

No More Fear Of Flying

With the help of profile dampers from ACE Controls, Blow Up Video Production developed unique shipping cases, ensuring the company's cameras and other high-quality equipment could be transported to their location undamaged.

For more than 25 years, Blow Up Video Production has provided broadcast engineering services for a range of video and television projects around the world. Led by Martin Schiemann, the company supplies AV technology for press appearances and international fairs in the automobile industry. It also works in the music sector on concert and tour productions and manages both live and recorded television broadcasts.

Blow Up provides media planning, scheduling and implementation—all under one roof. Its customers can also rent individual equipment from the company's warehouse, making safe transport of expensive, high-quality components a top priority.

The company saw many accidents in the past. For instance, shipping cases were known to have been pierced by forklifts or dropped from damaging heights. "Air travel is another big source of potential trauma," Schiemann said. "The freight routes responsible for transporting equipment to the airports are not always the shortest routes. And even after the cases arrive at the airport, they are repeatedly moved and handled by workers."

After several accidents resulting in equipment damage, Schiemann and his team decided to revamp the shipping cases. Because of their large dimensions, the cases could only be moved with a forklift, making the likelihood of tilting them small. Assuming that the cases would always



TUBUS TR profile dampers, made from co-polyester elastomer, were developed for a maximum stroke and minimum height.



In addition to the profile dampers, tilt and shock indicators, as well as sealed case locks, provide the shipping cases with additional safety measures.

be transported in the upright position, Blow Up adopted new methods for horizontal and vertical damping. In the horizontal plane, the company decided to line the cases with foamed plastic to protect the contents inside. To find a solution that would work in the vertical plane, the company approached ACE Controls.

ACE TUBUS Profile Dampers. At first, Schiemann figured hydraulic shock absorbers would do the trick to protect the inside of the cases against violent external impacts. But ACE engineers advised against it. Instead,

they recommended using TUBUS profile dampers, which can be used in place of hydraulic shock absorbers in applications that don't require instantaneous deceleration.

Blow Up, along with ACE engineers, settled on using the TUBUS TR67-40 series, which enables very long, yet soft deceleration with a gradual reduction of energy at the end of each stroke. Designed for radial damping, these dampers have an energy capacity of up to 204 in-lbs/cycle and a dynamic force range of 49 to 1,686 pounds. They are available in a compact form, 1.14 to 3.94 inches, and are supplied with a special screw for quick and easy assembly.

“Within each shipping case, equipment is placed on 19-inch stackable racks, each of which is supported by four TUBUS dampers,” Schiemann said. “We can easily customize the damping effect, depending on the weight of the equipment.”

To provide even more protection, the TUBUS dampers are flanked by tilt and shock indicators, which allow Schiemann and his team to check whether a case had been tilted at a critical angle or exposed to too much force. With the addition of case locks, they can even check if a case had been opened. “Thanks to the TUBUS dampers, we can guarantee that our equipment will arrive safely at any location in the world,” Schiemann said.



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