Sticking Together The Science of Adhesion

Steven Abbott

University of Leeds, UK Steven Abbott TCNF Ltd Email: steven@stevenabbott.co.uk

ROYAL SOCIETY OF **CHEMISTRY**

Contents

Chapter 1 Introduction 1 1.1 Which Adhesive Should I Use? 4 1.2 How the Book Unfolds 6 Chapter 2 **Background Ideas** 8 2.1 Why Bother with Adhesives? 14 2.2 Technical Basics 15 2.3 Units 16 2.4 Adhesion Terms 18 2.5 Surface Tension and Energy 19 2.6 Viscosity 20 2.7 Squeezing Glue 21 2.8 Griffith's Law 23 2.9 Chemistry Essentials 24 2.10 Polymers 27 2.11 Crosslinked Polymers 31 2.12 Water as the Initiator 32 2.13 Catalysts 33 2.14 That's It 33

35

| Chapter | 3 | | |
|----------|------|---|-------|
| Sticking | Like | a | Gecko |

| 3.1 | Lessons from the Gecko | 38 |
|-----|---|----|
| 3.2 | Why Don't We Have Lots of Gecko Adhesive Tapes? | |
| | Actually, We Do | 41 |
| 3.3 | Liquid Gecko Adhesive | 46 |
| 3.4 | Use Sparingly | 51 |
| 3.5 | The Pain of Contact in Contact Lenses | 52 |
| 3.6 | (Don't) Roughen before Use | 53 |
| 3.7 | Soldering | 56 |
| 3.8 | What Have We Learned so Far? | 57 |

Chapter 4

| How Stuck Is Stuc | k? |
|-------------------|----|
|-------------------|----|

76

| 4.1 | Keeping the Wings on the Plane | 60 |
|-----|---|----|
| 4.2 | The Explanations | 63 |
| 4.3 | Never Rely on a Butt Joint | 65 |
| 4.4 | At Least Our Adhesive Tape Is Nice and Simple | 67 |
| 4.5 | The Tape Test | 71 |
| 4.6 | Bring in the Experts | 73 |
| 4.7 | Boil in the Bag | 74 |
| 4.8 | Testing at Home | 74 |

Chapter 5 Strong Adhesion

| 5.1 | Intermingling | 78 |
|------|---|-----|
| 5.2 | Uncooked Spaghetti | 79 |
| 5.3 | Cooked Spaghetti | 81 |
| 5.4 | Crosslinks | 85 |
| 5.5 | Strong Adhesion to Non-polymers | 87 |
| 5.6 | Cyanoacrylates – The Basics | 90 |
| 5.7 | Epoxies and Urethanes – The Basics | 94 |
| 5.8 | Epoxies and Urethanes – Locking On | 99 |
| 5.9 | Urea/Melamine Formaldehyde Resins | 100 |
| 5.10 | Will Not Stick to PE/PP – Or PET | 102 |
| 5.11 | Polyolefin Adhesion – It's Not Surface Energy | 104 |
| 5.12 | Adhesion via the World's Worst Polymer | 107 |
| | | |

Anntanta

| Coni | ienis | XI |
|------|---|-----|
| 5.13 | UV Adhesives | 109 |
| 5.14 | Hot Melt Adhesives | 111 |
| 5.15 | Wood Glues | 112 |
| 5.16 | General Purpose Glues | 113 |
| 5.17 | Silicones | 114 |
| 5.18 | TES and TMS – Why so Many Adhesives Contain | |
| | Silanes | 117 |
| 5.19 | "Contains Complicated Stuff" | 120 |
| 5.20 | If Only | 122 |
| | pter 6 | |
| Stro | ng Adhesion with Weak Polymers | 124 |
| 6.1 | PSAs – Pressure Sensitive Adhesives | 127 |
| 6.2 | Dissipation | 130 |
| 6.3 | Spaghetti (Cooked) and Chewing Gum | 135 |
| 6.4 | Tack | 137 |
| 6.5 | The Backing Tape | 137 |
| 6.6 | How Does a PSA Work? | 140 |
| 6.7 | Sticking to Different Surfaces | 146 |
| 6.8 | Choosing the Right PSA for Your Job | 148 |
| 6.9 | Those Easy-remove Hooks | 153 |
| 6.10 | Adhesives for Packaging | 155 |
| Cha | pter 7 | |
| Stic | king Other Things Together | 160 |
| 7.1 | Cement and Concrete | 161 |
| 7.2 | Ceramics | 165 |
| | Holding on to Bricks and Concrete | 167 |
| 7.4 | Plasterboard/Drywall | 169 |
| 75 | Tiles | 170 |

| 7.5 | Tiles | 170 |
|------|----------------------|-----|
| 7.6 | Rubbers and Bitumens | 172 |
| 7.7 | Nail Polish | 174 |
| 7.8 | Lipstick | 176 |
| 7.9 | Metal to Metal | 177 |
| 7.10 | Wood to Wood | 178 |
| 7.11 | Dental Adhesives | 182 |
| 7.12 | Fixing Bones | 187 |
| 7.13 | Temporary Adhesion | 188 |

| | pter 8 t ching Paint Dry | 191 |
|------|---|-----|
| 8.1 | A Good Basic Paint | 191 |
| 8.2 | Paint Pigments | 194 |
| 8.3 | Wood Paint Challenges | 198 |
| 8.4 | Automobile Paints | 201 |
| 8.5 | Multilayer Paints and Coatings | 203 |
| 8.6 | Powder Coatings | 205 |
| 8.7 | Viscosity: Thick and Thin | 206 |
| 8.8 | Low Price, High Cost | 209 |
| 8.9 | Saving the Planet | 212 |
| | pter 9 | 014 |
| Stic | king in 3D | 214 |
| 9.1 | UV Curing Systems | 215 |
| 9.2 | Extrusion Systems | 217 |
| 9.3 | Sintering Systems | 220 |
| 9.4 | HP Jet Fusion and Metal Jet | 224 |
| 9.5 | Re-printing Humans | 225 |
| 9.6 | The Future for 3D Printing | 226 |
| | pter 10 | |
| Not | Sticking | 228 |
| 10.1 | Silicone Magic | 231 |
| 10.2 | Other Ways to Reduce Adhesion | 233 |
| 10.3 | Lubrication | 234 |
| 10.4 | Non-stick Hip Joints | 235 |
| 10.5 | Non-stick Frying Pans | 238 |
| 10.6 | 6 | 241 |
| 10.7 | The End of Life for Adhered Systems | 245 |
| Chaj | oter 11 | |
| How | Nature Sticks Things | 247 |
| 11.1 | A Bit More on Geckos and Cockroaches | 247 |
| 11.2 | Tree Frogs Invent Tyre Treads First | 248 |
| 11.3 | Tarantulas and Spider-Man and Spider Webs | 250 |

Contents

| 11.4 | Climbing Robots | 251 |
|-------|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 11.5 | Underwater Adhesion | 252 |
| 11.6 | Fighting Adhesion | 255 |
| 11.7 | Holding Ourselves Together | 259 |
| 11.8 | The Kendall Formula | 260 |
| 11.9 | It's All about Specific Molecules | 261 |
| 11.10 | Adaptive Adhesion | 263 |
| 11.11 | The Unity of (Adhesion) Science | 266 |
| | | |
| | | |

Subject Index

268