

## GLUE GUNS

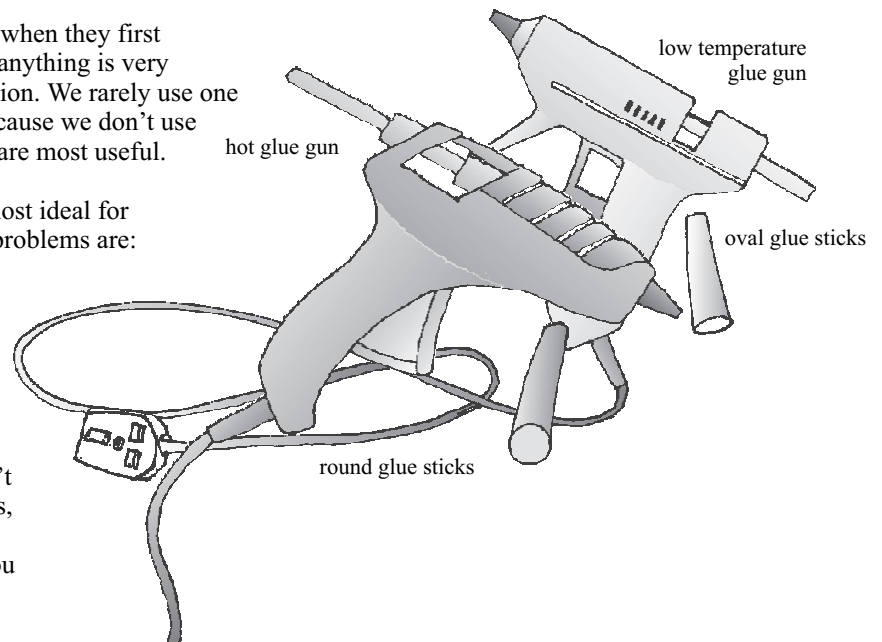
We were very enthusiastic about hot glue guns when they first appeared. To be able to use one to glue almost anything is very useful, but they do need to be used with discretion. We rarely use one now. PVA and sticky tape suffice, primarily because we don't use plastics and metals and that's where glue guns are most useful.

The original **hot glue gun** (usually blue) is almost ideal for fastening non-porous materials. The principal problems are:

1. It can be VERY hot - risks of injury.
2. The glue is expensive.
3. The glue takes up space. If you glue a 10cm piece of wood to another 10cm piece the resulting assembly is unlikely to fit in a 20cm wide space.

The **low temperature gun** (usually white), isn't so useful. Classrooms, being well heated places, are too close in temperature to the melted glue. This slows down the hardening too much so you lose the immediacy of the original glue gun.

By all means have a glue gun in the school. They can solve otherwise impossible joining problems, (like gluing a lightbulb to a coathanger!) but keep it in reserve. Children will try to glue a stamp on an envelope with one if it's close at hand! Yes, you can save money by using junk - but you use the money you've saved buying glue sticks. We feel that it's better to learn to use both PVA, and patience, properly. Use wood, card and paper for your technology models whenever possible.



## ADHESIVE TAPE

We do use a lot of **masking tape**. Having said that, we never use masking tape where we could use PVA. It's to be preferred over clear cellulose tape which is awkward to handle and difficult to paint over. Here's a short list of possible uses.

- To reinforce joints where the area of glue is necessarily small - such as gluing a dowel, cane or straw to a length of wood.
- To hold components together while glue is drying.
- To fasten thread to shafts (replacing a knot for children who find it difficult to tie a knot).
- To make stoppers to retain wheels on axles.
- To cover plastic straws to make it possible to glue them.
- To hold non-porous components - such as the plastic mirrors of the kaleidoscope.
- To make simple paper hinges.

**WARNING** - You can now buy low-tack masking tape. It is an improvement when you're using it for what it's intended, but it's pretty useless for joining things together. It's one of those rare occasions where the best is the cheapest.

**Double-sided tape** can be very useful for joining small plastic objects. It's well worth having a roll handy.

Simplify the distribution of short lengths of sticky tape [any sort] by sticking lengths to a cutting mat and dividing them into the required size with a sharp knife.

It's then possible to lift a piece from the mat with just one hand.

It's quick and easy and saves waste!

It will stay usable for several weeks, so use one side of the mat for sticky tape and the other for normal cutting duties.

