

Board Game Kitting Executive Brief

A wrong kitting choice often looks cheaper at booking time and much more expensive after arrival, when unresolved work moves into U.S. warehouse labor.

Use before final factory packout, final freight confirmation, or U.S. warehouse label release. Best for creators, ops leads, and warehouse partners reviewing the same shipment from different files.

Why This Decision Breaks Campaigns

What changes first

- Carton count, cube, pallet structure, and freight assumptions.
- The intake file the U.S. warehouse uses to receive the shipment.
- Labor timing for kit building, loose picking, relabeling, or pallet breakdown.

What teams usually feel first

- Receiving delays after the dock sees a different kit state than expected.
- Re-kitting, relabeling, overflow storage, or manual matching charges.
- Missed add-ons, spare-part confusion, and backer complaints after delivery.
- A cheap unified-shipment quote no longer looks cheap once returns, replacements, or rebuilds are handled in the U.S.

Choose the kitting model your freight file, receiving warehouse, and backer promise can still support.

Small publishers often choose one consolidated shipment because the forwarder quote is lower. That can still be right, but only if the campaign is not pushing fixable China-side problems into much more expensive U.S.-side handling later.

Three Ways To Handle The Same Pledge

MODEL	USE IT WHEN	WHAT IT USUALLY COSTS LATER IF CHOSEN TOO EARLY
China pre-kit	One repeated pledge shape is stable before freight leaves and late add-ons are unlikely to change it.	Freight assumptions go stale, spare parts get buried inside sealed kits, and component errors become more expensive once the fix has to happen in the U.S. instead of near the factory.
U.S. warehouse build	Final order logic becomes clear only after receiving and the warehouse can stage, bin, and build cleanly.	Receiving turns into a labor bottleneck, labels slip, and the invoice grows through re-kitting, relabeling, or extra handling billed at U.S. labor rates.
Loose SKU pick	Order shapes vary heavily, duplicate add-ons are common, or the team still needs clean spare inventory later.	Pick time grows, small add-ons get missed more easily, and the main wave depends on stronger sample-order testing.

Stop Before You Lock It

- Pause if the pledge export or late add-on quantities are still moving.
- Pause if carton count, weight, or cube were quoted before the kit model changed.
- Pause if the receiving warehouse still does not know whether it will intake finished kits or loose components.
- Pause if spare parts have not been separated from sellable or kit-building stock.

Operational brief only. Confirm legal, tax, customs, tariff, and platform-specific questions with qualified advisors or the platform.

What To Check Before You Lock The Model

Run these checks before labels are released. If the files or test orders do not match the physical shipment, hold the affected pledge shape before the mistake reaches the dock or the backer.

Standard Review Flow

STEP	WHAT HAS TO MATCH	HOLD IF
Factory packout	Kit BOM, packing list, carton file, and the physical unit names the factory is using.	The factory is packing a kit shape the campaign may still change.
Freight booking	Carton count, cube, pallet structure, and shipping assumptions.	The quote was built from a different kit structure.
Receiving setup	ASN or WRO file, pallet labels, and whether the warehouse expects finished kits or loose components.	The dock team will see a different shipment than the inbound file describes.
Pick or kit build	Bin locations, kit instructions, pick rules, and spare-stock blocks.	The warehouse still has to infer the model from campaign copy.
Label release	Sample orders, packed weight, and the backer promise.	Test orders fail or the team cannot tell what actually shipped.

5-File Check

1. Pledge export: final order logic and add-on quantities.
2. Kit BOM or pick rules: which SKUs are consumed and under which model.
3. Packing list plus carton file: what left China, in which cartons, at what weight and cube.
4. Receiving file: whether the warehouse receives finished kits or component SKUs.
5. Reserve block: which spare parts cannot be consumed by kit building or sales.

6 Sample Tests

1. Base pledge
2. Deluxe pledge
3. All-in pledge
4. Duplicate add-on order
5. Promo or stretch-goal order
6. Replacement request

File Pack To Send WinsBS

- Pledge-manager export and reward-to-SKU matrix
- Kit BOM or pick rules
- SKU map, add-on list, and stretch-goal list
- Factory packing list, carton file, and carton labels
- Receiving scan, bin setup, and kit build instructions
- Replacement reserve count and sample orders

WinsBS Review Output

- China pre-kit
- U.S. warehouse kit
- Loose SKU pick
- Partial hold before receiving or label release
- File correction before freight or intake proceeds

Start a review at <https://winsbs.com/start-free/> and mark any missing files clearly. The priority is to stop the mismatch before freight, receiving, or the main shipping wave absorbs the cost.