

How I Ship Fish

Cliff Zoller

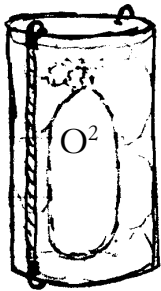
113 E. Michigan St., Marquette, MI 49855

List of equipment and supplies:

- oxygen bottle (40 cu. ft.; 20 cu. ft. also available.

You may be able to get small bottles at large hardware outlets). If possible, store O² away from house

- travel case (12"-diameter PVC pipe with metal end caps



held on by bungee straps and completely padded with rolled-up dog food bags). Be sure to pad the top, bottom and sides; if you knock the head off of a full-pressure bottle, you'll have a "rocket in your pocket"!

- regulator ~\$50.00
- bottle deposit ~\$70.00

- fill (exchange) ~\$9.00

- 4" hose end

- plastic fish bowl

- small fish net

- milk jug with top cut off

- 1.5 gal. dechlorinated water treated with 2 drops of Amquel (same temperature as tank water)

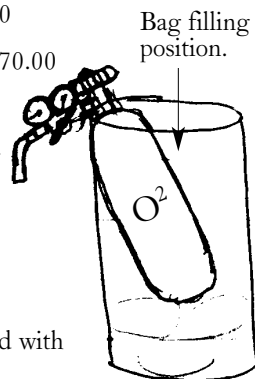
- 8" x 16" plastic pet shop bags (I get mine for \$5 per 100)

- #32 rubber bands

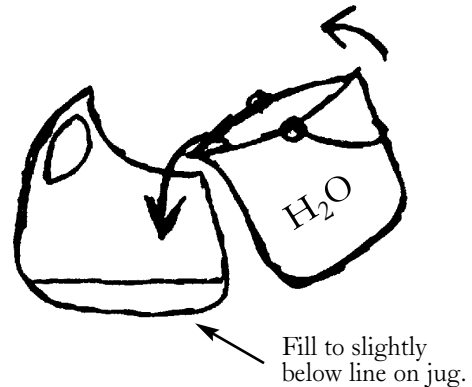
- duct tape and sharp scissors

- Styro fish box (pet shops throw these away; you can get them for free or cheap. Disinfect before using.)

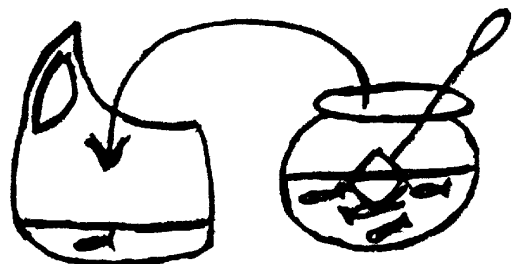
- cardboard box



1.

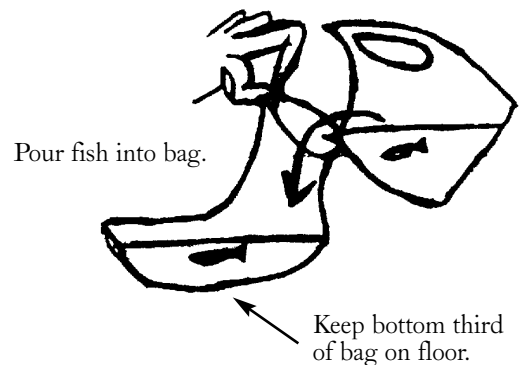


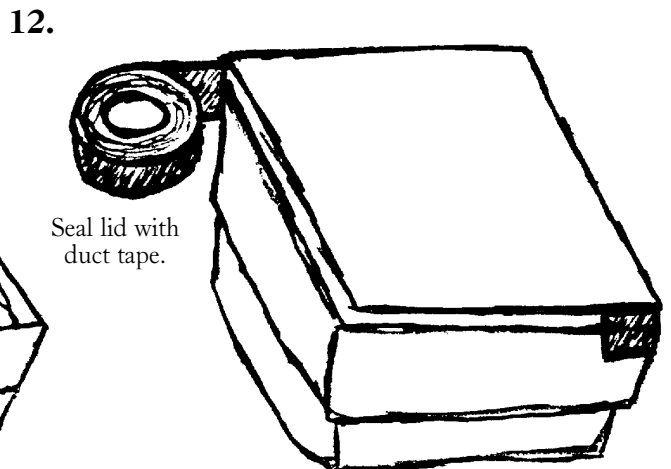
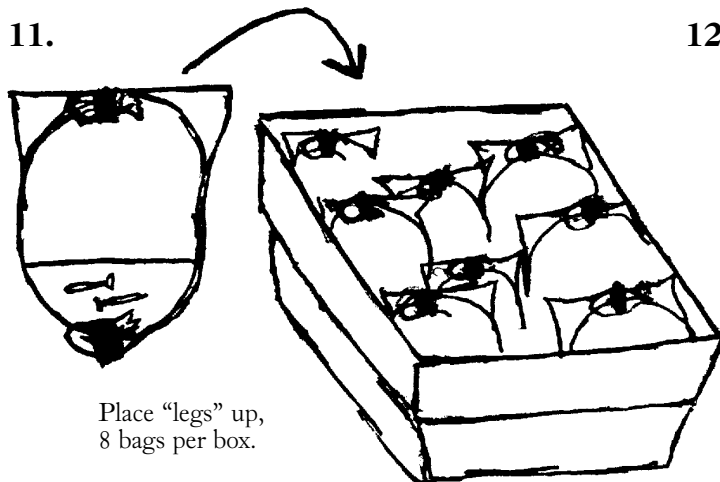
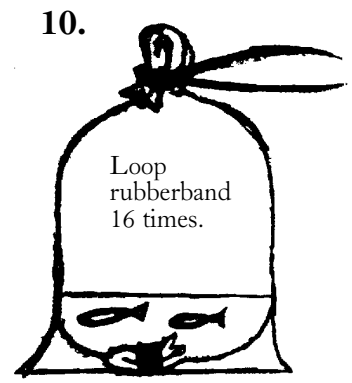
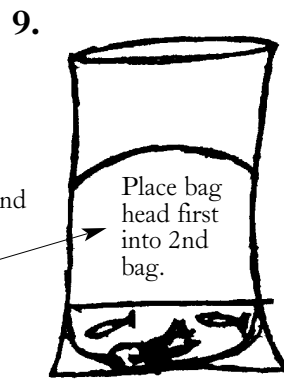
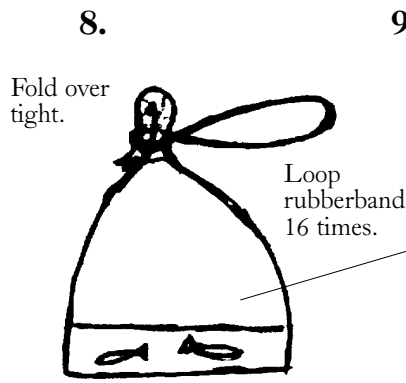
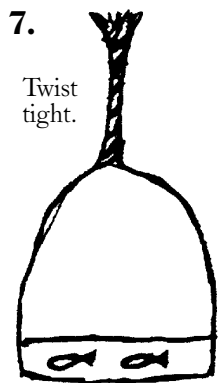
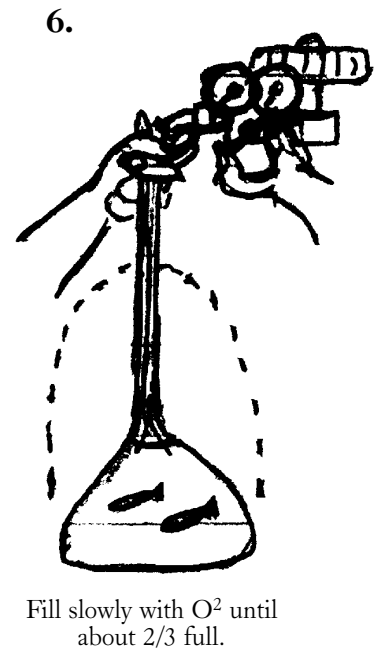
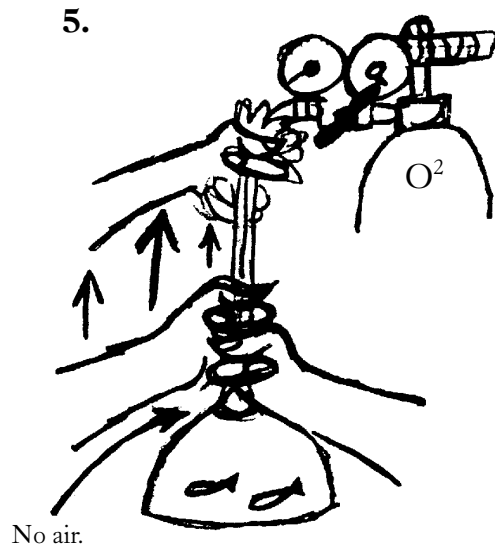
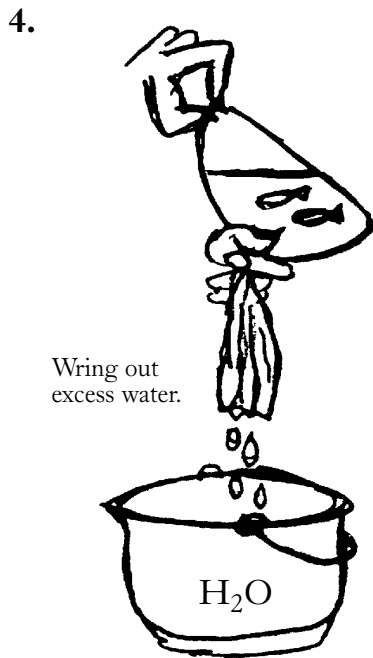
2.



I can usually ship two 2-inch fish per bag, or three if they're minnows.
Do not feed fish 2 days before shipping.

3.





A box with eight bags of fish costs me about \$10.50 to ship First Class, Priority Mail, which is the only way you should ship fish. It takes 2-3 days to get there. It's best to ship on a Monday or Tuesday so the fish don't get stuck on the weekend. Call the recipient ahead of time to make sure he or she won't be out of town.

I don't ship if it's going to be over 85°F or under 25°F at destination.

When I receive a box of fish, I empty all bags into a sterile bucket and then add water from the quarantine tank at a rate of one cup per hour until the new fish are acclimated to temperature and pH. (I quarantine all fish for four weeks.)

Always bear in mind that it is a federal crime to ship or receive any fish taken in violation of the laws of the state in which it was collected. I recommend that you obtain the protected fishes list for any state from which you hope to

receive fish. (See NANFA's website for a state-by-state listing of protected fishes at www.nanfa.org/StatusLinks.htm).

Lastly, never release any fish into any waters, anywhere, once they've been in a fish tank or shipping box.

