

Adhesive type	Source	Application	Comments	Surface preparation and other notes
PVA Wood Glue	DIY suppliers and builders merchants	For general carpentry work. Card and paper Scenery.	Evostick is probably the most common of these products. Some DIY sources have their own brands. Used as it comes from the container for most applications. For finishing scenic work it is generally diluted 50/50 pva/water with perhaps a drop of washing up liquid as wetting agent.	Clean and dust free. When using diluted for scenic applications wetting the surface with a fine spray of water from a hand sprayer can help.
PVA Wood Glue - Exterior	DIY suppliers and builders merchants	For general carpentry work. Card and paper Scenery.	Evostick is probably the most common of these products. Some DIY sources have their own brands. Used as above but well suited to outside use on the garden railway.	Clean and dust free. When using diluted for scenic applications wetting the surface with a fine spray of water from a hand sprayer can help.
Aliphatic Wood Glue	Model shops especially model aero or boat.	For general carpentry work. Card and paper Scenery.	Similar to PVA Wood Glue. Particularly good on wood and card. Used as it comes this adhesive sticks faster than PVA and “grabs” the surfaces better. Can be diluted for scenic work but PVA cheaper in this application.	Clean and dust free. When using diluted for scenic applications wetting the surface with a fine spray of water from a hand sprayer can help.
Contact adhesives. Petroleum based products.	DIY suppliers and builders merchants, model shops	For general carpentry work. Card and paper. Limited use on scenery.	Evostick and UHU being probably the most common of these products. It comes in tubes and tins, the latter can be large. Some DIY sources have their own brands. It is good for laminating parts together. With care it can be used to stick plasticard to other	Clean and dust free.

			materials. Allow extra drying time on the adhesive before applying the plasticard	
Aerosol Contact adhesives. Petroleum based products.	Generally Craft Shops	For laminating paper and card. Has some scenic applications	3M Spray Mount being the most readily available of this type of adhesive. Can be used to fix scatter materials to represent foliage.	Clean and dust free. Overspray in unwanted areas can be problem.
Epoxy Resins	DIY suppliers and builders merchants, model and craft shops	Bonding metal and plastics and/or metal to plastic.	Araldite and Devcon are commonly available. The original Araldite has given the generic name to epoxy adhesives. This has a 24 hour cure time. Araldite and Devcon have 5 Minute fast cure versions.	Surfaces should be clean and grease free. Abrading the surfaces helps the adhesive key onto the surface Cure time can be accelerated by warming but the adhesive becomes more liquid when warmed. A radiator is a good heat source. Generally mixing these adhesives is by two equal parts, resin and hardener, squeezed from tubes. This can be inexact especially in small quantities. Be generous when mixing the parts. Joints can be undone by heating or application of paint stripper.
Epoxy Putty	DIY suppliers and builders merchants, model and craft shops	Used as a filler or to reinforce joints.	Milliput is the most commonly available product. It comes in several colours and degrees of final finish. The basic grey is good for general use but the Fine White is excellent when the surface is to be seen. Cure time is around 12 hours. Can be used for sculptural purposes.	Surfaces should be clean and grease free. Abrading the surfaces helps the adhesive key onto the surface. Cure time can be accelerated by warming. A radiator is a good heat source. Again two equal parts are mixed. Again be generous when mixing. Keep the excess from the job as a

				reference to see how the cure progresses.
Superglues	DIY suppliers and builders merchants, model and craft shops	For bonding a variety of materials	<p>Loctite, Zap and Rocket are commonly available.</p> <p>The small tubes available in DIY stores and other without recognised product name are often ineffective and have a short shelf life. Bottled products usually last well.</p> <p>Within the different manufacturers there are varieties of the adhesive. Some very liquid and penetrating, other more viscous and some with slower cure times rather than the almost instantaneous cure of some.</p> <p>Spray-on accelerators are available for most.</p> <p>The adhesives are ideal for the kits produced in polyurethane resin, the simpler wagon to the larger locomotive. Very small parts in all material respond well to fixing with them.</p>	<p>Surfaces should be clean and degreased. Resin parts should be washed in warm soapy water. Sometimes roughening the surface with wet and dry can aid the keying of the adhesive. Application directly from the container can be disastrous with too much adhesive being applied. Decant a little onto a polythene bag, pick up and apply with cocktail stick or fine wire.</p> <p>On large long joints one of the slow curing versions can be used to “tack” the parts in position to allow alignment. The joint can be completed with a fast cure version.</p> <p>There are compounds that will undo a superglued joint. They are not always effective on engineering joints being aimed at remove the adhesive from skin; i.e. surface applications not for penetrating. Paint stripper can be effective but NOT with resin materials</p>
Retaining compounds	Generally from engineering suppliers but some	Used to create a bond on threaded components that can	Loctite 605 is readily available.	Experience suggests these are NOT suitable on very small bolts. The bond in relation to the thread size is too

	aeromodelling shops	be undone		great. Attempts to undo usually leading to shearing of the bolt or screw.
Alternative retaining compounds	Cosmetic shops or motor car accessory shops.	Used to create a bond on threaded components that can be undone	Nail varnish will secure a threaded component if applied on the thread before tightening. An alternative is automotive touch-up paint applied to the thread.	Surfaces to be clean and degreased. The undoing forces will break the bond but in normal circumstances it will be strong enough to hold.
Canopy glue	Aeromodelling shops and some model railway suppliers	An adhesive that dries clear	Used as its name suggests to bond the transparent parts of an aircraft cockpit. For model railways used to bond any glazing material in its location.	Generally applied to edge of the aperture to be glazed, a cocktail stick being a good applicator
Latex based adhesives.	DIY, craft shops and carpet layers	Used as a contact adhesive	Copydex is the most readily available in tubes and tubs. Carpet adhesive comes in larger tubs from specialised outlets.	This adhesive can be thinned with water like pva glues and used for similar purposes e.g. ballast fixing. Unlike pva which dries hard it dries retaining its rubbery properties. This compliance can attenuate sound transmission.
Solvent adhesives	Model shops	Used for the assembly of plastic kits and plasticard.	Slater's MekPak is probably the most familiar of these adhesives and has given its name to the generic title for such adhesives. Others are available from the Humbrol range of products as is "Butanone" from C&L. These adhesives work by locally softening the plastic in the area of the bond allowing them to weld together. These adhesives work on styrene and	Generally applied with a brush as these adhesives are liquid. A small brush for small components, to larger ones when a surface has to be prepared e.g. laminating sheets of plasticard. If bonding a notionally closed box the internal space must be ventilated otherwise the trapped adhesive will continue to work on the plastic degrading it. These adhesives

			<p>ABS plastics. For acrylic sheet there are specialised adhesives and Plastic Weld.</p>	<p>are quite volatile and rapidly evaporate, an advantage if some ends up in the wrong place. Just allow it to evaporate and no damage should occur. Handling an area of spilled adhesive is likely to result in finger prints moulded into the surface.</p>
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