

radios & high-tech gear

review of new, interesting, and useful communications products

Lightning Bond And Dr. Mike's Model-'n Crafter's Glue

We've highlighted Lightning Bond here before, and got so many calls and letters that we decided it was time to check 'em out again. These two adhesives have extremely long shelf lives after they are opened. They meet all modeler's needs as they bond everything, including brass, pewter (white metal), delrin, styrene, wood, rubber, polys, leather, glass, resins, and other products that store and carry petroleum commodities.

Lightning Bond is a new high-tech adhesive that works almost like anaerobics, which means it works on lack of oxygen to bond. It has a three-year shelf life if taken care of. It's packaged with a bottle of filler, which is used to reinforce joints and for repairs to replace a missing part, to fill in a hole, etc. This fantastic product is machineable within minutes.

Dr. Mike's Model-'n Crafter's Glue has many applications in the shack and around the home. It can be used to bond plastic and other products. It's perfect for railroad modelers as it can bond Grandt delrin couplers and handrails to styrene, along with woods like pine, mahogany, and many others used for modeling, crafting, and antique repairs. I've used it extensively with the filler to glue a small coax balun to a Cubex quad antenna, repaired an outdoor ground-level lamp, and an old classic transistor radio knob.

Lightning Bond's shelf life after opening is three years with storage temperatures of 65 degrees F or less, and Dr. Mike's has an eight-plus month shelf life after opening kept at or near the same temperature.

Refrigeration to extend shelf life is fine for either, but not necessary if just kept cool and out of sun, like all adhesives. You can leave either glue open all day long and neither will dry out.

Mike Rice, President of Innovative Promotions, LLC, markets these adhesives via mail and at some major train shows and other types of events (including some hamfests!). His website at DrMikesGlue.com makes it easier for you to purchase anytime. He's also been marketing Lightning Bond, which retails for \$15 for a 10-gram bottle kit with filler and \$20 for a 20-gram kit. Dr. Mike's retails for \$11.95 for a 14.2-gram (half-ounce) bottle. While they may seem pricey, when you consider that



Dr. Mike's Model-'n Crafter's glue is a must-have in your radio shack and around the home.

most folks buy a \$5 bottle of regular super-type CA adhesive every couple of months, these adhesives last for eight months to three years and are, therefore, quite reasonable. The accelerator is \$6.95 for two fluid ounces.

If you have any questions contact Mike at DrMikesGlue@aol.com or visit their website. Please tell him you read about it in *Popular Communications*.

PowerPort Radio GearHarness

Recently I had the opportunity to accompany an associate on an archeological survey of Indian sites in remote areas of Utah. As I was considering what to pack and how to carry all of the gear I needed, a buddy of mine recommended a PowerPort Radio GearHarness. What a life-saver! This bandolier-style harness is lightweight, has a variety of pockets, and is extremely useful for many purposes. Other harnesses I've tried in the past were cut poorly and were not comfortable over time. They would rub against my arm, or were just too dense and heavy, causing me to sweat and chafe.

The PowerPort GearHarness is made of a medium weight, lightly padded nylon with a mesh backing that allows air to circulate easily between your body and the harness. There are three main pockets: two designed for handheld-sized radios and one larger horizontal pocket with a Velcro rain flap that was great for carrying my digital camera. Although the back shoulder-blade pocket was intended for a second handheld radio (who really needs *two* HTs?), I found it to be a perfect place for my handheld GPS. It allowed for great sky view and, therefore, strong GPS signal. When I carry the GPS on my belt, it drops the signal quite regularly and doesn't give me an accurate trail at the end of the day. Using the shoulder-blade pocket worked much better. The same advantages applied to my 2-meter amateur handheld carried in the front pocket.

Two narrow vertical pockets are perfect for a pen and a spare antenna, and a glow stick for night work. The GearHarness also has a map pocket that runs the width of the front of the harness with a discreet zipper along the top edge—a great place



PowerPort's GearHarness holds a couple of your HTs and small accessories securely, and ready for immediate access.

to stash my notepad and topo maps for quick reference. All of these features, along with many attachment points, make this a great way to have quick and easy access to all of my basic necessities while on the move.

One of our companions was a Ski Patrol Search and Rescue professional. He was eyeballing my GearHarness covetously, noting the many ways that it was superior to the standard issue one that he was using this past winter. The GearHarness is now part of my basic kit for any kind of travel, hiking, field days, and public service work.

You can purchase a GearHarness for \$36.95 through Cutting Edge Enterprises' website at www.powerportstore.com or by calling 800-206-0115.

SkySweeper PRO: For The Professional Monitor

SkySweeper PRO is the newest member of the SkySweeper product family. This new, professional version is targeted toward government agencies, professional radio monitoring, and the advanced ham or utilities DXer. But the PRO version is still simple enough that a hobbyist looking for a more advanced decoder will be pleased with its ease of use and state-of-the-art advanced features.

SkySweeper PRO offers all the features of SkySweeper standard and, in addition, contains very advanced signal analyzers and decoding tools. There are analyzers for signal and modulation analysis, such as high-resolution FFT, modulation speed, and signal phase analyzers, as well as bit domain analyzers. Plus there are several generic (universal) decoders (FSK, MFSK, MPSK, MSK, PAM, and PSK), which are used to decode known and unknown transmissions. The generic decoders combined with universal bit tools provide the very best tools in the market for digital transmission decoding and analysis. These "generic" analyzers can be configured to almost any type of transmission mode. The more advanced the user, the more advanced the tools can become.

In the near future there will be even more new decoders added to the Professional version, such as DTMF, COQUELET, PICCOLO, STANAG 4825, and Mil-STD-110. These additions will be a no-charge upgrade for registered Professional owners.

Computer-Aided Technologies invites you to take a "test drive" of the SkySweeper PRO. U.S. residents can download the SkySweep demo from their website at <http://www.scancat.com/download.com>. European residents can download the demo from SkySweeper's site at http://www.skysweep.com/download_frame_pro.htm. If you already own SkySweeper "Standard" an upgrade price is available. Contact Computer-Aided Technologies for details and pricing. They're the U.S. dealer for SkySweeper and SkySweeper PRO, and they accept VISA/MasterCard and AMEX. For a limited time, included with your purchase will be a CD that contains their "Disk Full of Frequencies," a \$15 value at no charge. You can purchase and register online using the company's Shopping Cart.

For more information, contact Computer-Aided Technologies, P.O. Box 18285, Shreveport, LA 71118 or order toll-free at 888-722-6228. You can also e-mail questions to them at scancat@scancat.com. Be sure to tell them you read about SkySweeper PRO in *Pop'Comm*. ■