



DATASHEET: FIXING YOUR PLATE TO YOUR KIT BOX

Depending on the plate design you have ordered, your plate will be either made from a premium quality dual bonded layer of impact acrylic sheet (laser cut and engraved) or a thin aluminium metal sheet (printed kit box signs).

Laminate and the thin aluminium plates are pretty hardwearing products. However like any material not used or treated with the due care and attention it requires, you can damage them if you are not careful.

When fixing your plate to your kit box you can use a strong double sided adhesive tape or suitable glue / adhesive. The **tape method** is suitable when the surface you are fixing to is smooth, flat, and free of mouldings, details, 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 being bonded ***before using tape.***
- If you are gluing your plates we suggest lightly 'keying' the two surfaces to be bonded with sand paper (do not do this if using tape).
- 3. Always** clean / de-grease the two bonding surfaces ***after keying if using glue.***

DO NOT USE SOLVENT BASED FLUIDS TO CLEAN YOUR PLATES !!.

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 or Gorilla Contact Adhesive Clear glue as these have excellent adhesive properties, are 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 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 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.