



DATASHEET: FIXING YOUR PLATE TO YOUR KIT BOX

Our plates are made from a dual bonded layer of microsurface impact acrylic sheet.

The premium quality laminate we use is a pretty hardwearing product. However like any material not used or treated with the due care and attention it requires, you can damage it.

Fixing is a personal choice really - some people use heavy duty double sided tape, and some have even used Velcro. You could also drill and use pop rivets or self tapping screws, small nut & bolts etc.. for a more industrial look. In any case, the chosen method of fixing your plates to your kit box is down to you and your personal preference.

The **double sided tape method** is only really suitable when the surface you are fixing to is completely smooth, flat, and free of mouldings, details, oils or embellishments. The **glue / adhesive method** will generally give a better bond and is better suited where the surface has a slight pattern, is slightly flexible, or is not completely flat.

Both methods will require a little preparation for the best adhesion.

1. **Always** clean / de-grease the two surfaces ***before using tape or glues.***
2. If you are gluing your plates we suggest lightly 'keying' the two surfaces with sand paper (do not do this if using tape).
3. **Always** clean / de-grease the two surfaces ***after keying if using glue.***

DO NOT USE SOLVENT BASED FLUIDS TO CLEAN YOUR PLATE.

We recommend IPA (Isopropyl Alcohol). You can purchase a general 70% solution from a chemist or health shop or you can get a stronger 90-99% solution (which is what we use here) or wipes from industrial cleaning suppliers, car accessories shops and even well-known online retailers and outlets. The benefit of using IPA is that as it cleans, it de-greases, and evaporates to leave no marks or smears.

You can also use IPA to clean the surface of your plates if they get a bit grubby.

If using a glue / adhesive we suggest something like E6000 as this has excellent adhesive properties, is slightly flexible when fully cured (ideal for kit box lids or sides that aren't totally rigid), and if you've been building armour or a costume with any plastic or ABS elements you're likely to have some of this lying around!

A line of adhesive (or 'blobs') around the inner edge of the back of your plate is better than covering the entire surface of the plate, as this much adhesive may cause a reaction between the two plastics.

Any glue / adhesive will require drying / setting / curing time so be sure to leave your plate(s) and the surface they are being bonded to, flat and level during this time. Tape into place if necessary. E6000 in particular has a long curing time so don't be tempted to move or use your kit box until fully cured.

Depending on the glue / adhesive you are using clean up any excess whilst still 'wet'.

NOTE – if using E6000 you may find it is easier to clean up any excess once cured, as it resembles 'rubber string' when set and can simply be rubbed/peeled off.

We do not recommend the use of 'super glue' type adhesives due to the size of the area that needs bonding, and these types of adhesive, whilst strong, are not very flexible. The bond could simply break or 'come unstuck' under any flexing of your kit box lid or sides.

With any glue or bonding agent, please follow the instructions / health warnings / usage information provided with the product. If you are sensitive to products like this you should wear gloves or get someone else to carry out the process for you.

PLEASE NOTE: This information is for general guidance only. You are advised to read and observe all necessary precautions and instructions supplied with the product you use when using any adhesive or bonding product. Many are flammable and can have an odour that some people might not be able to tolerate, so please use with caution and care, and always in a well ventilated area. You are responsible for your own wellbeing and observation of due care and attention at all times if/when using glues and bonding agents. We cannot accept any liability or be held responsible for any health issues that may arise from the use of glues and bonding agents.