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Mini Press wins Design Award

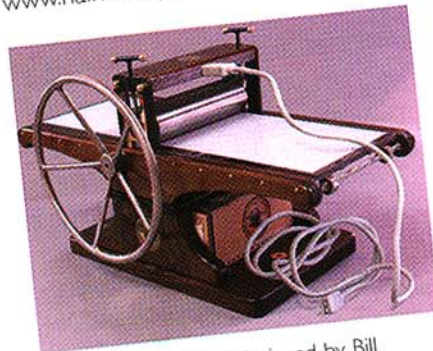
The Halfwood etching press, designed by Bill Ritchie of the US and custom-built by Warren Ralls in the UK was given a Silver A' Design Award Winner for the Unexpected Design Category in 2012.

Bill Ritchie's interest in etching stemmed from spending time with Rolf Nesch and S.W. Hayter in the 60s. He has been deeply involved in printmaking and education ever since. A former Professor of Art at the University of Washington, Ritchie had a vision to make a press that combined function with aesthetics. Along with Tom Kughler in Seattle, they created a model-sized press that could be easily transported and stored in homes. Their aim was to honour the words of the Japanese craftsman/philosopher, Soetsu Yanagi: 'Man works best when his tools are in proportion with his task.'

The Halfwood Press has a steel core to give it strength and is finished by hand with a cladding of hardwood and brass fittings, polished to a satin finish. Portable yet powerful, they travel well by plane in hand luggage, look at home in a luxury dolls' house, yet produce prints to a professional

standard. The blankets are housed in a little cigar box that sits underneath the polycarbonate bed. In keeping with the times, there is a memory stick incorporated into the hood of the press, which has information about maintenance, printmaking and the press itself.

Warren Ralls' collaboration started in 2011 when he built his first press alongside Ritchie, and he has since supplied workshops in the UK and Europe. Ritchie has a vision to realize a network of Halfwood Press Workshops worldwide, devoted to manufacturing the line of Halfwood Presses and other kinds of hand printmaking presses. For more information and a video of the press in action, please go to www.printmakingworld.com or www.halfwoodpress.co.uk



Halfwood Press 2013, designed by Bill Ritchie and built by Warren Ralls
www.halfwoodpress.co.uk

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