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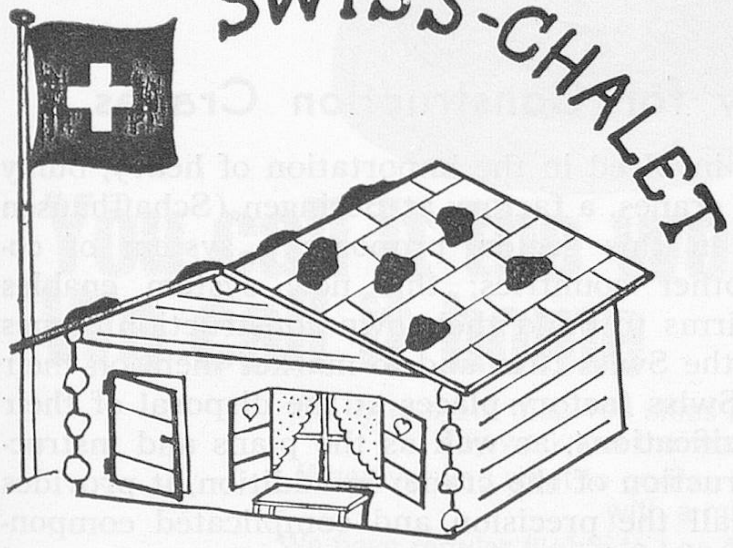
Aluminium Containers for Jumbo Jets

When the first boeing 747's were put into service, nobody expected any technical difficulties involving the containers stored in the baggage compartments. From the very first year of service however, the cost of repairing the containers damaged by very rough handling exceeded a million dollars. This experience made the Swiss group Alusuisse decide to develop a very strong aluminium container satisfying the demands and conditions governing international air traffic. In addition, the design of the containers was planned specially with a view to quick and simplified repairs. As a result of exhaustive tests within the KSSU group (KLM, SAS, SWISSAIR, UTA), Swissair selected the Alusuisse container from among seven possible competitors. The first batch was put into service at the end of 1972. At the end of the year 1973, repair costs averaged about 70 dollars per container, as opposed to 300 dollars for certain other models. Following the example of Swissair, the Airbus Industries, BEA, TAP and VIASA lines have also opted for the Alusuisse model. Today over 1,000 of these containers have been ordered by these companies, while other clients are now trying them out. (SODT)



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