All heat presses are NOT created equal

When the Hotronix® Swinger was introduced in 1987, it revolutionized the industry through technology and components that had never been seen in a heat press before. Thirty years later, Hotronix® heat presses continue to set industry standards for accuracy, reliability, and ease of use.

Use this checklist to compare differences in heat presses available in today’s market, and enhance your business’s productivity and profitability. From basic elements such as even pressure and no cold spots, to innovations like Quick Change Platen and Auto Adjust Pressure™, we have outlined the most important features and benefits to consider when making this important investment.

What to Look For When Buying a Heat Press

What type of heat press should you choose?

The size of your business’s workspace, workload, the type of items and graphics you plan to print, as well as budget are all factors when choosing the right heat press. Some might appreciate the space-saving design of a clamshell press, some the versatility of a swing or draw press, while others will find the high-volume capabilities of a heat press with multiple workstations beneficial.

Hotronix® heat presses come in a variety of sizes that fit any business’s needs. Whether it’s a space-saving clam style, the heat-free workspace of a FUSION®, the Dual Air FUSION’s two separate workstations, or a cap press, there are options designed for any shop on any budget.

Does the platen provide even heat?

Cold spots in a heat press platen can potentially ruin transfers and garments, and are generally caused by heating elements that are inadequately spaced or are lacking in number.

Hotronix® heat presses are designed with three times more heating elements than other machines on the market, and are placed closer together to ensure even heat from edge to edge.
WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A HEAT PRESS

DOES THE PRESS RETAIN HEAT DURING LONG PRODUCTION RUNS?

The thickness of a heat press platen is directly related to its ability to retain heat or not, which is especially important during long production runs. Thinner, lighter platens will lose heat much more quickly than a platen that is thicker and heavier.

Platens on Hotronix® heat presses are built solid using ¾” cast aluminum. This extra thickness and weight retains heat longer for reliable, consistent heat printing.

DOES THE HEAT PRESS PROVIDE ACCURATE, EVEN PRESSURE?

Even pressure from a heat press is critical to heat transferring vinyl materials onto garments correctly and successfully. An upper platen should meet the lower platen equally and without pinch points to avoid ruining finished designs or garments.

All Hotronix® heat presses offer over-the-center pressure adjustments, ensuring even, edge-to-edge heat and pressure throughout the print area. As an added feature that’s standard on Air FUSION® models, the Auto Adjust Pressure™ feature automatically adjusts to the thickness of the item being printed.

ARE INTERCHANGEABLE PLATENS AVAILABLE?

For added heat printing capabilities, a heat press manufacturer should offer a number of optional platens specially designed to accommodate varying sizes of garments and printable items.

Hotronix® has the largest selection of optional platens that can be easily removed with the simple flip of a latch. From duffle bags and hoodie sleeves, to soccer cleats, hat bills, and more, Hotronix® Quick Change Platens allow you to print more, expand your decorating capabilities, and create more sales opportunities.
CAN YOU EASILY LOAD AND UNLOAD GARMENTS?

The lower platen should be accessible to any operator, and designed for effortless loading and unloading of garments. Additional room around the platen also allows operators to easily print large, bulky garments such as jackets and hooded sweatshirts.

Hotronix® offers clam-style heat presses designed with wide openings, and presses with open areas beneath their lower platens that offer 100% Threadability™. Also available are optional adjustable stands, and accessories such as slip covers for platens that aid in overall heat printing productivity.

CAN YOU STORE SETTINGS VIA AN EASY-TO-VIEW TOUCH SCREEN?

Heat printing requires precision in three major areas: Time, Temperature, and Pressure. Accurate readings of each are critical, while adjustments between different heat applications can often be time-consuming or overlooked.

Standard on the Hotronix® FUSION® family of heat presses, digital touch screen technology provides accurate, easily-adjustable time, temperature, and pressure settings. It also allows users to program and store settings for frequently-used applications.

DO YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TOOLS FOR THE JOB?

Optional accessories that provide benefits such as press mobility or accurate design alignment can add speed and efficiency to any heat printing operation.

For easy alignment and accurate placement of logos, names, and numbers, the Laser Alignment System from Hotronix® provides four adjustable lasers that project directly onto the lower platen.

The Hotronix® Heat Press Caddie™ Stand can be adjusted up to 40°, while self-leveling casters provide portability and stability around your workspace. It also provides Threadability™ to your Hotronix® clam-style press.
WHAT TYPE OF WARRANTY & TECHNICAL SUPPORT IS PROVIDED?

A heat press should be guaranteed to operate without issue, or be serviced at no cost for a period of time beyond the initial purchase date. Technical support should also be available in the event that the heat press needs repairing, or its operator needs guidance – either before or after the warranty’s expiration.

Only Hotronix® offers unmatched warranties on all heating elements, framework, and circuit boards, as well as technical support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Whether you need a quick tutorial on touch screen controls or a new circuit breaker, our technicians have over 100 years of combined experience to help you get your heat printing back on track any time, day or night.

WHERE IS THE HEAT PRESS MANUFACTURED?

A heat press is an important investment in your heat printing business. With varying standards of excellence worldwide, it’s important to know where your heat press is manufactured to ensure you are receiving the highest quality.

Hotronix® heat presses and accessories are proudly made in the U.S.A. by hard-working experts who take pride in each unit.

For more information on Threadability™ and many other exclusive Hotronix® heat press features and accessories, visit Stahls.com/catalog to download the complete product catalog.