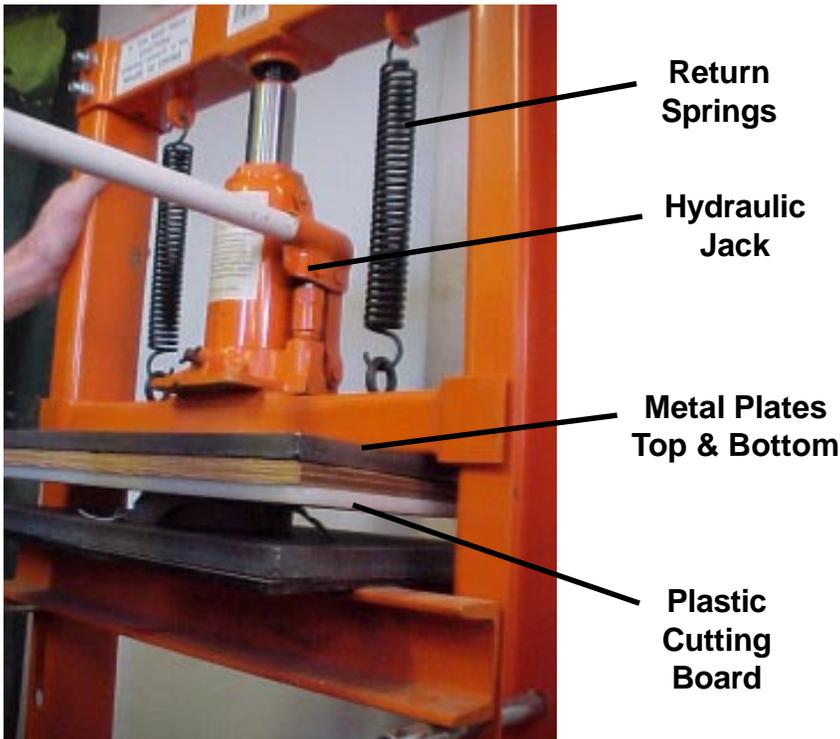


Arbor Press Adapted for Cutting Dies

Modifying a common Arbor Press makes a simple and inexpensive Hydraulic Clicker for cutting with Steel Rule Dies.

This is an entry level tool that can pay for itself in a very short time.



An Arbor Press can be purchased from most any automotive parts or tool supplier. They are used for pressing bearings and parts together with a smooth and consistent pressure, using a hand operated hydraulic jack.



1. Place material to be cut on the plastic cutting board.
2. Place the cutting die on the material with the sharp edge of the blade toward the plastic cutting board.
3. Hand Pump the hydraulic jack until the die cuts completely through the material.
4. Release the pressure of the jack, remove the pieces.



Example: Round Leather Lacing Die with sharp edge exposed after cutting.

Cutting edge completely visible shows that the pattern piece has been cut successfully.

Complex Pattern Pieces can be cut easily with great accuracy and consistency.

Arbor Press Adapted for Cutting Dies

Instructions: Modifying a Standard Arbor Press for use as a Hydraulic Clicker for Cutting Leather and Other Materials with Steel Rule Dies.

It is fairly simple to modify an arbor press for use with steel rule cutting dies. These are the basic requirements:

1. 2 metal plates 1" thick, will have to be welded to the Top & Bottom Cross Beams of the Arbor Press.
2. Use a 2" thick plastic cutting board as a cutting surface for the die to keep it sharp.



Instructions for Modifying

Weld each of the 1" metal plates to the top and bottom cross beams.

Position the Plastic Cutting Board on the top or bottom metal plate, depending on how you prefer to operate the press.

Top Cross Beam

This unit displays the Cutting Board mounted on the top plate for laying the cutting die face up and the leather on top of the die.

As an Alternative the Cutting Board can be laid on the bottom plate and used as a sliding table to move the work and cutting surface in and out easily.

Bottom Cross Beam

Parts List :

1. Standard Arbor Press with a minimum of a 25 Ton Hydraulic Jack. These presses come in many different sizes and tonnage ratings, 25 - 40 ton rating is sufficient for most types of leather.
2. 2 - 1" Thick pieces of plate steel cut to the width of the space between the uprights of the frame and a depth of 12" - 18", depending on the size of pattern pieces you plan to cut.
3. These two pieces should be cut from a larger plate and stress relieved with heat, then ground flat on both sides to insure that they are perfectly matched and not warped.
4. 1.5" - 2" Thick plastic cutting board. UHMW cutting boards make the best cutting surface.
(UHMW = Ultra High Molecular Weight)

Operating Guidelines :

1. It is important to center the cutting die directly under the jack for the most stable and best cut.
2. Adjust the table height for the thickness of the cutting die and the leather. Leave plenty of room for moving the work around to get proper placement in the center directly under the jack.
3. If the die does not cut completely through on the first try you may have to move it closer to the center under the jack and cut again.