

# Reviving my Yes! Stikflat Glue

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It's two or three years since I bought this jar of *Yes! Stikflat Glue* for a couple of bucks at a thrift store. It's a pretty stiff product, meant to be applied with a stick or glue spreader.



I wasn't familiar with this glue when I bought it, but the price was right, and it was labelled as an all-purpose, water-based, non-toxic glue that sticks paper flat without wrinkling or curling. Sounded great, so I took it.



In its advertising, *Yes! Stikflat Glue* looks translucent in the jar, and is said to be transparent when it dries. I'm guessing that it's supposed to be the consistency of a glue stick.

But when I bought mine, it was kind of a caramel brown/tan in colour – it must have darkened with age, since the jar was already pretty old when I got it. It did adhere well, but it was so extremely thick and stiff that it was difficult to dig out and apply, even with a stick. As a result, I didn't use it very much.



Alas, when I opened the jar last week, I discovered that the glue had solidified almost to the consistency of fudge, and was just too stiff to use.



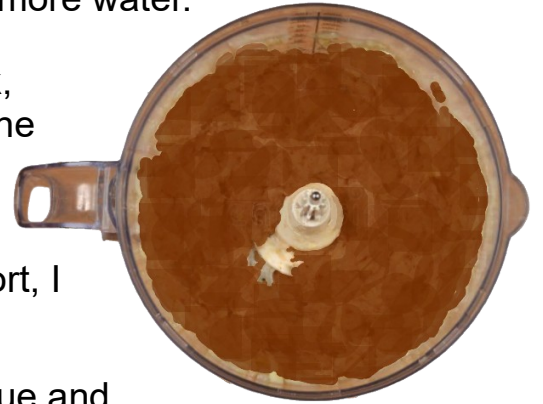
According to the instructions on the jar, small amounts of the paste may be thinned with warm water to a more spreadable consistency; I've done that in the past, and it worked fine, so rather than toss the fudge-ified glue, I thought I would try softening the entire jar.

I got out my trusty food processor, the one I use for craft materials. Unfortunately, not everything you try works as well as you'd like . . . .

When I put the paste into the food processor, along with a bit of water, I hoped it would blend smoothly. It did not, even when I added more water.

So I tried working with smaller amounts, but the thick, viscous glue still jammed the machine: I could hear the motor working, but the blades just could not turn.

Fearing by now that I had already ruined the stuff, I figured I had nothing more to lose. So as a last resort, I decided to try melting it over low heat.



I scraped the glue and water mess out of the food processor into a pot, which I warmed on low, stirring constantly.

I was delighted to see that the solidified glue did actually liquefy; I only hoped that I hadn't compromised its stickiness by melting it down.

The glue was now the colour and approximate consistency of caramel sauce. I poured it back into the container, and hoped for the best. When it first cooled, it did thicken some, and in the days since it has become firmer still. It's likely still a little thinner than it would have been in its brand new state, but on the plus side, it's now easily workable with a spreading tool, and, though it looks darker in the container, it's actually fairly translucent when applied in a thin coat.

I'm happy to say that the heating and cooling doesn't seem to have compromised its stickiness either: I perhaps can't be certain without a side-by-side comparison, but I can confirm that my melted-down version does successfully glue paper and cardboard.



Although reconstituting this paste glue wasn't difficult once I had figured out what I needed to do, it was a bit of a palaver. I suppose I could just have tossed it out when I saw that it had fudge-ified, but I'm glad I didn't, since it's working fine now. Plus, replacing it would have been really expensive: I discovered when I searched on line that a new tub in this size retails for \$60 CDN, before you add shipping. Looks as though I've saved myself a bundle!

At that rate, I'll have one more reason to smile every time I use it to glue one of my projects.