

How to fit a grip – SUP or regular canoe paddle

This process is easy to undertake - don't rush it and make sure you are setting the right size. It applies to fitting a carbon palm grip to a ZRE SUP, dragon or canoe paddle. Before you start – take a look at the website for info on working out the right paddle length.

We've broken this down into small steps to make it really easy to follow and ensure you get a 1st class result!

1 - Materials

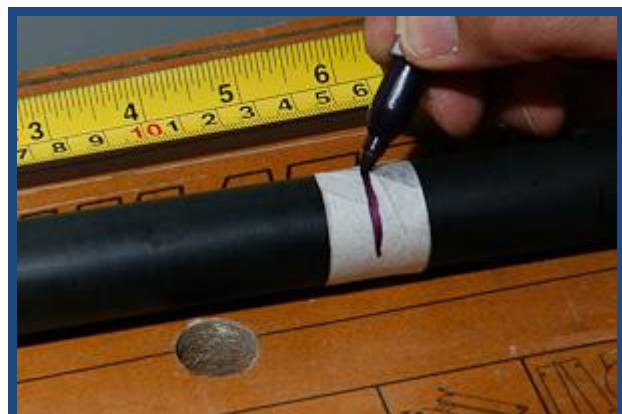
- ✓ Glue/Epoxy - we recommend Devcon epoxy - 2 part resin/hardener which sets in 5 minutes
- ✓ Something to mix the epoxy on - clean piece of card for example
- ✓ Fine toothed hand saw or a hand saw with a carbide blade
- ✓ Masking tape
- ✓ Marker pen
- ✓ Tape measure
- ✓ Protection - face mask, gloves and eye protection

2 – Marking up the paddle

2.1 Measure out the target paddle length and mark this on the shaft.



2.2 The grip will add approx 5.5cm to the shaft length so measure back down the shaft and mark the point where you will cut. Use some tape and cover this section tightly and re-mark on the tape. The tape is important as it will reduce the chance of the shaft splintering while you cut it.



3 – Cutting

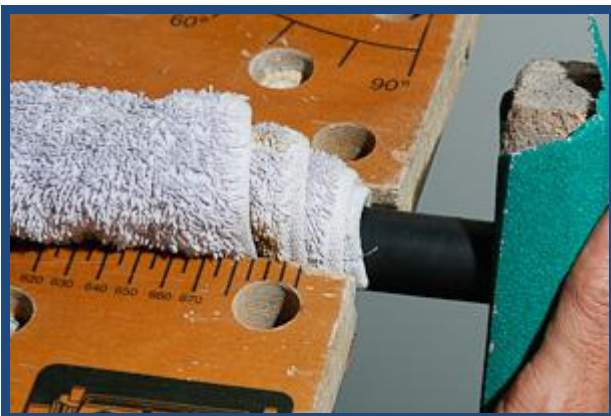
3.1 To secure the shaft while you cut it, best to use a vice/workbench with something wrapped around the shaft to prevent it getting damaged or moving. Use a fine tooth saw, electric or mechanical is fine – or a carbide blade saw if you have one. **Remember to use eye/mouth/nose/hand protection! Carbon dust is not a recommended substance to inhale or put in your skin or eyes – please take care.**



3.2 Don't cut all the way through in one go – the shafts are thin and you risk splintering the shaft if you do this. Best to cut 90% of the way then turn around the shaft to cut from the other side to get a nice tidy cut. When cut, you will have a bit of tape left – peel this away.



3.2 Next step is to tidy up the edge. Use sandpaper or wet/dry and make sure any fibres are ground down.



4 – Preparing

4.1 Sand around the edge of the shaft evenly – this will make sure that when the grip is inserted there are no sharp edges.



4.2 You should also sand inside the shaft to ensure the grip seats tightly inside. You can do this using your finger and a strip of rough sand-paper or, like here, with a small power tool. You will be able to feel a ridge that runs down both sides down the inside of the shaft – remove this for 3-4cms and generally sand away to leave the top end of the shaft a little narrower than it was.



5 – Final check and attach!

5.1 Now we're ready to do a quick check on the length and then glue in the shaft. First insert the grip – remember that the grip is designed so your fingers wrap over the top and the ergonomic grip rests in your palm. Also – don't forget which way the blade is used – it extends forwards. Would be a shame to get one of these things back to front!



Check the length – it should be a fraction (<0.5cm) longer than your target – if not, you can sand away a little more of the interior of the shaft so the grip sits deeper.

5.2 At this point – turn the shaft upside down and make sure there are no bits loose inside that will rattle!

Then mix up which ever glue or epoxy you are using and apply as instructed to the grip and inside of the shaft. If using the DevCon epoxy, you have 5 mins working time to mix, fit the grip and align with the blade. Don't go overboard with the amount of glue – you don't want too much excess so that you have lumps forming which will rattle in your paddle! As you push the grip in the shaft you will naturally have some glue which will ooze out of the top – this is fine and if you wipe this while still wet you will ensure a great seal around the top of the shaft.

The grips and shafts are made to very tight tolerances and are designed to fit together forming a perfect water tight joint when used with an appropriate bonding agent.

5.3 If you want a pro finish then spray a couple of light coats of a clear lacquer around the joint between the grip and shaft. This will cover and marks you may have made – you can actually do this anywhere on the paddle if you scratch it or have to do a repair.

Well – that's it – you're done! If you can't wait then go and paddle as soon as your glue/etc is dry!

We hope you enjoy using your paddle. It's light, strong, perfectly designed to maximise your performance on the water.

