

# How to...

FREE  
information

## Select the right glue

### Introduction

Glue (adhesive) is one of the most important items in any crafter's kit. It is used for a wide range of projects from card making to DIY.

Selecting the right glue for the project you have in mind can go a long way to ensuring a durable and successful result. This leaflet will help guide you through the range of adhesives available and give you some tips on their applications.

### Selecting a glue

**PVA – The most versatile adhesive**

PVA glue is the most versatile and commonly used glue in the store. It is available in a wide range of sizes and can be used for a whole range of different surfaces.

PVA glue is used for papers, cards, fabrics (non-washable,) wood, plaster and much more. It is a viscous white liquid – most of us probably knew it at school as White Glue. It is milky white in the bottle but it dries clear.

A mixture of 50% PVA and 50% water makes a great sealant for papier-mâché, plaster and other absorbent surfaces to prepare them for decorative treatment.

This mixture can also be used as the glue for papier-mâché work or even as a varnish (it is not waterproof, so choose your project with care!)

PVA also forms the basis of many other glues such as wood glue and washable fabric glues. These glues are versions of PVA glues, which have been treated to give them additional qualities for specific purposes.

Wood glue is a stronger glue than standard PVA and is used for heavier jobs involving wood and similar surfaces. It can sometimes be found in a coloured form, which makes it less visible on wooden surfaces.

Fabric glues have been developed to allow fabrics to be stuck together – rather than stitched – and remain washable.

When using fabric glue, care must be taken to apply thin coats to avoid the fabric becoming too stiff.

Other variations include jewel glues, that are designed to stick decorative trims onto fabrics, fabric stiffeners for creating bows and swags and découpage glues, which are perfect for flat découpage acting as both glue and varnish.

PVA glues and their derivatives are perhaps the most useful glue any crafter can have in their collection.



## Glue Guns

These useful tools are a reasonably recent introduction and are invaluable in many crafts. They are available in a range of sizes and with a range of glues. Choose the size of gun that is most appropriate to your craft.

Hot melt glue guns and sticks are the strongest and most durable of the glues available but require care in their use as they can burn very easily.

Cool melt glue guns and sticks work at a lower temperature and so are safer to use but must still be used with caution. They are not as strong as their hot melt counterparts but are more than adequate for most applications.

Glue sticks are also available for use as wood glue and in coloured and glittered forms. These decorative sticks can be used to pipe designs onto surfaces rather than as an adhesive. Why not experiment?

Bear in mind that you must use the correct glue gun/glue stick combination otherwise you may encounter problems.

## Paper and Glitter Glues

When working exclusively with paper and card, there are a number of specific paper glues that are ideal for the job. They come in solid stick form or in liquid form and are easy to use.

Glitter glues are clear glues containing coloured glitters and are perfect for adding the finishing touch to a greetings card or gift tag! Ideal for children (with supervision.)

Apply paper and glitter glues in thin coats only – this avoids unsightly crinkling of the paper.



## Specialist Glues

HobbyCraft also has a number of specialist glues, which can cope with a number of specific tasks:

- Silicone Glue – used in 3D Découpage to create the layered look
- Epoxy resin glue – a two-part glue for heavy duty repair work
- Super glue – instant setting glue for repairing china and much more
- Clear model glue – for building plastic models
- Spray glues – available in permanent or temporary form, ideal for stencilling and mounting artwork

These glues all have a number of safety implications in their use, but following the instructions will ensure that you can proceed with minimal risk to yourself and those around you.

At HobbyCraft you will find a glue for almost every purpose and should you have any further questions, ask a member of staff who will endeavour to help you select the right glue for the job.



## Safety First

Always check the information provided on the packet or bottle. Failure to follow any advice on the product could result in injury or damage. Be careful when using glues with children, never allow them to work unsupervised and check that the glue you have selected is suitable for their use.



Visit our website  
[www.hobbycraft.co.uk](http://www.hobbycraft.co.uk)  
for more ideas, information  
and top tips

Use the following chart to help you select the right type of glue for your project:

<b>Which Glue</b>	<b>Recommended Applications</b>
PVA	All round glue – sticks felt, foam etc. Ideal for most basic crafts, safe for children – can be used as a sealer.
Tacky glue	All purpose PVA. More tacky than regular PVA giving a quicker bond.
Fabric glue	Ideal for fabrics where finished product will require washing.
Super Glue	Instant bond for china, metals etc.
All purpose tasks.	Strong and clear, ideal for most crafts and lightweight DIY tasks.
Araldite	Strong and long lasting, ideal for metal, glass and masonry.
Copydex and DIY tasks.	Strong, versatile, solvent free – ideal for hobbies, craftwork
Contact	Extra strong and water-resistant.
Hot melt glue gun	Fast tack, good bond – ideal for heavier objects to embellish cards etc. Uses hot melt glue sticks.
Cool melt glue gun	Ideal for delicate items such as artificial flowers. Uses cool melt glue sticks.
Glitter glue	Gives a 3D effect to cards and papercraft projects.
Glue sticks	Ideal for scrap booking. Repositionable until dry – stops paper wrinkling, safe for children, less mess than PVA. Some glue sticks are acid free.
Glue dots	Ideal for scrap booking, découpage etc. Gives a 3D effect to cards.
Spray glue – repositionable	Temporarily bonds lightweight materials, repositionable time and again without damaging surfaces ie. Stencilling, short term display use.
Spray glue – permanent	Long term bond ideal for découpage, sticking artificial flowers to cards etc. – dries transparent.
Double sided tape	Suitable for card making and children's craft projects. Gives an instant result and leaves no mess. Sticks paper, card, foam etc.
Sticky Fixers	Double sided adhesive, available in pads or rolls. Ideal for shaker cards and mounting materials to give a 3D effect.