Lover’s Cups explore the idea of sharing the moment of drinking between a couple in different locations. Cups have been essential daily objects to people’s life since thousands of years ago. We digitally augmented cups as communication interfaces for drinking. A pair of cups is wireless connected to each other with sip sensors and LED illumination. When your love one is taking a sip, your Lover’s Cup will glow. If both of you drink at the same time, Lover’s Cups will glow as the celebration for the shared intimacy between you and your love one.

Drinking is a common but important daily behavior. People take a break for having a cup of water or tea while they are thirty or feeling tired. Taking a break is also the moment of rejuvenation to fulfill biological needs if people feel thirsty and emotional needs if people feel alone. You might think of someone when you’re having a cup of coffee by yourself. Cups are also intimate objects for daily use. Sharing a drink together represents an intimate relationship within each other. The way people are sharing the same moment and having close social interaction together makes the drinking moment memorable. In the European drinking culture, while toasting, you need to look into your friend’s eye to engage and respect the moment of drinking together. Sharing the moment of drinking has its important meanings in social interaction.

Cups are common and daily objects that people are familiar with. For using cups as a medium for people to communicate and feel with each other, Lover’s Cups are equipped with interactive ways as following.

**Virtual Kiss.**
When the paired Lover’s Cups are held by two people, the cups start glowing slowly to let this couple become visually aware of each other. When both of them take a sip at the same time, this pair of Lover’s Cups is glowing at its maximum illumination to celebrate the shared intimacy and the feelings of drinking with someone s/he cares about.

**Connectivity.**
The paired Lover’s Cups are connected by Radio Frequency (RF) wireless technology. For long-distance situation, the RF transceivers need to connect to computers as access points in order to send and receive data through the Internet.

**Shaking Hands.**
People may shake their glasses to send active signals. By inter-communicating the networked cups, we designed a hand-shaking action. If a person shakes one of the Lover’s Cups, the other cup will blink and vibrate to generate the remote hand-shaking feeling to the other person.

Scenarios

**For Lovers**
The Lover’s Cups connect a couple through drinking behaviors while they are working. A pair of Lover’s Cups is owned by a couple working in different offices. Each of them had brought his/her Lover’s Cup to work. Due to the magical connectivity of this pair of cups, the wife sees her cup is glowing which represents her husband’s cup is in use for drinking. She picks up the Lover’s Cup and takes a sip. At the same time, the other Lover’s Cup held in her husband’s hand starts glowing for the celebration of drinking together.

**For Mom and Child**
Mom’s love water bottle is another Lover’s Cup extension for parents and children. Parents are willing to give young children extra care in every possible way. A family-connected water bottle may create emotional linkage between parents and children. During the lunch time of the child’s school, his parents could shake their Lover’s Cup to make the child’s water bottle vibrate or take a sip to make it glow in order to express their care and motivate their child to drink water.

**For Nurse and Patient**
The Lover’s Cups can be also extended to health care applications. Patients always need extra care from their families. The Lover’s Cups are able to connect the patients to someone who cares about their water drinking behavior. While a patient is drinking water, the paired Lover’s Cup reflects to someone related to him/her. If the patient did not drink enough water, through the physical illumination of cups, patients might be motivated to drink water or being taken care.

**For a Social Event**
In a social event, Jackie is holding a Lover’s Cup and meeting with Helen who holds another Lover’s Cup. They toast for good luck and their cups remember each other by the action of toasting. Whenever Helen takes a sip, Jackie’s cup glows to motivate him to take a sip at the same time. After a while, four of Helen’s friends arrive. Helen and her friends hold their cups together. At this moment, their cups become a group of Lover’s Cups. Whenever one is in use for drinking, the other cups will also glow and celebrate this moment of drinking.

Lover’s Cups Connect You and Your Loved One