**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 used again. DO NOT OPERATE MORE THAN 3 MOUNTING PRESSES SIMULTANEOUSLY.

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. Also clean any bakelite or debris from the threads on the outside of the ram corridor.
3. Lower the ram about 2 inches below the level of the top of the machine (2 inches below the threaded portion of corridor) and look down into the ram corridor for any other bakelite crumbs or debris. If any are present, repeat step 2. If not, spray the ram corridor with silicone mold release spray.
4. Raise the ram high enough to position your sample(s). Be sure that the specimen is oriented so that the surface you are interested in viewing is face down (in contact with the ram).
5. Lower the ram about 2 inches below the level of the top of the machine (2 inches below the threaded portion of corridor).
6. Measure one full scoop (about 40 ml) into a small beaker and carefully pour this into the ram corridor, trying not to disturb the sample(s) you have positioned.
7. 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 briefly to lower the pressure in the ram corridor.
12. THE RAM CORRIDOR LID WILL LIKELY BE WARM OR HOT. Carefully unscrew the plug 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 unscrewing the plug, put the lever in the up position and raise the ram, which will push the plug out of the corridor. Be ready to safely catch / collect it and place it in the holder. REMEMBER THE PLUG WILL LIKELY BE WARM. When the ram is in the up position, remove your sample.
14. Repeat steps 2 and 3 to clean the mounting press. Vacuum any debris or spilled bakelite from around the mounting press and window sill.