

How To Open...Hard-To-Open Boxes!

The bane of everyone's life!...

Gayle Hofacker, OH: I just use a paring knife with a very thin blade and work at it slowly. It works well most of the time.

Terry Rowe, OH: Believe me, there is a knack to opening the hard-to-split boxes, mainly Japanese. Aces, Slims, etc. usually are no problem. Just make sure you are cutting on the seam. Be sure and use a dull knife. A sharp one will cut through everything. An Exact-o knife usually is too sharp so I use a kitchen paring knife or a dull pocket knife, even though I have had trouble with some.

John Bachochin, OK: Other than practice, the one thing that improved my success the most was using a knife that wasn't too sharp. Actually almost dull. With U. S. boxes I have better luck starting on the inside, Foreign boxes on the outside.

Toby Messmer, OK: I just do the best that I can do with the dullest paring knife that I own. As a point of interest, back in 1977, until they sold to the Swedish Co., Universal used high quality paper and really did a fine job of checking quality control, they had very few errors. From that time on they were harder to split because of the gray paper.

Gerry Goleman, FL: I now use a short (3") nail file, with good results. But, I previously had my father's "Whitlin" pocketknife which was fantastic. However, on my way to Toronto RMS the Homeland Security boys confiscated it! I had forgotten it Was in my display kit. Still miss it!

Regina Hardin, CA: I use a sharp pocket knife and gently pry it open along the seam /glue side.

Joe DeGennaro, NY: I open even the difficult boxes with my fingers. I hold the box with the striker side on the top of box that opens from the right and carefully pull the box away as I slide my finger along. You have to be careful with older boxes because they can be very brittle. Funny story - I visited with Bob Oliver and his wife in California many years ago and brought him a bunch of matches from New York, some of which were boxes. The next morning I found the boxes floating in the sink. I found out later that this was a long accepted method of opening boxes and apparently worked fine for those who used it.