

# VSN

Vamp Stamp News

## Issue Tidbits

**More on the Speedball Press:** In the current (April '09) issue, I reviewed the Speedball Press, a handy tool for getting better impressions from your stamps, especially those large hard-to-stamp-successfully images. I have mentioned this press several times in VSN over the years as being a tool helpful to people who have problems with their hands, wrists, arms or shoulders. I finally bought one for myself and reviewed it. I liked it so much that it now has its own special place on my precious work surface.

I've heard from a few readers about the Speedball Press recently and would like to pass on a few things to you. First, Brenda Carswell is a long-time fan of the press, having purchased it after reading about it in VSN several years ago. Brenda loves

the press and uses it all the time, but cautions, "Be careful with the soft surface. Don't lay anything with any weight on it and leave it. The surface will impress the shape of whatever you lay on it, especially if left near a window where sunshine will heat up the surface. And don't use your heat gun near the soft surface. I left a card on the surface one day while heat embossing and it is no longer smooth."

On Florida Stampers, list owner Donna Ellis asked me about how the press does with unmounted stamps and whether it is possible to press too hard. I replied, "Yes, you can use the Speedball Press for unmounted stamps. Personally, I find it



*easier to place unmounted stamps face up on the press base, put the paper face down on it and then press down with the press. It's just easier to handle the stamp that way in my opinion. For mounted stamps, I like to instead put the paper face up on the press, put the inked stamp face down on it and then press down with the press. (But it will work either way.)"*

*"When you first get the press, experiment a little with where to place the paper/stamp on the press and with how hard to press. The learning curve is not steep though. A couple of tries and you'll see how hard to press. Yes, I think you can press too hard. I tried it, pressing as hard as I could (harder than I think anyone would want to press normally) and found it caused the paper to crease/shape around the stamp mount edges a little bit and some blurring at the image edges. But most people using the press aren't going to want to press that ridiculously hard (I think!)"*

*"Once you get the feel for how hard to press, I don't think this would be an issue. The first time I used the press, I pressed too lightly. Then I figured out how much pressing was needed (just a little bit more) and was fine. Keep in mind that this is still a manual process; You do need to do some pushing down yourself, but the press means that you don't have to do quite as much pressing and it keeps the pressure even over the whole stamp."*

*Finally, I just heard recently from Bonnie Boyle of Bonnie's Best Art Tools (where I purchased my Press). Bonnie said, "Just thought I would send you the latest news from Speedball about manufacturing issues with the Speedball Press. We sold out of these shortly after your wonderful article appeared, and we were expecting another shipment any day. When I called the company*

*to ask for a tracking number for our shipment, they told me that our order had not been shipped because of a manufacturing problem. Unfortunately, some recent Speedball Presses had been manufactured with a bad batch of steel, and handles had been breaking as a result. Speedball ordered new steel with which to produce more, but the timing is uncertain, and the company was unable to give us an availability date."*

*"I know that so many stampers must have been looking forward to using this product, and I hate disappointing them, but unfortunately, there are none available for awhile. I even let my own Press go to a customer who was had a project deadline, thinking I could replace it with the next shipment -- now I'm without one, too! I wrote to everyone who was waiting for the new shipment, and told them the situation, but thought you'd like to know about it, as well. I hope Speedball will be able to produce more of these quickly. I'll give you an update when I have more news."*

*I do think that the press is worth waiting for, especially if you have health issues that effect your ability to press down on a stamp and/or if you have many large stamps that are difficult to stamp successfully and/or if you do a lot of stamping in quantity.*

Good wishes,  
Nancie, VSN



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