

Top tip: fine gluing using a syringe

I have taken to using a syringe for applying glue, especially PVA white glue. The glue bottles have wide spouts that are quite short. They don't reach the joint or they squirt out too much glue. You can make PVA fillets for joints similar to the way bath edge seal is applied.

On eBay you can buy non-surgical 5ml syringes for about 10p and tips with a variety of bores for about the same. Some have simple push-on tips but I think it is best to get the type that twist on and lock, called Luer Lock.

I half fill the syringe from the PVA bottle without the tip on, then push the plunger in a bit and turn it tip end up. Then squeeze in further to remove the air, just like in Carry On Nurse. Tips have different bores that are colour coded. I use green for PVA. A much finer one is needed for thin CA and a wider one for two-part epoxy. The colour code charts don't seem consistent, but here is a typical one:

Gauge	Colour	Bore (mm)
14	Black	1.3
15	Orange	1.1
18	Green	0.8
20	Pink	0.6
22	Red	0.4
25	Blue	0.3

A modelling pin, pushed into the tip bore when you finish keeps the glue liquid and the bore open with PVA. It won't work with CA nor epoxy. You will need a new tip and syringe for each session.

This picture shows one loaded with PVA, with a pin in it.



This shows one taken apart to show the Luer locking mechanism.



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