

Hints & tips

Cyanoacrylate or 'superglue' has become one of the most versatile adhesives in the workshop. This month we look at one of the most popular brands on the market: *Roket* cyano from Deluxe Materials

● **Obtaining maximum bond strength:** as Roket cyano polymerises so quickly it is necessary to carry out the bonding process as quickly as possible after application. Leaving the joint open slows the cure and reduces the final bond strength.

● **Joining gaps:** if the gap is more than 0.5mm you should brush or spray on an activator (Roket Blaster) to ensure full cure throughout the adhesive.

● **Repositioning joints:** don't re-position parts which you are gluing as this will weaken the bond.

● **Bonding smooth surfaces:** use abrasion or surface activator (Roket Blaster) to assist bonding of smooth surfaces such as polycarbonate, acrylic and similar clear plastics.

● **Reinforcing CA joints:** try using a small amount of plastic photographic film to assist reinforcing behind joints made with Roket cyano glue.

● **How much to use:** avoid using excess adhesive as this can cause blooming on plastics and spoil surfaces.

● **Avoid blooming:** use Roket Odourless type CA to reduce risk of blooming when tackling important tasks where a clear surface is needed.

Note: Blooming is un-reacted glue which reacts with moisture in the air to spoil the appearance of plastics

such as styrene, ABS, acrylic, and melamine. The following steps can be taken to minimise this effect.

1 Reduce the quantity of adhesive used

2 Apply the glue in a uniform manner

3 Gently heat the materials to be bonded if possible and allow to cool

4 Put joint under pressure to minimise the film thickness

5 Use an accelerator spray

6 Avoid excess moisture work in a dry area.

7 Dry surfaces to be bonded with heat and allow to cool try a debonder in local areas.

8 Use Roket Odourless type CA when tackling important tasks where a clear surface is needed.

9 Avoid using Roket Blaster activator unless necessary as this may reduce bond strength.

Treating accidents

● **Skin bonding:** immerse the bonded area in warm soapy water. With aid of a blunt instrument (i.e. teaspoon) roll or peel the surfaces apart. Do not try to force apart as the skin layers will tear away. Try a debonder agent or apply a small amount of nail varnish remover.

● **Ingestion:** it is almost impossible to swallow superglue as it solidifies and adheres to the mouth instantly. Due to the high saliva content it will dissolve



Above: The Roket range of cyano glues from Deluxe Materials.



Above: This pack of 'Micro' tips and flexible 0.9mm tube solves the problems associated with storage and blocked nozzles; the micro tube fits inside the tip giving precise application. Sometimes the glue will 'set' on the tip of the micro tube - never inside it. This seals the bottle keeping the glue fresh, but can be removed easily with scissors or a finger when ready to use again.

within 24 hours. It is non-toxic, but solid glue should not be swallowed even though it is not toxic.

● **Eyelids:** superglue will dissolve within 1-4 days so do not force the bond apart. Apply a gauze with warm water. Do not attempt to rub or force apart.

● **Burns:** if a large amount spills on the skin it can burn; wait for it to solidify. Release the cured adhesive and treat as a normal burn.

■ For price details and the location of your local stockist of Deluxe Materials, contact