

Here is one builder's technique for using Flex-Coat's guide adhesive.

I'm sure there are a number of ways to skin it, but what works for me is the guide in one hand, the glue stick in the other and an Alcohol torch on the bench in between. I suppose a lighter would work if you had three hands... I start by softening the end of the stick by simply rotating it back and forth about 1/4" away from the side of the flame for a couple of seconds, just to WARM it, being careful to get it hot enough to actually melt. With the stick still near (but not IN) the flame, I then hold the guide foot over the tip of the flame for a second or two (longer for heavy gauge guides), then wipe it across the face of the softened glue stick. I then check the bottom of the guide foot to make sure I got enough, but not too much glue on it. I just look for a "wet" look on the majority of the foot. If I didn't get enough glue, I do it again. If I get too much, I simply wipe the bottom of the guide foot against the side of the glue stick and the excess will transfer from the guide back to the stick. When I've got the right amount on the foot, I wave it over the flame a couple of times to re-heat it and I stick it on the blank. I usually do 3-4 guides at a time, check their alignment, and then wrap them before I stick the next few on.

Alignment is pretty simple. Stick them on and check them. If you've got alignment issues, pop off the offending guide(s), re-heat them and stick them back on until you get them straight. They'll actually pop off quite easily. I normally only do a few at a time BECAUSE they pop off so easily. If I were to glue on 9-10 guides then go to work on my power wrapper, I'd probably knock one or two off before I got them wrapped. It's not like you just hot melted them to the blank. They're VERY easy to re-work before wrapping. Now here's the key for those who "can't adjust" the guides after wrapping... Don't wrap them 'till they're lined up! If you happen to knock one out of whack in the process of wrapping it, it's not glued to the blank anymore any way, so just adjust it like you would an un-glued guide.

It sounds like a lot of work, but I could have stuck the guides on a few 8' rods in the time it took me to type this. I can use the stick WAY faster than I can tape the guides on.

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