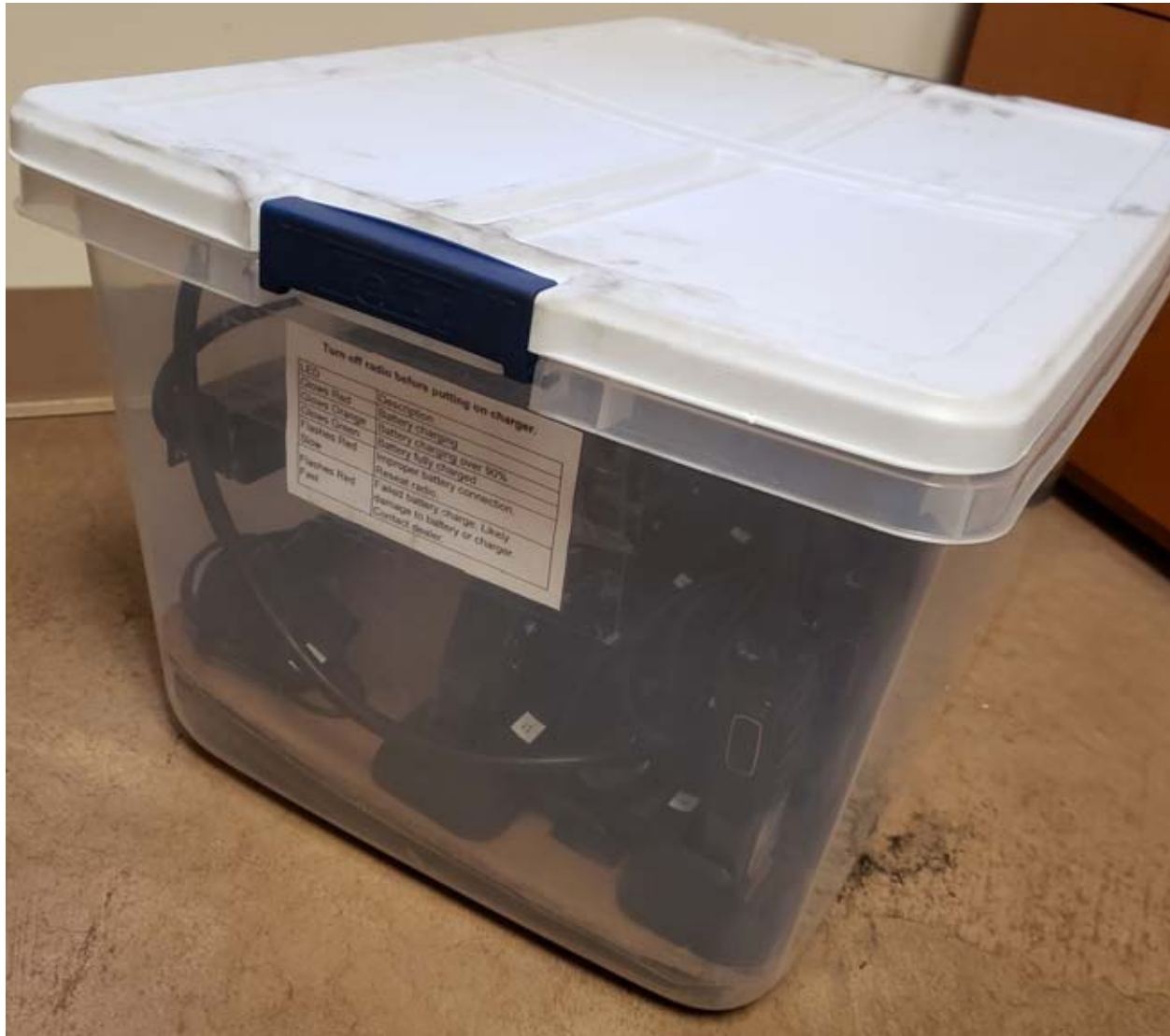


Portable Radio Charging Station

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Inspired by a smaller version made by Vern LaGesse with the Friends of the Sangamon Valley, I made a portable radio charging station in a tote. Tote contains all the chargers. Before a burn, it is easy to see if all the radios are charged. After a burn, it is easy to see if all the radios have been returned at a glance.



Each radio charging stand was mounted to a cardboard platform with a loop of duct tape. I tried to use double-sided 3M sticky pads, but they were not sticky enough.

The cables are all run under the cardboard platform to keep everything tidy. Cardboard isn't the best material (not resilient), but it was easy to work with. The curved sides of the tote made measuring for the platform a headache. While the platform isn't level, it works well enough. I'd like to use a more durable and light material in the future.



I used twist ties to tie the opposite facing barrel plugs of the charging stands together. This helps prevent the stands from shaking and pulling on the duct tape.

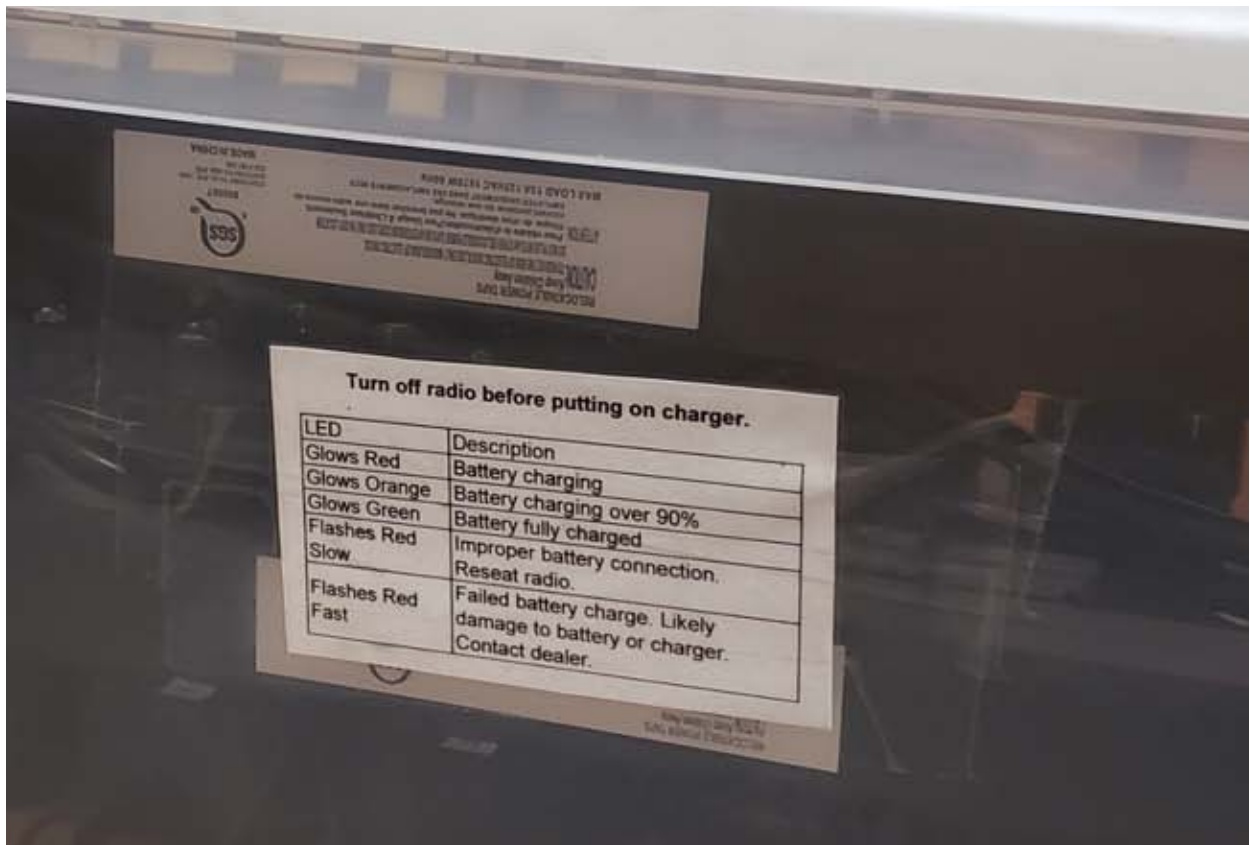
The chargers are also all labeled with a number that corresponds to the label on the charging brick. If a charging stand isn't working, the cable or brick can easily be diagnosed.

Shopping for the right power strips was a challenge. The power bricks for this radio model's charging station are too wide for most power strips. (Radios are Hytera PD502i). Even the outlets on these power strips are a couple mm too close together. However, these power strips have L brackets I used to mount them to the side of the tote. And they were the right length to fit in the tote without mounting in the rounded corner of the tote. One power strip has a long 15' cable to plug into an outlet. The second power strip is plugged into the first power strip and has a short cable.

Link to the imperfect power strip:

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B09MK6WN1Y?ref_=cm_sw_r_cp_ud_dp_7MWPREQ3GVPR7H1HEA2W

The tote has a latching lid to keep most dirt, dust, and water splashes out.



Signs on the side show what the different charging lights mean.

The tote can be a bit heavy to lug around and can't be jostled erratically, but it worked well this past burn season to load and unload in the truck cab between burns.

End.