



16" x 20" Clamshell Press  
Model FLHP 3804C  
User Manual

## **NEED HELP WITH YOUR NEW HEAT PRESS?**

For Sales & Support:

**(425)481-3555**

7:30am-4:00pm PST

Monday - Friday

Submit a Service Ticket at:

**[www.uscuttersupport.com](http://www.uscuttersupport.com)**

Heat transfer vinyl, transfer paper, teflon sheets, vinyl removal solution, spare parts, and more available at **[www.uscutter.com](http://www.uscutter.com)**

This documentation is copyright 2016 USCutter. No duplication, republishing or reposting of this material in whole or in part is authorized without express written consent. Product design, logos, brand names for various media, and product photos are owned by the manufacturers.

**Thank you for purchasing this heat press from USCutter. The following are important things you need to know before you begin:**

- **Intended usage of this Heat Press:** This heat press is designed to press heat transfer vinyl (HTV), sublimation and transfer papers onto soft garments.

Do not attempt to set the temperature on this device at higher than 480 degrees Fahrenheit as it will burn out the heating element.

Also avoid use of this heat press for other activities such as food preparation or extraction of oils from plant materials and other alternative uses.

Use of this heat press in a manner other than intended will void the warranty, will damage the machine, and may constitute a fire hazard.

- **Preserve the shipping carton:** Please do not discard or disassemble the carton this heat press came in. It was designed to hold the weight of this machine during shipping.

Should you need to return the equipment due to warranty or repair, you will need it. Do not attempt to ship this equipment in a different container.

- **Follow manufacturer instructions on materials you press:** Always use recommended settings from the manufacturer for any material used in this press. Those instructions are usually always available on-line from the material maker.

Instructions on the most common and recommended materials are enclosed within this documentation.

- **Test before you press:** We encourage you to always do a test of your fabric and HTV or transfer paper together using a small sample of the materials before you do volume production.

If possible your test should include actually washing and drying a pressed garment to assure that the media has properly adhered to the garment using the heat and pressure setting you have selected.

- **Use extreme care during operation:** Please also be careful as you operate the heat press. During operation the platens will get hot enough to do serious injury to you should you touch them, and surrounding metal parts will also reach high temperatures.

Please educate children and others around this equipment that it is not a toy and can cause severe burns and/or injury if the unit is closed onto fingers or other body parts.

- **Electrical Source:** This heat press is designed for the North American market and is designed to plug into a standard household 3 prong outlet. (110-120V/60Hz.) Do not attempt to use this press with a two prong electrical cord or otherwise use it without proper grounding.

# Overview of Your Heat Press



1. **Pressure Adjustment Knob**
2. **Time/Temperature Control**
3. **Open/Close Control Arm**
4. **Top Platen**
5. **Bottom Platen**
6. **On/Off Switch**
7. **Set button (control panel)**

The **Pressure Adjustment Knob** controls the amount of force that will be used to push the transferred image into the fibers of the garment. Clockwise increases pressure. Counter clockwise decreases it.

The **Time/Temperature Control Panel** on the left upper face of the casing is where you will set heat and time requirements of your project. These will vary depending on the vinyl or transfer paper used.

The **Control Arm** opens & closes the **top & bottom Heated Platens** of the clamshell press.

The **Power switch** must be set to the on position a properly grounded power cord must be plugged in before pressing.

## How to calibrate your new Heat Press:

Instructions from manufacturers of heat transfer vinyls and transfer papers will instruct you to use Low, Medium or High Pressure during the application process. Here's how to calibrate your machine and identify those settings. (Do this while the platens are cold.)

1. Turn the pressure knob counterclockwise a few times to lower pressure on the platens.
2. Place a piece of paper onto bottom of the platen
3. Close the clamshell press using the handle.
4. Pull on the paper.
5. If the paper moves at all, turn the knob clockwise and try again.
6. Try again and repeat until the paper doesn't move at all. This is your "Medium" pressure.

From the "Medium" setting, High pressure will be clockwise one to two turns. Low pressure will be counterclockwise one to two turns. (The number of turns will depend the thickness of the garment.

Note that using Medium and High pressure will make it just a bit difficult to close the heat press. During the pressing process, the goal is to press the heated material into the fibers of the garment.

## How to Calibrate the temperature of your new Heat Press:

On a new heat press, it is not unusual for the temperature settings to be off by 18 to 20 degrees. To fix this, follow these simple steps:

1. Set the Heat Press temperature settings to 380F on the control panel. (See info on this below)
2. When the press heats to about 100F, press the down arrow on the control panel for 5 seconds.

The heat press will go into Calibration Mode. It may take as long as 20 minutes to finish this process. Do not turn off or unplug the press during this time. To ensure total accuracy, you might also want to test the heat press using an Infrared Thermometer Gun. (available at most hardware stores.)

## Setting the Time and Temperature on your new Heat Press:

1. Using the control panel screen, press the "Set" button then the up or down arrow to the desired temperature.
2. Press the Set button again and set the timer using the up and down arrows.
3. Press the Set button and arrows again to choose Fahrenheit or Celsius.
4. Press the Set button again to confirm these settings.
5. Press the Set button and use arrows one more time to set an alarm that will notify you in advance when it is time to open the press.

## How to press Heat Transfer Vinyl (HTV):

1. Use a vinyl cutter to cut your heat transfer vinyl material. Remember that unless otherwise instructed by the manufacturer, you will want to MIRROR the design so that when it cuts, it appears backwards.
  - Using Sure Cuts A Lot, this option will appear on your Cut Setting menu as a click box.
  - With Vinyl Master, when you send your design to the cutter, you will find the selection for the “Mirror” option in the Send to be Cut window.
2. Use a pair of scissors or cutting tool to trim around the image to make it a manageable size.
3. Weed your design, removing the excess material. Remember to remove any material inside cavity such as the inside of the letters O and A. (Tip: If you heat up the material using the bottom platen or your un-closed heat press for 2 to 3 seconds, it will be a lot easier to weed most materials.)
4. Find the appropriate heating instructions for the material you are using either on-line or in the chart in this manual, and set your heat press time and temperature using manufacturer recommended settings. (See info in this manual about setting your heat press temperature and time.)
5. Use the Pressure Adjustment knob on the top of the press to adjust the pressure as recommended. (See info on this manual about how to adjust pressure on your heat press.)
6. When the heat press heats to the target temperature, place your garment on the bottom platen so that it is flat and there are no wrinkles in the material. Warning: The platens will be very hot. Be careful.
7. Pre-press the garment for 2 to 3 seconds to remove wrinkles and moisture.
8. Position the heat transfer vinyl on the shirt so that the colored vinyl on the liner is touching the shirt. (Your design should appear through the liner un-mirrored.)
9. Lay a sheet of Teflon paper over the design to keep the top platen clean and avoid scorching the surface of your heat transfer vinyl.
10. Press the material at the time/temperature recommended by the manufacturer.
11. Open the press and remove the Teflon sheet. Set it aside as it can be re-used a limited number of times.
12. Next peel the liner sheet off the top of the garment based on manufacturer instructions.

Note: After removing the garment, resist the urge to stretch, crumple or otherwise manipulate the pressed garment until the material has had a chance to rest for 24 hours or so. (The chemical composition of the vinyl and adhesive are still reforming as the material cools.)

Follow the manufacturer's instructions for washing and care for best results.

 Your Guide To **Perfect Results** Every Time.



PRODUCT	USED ON	TEMP.	PRESSURE	TIME (IN SECONDS)	PEEL
<b>Siser Easyweed</b>	Cotton, Polyester and Polycotton Blends	305°F	Medium	10-15	Hot/ Cold
<b>Siser Glitter</b>	Cotton, Polyester and Polycotton blends	320°F	Firm	10-15	Hot
<b>Siser Easyweed Glow</b>	Leather and Polycotton Blends	305°F	Medium	10-15	Hot/ Cold
<b>Siser Easyweed Stretch</b>	Lycra/Spandex & Cotton/Polycotton Blends	305°F	Med./Firm	15	Hot/ Cold
<b>Siser EasyWeed Electric</b>	Cotton, Polyester and Polycotton Blends	305°F	Medium	15	Hot/ Cold
<b>Siser Easyweed Extra</b>	Leather, Siliconed Nylons, Polycotton Blends	320°F	Light/Med.	10	Hot/ Cold
<b>Siser EasyWeed Perf</b>	Cotton, Polyester and Polycotton Blends	305°F	Medium	10-15	Hot/ Cold
<b>Siser Metallic</b>	Cotton, Polyester and Polycotton Blends	305°F	Medium	10-15	Cold
<b>Siser Holographic</b>	Cotton, Polyester and Polycotton Blends	320°F	Firm	10-15	Cold
<b>Siser StripFlock</b>	Cotton, Polyester and Polycotton Blends	320°F	Medium	15-20	Cold
<b>Siser Reflect All</b>	Polycotton blends and 100% Polyester	305°F	Medium	10	Warm
<b>Siser CADflex</b>	Polycotton blends and 100% Polyester	305°F	Medium	15	Cold
<b>Siser ColorPrint PU</b>	Cotton, Polyester and Polycotton Blends	295°F	Medium	15-20	Hot
<b>Siser ColorPrint Soft</b>	Cotton, Polyester and Polycotton Blends	311°F	Medium	10-15	Warm
<b>Siser ColorPrint Crystal</b>	Cotton, Polyester and Polycotton Blends	320°F	Medium	10-15	Cold
<b>Siser ColorPrint Easy</b>	Cotton, Polyester and Polycotton Blends	300°F	Medium	15	Warm
<b>Siser ColorPrint Extra</b>	Leather, Siliconed Nylons, Polycotton Blends	320°F	Light	10-15	Hot
<b>Siser ColorPrint Glitter</b>	Leather and Polycotton Blends	320°F	Medium	15	Hot
<b>Chemica Fashion Prints</b>	Cotton, Polyester and Polycotton Blends	310°F	Medium	15-20	Cold
<b>Chemica Camouflage (Print/Digital)</b>	Cotton, Polyester and Polycotton Blends	310°F	Medium	15-20	Cold
<b>Chemica Animal Print</b>	Cotton, Polyester and Polycotton Blends	310°F	Medium	15-20	Cold
<b>Chemica Sports 3D</b>	Cotton, Polyester and Polycotton Blends	310°F	Med./Firm	15-20	Cold
<b>Color Theory Glitter</b>	Cotton, Polyester, & Cotton Poly Blend	320°F	Firm	10-15	Cold
<b>Color Theory Metallic</b>	Cotton, Polyester, & Cotton Poly Blend	320°F	Firm	10-15	Cold

## Using your Heat Press to press Transfer Paper:

As with all media you'll use on your heat press, we encourage you to look for the pressing recommendations from the manufacturer of the transfer material on-line if possible. If you can't find specific instructions, the following are general guidelines for your consideration.

<b>TRANSFERS</b>	<b>PRINTER</b>	<b>GARMENT</b>	<b>TEMP.</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>PRESSURE</b>
Sublimation Paper	Ricoh, Sawgrass	Cotton	400°F	25-30sec.	Medium
Ink Tran. Paper	Ink jet Printer	Light Color	365°F	15sec.	Medium
		Dark Color	330°F	25sec.	Medium
Laser Transfer Paper	Laser Printer	Light Color	365°F	15sec.	Medium
		Dark Color	330°F	25sec.	Medium
Trim Free Laser Transfer	Laser Printer	Paper A	250°F	20sec.	High
	/	Paper B	340°F	25sec.	High
Transfer Vinyls	Cutting Plotter	/	300-320°F	8-10sec.	Medium
Plastisol Transfer	/	/	390°F	15sec.	High
Eco-solvent Transfer Paper	Printing & Plotter	/	330°F	15-25sec.	High



## **Troubleshooting:**

### **When I pressed my HTV, the material would not stick to the garment and/or fell off during washing. How do I fix this?**

First double check manufacturer instructions – especially on heat and pressure settings. If you are following them to the letter, increase your pressure. Remember: Pressing isn't just about heating the vinyl – it's about pushing the vinyl into the materials so that the adhesive finds a grip. Increasing the pressure is often the solution.

You might also need to increase your temperature a bit, but try this after you've increased the pressure, and don't up the temperature by more than about 5% over manufacturer instructions.

### **When I peeled the carrier sheet from my HTV, the color vinyl came up off the garment but the adhesive below it stayed in place. What happened?**

You are most likely peeling the material too hot. HTV's like metallic, printed/fashion, and many others are usually recommended for cold peel.

If that's not it, double check the garment you are pressing and make sure it's appropriate for the HTV you are using. If the material has a coating of any kind, you might need to use a special HTV specifically designed for sticking to coated materials. A common example of this is someone trying to heat press HTV onto a water resistant fabric. Using an HTV like Siser Extra will solve the problem.

### **My Transfer paper is sticking to the heated platen. How do I fix this?**

We really recommend the use of Teflon paper for most transfer pressings. (In the case of NO-Cut Fel form Forever Paper – use the supplied non-stick paper – not Teflon – which can damage the flex material)

### **When I transfer, my colors look faded.**

You need to increase the amount of time you're pressing and/or increase the heat by 20 degrees.

### **My Heat Press won't heat up.**

Heat presses use a lot of energy while they are heating up. It's possible that the energy drain has tripped the internal breaker in the press. Use the reset button on the side of heat press to reset it. If that doesn't work, take a moment to plug something else into the wall outlet you're using for the press. It might be that you've tripped a circuit breaker.

### **Time/Temperature control panel shows "000"**

If you see this, turn the machine off and back on. If that doesn't fix it, please contact our support group as a replacement part might be necessary.

# Warranty Statement

USCutter will repair or replace parts and equipment found to be defective in materials or workmanship during the warranty period subject to the following:

- On this heat press, USCutter will supply new or rebuilt parts to replace parts that are found to be defective within the warranty period instead of replacing the equipment outright. USCutter will ship these parts with no cost to the customer as long as the shipment is within the United States. Full telephone based support will be given by USCutter representatives to aid the customer in the replacement of any parts sent.
- If USCutter, at its sole discretion, determines that the equipment is not able to be repaired, then a RMA number will be assigned and the customer is authorized to return the equipment for replacement.
- The standard FHP 3802 heat press warranty is 90 days from day the product is received.
- Any equipment older than 30 days may be replaced with a certified refurbished unit at our discretion.
- Included software with this heat press, if any, will be covered by a separate warranty included with software.

## Warranty and Exchange Process:

- If you are having issues with a product or service purchased from the company, please contact the support department at [www.USCutterSupport.com](http://www.USCutterSupport.com).
- All returns must be authorized by a USCutter representative before the product is shipped. The USCutter representative will issue a Return Merchandise Authorization (RMA) number that must be put on the outside of the returned item packaging. US Cutter will not be responsible for any item sent back without a RMA in place and it may be returned to customer and they will be responsible for any shipping costs.
- Any item being returned to USCutter (excluding items over 50 lbs which require freight shipping) are eligible for a flat rate ground shipping label at the market rate. Items determined to be defective within first 30 days or improperly shipped will receive this label free of charge. The customer may choose their own shipping method as long as tracking information is communicated to and acknowledged by USCutter.
- Items should be returned in their original packaging. Items returned in other than the original packaging may be assessed additional restocking fees of up to 50% and USCutter will not be responsible for any damage of returned items that is a result of improper shipping methods.
- Items returned for a refund may be subject to restocking fees. Once a refund is processed it will usually be returned to the originating account within 7 to 10 business days, depending on the customer's bank.

## Warranty Exclusions and Verification:

- Warranty does not include coverage of "consumables" or any item that is commonly subject to wear and tear. This would include blades, blade holders, cutting strips or vinyl media.
- Defective Items: If any item arrives in unusable condition, USCutter must be notified within 30 days of receiving the product or replacement may not be provided.
- USCutter reserves the right to request proof in the form of photos as proof of defects or to document failure of parts replaced under warranty.
- USCutter DOES NOT COVER ANY INDIRECT DAMAGES OR LOSS OF PRODUCT OR REVENUE. Repair or replacement of defective parts or components under the terms of this warranty is the EXCLUSIVE REMEDY. USCutter is not liable for any incidental, consequential, or indirect damages of any kind, including without limitation personal injury, death, property damage, environmental damage, theft or loss of product, loss of revenue or profits, business interruption, or any other business or commercial loss. USCutter is not liable for any claims or lawsuits asserted against our customers or any claims or lawsuits related to the unlawful or fraudulent use of our product.
- Damage suffered by supplied equipment due to neglect, abuse, misuse, power surge or act of nature is not covered.
- This warranty covers products purchased and installed in the United States and is not valid elsewhere.

**THIS WARRANTY CONTAINED HEREIN IS EXCLUSIVE AND THEREFORE NO OTHER EXPRESS, IMPLIED OR STATUTORY WARRANTIES. WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR APPLICATION ARE IMPRESSLY EXCLUDED.**

# TIPS FOR YOUR HEAT PRESS



## TIME

- The length of time your heated press will be in contact with the material.
- Heat transfer of a vinyl design onto a garment will usually take 10-15 seconds, while sublimation onto a substrate can take minutes.
- Many USCutter heat presses have an auto-open feature where the platen will pop open after the time expires, protecting your material from overexposure.



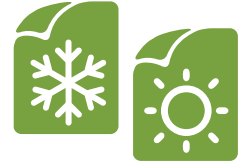
## TEMPERATURE

- Most heat transfer vinyls require the temperature to be set between 295° and 320°, while sublimation occurs in a higher temperature range of 350° to 400°.
- Heat presses can be off a few degrees, so do a test press first with some scraps of fabric and vinyl to ensure your machine is correctly calibrated.



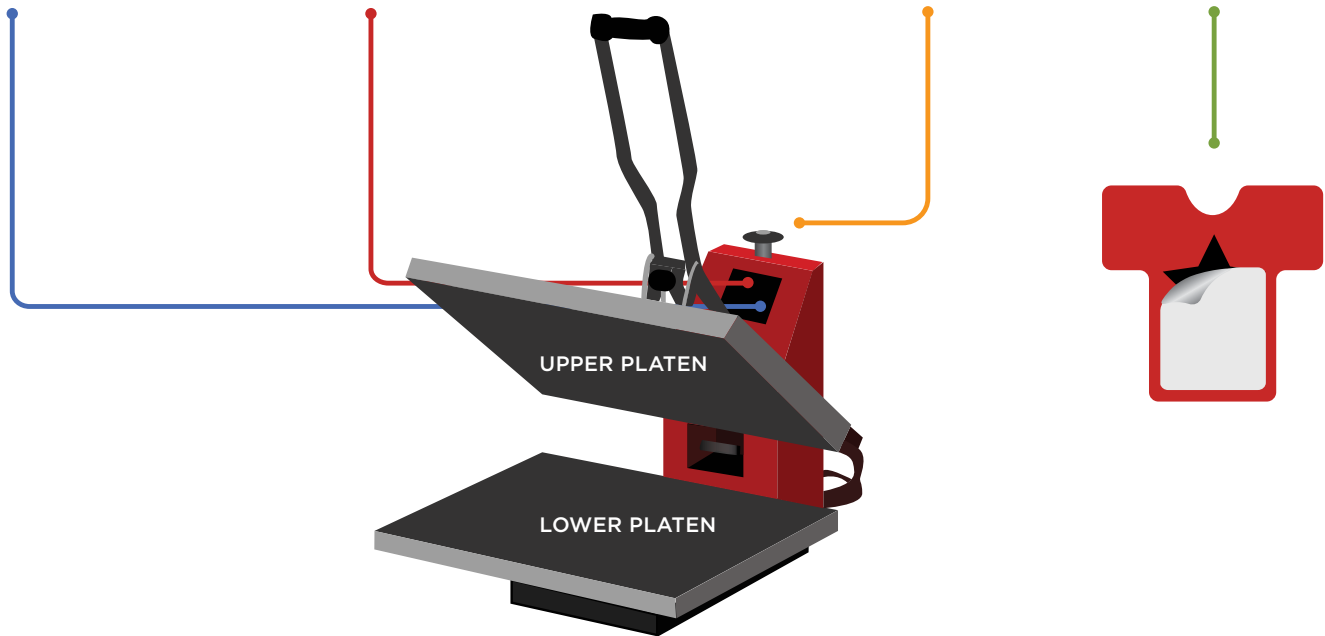
## PRESSURE

- Usually the pressure setting for your heat platen must be manually set with a knob.
- Most heat transfer vinyls and sublimation applications require medium pressure. Some textures like holographic or glitter require firmer pressure, but careful you don't leave the knob cranked too much. This can lead to damaged equipment.



## COLD/HOT PEEL

- Different heat transfer vinyls require that you remove the carrier sheet at different points following the heat press cycle.
- Many popular heat transfer vinyls peel hot OR cold.
- Some vinyls MUST be peeled HOT, WARM, or COLD though to ensure the adhesives in the carrier sheet and the vinyl's slower-setting melt adhesive don't work against each other.



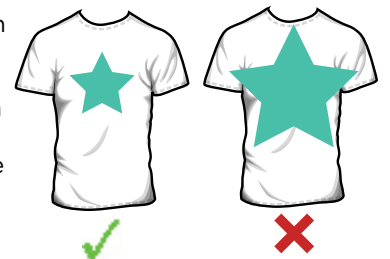
## CLEANLINESS & PROTECTION

- Debris and plastic residue from vinyl graphics can build up on the platen if it's not protected, which can cause staining to affect whole production runs.
- Use EZ Off Heat Press Platen Cleaner to maintain a pristine heat contact surface.
- Protect your garment from direct contact with the heat press platens to prevent singeing.
- Teflon sheets or Hexis Filflex will protect your garment, graphic, and platen.



## GARMENT SIZE

Keep a sense of scale in mind. A graphic which looks good on a men's extra-large might seem overpowering on a lady's small. Fit the size of your graphic to the size of the material.



Providing sales and service for world-class providers of  
sublimation & heat transfer equipment & media

**Mimaki**<sup>TM</sup>

**ATLAS**

GEO **Knight** & CO, INC  
EST. 1988

SAWGRASS

STAHL'S  
**Hotronix**<sup>®</sup>



**Siser**<sup>®</sup>  
THERMO TRANSFERS FOR TEXTILE

**Chemica**  
heat transfers for textiles



COLOR THEORY



**Roland**

**VINYLMASTER**

**GRAPHTEC**

**TITAN**

**WunderBoard**

**sublijet**<sup>®</sup> **r**

**JOTO**<sup>™</sup> Bringing Images to Life!<sup>™</sup>

**GreenStar**

**chromablast**<sup>™</sup> **R**  
EXTREME DIGITAL COLOR IMAGING SYSTEM

**FOREVER**<sup>®</sup>  
DIGITAL TRANSFER APPLICATIONS TECHNOLOGY



This documentation is copyright 2016 USCutter. No duplication, republishing or reposting of this material in whole or in part is authorized without express written consent. Product design, logos, brand names for various media, and product photos are owned by the manufacturers.