Mounting Matters

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http://www.DesignsInkArt.com/library.htm

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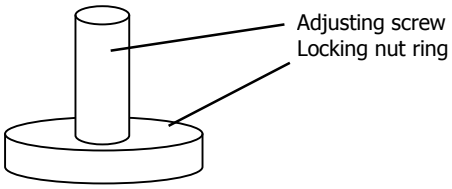
"Press Adjustments"

Hot vacuum presses automatically control pressure and moisture, but time and temperature must be set or programmed into the press. Mechanical presses also require time and temperature settings and control as well as requiring manual adjustment of the pressure whenever the substrate is changed to a new thickness. So all time, temperature, pressure and moisture controls must be attended to for a correct well bonded result.

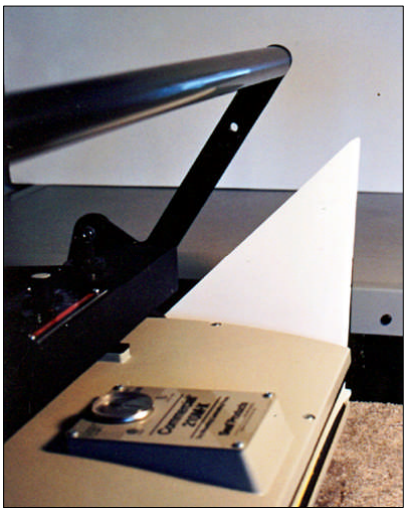
Adjustments
The *locking nuts* are the doughnut shaped outer rings that loosen when turned counterclockwise to adjust the taller, inner *pressure adjusting screws*. If the locking nut is too tight to loosen, insert a 3/16" foam board—or thicker—inside the press to take pressure off the nuts, then locking the arm down looses the locking nuts. Unscrew the lower ring until they are out of the way or remove completely during adjustment.

Step-by-step:

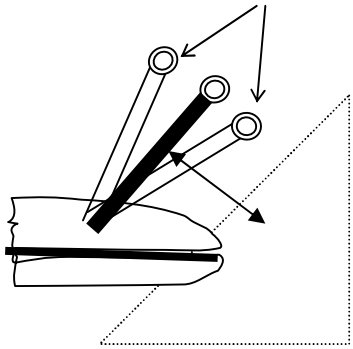
1. Loosen the locking nuts.
2. Twist the tall adjusting screws to raise or lower the lever arm to accommodate inner mounting materials.
3. Verify 45-degree angle of arm to table.
4. Lock the press closed and replace the locking nuts finger tight.



Twisting the adjusting screws evenly to the right or in a clockwise position will drop the lever arm down, thus lightening or decreasing the press pressure. Twisting the nuts to the left or counterclockwise will raise the arm up and increase the press pressure. It's best to turn both screws at the same time when adjusting.



Bar too high creates too much pressure,
too low not enough pressure.

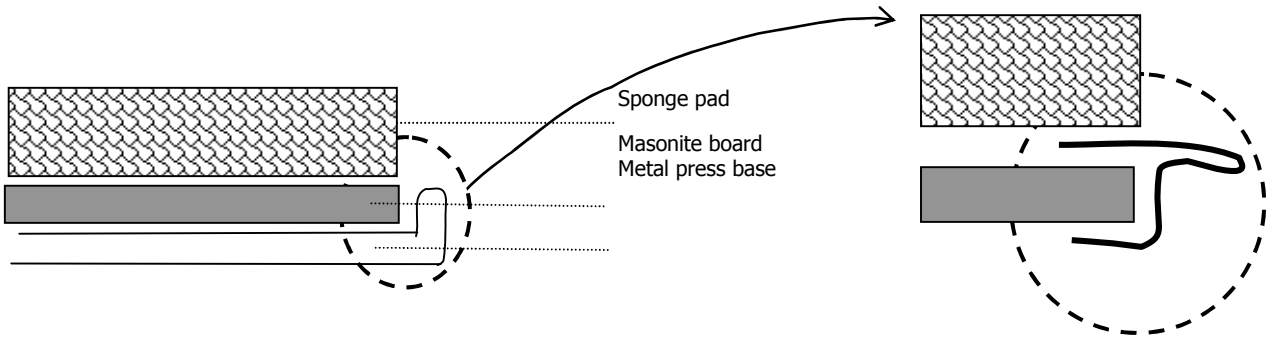


Bar should parallel
folded pattern, 45° with all
mounting materials inside.

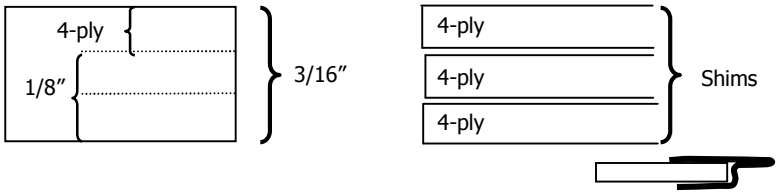
Shimming A Mechanical Press

Once the press is adjusted to an average 3/16" board thickness then readjustment of the press is required each time the substrate changes or the pressure will also change. As an alternative shims may be cut and fitted to accommodate the variation in substrate thickness by placing beneath the Masonite board to make up the difference in thicknesses.

Shims must be placed <u>beneath</u> the Masonite, not within the platen/sponge pad mounting area. Place a strapping tape tongue on the front edge of the lower Masonite board for accessibility.



Cut three 4-ply equivalent scrap mat or mount boards about 1/2" smaller than the size of the Masonite. Strapping tape may also be applied to the front edge of each for easy insertion and removal. When the substrate thickness changes simply slide shims beneath the Masonite when mounting thinner substrates. If the press as been adjusted for 3/16" foam, 3 shims equals one 3/16" foam. For quick adjustments add 1 shim for = 1/8" foam; 2 shims = 4-ply mat board; 3 shims added for when no substrate is used as when premounting. The shims lift the Masonite making the inner space of the closed press narrow during bonding.



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For additional information on framing basics visit http://www.DesignsInkArt.com/library.htm
There is a special section in the library for all past issues of *LA* and *PS Framer*.
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