HOT GLUE

DESCRIPTION
Solid, usually translucent glue sticks are heated with a special gun to produce liquid adhesive.

USES
Hot glue is extremely difficult to control in detailed applications such as models. It works best on fabric and foam, and has a rapid curing time.

MANUFACTURE
Hot glues are typically based on one material, though a number of additives exist. This base material is a thermoplastic that must be chemically mixed and created in a heat-intensive process. Once the thermoplastic is made, additives enter the mix, and the batch cools in stick shaped molds.

NOTABLE INGREDIENTS
Ethylene-vinyl acetate

DISPOSAL
Re-Use stations for unused sticks. Also Re-Use stations for glue material to be disposed; glue sticks may contain hazardous chemicals.

SAFETY NOTES
- The tip of the glue gun is significantly hotter than the glue coming out of it. Touching the glue itself will sting but touching the gun tip will burn.

Glue sticks typically come in a standard dimension to fit all guns. A heat gun can be used to keep the glue workable for longer (shop).