

Boxes As Storage Units

In July 2015, I queried collectors on how they house their covers for an upcoming Insta-Poll. A significant number reported using boxes, so I then asked a sample of those collectors how and why. The results are shown here.

Manley, Brudvig, CA: I use cigar boxes. They stack easy, and full OR empty covers fit well.

Bill Scott, CAN: I use 'See through' plastic shoe boxes I bought...Boxes from shoe stores that held boots...I have some in my old military Kit Box...Two cardboard Tomato boxes...Four long narrow boxes that did hold chocolates.

Dave Carr, CAN: I use cigar boxes. They are related to the hobby. When matches come in (and they still do, as parents' houses get cleaned out), they go into totes to stay dry and secure. When I have shucked and flattened them, I sort them into categories and those go alphabetically into numbered cigar boxes, starting with AAA and ending with Yukon. Some categories (banks, casinos) are so huge they take up several boxes and separate storage area - that's where I use a different, larger storage box. Also, my mass is not as huge as many others.

Cigar boxes cost maybe a buck at a cigar shop, maybe free. In many cases, the tobacconist sends the money to charity, which is nice. There are ornate, solid wooden boxes that cost a wee bit more, maybe another buck and are larger; I may actually buy those for special categories like features and rarities. Then there are the "regular" cigar boxes from main brands....Romeo y Juliet, Uppman, etc. Good sturdy boxes, just not solid wood. Those are great!

Cigar boxes come in different depths if you want to easily ID your 20s vs. your 30s. I just use the deeper ones for everything. If you only collect 20s, the shallow boxes are ideal...hold lots and store/stack well.

Cliff Denniss, CT: I use shoe boxes for covers "I'm going to get to soon" and post office priority mail type boxes for covers "I'm going to get to eventually".

Robert Bush, CAN: The boxes I use are actually tote boxes. I store the covers there, then sort them into categories, then insert them in album binders. The covers I cannot use go back into totes for freebie tables or auction.



Frank Brown, PA: Actually, I've always stored them in metal cookie tins, for airtight and watertight security -- as well as safety for those with matches still in them. Not sure this is a good tip for more organized collectors.

Leo Mallette, CA: Plastic totes. Plastic parts box from Harbor Freight. Cigar box...the one I use is wooden. I also was given a box for a large format wine bottle (maybe a 3 liter Jeroboam) from a winery

called MATCHBOX. That friend is a big-time collector/drinker of wine. *[photo on preceding page]*

Jim Drakos, CAN: A few years ago Ikea came out with some boxes; there were large ones, and I could lay 20's in three rows about four high. The smaller boxes would only go two high. I like the smaller ones better because they did not expand as much when they got four high. I could also get 30's three high in the large boxes, but only one high in the smaller boxes. That is mostly where I store my covers. If I take a category, I like the plastic shoe boxes. Then I can see from the outside what is inside. Because the sides are tapered up they do not store as well.

Claude Pelletier, CAN: The cardboard boxes I am using have the size of those including 500 paper sheets of 8½" X 11". They're good for two rows of matchbook covers, and I put a higher cardboard (½") to write the category for next covers. I also keep the top of those boxes to save dust and protect cover's color on tablets. I just add a post-it on front of the box showing the inventory(ies) filled in.

Sal Conti, NY: Small narrow shoe boxes which can hold midgets to royals in same cat w/index cards or any type of free cardboard/firm paper to sep cats alpha. Yes, that means some cover handling, but so what? They are not like the Mantle rookie card I keep in a bank safe deposit box. It reminds me maybe it is time to sell it. Getting old.

Joel Acus, OH: I don't really have any special tips on boxes, I just keep my eyes peeled for those box shapes that would be good for storage of matchbooks and matchcovers for "when I get around to" organizing my collection. Unfortunately, since my collection is still 90% unorganized, I currently have two utility shelves stacked with empty boxes!

Bob Abbott, NJ: I am using boxes I found at IKEA. They are Black, 2 to a pack with lids. they are 10" wide, 13½"long and 2½" high. They are perfect for 10,s, 20's, 30's and jewels. Not expensive.

Mike Prero, CA: I have two wooden boxes, 23"x29" each, stacked vertically. Each has 24 cubicles. I use them for sorting into temporary storage until I can check the covers against my albums.

Photos courtesy of Dave Carr

