

Double Box Shipping Container Design for "Solid Top" Guild Models – John Jacobus

I successfully shipped my 1962 "solid top" Guild model to/from Silver Spring MD to Cambridge MA for restoration using this Double Box Container Design in Feb. 2018. It performed very well. With model, the completed container weighed 10 lbs. This is a sturdy, lightweight and strong shipping container with resistance to compressive loading in all directions.

An inner box (5" X 16" X 21") with foam rubber has the model centered in a cradle to prevent vertical, lateral or longitudinal model motion. (Longitudinal direction is down the center of the model front to rear.) An outer cardboard box (12" X 18" X 24") fitted with sheets of three quarters to one inch thick Styrofoam from Home Depot surround the walls other outer box keeping the inner box centered and your model equidistant from all the outer walls.

Buy a sturdy cardboard laptop shipping box 5" X 16" X 21" from FedEx for \$15.00. There is a rectangular hole in the middle of the foam rubber (packing material comes with box) and there are perforated sections of foam rubber which can be removed with scissors to make a perfect cradle for your model. The rectangular opening or "nest" will prevent your model from shifting laterally or longitudinally.

A temporary Styrofoam block or spacer is fitted laterally between the model's front and rear wheels/tires, the length of the car body and with thickness from bottom of the model down to the ground and beyond the outside wheel diameter. This ensures that the wheel attachment points are not loaded in compression. When you close the top of the FedEx box with a light compression load, this locks the model in-place vertically, laterally and longitudinally. Before doing this, wrap your model and the Styrofoam block or spacer block with thin bubble wrap layer (360 degrees) to keep the model and spacer together and prevent longitudinal shifting while you handle it. Blue masking tape can facilitate this temporary wrap job.

Buy an ordinary, standard 12" X 18" X 24" cardboard box at a UPS or FedEx or Box Store. Cost \$6.00. This is the outer box.

Buy sheets of Styrofoam 3/4" X 18" X 8 feet. Three quarters to one inch works best and is a standard size at Home Depot at about \$12.00-\$14.00 per package. I used one package.

Make the top Block A. from five sheets of stacked Styrofoam, held together with 3M shipping tape. Cut them to rectangular size 14 3/8" X 21 7/8". Cut the stacked sheets all at the same time.

Make bottom Block B. from five sheets of Styrofoam, held together with 3M shipping tape. Cut them to rectangular size 14 3/8" X 21 7/8". Try to cut the stacked sheets all at the same time.

Close the inner FedEx box with 3M shipping tape at all comers and edges. Apply "This Side Up" signs as well as unpacking and repacking instructions for the Gilmore who will ship it back after the show.

Close the outer shipping box with 3M shipping tape all comers and edges. Apply "This Side Up" and "Fragile" stickers. Buy appropriate shipping insurance. Use 2-3 day shipping so your model travels quickly. Apply 3M shipping tape liberally to all boxes for maximum strength.

This method has been proven for "Solid Top" Models only. We are working on a shipping solution for convertible models and will publish that as soon as possible.

Alternately:

Take your "solid top" models to a FedEx or UPS office and let them pack and ship them. They are shipping experts. They can wrap models with heavy-duty bubble pop (laterally and longitudinally) and put them in a cardboard box with packing material (paper and Styrofoam).

Always use your best judgement.