

# Instructions for Printing on the Chandler & Price Pilot Press

## Typesetting, Preparation & Printing

1. Review proper typesetting techniques in Chapters Three and Four in "For The Love of Letterpress" by Saunders & Chiplis and in the introduction to "Letterpress NOW" by Jessica C. White.
2. Write out the text you intend to set. Browse the collection for typefaces that will work aesthetically to communicate your message. Always **count your sorts** (are there enough letters to spell your message) before you begin setting. Look for the correct spacers and pre-cut leading on the blue cart.
3. Use a composing stick set to the width of your form plus a little extra space. For example, if your widest line of type will measure 15 picas, set your stick to 16 picas. Hold the stick as shown.
4. Set an em quad first, nick facing up, then set your first (top) line of type. Spell as you normally would, but place each letter upside down. Finish each line with another em quad.
5. Always place large spacers on the outside edges, smaller spacers inside. Remember to place leading of the same length between lines. Your goal is to set a form with straight, flush edges that can easily be tied up with string.
6. Fill the galley tray around your tied form with wooden furniture and slugs according to the



template provided. Do not use fine leading, brass or copper at this stage. Leave room for two quoin keys and gently remove your string. Set the chase down around the form, then place the quoin keys. Tighten gradually and use the leveling block and mallet to level the form. As you lift the chase up by the top corners, check to see if any part of the form slips out. If so, set it back down, open the quoins, and add copper and brass or other spacers as needed to secure the form. When using the quoin key, be careful not to over tighten the quoins. This may cause damage to furniture or type.



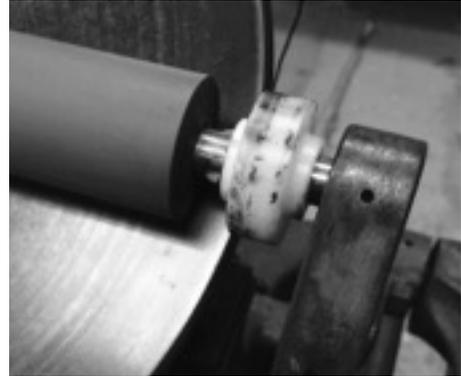
7. Proof the form by hand using water-based ink on newsprint with barren/spoon—cleaning up with baby wipes. Then make any necessary adjustments to the form and proof again. Check your spelling!
8. Once you have a final proof, cut or gather printing paper. You'll need anywhere between 15-25 sheets of text weight paper depending on the edition size. Check specific instructions for your project.
9. When it's time to print, secure long hair and wear closed-toe shoes. Wear gloves when mixing ink and using solvents. Wear a respirator as needed. Check the platen press to be sure the tympan has been recently replaced, platen pressure adjusted and Kort guides placed. Ask your instructor before printing.
10. Before inserting the chase into the press, mix about a half dollar-sized amount of ink with a drop of cobalt drier. Wearing gloves, use the tap out method to test the color. The Pantone color guide can help you mix custom colors. Use the recipe on each swatch to mix your desired color, reading the numbers as percentages of the total. You can mix and store your



ink ahead of time by wrapping it in tin foil. If you mix/store it, do not add the drier until it's time to print.

11. Locate the trucks and the pilot rollers under the press. Assemble and carefully load them into the roller arms. Get help so you don't pinch your fingers!

12. Lower the rollers and smear a very small amount of ink (about 1/3 of total) onto the disk. Begin pulling the long handle of the press towards you and slowly release it again, causing the disk to turn and the ink to spread each time. Keep pulling until the ink seems evenly distributed across the disk. Use a controlled pull—do not allow the handle to simply drop back on its own.



13. Pick up the chase at the top corners and carefully slide it in place against the vertical platen. Secure it using the lever and rubber cap. Pull the handle to ink the form, **but take care not to print on the tympan**. When the form is inked, pull a few proofs on newsprint,

adjusting the amount of backing paper & ink as needed (remember to remove the chase if you add ink).

14. After printing a proof on your good paper, check registration and impression quality. Adjust backing paper, ink quantity, guide placement or furniture as needed. Swap out any worn letters which are not printing. Add a backing sheet as needed to adjust the strength of the impression. Check your spelling again!
15. Be sure there is space on the drying rack for your prints before moving on. Print your edition, adding ink as needed to maintain a consistent impression.

---

### Clean Up

1. Gather solvent from the Vandy press cabinet, along with baby oil, simple green, ink scrapers, the black-bristled type-cleaning brushes, baby wipes, two phone books and plenty of paper towels. Wear gloves, use a respirator if needed, and turn the classroom ventilation system on high (the control dial is on the wall under the paper towel dispenser).
2. Remove the chase & place it on the glass. Pour a small amount of solvent on the black-bristled brush. Use it to lightly scrub, loosening the ink on the form, then wipe the type clean with a paper towel. Check the counters, beads and shoulders of the type. When the form is clean & dry, set it aside. You can put everything away when the press and rollers are clean.
3. Remove the rollers and trucks and set each roller on a phone book. Roll off the excess ink on the phone books, then drizzle some solvent on a paper towel and rub the rollers clean. Be sure you are wearing gloves!
4. Use phone pages and solvent-saturated paper towels to clean the press disk. Be sure to place all of these paper towels into the red safety can under the counter.
5. Wrap the rollers in paper and put the trucks away under the press.
6. Turn to a clean phone book page and use scrapers, baby oil, then simple green to clean the glass counter. If you mixed too much ink, save the rest in a tin foil pouch.
7. Return your type, spacers, slugs and leading to the proper drawers.
8. Survey your awesome prints in satisfaction. :)