Heat Presses

KEY RISKS:

Burns   Fire

PURPOSE:

To adhere designs cut from heat-press vinyl onto garments. There is a standard flat heat press (see photo) and one shaped for hats.

SAFETY:

- Heat presses can reach temperatures in excess of 180℃ and can cause severe burns if safety procedures are not correctly followed.
- The main heat press is kept on top of a small desk, it is not secured in place, USE WITH CAUTION.
- Be very careful when moving/lifting, both heat presses are heavy.
- Do not have it pressed down when moving as it could spring open unexpectedly.
- When turning the heat press on, always notify everyone in the room so they know to stay clear of it. There is a warning sign on the main desk, turn it to display the warning when the heat press is in use.
- The main heat press is connected to a timer device, set the amount of time you expect to use it for and the light will also turn on to indicate it is on.
- Try the heat press out before you put your fabric in to familiarise yourself with it. It takes quite a bit of force for the clamp to work and can make a jolt when you release it. If you do not have the physical strength to use it safely, ask someone else to help you.
- When using the heat press be careful not to touch the hot surface.
- If your vinyl doesn't have the protective backing layer on it you MUST use the sheet of Teflon over it to protect it. Otherwise the vinyl will stick to the hot surface, this can ruin your work and damage the heat press.
- Try to keep the layers of fabric to a minimum, if it is too thick it may cause the heat press to tip over when you try and clamp it. Test the thickness first if you are unsure before starting.
- Ensure you turn the heat press off when you are finished using it.

When using the heat press at events/outside of TAP lab:

- Set it up in a quiet area that is not a thoroughfare. You need to be able to control access to it. If it's at a busy event consider using desks to surround it to prevent people going close to it and touching it accidentally.
- Do not leave it unsupervised while it is cooling down if there are still people at the event that could touch it.
- Do not move it around while it is still hot.