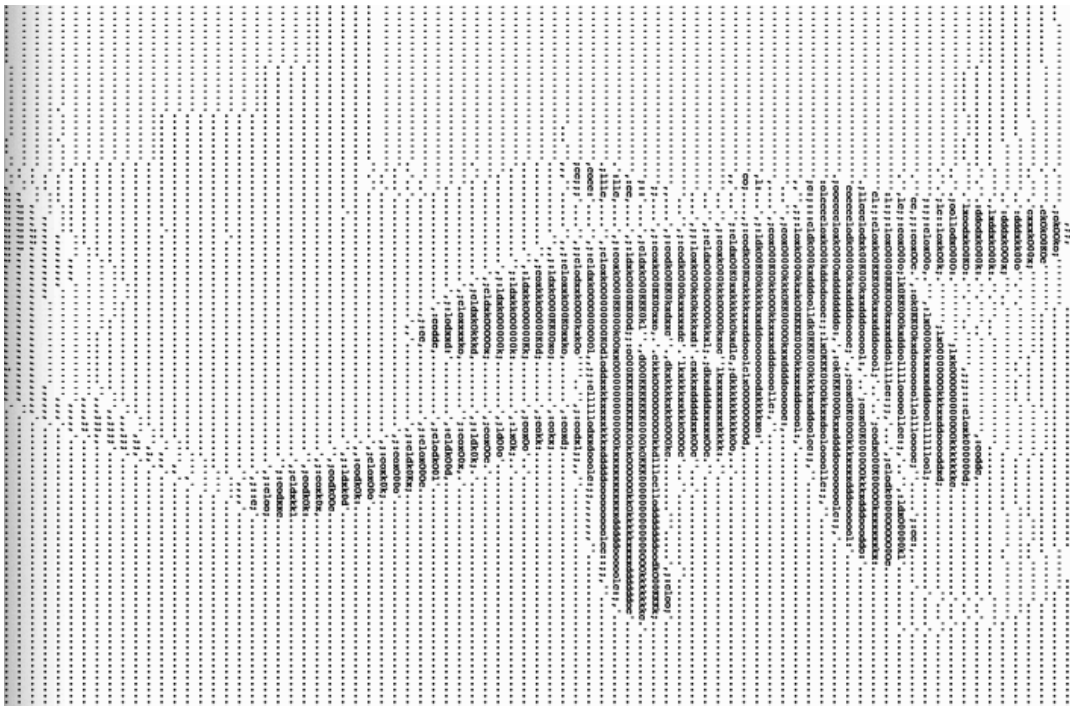


In Loving Memory of Being Touched



USER GUIDE

WARNING: IMPORTANT INFORMATION

In Loving Memory of Being Touched is an interactive web art piece. **THIS DEVICE IS NOT A TENS MACHINE OR MEDICAL DEVICE.** We do not recommend using this device. Use of this device is at your own risk. Read and understand this manual fully before participating.



People with pacemakers, cardioverter defibrillators, neuro-stimulators (brain or sub-cutaneous), bone growth stimulators, indwelling blood pressure monitors, pacemakers, any other metallic or electronic device should not participate in *In Loving Memory of Being Touched*.

People who are pregnant, epileptic, have heart disease, cancer, an impaired ability to sense touch or pain on their skin or any other health condition should not participate in *In Loving Memory of Being Touched*.

Discontinue participation if you feel pain, dizzy or disoriented, if you feel skin irritation or burns. Do not participate in *In Loving Memory of Being Touched* while sleeping, while driving or operating heavy machinery.

This device is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease. The above list of exclusions is non-exhaustive. Consult with a medical professional before using the device.

Never place the skin pads on your head or in any way that may allow current to flow through the head. **Never** place the skin pads on the front of your throat, your neck, over your eyes, on or in your mouth or internally. **Never** place the skin pads on two different people at the same time. **Never** place the skin pads on animals. **Never** place the skin pads on opposite arms or in any way that may allow current to flow through or across the heart.

Always place both of the skin pads on your self on the same limb or area within a few inches of each other.

INTRODUCTION

In Loving Memory of Being Touched is a series of touch simulation pieces written for direct electrical nerve stimulation—the closest thing to touch available in quarantine during the 2020 Novel Coronavirus Pandemic. Using components removed from a hospital communications system, the parts have been repurposed and assembled into handmade devices that simulate the sensation of touch using electrical pulses. The pieces are composed on an electronic keyboard to mimic the consonance and dissonance of musical passages to create a sort of song to be felt physically.

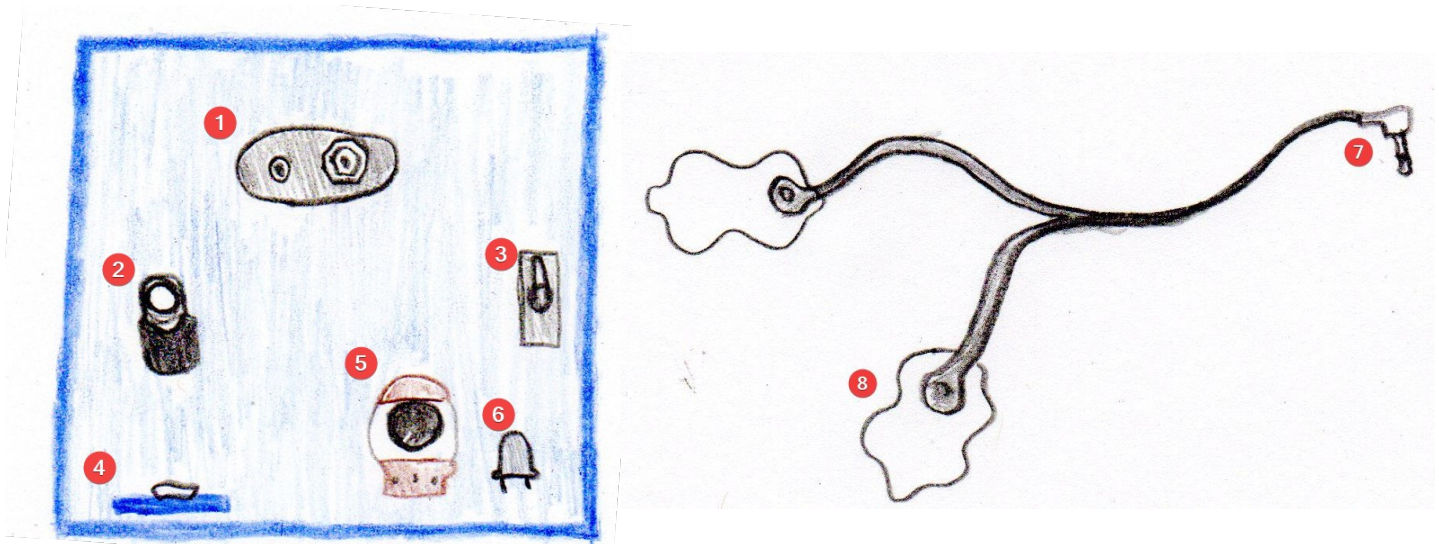
In collaboration with web developer Daniel van der Meer, a web platform based on webMIDI is in development to allow users to create their own touch sequences, either with a MIDI enable electronic keyboard instrument or through the browser with a web based sequencer. Users can send their touch sequences to loved ones during quarantine or use the platform to create their own pieces to be shared publicly.

Each *In Loving Memory of Being Touched* device has been made by hand. Size, shape and color may vary.

SETUP AND USE

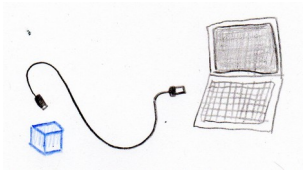

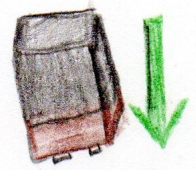
In addition to the parts below, you will need a 9-volt battery and a computer with an Internet connection, the Google Chrome web browser and an available USB port.

Parts Identification



- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. 9-volt battery connector | 2. Skin pad cable connector | 3. Power switch |
| 4. mini-USB port | 5. Intensity control knob | 6. Power on LED |
| 7. Skin pad cable | 8. Skin pads (there are 2) | |

Procedure

1. Rotate the intensity control knob [#5] completely counter-clockwise to the minimum position. The pointer should be pointing to the bottom left.
2. Plug a mini-USB cable (not supplied) into the mini-USB port on the device [#4] and the other end into your computer. You should see two red lights flickering inside in a few seconds. 
3. Assemble and connect the skin pads. Connect each skin pad [#8] to the cable [#7] by snapping it into the end of the cable. Plug assembled cable into the skin pad cable connector [#2] on the device. **Do not attach the skin pads to your body at this time.**
4. Connect a 9-volt battery (not supplied) to the 9-volt battery connector [#1] on the device. Observe correct polarity , the positive terminal is on the right. If the power on LED [#6] lights up, flip the power switch [#3] to turn it off. 
5. Peel off the white protective paper on the skin pads [#8] to expose the conductive black material. Attach the skin pads to your body. Follow the guidelines in the **WARNING: Important Information and Skin Pad Placement and Care** sections.
6. Launch Google Chrome (the platform may not work with other browsers) and navigate to **<http://www.jenkutler.com/inlovingmemory>**. Follow the instructions on that page to experience *In Loving Memory of Being Touched*.
7. Flip the power switch [#3] on. The power on LED [#6] should now be lit up. Slowly rotate the intensity control knob [#5] clockwise to increase the sensation to a comfortable level.

SKIN PAD PLACEMENT AND CARE

For the best experience and safety, follow the guidelines below when attaching the skin pads:

- **Always** observe the guidelines in the **WARNING: Important Information** section.
- **Always** place both of the skin pads on the same limb or area within a few inches of each other.
- **Always** attach both skin pads to your body before turning the power switch [#3] on.
- **Always** replace the skin pads if they lose their stickiness.
- **Always** protect the skin pads by re-applying the white protective paper when not in use.
- **Never** place the skin pads on your head or in any way that may allow current to flow through the head.
- **Never** place the skin pads on opposite arms or in any way that may allow current to flow through or across the heart.
- **Never** place the skin pads on the front of your throat, your neck, over your eyes, in your mouth or internally.
- **Never** place the skin pads on two different people at the same time.
- **Never** place the skin pads on animals.



Figure: Possible skin pad placement on shoulder and arm

Ending Your Session

When your *In Loving Memory of Being Touched* session is finished, turn off the power switch [#3] then remove the skin pads from your body. Stick the protective white paper on the skin pads. Disconnect the mini-USB cable from the computer and the device. Remove the battery from the battery connector [#1]

ABOUT JEN KUTLER

Jen Kutler is a multidisciplinary artist and performer. She modifies found objects that are cultural signifiers of power, gender, queerness and intimacy to create atypical instruments and sculptures. Her performances feature many of her instruments incorporated with immersive field recordings to explore common and discrepant experiences of familiar social tones in immersive sound and media environments.

User guide by Tim Light.