HEAT PRESS MACHINE TEST KIT

WHY TEST YOUR HEAT PRESS?

YOU SHOULD TEST YOUR PRESS IF:

- Sections of a transfer won't adhere
- Edges of transfers or lettering pull up

If it's not user error or poor transfers, your heat press could be the culprit. Heat presses can have hot and cold spots due to badly spaced heating elements. Cold spots mean the press cannot maintain the right temperature. A low-quality heat press set at 360°F may have areas between heating elements or at the edges that are 20° cooler.

DIRECTIONS

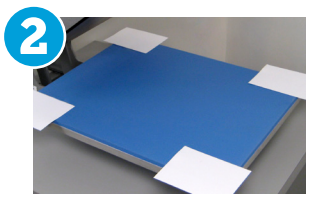
Test for even heat and temperature accuracy using the enclosed temperature strips. Test for even platen pressure at the same time, using the four pieces of paper.

1. **SET THE TEMPERATURE**

   Set your press to 360°F/182°C.

2. **LAY OUT PAPER**

   Cut a sheet of paper into four pieces and place each piece in a corner with some paper hanging over the edge.

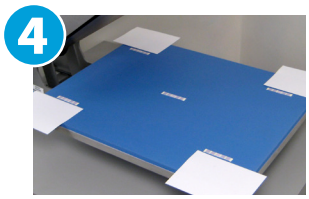


3. **PRESS**

   Lock down your press and see if you can pull out any paper. If you can pull out all pieces, your pressure is too light and needs to be increased. If pieces move a little or not at all, your pressure is perfect. If some pieces move more than others, you have uneven pressure and your press may need to be repaired.

4. **APPLY TEMPERATURE STRIPS**

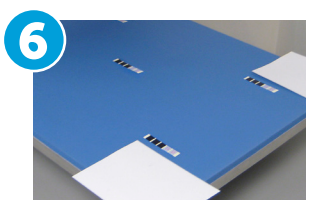
   Unlock press, remove backing on temperature strips, and place them on each sheet of paper. Add a fifth sheet of paper to the middle and put a strip on it. Flip over sheets so the strips face down and the paper is between the strips and the upper platen.



5. **PRESS FOR 12 SECONDS**

6. **CHECK STRIP RESULTS**

   Strips blacken to show the temperature of the platen area tested. Strips should register a temperature up to 360°F. Strips that read differently are evidence of variation in platen temperature.



HOT & COLD SPOTS

Causes

- Inadequately spaced heating elements
- Warped platens caused by heating over 500°F
- Cracks in the bottom rubber pad
- Bent platens caused by dropping the machine
- Insufficient heat platen thickness
- Inaccurate heating element design

Solutions

- Replace the rubber pad if it's been damaged. Use a pad protector to prevent future wear and tear.
- Replace the upper platen if it's warped, although this won't solve your problems if the press is poorly designed.
- Consider replacing your heat press with one that has thicker platens, better design, and high-quality heating elements, such as a Hotronix® heat press.