

TRADITIONAL PRINTING TODAY

# Lyme Bay Press



## Using your embossing plates

If you've got this far, you have read our other help sheet on supplying the best artwork for embossing plates, you've sent it to us, and we've sent you back an embossing pair:

### So, what next....

We make all of our embossing pairs, pairs because there are 2 of them, a female polymer, out of KF95 plate and a male resin version. We have found that this thickness of plate will leave you with a lovely clean emboss without paper cracking, unless you have the impression too high on your press.

Ideally you will need to back off the impression on your press so that you can increase it slowly to get the impression that you want when you start to run your job but you will have to make sure that there is enough impression for the male to stick to your platen when you set up your plates. Hands up if I'm confusing you...!

Right, the principle. You apply the female, polymer, plate to your press, ideally a chase base and the male resin part goes on the platen. You then feed paper between these 2 plates to get a raised image on your board.

We do most of our embossing on the Heidelberg's, but it is possible to use them on treadle presses, especially those where you can adjust the impression with a lever, or you have easy access to the impression screws.

When you start, you may pull your hair out in frustration, but it does quickly become second nature and it won't be long before you wonder what you were worrying about.



*Pic. 1  
shows what your plates will look like.  
Both parts will have sticky mount attached  
so they are ready to go straight on  
your press.*

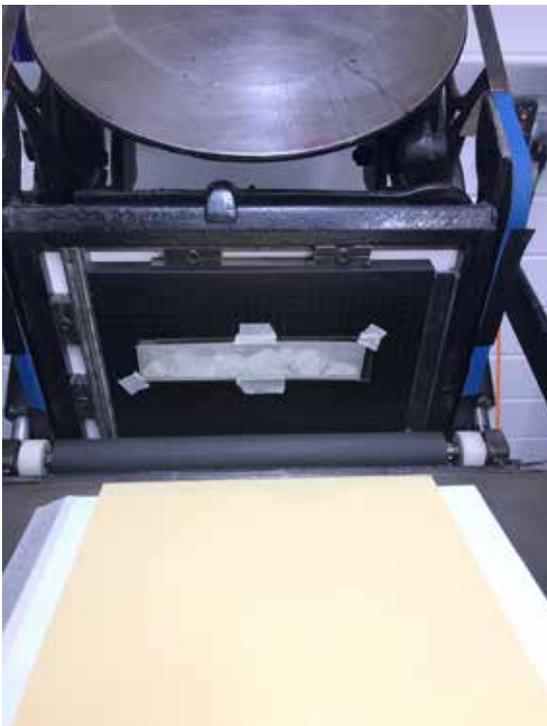
Next, you have to put the female part on your press in position. You may be printing in a way that it doesn't matter where this plate sits on your press because you will sort the paper position when you are set up. To make sure we have our plates in the correct position before we mount the male part, we use a piece of thick, soft board. We make an impression on this, it will only be light, but will help you see if you have the female in position. It's at this stage you can move your female plate around, just like you would a normal printing plate, if you've already jumped the gun and mounted the male resin part, you will find this harder as you'll have to take off the male as well and reposition, so, don't mount the male until you have the female in place.



*Pic 2.  
Showing the position of  
the Female Polymer plate  
on the press.*

NB. We are showing this set up process on our 1905 Chandler & Price as it will cover most presses, large and small, you will follow a similar process on a Heidelberg. We like to mount the male part of the plates on the metal of our platen but for this example we will be mounting on a trimmed down piece of tympan sheet to that we have control of the impression without having to adjust the impression screws. Also, a point of note here, although the female polymer is made from the KF 95 plate, you can still mount it on the deep relief base used for the 152 plates, we won't be inking it so getting it up to type high isn't as important.

Next, when you are happy with the position of the female, it's time to attach the male resin part.



*Pic 3.  
The male die popped  
into place on the female  
and secured with mask-  
ing tape at the corners.*

This can be a little fiddly, make sure you have your rollers above the female plate, if they are still attached (not like in the picture) then position the male, so that it locks into place and secure with small pieces of masking tape to hold into place. Pop your press on to impression and then close the platen, the male should detach from the female and stick to the platen, unless you have used too much masking tape, in which case you know what you have to do. ( see Pic 3). All you have to do then is remove the masking tape as much as possible from the male part and you're ready to go....

You can see from Pic 3. That we are using the tympan as a sleeve under which we can add some text weight, or other paper/tissue, for control over the amount of impression that we want from the embossing pair...

**And off you go....** We would start with at least impression as possible and add more paper if needed to increase the amount of emboss that you want. You may also have to adjust the impression if you are using different thickness of paper for the one set of embossing pairs. If you are printing on a Heidelberg or similar, just increase or decrease the impression in the normal way.



### And when you're finished...

Just remove the plates from your press as normal. You may need a little more elbow grease to remove than with the standard letterpress printing plates because they have been under much more pressure than normal printing plates are. Just take your time, remove the plates carefully so that you don't damage them, if you are not careful you take the risk of breaking the male part..... and will have to order another if you plan on using the embossing pair again. The male resin part is quite strong and we have tested them against many thicknesses of paper and on many 100's impressions and they will hold up to a lot of work.

You may also lose the sticky mount because it will refuse to budge off the base and if you've mounted your male plate on to the tympan, you won't be able to rescue the sticky anyway, it's always worth carrying spare just in case....



We hope that you enjoy using our embossing plates. We are really happy with the results that can be obtained with careful set up and printing. We are always available for any questions that you may have.

Our embossing pairs have been developed for use by the small printer who may only have a small amount of items to print, in the 100s. This doesn't mean that with care they can be used for a long print run. We have successfully used the plates for runs of over 1000 just to make sure that they will be good for you.

Careful set up will make sure that you get the best out of your plates. by taking it easy until you get used to using them, will ensure that they will continue to be of service for a long time to come.