



## What do I need in my kit box?

If you plan to fly club gliders or even your own during the season, it is a good idea to have a box of tools and consumables in your car so that you can look after the equipment properly. Here is a starter list:

### Cleaning materials:

Shampoo and polish: Aerolack do both, available in 1L plastic containers. It is important to use a shampoo that is gentle on the waxes used to protect the aircraft from the effects of weather and UV light. It is also essential that you do not use products containing silicone. The gel coat and construction materials are slightly porous and absorb silicone making it very difficult and expensive to repair and repaint if it gets damaged. Aerolack products are ideal. Perspex polish of some kind. For cleaning the canopy. The best are Plexus and ClearView. Bags for rubbish.

Cloths. A variety of cloths. Microfibre cloths are great for cleaning and polishing but should not be used on canopies as they create static. Buy some cotton dusters for this job. For bigger jobs lint free cloth in a roll can be used.

Other: a 5L bucket, bug sponge, and shammy leather. Water wiper blade. Some isopropyl alcohol for removing tape glue residue.

### Useful Tools:

There is a limited number of things that pilots are allowed to maintain on gliders but it useful to have a few tools so that you can keep things in good nick.

Posidrive and flat head screwdrivers. Long nose pliers and small side cutters. A set of hex keys up to at least 8mm. A wheel brace is bulky but useful. A tyre pressure gauge and inflator with a sturdy valve extender so that you can ensure the wheels are at the correct pressures.

### Towing Equipment:

A towbar on your car so that you can do retrieves. A 13 to 7 way converter (or vice versa) to suit your electrics. A can of switch cleaner and a small piece of emery cloth. Some spare bulbs. 10M of thin rope with a chain link on the end to tow gliders to / from the launch point or trailer park.

### Rigging Equipment:

You will need wing tape. Buy 10 33M x 20mm rolls online ([cpc.co.uk](http://cpc.co.uk)). A small pair of scissors. Carry a length of wool for replacing the yaw string. Grease for the lift, locating, and main pins. A dog blanket is good to lie on!

### Personal:

Camelback min 2L. Beany hat, sunglasses (UV blocking tint NOT polarised), and sun cream. Nappies or pee bags (depending upon gender). Tesco freezer tie handle bags are suitable for gents. Ram mount for your choice of moving map.

### Other:

You may consider buying your own batteries and chargers. I use Ultralife LiFePO4 batteries with a 7.5 amp in line fuse and XLR female plugs wired 'Booker' (+ve on pin 1, -ve on pin 2). Make sure to check correct wiring before first use. Navboys at Lasham can provide batteries pre-wired to this spec. I find that CTEK make the best chargers and have a model (Lithium XS) that is optimised for LiFePO4 batteries.