

## GearInstitute.com

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Gear Review

Featuring: SkyBox Pro 18

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/a9h72yd>

# Yakima SkyBox Pro 18

## Design

The Skybox Pro won't win any awards for aerodynamic design: it follows Yakima's aesthetic that's been relatively unchanged for over a decade. However, it's inside the box where this box shines. Start with a quick-release clamp attachment (think, bike wheel) that cinches tight in a split second and doesn't stick up into the cargo space like Thule's does. The Skybox comes with a pad that fit between the rack attachment hardware inside and protects ski and snowboard edges from cutting the box's floor. Tie-down clamps line either side of the box's floor and a standard cargo next will hold tight anything. The Yakima was the burliest construction of the models tested this season (Winter 2013)—that equates to more stiffness, which translates into easier opening and closing/locking.

## Cargo

The Skybox shines in terms of a clean cargo space inside that maximizing available space. It easily swallowed my snowboard, skis and boots and from eye balling it, I'm positive that I could've fit 4 sets of skis/poles with 2 snowboards layered on top thanks to the Skybox Pro's 16-inch height. It's a cargo monster. At 92 x 36 x 16 inches 5 inches, it'll suck up a van's worth of snow gear.

## Vehicle Fit

Due to its super-long length, the Skybox Pro 18 would look ridiculous on small hatchbacks or sloping rear window type vehicles (although the Skybox's 24" minimum crossbar spread would work on those vehicles).

## Value

\$649 buys you the one and only cargo box you may ever need, assuming you don't crash your car or run into a low-ceiling garage.

## How We Tested It

The Yakima Skybox Pro 18 was mounted by one person onto Yakima crossbars attached to factory roof rails on a 2006 Honda Odyssey minivan. The cargo box was loaded with the gear listed in the review above, emptied, and then driven on suburban streets and interstate freeways for approximately 6 miles and then removed. Weather was sunny and dry with occasional wind gusts.

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**Grant Davis**  
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### What It Is

A cargo-carrying beast with 18 cu.-feet capacity, gear tie-downs, cargo net and cargo bed pad included.

**Retail Price: \$650**



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## The Verdict

Yakima paid attention to maximizing interior room with the Skybox Pro and a simple attachment mechanism that saves time and inside space. This model is about hauling cargo first, aerodynamics and total vehicle height second.

