

Duct Tape Isn't the Only Answer!



While my redneck buddies use duct tape for everything - there's life beyond duct tape. Let me introduce you to Shoe-Goo and J.B. Weld.

I buy Shoe-Goo in the Shoe Department of Wal-Mart. The red 3.7 oz. tube is for "shoe repair and protective coating." If you have a hole in the sole of your shoe, fill it with Shoe-Goo. I use a rubber glove to dab a bit on, hold the repair in place with clear packing tape wound around the shoe, and check it the next day. This stuff stinks, so I apply it outdoors when possible.

I've used Shoe-Goo to put patches on a tent, seal little holes in a tent side, cement a leather wallet together, cement little plastic birds on a branch, fix the paper cone in a speaker, coat the handles of a pair of pliers, and cement leather on the edges of a tarp to strengthen it. Shoe-Goo is a powerful silicone adhesive. It's portable because it does not come in a caulking tube. It air-cures, so get all the air out of the tube before you put the cap on. Tech line: 1-800-767-4667.

J. B. Weld is a two-part epoxy that "welds" iron, steel, aluminum, brass, copper, pewter, wood, ceramics, and plastics. It comes in two tubes, the "Steel" and the "Hardener." Rubber gloves are a good idea. Use popsicle sticks to mix equal amounts of each. Apply with a popsicle stick, putty knife, spoon, etc. In hot weather, let it sit 15-20 minutes after mixing before you apply it. Roughened surfaces stick better. J. B. Weld isn't good for temperatures above 600°F.

I've used J. B. Weld to put a cast-iron pot together, repair a cracked aluminum fitting, glue brass tubing to sheet steel, glue a steel rod into wood, fix a ceramic figurine, repair an aluminum fuel tank, fix holes in a steel boat, and do emergency plumbing repairs. I buy it at a hardware store or farm store. Tech line: 1-800-529-3530.