

CLAMSHELL OR SWING-AWAY? THAT'S THE QUESTION!

As a company that makes both clamshell and swing-away heat presses, we are frequently asked this question by inquiring customers. The answer depends on the type of jobs you want to accept, the space available, your familiarity with transfer presses, and your need for accurate placement of the design versus the speed of production.

Each design has its unique advantages. The task for the customer is to pick the one with the right combination of benefits that fits the intended business purpose.

Swing-away heat presses are very popular for sublimation printing. Air-automatic heat presses are the model of choice in fast-paced high production facilities. Digital, manual clamshell presses are most popular in a wide variety of applications with small to medium size volume requirements. Analog swing-away and clamshell presses are most often purchased by hobbyists, for small projects, or as a backup for a larger, digital model.

No heat press is perfect for every purpose. So, the pros and cons of the available features have to be considered.

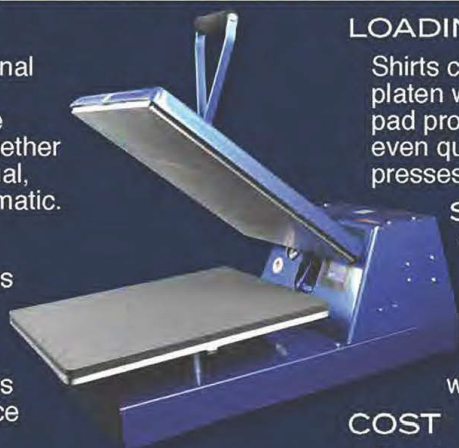
Clamshell Advantages:

SPEED

Because of the one-directional movement of the arm, a clamshell press is by far the fastest of the two styles, whether it be analog or digital, manual, semi-automatic, or air-automatic.

FOOTPRINT

Because the clamshell press opens and closes vertically without any sideways movement, the press uses a very small footprint and fits well on a busy counter-space or point-of-sale location.



LOADING

Shirts can be split or "dressed" around the lower platen with the Splitter Stand installed. An optional pad protector makes sliding the garment on and off even quicker. Splitter Stands are included with most presses.

SELF-ADJUSTING

The lower platen tilts forward and backwards, allowing the press to self-adjust to the thickness of the substrate with both platens remaining parallel. This self-adjustment feature counter-acts the pinching movement while the press is closing.

COST

Size-for-size, the clamshell units are slightly easier to construct and therefore making them less expensive.

Swing-Away Advantages:

VISIBILITY

Many swing-away models are purchased because they allow the operator full visibility over the lower platen. Even though swinging out the heat casting takes an extra step and time, a full view of the lower platen may be beneficial to some.

EASY OF USE

An advanced HIX® linkage system combined with an ergonomically placed handle make the swinging, closing, and opening movement extremely easy.

PRESSURE

That same linkage system allows for maximum leverage and pressure onto the lower platen, making projects requiring higher pressure an easier job.



CLEARANCE

Swing-away models, because of their vertical downward closing, are able to provide more clearance which is needed for thicker fabric up to 1 3/4".

NO-PINCH

Because the upper and lower platens remain parallel during the closing movement, there is no "pinching" action that is encountered with some clamshell units. Accurate and even pressure is critical for sublimation projects.

LOADING

The optional Splitter Stand makes the swing-away press ideal for projects with buttons and zippers or for sublimation projects (available for SwingMan-20 only).

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