

How do I?

An occasional series

This week: Battery Go Box for HF Expeditions



Whether its ARRL Field Day, The PA State QSO Party, activating a Park for Parks on the Air, or just operating from someplace new, it's fun to get outside.

Long time readers of this space may recall Box Radio.

https://www.radioclub-carc.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/How_Do_I_Box_Radio.pdf

Box Radio was Version 3 of my UHF/VHF battery powered mobile transmitter. Box Radio is fun, but the battery does not last as long as I would like for HF work.

POTA-Parks On The Air gave me the incentive to build Battery Box. Why would I build a box?

After all, West Mountain Radio [DC Power Models - West Mountain Radio](#) has a plethora of ready to go battery boxes with built in RigRunner™ Anderson Power Pole fused power distribution blocks and the PWRGate™ charging system.



Don't have the budget for West Mountain products? Quicksilver Radio [Power Supplies & Batteries](#)



[\(qsradio.com\)](#) has a variety of Anderson Powerpole connections. So why would I build my own? Take a look at the boxes above.

battery boxes with built in voltmeters and



They are all based on a “standard” battery box with some added features. What features are we missing? Pockets!

That’s right -- Pockets. These battery boxes are designed to move and store your battery. Ok...but I travel with lots of **stuff**.

- My materials list:
- Diehard™ group 24M deep cycle battery
- Battery terminals
- 2 fuse holders
- 3/8” and 7/16” ring terminals.
- Anderson Power Poles (30 amp)
- Cheap, possibly free, Volt/Ohm meter
- Coleman™ 24 hour soft side cooler.
- Schumacher™ 3 amp battery charger.maintainer



This far in 2023 I probably have spent \$280
Apparently coolers have really gone up in price.

In the body of the cooler go the battery and the charger.
The battery is in front so that with the zip open tip open, the Anderson Power Poles can be outside the case.

For charging, simply remove the charger from the cooler, plug attach it (red to red, black to black) and plug it in.



Wait a minute. What’s in the pockets? The pockets contain the VOM meter, the manual for the charger, a box of spare fuses and a couple of nuts that came with the battery.

The total weight is about 25 pounds. Not something you want to carry all day. But for some

trips it can stay in the car. Others it may have to go 50 to 200 feet to a picnic table or pavilion.

The shoulder strap on the cooler cannot be relied on for long distances.

For operation, simply connect the Anderson Power Poles on your radio power cable to the appropriate connectors on the battery and you are ready to play radio!

Box Battery 2 will probably be in a wheeled cooler. Box Battery 2 may include a Rig Runnertm

I am not sure a battery cutoff "kill switch" is necessary. Box Radio is over a decade old and never had one. .

Catch 'ya on the air!