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## Manual screen printing press

Finding the perfect screen printing press can be a daunting task due to the numerous options available. Many printers have been in your shoes before, and there are key factors to consider when making a decision. When choosing a screen printing machine, space and budget come into play. If you're operating from a limited space, such as a kitchen or spare room, a table top press may be the way to go. The Riley Hopkins 150 is an excellent option for those starting out or looking to get their foot in the industry. Its compact size makes it ideal for small shops and spaces. On the other hand, if you have a bigger budget and plan to print large quantities of multi-color prints, the Riley Hopkins 250 may be the better choice. This press features advanced XY and tilt micros, making registration a breeze. The base can easily attach to any table or press cart for added mobility. Alternatively, investing in a full-sized screen printing machine offers durability and long-term reliability. These presses are built to last and can withstand heavy use. However, this may require a larger budget and more space. Ultimately, the size of your press is less important than the size of your creativity. As Amanda Dunigan, owner of Salt & Pine Co., once said, "It's not the size of your press that matters, but the size of your passion." The number of colors you can print on your screen printing machine depends on how many stations it has. If you have more stations, you can do more and it costs more. It's a good idea to think ahead about the designs you'll be printing. If you want to print CMYK colors, you'll need at least four color heads because each head can only hold one screen for one color. Planning is key - if you're just printing simple block text or single-color designs, you might not need as many stations. Most printers choose between a 4 and 8 color machine, which allows them to print versatile designs and even do multiple jobs at once. If you have a lot of colors, you'll want to add more stations too, because each one lets you work faster. You should also consider having an extra station for flashing, especially if you're printing white under-bases or other special effects. The more stations you have in between, the less time you'll waste waiting for shirts to dry and come back to you. If you want to print four-color designs, a 4 color 2 station machine is a good choice. If you want faster printing with even less waiting, consider getting a 6 color 4 station or an 8 color 6 station machine. It's okay to start small and expand later - many screen printers do just that. Buying quality equipment from the beginning can save you money in the long run because you'll never need to upgrade again. Joey Avila, owner of Avila Design Company, started out with a simple one-color machine and eventually upgraded to a bigger press. Joey's Upgrade: From Manual to Automatic Press Joey, a screen printer, upgraded his press from a manual to an automatic one after discovering a used Riley Hopkins WIN Series 6X4 on the Rogue Printers Facebook Group. The local shop selling it, United State Print Co., was upgrading to an auto and selling their manual press. Joey chose the 6X4 due to its more stations, allowing him to complete jobs quicker. The Importance of Equipment Upgrades Upgrading your equipment can help you land high-profile jobs by having quality presses that work as hard as you do. Even large shops still use manual presses for small jobs. If you don't want to keep your old press, you can sell it through various methods. Manual vs Automatic Presses Intention is key when choosing a screen printing machine. A manual press is suitable for small businesses or individuals who start with one-color/one-station table top presses and expand to eight-color/eight-station floor presses. It's perfect for beginners and intermediate printers. Automatic presses, on the other hand, cost more, take up more space, and output high volumes. They are a good option when you plan to print large quantities or have a lot of space available. Before making a decision, research and set goals for your business. Choose a reputable brand like Riley Hopkins that provides quality manual presses that can last through expansions. Having sufficient time to run a longer print job makes manual printing sensible. Sometimes, shops with automatic presses can't meet customer demand or produce orders that aren't needed due to minimum quantity requirements. Manual screen-printing is done entirely by hand, allowing for adjustments and color changes while ensuring solid coverage. While equipment longevity is good, manual presses require more physical effort than automatic ones, including lifting and bending. Production time is longer, and you might need to hire more employees to keep up with orders. However, manual printing can be a reliable process that stands the test of time and is easy to understand. Automatic screen printing typically occurs when a business experiences rapid growth, making it necessary to manage increased orders efficiently. Buying an automatic press requires careful consideration and a solid understanding of your business needs. While higher turnaround times are often cited as a benefit, you should also weigh other factors such as the ability to handle large versus small orders and potential fluctuations in customer demand. Before making the switch to automatic printing, make sure you're in the right place. Your distributor can help break down costs and guide you on whether it's time to go automatic. Discuss manufacturers, color capabilities, hidden costs like freight and setup fees, spare parts, employee training, and how your current equipment will handle the change. For example, will your dryer keep up with increased demand or do you need a larger one? If you decide to go automatic, expect higher production, consistent quality, and expanded market reach. However, take caution and consider if you can afford it, whether other equipment needs upgrading, and if production warrants the upgrade. We supply manual screen printing presses from Riley Hopkins Jnr and M&R, which are leading brands in the industry. If you need advice on choosing a press, contact our team to discuss your requirements. Our showroom features a range of manual presses available for self-assembly or professional installation with a small additional fee. For more information, feel free to get in touch by phone, email, or webchat. The Kruzer Manual Screen Printing Press is M&R's most popular model, offering rugged construction and innovative design at an affordable price. It comes with features like heavy-duty tapered roller bearings, machine-tooled carousels, and a three-point pallet levelling system. Available in 6-colour/4-station or 8-colour/4-station models, the Kruzer press includes side clamp screen holder and solid aluminium pallets as standard. centre shaft PALLET SYSTEM Precise three-point pallet levelling system with solid-aluminium, low-profile, rubber-coated pallets for standard sizes interchangeable with M&R automatic presses.