The Flying Carpet for an aircraft with 180 seats, placed at the gate. Measuring only 2.0 x 6.0 metres (6.5 x 19.7 feet), it represents the cabin plan drawn to scale.

Places are deliberately small so, when boarding commences, the carpet is filled by the first 30 to 40 passengers stepping onto their correct numbered places. This only takes about a minute, then the group proceeds to the plane, rear seats first, and go direct to their seats unimpeded. They will then be spread throughout the plane with plenty of elbow-room to stow their bags and get seated.

**Getting people in the right order before they get on the plane, it's elementary.**

Meanwhile, those that were not able to fit on the carpet in the first group will now certainly be able to take their places along with others to form the next group of 30 to 40, a minute or two later. This second group now heads to the plane and so on until everybody is aboard. Five or six groups in rapid succession fill the 180 seat plane far quicker than any other method.

Being passenger-friendly, with minimal regimentation, the Flying Carpet means less anxiety and stress. Passengers who like to be first aboard can do so, as do those who like to be last. Live display screens show which passengers have gone through the gate, so that others can judge when best to make their move. Boarding groups are regulated by announcements and gate staff removing and replacing tape barriers. Ultimately this function could be fulfilled or at least augmented by “traffic lights”.

*As confirmed by computer simulations. View the comparison between “The Flying Carpet” system and Rear-to-Front boarding on the short video clip at www.roundpegin.com/html/aircraft_boarding.html The Flying Carpet fills the plane completely with 150 passengers, all with carry-on bags, in less than 9 minutes, way ahead of the almost 16 minutes taken by Rear-to-Front.
ONE SIZE FITS ALL
A Flying Carpet with 40 rows, 3 seats each side of a single aisle only measures 2.0 x 8.0 metres (6.5 x 26.2 feet) but it can handle the biggest medium/short haul aircraft. And the smaller planes as well; it doesn’t matter if places on the carpet are unused, and of course these rows can easily be roped off. Likewise, the same generic Flying Carpet can handle two seats per side, as in business class or smaller planes.

If space is a problem a scaled-down version can be used. In really tight places a simplified, narrow version is the answer.

SELF CHECK-IN, SELF BOARDING
The Flying Carpet boarding system is timely given the current trend at airports towards automating passenger processes such as self check-in and mobile phone boarding passes. In particular, the Flying Carpet fits well with boarding machines (scanners/turnstiles) as passengers are well able to arrange themselves and proceed through the gate with minimal staff input.

PATENT PENDING
International Patent Application (PCT) is well advanced. Inquiries from parties interested in licensing and/or commercialization are invited to contact RoundPeg Innovations Pty Ltd.

Forget the cattle crush – not only does the Flying Carpet get passengers aboard much faster but it does it in a civilized manner.

RoundPeg Innovations P/L was established by Rob Wallace to undertake development and commercialization of a wide range of products.

Over a long career as a professional design engineer Rob has designed and developed numerous novel but practical, commercially successful solutions to real world problems.

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