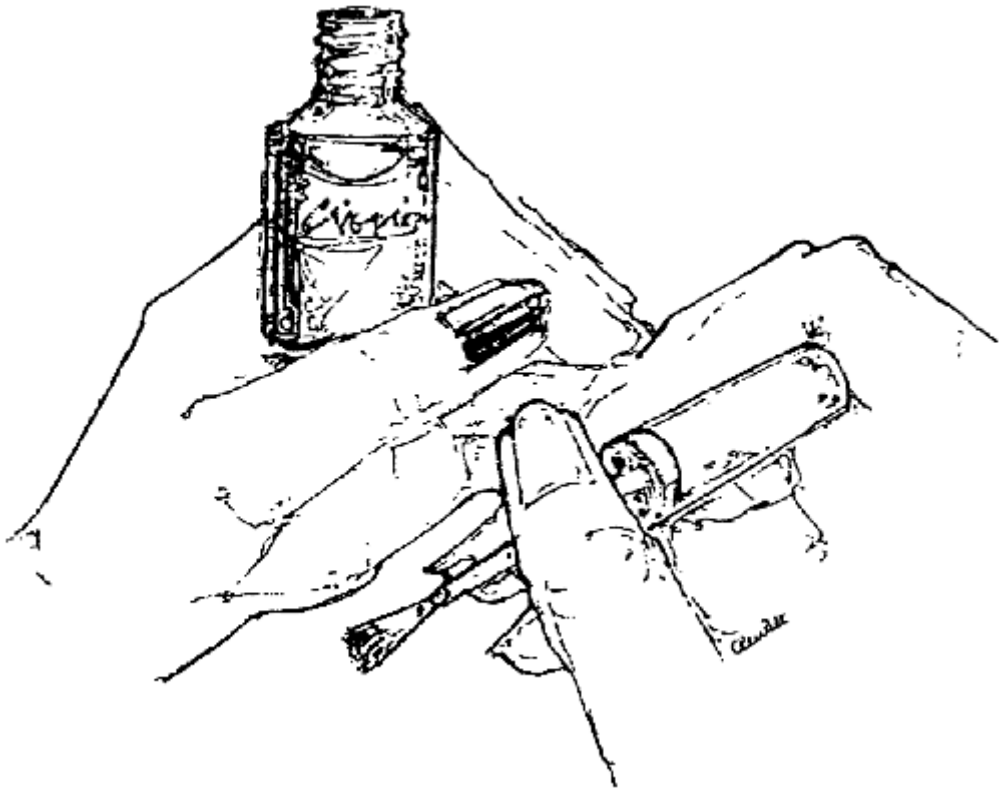
# BARROWMORE
## MODEL RAILWAY GROUP
"Modelling to a high standard amongst friends"




**Workshop Notes: Securing Nuts**

[A revised version of "Merseyside Model Railway Society fashion page", printed in the "Merseyside Express " no. 268, March 1994]



If you work in a factory, workshop or garage, you probably have access to various types of Loctite and similar products - 'glues' used to lock screws, nuts, bearings, etc. These are very useful compounds, but unfortunately most have a limited shelf-life (i.e. like superglue, they go 'off' when stored for too long). So with infrequent use, it is not worthwhile buying even the smallest size container marketed. But if you work in an establishment where these products are in everyday use, it is a simple matter to 'beg' a minute dab! But I have never worked anywhere that used Loctite - so my solution is to use nail varnish as a primitive substitute.

It has several advantages over the real thing:

(1) it is free! Once you let it be known that you have a use for old nail varnish bottles, then lady friends will flood you with part-used containers. Accept them all with thanks - unusable bottles can be 'binned' on the quiet. Like mustard pots or toothpaste tubes, they very often have quite a bit left in them - if the contents have become too thick, they can be thinned with acetone or nail varnish remover;

(2) it is produced in many tints from black to white via various shades of red, brown, purple, blue, or green. The most common are various shades of pink or red, of course. (Moral: cultivate the sort of girl who experiments with black or green!);

(3) it dries very quickly, but not so fast that it can't be used to lock to lock screw threads, etc.;

(4) when dry, it does not seem to be soluble with water, oil, or the various solvents (eg. Mekpak) that we use;

(5) I use it for two main purposes: (a) as a mild, fairly easily broken, thread-locking compound; and (b) as a colour-coded identifier for screws/nuts used on locomotives and other rolling stock: I put a dab of one colour of varnish on and around the heads of similar size (length and thread) screws so that they can be refitted easily after taking apart. If a screw has blue nail varnish on its head, you know it must go into a hole which has blue nail varnish around it!

(6) the brushes integral with the bottle tops are also useful but first they have to have the varnish washed out of their bristles with acetone;

(7) it can be used as a 'solder-resist' : apply it to the parts of a metal component that you don't want solder to spread onto. [But note that an alternative solder resist will be detailed in a future "Workshop notes"]

(8) Acquiring it can be a good 'chat-up' line, too!

There is one possible disadvantage: you may find yourself with a reputation as a transvestite from asking female friends to pass-on to you their discarded nail varnish bottles!

You can also use it to colour-code various items of workshop equipment. Nail varnish has many uses other than colouring finger nails: the poor man's Loctite, in fact!

(Thanks to Crystal Burkitt for coming to my rescue with the drawing. I attracted funny looks in the newsagent's by looking through "Cosmopolitan" and other womens' magazines in a futile search for a suitable picture to illustrate this article!).