

FLOAT CAT 60

ASSEMBLY AND OPERATIONS MANUAL

WARNING

Read Operations Guidelines before using.
Always wear USCG approved floatation devices.
Always wear wader safety belt.
Always attach tether while operating.
Do not operate in rapids.
Do not operate in high wind conditions.
ALWAYS USE COMMON SENSE.
Maximum capacity:
250 lbs. Float Cat 60

HOBIE FLOAT CAT

OWNER'S MANUAL

Congratulations on your purchase of a Hobie Outback Float Cat! The Hobie reputation for exceptional design, high quality materials, and professional service will ensure you years of pleasure.

The Float Cat was designed to enhance your fishing experience. The efficient multihull design moves quickly over the water - a light kick will accelerate you towards your prey. The elevated seat puts you inches above the water, keeping you warm and dry while improving visibility, accuracy, and ease in casting. The compact shape and low weight allows you to take your Float Cat anywhere. The drink well, rod holder, and accessories such as stripping apron with storage bags, backpack, travel bag, cooler, and rowing systems, to name a few, makes your Float Cat a vacation destination in itself.

Hobie's attention to detail is found throughout. The pontoons are constructed of a unique high impact, low maintenance, polyethylene used for kayaks and industrial sanitation bins. All aluminum alloy parts are anodized or coated to prevent corrosion. Hardware and webbing are the highest grade available. All components are manufactured to Hobie's specifications and made in the U.S.A. Best yet, your Float Cat is backed by our 3 year warranty.*

From assembly to short of bringing in that record rainbow, the friendly folks at Hobie Outback are available to answer your questions Monday through Friday at: (760) 758-9100 And they're always curious to know how your Float Cat performed.

Be prepared to share your Hobie Outback Float Cat with your family and friends. Or better yet, send them to your local Outback Dealer.

Good luck fishing...and have a Hobie Day!

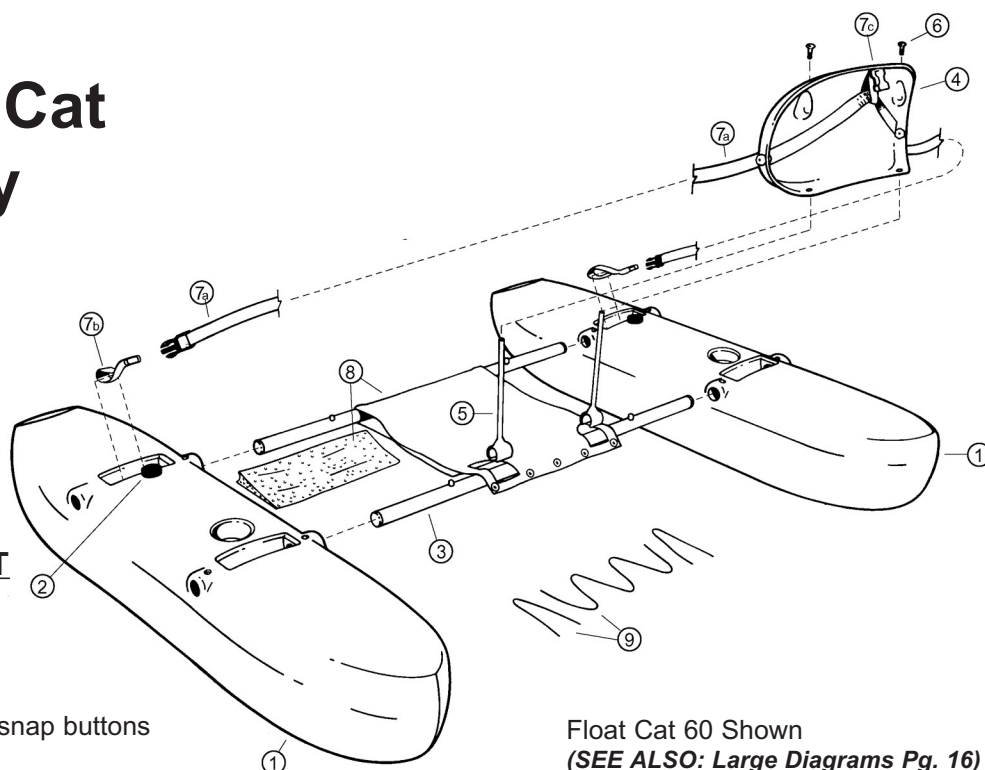
WARNING

READ OPERATIONS GUIDELINES BEFORE USING.
ALWAYS WEAR USCG APPROVED FLOATATION DEVICES.
ALWAYS WEAR WADER SAFETY BELT.
ALWAYS ATTACH TETHER WHILE OPERATING.
DO NOT OPERATE IN RAPIDS.
DO NOT OPERATE IN HIGH WIND CONDITIONS.
ALWAYS USE COMMON SENSE.
MAXIMUM CAPACITY:
250 LBS. FLOAT CAT 60
350 LBS. FLOAT CAT 75

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Hobie Float Cat Assembly



FLOAT CAT 60/75 PARTS LIST

ITEM DESCRIPTION

- (1) Two pontoons
- (2) Two black plastic vent caps
- (3) Two aluminum crossbars with snap buttons
- (4) One plastic molded seat back
- (5) Two 10" aluminum seat posts with plastic C clamps
- (6) Two seat post screws 3/4" Phillips
- (7) One seat back adjustment system:
 - (7a) One 1"x56" nylon webbing straps with male buckles
 - (7b) Two 6" sewn webbing loops with female buckles
 - (7c) One 3" sewn webbing loop with female buckle (buckle for cooler accessory)
- (8) One black mesh grommated seat bottom with blue foam wedge cushion
- (9) Three black seat lacings: two short and one long
- (10) One safety tether leg strap (Not Shown)

Float Cat 60 Shown
(SEE ALSO: Large Diagrams Pg. 16)

NOTE: Rowing System, 75 Cargo Deck and 75 Expedition OWNERS... Rowing system assembly step #1, and cargo deck installation #1 and #2 (installation of footrest hangers) should be completed during the initial assembly of your Float Cat. Those steps are included here and denoted for you. Refer to the rowing system assembly and cargo deck assembly sections of this book for identification of parts and remaining steps. (SEE ALSO: Large Diagrams Pg. 18-19)

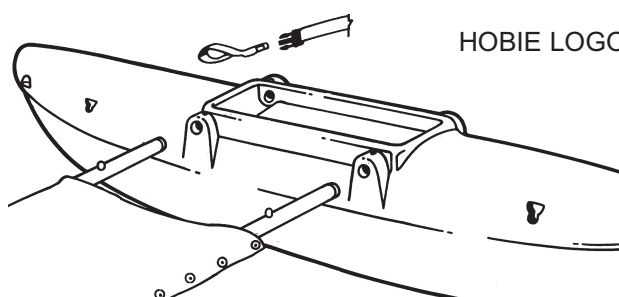
FLOAT CAT 60/75 ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1- Pontoon Placement

Note: The seat faces the rear or aft of the boat (sometimes referred to as the "stern"). The front of the boat is referred to as the "bow". Float Cats are paddled or rowed with your body facing aft (with your back to the direction of travel).



Float Cat 60: Both pontoons are exactly the same. Forward refers to the pointed end. Rear refers to the rounded logo end. Position pontoons facing the same direction with the side Hobie diamond logos facing out.



HOBIE LOGO ON THIS SIDE

STEP 2- Vent Caps

Installing vent caps (2) as supplied creates a water and air tight seal. Screw caps onto threaded holes on top of pontoons.

Caps can be installed to self vent for altitude and temperature changes. To self vent, remove the clear plastic cone inside each cap by prying out with a small screwdriver. The cap will not completely seal and venting will take place as long as the cap is not over tightened. The plastic cones may be reinserted. Temperature and air pressure changes may cause contraction of the air inside the pontoons, possibly resulting in dents in the pontoons. Pontoons may become hard as air pressure increases inside. In either case, these conditions do not affect the strength or integrity of the boat. Loosen and tighten caps periodically to equalize the air pressure.

STEP 3- Forward Crossbar Installation

Insert one crossbar (Item 3) into forward molded opening of either pontoon, located by pointed end. Depress snap button and continue sliding crossbar through. As the crossbar enters the outside molded opening the snap button will pop into the first snap button hole. Do not insert crossbar into second pontoon at this time.

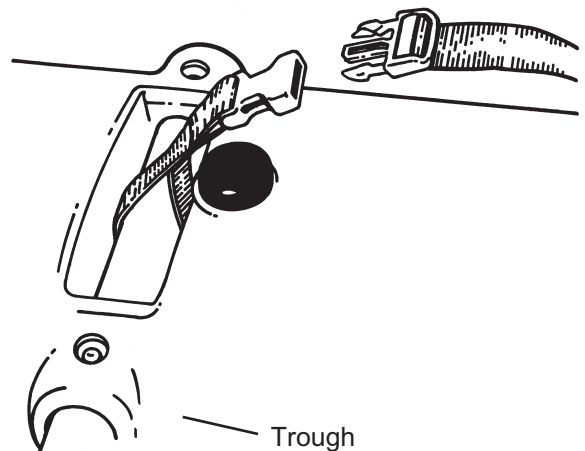
NOTE: IF YOU HAVE PURCHASED THE ROWING SYSTEM UPGRADE KIT, IT WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO LOOK OVER THOSE INSTRUCTIONS NOW. THIS WILL HELP SAVE TIME BECAUSE THERE ARE STEPS FOR THE ROWING KIT THAT SHOULD BE DONE TO PREVENT YOU FROM HAVING TO PULL THE BOAT APART AGAIN.

STEP 4- Rear Crossbar Installation

Insert remaining crossbar (Item 3) into other molded opening of the same pontoon just far enough to expose the crossbar in trough. Locate one 6" webbing loop with a female buckle. Holding loop by the buckle, place loop in trough and slide crossbar through loop. Depress snap button and slide crossbar until snap button pops into place.

STEP 5- Seat Bottom

Locate mesh seat bottom (Item 8). The blue foam wedge inserted in the seat sleeve has a black X on one side. With the X facing down, and Velcro edges facing up, slide the seat over the rear crossbar by inserting the crossbar into the seat sleeve between the thick edge of the foam wedge and the mesh. The thick edge of the foam wedge is cut in the shape of a half circle to ensure a snug fit.



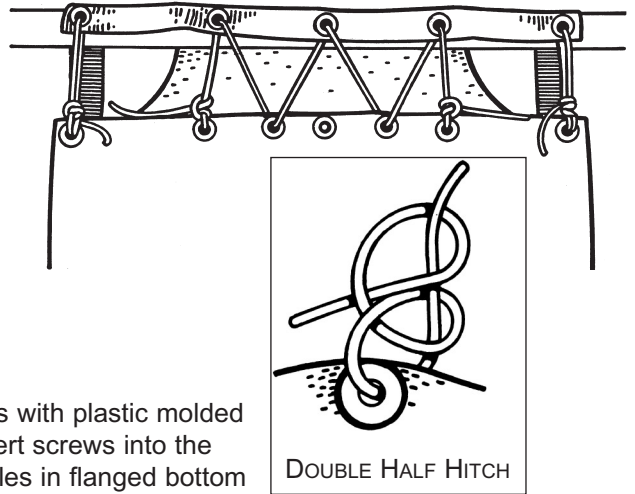
Part 7b 6" Loop Placement

STEP 6- Final Framing

Insert exposed ends of crossbars into molded openings in second pontoon just far enough to expose crossbar in trough. Place second 6" webbing loop in trough and slide crossbar through loop. Depress snap buttons and slide crossbars until snap buttons pop into place.

STEP 7- Seat Bottom Lacing

Locate the two short and one long black lacings (Item 9). Flip pontoons over, vent caps facing down. Using the two short lacings, tie a double half hitch at each outer grommet of the short flap. Pass lacing over crossbar and up through opposite outside grommet located on the long flap. Pass lacing back and down through the opposite grommet. Tie a double half hitch around all lacing. Using the long lacing, start at one end with a half hitch and lace grommets together as diagrammed. **NOTE: Center grommet on flap is for the backpack system and should not be laced.**



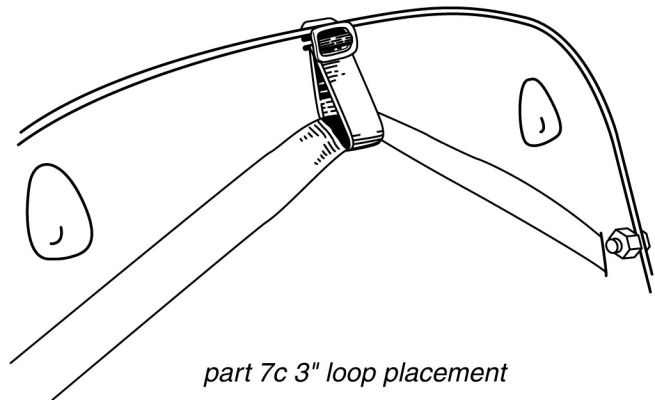
STEP 8- Seat Back Preparation

Locate black plastic molded seat back (Item 4), 10" aluminum posts with plastic molded C clamps (Item 5), and two 3/4" Phillips head screws (Item 6). Insert screws into the recessed holes of seat back. Insert seat back posts up through holes in flanged bottom edge of seat back and thread posts onto screws. Snap molded C clamps onto forward crossbar where cutaways in seat bottom reveal crossbar.

STEP 9- Seat Adjustment System

Locate 3" loop with buckle and the 56" strap with two male buckles. Flatten the 3" loop and pass upwards through outside slot located on the top flange of the seatback. Pull snugly until stopped by buckle.

Insert flattened loop down through inside slot. Remove male buckle off end of 56" strap. Locate slots on sides of seatback adjacent to white nylon fittings. Insert webbing from the front through slot. Pass webbing between seat back and seat posts, up through 3" webbing loop, and out through opposite slot. Replace buckle on end of strap. Snap male buckles into female buckles located on 6" loops previously installed around crossbars. Adjust length for comfort.



STEP 10- Safety Tether

Locate safety tether. Pass looped lacing end around rear crossbar on either side. Pass Velcro end through loop and pull to secure tether onto crossbar.

Rod Holder

Fly Rod or Spinning Reel Adjustments

Your rod holder is designed to carry either a fly rod or a spinning reel. A rod keeper pin is attached by a 10/32 screw found on the flat side of the rod holder. The pin can be moved to the adjacent hole for use on the opposite side of your Float Cat. This pin must be removed for use with a fly rod and left in place for use with a spinning reel.

Cradle Positions

Pull out on the rod cradle to adjust your rod holder to different positions. Your rod cradle adjusts for either side of your Float Cat and from horizontal (rod lies flat), to two trolling positions and to vertical.

Warning

When using the rod holder while trolling a very large strike could adjust the rod holder to the flat position. A rod tether is recommended.

Seat Pad Cushion

The foam inside the seat pad is cut thinner where the pad wraps the crossbar. Locate the thinner portion. Align Velcro strips on seat with Velcro strips on mesh seat bottom and press into place.

Hull Bag

Remove male buckles from webbing straps. Thread straps under both crossbars. Replace buckle and adjust length.

Trouble Shooting

Snap Button

It is possible for snap buttons to get stuck inside the crossbars. This usually occurs because a tool smaller than 3/8" diameter has been used. When pushing snap button down, always use a tool with at least a 3/8" diameter (or your finger). Do not push button below aluminum surface.

Stuck Snap Button

STEP 1- A swift hit on the cross bar with a screw driver handle will snap the button into position. Place a pocket knife, fingernail file, or a thin blade in the snap button hole and pry button back into alignment. If unsuccessful, continue with step #2.

STEP 2- Pry off end cap of crossbar with a thin, small screwdriver. If snap button is stuck down on the outer side of hole. Find something fairly stiff that will fit inside the tube and push snap button slowly into position. Do not push past hold. Button should snap into place. If not, return to step #1.

STEP 3- If snap button is stuck down innerside of hole, use a wire hanger and bend a hook in the end. Slide into inside of the tube past snap button and pull past hole. Push into place according to step #2.

Hobie Float Cat Operation Guidelines

Written by Larry Tullis, Professional Outdoor Writer

The Hobie Float Cat 60/75 has been designed for your stillwater fishing needs. It's rigid hulls eliminate the need for pumps, pressure checks, and patch kits. The compact design allows easy transport on cartop, in trucks and in sport-utility vehicles. It can also be quickly disassembled and stowed in our travel bag for storage or airline travel. The tough, molded polyethylene hulls are designed to slide through the water easily (with fins or oars as propulsion) and to keep the angler elevated just above the water. This increases speed, visibility, warmth, casting clearance and fin clearance (weedbeds, shallows etc.). It's not just a step above float tubes, Hobie has created a new class of water craft for the angler.

These operation guidelines were written by Larry Tullis, angling author, fishing guide and lecturer. His experience has been tapped for the benefit and learning of Hobie Float Cat users. Please follow safety and use recommendations for best performance of your Float Cat 60/75. These techniques can all be learned in one day but will take time to perfect. Have fun.

Stability: Your Float Cat is very stable, but as with all small boats, you must have your weight centered and always be aware of tipping over. Your boat can tip and you should always be prepared with a personal floatation device. We recommend that you take your Float Cat into a swimming pool and learn all about it's buoyancy, stability and general characteristics. Flip your Float Cat over so you will be aware of exactly how stable it is and what you need to be prepared for.

Transportation: We recommend you carry your Float Cat to the water by reaching your arm between the seat back and bow crossbar and grasping the stern crossbar, lifting the boat up under your arm. Your Float Cat is easily transportable on car roof racks, bike racks, utility vehicles, and also fits disassembled into most midsize vehicle trunks. By unclipping the seat strap and pulling on the seat back, you can completely remove the seat back and apron for easy transportation. When ready to use the boat simply snap the seatback on to the cross bar and reconnect the seat straps.

Entry: To enter the Float Cat, completely detach mesh at velcro and flip ring over backrest so the ring is resting on tips of bow. Make sure zippers on apron bags are closed so you will not lose any valuable gear. Sit down on seat and put your fins on while sitting in the boat, This will make walking in and out of the water safe and easy. Flip ring back over your head, bunching mesh to front of ring. Snap ring support posts onto rear crossbar by pushing straight down. Reattach mesh to velcro. Always enter and launch the Float Cat in knee deep water in a manner that you can easily sit down.

Tether: Always use a tether so your Float Cat will not drift away from you. All it takes is a light breeze. Secure tether to your calf just below the knee.

Exit: To exit, position your Float Cat into shallow water. Reach down to tops of apron support posts and tilt post in same direction, pushing ring to one side while pulling upward. Posts will snap off of crossbar. Detach mesh apron from velcro and bunch to front of ring. Flip apron over your head, making sure hull bag zippers are closed. Ring will sit on bows of boat. Take off your fins and stand up. Do not detach tether until on shore so you will not risk losing your Float Cat.

Rod Holder: Your rod holder will snap into the outer molded-in accessory attachment holes. Adjust up and down by pulling out lightly and twisting. Remove pin for use with fly rod.

Pontoon Material: Your Float Cat is manufactured out of rotationally molded polyethylene. This material is extremely durable. It is the same material used on most kayaks and industrial sanitation bins. Although it is a very tough material, if left in hot weather with pressure applied to the pontoon in small areas, the pontoon may develop a dent. However, the material has a memory and in time, any dents will come out. In short, do not store your boat with heavy objects resting on or against the pontoons. Your pontoons could also develop dents with temperature and pressure changes. These dents will not cause any structural damages, they are not unusual and will return to their original shape.

Note: Due to the manufacturing process there may be slight color variation throughout the product. These are color variations, not defects. To maintain the lustrous color of your pontoon, do not store Float Cats in the sun for extended periods of time. The pontoon and bag colors will fade. Fading is not covered under warranty. To shine or clean your Float Cat we recommend Lemon Pledge.

Safety Precautions

- Always wear a US. Coast Guard Approved Flotation Device. As with canoes and kayaks, there is a danger of falling overboard. Always keep your weight centered. Flotation devices are mandatory for your safety.
- Your Float Cat was designed for Class 1 water or less. It was not designed for rough water, rapids, or high wind conditions. Always use common sense and take weather, wind and water conditions into account before using your Float Cat.
- Use common sense when using waders. Always wear a wader safety belt to keep water from entering your waders in case you need to get off your boat or you end up in the water.
- Always attach the supplied tether to yourself so you will never get separated from your boat.

Suggested Additional Equipment

Waders: Use chest or waist-high waders. Neoprene is safest and best for cooler waters and optional in warm water.

Life Vest: Wear a life vest (required by law in most places).

Fins or oars: Use standard float tube style fins and/or Float Cat Rowing System for propulsion.

For Emergencies: Ping-pong paddles (for emergency propulsion in case you lose 1 or both fins), Parachute Cord (for towing or securing gear), whistle (for alerting boats), first-aid kit in watertight case, personal medications, sunscreen, drinking water, wide brim hat, rain jacket, warm gloves, hand warmer, extra pair socks.

For fishing (optional): Rod & reel, marker buoy, float-tube anchor, fish finder, personal tackle (flies, lures, leader, weights, extra spools etc.), spare or second rod, landing net, needle nose pliers, lunch.

Entering Your Float Cat

1. Make sure your Float Cat has been assembled properly and double check all connections to assure they are locked in properly for initial assembly, see assembly instructions.
2. Carry Float Cat to lake shore. Never attempt to use your Float Cat on moving waters. It's present design is specific to stillwaters. Set Float Cat down on lakes edge far enough on land to prevent the wind from blowing it into lake. Stow gear and place rod in rack. Check floatation vest.

Maneuvering With Fins

The pontoons are designed to turn easily and also to track well while under power. Practice these three basic maneuvers until you feel confident before venturing far from your launch point. With experience, you can cover lots of water and use subtle variations to make your Float Cat perform like an extension of yourself. Fins are the primary power used for fishing but oars can help you cover more water in a shorter period of time. (see Maneuvering With Oars)

Basic Kick: Now you are ready to move into deeper water. From a comfortable sitting position, push yourself off shore (backward) with your feet. Begin kicking your fins with a scissor kick, similar to swimming, pivoting at the knee. If you are unfamiliar with fin powered water craft, spend a few minutes kicking parallel to shore, in shallow water, until you feel comfortable.

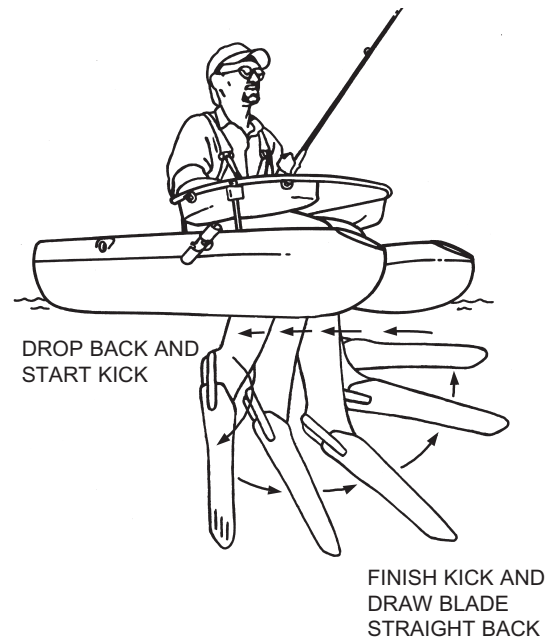
Power Turns: To steer while moving backwards, aim your fins to one side or another; right to turn right and left to turn left. Remember to aim with your back. Look back occasionally to see that you are going towards you target and steering clear of obstacles.

Pivots: To pivot on axis, sweep one or both fins in a circular motion clockwise or counterclockwise. Your Hobie Float Cat should easily pivot 360 degrees from a stopped position. If not, practice!

Fishing Techniques

Casting Platform: When you are ready to fish, stop the Float Cat and use the craft as a casting platform. If you have a stripping apron, it can be use to put fly line on while fishing and a table for tackle rigging or fish de-hooking. Casting is generally done anywhere from directly ahead to 90 degree angles from the angler. To fish comfortable, pivot until you face the cast direction. Find the water type that holds the most fish and then work those areas carefully. Small float tube anchors can be used to hold position and prevent wind-drift. Throw out a small marker buoy to mark your open water hotspot. A marker or an anchor will keep you from drifting away from your desired location.

Trolling: Trolling flies or lures from your Float Cat can be quite productive and helps find new hotspots. Use your fins for slow trolling or the oars for faster trolling. The rod holder can be used for lure trolling. With flies it is best to hand hold the rod, with the rod tip aimed directly at the fly for best feel and strike detection. A combination of slow trolling and a slow retrieve often does well and covers a lot of water.



Using The Wind: Wind can cause you problems until you practice these simple techniques for fishing from Your Float Cat in the wind. Always watch weather conditions and stay close to launch point in high winds or heavy storm conditions. If the wind get too strong to kick against, move to nearest land, wait out wind, or walk back to vehicle. Never let yourself get blown across a large body of water. You can often find a sheltered bay to fish even in heavy winds.

1. In breezy conditions, keep your back into the wind and use a slow kick to hold position during a retrieve. A small anchor will also keep you in place without having to keep your back to the wind.
2. Drift with the wind for slow trolling. Don't get blown too far from the launch point. Sitting side ways to the wind will make the boat drift slower.
3. Cast and retrieve at a 90 degree angle to the wind as the wind drifts you. You can cover open water or a shoreline easily this way.
4. The wind often concentrates your game fish's food on the downwind side of the lake or on the downside of a point of land. Where food is concentrated, so will your quarry.

Maneuvering With Oars

The oar system available for your Float Cat is ideal for covering lots of water fast or for trolling. Fins are usually used in addition to the oars, fins for fishing and oars for distance travel.

Power Stroke: Before leaving shore, make sure oars and oarlocks are setup properly. The blades should be vertical when the oars are straight out to the side. Raise your fins to the surface or rest them on top of the pontoons or on the optional footrest. Move your oar grips forward then raise oar handle to lower the oar blade into water. Pull towards you with even pressure. The Float Cat will immediately move backwards. Lift oars from water and repeat to travel any distance. Most distance travel is accomplished with this stroke.

Practice until you can track backwards in a straight line. To go straight, even pressure is required for each oar stroke. Vary the pressure on one oar slightly to make a small direction change.

Turning: Now, stop and learn to pivot. Sink one oar into water at a 90 degree angle to hull and hold. Use a regular oar stroke with the other oar. You will immediately begin to pivot. When you reach the desired angle, pull evenly with both oars to propel yourself backwards.

Next, do a power turn. Start rowing backwards in a straight line and then drag one oar as you continue to row with the other. The craft will immediately turn towards the side with the dragging oar.

Push Stroke: When you want to go forward (mostly to position yourself), use the opposite of the power stroke. Lift your fins or trail them under the seat as you push with the oars. This stroke is not as efficient as the power stroke but is ideal for positioning yourself (sneaking up to a weedbed, a shoreline feeding land, some waterbirds etc.).

Do's & Don'ts

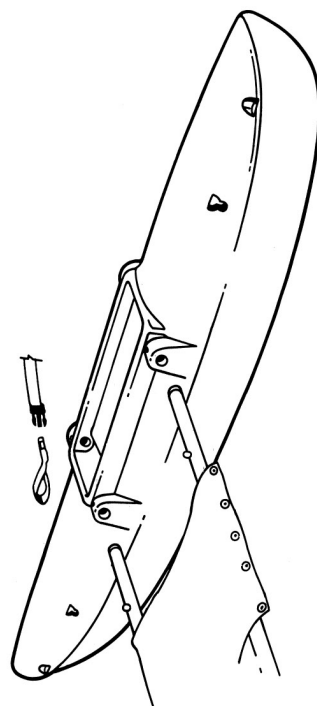
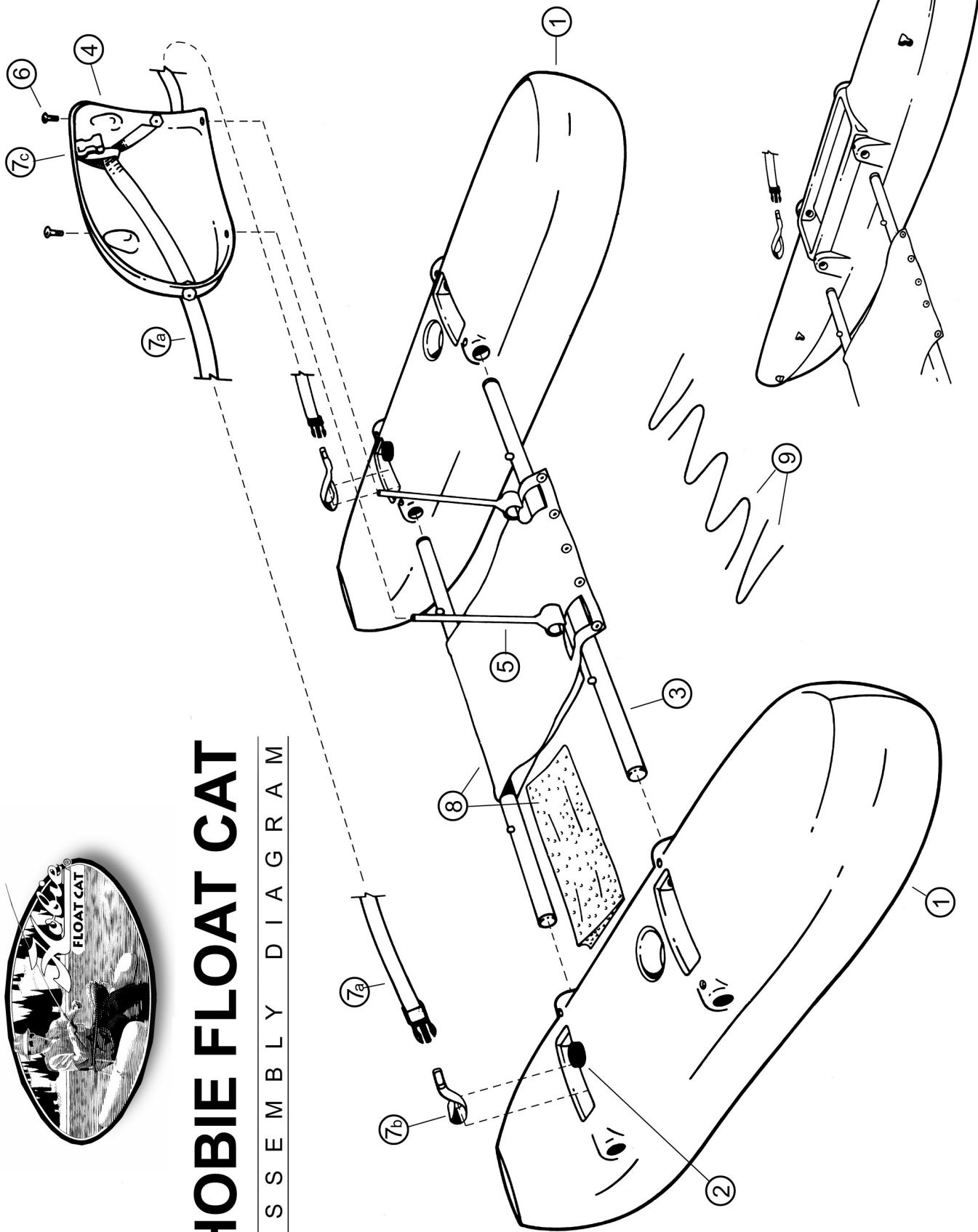
Do- Learn basics first, use fin tethers, carry emergency gear, wear a life vest, check Float Cat connections, sit to install fins, use waist or chest waders, keep back against backrest, watch where you are going, be courteous to other anglers.

Don't- Use on moving water, sit on front edge of seat, travel through motorboat routes, use in severe winds, try to stand on kickboat, use without life vest, overload (**250 lb max 60" and 350 lb max 75"**), crowd other anglers.



HOBBIE FLOAT CAT

ASSEMBLY DIAGRAM



FLOAT CAT 60 ASSEMBLY DIAGRAM

FLOAT CAT 75 ASSEMBLY DIAGRAM

Warranty

Hobie Outback warranties it's Float Cat products to be free of all defects in material and workmanship for the period of **Three years** from date of purchase. Upon receipt and inspection Hobie Outback will repair or replace at no charge any boats returned during the warranty period that are found defective. Please do not return the product without our prior authorization. If necessary repairs are covered by warranty, we will pay return shipping charges to any destination within the United States and Canada.

For the warranty to be effective, warranty card must be mailed with a copy of sales receipt. None of the exclusions may apply. All factory repairs after the three year warranty period carry a 90 Day Limited Warranty subject to exclusions and limitations as listed.

To enforce warranty or obtain repairs after limited warranty period, please contact us at (760) 758-9100 or by Fax at (760) 758-1841, and we will instruct you to either return the product to the company or how we can replace parts as needed. You must at your expense include postage, shipping charges, and insurance costs.

Warranty Exclusions

This warranty does not apply under the following circumstances:

- If the product has been serviced or repaired by anyone other than an authorized Hobie Dealer.
- If the product has been altered, adjusted or handled in a manner other than according to the Owners Manual furnished with this product.
- If any defect, problem, loss or damage has resulted from any accident, misuse, negligence, or carelessness.
- If color fading or damage has taken place due to excess exposure to the sun.

We reserve the right to make changes or improvements in our product from time to time without incurring the obligation to install such improvements or changes on equipment previously manufactured.

For Your Information:

Date Purchased: _____

Store Purchased: _____

Retain for your records



Hobie Cat

4925 Oceanside Blvd., Oceanside, CA 92056

Tel: (760) 758-9100 Fax: (760) 758-1841

SALT WATER USERS

Remove and discard crossbar endcaps. Flush crossbars and rinse entire float cat after each use with fresh water. Keep snap buttons protected with a lubricant such as WD-40TM

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- Always wear a US. Coast Guard Approved Floatation Device. As with canoes and kayaks, there is a danger of falling over board. Always keep your weight centered. Flotation devices are mandatory for your safety.
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