

Many of you are concerned about airline travel and carrying your instrument undamaged all the way here to Tennessee. Here are some tips though it won't guarantee anything, but this is what I have done in the past.

Firstly pack the peg head and under the peg head with t-shirts or bubble wrap. Use enough padding to push the peg head up a little.

But... most importantly is to try to:

- 1) Carry on - don't let the ticket guy see your guitar. It is his job to keep it out of the interior of the plane and put it in cargo.
- 2) Insist from the beginning that you want to "Gate Check" it. This is where they take it from you at the plane itself and hand carry it down the stairs and put in the plane's belly on top. No forklifts or conveyor belts.
- 3) Try to carry it on even though you told the last person you were gate checking it. This works at the gate sometimes.
- 4) Try to either fly 1st class or near the back of the plane unless you are a medallion member or frequent flyer. This will mean you go on the plane 1st or near the beginning of the boarding process. All the overheads are open and you will have no trouble getting your case in most bins.

If you are on a smaller jet it probably will not fit. You can almost always gate check on these flights though.

I use a Calton case and just throw it under and not worry with it. The only thing that can hurt it in that case is the dreaded forklift.

ALWAYS PACK IT WITH BUBBLE WRAP.

This should help in getting it through the ordeal of plane travel.

In this case When in doubt DON'T ASK or call the airline people to see if it is ok to carry on a guitar or even a mandolin for that matter. Remember – their job is to keep it off and yours is to get it on.

Question: Can we also ship a guitar to Kamp?

Yes – and call me for an address to ship to.

800-FLATPIK or 865-982-3808

Best and happy travels

Steve K.

Kamp Director and Stamp Licker