

Dennis' secret method...

There are two ways to remove the point from an arrow, assuming it was installed with hot-melt glue. First method: Dunk the point and arrow (about 2" of it) into a cup of very hot water. I zap a mug of water until it is boiling in the microwave. Zap again when the water gets cold. Swirl arrow and point in the water for a few seconds. Yank the point out with a pair of pliers. It should come right out. Second method: Heat up the point and arrow (about 2" of it) with a hairdryer. I use a 1600-Watt version, and put the tip and arrow right up against the nozzle. Turn the arrow slowly and heat the tip for about 20 seconds. Yank the point out with a pair of pliers. It should come right out. Either the hairdryer or the hot water will not be hot enough to damage the carbon on the arrow. If the points have been installed with epoxy, you may be SOL, unless the epoxy was the heat-softening type.

To install points, I use low temperature hot melt adhesive and a glue gun, the type you find at hardware, hobby, and stationary stores. I do not use a blowtorch, because its heat is hard to control and thus too easy to overheat the point and damage the shaft, especially carbon shafts. All new components will have a layer of oil or mold-release, left over from the manufacturing process. It is important to remove this layer, otherwise glue may not stick to the parts. I clean the shank of the point and 2" inside of the shaft (where the point will be installed) very thoroughly with denatured alcohol (not rubbing alcohol). Installing the point is best done in a two-person team, although it can be done by a single person who is good at juggling tasks. First person holds the point by the tip with a pair of pliers and heats up the shank of the tip with a 1600-Watt hairdryer for about 30 seconds. A hairdryer's output temperature is around 150 degF, which is just hot enough to soften a low-temperature hot melt glue, but not hot enough to damage a carbon shaft. First person passes the hairdryer to the second person, who heats up the first 2" of the shaft where the point will be installed. One secret to good point installation is to preheat the shaft as well as the point. Preheating both will drive off whatever layer of moisture that may exist on the parts. Preheating both parts also increases the working time of the adhesive, which will reduce the chance of the adhesive seizing before assembly is complete. While the second person is preheating the shaft, the first person uses the glue gun to apply a generous ring of hot-melt adhesive around the shank of the point near the back. When this is done, second person hand the shaft to the first person. First person holds the point, shank end up, on top a piece of wood (or other non-slip surface) and presses the heated arrow shaft over the shank of the point, twisting one full rotation on the way down. Do this quickly, or the adhesive may seize on the way down. Hold in place for about 30 seconds. The point should now be installed on the shaft, with an even ring of excess adhesive squeezed out between the two parts. When cooled, the excess adhesive can be easily removed with fingers. If the shaft seizes on the shank before it goes all the way in, heat the assembly with the hairdryer again, and it will loosen.

After 4 years of doing this, on dozens of arrows of all different types of (aluminum, carbon, A/C), I've never lost a point. I've even shot my arrows into wood, and pulled them out with pliers. Not a single lost point using this method.

BTW, on hot sunny days, I leave my arrow case open. The black plastic case is a solar collector, and I do worry about the temperature getting high enough to soften the hot-melt adhesive I use.