

FLOAT CAT 75 EXPEDITION

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:

350 lbs. Float Cat 75

Hobie Float Cat 75 Expedition

Owners 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!

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Maximum capacity:

250 lbs. Float Cat 60



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Hobie Float Cat Assembly



EXPEDITION

FLOAT CAT 60/75 PARTS LIST

Two pontoons

Two black plastic vent caps

Two aluminum crossbars with snap buttons

One plastic molded seat back

Two 10" aluminum seat posts with plastic C clamps

Two seat post screws 3/4" Phillips

One seat back adjustment system:

One 1"x56" nylon webbing straps with male buckles

Two 6" sewn webbing loops with female buckles

One 3" sewn webbing loop with female buckle (buckle for

cooler accessory)

One black mesh grommeted seat bottom with blue foam

wedge cushion

Three black seat lacings: two short and one long One safety tether leg strap (Not Shown)

Rowing System Parts List

Four footrest hangers: black plastic piece with 1 1/4" and

7/8" holes at 90 degrees

Two oarlock frames: tripod hinged 7/8" tubing with

receptacle push button inserts

One footrest: two 48" lengths of 7/8" tubing with strut attachment tabs one 18" length 7/8" tubing with

connectors & stainless steel screws

Two two piece oars with clips and attached oarlocks

Two lynch pins

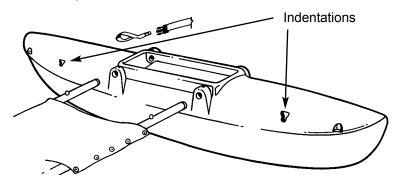


STEP 1- Pontoon Placement

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).

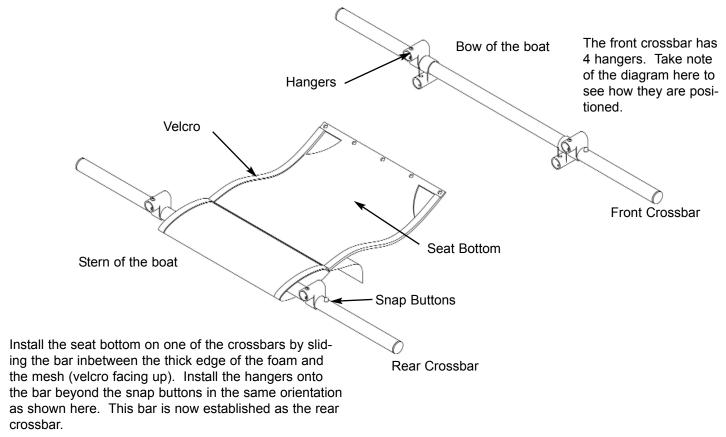


On one side near each end of the pontoons are two indentations. Assemble with these indentations on the inside, facing each other (graphics facing out). The bottom of the pontoons (the part in the water) are exactly the same. Forward (bow) and rear (stern) are established by seat installation.



STEP 2- The Crossbar Assembly

Prior to installing any of the crossbars to the hull, it is easiest to partially build the crossbar first. Use the diagrams below to help with the assembly. Be sure to note how the extended portion of the hangers point toward the stern of the boat at all times.



STEP 3- The Crossbars Installation

Rear Crossbar

Install the rear crossbar into the molded in hole. Once you pass though the first hole, install the seat back webbing strap onto the bar. Continue to insert the bar though the other hole. You'll want to insert the bar until the snap button pops into the hole on the hull. Make sure that the hangers are oriented like the drawing above and are pointing toward the stern of the boat. Do not install the bar into the other pontoon at this time.



Front Crossbar

Install the front crossbar onto the other hole in the same pontoon as you just installed the rear bar in. Once again, take note on the drawing above the correct orientation of how the hangers point toward the stern of the boat.



STEP 4- Final Framing

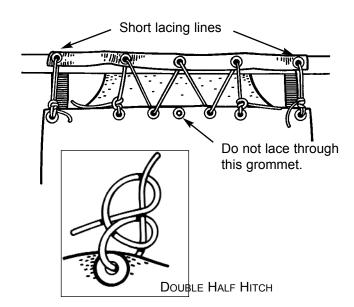
With the crossbars installed in one pontoon, place the other pontoon along side and side the bars into this second pontoon. Be sure to loop the other end of the strap onto the rear crossbar like the installation step above.



STEP 5- Seat Bottom Lacing

Locate the two short and one long black lacings. Flip pontoons so that it is upsidedown. 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 6- Seat Back Preparation

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







STEP 7- 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.





Remove the strap from the male buckle off one end of the strap that is looped through the rear cross bar. 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. Run the strap back through the male buckle you initially removed it from. Adjust length for comfort.









STEP 8- Safety Tether

Locate safety tether. Tie off the end of the stretch cord to either side of the rear crossbar. Always attach the teacher to yourself so you will never get separated from your boat.



STEP 9- Caps

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



STEP 10- Footrest Installation

- 1. Locate the 18" and two 48" lengths of tubing. Remove screws from the 18" tubing and insert plastic end into 1/2" hole in 48" lengths. Secure with 1 1/2" screw through 1/4" hole, making sure half round seat is completely seated against 48" tubing. When footrest is not on the boat, it should be disassembled. The horseshoe shape allows for substantial leverage and can break.
- 2. Insert footrest evenly into 7/8" opening on hangers until all four hangers are supporting the footrest. Adjust footrest to desired length. Secure by inserting lynch pins through holes in footrest and hanger. Snug strut attachment tabs up against footrest hanger.









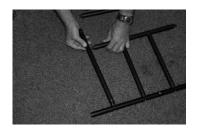
Place Pin Here

STEP 11- Cargo Rack Assembly

Your cargo rack may already be completely assembled. If this is the case, proceed to Installation instructions.

- 1- Remove the screws from all of the threaded connectors.
- 2- Insert the end of the 17" piece of tubing into the 1/2" hole in the cross piece of the partially assembled rack.
- 3- Position the 17" piece so the 1/2" hole is facing the threaded connector on the short cross piece of the partially assembled rack. Insert the threaded connector into the 1/2" hole.
- 4- Secure both threaded connectors with supplied screws. Repeat process with second 17" piece to complete assembly.







STEP 12- Cargo Rack Installation

- 1. Take the assembled rack and slide the ends with the holes in the hangers located on the bottom of the front crossbar.
- 2. Secure in place with lynch pins.
- 3. Push the ends of the long cross piece into the indentations on the pontoons. The cross piece will snap into place. Push hard to install and pull hard to remove; you will not damage the boat. The rack should sit flat if the hangers were installed properly.

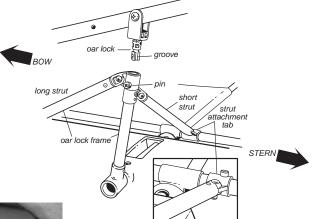






STEP 13- Oarlock Frame Installation

- 1. Locate the two pre-assembled oarlock frames. Snap each of the frames in the receptacles on the sides of the pontoons with the short upright tube in receptacles nearest the stern and the long tube nearest the bow.
- 2. Attach the short strut to the attachment attachment tab on the footrest bar with the screw and nut supplied.



Oar Assembly

Insert the upper handle portion of the oar into the lower portion by depressing the snap button and sliding into each other until the button pops into place.



Oar Alignment

Each of the oars are marked right and left. This is based on your right and left when sitting in the boat. Insert the oarlock into the opening on the top of the oarlock frame. To get the oar to slide in, align the groove in the oarlock with the screw on the oarlock frame. By rotating the oar in the rowing position, you will lock it in place. To remove the oar, rotate approximately 180 degrees from the rowing position and pull up. To determine if the oar is in the proper oarlock, the oar blade should be 90 degrees to the water while the oar is straight out from the side of the FLOAT CAT.



Oar Clips

To install, simple insert the post on the C-clamp through the predrilled recess located near the oarlock. Secure with the 1 1/2" screw. You want to position the opening of the C-clamp perpindicular to the shaft and tighten. To use the oar clip, lay the oar flat on the pontoon and snap clip on the crossbar where it is exposed in the trough.



Warning

All hinged and molded joint parts of the Float Cat Rowing System are designed and made specifically for use on the Hobie Float Cat. The rigid structure of the Float Cat is used to complete the rowing system for maximum strength. Do not twist parts into non intended positions while installing or removing the Float Cat Rowing System.

STEP 14- 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.

STEP 15- 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.



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.

DROP BACK AND START KICK

FINISH KICK AND DRAW BLADE STRAIGHT BACK

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.

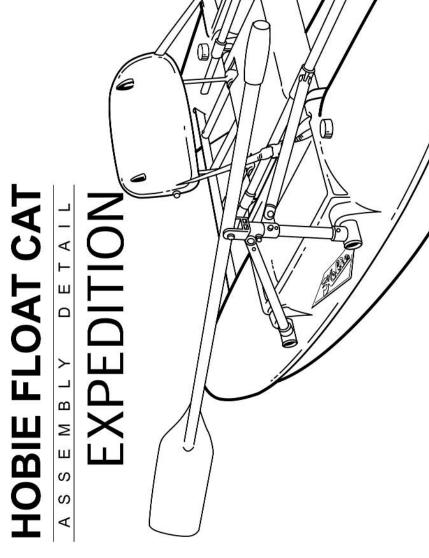
Push Stroke: When you want to go forward (mostly to position yourself), use the opposite of the power stroke. Lift your fins or trail them under the sear as you push with the oars. This stroke is not as efficient as the power stroke but is ideal for positioning yourself (sneaking up to a weedbed, a shoreline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





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 Informatio	n:
Date Purchased: _	
Store Purchased: _	
Retain for your reco	ords



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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