Thank you.
see CV attached.

elias.grieninger@gmail.com
+49 160 93606753

CV

elias.grieninger@gmail.com
+49 160 93606753

Education

10/2024 - 05/2027 (ongoing) | Sweden
Master of Advanced Product Design
Umeå Institute of Design

08/2023 - 05/2027 | United States
One year non-degree student at San José State University
Master of Design with specialization in Experience Design

10/2019 - 06/2023 | Germany
University of Design HfG Schwäbisch Gmünd
B.A. Product Design

01/2022 - 05/2022 | United States
One semester abroad at San José State University
International exchange student

Working experience

02/2024 - 05/2024 | United States of America
San José State University International House
Head Resident Advisor

11/2023 - 01/2024 | United States of America
SEID Lab, San Jose State University
Lead Lab Technician, supervision and lab maintenance

11/2022 - 06/2023 | Germany
University of Design HfG Schwäbisch Gmünd
Tutor, Portfolio Tutorial

10/2023 - 01/2024 | United States of America
San José State University
Teaching Assistant

09/2021 - 01/2022 | Germany
WhiteID Integrated Design GmbH & Co. KG
Full-time industrial design internship

Additional experience

10/2024 - 05/2025 (ongoing) | Sweden
Student Council Representative for Advanced Product Design 1
Umeå Institute of Design

02/2022 - 07/2022 | United States of America
President of Student Council
San José State University International House

06/2023 - 01/2024 | Germany
03/2021 - 05/2021 | (Virtual)
Virtual Student Exchange Program

Awards and honors

2023/24 | United States of America
Fulbright Scholarship for one year

2023/24 | United States of America
Bordoni Family International House Scholarship

06/2023 - 01/2024 | Germany
Exhibition at the HfG Ulm Archive "Plastics – magic materials"
"The OpenDialysis Project"

10/2022 | Germany
Mia Seeger Prize
Awarded for "The OpenDialysis Project"

05/2025 | Germany
DDX Young Talent Award Nominee
Nominated for "The OpenDialysis Project"

05/2025 | United Kingdom
Runner-Up
NOTHING Community Challenge

Tools

2D Software
Adobe AfterEffects, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe InDesign, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Premiere, Adobe XD, Procreate

3D Software
Fusion 360, Grashopper, nTopology, Rhino 3D, SolidWorks 3D

Rendering Sortware
Adobe Dimension, Adobe Substance Painter, Blender, Keyshot, SolidVisualize

Workshop & Machines
FDM Printing, Lasercutting, Milling (metal, wood, plastics), Plotting, Resin Printing

Other
Adobe AfterEffects, Adobe Lightroom, Keynote

Languages

German
Native

English
Advanced (TOEFL 103)

French
Intermediate

Ludwigsburg, 21.07.2025