

Packing & the Friendly Skies



Why Transporting Firearms May Be The Best Way To Safeguard Your Tech When You Fly

you may have seen me before...



i speak at lots of cons...

shm^{con}

HackCon

CAROLINA CON



Black Hat

NA

TRISC



LAYER one

secureit



Black Hat

DEFCON

SecuEst



SECURATOR

hack in the box

DEEPSEC



many of which i can't drive to...

shmocon



Washington,
D.C.

HackCon



Oslo,
Norway

CAROLINAcon



Chapel Hill,
North Carolina



Vancouver,
Canada



Amsterdam,
Netherlands



Cleveland,
Ohio



Austin,
Texas



Seattle,
Washington

LAYER one



Pasadena,
California

secureit



Sardinia,
Italy



Honolulu,
Hawaii



Las Vegas,
Nevada

DEFCON



Las Vegas,
Nevada

Secuest



Bergen,
Norway



San Diego,
California



Toronto,
Canada

hack in the box



Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia

DEEPSEC



Vienna,
Austria



my bags used to get opened a lot



... and not always by the TSA

POLICE REPORT
SAN JOSE POLICE DEPARTMENT
301 W. MICHIGAN STREET
SAN JOSE, CA 95110
TELEPHONE 287-4261

REPORTING PARTY: *Commercial Specialty*
CASE NO: *05-087-0392*

LOCATION OF EVENT: *1100 RAGE ST*
VICTIM: *SAN JOSE MEDICAL GROUP*

| ITEM | QTY | BRAND | MODEL | DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY | SERIAL NO. | VALUE |
|------------|----------|------------|--------------|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| <i>DEL</i> | <i>1</i> | <i>DEL</i> | <i>87738</i> | <i>16 INCH CARTRIDGE RIFLE</i> | <i>9099041</i> | <i>↓</i> |
| <i>DEL</i> | <i>1</i> | <i>DEL</i> | <i>60270</i> | <i>CPM, PORTUM 9, 20 GA</i> | <i>4347651</i> | <i>↓</i> |
| <i>DEL</i> | <i>3</i> | <i>DEL</i> | <i>61270</i> | <i>" "</i> | <i>702028</i> | <i>#3000</i> |

METHOD OF ENTRY
[] OPENING LOCKED
[] OPENED BY VICTIM
[] CUTTING THROUGH
[] FORCE
[] OTHER

POINT OF ENTRY
[] DOOR
[] WINDOW
[] SIDE
[] ROOF
[] OTHER

LOCATION
[] FRONT
[] REAR
[] SIDE
[] ROOF
[] OTHER

MANGALIM
[] KEYS
[] BICYCLE WINDOW
[] BICYCLE WHEEL
[] GUNFIRE
[] BURNED TIRE
[] MAILBOX
[] OTHER

PROPERTY
[] AT HOME
[] AT WORK
[] AT ATM
[] AT SCHOOL
[] DRIVING
[] IN VEHICLE
[] IN AIRCRAFT
[] IN BOAT
[] IN TRAIN
[] IN BUS
[] IN TAXI
[] IN RENTAL CAR
[] IN RENTAL TRUCK
[] IN RENTAL VAN
[] IN RENTAL SUV
[] IN RENTAL MOTORCYCLE
[] IN RENTAL BIKE
[] IN RENTAL SCOOTER
[] IN RENTAL OTHER

PROPERTY
[] AT HOME
[] AT WORK
[] AT ATM
[] AT SCHOOL
[] DRIVING
[] IN VEHICLE
[] IN AIRCRAFT
[] IN BOAT
[] IN TRAIN
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[] IN RENTAL SUV
[] IN RENTAL MOTORCYCLE
[] IN RENTAL BIKE
[] IN RENTAL SCOOTER
[] IN RENTAL OTHER



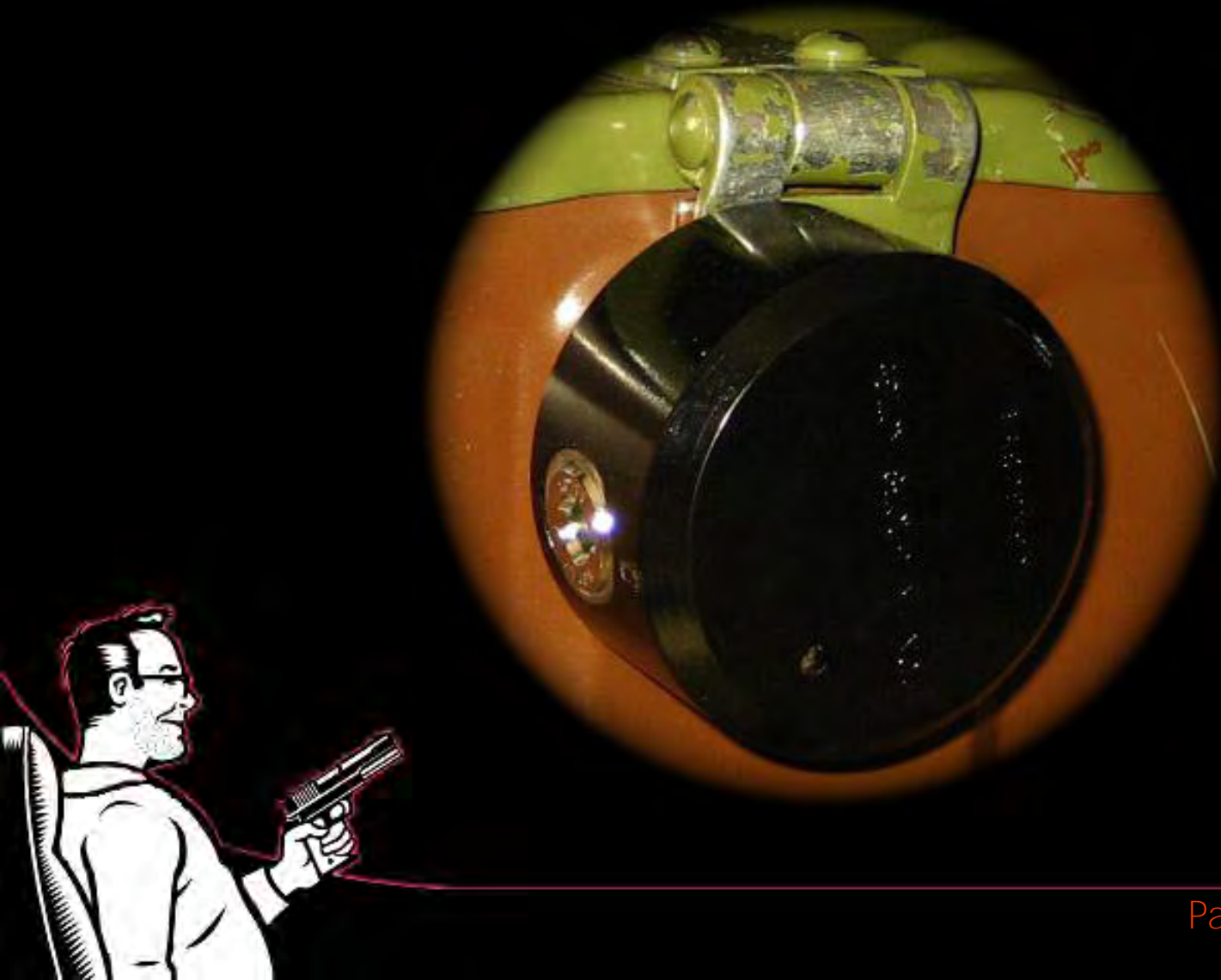
nowadays i lock all my gear



notice... these are *not* TSA locks



but proper heavy-duty padlocks



how is this allowed



simple, really...



now, i fly with firearms all the time



flying with firearms...

- **it's easier than you think**
- **it's relatively hassle-free**
- it results in *major* security



facts and the law...

- federal standards
(mostly uniform, specifics can vary by airline... but no one can abridge your rights)
- checked bag only, unloaded
(do i really have to tell you that?)
- non-TSA lock
(no one else gets the key or combo)
- declared upon check-in



specifics about packing...

- hard case, size can vary
(i'll assume you'll use larger luggage to leverage the law to your advantage)
- ammo policies can vary a lot by airline
(how it's packed, how much you can carry, same luggage or separately)
- bags may not be opened once secured
(unless you are present)
- no outside indicator labels of any kind
(27 CFR 478.31 - Delivery by Common or Contract Carrier, 18 USC Section 922e)



how the procedure works
and what to expect...





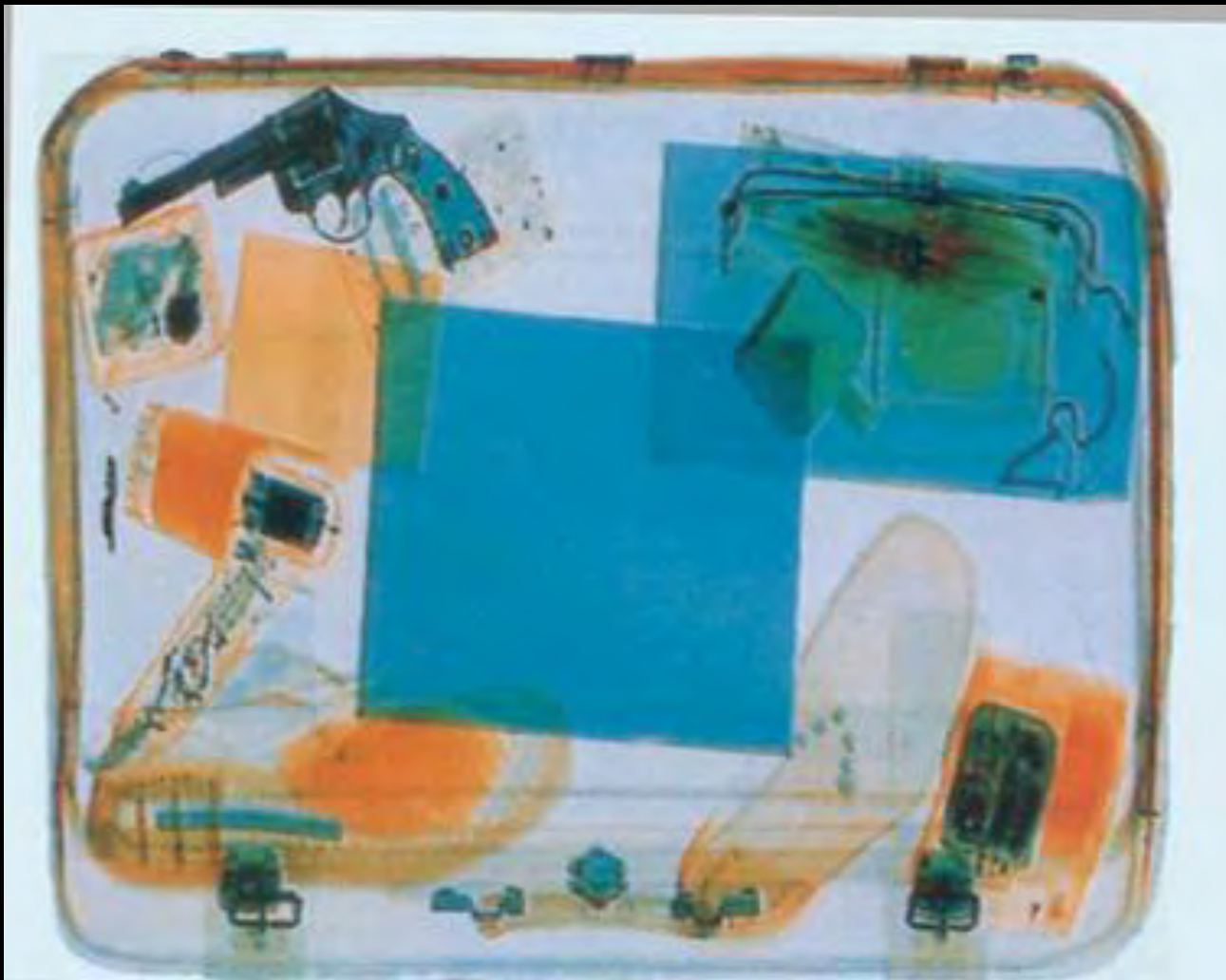
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some extra pointers that can
make the whole process
easier, better, faster, stronger...



extra pointers...

- **don't be a dumbass when you declare**
- name tags on everything, inside and out
- keep cases **locked** as much as possible
(better to be asked five times to open them than to send them away unsecured)
- getting to secondary screening area
- **no** outside indicator labels of any kind
(that's US federal law, other nations have own standards)



Federal law states: “No common or contract carrier shall require or cause any label, tag, or other written notice to be placed on the outside of any package, luggage, or other container that such package, luggage, or other container contains a firearm.” 18 USC Section 922(e)





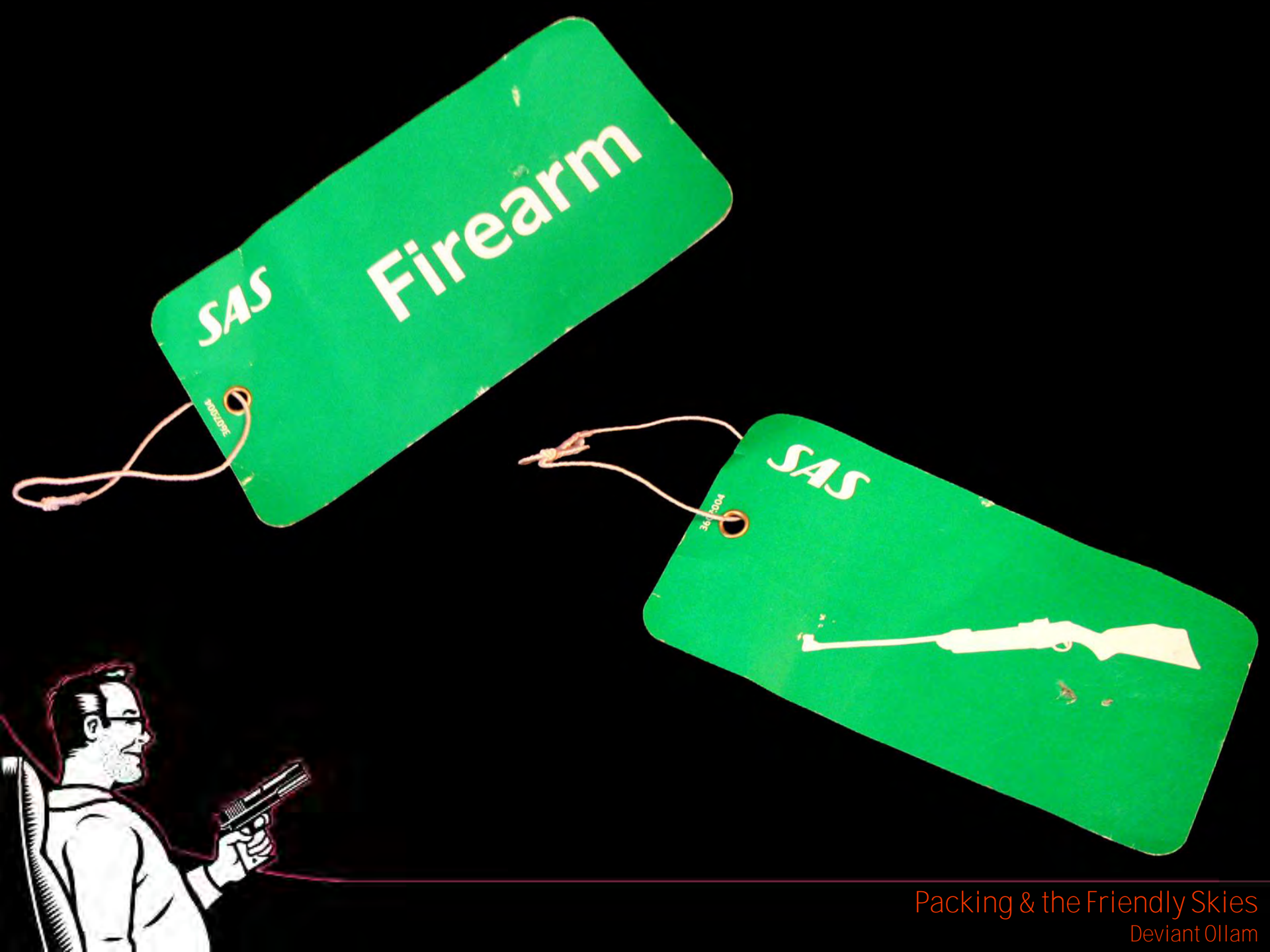












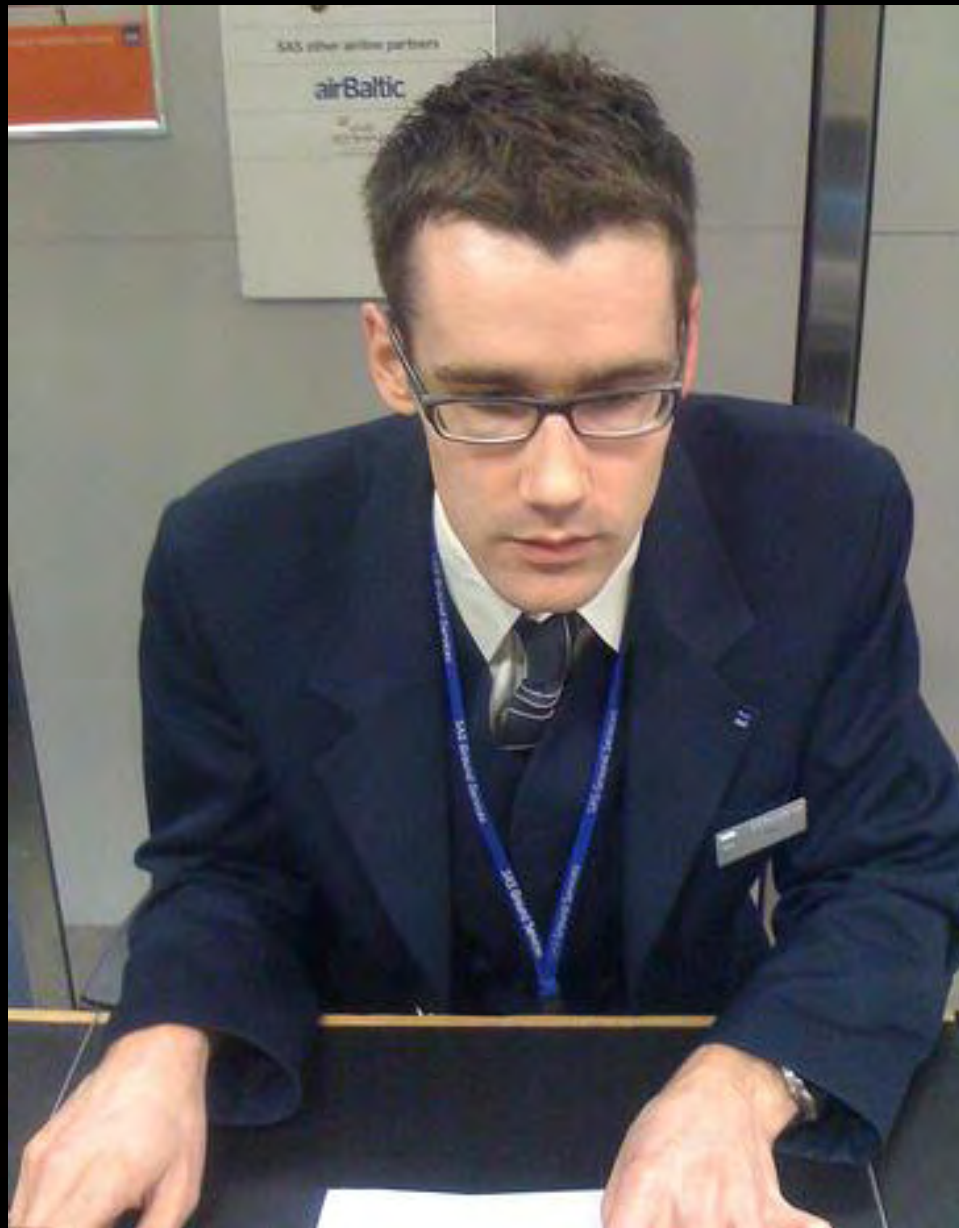
more international notes...

- luggage tagging
- clearing customs
- **other people you'll encounter**



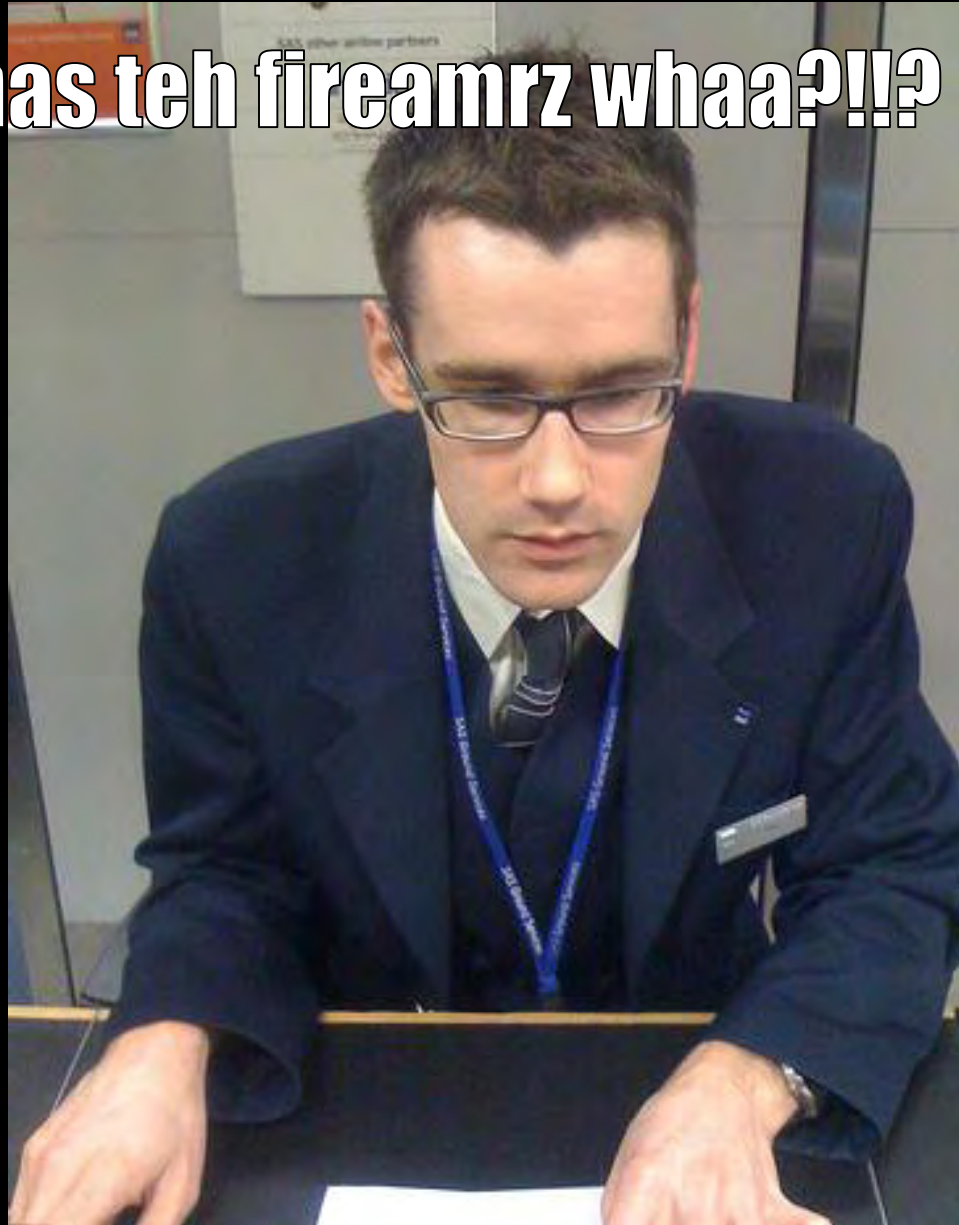






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omgz! j00 has teh fireamrz whaa?!?!? oh noes!!1!



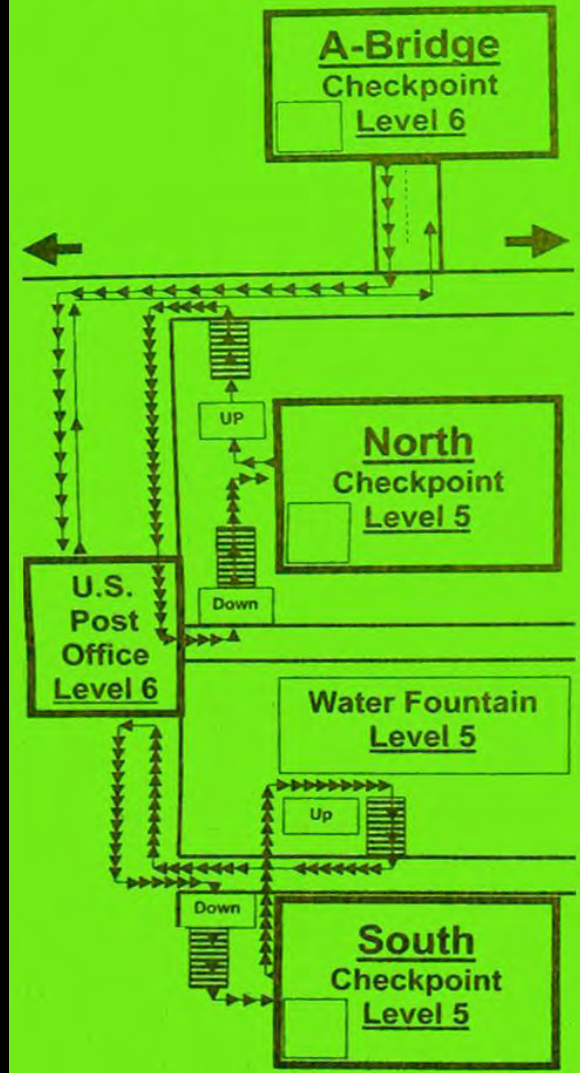
one other tip to
deal with hassles...







Your Checkpoint to U.S. Post Office and back





WARNING!
 PROTECTED BY SECURITY
 ALARM SYSTEM.
 ADMITTED ON THE PREMISES
 OFFENSE INVESTIGATED
 THE U.S. POSTAL
 SERVICE.

Label 120 August 2007
 PSN 7690-10-000-0000

THIS OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON:

| | | |
|----------|-------------------|---|
| Thursday | January 1, 2009 | New Year's Day |
| Monday | January 19, 2009 | Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday (observed) |
| Monday | February 16, 2009 | Presidents' Day |
| Monday | May 25, 2009 | Memorial Day |

We're always open at usps.com

Up **DOWN**
 01/01/09 05/31/09



E-3&E-5

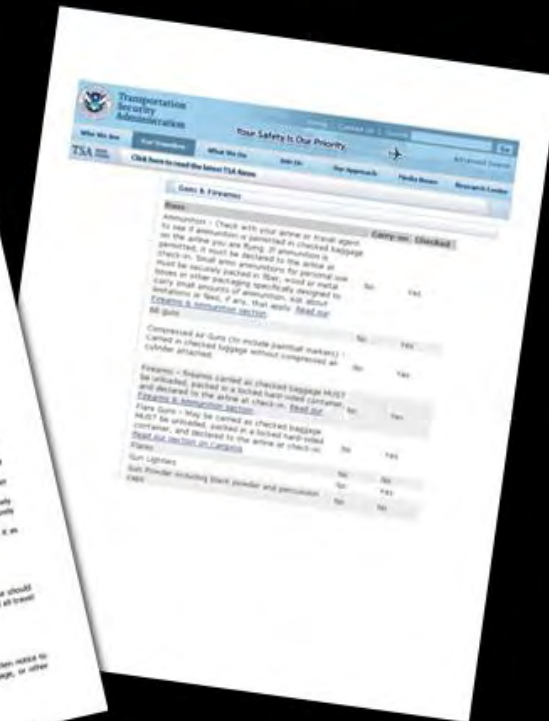
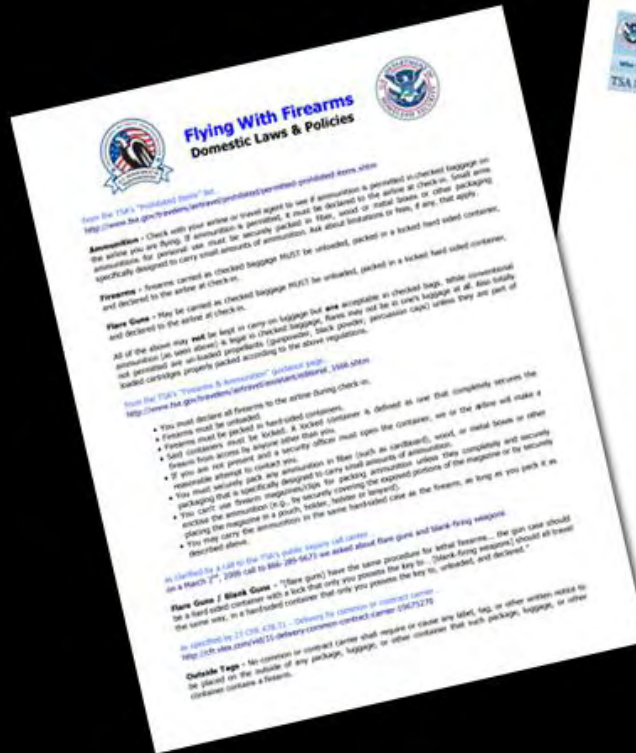


my advice . . .



if there's a problem...

- know the rules, show the rules
(legal citation sheet on deviating.net)



if there's a problem...

- know the rules, show the rules
(legal citation sheet on deviating.net)
- stay polite, stand your ground
- be direct, you are doing nothing wrong
- peace of mind over lost luggage





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Customer Relations

USA

Scandinavian Airlines International
9 Polito Avenue
Lyndhurst, New Jersey 07031
Phone: 201-896-3733
Customer Relations: 201-896-3733
www.sas.no

Norway

Sas Norge
Customer Relations
0080 Oslo Norway
Fax: +47 64 81 78 77
CR@sas.no

Denmark

Scandi

D

277

F

CUS

Se

• For at vi skal kunne hjælpe dig
best mulig, vennligst oppgi dette
referansenummeret når du er i
kontakt med oss.

• In order that we can assist you
promptly in all subsequent
communications please quote
this File Reference.

• Wir möchten Ihnen gerne schnell
weiterhelfen. Nennen Sie uns daher
bitte bei allen Rückfragen folgende
Referenznummer.

• Para poder servirles rápidamente,
rogamos comunicarnos el número
de referencia mencionado abajo.

AHL

EWRSK30000

Airport

Carrier

File Reference

DPR

Airport

Carrier

File Reference

Baggage Service Contact

SAS BAGGAGE SERVICES
Newark International Airport
66 Terminal B
Newark NJ 07114
Tel 1-800-650-2247

Please note that we will inform you, as soon
as we have your baggage in our custody.

1-800-650-2247





still, nothing as satisfying as...





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more tips...

- insurance coverage can vary
- possible to play with weight a bit
- inside other luggage? sure, but why?
- **not just “functional” firearms...**



what counts as a firearm?

- proper guns



- flare guns



- starter / blank pistols



- airsoft pieces



- replica weapons



- gun parts & hardware?



the law specifies **"firearms"** which, by definition, expel a projectile by means of a combustible propellant... but essentially, they want to avoid screeners or automated x-ray equipment seeing anything that looks like a firearm when they **weren't** expecting to encounter it.
<http://deviating.net/firearms/packing/#flare>



how do the various carriers rate?

A



B



C



D



Grade: B-

While Delta is not openly hostile to gun owners, some of their policies are clearly designed simply to generate revenue. While they explicitly state that a case may contain a total of four long guns, in subsequent sentences they specify that anything more than two rifles or two shotguns will result in an extra baggage fee. While Delta does not mandate "original manufacturer packaging" for ammo like some airlines, their policies are still restrictive enough that a holstered magazine is not allowed.



UNITED

Grade: **B / B+****United Airlines**[as specified on their web site...](#)

Firearms in checked baggage must be packed in a locked hard-sided bag or gun case.

Ammunition is allowed in checked luggage in the original manufacturer's box or securely packed in a fiber, wood, or metal box to prevent movement of cartridges.

There are a handful of stories concerning problems with United (sometimes losing firearms, sometimes printing a row of "F" characters on luggage tags) but these accounts are conflicting and all unsubstantiated. One that that is for certain, however, is that the company speaks out publicly *against* the arming of airline pilots.

Grade: B or B+

United is flexible about how guns and ammo can be packed, as long as it's secure. They appear to even be accepting of the use of loaded clips to secure ammo... since they specify "no movement" of cartridges as opposed to "separation" of the rounds. Pending confirmation that the row of "F" characters is a rumor (I personally have never seen this) i'd rate them in B range. If the story of that outside marking is true, even in some instances, then i'd switch United to a B- or C+ even.



U-S AIRWAYS

Grade: **A+****US Airways**[as specified on their web site...](#)

US Airways will allow passengers to transport firearms in accordance with Federal Law.

Firearms must be packed in a manufacturer's hard-sided container specifically designed for the firearm, a locked hard-sided gun case, or a locked hard-sided piece of luggage.

Air Travel Accounts

The follow overviews give you a basic rundown of people's experience flying with firearms on different carriers via different airports. Air carriers should, in my opinion, take responsibility for errors that their employees make and that the TSA should work *much* harder to standardize airport operations and train their staff in the proper handling of firearm policies and procedures. Click any of the passenger names below to read their full story...

Deviant Ollam

United Airlines finally admits to me in no uncertain terms that they **do** make special entries into their computer for bags containing firearms.

PHL --> CMH --> ORD -->
 CID
 2009-05-28
 ★★★★★



CID --> ORD --> PHL
 2009-06-01
 ★★★★★



Deviant Ollam

A great trip. One potential incident fixed right away by a good supervisor. A scary lesson about claiming bags quickly, too.

PHL --> PHX --> LGB
 2009-05-22
 ★★★★★



LAX --> DFW --> PHL
 2009-05-25
 ★★★★★



C.M.

Wow, what a bit of troubling travel. From bad to worse, almost no aspect of this trip was without difficulty.

PHL --> HOU
 2009-04-13
 ★★★★★



HOU --> PHL
 2009-04-16
 ★★★★★



Deviant Ollam

Smooth sailing to and from Texas, despite travel on carriers not recognized for outstanding policies.

PHL --> DFW --> AUS
 2009-03-22
 ★★★★★



AUS --> ATL --> PHL
 2009-03-28
 ★★★★★



Account of Flying with Firearms

Deviant Ollam

United Airlines finally admits to me in no uncertain terms that they **do** make special entries into their computer for bags containing firearms.

PHL --> CMH --> ORD --> CID
2009-05-28



CID --> ORD --> PHL
2009-06-01



Luggage & Gear

As always, i was traveling with three of the [army surplus steel mortar cases](#) that are my customary luggage. After major error by the TSA in Newark when I was making some overseas travel (they cut locks of some of my luggage) i made the switch to [Abloy Protec Puck Padlocks](#) which are uncuttable as well as wholly un-pickable. On this trip to meet with [TOOOL](#) associates in Iowa i had one Beretta Model 92 pistol.

Outbound Travel ★★★★★

I arrived particularly early for my morning flight out of PHL. Even at 06:30, the airport was bustling and staff were present everywhere to handle check-ins. Niruh and Kyrach (in many instances, i do my best phonetic spelling of names told to me verbally... this is such an instance) checked me in. I was not asked to open and show the unloaded status of my pistol. Kyrach insisted that there is no special entry in the USAir baggage tracking system for firearm-bearing luggage. As usual, after the basic check-in we proceeded down to counter number 19 where the oversize baggage belt is located. My hard case was sent (locked) back to the TSA while Niruh waited with me. I heard the word "firearm" called out in some discussions as they found a screener to perform an immediate x-ray run. All things were clear. I have never had an issue checking in at this airport with this carrier, but one is given to wonder what policy they have in place if a firearm bag alerts in some way... where does secondary screening take place?

Homebound Travel ★★★★★

When checking-in for my United Airlines journey back to Philadelphia I was helped first by Crystal and then by Kevin, the former seeming a bit unfamiliar (though by no means difficult) with matters of firearms. In response to an inquiry of "which of [my] bags contain firearms" (I was coming home with locknicking equipment from Iowa inside an additional piece of luggage that I didn't have with me before) I asked

Firearm Air Travel Questionnaire

Have you traveled by air with firearms? We would love to hear, in detail, how it went for you. If you'd like to tell us about it, please just send an email to [deviant \[at\] deviating \[dot\] net](mailto:deviant@deviating.net)* and we're more than happy to publish your account here. All we ask is that you follow the format of this questionnaire when summarizing the details for us.

* address obfuscated to prevent spam. PGP key on major key servers if you wish to secure your traffic.

Background Details

- 1. Your Name** - We can accept nicknames, initials, or just your first name if you'd like to remain a bit private.
- 2. Your Itinerary** - This is your *booked* route and *planned* travel dates, whether a simple round-trip or some other combination of stops. Mention of delays or re-routings can be done later when discussing specific legs of your journey. Airport codes are more helpful than city names (and are more respectful of your privacy... we only care about air travel, not where you spent the 4th of July or which family you visited for Thanksgiving.) Please feel free to specify any scheduled layovers, despite the fact that these typically do not affect firearm-related travel.
- 3. Your Airline(s)** - On which carrier(s) was your flight booked? Please feel free to mention any reasons why you chose these airlines, as well as any partnering or "dual-carrier" flights that happened (that is so common these days, we understand it's difficult to keep track)
- 4. Luggage and Locks** - What brand (or what style) of luggage did you use when flying with firearms? How were they packed? In what manner were they secured? (We are especially interested in what brand or style of locks you used.)

Outbound Departure Experience

- 5. Airline Check-In Staff** - From the time you stepped from your airport transportation (car, cab, shuttle, train, etc) to the moment you received your boarding pass, how were you treated? How did the airline staff (both ticketing agents as well as any additional people like baggage staffers) react when you declared your firearms? Did they seem accustomed to this? Did they follow all the rules? Of particular interest to us...
 - i. Locked Bags** - Did the check-in staff make any criticisms of your desire to lock your checked bag(s)? Did they inform you that you had done anything incorrectly? Did you have to escalate the matter to a supervisor, etc?

please... tell me how it goes for you!



one last pearl of wisdom...



... skipping ahead in line



best advice i can give...



... grab a skycap



best advice i can give...



... grab a skycap



a frequently asked question...

**what are the “best”
padlocks out there?**



what are the “best” padlocks out there?

Abloy PL321

securitysnobs.com



\$25

Abus Diskus 20/70

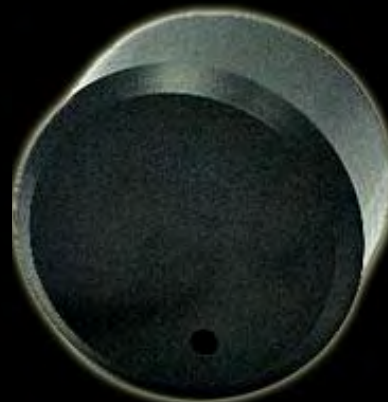
1st-in-padlocks.com



\$35

Abloy Puck

securitysnobs.com



\$90

Abus Granit 37/60

a1qualitysafeonline.com



\$100

Abloy Protec 362

securitysnobs.com



\$200+



another frequently asked question...

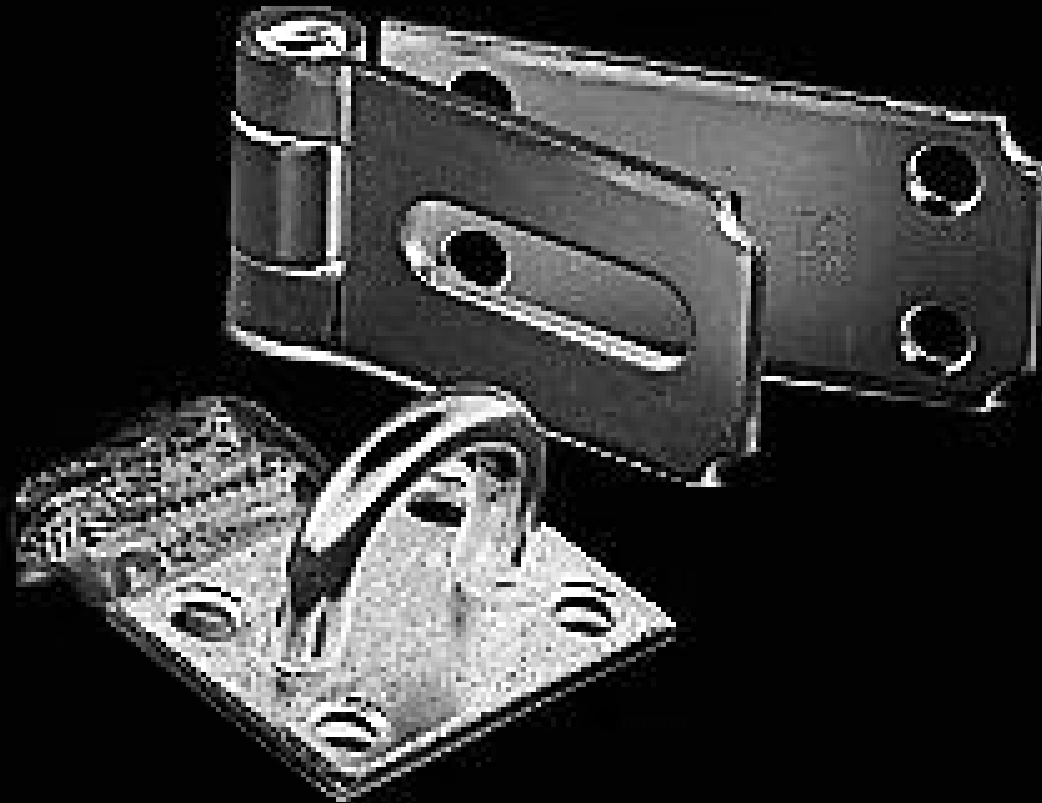
what do i use for
luggage when i travel?



81 mm mortar round case



heavy hinge hasp



bolts with J-B Weld or Loctite



my personal setup...

- 81 mm mortar round case

\$ 15

<http://store.colemans.com/cart/ammo-can-81-mm-p-225.html>

- heavy hinged hasp

\$ 10

hardware stores anywhere

- bolts, J-B Weld / Loctite

\$ 5

hardware stores anywhere



my personal setup...

ironclad luggage

\$30





thank you very much!



any questions?



