Solar Control, Safety and Security Window Films: **Tech Bulletin**

Filmhandler Setup and Operational Best Practices

The Filmhandler is a precision cutting machine designed to streamline the process of precutting window film for installation. This bulletin provides detailed instructions on its proper operation to ensure accurate cuts and maximize efficiency. The Filmhandler comes complete with all necessary parts to cut most polyester films on 3-inch cores.

Always wear appropriate PPE when operating the Filmhandler. Cut resistant gloves provide hand protection when handling film or changing cutting blades.

What's Included:

- 72-inch Filmhandler machine
- (2) 3-inch Roller assemblies
- (2) Cutter head assemblies
- (2) 10 pack of replacement blades
- (1) 72-inch Vertical ruler w/bracket

Machine Setup

Step 1: A center threaded opening on the base allows for secure mounting of the Filmhandler. There is a crossbar near this opening used to align the unit onto the front of the preferred base support. A standard 6-foot ladder works very well for film up to 8mil. An opening will need to be drilled into the top of the ladder to secure the unit with the provided knob.



Image 1



Image 2

Tips: For optimal support when working with thick gauge safety films, utilize two ladders (one at each end) or a wide right-angle wall mount to improve stability. For a secure, customized mount, you must drill new holes in the Filmhandler base and obtain appropriate hardware. Replacing the knob with a threaded eye loop or similar with a large washer will also provide better stability. (refer to Image 1)

Step 2: Insert the vertical ruler into the slot to the left of the crossbar underneath the Filmhandler. Tilt the vertical ruler towards the back of the Filmhandler until the metal bracket slides easily into the slot. Once inserted, the ruler should easily move forward to the vertical position. DO NOT force forward as it may bend the bracket.

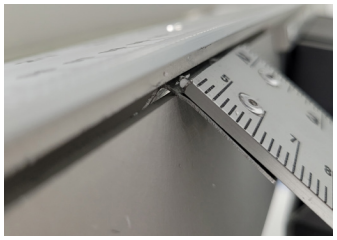

Image 3

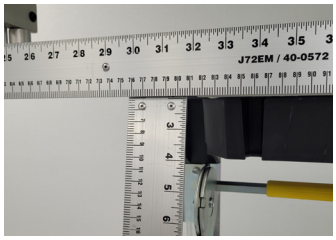

Image 4

Film Loading

Step 3: The film should always be loaded with the film coming over the top and forward NOT underneath. Slide the left roller assembly to near the "0" (refer to Image 5) position of the horizontal ruler. Secure the left roller assembly by tightening the knob at the base. Position the roll of film onto the left roller assembly. Move the right roller assembly towards the film until the film is snug on both rollers. Slightly tighten the base knob on right roller.

Step 4: Ensure the film holding bar is in the upright position. Pull film down a few inches passed the horizontal ruler. Bring the holding bar down to help secure the film for alignment. Loosen and adjust the left roller assembly and film till the films factory edge aligns at "0". Tighten the assembly knob to secure the alignment. Snug up the right roller assembly to the film and tighten the knob at the base. Raise the holding bar and roll the film back onto the core.

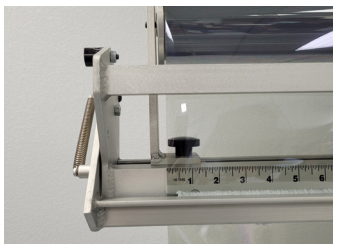

Image 5



Image 6

Measurement Setup and Cutting Procedure

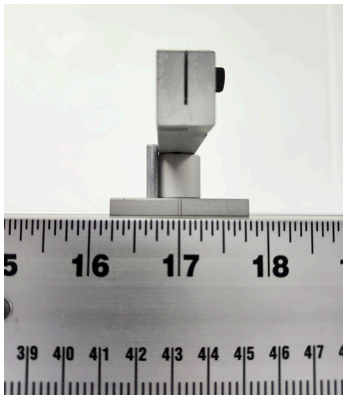

Image 7

Step 5: Adjust the cutting head to the required film measurement using the horizontal ruler as a guide. The precise measurement should align with the groove at the front of the cutter head base. Lock the cutter head by rotating clockwise. As the cutter head is rotated, it secures to the base preventing movement. Rotate counterclockwise to release.

Step 6: Carefully feed the leading edge of the film through the slot on top of the cutting head. Pull the film down from both sides of the cutting head until the blade cuts into the film. Continue to pull the film down to the desired vertical measurement using the vertical ruler as the guide.


Image 8


Image 9

Tip: Should the roller assembly continue to rotate after you've finished cutting, indicating it's spinning too freely, you can adjust the tensioner screw located on the bracket. Tightening this screw will slow the roller's rotation.


Image 10

Lower the holding bar to help secure the film for the final cut. Ensure the film is firmly secured by either squeezing the holding bar against the horizontal ruler or applying firm pressure to the front of the holding bar. Using the top side of the horizontal ruler as a guide, rest a utility knife blade against the top edge of the horizontal ruler and cut the film from left to right. Repeat the cutting process for subsequent pieces of film, adjusting measurements as needed.


Image 11

CAUTION: DO NOT rely on the holding bar to secure the cut film in place after the final cut is made. The intent of the holding bar is to assist during the final cut of the film ensuring straight horizontal cuts. Large pieces or heavy gauge films are more susceptible to sliding out due to the weight of the film.

Transport and Storage

When the Filmhandler is not in use, lock the cutting heads in place, lower the holding bar and remove the roller assemblies separately.

Conclusion

By diligently following these instructions, you will be able to achieve precise and efficient film cutting with your Filmhandler, and years of dependable use through proper care.

Available Parts (sold separately)

1: **Replacement blades –** ST0863: 20 pack of replacement blades

2: **3 & 6-inch Roller assemblies –** ST0856-3 and ST0856-6: The 6-inch roller assemblies are required for heavy gauge films on 6-inch cores. The 3-inch roller assembly are replacement parts in case of loss or damage.

3: Improving cuts with shims – ST0858-6, ST0864-3 and ST0865-3: Shims are used to fill gaps between roller assembly hub and the film core to prevent the film from swaying left to right while cutting. 3-inch shim are available in 1/8 and 1/4-inch thicknesses and 6-inch shims are available in 1/4-inch thickness.

4: Cutter head assembly – ST0861: The Filmhandler comes with two but when cutting small windows, its best to have more on hand or in case of loss or damage.

5: Blade holder – ST0862: Cutting heads can be delicate and care must be used during handling and storage but if needed, the blade holder is available without buying the whole assembly.

6: Repair kit – a repair kit includes 2 knobs, 2 holding bar springs and a tension screw to replace old worn parts.

7: Vertical ruler assembly – ST0868-72: a replacement vertical ruler with bracket attached.

8: 3-inch Roller Brackets – ST0856-3BR: a replacement for older Filmhandler 3-inch brackets providing up to an inch more clearance for 8 mil film on 3-inch cores

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