VOMATEX GERMANY

KNOWLEDGE BASE

How to cover industrial ironing tables and presses

MADE IN GERMANY

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Knowledge Base: How to cover industrial ironing tables and presses

Basic information

The durability of the covering is depending on different factors like pressure resistance, hydrolysis resistance and most important heat resistance of the used materials.
Long lasting coverings are more expensive but they offer a constantly good ironing result and reduce machine breakdown time as they extend the replacement interval.

When selecting coverings you should mind the heat resistance of the single layers. When they are equal you can replace all layers at once at the end of the lifetime.
Or you choose coverings with increasing heat resistance from the final top cover to the base layer which is situated directly on the hot machine. In this case you replace the final top cover more often (which you may have to do anyway when it gets dirty) and then you should take the opportunity to check the function and permeability of the layers below.

Ironing tables

Every single layer of an ironing table covering serves a special purpose in order to achieve the optimum ironing result. Our advises presume a heated ironing table which is industrial standard. Unheated ironing tables do not require a heat resistant lower padding.
All layers together are responsible for the equal distribution of the steam which should come out of the covering as a homogenous cloud.
The covering starts at the metal surface of the ironing table:

1. Rough wire mesh
   Besides the steam spreading it also improves the vacuum suction.
2. Lower padding (about 4 – 6 mm thick)
   At least this padding should be heat resistant and durable as you will have to remove all above layers when it has to be replaced. We advise a hard VOMAPOR silicone/foam or REHAU foamed silicone. Sometimes a V-Max Aramid needlefelt is used as a lower padding.
   The lower padding protects the above paddings and the clothing from too big heat.
3. Lower layer
   Here you should use a Polyester wire screen mesh or a felt which distributes the steam and prevents from fluff in the vacuum suction.
4. Intermediate padding (about 5 - 10 mm thick)
   This padding is responsible for the softness of the covering and thus directly influences the ironing result.
   A hard padding usually is more durable and speeds up ironing as the pressure of the iron is not absorbed.
   But it also increases the danger of shine and pressure marks at the thicker parts of the clothing like seams and pockets. If you have such problems please choose a softer and/or thicker padding which cushions the pressure.
   Commonly a foam with at least 80 kg weight per cubic meter is used as the intermediate padding.
   It must be reticulated to achieve the optimum permeability.
   The heat resistance of the foam can be improved by a silicone coating. Please avoid very cheap silicone/foams as their coating only lasts slightly longer than the uncoated foams and may transmit hazardous substances which harm your workers and contaminate the clothing.
5. Upper layer
   This layer can be a Polyester wire screen mesh or a felt with inlet or a molton.
   If you require a wet environment for ironing difficult materials like canvas we advise a cotton molton.
   Otherwise you should use more durable materials made of Polyester or V-Max Aramid.
   A fine wire screen mesh at this part of the covering filters fluff which otherwise could penetrate the below layers and reduce the vacuum suction. You should not use a felt without inlet at this position because the horizontal movement of the iron will cause bulges.
6. Final top cover
   The final top cover should not be more heat resistant than the lower layers because then you would not recognize that the layers below are exhausted until the ironing result suffers.
   Sometimes the final top cover has to be replaced often because it gets dirty very quickly. Then we advise to use a cheap final top cover which can be changed easily.
   Most workers prefer a smooth final top cover because the clothing can be put on the table quickly and handled easily. But if the clothing is already very smooth it may slide down from the ironing table.
   In this case you should choose a rough cover instead.

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Ironing presses

Every single layer of a press covering serves a special purpose in order to achieve the optimum ironing result.
All layers together are responsible for the equal distribution of the steam which should come out of the covering as a homogenous cloud.
The covering starts at the metal surface of the press:

Lower buck
Commonly the lower buck has a thicker and softer padding than the upper buck allowing the clothing to sink into it equally.

1. Rough wire mesh
   Besides the steam spreading it also improves the vacuum suction.
2. Lower padding (about 6 – 15 mm thick)
   At least this padding should be heat resistant and durable as you will have to remove all above layers when it has to be replaced. We advise a hard VOMAPOR silicone/foam or REHAU foamed silicone.
   The lower padding protects the above paddings and the clothing from too big heat.
3. Lower layer
   Here you should use a Polyester wire screen mesh or a felt which distribute the steam and prevent from fluff in the vacuum suction.
4. Intermediate padding (about 6 – 15 mm thick)
   This padding is responsible for the softness of the covering and thus directly influences the ironing result.
   A hard padding usually is more durable and speeds up ironing as the pressure is not absorbed.
   But it also increases the danger of shine and pressure marks at the thicker parts of the clothing like seams and pockets. If you have such problems please choose a softer and/or thicker padding which cushions the pressure.
   Commonly a silicone/foam like VOMAPOR is used as the intermediate padding. Please avoid very cheap silicone/foams as their coating only lasts slightly longer than the uncoated foams and may transmit harmful substances which harm your workers and contaminate the clothing.
5. Upper layer
   This layer should be a Polyester wire screen mesh or a felt. It prevents from creases at the final top cover and filters fluff which otherwise could penetrate the below layers and reduce the vacuum suction.
6. Final top cover
   The final top cover should not be more heat resistant than the lower layers because then you would not recognize that the layers below are exhausted until the ironing result suffers.
   Sometimes the final top cover has to be replaced often because it gets dirty very quickly.
   Then we advise to use a cheap final top cover which can be changed easily.
   Commonly a stretchable textile is applied.

Upper buck
Usually the covering of the upper buck is thinner because it is difficult to fix more layers upside down.
Besides the steam coming from the upper buck is reaching the clothing faster.
But if you have problems with shine or pressure marks, e.g. with inside seams marking on the outside, you should try to attach a softer and/or thicker covering on the upper buck and maybe a harder and/or thinner padding on the lower buck.

1. Wire screen mesh
   You may even attach 3 layers of wire screen mesh on top of each other which distributes the steam very good.
2. a) Lower padding (about 4 - 6 mm thick)
      We advise REHAU foamed silicone, a hard quality of VOMAPOR silicone/foam or a felt.
      This layer can be glued to the buck with a silicone paste.
   b) Upper padding (about 4 - 10 mm thick)
      We advise a soft VOMAPOR silicone/foam, Poly-foam or a felt.
   Upper and lower padding can be combined in a single layer of about 6 - 15 mm thickness.
3. Final top cover
   The final top cover should not be more heat resistant than the lower layers because then you would not recognize that the layers below are exhausted until the ironing result suffers.
   Commonly you should use a twill woven wire screen mesh or a stretchable textile, often the stretch is attached on top of the wire screen mesh.

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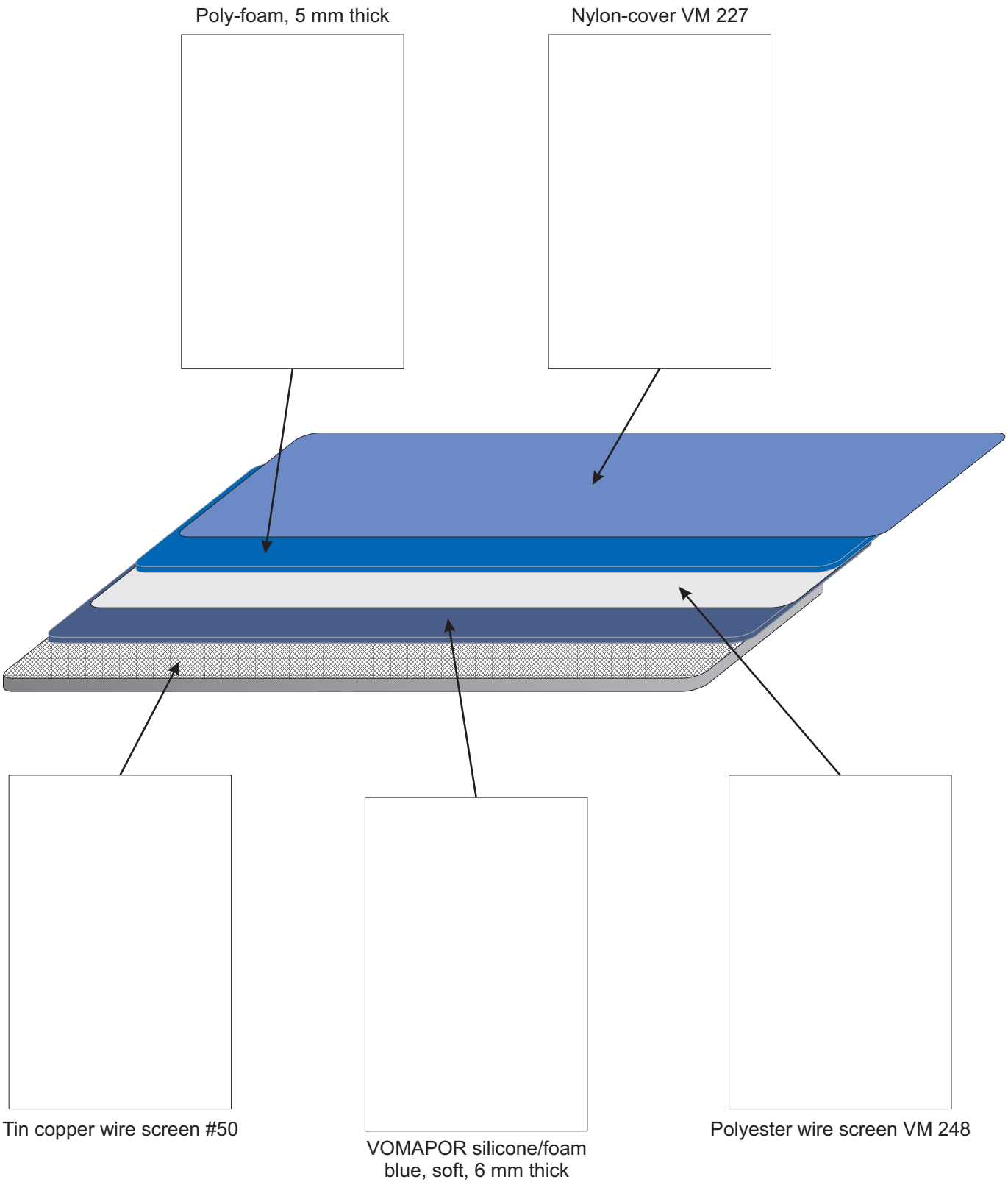
Ironing Table - Suggestion for a reliable covering



Ironing Press - Suggestion for a reliable covering