

How-How to glue your patches on your vest!

Okay – now you have your vest and your patches – let’s glue ‘em on. While we all learned how to glue stuff in elementary school, gluing patches to leather requires a little more effort, especially since you will be wearing the vest for at least three years, and you do not want the patches falling off (I have lost a few). First of all, you need good glue. There are quite a few choices, if you go to any craft store such as Michael’s or a general retailer such as Target. Make sure the glue mentions it is appropriate for leather. I have tried several brands and some are definitely better than others. The one we recommend is Aleene’s Platinum Bond Super Fabric Textile Adhesive which you can buy from our on-line store or you will find it at retail locations as described above. I have found from experience that this glue works pretty well for this application. Once you have your glue, let’s get going

Step One – Get Set Up

The first thing you want to do is find a flat surface in your house where you can leave the vest lay overnight to dry. While it is probably dry in an hour or so, I have found that if I let the vest sit overnight the patches all seem to stay on pretty good. Trying to glue them on right before a meeting is probably not a great idea as they will tend to come off if they are not allowed to dry properly. (The voice of experience speaking!).

I choose the dining room table, as long as I have my stuff out of there by Thanksgiving I am usually okay!

I would put down a towel or newspaper underneath it all if you are working on a good table.



Step Two – Pick Your Patch Location

Select the spot where you want to glue your patch. Make sure you're saving space for your Nation program patches for all three years. Consult your handbook for the exact locations. Other than those, you can put your patches wherever you want. You will also want to make your vest and your child's vest look as similar as possible so it is a good idea to glue patches on both vests at the same time in the same location.

Once you have a location, make a few marks on the vest with the pencil. Make just enough of a mark so you can determine the surface area to glue. Put the marks just slightly inside the patch edge so that you won't see the pencil marks once you glue it down.



Step Three – Put Some Glue On The Vest

Take the tube of glue and put a thin layer directly on the vest in the surface area that you previously marked. Spread it around and make it as even as possible, do not put on too much, but make sure the entire surface area is covered.

Allow the glue to dry for about 5 minutes or so.



Step Four – Put Some Glue On The Patch

Take the tube of glue and put a slightly thicker layer of glue directly on the patch. Spread it around and make it as even as possible, do not put on too much, but make sure the entire surface area is covered.



Step Five – Put The Patch On The Vest

Take the patch and place it on the previously glued area on the vest. Take your fingers and massage in a circular motion all over the patch. Press it firmly in place around the edges. Wipe any excess glue that comes out from under the patch with a paper towel. If a lot comes out, try cutting back the amount of glue you are using on the next patch.



Step Six – Weight It Down And Relax!

Take a paper towel and lay it over the patch. Take a couple of heavy books and lay it over the towel and patch to put some weight on top of the just glued patch. Any books will do, my personal favorite are a couple of volumes of the Encyclopedia Britannica. Old textbooks work pretty well too!

Let the books sit on the patches overnight if you have the time, or at least a couple of hours.

Congrats! You should have a patch that is pretty well stuck and should survive all the activities you will put your vest through!



Any feedback, comments or suggestions? Please let us know your thoughts!