



# TIPS & Tricks

## CHOOSING A HEAT PRESS

A heat press is one of the most important pieces of equipment you will invest in. Different styles and types of heat presses can either help or hinder your business and productivity. Here is an overview of the different styles, and a few things to look out for when making your heat press investment decision.

There are two main styles of heat presses:

1. Clam shell
2. Swing-arm

### Clam Shell Heat Press

A clam shell heat press has a top and bottom platen that opens and closes like a clam.

#### Pros

- Popular and relatively inexpensive
- Require a small amount of space
- Excellent for small or one-step transfers

#### Cons

- Limited work space because top platen is directly above bottom platen
- Increased risk of burns when working at the back of the machine
- Potential for uneven pressure and press inconsistency
- Not able to press thicker items, such as mouse pads



## Swing-Arm Heat Press

A swing-arm heat press has a swing function that moves either the top or bottom platen out of the way.

### Pros

- Up to 360-degree rotation allows the heating element to be moved aside safely
- Reduced risk of burns to users' hands
- Provides plenty of workspace to layout garments
- Has the ability to press thicker items

### Cons

- More expensive
- Requires more space to operate



## Which style to choose?

If you decide a clam shell is the best option for you, the Chemica E-Clam is available in two sizes, 380mm x 380mm and 400mm x 500mm. Both sizes feature a Teflon upper plate, digital screen and full range pressure adjustment knob.

If you're on a tight budget or just starting out, the Forte HP 3804 is a good option. It is small, portable, easy to use and versatile. Featuring a 400mm x 500mm platen, LCD display, automatic opening function, automatic alarm and full range pressure adjustment knob

If a swing-arm press is more suitable, the Chemica E-Clam Pro is perfect. Featuring a 400mm x 500mm slide out bottom platen, 180-degree rotation, digital screen, automatic opening function, even temperature distribution, power save function and full range pressure adjustment knob.

For a less expensive alternative, the Forte HP 3805 is recommended. Featuring a 400mm x 500mm platen, LCD screen, drawer load slide out bottom platen, 90-degree rotation, even temperature distribution, automatic alarm and full range pressure adjustment knob.

## Which one is right for you?

Investing in a heat press can be a difficult and important decision. There are plenty of options available, including specialty presses suited for pressing hats and mugs. We recommend that you consider what you're wanting to press on to and to do your research before making your decision.

**The team at Graphic Art Mart are available to assist with any information you require**