

# PURPLE GLUE STICKS (MORE IDEAS)

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*Bob Angel plucked this summary off the internet after a big batch of postings had thoroughly exhausted the subject.*

Thanks to all on this forum who have mentioned the use of the permanent, purple glue sticks (I got mine at Staples) for attaching covering. Not only have I used the glue sticks on tissue covering, but I have now successfully tested purple glue sticks as the only adhesive (instead of dope) to attach polyspan light to the wing of a tomboy and the wing and stab for a 1/2a Zeek that are slowly moving toward completion. The technique could not be simpler. I simply run the glue stick over the surface to be covered, then let it get tacky, after which I lay the covering down. While the adhesive is still sticky, I can pull out almost all of the wrinkles before I use the tip of the covering iron to attach the covering. This stuff responds to heat like gangbusters. It seems to melt and penetrate the fabric. I mean it locked the polyspan to the framework solidly. It also really did a great job around the overlapping edges. When I had finished the job, the polyspan and the framework were one. I've discovered that the purple glue stick also works wonders as a supplemental aid for attaching monokote, which of course is supposed to have its own heat activated adhesive. I've not been happy with the adhesive qualities of current production monokote, meaning the stuff sold by Great Planes/Hobbico under the old Top Flite trade name, because in addition to the problem of wrinkling up with temperature changes, it tends to come unstuck, especially around the edges.

In the past I have tried using balsarite as a supplemental covering adhesive around the edges and areas where fuel tended to get up under the covering and loosen things up, but I have mostly given up on the stuff because balsarite sometimes turns things a funny brownish color, and I can't really use it in the house 'cause of the fumes. Plus, balsarite dissolves the color and tends to leave it permanently attached to the wood when you have to pull the covering up for repair/replacement. So just on a whim I thought I would try using the purple glue stick to keep monokote stuck down. I needed a "tester." What to use it on? I decided to sacrifice a Super Sniffer to plastic covering just to get it done... So, I lightly coated the wing, one panel at a time, of the Holman/O'Reilly Super Sniffer with the purple glue stick in preparation for covering with transparent monokote. I cut the pieces to shape and again laid them in place while the glue was still tacky. Voila and Eureka!!! To my delight, the slippery monokote stuck in place just like the polyspan had even before the application of the first degree of heat. I was able to pull out almost all of the wrinkles before I touched the iron down for attachment. I especially liked it around the curvy wing tips. When I put the heat to it, it stuck and stuck good. Time will tell of course, but I am real happy so far with the results I'm getting. Now I gotta get back to my electric trains, 'cause it's that time of year.