

WHAT GLUE DO WE RECOMMEND FOR YOUR KIT

Often I am asked about what type of glue (adhesives) I recommend for our kits. From experience and from talking to many modelers, PVA (polyvinyl acetates) glues, seem to be the best choice. PVA glues include Elmer's and Titebond wood glues. They come in a variety of formulas, and only slightly different between brands.

Here is some interesting information about PVA glues:

- They are water-based, so clean-up is easy with warm soapy water.
- You must place pressure on the adhesion joint to obtain a good bond (so keep an ample quantity of small clamps available).
- They don't contain any harmful fumes, and not dangerous to touch, but can be toxic if swallowed (ingested).
- They're best for wood, because wood is a porous material.
- They are not waterproof, but the yellow glues are generally more water resistant.
- When storing PVA glues, make sure they are kept at room temperature. If they freeze, the polymers breakdown.
- White PVA glues have a longer shelf life than yellow PVAs.

THE PROCESS OF USING YOUR GLUE ON WOOD TO WOOD JOINTS

Because PVA glues fill the pores of your wood, it is STRONGLY recommended that you dye (stain) your wood project PRIOR to gluing. *Now you're asking, "What dye (or formula of dye) do we recommend?" See the article I drafted called, "Preparing your Stripwood."*

The process of gluing wooden parts (Campbell's stripwood) is simple; use only enough glue to cover the joint, no more. In modeling, most wood joints are very small, so it's recommended you use the tip of a tooth pick to apply your glue. I often use a tooth pick method, but more often you'll find me using a syringe with a special applicator tip, used in dentistry, to apply my PVA glue. With this method, I can place the correct amount accurately and the glue generally stays viscous on the tip between applications due to much less air exposure (you can find these applicator syringes/tips on the Internet, especially on eBay).

When your wood to wood joint has the right amount of glue, take a clothespin, or small clip/clamp (rubber band) and apply pressure to the joint. At room temperature, most PVA glues will set in about 20 minutes, but check the information on the glue bottle for specific set and drying times.

That's about it for wood to wood joints, but what about gluing the Corrugated Aluminum Roofing material to the roof cardstock or the acetate windows to their frames, and even metal to wood or metal to metal? Let's take each situation one at a time.