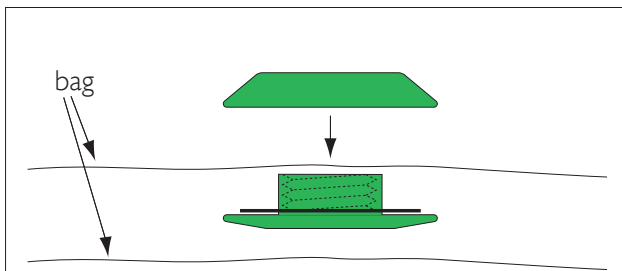


BAGPRESS

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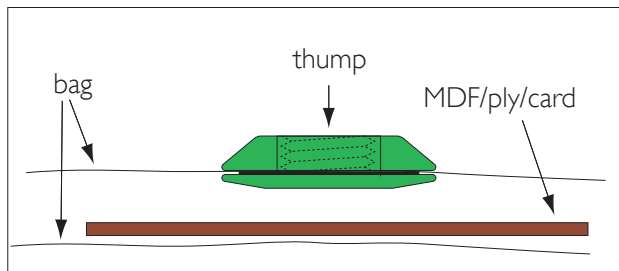
Thank you very much for purchasing a Bagpress Vacuum Press Kit.

Before you start - Please read through these instructions to familiarise yourself with the parts of your BAGPRESS kit and its mode of operation.



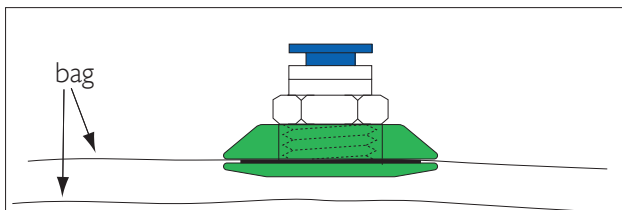
Step 1 - Fixing bag connector

The bag connectors are in two parts. Prise the top section off of the connector and position the bottom part with the rubber washer inside the bag. Lightly press the top part over it again, then trim the centre out of the bag material with a sharp knife.



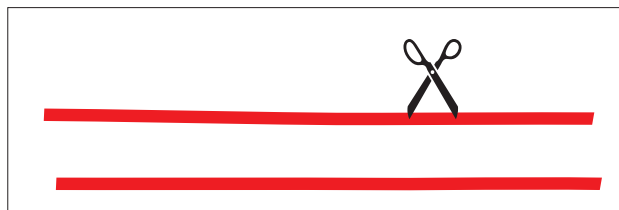
Step 2 - Fixing bag connector

Remove the top part of the connector again and seat the bag material neatly over the base. Place a thin sheet of MDF/ply/card inside the bag underneath the connector and then press or tap the top section of the connector down until it locks in place.



Step 3 - Fixing bag connector

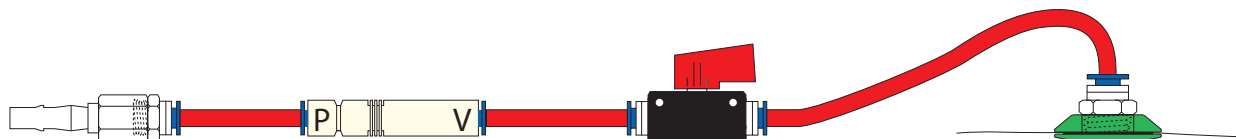
Remove the MDF/ply/vener. Wrap a turn or two of PTFE tape around the threaded part of one of the push-fit tube connectors and screw it into the green bag connector until finger tight. The bag is now ready to go.



Step 4 - Cut tube to length

You should have either one or two lengths of red tubing. If you have the pneumatic kit you will need to cut a short section off of one of them but the exact length is up to you. You should probably aim to keep the tube between the bag and the shut off valve fairly short.

Vacuum Line



Connection to your compressor, vacuum pump assembly, or MiniPress

Vacuum Generator (pneumatic kit only)

Valve (pneumatic kit only)

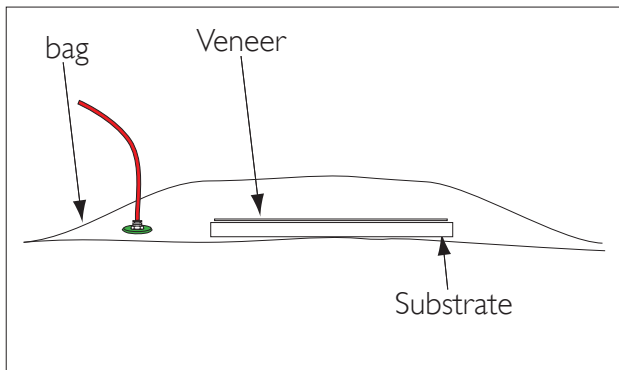
Step 5 - Assemble vacuum line

You can now assemble the vacuum line. The layout above represents the most common configuration for one bag operation.

To release the tubing from any of the pneumatic fittings simply pull back the collar on the fitting and pull the tube out.

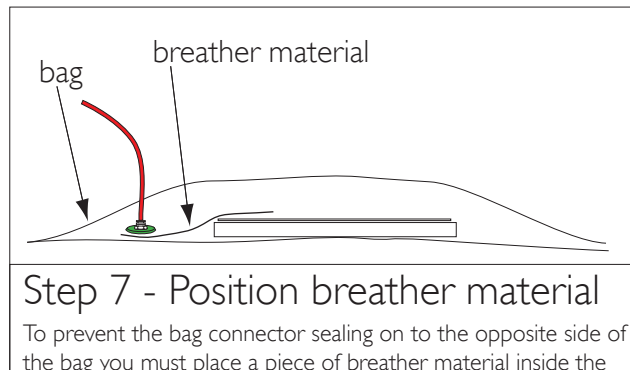
PLEASE NOTE: THE PNEUMATIC VACUUM GENERATOR MUST BE FITTED IN THE ORIENTATION SHOWN !

BAGPRESS



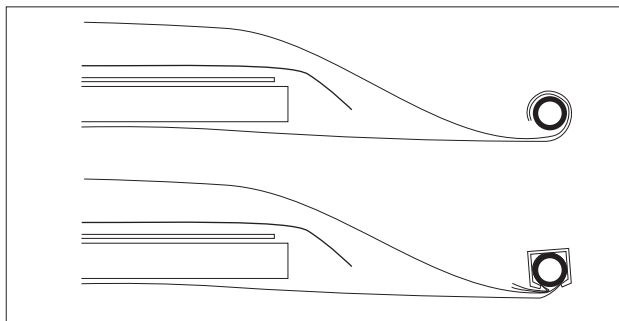
Step 6 - Preparing work piece

When applying the glue to your substrate it is very important that it is spread evenly across the whole surface. Place the veneer onto the glued substrate and place in the bag.



Step 7 - Position breather material

To prevent the bag connector sealing on to the opposite side of the bag you must place a piece of breather material inside the bag leading from the connector to the work piece. With a large work piece also run some across the top or underneath to the furthest point from the connector.



Step 8 - Seal the bag

Remove as much air as you can from the bag and wrap the open end of the bag around the white plastic tube part of the sealing strip. Then clip it all the way along inside the outer part of the sealing strip. The bag is now sealed and ready for evacuation.



Step 9 - Evacuate the bag

If you have a bag fitted with the optional rapid evacuation port you can remove the bulk of the air inside the bag using a vacuum cleaner or dust extractor. You can now start removing the remaining air from the bag. With our professional electric systems use the footswitch to control the pump, leaving both hands free to ensure everything is lining up inside the bag and that the bag material is not getting trapped between the layers and the mould.

Hints & Tips

- The pneumatic vacuum generator sucks hardest when fed at around 4.5 bar. There is no point using higher pressure than this as it just wastes air. If you go above 6.5 bar it will actually reduce suction.
- All the push fit connectors release the tubing when the coloured collar is pulled back towards the body of the connector. You should never have to force the tubing out but if it is a little stiff then twisting it as you pull usually helps.
- Try to avoid very sharp edges on the work piece. If this is impossible then try to wrap some breather fabric or thick tape over them to protect the bag from puncture. If you do get a puncture during a pressing DON'T PANIC! It is the easiest thing in the world to stop a leak INTO a vacuum when you are on the side where the pressure is. Any sort of insulating or gaffa tape will do. Also make sure that there is plenty of bag material to be sucked into angles as this prevents excess strain on the bag material and prolongs the life of the bag.
- Extruded polystyrene foam is ideal for making moulds and formers as it can be shaped very easily, is extremely light and results in no wear and tear on cutting tools. Stick it to a 9mm mdf baseboard and apply a 'skin' of thin plywood or plastic to toughen up the surface. This makes a very strong and very light former. You can also stick a thin plywood or plastic skin onto the foam to increase the surface toughness. We stock foam in blocks up to 150mm thick and measuring 600mm x 2438mm. Call us for pricing and availability of specific sizes.
- Remember that we also offer a CNC mould making service using high density polystyrene. Just send us the dimensions and we can give you an instant quote allowing you to build the fixed cost of tooling into your quotations.
- If when laminating curved shapes you find that layers aren't following your former closely enough then it could be that the curves are just too tight or the layers you are trying to bend are too thick. Try using thinner ply/veneer and apply glue to both mating faces as this will help lubricate the layers as they slide past one another to adopt the required shape. You can also try building up to the finished thickness in several pressings instead of doing them all at once.
- When pressing very long items it is often easier to have the long side of the bag open. We can supply bags in any size but you can make your own using flat sheeting taped around the edges. The sealing strip is available in 3m lengths but for one offs you could just tape the bag shut.
- If you want to speed up cure times you can use an old electric blanket laid over the top of the work piece.
- If you have any questions or ideas please contact us. We rely on your input to develop our products.