

PACKAGING CONSIDERATIONS

When starting the packaging process consider the possibilities of damage to the product. Damage could occur due to such factors as fragility, surface finish, rigidity, weight, size and quantity to be packed. You should establish a product's susceptibility to water, water vapour, oxygen, heat and cold. By examining the product in this way, you can determine the hazards from which it must be protected during distribution. It is also easy to forget that the condition of the product itself may cause damage. No amount of impermeable packaging will protect a damp product from the effects of humidity. It may therefore be necessary to clean, or otherwise prepare a product before it is packed. Such preparation can include:

- Cleaning of all surfaces.
- Draining and drying to remove liquids.
- Removal, or special protection, of particularly fragile items or parts.
- Dismantling or re-positioning of parts and sub-assemblies to reduce the total pack volume.
- Bolting down or otherwise securing movable parts which could be damaged or cause damage during handling.
- Locking or otherwise sealing packs containing high value items.

Can it Be Disassembled?

The degree of disassembly an item can undergo will affect the overall package dimensions, the degree of protection required and, through cube reduction will also reduce storage and shipping costs. Disassembly may also offer a reduction or simplification of protection needed against physical damage. Before disassembly, the complete unit may have required cushioning to the level of the most fragile parts; after disassembly, each part will require cushioning only to its own level of fragility.

A box of vinyl record albums for Disc Jockey use, weight 15kg, 12 inch diameter, 40 records each shipment. Pack in a triple wall fibreboard container. Place records vertically or on edge in container with a minimum of 3cm cushioning (bonded fibre hair). Records should be snug. A label should be used to warn against storage near heat and to store in a cool place.

