

## mitech news

A new pine plantation in the beautiful South West of Western Australia



In this edition:

- Press cushions
- Melamine pressing challenges  
Part 1: Machinery

### Greetings to all for this May News Letter edition

We start with congratulations to all for pressing on through the pandemic times. We are all in this together, and together we survive

### Delayed shipments



We remind again!  
Please plan and order in advanced with contingency allowances for vessel cancellation or departure delays!

And we thank those who have selflessly assisted customers for supplies, and who in some cases were competitors

## Press cushions (or pads)

Our press pad service has been extremely successful, but we want to convince more lamination companies! A special thank you to those who methodically record press cycles until detection of panel surface deterioration. Thereby providing valuable feedback to us. We believe the value of our press cushions is sufficient enough to justify replacement periodically before problems become noticeable



I take this chance again to re-introduce our press pads (press cushion) services for lamination presses.

## MAX Press Pads



These press pads satisfy all the usual performance criteria.

- Uniform heat transfer
- Excellent pressure compensation
- Long lifetime
- Good tensile strength
- Dimensional stability
- Heat resistance
- “Window-frame” resistance

The original offer remains to all new customers for **one free cushion supplied in a first order**

## Press cushions for HPL

Traditionally disposable kraft is used between platen and plate for pressure distribution. Why not try our durable silicon and copper woven press cushions designed for HPL pressing conditions: High pressure with uniform, moderate heat transfer.

**For new customers one cushion can be supplied free of charge to test before an order**

## Short cycle melamine pressing challenges

The production of high quality engineered wood panels is a rewarding process for many. Especially in the short cycle melamine press process.

All the research, technology, engineering and maintenance comes together in the production of perfect panels

**But we have all experience that frustration:.... everything was travelling just fine but now there is a problem!**



Typically: The schedule is tight. In order to analyse the problem it is inevitable that rejects mound up. The company needs production and low downgrade. You try to maintain the supervisor's discipline of the measured check-list approach of an airline pilot!

Initially blame again is so often directed at the poor impregnated paper supplier! But the experienced presser acknowledges the many processes which need to be in control.



In fact, if the hundreds of process details which need to line up are listed, it is a wonder how we press at all!

I will list the ones which come to mind, from press to impregnated paper.

But this month we focus only on machinery

This article is not intended as a problem solver. If there are any questions we will try to assist or refer to one of our experts.

We also invite comments and debate

### **Hydraulics**

- Hydraulic pressure capacitor not reaching high pressure during the press cycle
- Slow pressure increase to high specific pressure (150N/cm<sup>2</sup>)
  - Usually specified <5 sec for older presses\
  - Or <3 sec for new presses

### **Press frames**

(Assuming they were accurately produced when new)

- Cracked - corners
- Broken or deteriorated insulation pads between cylinders and platen

### **Press platens**

- Unaligned horizontally – very unlikely if it is a sudden problem
- Distorted -very unlikely, if it is a sudden problem
- Insufficient thermal oil flow - hot or cold places in the platens

### **Press pads or cushions**

- Too thin or too low gsm
- Too old, hard or compressed
- Low quality since new

### **Press plates**

- Degraded chrome surface
- Too thin after refurbishing or re-texture grinding
- Mineral salts solids film on the plate surfaces from film process water
- Cured resin film on the plate surfaces
- Dented or damaged plates

Most experienced companies will know the symptoms of these process problems and how to isolate them as a cause.

Next editions we will discuss substrate and paper

Further comments on any item are available on request.

## Additives

discuss the

### Engineered wood panels

- Conveyors
- Chippers
- Resin plants
- Chip washers
- Plywood presses
- Mat Spray Systems

### Panel Lamination

- Paper impregnation lines
- Short Cycle Presses
- HPL Presses
- Veneer presses
- Press Pads
- Press Caul Plates
- Paper winders
- Paper Cutters
- Protective Foil application

- Release Agents
- Wetting Agents
- Hardeners
- Dyes and Pigments

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## An Experienced Wood panel machinery and materials supplier

We are a reputed wood panel machinery and associated materials supplier. Our years of experience in the market, dealing with various clients, each with unique requirements have driven us to increase knowledge and skill

We always endeavour to meet your expectations.

Contact us any time for any query related to our products. We are happy to assist you.