

# Quick Guide to Glues and Adhesives

There is a wide range of glues available that are suitable for more than one purpose but at times a specific glue may be needed. The following is a quick guide to glues and adhesive.



## WHAT GLUE?

Material	Glue
Canvas	PVA, contact glue, glue gun, latex, super glue.
Card	PVA ,tape, clear glue, glue gun, glue stick.
Ceramic	Clear, epoxy resin.
China	Super glue.
Cork	Clear, contact glue , glue gun, super glue.
Dried Flowers	Clear, glue gun, super glue.
Fabric	Clear, contact, copydex, glue gun, super glue, latex.
Felt	Clear, copydex, glue gun, latex.
Glass	Super glue.
Leather	PVA, clear glue, copydex, contact, glue gun, latex, superglue.
Paper	PVA, clear glue, glue gun, glue stick.
PVC	Clear, glue gun, super glue.
Wood	PVA, clear, contact, and epoxy resin, glue gun, supers glue, super glue gel.

**PVA Adhesive (Polyvinyl acetate)** is a creamy liquid glue that dries clear. It is multi-purpose but takes time to dry. Suitable for gluing paper, card, and thread and wood. Unsuitable for foam, polystyrene, plastics, stone, metal or fabric which it will stain. PVA does not provide a waterproof bond it requires that brushes and applicators are washed before the glue dries.

## Top Tips

- Add PVA to paint to produce a thicker consistency that will allow work on plastic or polythene.
- PVA acts as a varnish when applied to a paint surfaces and a sealant (not waterproof) when applied to papier mache work.
- Add water to PVA to increase drying rate but do not exceed a dilution of more than 1 part water to 5 parts PVA.
- A coat of PVA covered with sand, grains, seeds or pasta will provide a textured surface.
- PVA mixed with paint (1 part PVA to 6 parts read-imix paint) added to other materials including rice, sand, lentils, sawdust, soap powder soap flakes, confetti, glitter, flour, salt, sugar produces textured paint. Experiment with other materials.



**Clear Glue** is a multipurpose glue that dries quickly.

**Copydex** comes in a tub with its own applicator brush. It is good for work with fabrics, feathers, fur, leather and foam. Dries fast. Clean off with metholated spirit.

**Contact Adhesives** Evostick, Bostik, Uhu are useful for plastics, wood glass, stone and metal. Bonds immediately so positioning must be accurate. It is applied to both surfaces before sticking. Provide small tubes for group use, sharing will make children appreciate its scarcity and be more economical. Remind children to replace the cap when they finish work. Modern water-based and nonflammable contact glues are almost as good and do not have the problems associated with inflammable and toxic vapours.

**Glue Stick** provides an instant bond, is easy safe and clean to use. Good for sticking paper and card.

**Epoxy Resin** is made with an adhesive and a hardening substance which react together to form a very strong bond (unsuitable children's use).

**Flour & Water** is cheap and suitable for papier mache. Mix well to a smooth paste allow time to swell.

**Cellulose Paste** is suitable for most paper work, papier mache and for sticking paper to card. Sprinkle paste into the water and stir to avoid the paste forming lumps. Unsuitable for sticking plastic materials.

**Rubber-Based Glue (Cow Gum)** is good for sticking paper and card. (Fumes make it unsuitable for children's use).

**Glass Bond** is both water and detergent resistant and is used specifically for gluing glass to glass and metal to metal.

**Glue Gun** dispenses a transparent glue line that provides a strong instant bond for a wide variety of materials. It is ideal on plastic, shells, stone - materials that are usually difficult for other glues to bond. Restricted to work indoors and working time is limited to 30 - 40 seconds which makes the glue gun unsuitable for covering large areas. Supervise children closely when working with glue guns.

**Super Glue** creates an instant bond. It is available in liquid or non-drip gel. Not suitable for children to use.

**Spray Glues** are useful for mounting photographs, collages, and for decoupage. Always use in a well ventilated room the fumes may be harmful if inhaled. Use a spray box to reduce the number of particles getting into the atmosphere (a large cardboard box turned on its side is good enough).

## Joining Without Glue

**Masking Tape** is useful for joining parts when making 3D models. Essential for newspaper sculpture.

**Double-Sided Tape** is useful for mounting photographs and pictures. One side is stuck down

before removing the backing paper and positioning the artwork. Unsuitable for work on thin paper which it tends to wrinkle.

**Stapler** good for joining layers of paper, card or fabric.

**Staple Gun** useful for mounting art work to presentation board or attaching items to a fixed base.

**Paper Fasteners** are good for joining parts or layers too thick for staples. Useful for constructing models, making masks and foam puppets. Provides movement between parts and joints (shadow puppets).

**Threading** is a option when materials are incompatible with glue. Thread together with string using a stiff wire as a threading needle.

**Wire/Pipe Cleaners** Fine wire or pipe cleaners are useful for joining items that need to be secured together without glue.



