



LIFTWARE SPOON

More than half of all PWP have tremor to some degree. For some it is so disabling that soup is no longer on the menu. Actually, it is usually on the menu. Also the tablecloth, shirt and trousers. And therein lies the problem. It is hard to eat any food with anything approximating to dignity when tremor takes over.

But if the promotional videos are anything to go by, Lift Labs may have the solution in a rather clever hardware/software solution. This is the Liftware spoon which combines a basic spoon attachment with an active handle that monitors the position of the spoon in space and counteracts tremor type movements with an equal and opposite force. I'm paraphrasing, but, In essence, it keeps the spoon still while you shake. The manufacturers claim a 70% reduction in the effects of tremor and this is backed up by a published clinical study.

Needless to say, this technology does not come cheap. The basic spoon kit (spoon, charger and manual in a rather fetching iPhone sort of box) weighs in at an eye watering US\$295. And at this sort of price, let's face it, it needs to be good. But is it?

I tried it out in a range of circumstances, when tremor was mild or severe and whilst it coped admirably (if rather noisily) with mild tremor, it was out of its depth against more severe bouts of the shakes. It also seemed to struggle a little with vertical rather than horizontal movements. Not surprisingly, it was most effective against mild horizontal tremors, rather than some of the more seismic vertical shakes I experience.

I'm always reluctant to give a thumbs down to products intended to help. And maybe it's intended for more mild tremor. But for me, it fails to justify its pricetag. Maybe I was hoping for miracles? Perhaps. But, at the end of the day, it's just a spoon. Not a space shuttle!

If you've had a more positive experience with the spoon, please let us know. We always seek balance.



REVIEWED BY JON STAMFORD

