

Removable mini gaiters « DESERT »

Instructions for attaching Velcro

Materials required:

- Brush, soap and water, alcohol, cloth
- Neoprene gel glue tube 55 grams (Gel is a better choice than liquid. We use SADER glue but the equivalent in your country should work equally as well. A 55g tube allows for 3 shoes, for 2 pairs buy a larger tube).
- notched 1.5 cm spatula (often comes with the tube of glue)
- The Velcro to stick on the shoe (provided with the Gaiters by Raidlight)
- a felt tip
- Care and patience

1 - Cleaning footwear:

- Wash with soap and water with a soft brush. Remove dirt in any creases or folds.
- Let them dry, remove the insole (to assist drying and to help during Velcro attachment later)
- Once dry, clean the area where the Velcro is to be attached with an alcohol-soaked cloth. (Polyurethane foam outsole and textile part just above)

2 – Preparing to glue :

- Lay the velcro against the shoe. Cut the desired length so that it fits back to the heel or end to end.
- Holding the Velcro on the shoe, draw on a line with the felt tip alongside the Velcro. This line will guide you for positioning the adhesive coated Velcro. Note that you cannot follow the curves of the shoe along its length because the Velcro is too "flexible" to follow contours properly. Trace the line almost straight, starting from the heel towards the toe, so the line will sometimes be almost 1 cm above the sole.
- Spread glue all around the shoe, and go over the line a little bit in the area where the Velcro is to be positioned.
- Carefully spread the glue with a notched spatula, evenly and not thickly. Do your best to get into the holes and creases. Allow to dry (follow the time indicated by the adhesive manufacturer). Clean the spatula with the cloth.
- Roll out the Velcro, with the side to be glued facing you, on a board and fix the 2 ends with drawing pins or tacks
- Place a line of glue 1 millimeter from the edge on each side (on the Velcro, not next to it), and follow along the length of the Velcro. Spread the adhesive with a notched spatula over the whole of the Velcro surface. Add more glue if necessary.

Important : Do not use the glue nozzle to apply glue on the outer edge of the Velcro, otherwise it causes ridges that stick across the Velcro when spreading the adhesive. The spatula must be used to spread the adhesive to the edges.

- Leave to become dry (time indicated by the adhesive supplier)
- Clean the spatula with the cloth.

3 - Glueing :

Observe the recommended drying time before handling objects. The glue must seem dry and not stick to your fingers.

- Take the glue coated shoe (dry), and stick **the Velcro 4 or 5 cm in starting from the heel**, follow the line by pressing and holding the Velcro on the shoe (put your fingers inside of the shoe, and firmly support the outside with the other hand. Removing the insole facilitates pressure on the entire surface of the Velcro)
- Do this until you have gone all around the shoe, ending with the heel. If there is a small overlap of Velcro, cut it off. If there is a small gap of 1 or 2 millimeters it does not matter. Firmly press on the shoe again to make sure all parts have properly adhered.
- Do not use the shoe for 48 hours.
- Put the insole back in.

4 – Advice

- Comply fully with the adhesive drying time (20 minutes usually). When the glue is "ready" you can pick up the Velcro with both hands, as if there was no glue, and handle easily. By contrast, as soon as the two parts are brought together contact is final, so be specific!
- Work in a well ventilated area, neoprene glue is strong smelling and can cause headaches.
- The application of the glue is the most important part, no areas of extra thickness, and careful spreading to the Velcro edge without going over. For the shoe, it is better to go over a little bit, and not worry too much for aesthetics.

This method was tested on two pairs of shoes at the Lybian Challenge, they showed no signs of detachment after 190 km in the hot sand.