

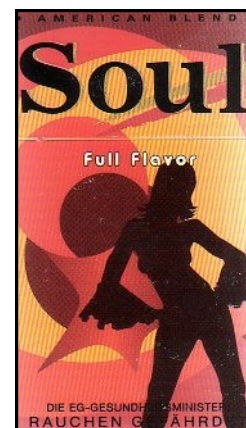
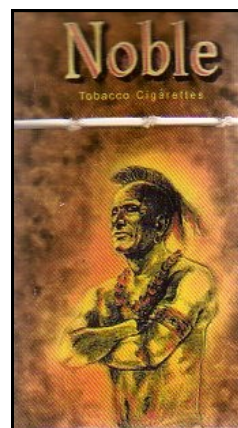
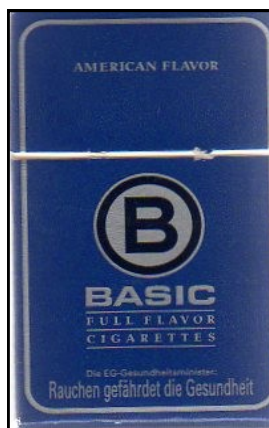
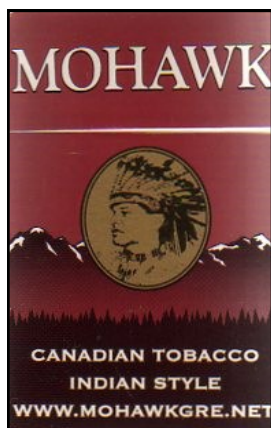
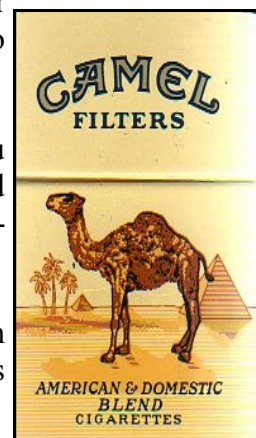
# Flip-Top Boxes

by  
Mike Prero

I suppose Flip-Top Boxes would fall under the Novelty category. In case you've never seen one, they're miniatures of cigarette packages, but they contain matches inside, and there's a striker on the outside, normally on the bottom side. Technically, there could be such flip-top boxes for other products, but I don't recall seeing any except for tobacco products.

As you can see from the examples pictured with this article, you could put together quite an impressive and colorful collection, and they've been produced for many different brands...most are foreign-made and from foreign locations.

Now, the problem is...what to do with them? If you open and flatten them to put in your albums, you lose the novelty. If you keep them as they are, you're not going to be able to store them in your albums.



I'm certain most, if not all, collectors concerned here would opt for keeping the boxes intact. And for storage, if they're not going to be displayed, they *do* go rather nicely in trays, boxes, and the like. They're all fairly uniform in size, with smooth sides and no irregular edges...all of which makes for easy packing.

Some, such as the Chesterfield box below, can even be found with the tax stamp affixed, which may make these items even more desirable and attractive to certain collectors.

But, where to get them? You might occasionally find some in auctions, etc., but if you're serious about collecting them you'd almost certainly have to have a direct foreign source as a supplier. Finding such European collectors is relatively easy, but you're going to have to be willing to pay the resulting overseas postage.

