

TransPro Select Semi-Auto Heat Press



Introduction

The heat press is designed to apply heat to a heat transfer vinyl fusing it to fabric. While the bed has a 16"x20" area, it is recommended designs be no larger than 14"x18" in either direction to ensure the edges of the design are evenly pressed.

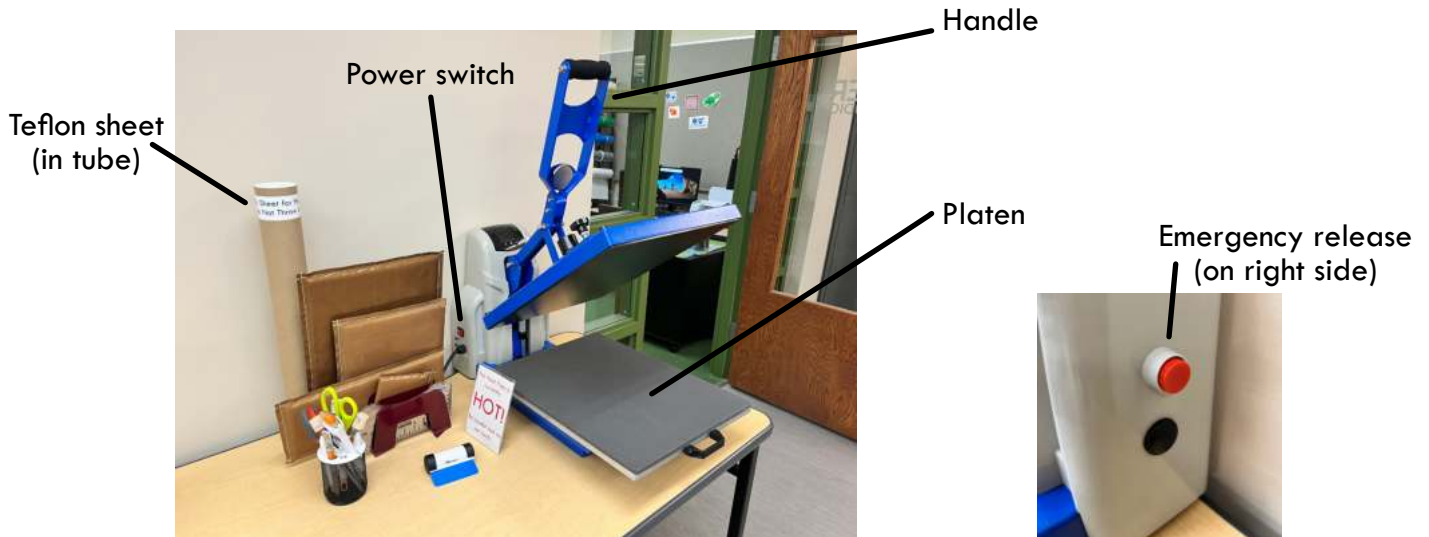
This heat press is semi-automatic meaning that once the timer counts down the handle will release on its own ensuring you never over press your design.

The same heat press is at both Maker Studio locations, though they are used for different approaches. Delaware's is intended for heat transfer vinyl, the process of which begins on page 2. At Liberty we use it for sublimation which begins on page 6.

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1. Parts of the Heat Press



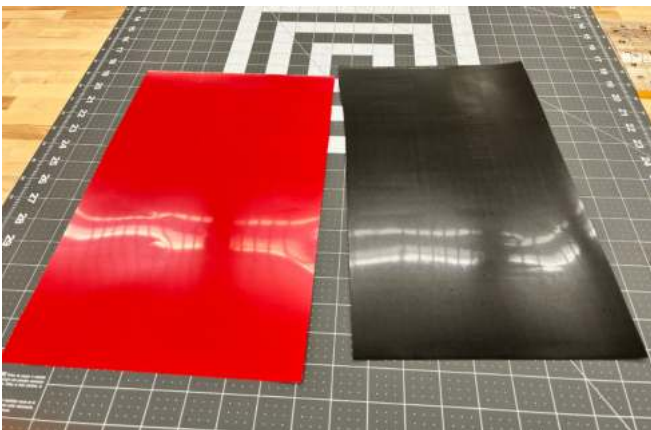
The emergency release should be pressed in the event that the machine doesn't auto release the handle after the timer runs out. This is a rare occurrence, but may happen under poor pressing circumstances.

2. Pressing a single color heat transfer design

This section describes pressing a design onto something flat. The heat press is usually set up for t-shirts and shouldn't need a thickness adjustment. However, if you need to adjust the thickness settings for a different object, check the section "Adjusting the thickness of a material."

Note: Some light discoloring may occur with use of the heat press, particularly with red fabrics. This discoloration goes away after a short period of time.

1. Take your single color cut vinyl and weed the parts so the design is left behind. Ensure you cut your design using the mirror setting. Once weeded, flip them over so the vinyl is on the bottom and the clear backing is now on the top.



2. Turn on the heat press using the switch on the left hand side. The heat press has a memory and should know what the settings are when it boots up.



3. Extend the platen by pulling on the handle. This gives you more room to work on away from the hot plate.



4. Place your material flat on the rubber pad and the heat transfer vinyl on top of your material with any transfer tape facing up. Then place the Teflon sheet over top of the design. (Sheet is located inside the cardboard tube beside the heat press.)
 - a. If a transfer tape is no longer in place, place the Teflon sheet directly over the vinyl design.



5. Slide the platen back in fully.



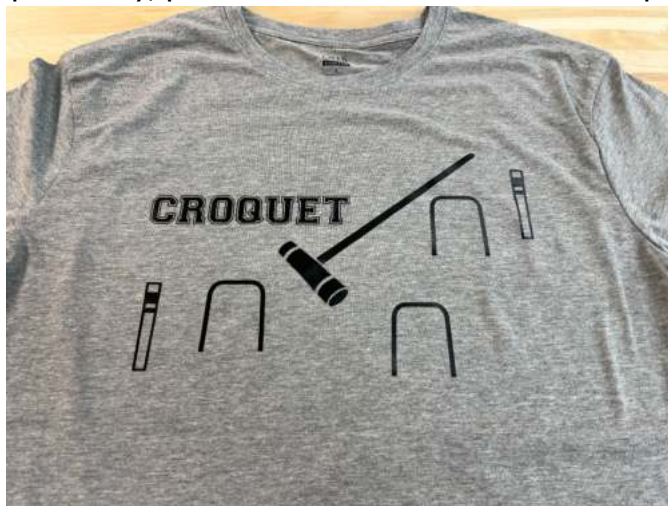
6. Lower the handle and begin the press. The timer should begin counting down from 5 seconds.



7. When the timer is done it will beep and automatically open.

8. Remove the Teflon sheet and peel the transfer tape off of the design while still hot.

a. If the design didn't press fully, place the transfer back down and press for another 5 seconds.



3. Pressing a printed heat transfer design

Pressing a printed design works the same mechanically, though there are a couple of extra steps.

Note: Some light discoloring may occur with use of the heat press, particularly with red fabrics. This discoloration goes away after a short period of time.

1. Take the printed heat transfer element and weed away any parts that aren't needed.



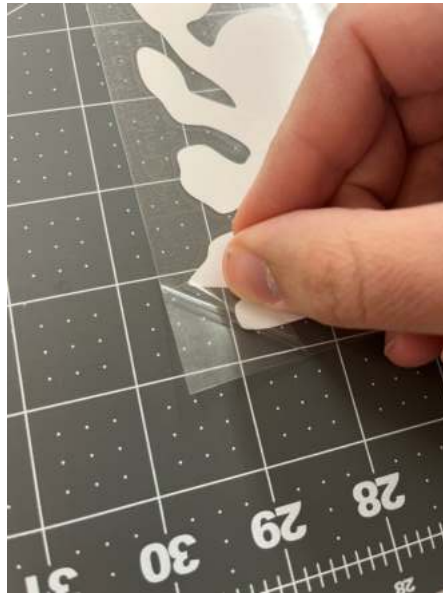
2. Cut a section of the clear transfer tape off that is slightly larger than your overall design.



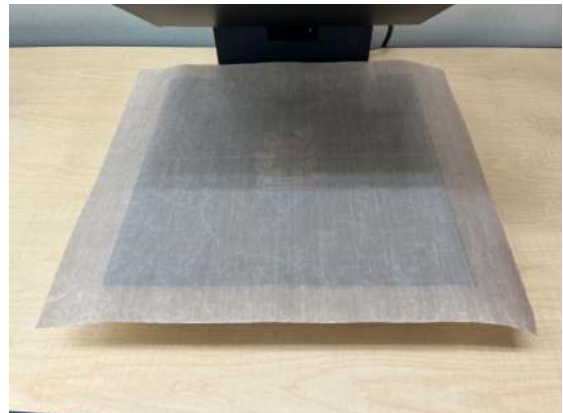
3. Peel this off and lay it over your design. Squeegee out any air going from the center outward. Squeegee it from both sides longer than you think you should need to to ensure the design has firmly attached to the transfer tape.



4. Flip over your design and peel the clear backing off the heat transfer element. Do this at a sharp 45 degree angle.



5. Pull out the platen by the handle and place your heat transfer element over your shirt and cover it with the Teflon sheet. (The sheet is located in the cardboard tube beside the heat press.)



6. Push the platen back in and lower the handle. The machine will count down from 5 seconds, then open automatically.
7. Immediately peel the transfer tape off of the design while it is still hot.



8. If the design pulled off from the shirt, place the Teflon sheet back over the design and press for another 5 seconds.

4. Pressing a sublimated image

This covers the process of pressing an image onto a sublimation ready product. See the guide for the Sublimation printer on how to create the printed design.

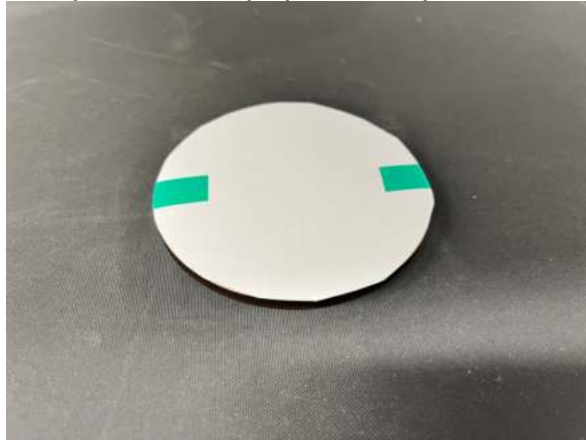
1. Cut the paper to be close to, but slightly larger than the size of your object.



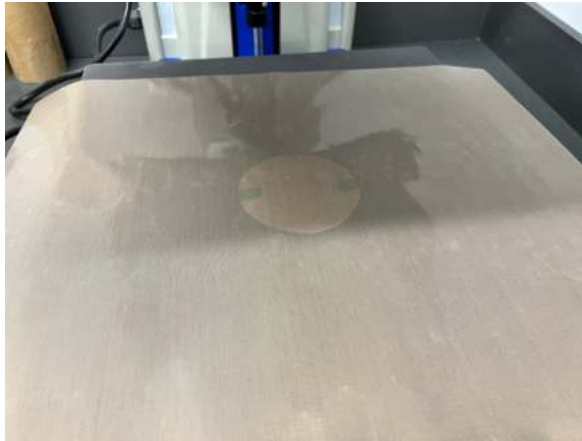
2. Using some sublimation tape, secure the paper to your object with the printed side facing the sublimation ready side of your material. (Not all materials are double sided. Look for a shiny side or a white side if unsure.)



3. Having adjusted the heat press for your material (see the respective heat press guide for how to do so,) place the object with the paper side up onto the heat press.



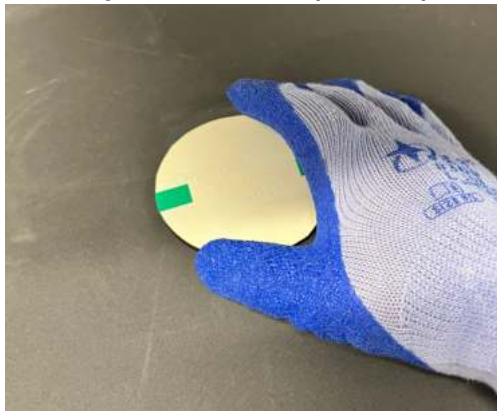
4. Add the Teflon sheet over the object.



5. Close the press until it clicks. Wait for the timer to finish and the press to auto release.



6. Using the heat resistant gloves, remove your object from the heat press to cool.



7. Once it has cooled, unseal the tape and remove the paper from the object.



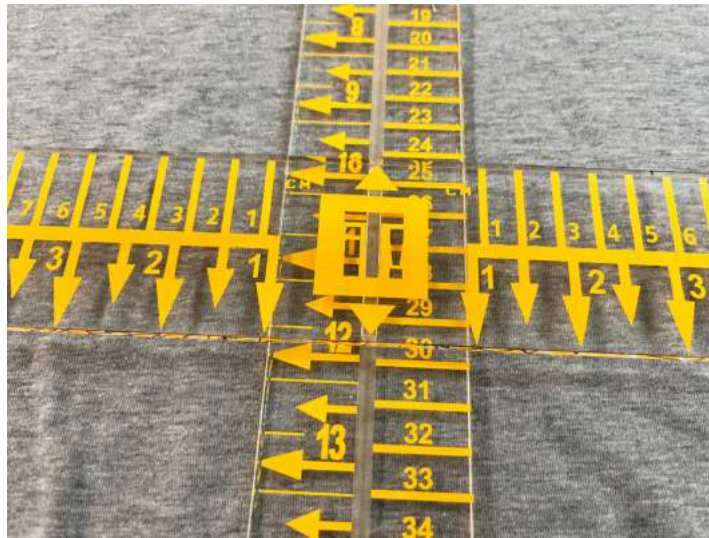
5. Aligning a heat transfer item - Tee square

Some items can be applied by look such as a simple design being added to a drink koozie. However, items like a T-shirt may require the use of alignment guides. This section will cover how to apply a design using the Tee Square alignment guides. If you don't need as much precision, there are alignment templates described in the next section.

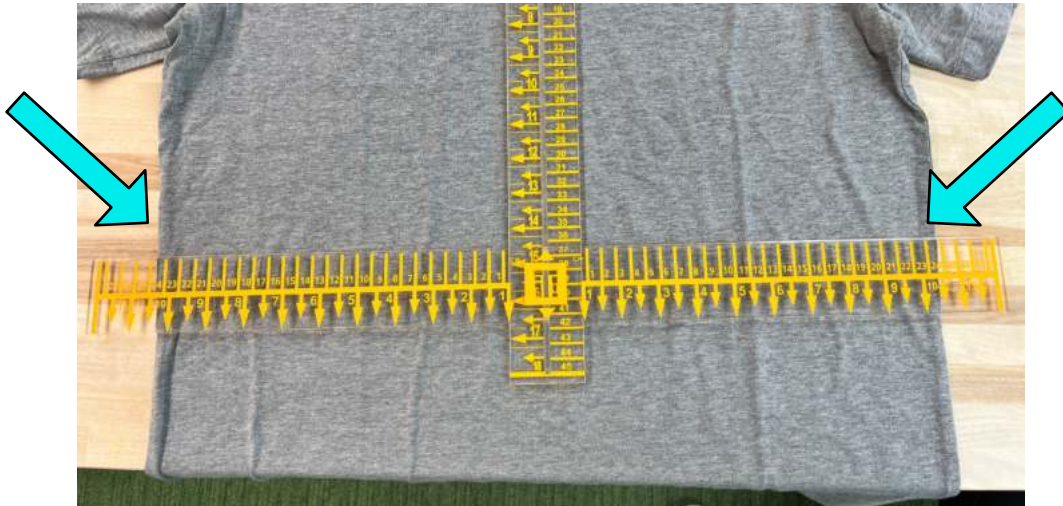
1. Lay a T-shirt out on a work surface so you can see the whole shirt.
2. Place the alignment guides onto the shirt.
 - a. The vertical post looks like a T and the top part can be aligned with the collar of the shirt. The bottom of the T goes at the edge of the collar, and then set the arrows so they are centered between both sides.



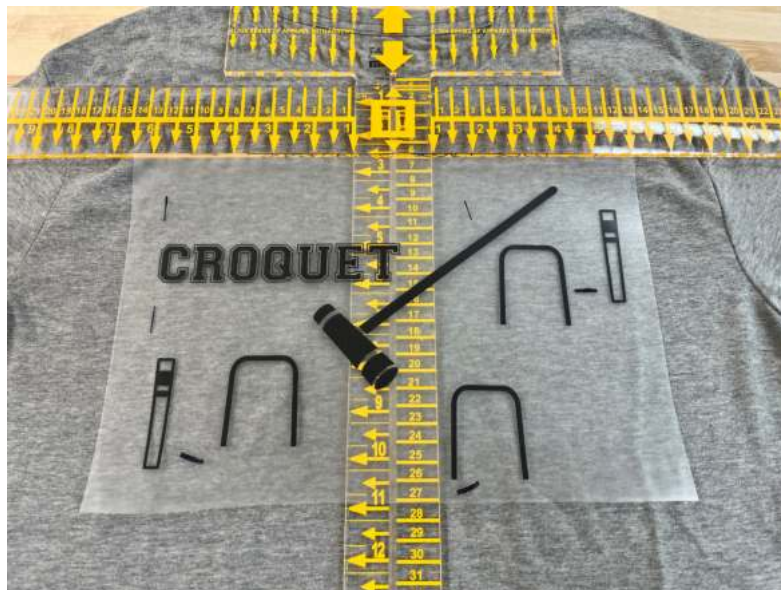
- b. The second part is a horizontal bar the slots into the groove on the first piece. It allows you to adjust the left and right alignment of your shirt design.



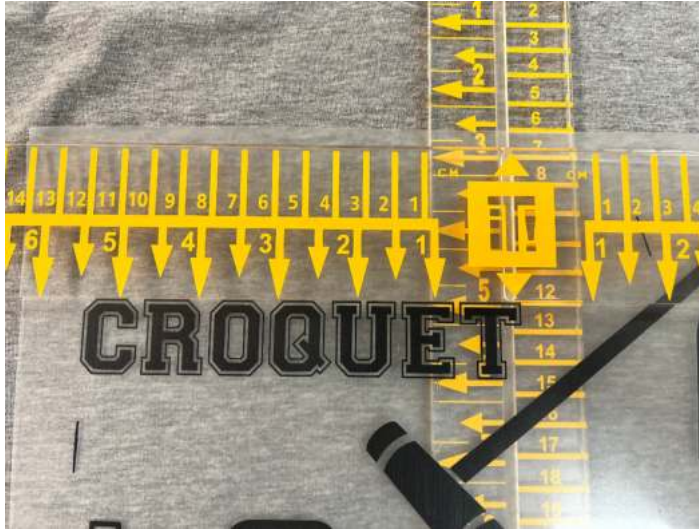
- c. Check that the numbers match on the left and right sides. If they don't, hold the vertical guide near the collar and pivot the vertical bar so that the numbers match on each side of the horizontal bar. This indicates your vertical line is centered on the shirt.



3. Line up your heat transfer element so that it is even on both sides and the desired distance down from the neck of the shirt.



- Slide the horizontal bar down to the bottom edge of the design (or to one part of the design with the straightest horizontal line) and check that the design is aligned correctly.



- Once the position has been achieved hold the heat transfer item in place as you remove the alignment guides.



- Slide out the platen. Fold the top and bottom of the shirt down over top of the design, ensuring that it stays in place. Lifting from the sides carry it to the platen placing it on the rubber mat. Then unfold the top and bottom of the shirt so that the design with its transfer tape is visible.



- Slide the platen in and proceed with the press.

6. Aligning a heat transfer item - quick guides

If you just want a quick measurement but don't require the exact precision of the tee square, there are a supply of clear acrylic templates in the stand of the left of the heat press.

1. Place the shirt on a table or platen. Set the appropriate guide on the shirt aligning to the collar.



2. Place your design along the edge of the template where you want to align you



7. Adjusting the thickness to a material

To adjust the thickness of a material, it's best to do so while the heat press is off and cool. But it can be done while on, you just need to be careful of the hot plate.

1. Set your material on the platen.
2. Lower the handle down until you can lower it no more. If your material is too thick, it won't close all the way. If it's too thin it will close fully with no resistance.
3. The goal for this step is that the handle should close with a little force and snap shut when it does.
4. Examine the difference between your material and the hot plate.



5. Open the heat press by raising the handle, and turn the knob to adjust the thickness settings. Turning clockwise will close a gap, turning counter-clockwise will open the press wider.



6. Repeat the process of closing and checking until the handle snugly closes around your object when lowered.

8. Editing the machine settings

If the settings get changed, or you use a different brand of heat transfer vinyl that has different heat or time settings, follows these steps.



1. Press the OK button twice until the temperature is flashing.
2. Use the up and down buttons to set the temperature. Then press the OK button.
3. Use the up and down buttons to set the timer. Then press the OK button.
4. The time and temperature are now locked in.