

Hobie® Paddle Kayaks

Instruction Manual



Welcome to the Hobie Way of Life



Thank you for choosing a Hobie Kayak. As a member of the Hobie family, you are now on the road to pure adventure in paddling. This owner's manual is designed to help you get maximum enjoyment from your new Hobie Kayak. But more importantly, it is designed to help you use it safely. The content of this manual covers all Hobie Paddle Kayaks.

About the Design of your Kayak



Sit-on-top Cockpit

Hobie kayaks are open-top cockpit designs. This allows the kayaker to enter and exit the kayak easily from the shore, dock or water. Scupper holes make the kayak self-bailing. The design also eliminates the need to perform an “Eskimo roll” (advanced kayak technique to right your boat). The contoured seat is fitted with an adjustable backrest (not included with base model kayaks) for added comfort.

Hull Design

The long center “keel” area encourages the kayak to track straight when paddling and coasting. Under moderate paddling conditions, the wider “shoulder” area of the hull rides high at the surface of the water without compromising speed. If the kayak is fully loaded with gear or is being paddled and braced in rough conditions, the “shoulder” areas provide secondary buoyancy and stability.

Scupper Holes

Drain holes (scuppers) in the cockpit or cargo well allow any water that enters the cockpit to immediately flow back out.

Graphics

Graphics are molded into the kayaks, so they will not peel or flake off for the life of the boat.

Polyethylene

Continuing Hobie’s tradition of offering the latest in technology at an affordable price, your new kayak is made of rotomolded Polyethylene. Polyethylene offers a major advantage because it is virtually indestructible under normal use. Being somewhat flexible, it gives on impact and derives its stiffness from compound curves. Polyethylene is very abrasion-resistant and repairable.

Basic Kayak Information



Basic Kayak Features

The front of the boat is the “bow” and the rear is the “stern”. When looking forward to the bow, the left side of the boat is “port” and the right side is “starboard”. The hull ID number can be found on the bottom of the boat, at the stern.

In the middle of the boat is a cockpit area, with the seat (toward the stern) and footwells (toward the bow). Inside the cockpit are scupper hole(s) that go all the way through the boat. These scuppers allow the boat to drain. Hatches on your kayak allow access to the inside of the boat for gear storage.

Alongside the cockpit are a series of small “U” straps, called pad eyes. These are used to attach accessories such as backrests.

Recommended Equipment for Different Types of Paddling

Basic Boating: Life Jacket, Paddle, Paddle Leash, Backrest, Safety Whistle, Filled Water Bottle, VHF Radio, Appropriate Safety Equipment.

Longer Distance Touring: Dry Bags, Chart, Compass.

Additional Equipment for Diving: Dive Flag, Anchor.

Fishing: Rod Holders, Rod Leash, Rod Holder Extensions, Gear Bags, Livewell, Anchor or Stakeout Pole, Fish Grips, Visibility Flag.

Safety

Paddle sports can be dangerous and physically demanding. The user of this product should understand that participating in kayaking may involve serious injury or death. Observe the following safety standards when using this product. These are basic safety rules that all boaters should follow. Always use common sense and follow all safety rules at all times.

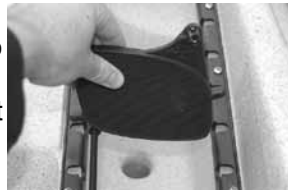
Pedal Adjustment

Pedal Adjustment System (if applicable)

Some Hobie kayaks are equipped with a unique foot pedal system that allows for a wide variety of adjustments for different sized paddlers. The black strips on the kayak only allow the pedals to be released when they are twisted at a certain angle.

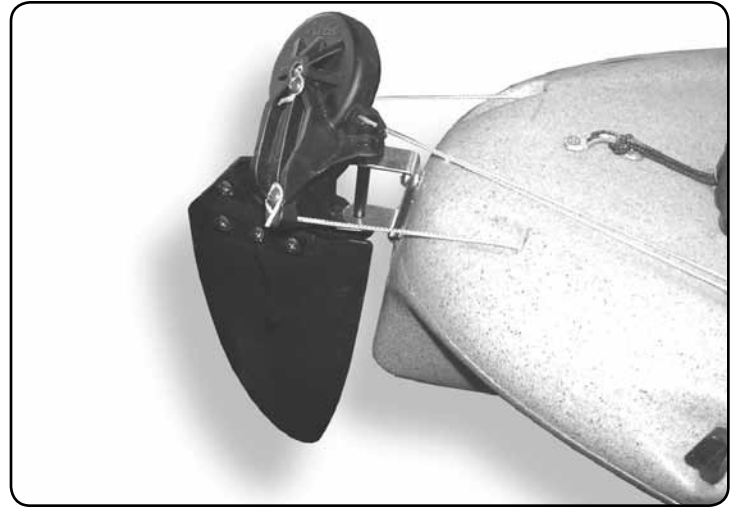
Pedal Adjustment

1. Twist the pedal away/opposite you so it is flat.
2. Lift the pedal out of the notch and move to the desired position.
3. Twist the pedal flat to work the knobs on the sides of the pedal into the knotch. The Bungee cord will automatically twist the pedal upright and lock it into position.



Accessory Rudder

Some Hobie kayaks are designed to have an optional rudder kit installed. Please refer to rudder kit installation instructions for details.



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Safety Checklist

- Consult your physician prior to beginning paddle/pedal sports.
- Obtain paddle sports instructions from your dealer specific to this type of craft.
- Obtain certified first aid training and carry first aid and rescue/safety equipment.
- Always wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device.
- Wear a helmet where appropriate.
- Dress appropriately for weather conditions; cold water and/or weather can result in hypothermia.
- Check your equipment prior to each use for signs of wear or failure.
- Never paddle alone.
- Always tie a leash to your paddle.
- Do not paddle in flood conditions.
- Care must be made to ensure that the access hatches on your kayak remain closed while on the water. Water can enter a hatch that is left open and possibly flood the hull, making the boat unstable or cause inadequate flotation for the passenger(s).
- Be aware of appropriate river water levels, tidal changes, dangerous currents, obstacles in and above the water and weather changes.
- Scout unfamiliar waters; portage where appropriate.

- Do not exceed your paddling ability; be aware of your limitations.
- Hobie Kayaks were not designed for fast moving water.
- Follow manufacturer's recommendations for use of this product.
- If additional outfitting is added to this craft, use manufacturer-approved materials only; do not impair entry or exit access.
- Read owner's information package prior to using this product.
- The user of this product acknowledges both an understanding and assumption of the risk involved in paddle sports.
- When paddling in a new area, check with the locals regarding currents, shoreline conditions and weather patterns. Plan an "escape route" -- an alternative place to get off the water should environmental conditions dictate. Beware of offshore winds that may make it difficult to return to shore.
- DO NOT use alcohol or mind-altering drugs prior to or while using this product.

The Shakedown Cruise

As with any new product, it is important to become familiar with the craft and all its features. It is also important to determine that the kayak is sound before long trips. We recommend that you do what we call a "shakedown cruise" when the kayak is new, after shipping or transport, before long trips and after installing any through-hull fittings. This test is typically done in shallow, calm conditions where you can familiarize yourself with the boat or test the boat before taking any long trips into open water. Things that you should check or practice are:

- Rudder operation (if applicable)
- Practice getting in and out of the kayak from a capsized state
- Drain plug location and make sure it is properly installed
- Closing the hatches properly

Paddling

These guidelines will help you to get started.

To start, sit in your kayak. Your backside should be all the way back in the seat and your knees comfortably bent. To find the proper footwell, straighten your legs all the way out and then bring them back one “well”. If your legs are too outstretched, you may experience strain on your lower back. If your knees are bent too much, you may end up knocking your kneecaps while paddling.

For proper hand placement on your paddle, start with your hands about shoulder’s width apart and centered. If you place the center of the paddle on top of your head, your elbows should form slightly less than a 90 degree angle. There should be an equal amount of paddle shaft beyond each of your hands.

Some paddles may have the blades offset, or “feathered”, at some degree from parallel. A feathered paddle presents less surface area for the wind to catch as that blade moves forward through the air. Some paddles have a flattened spot



along the paddle shaft that will help keep your “control” hand in a fixed position. However, a special technique must be used to get each blade in the water. If the paddle is right-hand controlled (when the right blade is held vertical, the left blade “scoop” is pointed mostly up), the right hand will stay tight and the left hand loose. To learn the process, hold the paddle tight in your right hand and loose in your left. Using the right hand, rotate the paddle blade back and forth; it should spin in your left hand. Now take a stroke on your right, then cock your right wrist back (left hand staying loose and somewhat open) and take a stroke on your left. If using a left-hand control paddle, reverse the process. The left hand stays tight and the right hand loose.

The basic paddle stroke will give you forward power. Place a paddle blade in the water near your toes. Pull the paddle blade back alongside the boat to approximately your hip area while your opposite hand and paddle blade move forward. Then lift the first paddle blade out of the water while lowering the second blade into the water and take a stroke with the other side.

If you pull the paddle out and away from the hull in an arc, it will force the bow of the boat to swing away from the paddle blade. This is called a “sweep stroke” and is used to turn the boat.

Helpful Paddling Tips

Hobie kayaks are very easy to use and very forgiving. By beginning in calm water, you can quickly get the feel of the boat and paddle techniques. Practice getting in and out of the boat by yourself.



Relax your hands when paddling; a tight grip is not necessary!

Sit with good posture while keeping your torso vertical. Choose a footrest position that will allow your knees to be slightly bent.

For greater efficiency use not only your arms, but your torso and shoulders as well. Start out easy until you get the feel of the paddle and the steering strokes. Most experienced paddlers use an offset (feathered) paddle, but beginners may prefer to keep the paddle blades flat.

How to Perform a Self Rescue

If you fall out of your boat, don't panic. Stay with the boat. You should be wearing a life jacket which will keep you afloat. There are many ways to get back up on the boat.

If the boat is upside-down, it will need to be turned over. To do this, reach across the bottom of the boat and grab the opposite rail and pull the boat upright.

Position yourself so your head is near the cockpit area of the boat and you are facing the boat, positioned between the seat and the footwell areas of the boat.

Reach across the boat to the far edge with one hand. Place the other hand on the near-side rail, then kick with your feet, pulling yourself up and onto the boat, so your belly is across the center line of the boat. (Your belly should end up between the footwells and the seat.)

Next, roll over onto your backside toward the seat, which should place your backside in the seat. Sit up, swing your feet into the footwells and you're ready to go.

The key to this method is to keep your center of gravity low and near the centerline of the boat. Your body and head should stay close to the boat.

Transporting Your Hobie Kayak

The easiest way to transport your Hobie Kayak is to purchase a roof rack from your dealer. This normally involves a set of crossbars that attach to the vehicle via the rain gutters or adapter clips mounted to the door frame. They come with a wide variety of attachments from kayak saddles to stackers. The racks can be used without the attachments but the racks should be padded. To help prevent distortion, place the kayak, cockpit side down, on top of the rack. It is best if the crossbars contact the cockpit sides and not the deck areas. Straps can then be laid across the boat and tied to the bars. Saddles cradle the boat and often come with their own straps. Stackers allow multiple boats to be placed on their sides without falling over.

An alternative to traditional rack systems are soft racks. They tend to be less expensive and will work with most cars. These are pads mounted on straps that sit between the kayak and the roof of your car. Some styles have a strap that wraps around the kayak and others strap the pad to the roof. To tie the boat to the car, straps are run through the car doors and the boat is tied to the roof as well as the bumpers, front and rear. Over-tightening the straps may cause dents in the roof of the car. Be sure to consult the owner's manual for your car and roof rack system to ensure that you comply with all recommendations, precautions and specifications.

A line run from the bow and stern of the boat to each bumper is required. If your bumpers do not have a gap

to pass a rope around, look underneath. There should be a loop of metal, which is used by car transports such as tow trucks.

Many people like to use the scupper holes to tie the boat to the car. This helps prevent the boat from sliding back and forth or the tie-down rope from slipping off the kayak. This is a perfectly acceptable method for tying the boat down.

Storing Your Hobie Kayak

Hobie has chosen a blend of plastic that has an added measure of ultraviolet inhibitors to provide superior protection from ultraviolet light. However, to ensure extra years of flexibility and bright colors, avoid storing the boat where it will be exposed to weather or in direct sunlight.

Kayaks should be stored upside down on the cockpit rails. If hanging your kayak, make sure that the ropes or straps support most of the weight on the cockpit rails or the side of the boat. **A word of caution: hanging by the scupper hole(s) will cause distortion, and hanging from the handles will place undue strain on them and void the warranty.** Storing the boat bottom-side down may also cause distortion. Kayak storage systems are available from your dealer. Pad eyes are NOT intended for hanging or for use as tie-downs.

To prevent theft of your kayak, simply run a cable through a scupper hole and lock it to something secure.



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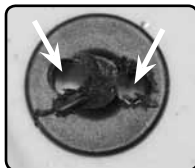


Frequently Asked Questions

How can I replace the screw-in fittings (if equipped)?

You may find it necessary to replace some of the pad eyes or hooks if they are damaged. To replace them, follow the instructions below. There is also a Screw-In Fitting tool available from the Hobie Parts and Accessory Catalog.

1. Drill two 3/16" holes opposite one another on the top surface of the screw-in fitting. Be careful not to go all the way through the part and into the kayak.



2. Insert the two prongs of a pair of needle nose pliers into the two holes and rotate the part counterclockwise.



3. Grip the new part with your pliers and install it into the hole. Be sure to put a little pressure into the hole so that the threads on the new part install properly.



Is my boat repairable?

Hobie kayaks are very durable, but on occasion may need some minor repairs. Linear polyethylene is repairable. Check with your dealer concerning repairs for your kayak.

Is my boat recyclable?

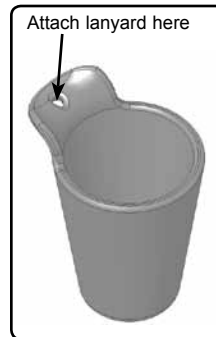
Hobie will recycle your boat when you are done with it. To recycle a Hobie Kayak, it must be cut up so it fits in a box with the following UPS dimensions (may not exceed 130" length plus girth, and 108" in height). Ship the boat to:

Hobie Cat Company
4925 Oceanside Blvd.
Oceanside, CA 92056

It is our hope that no Hobie Kayak will ever end up in a landfill!

What is the best way to use the scupper plugs?

The scupper plugs are useful when you would like to keep the inside of your boat dry and are most helpful in calmer water conditions. Simply press the plug firmly into the scupper hole from the top side of the boat. To prevent loss of the plugs, lanyards are provided with the plugs so you can attach them to the boat.



Warranty Registration and Claims

It is very important that you fill out and send us your Warranty Registration Card as soon as possible. This information enables Hobie Cat Company to contact you should there be important product information that needs to be shared with you in a timely manner. Please complete the Warranty Registration Card in your Owner's Packet, or take advantage of our hassle-free online option at;

<http://www.hobiecat.com/support/warranty-registration/>

To file a warranty claim for a product defect, please see your Authorized Hobie Cat Dealer. They will be able to assess the problem, assist with a repair and file a warranty claim with Hobie Cat Company if needed. All warranty claims must go through your Authorized Hobie Cat Dealer. The Warranty Registration Card and Warranty Policies are included with each model in the Owner's Packet.

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PN 89501

HOBIE CAT COMPANY

4925 Oceanside Blvd.

Oceanside, CA 92056

Phone (760) 758-9100

Fax (760) 758-1841

hobiekayaks.com



HOBIEKAYAKS.COM

