

Tips for Crating & Shipping Chapter Displays

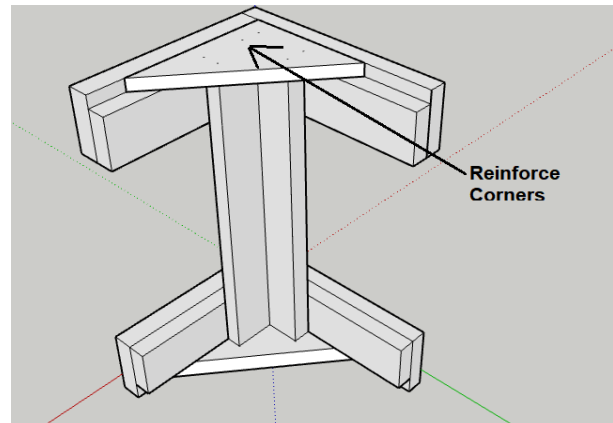
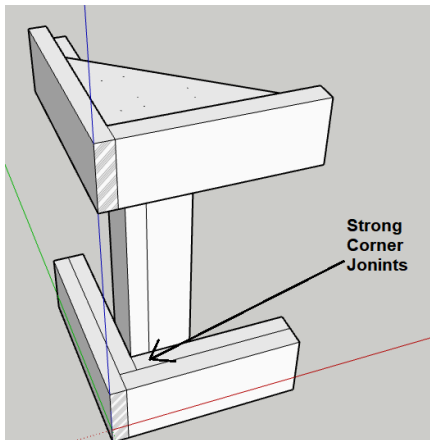
The following tips are offered to assist Chapter Display teams in getting their displays to the NLCS in good condition without damage. Considering all the time and effort it took to build the display, put in a similar effort to make sure it arrives in excellent condition.

Display competition entries should be shipped in advance to the national conference. Shipping instructions must be obtained from the state association director. Use the shipping company of your choice. All costs incurred will be the responsibility of the local chapter or the state SkillsUSA association.

All sides of the display shipment container should be clearly labeled in large letters as a Chapter Display and contain the name of the school and state from which it was sent.

Displays should also be clearly marked with the shippers' information so it can be traced if lost at the conference. The students and their advisors should obtain specific information from the shipper and bring copies of this information with them to the setup area to be used to locate lost shipments.

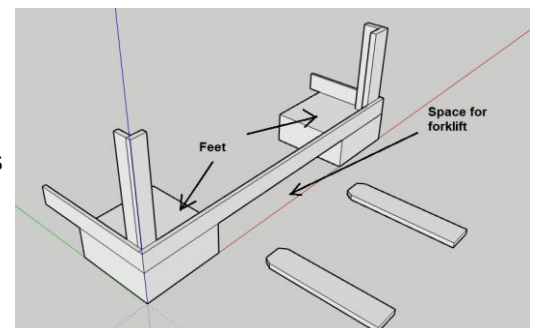
1. Solidly package your project in a heavy-duty, well constructed wood crate. 3/8" or 1/2" thick CDX plywood is an acceptable option.
2. Strongly reinforce your crate. Use blocking on the inside or outside of all corners or edges. Use glue as needed or screws in construction for added strength.



3. Cushion the pieces using thick foam padding (closed cell foam is best as it doesn't compress) and **blankets**.

4. Secure all pieces in a manner that prevents movement within the crate.

5. Ensure that the crate has "feet". This is very important as the piece will be moved by a forklift for transport as well as for moving the crate from the shipping dock to the Chapter Display contest area inside the Convention Center. If there



is no space under the crate, there is a risk of the forklift going through the crate and damaging the display.

- Attach “feet” to the crate with strong screws or nails.
- On a small crate, use solid “feet” in each corner or along the length of each side (total 2).
- On a medium sized crate, attach a 4 x 4 (or doubled 2 x 4’s) along the length of each side (total 2).
- On a large crate, run a 4 x 4 (or doubled 2x 4’s) along the sides and in the center (total 3).

6. The crate should be designed in such a way as to be able to be easily opened onsite for removal of the Chapter Display. The crate should also allow for repacking of the display at the end of the competition.

7. DO NOT use oriented strand board (OSB), MDF or particle board for your crate. It punctures easily, it does not support screws, and it’s heavier than plywood.

8. DO NOT ship in a cardboard box or a flimsy crate!

9. DO NOT Use drywall or sheet-rock screws -- they cannot support the crate during transport and forklift use.