

Newly minted entrepreneur

Plymouth State grad and his big idea

Kyle Dimick is an entrepreneur and Inventor as well as the founder and CEO of New Hampshire-based company Life-Able. He graduated from Plymouth State University in 2024 with a bachelor's degree in business administration and management. Kyle discovered a gap in the market for adaptive nail care solutions following a ski injury which resulted in a traumatic brain injury requiring extensive physical therapy. The Trim-Able, which is Bluetooth-enabled, makes nail care more accessible for individuals with limited mobility. Interested investors can connect through his LinkedIn profile, where updates can be found as well.

Q: *Did you always want to be an inventor?*

I've always been very interested in inventing.... Growing up I would always go up to my grandparents' house up north, and my grandfather was a mechanic at the mills so he would teach me how to do wiring and how to mess around with mechanical stuff. I would go up there and help him with restoring cars and working on random projects, and that's where I learned how to do a lot of this stuff. ...When it came to actually seeing this as a viable career option, I didn't really see that until the fingernail trimmer.

How did the Trim-Able come about?

This particular idea came from when I was ski jumping, I was on the high school ski jumping team, and the last day I was on it I went off and wrecked pretty good. That messed up my shoulder, a bunch of stuff in my arm, also got a good concussion and some other stuff out of it. Because of that I ended up going to physical therapy. While at physical therapy there were people coming in just to get their nails trimmed, and when I hurt my arm I was like, 'OK, how would I cut my nails?' So I just made this little thing for myself.... Then other people came in looking for help with their nails. so I just kept making more and handing them out.

How was the process of turning the Trim-Able into a product to sell?

It really stayed as the wooden version, up until I got to PSU in 2021. I was just walking around and I heard about the Makerspace ... I got a hold of Bret Kulakovich, who was the director of the Makerspace.... He actually taught me how to use a lot of the machines and taught me a lot about fabrication. That's where I got the electronic prototype from and then I entered that into Panther Pitch, which is a Shark Tank-style competition at PSU, and ended up getting first overall and a people's choice award, which gave me a good amount of money, which I was able to put into the preliminary patent. I continued working with Bret



Kyle Dimick. Courtesy photo.

with some of their equipment down there and building newer and newer models and then I submitted my newest model into the Paul J. Holloway Competition a couple months ago and ended up getting second overall. I was the only PSU student to ever enter the competition and was the only solo team in the top three so that gave me \$10,000, which I used for a non-preliminary

patent....

What are the next steps?

I have a preliminary patent or patent-pending status, I'm protected on that, but still need to wait for the paperwork to get processed for it to be official. I've been talking to a good amount of possible investors and I've been working on registering an LLC and getting trademark protections because I want to trademark the name and trademark the company name. ... Then, a little further on, I'm trying to figure out manufacturing and scaling. I was able to work with a couple of people to figure out a marketing plan and some business strategies....

What's the No. 1 thing that has surprised you about this journey?

The amount of support from the business community. So many people have reached out and offered advice without expecting anything in return. It's really shown me how connected the whole business community around here is.

Are you still able to ski?

I'm fine. I ski a lot. ... I still alpine ski and Nordic ski quite often.... I've been skiing since I was 4 so it's just like second nature at this point.

Is there anything else you'd like to mention or say I haven't asked you about?

If anyone is interested in the Makerspace at PSU, they have a ton of cool resources and I think it's a great opportunity for people to be able to invent up here. ...

—Zachary Lewis 🗨️

Correction

In the Aug. 15 issue of the Hippo, a Q&A on page 6 with Kyle Dimick incorrectly described the injuries he suffered during a ski trip that led him to his invention. He had a concussion, as well as other injuries listed in the story, but not, as was initially stated in a press release about Dimick, a traumatic brain injury.