

# Heat Seal Machine Test Kit

## Why Test Your Heat Seal Machine?

- Sections of a transfer won't adhere
- Edges of transfers or lettering that pull up or don't adhere

There could be problems associated with a heat application that have absolutely nothing to do with the transfer manufacturer or the person applying the transfer. There may be an indicator that the heat seal machine is producing hot and cold spots. This can occur if the machine has inadequately spaced heating elements.

*(The Hotronix® line of heat seal machines offer more heating elements per square inch than any other manufacturer.)* What are cold spots? Those areas in the upper platen of a heat seal machine that cannot maintain the desired temperature. A machine that is set at 360° may have areas between heating elements or edges that can be up to 20° cooler.

## Causes of Hot and Cold Spots

- Too sparse placement of heating elements
- Warped platens caused by over heating beyond 500°
- Cracks in the bottom rubber pad
- Bent platens caused by dropping the machine
- Insufficient thickness of heat platen
- Ineffective and inaccurate heating element designs.

*For example, cal rods are just placed on top rather than cast into the platen.*

## Directions

- Test for even heat and temperature accuracy using the enclosed temperature strips.
- Test for even platen pressure at the same time, using the four pieces of paper.



### SET THE TEMPERATURE

at 360°F; 182°C  
at a medium pressure.  
#5 on Hotronix®



### REMOVE TEMPERATURE STRIPS

from paper backing and position them on the lower platen as indicated.



### POSITION PIECES OF PAPER

in the four corners of the lower platen with part of the paper hanging off the edge.



### HEAT

for 8 seconds at medium pressure. While the upper platen is locked into place, try to pull the four pieces of paper out from between the platens.



### CHECK PRESSURE RESULTS

Pieces of paper that come out, indicate uneven pressure and/or a warped platen. Inaccurate heat application and ruined garments could result if not properly adjusted.



### CHECK TEMPERATURE RESULTS

Strips blacken to show the temperature of the platen area tested. Strips that do not appear similar are evidence of differences in platen temperature.

## Solutions for Hot and Cold Spots

- Replace the rubber pad if it has rips, tears or cracks which may be preventing even heat. Use a Teflon® pad protector to prevent wear and tear of the rubber pad.
- Replace the upper platen in the heat seal machine if it is warped, although this will not solve your problems if the heat seal machine is poorly designed.
- Consider replacing your heat seal machine with one that has a thicker platen and more heating elements, such as a Hotronix® heat seal machine.

All technical information and recommendations are based on tests we believe to be reliable. However, we cannot guarantee performance for conditions not under manufacturer's control. Before using, please determine the suitability of product for its intended use. The user assumes all risk and liability whatsoever in connection with the use of this product. Seller's and manufacturer's only obligation shall be to replace such quantity of the product proved to be defective by manufacturer.

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