

# Pelican Air 1535 Rolling Case

By Phil Rudin

During my film days Pelican cases were the gold standard for traveling underwater photographers looking for maximum equipment protection.

These water tight hard cases offered excellent protection both as checked and carry-on luggage with the only downside being their weight. Pelican cases always survived abusive baggage handlers, over packed taxis, rough boat transfers, salt air and much more. During the late 1990's and early 2000's baggage restrictions and TAS regulations changed dramatically with greater weight and size restrictions.

As a result many photographers turned to the lighter soft sided cases like ThinkTank bags to reduce weight.

Pelican has recently introduced a new line of Air series cases which are designed to be as much as forty percent lighter than their standard hard cases without giving up the durability that is Pelican's trademark.

Among the new releases is the Pelican Air 1535 carry-on sized case with the TrekPak system dividers. The Polypropylene blend case has exterior dimensions of 55.8 x 35.5 x 22.8 cm (21.96 x 13.97 x 8.98 inches) interior 51.8 x 28.4 x 18.3 cm (20.39 x 11.20

x 7.21 inches) with a weight of 3.9 kg (8.69 lbs) without the TrekPak inserts which are quite light and thin.

By comparison the ThinkTank Airport Security V2.0 dimensions are exterior 55.9 x 35.6 x 22.9 interior 53.3 x 33 x 17.8-20.3 cm and 5.4 kg (12 lbs) without the thicker and heavier dividers. So while the Pelican Air 1535 has a slightly smaller interior volume it is also one and a half kg lighter (three + pounds).

My first outing with the Pelican Air 1535 case was a trip half way around the world from my home in Florida to Puerto Galera, Philippines. It included long layovers, hours of vehicle transfers over some rough highways and a wet boat ride across the South China Sea from Batangas City. My Pelican Air 1535 case contained the following list of equipment.

Nauticam NA-A7II housing with the grips removed, two Sony A7R II camera bodies, Nauticam macro port for Sony 90mm macro lens, two Nauticam flash triggers, Nauticam 45 degree optical viewfinder, Nauticam SMC-1 closeup lens, two Inon Z-240 strobes, two Sony and two Zeiss lenses, Metabones IV lens adapter,





FixNeo Mini 500 FS focus light with ball mount, eight AA batteries, four fiber optic cables, an assortment of small items like spare O-rings, cloths, lens and body caps etc.

In my ThinkTank Urban Disguise shoulder bag I had my laptop, Zen Underwater 200mm and 100mm optical glass ports, Sony 90mm macro lens and Sony A6300 with 50mm and



Sony 16-35 mm lenses.

The TrekPak system dividers are 3mm/ 0.125" and look like corrugated plastic cardboard. Several lengths of TrekPak are included in the Air 1535/ TrekPak package which includes a small cutting tool. just align your equipment in the case and then cut the dividers to fit. The dividers are held in place by U-shaped pegs that connect the corrugated sections. You get around eighty inches of the TrekPak divider material and 20 of the "u" shaped pegs which include a red ribbon so they can be easily removed. If you want to reconfigure the case at some point and need additional divider material it is available from Pelican.

The TrekPak dividers allow much more interior space and protection than the pinch out foam which has been used for decades. The outside of the case has a folding suitcase like handle in the center, below that is a plastic card holder

where you can display a business card or owner information, the top which only opens about 90 degrees can close unexpectedly when tilted.

The case also has two large push locks which keep the case securely locked, metal reinforced openings on the front of the case also allow you to add one or two padlocks or TSA approved locks. The case has rather small wheels which increase interior space but makes the case a bit harder to roll over uneven surfaces. The pull out handle locks into place and retracts by simply pushing on the locking device.

The roller option allows you to stack a second bag like the ThinkTank on top and move with one hand while preventing the back pain associated with similar size backpacks. With its much lighter weight and customizable TrekPak inserts the rugged Air 1535 case is an excellent choice for traveling photographers. The case conforms to the latest carryon size restrictions for almost all airlines and would work particularly well with smaller mirrorless camera systems.

The Pelican Air 1535 rolling case with the TrekPak divider system retails for \$315.00/£220 at your authorized Pelican dealer..