

BONDING .007 CARBON FIBER TO Balsa

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The usual adhesive (CA) used in bonding carbon sheet to balsa does a relatively poor job. So, I decided to try some alternatives. Using a radius of about 3/4", I tried the following adhesives (without thinning). The samples were then subjected to heat, cold, and humidity. Then moderate pressure was used to try to peel the carbon away from the balsa. Using a scale of 1 (poorest) to 10 (best), here's the results:

Ambroid - 3 Stix-It (a contact cement) - 4
CA (medium) - 7 30-minute epoxy - 8
UGL (a contact cement) - 5 Goop-10
Krazy Glue (a CA) - 9 Formula 560 canopy cement -10

Note: the carbon sheet I used in the tests was what is usually used for rib cap strips. Dull on one side and shiny on the other. I used strips from a 3x36" roll, cut in uniform widths. The carbon came from MRL.