

# CONTROL THAT GLUE

By Ronald Teichert

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Hypodermic needles can be used as applicators for model adhesives (cement, glue, CA, etc.). They will fit many of the products that we use.

I prefer 25ga but sizes from 16 - 30ga are available. They are usually purchased in boxes of 100. It may seem like a large quantity but the cost is not high and it shouldn't be difficult to find a few interested friends to share with. The last I purchased were from Health Warehouse:

<https://www.healthwarehouse.com/solr/result/?q=needles+25+gauge> + 1.5.

I paid \$11.25 with free shipping for 100 needles. A little more than 11¢ each. (Clodbuster Editor's Note: I have been able to pick them up at the local pharmacy for 15 to 25 cents each. I usually take along a glue bottle to explain. It helps to avoid funny looks and questions. Chris)

The needles should have the tips blunted and the bevel removed before use. Blunting the needles is a safety requirement. Removing the bevel will ensure that the adhesive flows from the very tip and not along an edge of the tip. This allows more accurate placement of the adhesive.

**EYE PROTECTION IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED!** Grip the needle close to the tip using a pair of pliers. You will not be able to grip the needle safely with your fingertips. I prepare the needle tips by grinding the tip flat with my disk sander. 280 - 400 grit wet or dry paper may also be used. I have not been successful using a file. A Dremel tool and sanding disk can probably be used but I have not tried this method. (Editor's Note: The Dremel tool works great, especially with the little cut-off wheels. Chris)

Replace the protective cover after every use to prevent accidental spills and preserve the adhesive. At the end of a building session, I remove the needle from CA and water based adhesives and replace the original tube or bottle caps. The CA needles, with protective cover removed, are placed in a small, sealed glass jar filled with acetone. I purchase air tight jars from the local pharmacy. Needles used with water based products are simply placed in a container filled with water. I leave capped needles in place on the tubes of glue/cement. If they should become clogged, carefully pass a match or lighter flame under the needle. Keep away from your face and hands because the dried glue will ignite and bum off. (PFFT Editor's note: Careful here — holding a match/lighter to the tip of a needle still attached to a tube of acetone based glue could easily create an exciting adventure) You can also remove them after each session and place them in the acetone container (a safer method, or else use a piece of .015 music wire to push into the needle and clean it out — useful only with acetone based cement).

(PFFT editor comment: I published a similar article in this rag several months ago and suggested using a lighted match to unclog the tip of the needle while attached to a CA bottle. I've never had any problem with that beyond a puff of smoke, but I like Ron's ideas above much better. )