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Cricut Heat Press Badging Guide

The Beginners Guide to Cricut EasyPress 3

A heat press is a great way to create customized gifts, merchandise, and media for promoting your group, cause, artwork, business, or school. As a patron of the Ascension Parish Library system, you have access to learning on a variety of equipment and software, available at our Donaldsonville Makerspace! This includes the Cricut Easypress Heat Press. To have the option to reserve Makerspace equipment patrons must take a badging class and pass the practical exam to earn a badge for each equipment or software.

This guide will teach you how to:

- Operate the Cricut EasyPress
- Apply various materials using the heat press

Need to Know

Before you begin, let's review the badging "need to knows" so you can add that Heat Press Badge to your Makerspace repertoire. Materials you will want to review for the badging practical exam are available on the APL Makerspace webpage in detail and include:

- This badging manual's equipment and station specific content
- Makerspace equipment and station reservation process procedures
- Makerspace check-in, clean-up, close-down, and check-out procedures
- Materials Consumables Fees documents; procedures for acquiring and purchasing materials (not scrap)
- Location of branch-specific clean-up and safety equipment (e.g. broom, fire extinguisher, eye and hearing protection, first-aid kits).
- Makerspace User Agreement and Release of Liability
- APL & Makerspace Policies, Procedures and Safety Rules

Begin by reading through this badging manual, the library and Makerspace policies and procedures, and review the pathways to Badging. Next, sign up for a badging class with the equipment you are interested in. Search and register for classes on the [Library Events Calendar](#).

Please note, completing the quiz or a class DOES NOT result in a badge. To complete the badging process, patrons must pass an in-person lab practical in the Makerspace. It is recommended that

patrons review the relevant online material in addition to attending a badging class prior to reserving a date and time to complete their lab practical to receive their badge. Reservations must be made 48 hours (about 2 days) in advance of the date and time being requested, whether patrons are reserving time to take their badging practical or reserve time on equipment or software after becoming badged. This ensures library staff have time to reference and approve requests.

Safety

Cricut EasyPress 3 Safety

General safety procedures for operating in a shared space or lab should be followed when operating the APL Heat Press machine.

- Keep fingers and loose threads/strings away from the surface area of the heating pad and platen. If caught in the machine, you could be seriously injured. Pull back and secure hair, jewelry, long sleeves, and loose clothes.
- Clear the workstation of unnecessary or flammable materials.
- DO NOT use or place drink containers, liquids, flammable items, or any other objects near the heat press. This also applies to closed bottles or thermoses.
- Move power cords out of the way of the heat press machine
- Clear the floor of bags and power cords so others do not trip

NOTE: Determine where the fire extinguisher and first aid kit are in the Makerspace. The Cricut EasyPress operates at very high temperatures that can result in burns and other injuries. The surface area around and under the heat press machine also gets very hot. At the Donaldsonville Branch Makerspace, the Cricut EasyPress comes with a ceramic plate and stand that also gets hot when the machine is in use. The Cricut EasyPress should be returned to its Safety Base when it is not in use. Similar to leaving a hot iron in one place too long, the Cricut EasyPress should not be applied in the same place longer than recommended. Additionally, be sure fabrics and base materials are dry when using the Cricut EasyPress.

Cricut EasyPress 3

Equipment



The Cricut EasyPress combines the versatility and portability of an iron with the speed of a heat press. The Cricut EasyPress3 has a 12" x 10" (30 cm x 25 cm), heat press pad size, or project press area.



Source (Cricut)

Due to the portability of the Cricut EasyPress, there is no permanent heating surface. Instead, the EasyPress is accompanied by an Insulated Safety Base and a multi-layered, flexible Cricut EasyPress Mat. The mat directs heat to the HTV while absorbing moisture, protecting the workstation surface.

NOTE: The EasyPress Mat is one-sided. Be sure the correct side is facing up while the EasyPress is in operation. DO NOT leave the EasyPress on the EasyPress Mat for extended periods of time, as it can damage the mat and cause discoloration. Lastly, keep the mat flat to extend its useful life.

The Cricut EasyPress3 can operate at temperatures as high as 400°F (205°C). The time and temperature are adjustable using the LCD screen on the control panel. Between presses and post-press, it should be placed back in the Insulated Safety Base.

To operate the portable Cricut EasyPress3, place the EasyPress Mat under the surface layer of the base material and use the plastic handle, located on top of the machine, to move and press the HTV or infusible ink into the base material.



Materials

There are two major categories of heat transfer vinyl (HTV) sold and available at the APL Makerspace: hot or warm peel vinyl and cold or cool peel vinyl. The terms “hot”, “warm”, and “cold” refer to the temperature of the vinyl when the protective, plastic transfer film, or the carrier sheet, is “peeled” off and removed from the HTV post-press.

A cool peel requires the carrier sheet to be removed when the HTV has cooled completely. Removing the carrier sheet too early may result in the HTV not properly adhering to the material.

A warm peel requires the carrier sheet to be removed while the HTV is still warm, not hot, to the touch. With a warm peel, removing the carrier sheet too late may result in the HTV not properly adhering to the material.

Scrap HTV is separated into two different, labeled bags/containers at the APL Makerspace, one for cool peel and one for warm peel vinyl. Once the HTV is no longer in the original packaging, it is difficult to determine which pieces are cool vs. warm peel vinyl.

NOTE: When using scrap vinyl, be aware that people may mix materials into the wrong bags or bins. Apply either cool or warm peel to your projects if you are unsure which type of vinyl you have.

Check to make sure you have HTV vinyl and NOT sticker vinyl. HTV and sticker vinyl are easily distinguishable. Sticker vinyl will have a protective covering over the adhesive side that is removed once the sticker is placed on an object. HTV vinyl has the adhesive exposed and a protective carrier sheet covering the front side of the HTV material. There are many other specialty HTV materials; explore some at [Heat Press Nation](#). Additionally, the Cricut EasyPress3 can be used with infusible ink projects.

Determining your settings

When using the heat press, the temperature, time, and pressure settings are adjusted for: different HTV materials, and different project base materials (e.g. t-shirt, tote bag, pillowcase). Before determining your project settings:

- (1) Refer to the HTV manufacturer recommendations (if original packaging is available) or refer to suggested recommendations online. Different types of HTV have different recommended settings for temperature and time (e.g. glitter HTV vs. regular HTV). Furthermore, temperature and time settings for the same type of vinyl may vary slightly between manufacturers.


- (2) Research recommended temperature and time settings for the base material (e.g. cotton, cotton-polyester blend, silk, faux suede canvas, jeans).
- (3) For the Cricut EasyPress3, users must apply pressure manually.
- (4) Make it Easy with the Cricut EasyPress3 Heat Guide ([linked here](#)). Simply select the Heat-Transfer Material and Base Material from the drop-down menus and click APPLY. The recommended base material preheat time, operational temperature and press time, and peel time are provided immediately!

Once you have determined the settings for both the heat transfer vinyl and the base material, perform several test presses on a similar material as the base material. Record the test settings on the base material under the HTV using a fabric pencil. Test several combinations of temperature, time, and pressure until achieving a desired outcome. Once you have the right combination, begin your project. This process saves time, material, and money

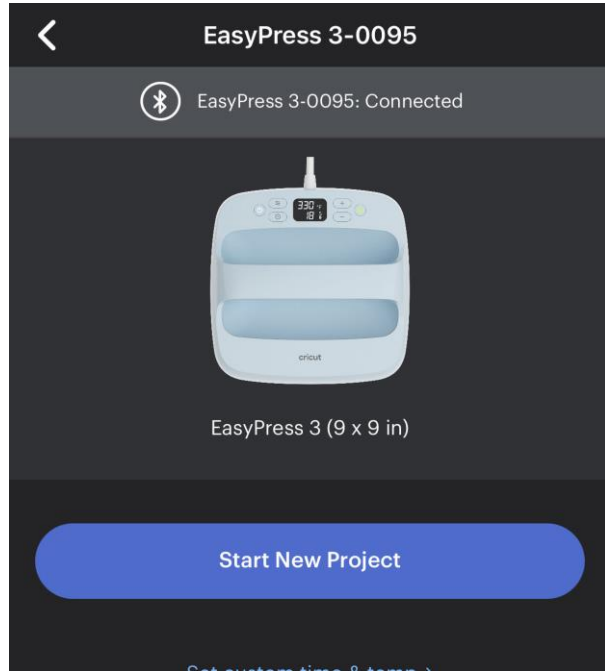
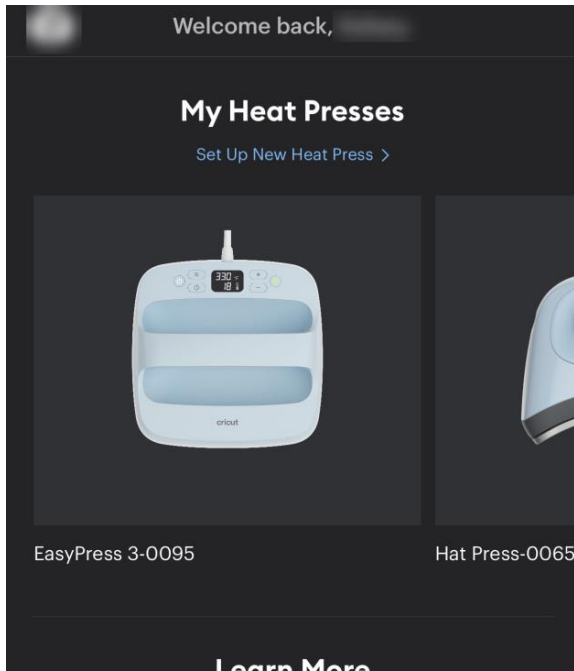
How to use Cricut EasyPress 3 with the Cricut Heat app

Once you've [activated Cricut EasyPress 3](#), use the Cricut Heat app to access or create settings for your projects, send settings directly to the press, and find detailed stacking, pressing, and care instructions for your projects! Here's how:

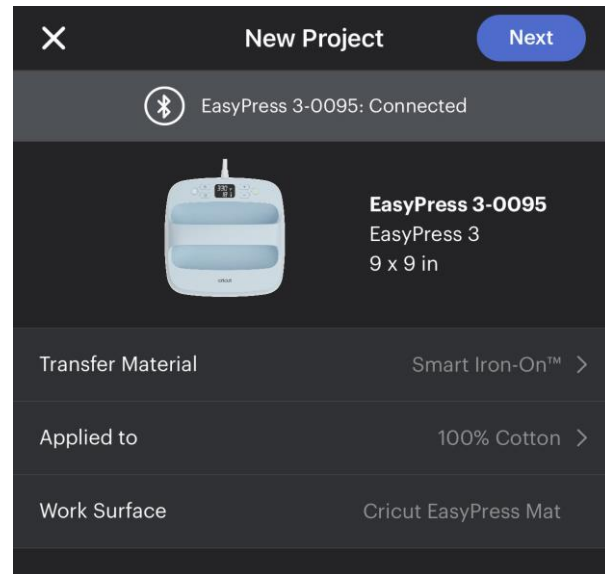
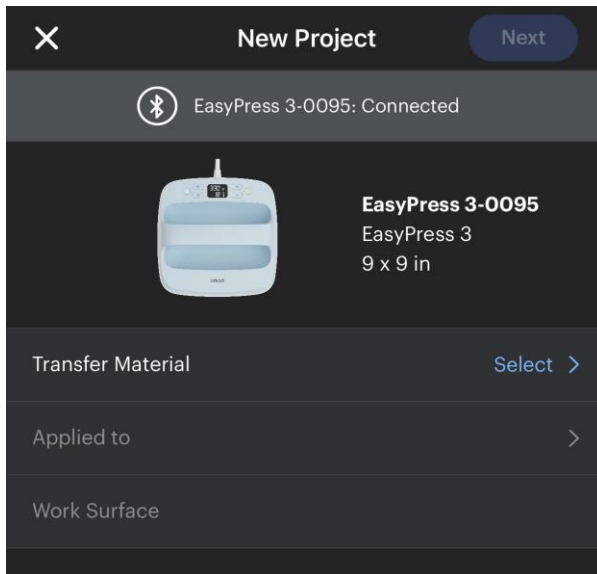
Send recommended time & temp settings to Cricut EasyPress 3

- Plug the unit into a compatible wall outlet and press the power button to turn it on.
- Open the Cricut Heat app. 

- Under My Heat Presses, select Cricut EasyPress 3, and select **Start New Project**.

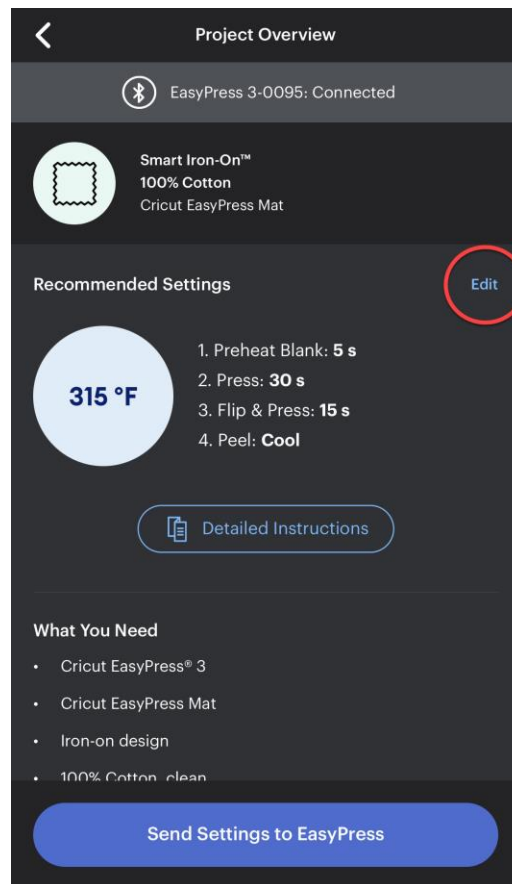


- Select your transfer material and the base material to which you will apply it, then select **Next**.




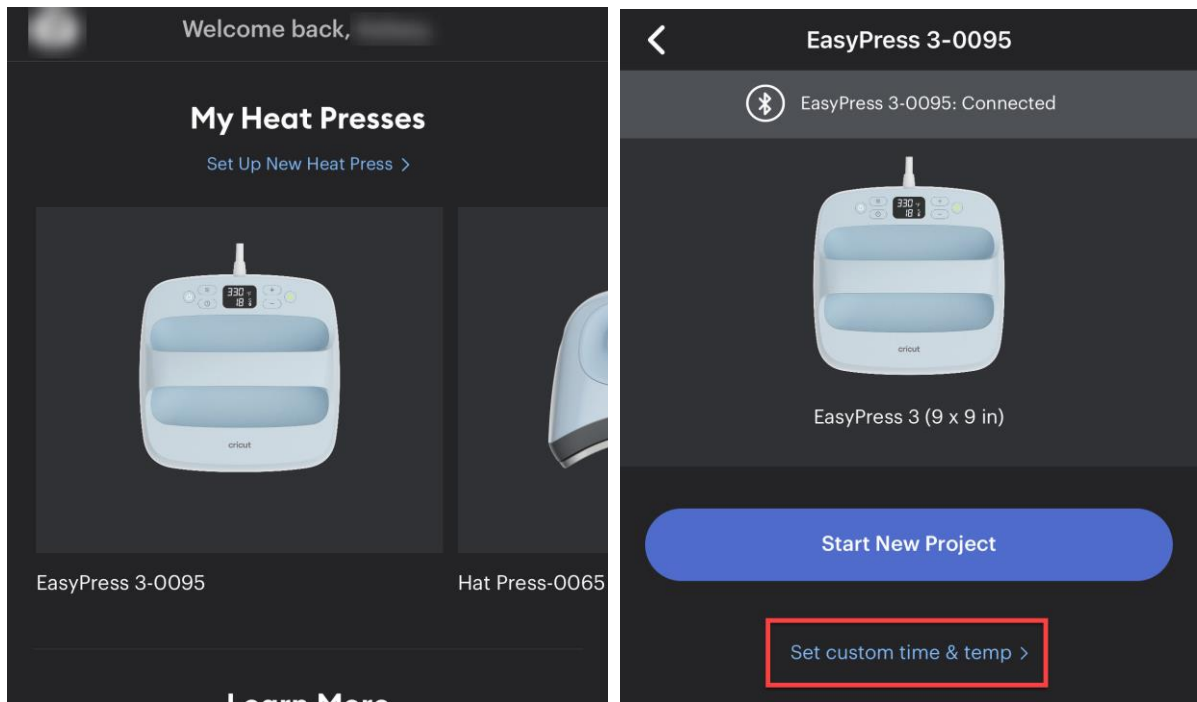
- Once all selections have been made, select **Send Settings to EasyPress** and follow the on-screen prompts to finish the project!

Note: If needed, select **Edit** to adjust the recommended settings.

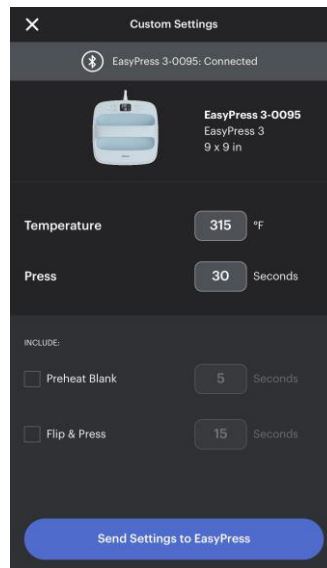


Set custom time & temp

- Open Cricut Heat app. 
- Under My Heat Presses, select the Cricut EasyPress 3 and scroll to the Set Custom Time & Temp option.

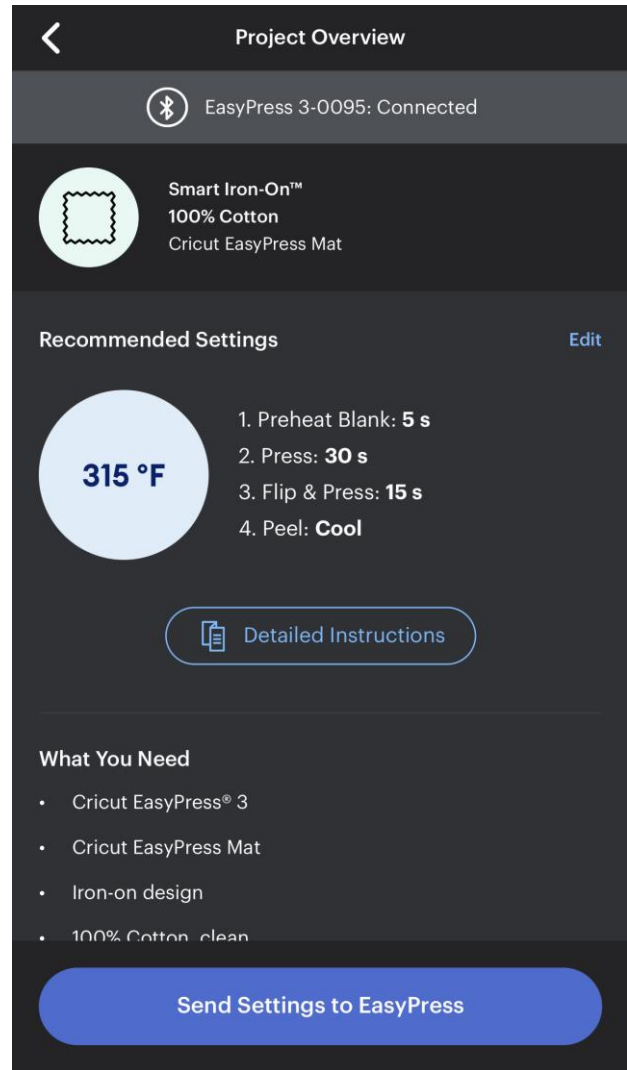
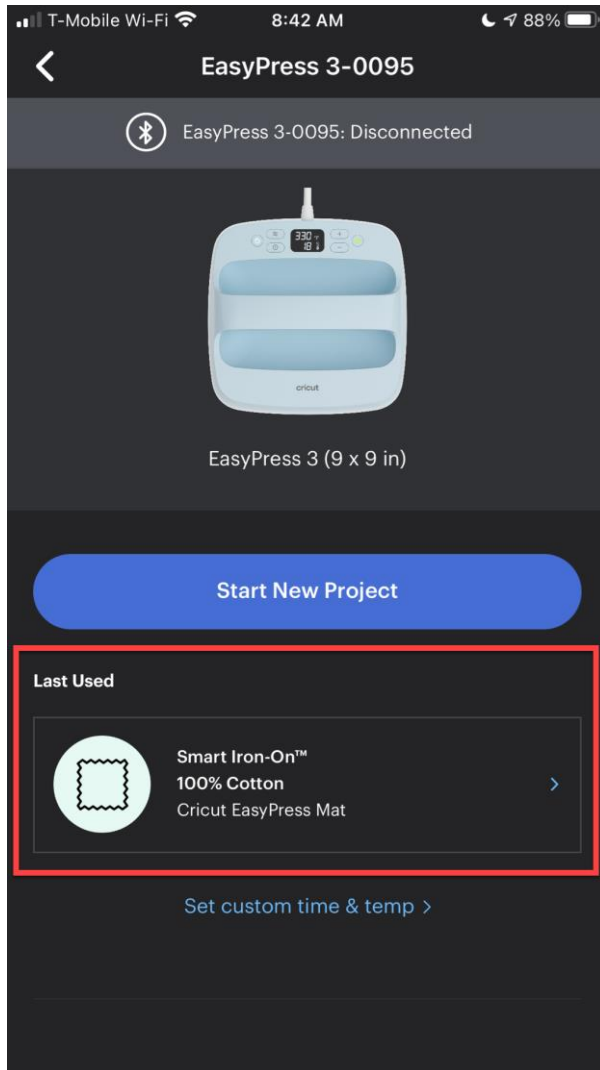


- Change the Temperature and Press time as desired. You can also select options to Preheat Blank and Flip & Press when pressing blanks that require these steps. When you're finished, select **Send Settings to EasyPress**.



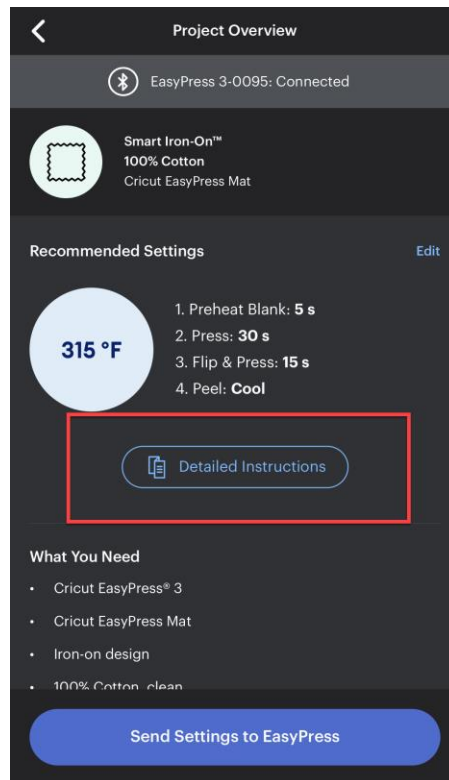
Last Used

The Cricut Heat App save your 3 most recently used settings for easy reference! Simply select the previously used setting and Send to EasyPress to save time when pressing commonly used materials.



Detailed Instructions

Cricut Heat app contains some detailed stacking and pressing instructions based on the transfer material and base material to which you'll apply it. Simply select **Detailed Instructions** on the Send Materials screen for more information.



Makerspace Workstation Closing Procedures

When your reservation time has ended, follow the closing procedures for ALL workstations. Maker culture and community rely on a shared value of leaving the Makerspace like you found it, or better.

Closing Checklist:

- Turn off the equipment.
- Place all salvageable materials in their appropriate bin (paper, cardboard, 3D filament (plastic), fabric, metal, wood, etc.)
- Recycle or throw away all the remaining non-salvageable scraps and materials. Be sure to place recyclable materials in their appropriate bin.
- Return all accessory tools used to their appropriate locations.
- Inspect all station equipment at the reserved workstation and ensure its functionality.
- Report any concerns to Makerspace staff immediately.
- If you used a Makerspace computer, log off your personal account only. DO NOT log off the workstation computers or shut them down.
- Clean the workstation. This may include: (1) using alcohol spray and a paper towel to wipe down the workstation table and chair(s), as well as equipment handles and buttons; and, (2) sweeping the workstation area of visible debris.
- Push Makerspace chairs and stools back under the workstation tables and ensure all electrical cords are tucked away so others will not trip over them.

Once the checklist is completed, check out with the Makerspace staff on duty so they can review/inventory the workstation and charge the total of consumables used to your LS2 account. If you are leaving earlier than your reserved time, and reserved time during Open Hours of Innovation, please let the staff member know so they can allow others to use the workstation.