

A PRIMER ON GLUES

At the two recent Brook Tucker Workshops, we were introduced to a number of new glues. I thought I'd write all down all the glues we used, and what we used them for, in the newsletter before we all forget!
NOTE: this article has been updated several times to include new glues that have come on the market.

<u>Glue</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Aleene's Tacky Glue	Best multipurpose white glue, used for furniture, construction, etc.	Brooke refuses to use Sobo or Velvelette, and recommends that anyone who uses them should throw them away!
The "Ultimate"!	A high performance adhesive formulated to give a flexible water-based bond to difficult to glue surfaces,	Adheres to plastics, metals ceramics, vinyls, glass, painted surfaces, wood, fabrics. Another good all-purpose glue,.
Krazy Glue	The "Original" only, please! It is an ethyl cyanoacrylate which is an EXTREMELY fast bonding single component adhesive. It works best on smaller surfaces, using a very small amount of glue. It bonds INSTANTLY with a colorless and transparent bond that is VERY STRONG.	Several "dots" of Krazy Glue added to a Tacky Glue surface provides a fast "stick". Krazy Glue can turn crystalline over time, and shatter, but by the time this happens, the Tacky has cured and holds the bond tight.
Grrrrrip	Best fabric glue, in Brooke's estimation.	Very sticky, but allows you lots of time to take apart and refold those tricky pleats.
YES Glue	Best glue for wallpapering. This is actually a book-binder's glue, so it does not soak into the paper.	Should be thinned down with warm water – the rule is "thin with thin, thick with thick". In other words, if you are sticking wallpaper to a wall, a thin syrup is required (paper is thin). If you are gluing a rug to the floor, use a very thick glue.
ROO Wood Glue	An excellent wood glue, with good holding properties.	Roo Glue products are water-based. Uncured glue can be wiped clean with a damp cloth. To clean up dried glue, apply a small amount of denatured alcohol or paint thinner to a cloth and allow to sit for one minute. Then using a cloth soaked in warm soapy water, wipe the area clean.
ROO MPG Glue	This is a good glue for plastics, particularly melamine and vinyl.	
Slow-Zap	Very High Viscosity Formula. Super Thick and Super Strong. Allows part positioning for approximately 30 to 40 Seconds. Use ZIP Kicker to accelerate cure time.	Usually used to strengthen a long thin join that has been set with Tacky Glue (like joining two walls, or wall to ceiling). Run a bead down the back side of the work, and add one puff of Zip Kicker to solidify immediately.
Zip Kicker	Forces immediate cure of Cyanoacrylate Glue. Best accelerator for ZAP and ALL other Super Glues. Expands Gap Filling Capacity.	Do NOT store anywhere near Krazy Glue, Slow-Zap or Zap-a-Gap. Even fumes are enough to solidify your glue right in its bottle!

<u>Glue</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Zap-a-Gap	Superior Gap Filling Formula, Medium Viscosity, Allows approximately 7 to 10 seconds for part positioning, average of 20 seconds for curing, works on OILY surfaces, use ZIP Kicker to accelerate cure time	Similar to Slow-Zap, but can fill minor cracks as well.

Here are some other tips and tricks for glues, reprinted from “The Miniaturist’s Workbench, Volume 1”, 1982, a small booklet compiled from Nutshell News.

- Absolutely ideal for dispensing small quantities of white glue are used surgical syringes and they can be purchased very inexpensively. As a safeguard, grind off the point, and place a swab of wet cotton in the cap to prevent dried glue from plugging the tip. Or you can stand the tip in 1/4” of water between uses. There are many different forms of glue dispensers that will serve the same purpose. Everyone seems to have their favorite.
- Extend the nozzle of your glue bottle – it makes getting into corners much easier. Clean out the body of an old ball point pen with a pipe cleaner, cut off as much as required, then force it onto the existing nozzle. Plug with a round toothpick between uses.
- Be careful in the use of straight pins. Although they are wonderful for clearing a plugged nozzle, if left in the bottle, they will rust and discolour the glue. So much for having the glue dry clear!.
- Before nailing hinges into miniature furniture, apply a very small amount of epoxy glue to the hinge area. Allow hinge to set firmly before driving in nails. This keeps hinges firmly anchored before and after nailing.
- Brooke Tucker was quite taken by the fact that our Crazy Glue bottles did not have a stand, but did have a child-proof container. To make your own stand, to prevent knocking over the bottle while working, attach an aerosol can lid to your work area with double sided tape and set the bottle in the small inner ring.
- If your thumb and forefinger become stuck together with one of the super glues, just roll a pencil between them to gently peel apart. Do not use a razor blade or knife! Adhesive remaining on the fingers can be removed with nail polish remover or acetone.
- And, if the world wasn’t crazy enough, you can buy glue condoms at Lee Valley (they call them Nozzle Caps). This is what to use when you have lost the plastic cap for your glue bottle.

