

## Chapter 6: Using Styling Products

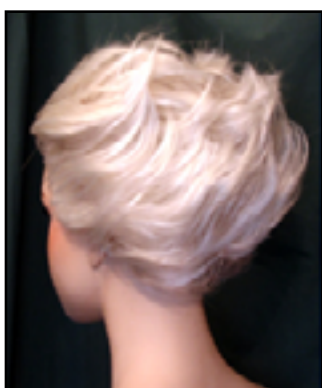
### Hair Glue: A Love/Hate Relationship

#### Hair Glue - Instant Body AND Annoyance



In the late 1990s, the beauty industry, spearheaded by the Bedhead™ line of products, exploded into the mainstream drugstore. Suddenly there were all kinds of new goops and sprays to give the buyer the “extreme hair experience” they’d unknowingly always needed.

One of these new products was a de-ionized water-based polymer gel known as hair glue, or styling glue. Unlike standard alcohol based gels, it never dries, and has superior sticking power... to both hair and *itself*. Although it’s marketed as a “spiker”, we don’t use it for the same types of spikes that we use hairspray for.



#### Unparalleled lift...

One thing that hair glue has hands-down over all other styling products is the power to create body in any loose style. Even the hairspray laden “big hair” styles of the 1980s took an immense amount of teasing to get lift. Hair glue, on the other hand, creates the lift by effortlessly turning the wig into a network of interlocked fibers... and it does it without any real skill from the person applying the glue.

This is great for easily creating J-Rock or horror styles that would normally require time-consuming teasing and spraying.



#### Step 1:

Start with the fiber you’d like to lift well combed out. Having teasing or tangles already in place will actually make it harder for the glue to do its job.

Squirt a one inch diameter blob of hair glue into your hand, then rub your palms vigorously together. Once they are evenly coated, you’re ready to attack the fiber.



#### Step 2:

Coming at the fiber from the lowest part of the section, crunch it inward and upward with your glue-covered hands. Don’t try to smear the glue into the fiber, just open and close your fists over the loose fiber. Continue up to the next part of the section and do the same thing until you reach the top.

If you’re doing it right, you’ll see the lift right away. Try not to apply the glue too heavily to any one part, or it’ll just clump up. Instead, you’re trying to apply a thin but even coat to all of the fiber. (Especially near the roots.)

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##### Step 3:

Go wash your hands. You've probably got fiber stuck all over them at this point. (I hate getting fiber stuck on my hands...)

When you come back, you can fuss with the lifted section to get it shaped the way you want it. Just make sure not to get it wet (or the hairglue will turn into CEMENT) or brush it (you'll break up the network of fibers and undo your lift). Once you're happy with the shape, give it a light spritzing of hairspray to set it.



##### Finishing Ends...

Although hairspray is the best product for stiffening fiber, it does have the drawback that it doesn't stick to itself very well. In the case of spikes, you'll need the tip to be solid or it'll just fray after a short amount of time. This is a job for hair glue or caulk. (Hair glue doesn't take as long to dry, so it's usually the best fit for the job.)

By smashing a blob of hair glue into the tip of the spike, then hitting it with more hairspray, you'll create a dense cap of lacquer/polymer glue that will resist fraying.



##### Dread helper...

When making dreadlocks from synthetic fiber, we can help the "mess it up" stage by adding a bit of hair glue to the mix. Just mash a bit of glue into the fiber you plan to rat, much like you would when doing a lift. This will help the fiber get knotted and stuck into itself more quickly than ratting alone.

In addition, when doing air sealed dreads (like the ones shown to the right) this gives them a much more realistic appearance, since the glue de-shines the fiber during the sealing stage.

