Printing Fabrics with a Heat press machine

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The heat press is designed to print your design onto fabric using pressure and heat.

One variant of the heat press requires a heat transfer of some kind, which is loaded into one half of the press. The fabric to be printed on is then loaded into the other half of the press (many heat press machines are variations on a basic clamshell design). The transfer is then held in place on the fabric by the weight of the press, which seals the heat reactive ink to the fibres.

A heat press may print multiple pieces of fabric or garments, using a single heat transfer. The industrial heat press runs the fabric under the platen the required number of times until all the transfers is complete.

Heat press printing is commonly used in the creation of t shirts, logo garments and advertising banners. It is reasonably economical and can produce a high volume of printed items during a single session. Heat transfer printing of the kind referred to above, though, creates a much larger potential volume of waste than sublimation printing using a digital printer, as it requires the transfer themselves to be created, which become refused once a job is complete. The sublimation printer has no such run-off and so is commonly seen as more environmentally friendly.

The heat press machine is also used in the second part of the sublimation printing process. In this case, the heat is used to seal the dye inside the fabric â€“ after it has been injected by the sublimation printer. The heat press ensures that the ink, which has been infused into the fibres of the fabric being printed, is stable and wonâ€™t run when the garment or item is washed.

With a range of sizes and formats, thereâ€™s a heat press machine suitable for every size and style of printing business. The clam (also known as â€œswingâ€• press is normally used for printing t shirts or for doing vinyl lettering. Larger presses with a flatbed setup are used for bigger jobs â€“ commonly sportswear and larger vinyl lettering applications.

Calendar heat press machines are used to perform large volume sublimation printing and are suitable for every type of sublimation application. The calendar heat press machine is designed to facilitate multiple prints, quickly and effectively, and uses a drum to ensure a continual rolling on and off of the fabric to be printed. With a width that can be as much as three and a half metres, the calendar heat press is suitable for banners and flags as well as clothing, sportswear and vinyl lettering among many other applications.

If you are using heat presses for heat transfer printing, you can store an inventory of transfers for one-off prints â€“ so you can, for example, offer the same design on a customerâ€™s choice of garment size and colour. Bulk sublimation printing finished using a heat press machine works as normal, by storing the print jobs in files that can be called up whenever required.

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Sabur Ink Systems Ltd enjoys distribution and supply relationships with many of the worldâ€™s leading and most trusted printer, a Heat Press machine and ink manufacturers. The company offers a full service, from advice and ordering to backup and support.

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