

Tips & Tricks #2

Bonding Agents (Glue) - Revised

BUILDING YOUR BOAT

So your building your 65 or 95. The glue you are most likely using is **Cyanoacrylate** (Super Glue). Let's just call it CR. For the modelers going back to the 60's and 70's, there was no such glue, maybe by the 80's. What a breeze bonding two pieces together, a small drop and a few seconds later you're set. Just remember to keep your fingers out of the way. Pretty much the entire DF95/65 can be assembled by the manual with CR, and the finishing touches - adding a small drop to all of your knots. Perfect. I think we got that.

Let's talk about securing those knots. What else will be glued when we place that drop of CR on the knot? The bowsies. Let's try to save a few so they can be used again. It's quite simple just pull the knot away from the bowsie about ¼" and then apply the CR. For lines laying on or near the deck place a small piece of aluminum foil under the knots so they do not bond to the deck. Caution areas are the jib tack and the head of the jib. It's very easy to bond lines to lines and boom fittings. Use very small amounts of CR.

DECK EYES

How about those main sheet bridle deck eyes, and the jib tack and sheet eyes? We are getting different information about reinforcement. And some info actually says to use CR glue by placing a drop or two in the dimple around the deck eye. Wait stop right there! Before you use CR glue on your hull anywhere, there are some things you need to know. This glue will act as an acid the second it hits the plastic hull. The gamble is, will my CR glue cure before severely weakening the area you are trying to bond. A much better bonding agent for your hull is two-part epoxy. Yes, it's a little more work, but it takes away the acid gamble. The deck eyes that I secured on my original 65 are still holding with simple 5 minute epoxy. A better epoxy is one that is waterproof – Model Expo 30 minute Slow Cure Epoxy. See below for ordering.

You can say that today 65's and 95's are being built better and do not require reinforcing the deck eyes. However, the new V6 65's have a black reinforcement collar around the main sheet bridle deck eyes. This may secure them better, but they leak. You have to train a thin line of epoxy between the black collar and the hull. Also, I recently saw a 95 where one of the main sheet bridle deck eyes was loose allowing water in. The deck eyes are screwed into a small plastic ball under the deck. The ball broke free from under the dimple and left a small hole. A drop of epoxy would have helped.

Most of the boats that I have constructed have reinforced critical deck eyes with epoxy:

The Long Method

- 1) Unscrew the deck eyes
- 2) With a small piece of sandpaper over a pencil eraser a quick spin in the dimple will scar the area for the epoxy
- 3) Clean the dimple with rubbing alcohol, let dry
- 4) Mix your epoxy and place a drop or two into the dimple using a tooth pick (one drop is normally enough)
- 5) Screw the deck eyes back into place before the epoxy sets (not too tight)

The Short Method

- 1) Place a drop of epoxy in each deck eye dimple

THE ELASTIC

Sometimes you want to add a drop of CR to your knots in your elastic. Be careful it's a gamble again like using it on the hull. Any amount will weaken the elastic. Better is Black Rubber Toughened CR IC-2000. Thanks to Ed Fry you can order this and 30 minute slow epoxy 100% waterproof here - <https://modelexpo-online.com>.

