

CA BOTTLES — KEEPING UNPLUGGED

By George White

An article in an old issue of the now defunct Bat Sheet talked about a method for being able to control the amount of CA coming out of the bottle to what you really need. The article described the use of a hypodermic needle, which will fit on many of the common brands of CA bottles. Those bottles have a tapered (conical) nozzle, which, when trimmed will allow a hypodermic needle to slide down on the nozzle and form a tight fit. I don't know how easy it is to get hypodermic needles used for humans, but I went to a “tack shop” which sells supplies for the care of horses and purchased several hypodermic needles used for horses. These needles are larger than that used for humans and don't have the sharp ends. I've been using these needles on my CA bottles ever since. As usual, there's a trick to using them. The first time you use the needle, you'll get a nice flow of glue which is controllable, depending on the size of the needle. However, after you've let the bottle sit for a few hours, the needle will be plugged up. Not to worry. Simply pull the needle off the bottle and hold a cigarette lighter or match under the needle until a tiny flame shoots out of the needle. That shows that the needle is no longer clogged. Wait a second until it cools, and you're back in business with no problems. The article in the Bat Sheet mentioned that a small piece of dense styrofoam can be used as a stopper on the end of the needle, but I've not found that to be necessary.

