

## Shipping Box Solution

It took awhile to get all the parts together, but in the end, it is the only way to take your racers with you on an airplane as luggage. You have to dress a little different to avoid all the model questions, but with a pair of yellow and green plaid shorts and a Polo shirt with a Polo label on it and you are good to go.<G>

Really, this box protects the airplanes and reduces the questions at airport security. On our trip to Brazil, we experienced no problems at all. We boarded in Billings, MT and they have one of the new MRI luggage scanners. I told the TSA inspector that there were RC model airplanes in the box and when it stopped because of the electronics in the radio, he passed it. From there we did not see the box again until we got to Brazil.

On the return trip, the only question that came up was from TSA in Atlanta. They did call us at the boarding area and ask what was in a suitcase. I told them that it was a model airplane transmitter and that was that. They did open the suitcase and turn on the transmitter to make sure that it was what it looked like. Only problem was that they did not turn it off and killed the battery pack.

The hard golf case that I chose to make fit our needs was a Datrek. It looks great and has the things that make it work well. It has a metal frame all the way around the clam opening. This is important. It makes the case much more rigid and it has the metal hinges and latches attached to the metal frame. These cases are easy to find. Go to the nearest "Sports Authority" and you will find them in stock for \$100.00.

The next search I went on was to find the foam to make the inner airplane supports. I went to several industrial packaging companies looking for something that would support the airplanes and at the same time, not damage them. Found nothing. Getting frustrated, I went to the Dollar Store and found some garden kneeling pads for a buck each. I bought a half dozen of them and on the way out the door, there were some little tool boxes there for again, a buck. I picked them up at the same time. The boxes are junk, but worked great for the light things that we have to carry. Like landing gear, wing tubes cleaning rags. Still, fasten the lid with a little tie wrap. I put some tools in another one and put it in a suitcase... It did not work for that. The weight of the tools broke the end out of the box. I will be on the lookout for some better boxes that are that same size.

I configured this box to just carry my two Polecats. My metal box will hold two Q-40s and two Quickies at the same time. I think that this box with the two piece wings and removable stabs could be set up to handle the 4 airplanes as well. It will hold two Quickies the way that it is, if they have removable tails like the SlingShot.

I have seen lots of airplane shipping boxes, but none have been better than this. It will go as luggage on your flight at no extra charge.



This is the shipping box ready to take to the airport.



These are the airplane supports that I built out of the garden kneeling pads. Note the holders on the lower left side. They hold a Supertanker



The other fuse goes in opposite of the one in the picture. The wings are strapped with Velcro in the wing bags. The two little boxes at the end of the wings hold the light items in the box. If you can find better boxes, they would be much better and it would be a good place to carry your tools.



This is a close up of the airplanes in the box. This is a simple and inexpensive method of carrying your racers on a commercial airliner. Every thing arrived on both ends, unscathed.

If you come up with some better ideas for this project, please send them to me. I am always anxious to learn.

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