Open When: Medium-fi Prototype README

Open When's medium-fi prototype is a clickable Figma prototype for iPhone. In it you receive, send, and build time-locked letters for friends.

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How to access and set up

Open one of the three links below on a phone or laptop. Each link starts a different task in Figma's prototype view, so there is nothing to install.

You can also switch tasks from the flow menu in prototype mode.

Task	Starts at	Link
Receive a letter (simple)	1 Lock screen	Open the Receive flow
Send a letter (moderate)	Letters – Received	Open the Send flow
Build a collection (complex)	Collections	Open the Build flow

The full design file is final-med-fi in Figma. It has these pages:

Page	What it holds
Medium-Fi Prototype	The full prototype for all three tasks. Use this page to evaluate.
Demo: Simple task, Demo: Moderate Task (v2), Demo: Complex Task (v2)	The same three tasks, one page each, with a "Start here" card. Our mascot Stampy gives short tips when you start something and celebrates when you finish.
Read Me	A short in-file summary of start points, how to operate, and what is simulated.
Foundations and Components	The design system: colors, type, icons, and reusable pieces.

Device. Run it as an iPhone prototype: portrait, 375 × 812 frames, with a status bar, bottom tab bar, and home indicator. Use the Figma mobile app or Safari on an iPhone, or a desktop browser with the frame scaled to fit. Tap or click anywhere you would tap on a phone. If you tap a spot that is not wired, Figma flashes the tappable areas in blue.

Context

Open When is for a friend who is far away or going through a change, such as a first day at a new job or a homesick weekend, and wants to be there at the right moment. A sender locks a letter (voice, photo, or text) until a date or a mood. The receiver opens it when that moment comes, and nothing asks them to reply.

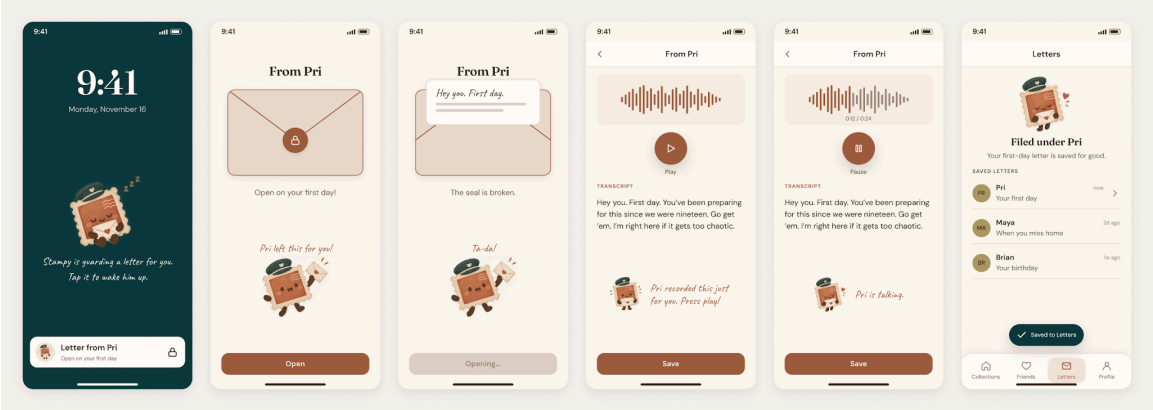
In this prototype a user can do three things:

- **Receive:** open a letter from a friend when it arrives, listen to it, and save it.
- **Send:** write one letter to a friend and choose when it opens, either on a date or in a mood.
- **Build:** create a collection of letters for one friend, each with its own opening moment, and send it.

How to run the prototype

Each task has a start screen, a short run of taps, and a clear finish, so you can tell when you have succeeded.

Receive a letter (simple)

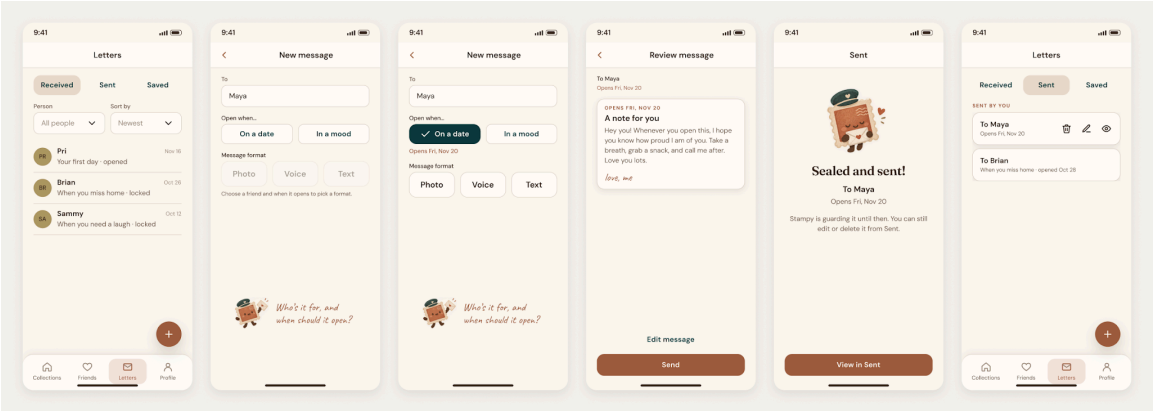


Key screens only. See the full flow in the [Figma file](#).

1. Start on the lock screen and tap the notification “Letter from Pri.”
2. On the sealed letter, tap Open and wait a moment while the seal breaks.
3. Tap Play to listen, and tap again to pause. The transcript is below.
4. Tap Save.

You are done when the letter appears at the top of the Saved tab in Letters.

Send a letter (moderate)



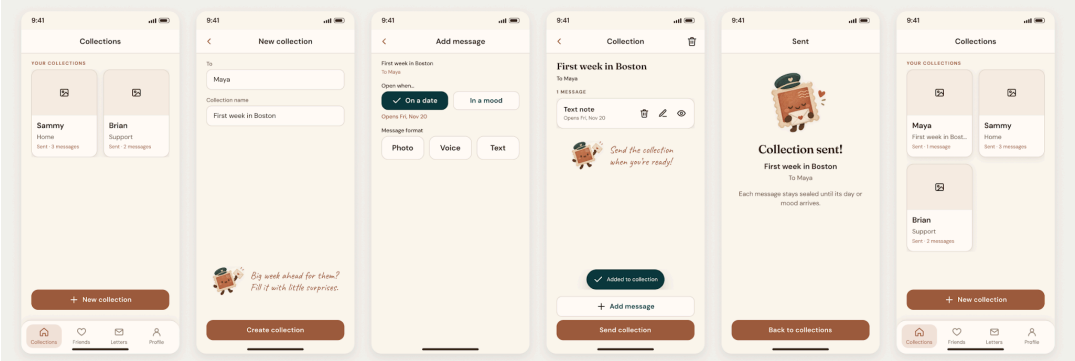
Key screens only. See the full flow in the [Figma file](#).

1. Start on Letters (Received) and tap + to write a new message.

2. Tap To to add Maya.
3. Choose when it opens: tap On a date (opens Fri, Nov 20) or In a mood (when they feel stressed).
4. Choose Photo, Voice, or Text.
5. Create the message (tap the shutter, the record button, or the text box), review it, and tap Send.

You are done when you see the Sent confirmation and the letter is listed under Sent. In Sent you can tap the pencil to edit, the eye to preview, or the trash to delete.

Build a collection (complex)



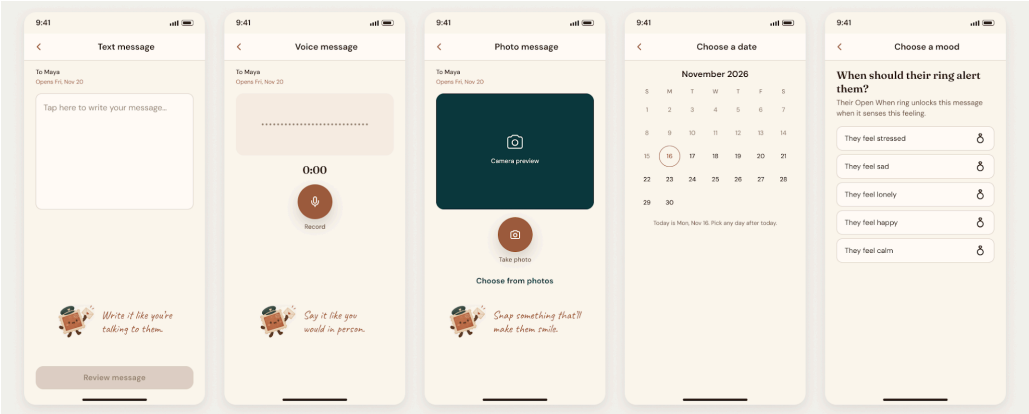
Key screens only. See the full flow in the [Figma file](#).

1. Start on Collections and tap New collection.
2. Tap To and Collection name to fill them in, then tap Create collection.
3. Tap Add message and follow the same steps as Send: choose a date or mood, choose a format, then create and review it. Tap Add to collection.
4. Tap Send collection and confirm.

You are done when you see “Collection sent!” and the new collection appears on Collections. Open it to view, edit, or delete its message, or use the trash at the top to delete the whole collection.

Shared message steps

Send and Build use the same screens for choosing a date or mood and a format, and for recording or writing the message. The full date and mood pickers are shown in a “Hi-fi preview” section next to each flow.



Key screens only. See every screen in the Figma file.

Tools used

We built the whole prototype in Figma and used its prototype mode to wire screens together.

- **Design system:** the Foundations and Components pages hold six brand colors, type styles, icons, and reusable pieces such as buttons, inputs, modals, dropdowns, letter rows, and cards. Titles use Fraunces, interface text uses DM Sans, and Caveat appears only for signatures and Stampy's tips.
- **Why Figma:** all four of us edited one file at once, shared components kept the three flows consistent, and a label or step change takes minutes. Prototype links also run on a phone, so testers tap a real screen.
- **Where it falls short:** Figma has no real logic, so dates, mood triggers, and the ring cannot run. It has no live camera, microphone, or playback. Every path is wired by hand, so an unplanned tap leads nowhere, and large files with many variants get slow.

Limitations, Wizard of Oz, and hard-coded items

The prototype tests whether people can finish the three tasks without help, so anything that needs hardware, media, or real logic is simulated. Each limit below is there because Figma can't do it or because it sits outside the three tasks.

Limitation	What we did instead	Why
The ring and mood sensing do not exist	The Receive flow opens with the notification already on the lock screen	Hardware is out of scope, so we test what happens after the buzz
Letters do not really lock until a date or mood	On a date and In a mood fill in a sample choice; the full pickers are shown as a hi-fi preview	Would have needed to add many variables for each possibility
No real recording, camera, or playback	Static screens stand in for each step	Figma has no media input
No adding friends, settings, or onboarding	Not built	None is part of the three tasks
No messages between two phones	Each task runs on one device	Figma has no networking

Wizard of Oz techniques

We fake these parts by hand because Figma cannot run hardware, media, or timers. Faking them lets testers move through each task the way the real app would feel, so we can judge the flow and labels without building the back end.

- **Ring buzz:** the lock-screen notification stands in for the ring. The tester taps it as if the ring had just buzzed.
- **Mood alerts:** a sender can choose In a mood instead of a date (the sample is "when they feel stressed"), but the alert never fires on its own.

- **Recording and camera:** tapping the record button, the shutter, or the text box moves to the next screen. Recording runs Record, then Stop, then Review.
- **Playback:** Play and Pause swap screens, and the waveform does not move by itself.
- **Format choice:** no message format is selected until the user picks one.

Hard-coded items

Real friends, letters, and dates would need accounts, a database, and a clock. Fixed sample data gives every tester the same starting point, so results are comparable, and it is enough to complete all three tasks.

- **Friends:** tapping ‘To’ adds Maya. Pri, Brian, and Sammy appear in the Received tab, the Sent tab, and on Collections, but there is no friend picker in this version.
- **Received tab:** Pri (“Your first day,” opened Nov 16), Brian (“When you miss home,” locked, Oct 26), and Sammy (“When you need a laugh,” locked, Oct 12).
- **Sent tab:** starts with one letter to Brian, “When you miss home,” opened Oct 28. A letter you send appears above it.
- **Saved tab:** shown on Letters but not part of these tasks, so it isn’t interactive.
- **Collections:** the Collections screen starts with one for Sammy (“Home,” 3 messages) and one for Brian (“Support,” 2 messages). A new collection is named “First week in Boston,” goes to Maya, and holds one message in this prototype.
- **Dates and moods:** today is Monday, November 16, 2026. On a date sets the letter to open Friday, November 20, and In a mood sets it to open “when they feel stressed.” The full calendar and mood list appear in the Hi-fi preview section.
- **Content:** the message text, the transcript, the 0:24 voice recording, and the photos are all pre-made. Typing, recording, and the camera are simulated.
- **Letters filters:** Person and Sort are shown on Letters but aren’t interactive, since filtering isn’t part of the three tasks. There is no search.