

## Beginner Shipment



### Business Conversation

Tamiya: Aki, I need you to take the invoice down to the post office. The mailman already made his pickup and it's for a shipment being sent out this evening. The customs officers are only there until 5PM.

Aki : Sure, no problem. That reminds me -- I want to ship a package to my parents in Japan. What would be the best way to do it? Surface mail, airmail, registered mail, SAL, express delivery or Federal Express? What's the difference between them? And do I have to fill out a customs declaration form?

Tamiya : Well, that depends. The only difference is in speed of service; the faster, the more expensive. Surface mail takes about two to three months to Japan. Air mail maybe takes a week to anywhere in the world whereas FedEx guarantees 24 hour service. Are you shipping anything that has import restrictions placed on it by the Japanese Customs office? Things like alcohol or food products.

Aki : Yes, it's a case of Jack Daniels I bought. I guess I'll have to send it insured, *via priority mail*.

Tamiya : If you send it via the regular post office, you'll need to fill out a customs declaration sticker. You can get that along with the stamps at a stamp dispenser. But your parents might have pay duty charges when it reaches Japan.

Aki : Don't worry. I'll bet my mom sends me the bill by return mail.