

Making the CookKit more durable

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I noticed that the CookKit has a few weak points that can be strengthened. The edges of the cardboard takes a beating as well as the “neck” the “fingers” and the “pockets” or slits. These places take the most abuse and need reinforcing. Here are a couple of things that we tried out in Darfur.

1. We used reinforced tape on the edges of the cardboard.



2. I also bought a UNICEF tarp in the local market to glue as backing on the CookKit as well as roll over the edge of the cardboard. That added \$1 to each CookKit but it think will pay off in the end for longevity.
3. Another idea that worked well was to use the abundant empty plastic water bottles or soda bottles for reinforcing the “fingers, pockets, and neck” of the CookKit. Contact cement is readily available throughout the country and provides a durable waterproof adhesive.



4. On one CookKit I used contact cement spread out as a waterproof backing rather than material like the UNICEF tarp.
5. One further idea I tried was to use white plastic “cardboard” for the CookKit. That cost about \$5.00 per CookKit plus the aluminum foil and glue. The plastic flute board (corrugated plastic) is virtually indestructible by water and sun. I sent one of those up to North Darfur to see how it compares in durability to the regular cardboard ones.



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