How To Use a Hat Platen

Recommended Hat Types

- Single panel, white front mesh style "trucker" caps are best for DTG printing, such as Otto Cap's 32-468 model.
- Garment washed superior cotton twill six panel low profile dad hat style #: 19-098
- Polyester foam front square flat vison "otto snap" five panel pro style mesh back trucker snapback hat Style #:164-1190

Pretreating Hat

- Use the Wagner spray gun provided with your FreeJet printer to apply pretreatment fluid appropriate for the material on the hat area to be printed. Its recommended you lower the flow using the turning knob on the trigger. Lowering the flow will give you better control and will be easier to apply the pretreatment.
- The Otto Cap 32-468 model example mentioned above has a white polyester foam front, so our Gamut Light Polyester pretreatment fluid would be used.
- Garment washed six panel Style #19-098 is a 100% cotton hat so Dark cotton pretreat will be used.

Drying Pretreatment

- Hat heat press recommended -- heat gun, conveyor dryer, or air drying overnight are also options
- Hat / cap press should be set to 320 degrees for 90 seconds single press.

Placing Image in DirectRip

1. Open image in Direct RIP
2. Image should be no larger than 4.25 x 2.5 area.
3. Position should be set to Top Center.
4. Margin should be set starting at 3 inches from the top.

Loading Platen on Printer

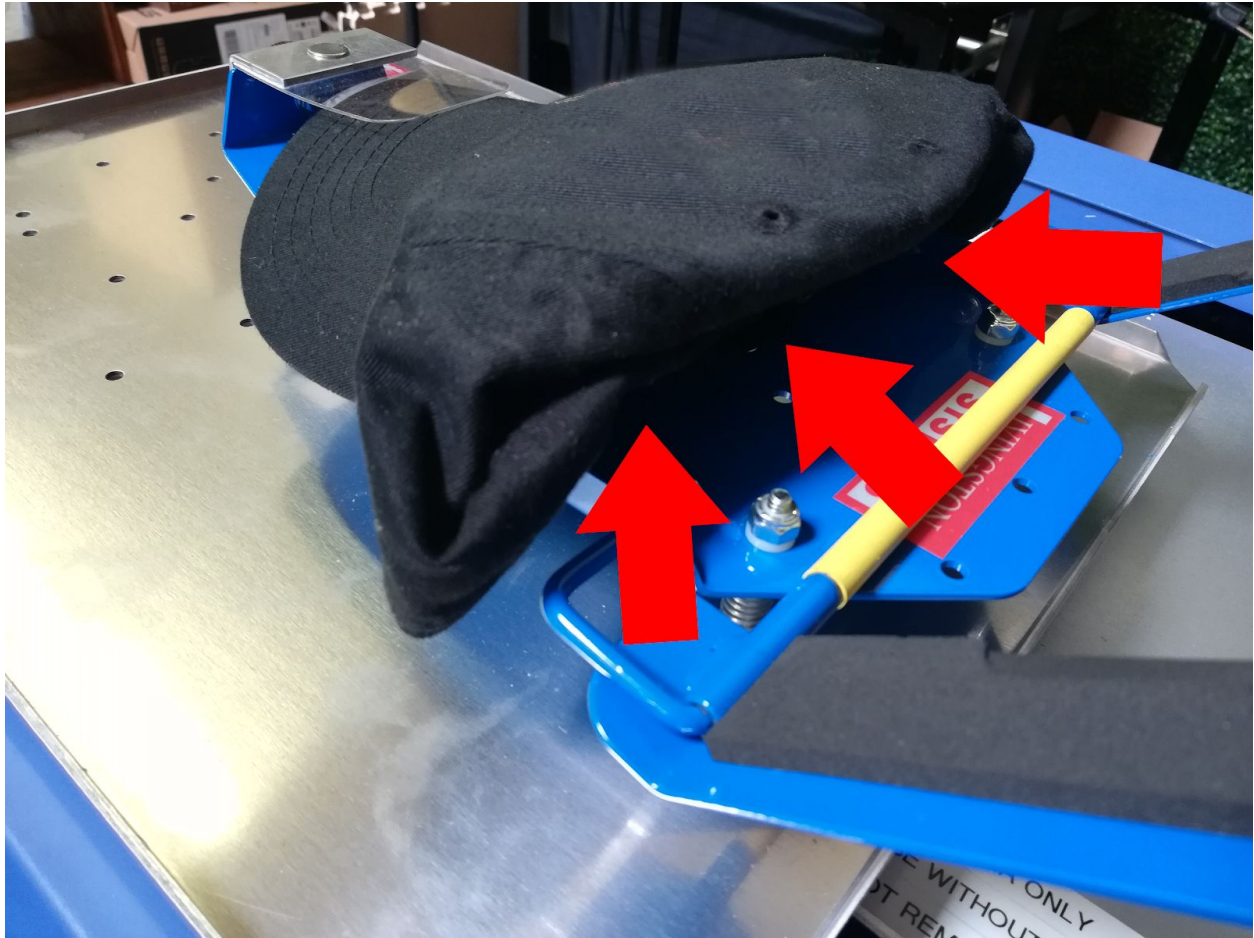- Attach hat platen to printer table and square platen to rails at front right corner.

Loading Hat onto Platen

1. Open hat platen

2. Tuck inner hat bill underneath the clear bill retainer.

3. Push the top crown of the hat over the printing plate and tuck it behind the plate, making the printing surface as flat as possible

4. Pull the hat platen cover down and lock it into position. You will feel the two magnets lock into place when its pulled shut. Tuck Hat more as needed to create a flat printing surface
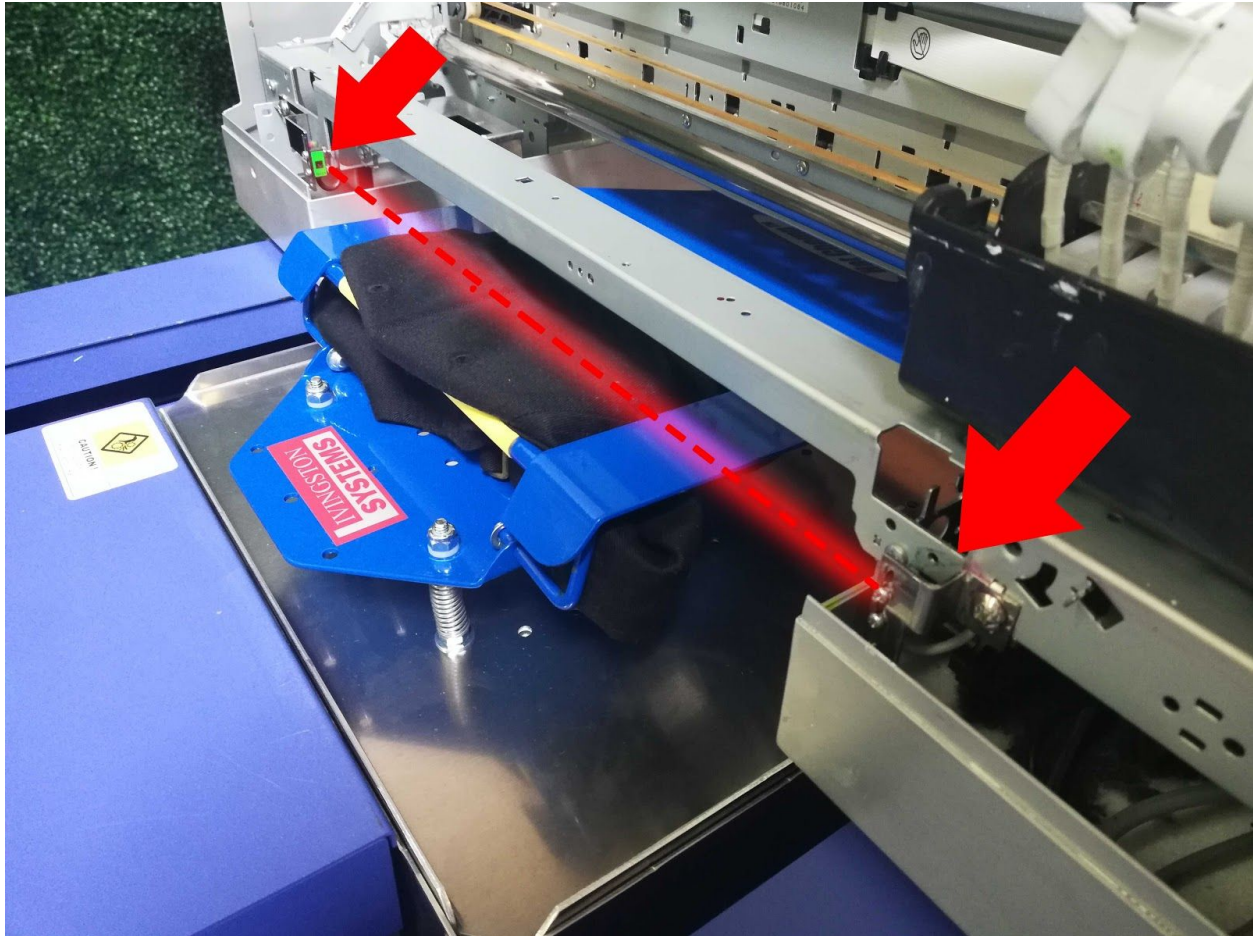
Hat Champ™

Setting Platen Height

**********DO NOT USE AUTO HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT WHEN USING HAT PLATEN*********
************Always set the height manually. ************

● Use 'Front' and 'Back' buttons on the FreeJet control panel to align the height sensor
lasers with the hat's printing surface

- If the printing surface isn't perfectly fat, be sure to align the lasers with the highest point of the printing area to avoid head strikes.
- Use 'Up' button to set platen height, the use 'Function' + 'Up' to release the print head from its capped position and carefully move it over the hat's printing surface while observing the space between the hat and the print head to ensure there will be no head strike when printing
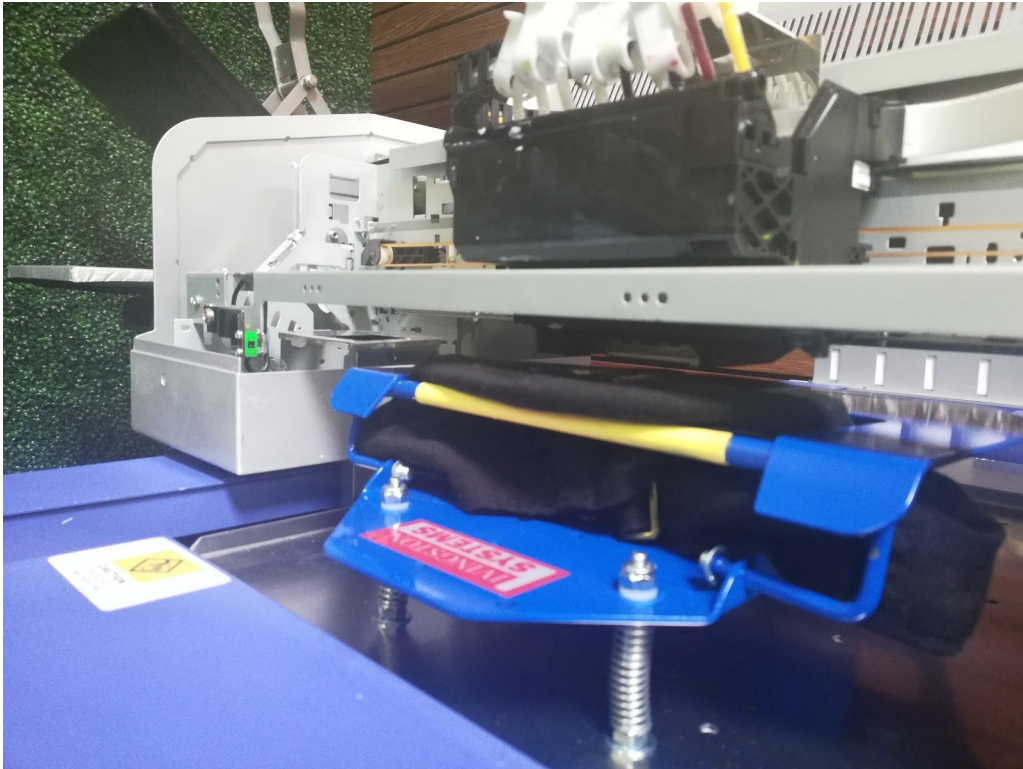
Close up of head released over the hat.

Printing Hat

- Send printer gantry to the front Print Ready position using the 'Standby' button
- Click the 'Print' button in DirectRip's Q-Rip window

Curing Ink

- Use heat of 330-degrees for 90 seconds if using a hat / cap press.
- a heat gun or conveyor dryer can also be used but can vary in times and temperatures. It's always recommended to use a hat/cap press to properly cure the inks.