

Laminated Skyboards

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The skyboard is the most often scratched, chipped, scarred or otherwise cosmetically damaged piece of most modules. Skyboards also have a tendency to warp or curl and often absorb paint so that the grain of the wood eventually shows through.



Two frequently used skyboard materials are plywood and hardboard. Individually both of these materials lead to the problems noted in the previous paragraph. However, one way to minimize those problems is to laminate those two materials to each other, resulting in a stronger, smoother, more durable skyboard.

Start with a 4' x 8' sheet of 1 1/32" 3-ply plywood and an equally sized sheet of 3/16" Masonite hardboard. Glue the two boards together with industrial strength wood glue. Be sure the rough side of the Masonite goes against the plywood. The rough surface will improve the adhesion between the two pieces. It is important that the glue is evenly spread across the entire surface, with no dry spots. If you do this in your garage, be sure to



lay the Masonite on the cement floor and place the plywood on top. If you put the plywood on the bottom, it will wick up any moisture imbedded in the pores of the concrete and the plywood will warp. Also, be sure to apply sufficient weight across the entire surface (edges, corners, and centers) and allow adequate time for the glue to cure (at least 24 hours) to ensure a good bond. By doing a full sheet, you will be able to cut several skyboards from the sheet, all with smooth, matched edges.

Even though the plywood is already a 3-ply laminate, by adding the Masonite layer you end up with a sturdier 1/2" thick skyboard that is less likely to warp and has a smooth, even surface for painting backgrounds.



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