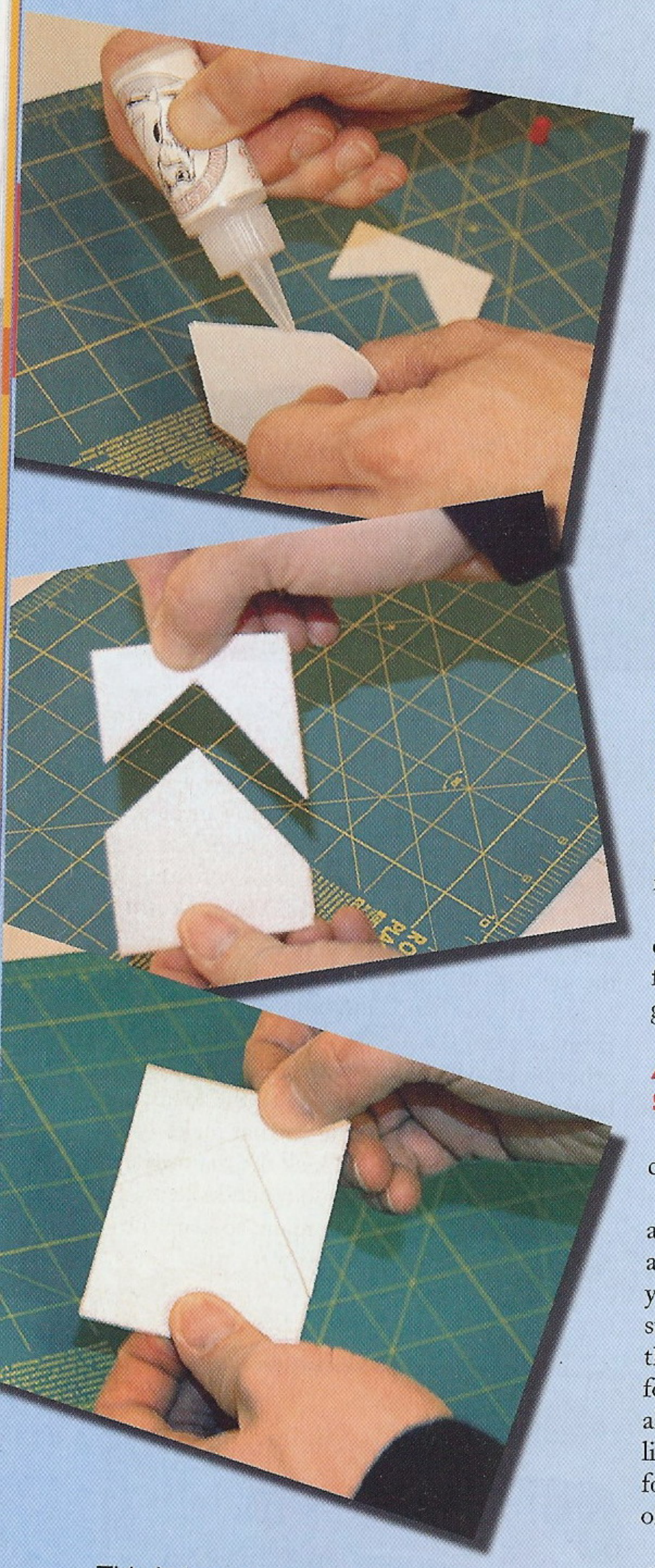

This is how to use Foamhesive.

Foam-Safe CA Storage Tips

Jeff Williams knows a lot about foam-safe CA. I have used his Kwik Fix foam-safe CA for years. He is big on preaching the gospel of CA storage. Here are some of the things he has taught me.

- Never buy more CA than you cannot use in a 90-day period.
- When you are not using your foam-safe CA, keep it in a cool, dark, dry place.
- Never store CA within 4 ft of kicker. Even though the kicker bottle does not leak fluid, it does leak some gas from the kicker that can enter the bottle of CA and actually kick it in the bottle.

Keep That Tip Clear!

Eddie Noble uses 50 gallons of CA a year building airplanes and other goodies. He says that he never uses an additional tip beyond what comes on the CA bottle, so he never has a tip clogging problem. However, here is his trick: When you put your bottle back on the shelf, squeeze it just a little to blow some air up through the tip, which will then clear the tip of glue. When it's time to use your CA again, the tip should be clear of glue and ready to supply glue to the part to be bonded.

These tricks will not extend the shelf life of the glue, but they will help you reach the full potential of the CA, as well as get the greatest shelf life.

Alternatives to Foam-Safe CA

There are some alternatives to CA that we can use for glue foam to foam.

One such alternative is using rubber-based adhesive. What are the advantages of using a rubber-based glue instead of CA? Well if you are trying to bond carbon fiber to a brittle substance like Depron®, the CA will make the foam brittle. Using accelerator makes foam even more brittle. When you crash the airplane for some reason, that brittle bond literally rips the foam apart. Rubber-based foam glues flex a bit and reduce the amount of shock transmitted to the foam.

UHU® Por was the first glue of this type that I used. It works primarily as contact glue. You apply a thin layer to both mating surfaces, allow it to set for 10 minutes, and then press the parts together. Make sure the pieces are correctly aligned before touching pre-glued parts together though, because the part will be difficult to reposition once a bond is made. I still use UHU Por from time to time, but it takes more time to dry than I have patience for so I avoid it.

Luckily, Eddie Noble of Nikitis Aircraft had a new type of rubber glue made for foam. His "Foamhesive" is scientifically engineered for laminating foam to foam, foam to wood, foam to carbon fiber, and more. The great thing about Foamhesive is that the drying time is short. Foamhesive creates a bond that is flexible yet strong. This creates a joint that is much stronger than one created by foam-safe CA alone.

To use Foamhesive, all you have to do is run a bead of glue on one side of your two parts, adhere both pieces together, and then separate them. This activates the glue. Let your parts stand for 10 to 30 seconds, and then join the parts together. The activated glue will instantly create a bond.

This glue can be used to wrap carbon fiber around parts and such. One use is to wrap carbon fiber around a tapered leading edge. The trick to wrapping carbon fiber around a tapered leading edge is to apply glue to the leading edge, then apply the carbon fiber to the leading edge with the glue applied, and then pull the two pieces apart. Let the two pieces set 15 or 20 seconds. The final step is to apply the carbon fiber to one side first and tape, apply it to the middle and tape, and then apply it to the other side and tape. Leave the tape in place when done.

You can sand Foamhesive to a degree, but it will gum the sandpaper grit up because it is a rubber-based compound. The only storage requirements for Foamhesive are to keep it out of high heat and sunlight.

Be Foam Safe!

There are a lot of different glues that you can use when building foam airplanes and parts. Some people like to build an airplane quickly, and some people like to build a model that is tough. I fall somewhere in the middle. Foamies weren't meant to have long lives, but it gets annoying when you are trying to get a flight in and things start falling off your bird. I think a combination of glues is the real answer to building a strong airplane that is durable, too. **3-D**

REFERENCES

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