

No-Gun caulking & hot glue guns

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For those of you who simply don't like tools, LePage has come up with the No-Gun caulking tube. Yup. It is caulking in an aerosol dispenser. The really nice trick is that they put an adjustable trigger on the can so that you can set the speed you want it to come out -- giving you a very nicely controlled bead size, as you can see in the first photo. You don't have to worry about accidentally squeezing too hard and having a big blob busting out on your work. They put several different caulking materials and colours in their No-Gun dispensers. For those of you who don't really want to do much caulking, this is a very interesting self contained caulking machine. You all know about hot glue guns. But you may not realize that you can get a range of them from under \$5 to over \$200! They can be corded, cordless or even gas operated. They all use basically the same glue; the difference is how rapidly they can melt that glue. So if you find that your glue gun can't keep up with the projects you use it on, you need to step up to the next more powerful model. The one in the photo runs on propane, automatically keeps itself hot with a good reservoir of heat so that you can essentially apply glue in a continuous operation. You don't need that for little crafts work, but it can certainly be useful in a production shop that relies on hot glue. Here's one trick for working with hot glue guns. If you use a hot air gun, or even a hair dryer, to warm up the object you want to glue first, the glue will not cool instantly when it hits the cold surface. This will allow the glue to soak in and spread out better, but you may have to hold it in place longer before it sets and won't slip. Use that same hot air gun when you want to soften up or release a hot glue joint, as all hot glues can be reactivated by heat. Did I tell you of one my early failures when working in a fancy hotel as a maintenance man in Montreal? The boss wanted a big brass plaque put on the wall for a meeting. Big rush, no screws or wires. So we screwed a piece of plywood to the wall and used a lot of hot glue to attach the plaque. It worked -- until the middle of the meeting when the sun shifted over to the plaque, warming it up and sending it crashing to the floor right in the middle of a speech. So I burned into my memory that hot glue is reversible.

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