Standard Operating Procedures
LECO Mounting Press

Introduction
This press is potentially dangerous. You must have training before use. It is possible to pinch and crush your fingers, to be struck in the eyes or elsewhere by flying particles if a mold or specimen breaks, and to jam a die with excessive pressure so that it can never be cured again.

Procedure
1. Turn on the power at the front of the mounting press. Turn the pressure knob clockwise while looking at the pressure gauge to make sure that there is some pressure to the mounting press. Start low, you can always increase the pressure. You will know if the pressure is too low if the ram will not raise.

2. Push the lever up to raise the ram at the top of the mounting press. When the ram rises above the top of the machine, clean any remaining bakelite crumbs from it using a wire brush.

3. When the ram and corridor are clean, with the ram raised above the top of the mounting press, position your sample on the ram.

4. Lower the ram below the level of the top of the machine and look down into the ram corridor for any other bakelite crumbs or debris. If any are present, repeat step 2.

5. Lower the ram so that you can see about 2 inches of the ram corridor. Then spray the ram corridor with silicone mold release spray.

6. Measure one full scoop (about 40 ml) into a small beaker and pour this into the ram corridor.

7. Now, put the lever in the down position and lower the ram all the way down.

8. Take the plug (narrow lid with handles) and thread it onto the ram corridor. Turn it until it stops, then back it off a ½ turn. Be aware that the plug is spring loaded. DO NOT OVER TIGHTEN!

9. Push the ram lever up and let the pressure increase as the ram raises. The mounting press should stop itself at 4200 psi (signified by a red dot). Leave the lever in the up position.

10. Be sure the timer is set to 9 minutes, and press the green button.

11. When the cycle ends, put the lever in the down position and lower the ram.

12. Take the lid off of the ram corridor. You have to push down on it before turning since it is spring loaded. If it seems stuck, go get help. DO NOT FORCE IT!

13. After removing the lid, put the lever in the up position and raise the ram until your sample appears. Remove your sample.

14. Repeat steps 2 and 3 to clean the mounting press.