

# Puffin Kayak

## Assembly and User Information

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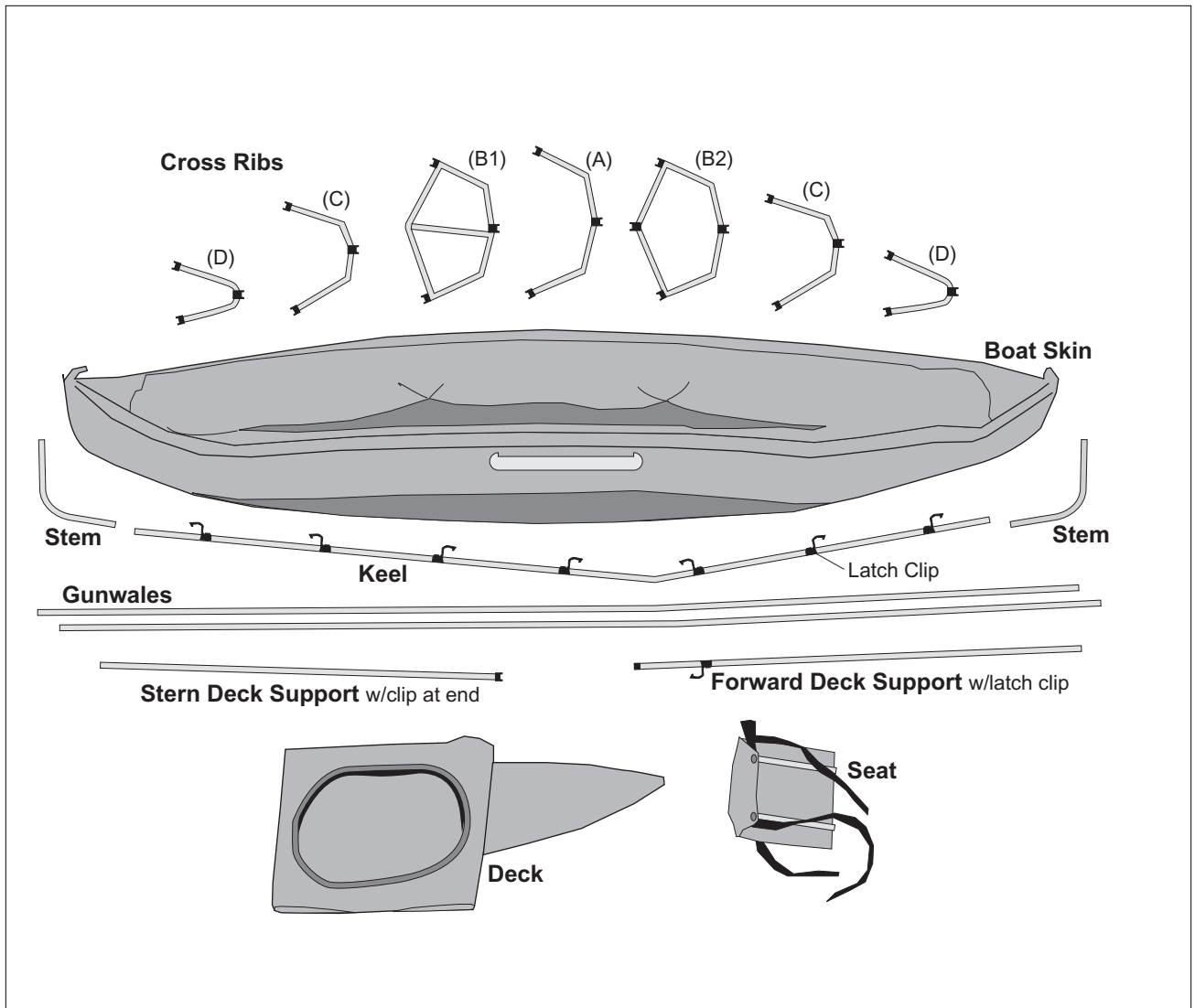


Figure 1, Parts

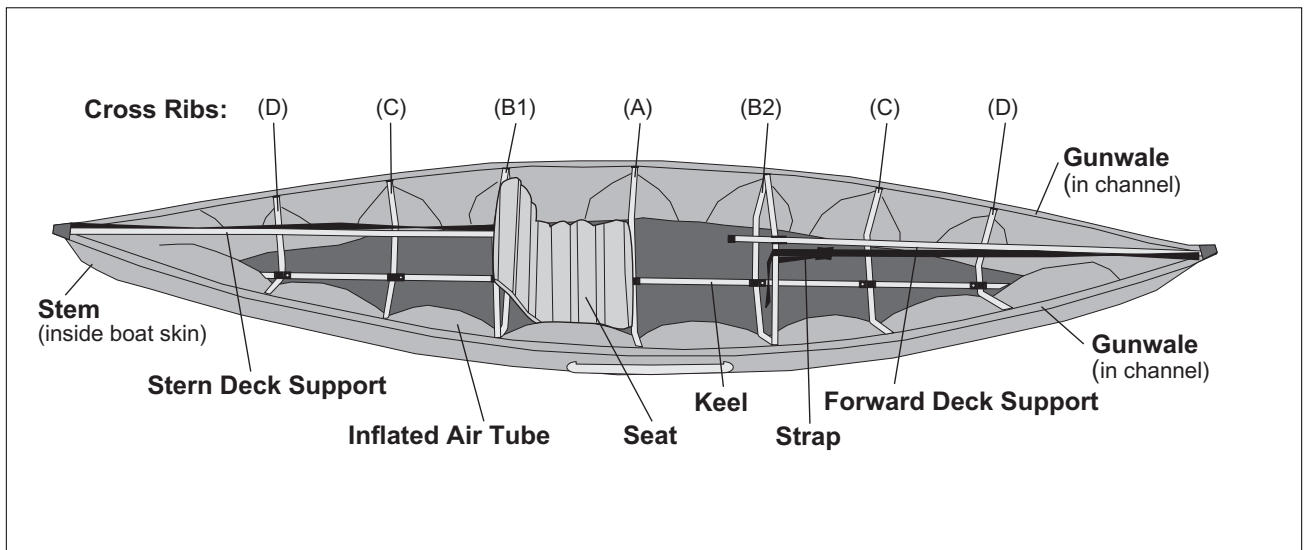


Figure 2, Assembled (deck removed)

# Assembling the Puffin Kayak

**NOTE!** We recommend that you study this manual carefully before you start the assembly procedure! When assembling the Puffin Kayak, please refer to Figure 1 and Figure 2 of this manual.

1. Roll out the *boat skin* and assemble all the rods.

→ The sections of the long rods are internally connected by elastic cords to ensure correct assembly.

2. Insert both *gunwales* as far as they will go. Close the black flaps to cover the ends.

→ The two longest rods are *gunwales*. They are to be inserted in channels along the edges of the *boat skin*. The channel openings are under black flaps at one end of the skin.

3. Assemble *keel* and *stems*.

→ The curved pieces without plastic fittings are *stems*. The narrow end of the *stems* fit into the *keel*.

4. Position *keel* and *stems* inside the boat skin.

→ The *keel* will now be at an angle.

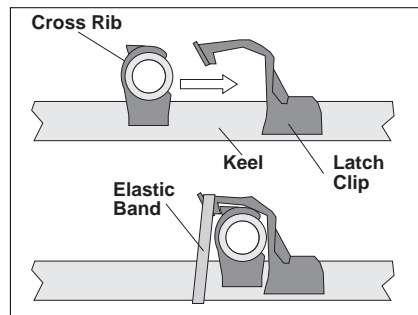


Figure 3, Latch Clip

→ The *cross ribs* are connected to the *keel* by means of *latch clips*. Each *cross rib* has a plastic clip at the center. Position this clip on the keel as shown in Figure 3 and press in the direction of the arrow until the *latch clip* locks. Mount the *elastic band* to secure the locking.

→ The ends of the *cross rib* clip to the *gunwales* at openings in the *gunwale channels*.

5. Mount *cross rib (A)*.

→ *Cross rib (A)* is the widest one and will be installed at the center of the kayak. To install it the keel angle is moved to the center of the kayak.

→ **As the *cross ribs* are installed the *keel* will gradually straighten.**

**NOTE:** The hull is symmetrical. It does not matter at which end *cross ribs (B1)* and *(B2)* are installed.

6. Mount *cross ribs (B1)* and *(B2)*.

→ The rear part of the kayak will now be where *rib (B1)* is installed.

7. Mount the four remaining *crossribs, (C)* and *(D)*.

→ Make sure the *keel* is straight and the *stems* are centered in the ends of the *boat skin*.

8. Inflate both *air tubes* just enough to give a little pressure. Pull the tubes up towards the *gunwales*. Continue inflating both *air tubes* alternately until they feel hard (about as much as a fit person could do by mouth).

→ Make sure the *keel* is straight during the inflation. If it bows to one side, add more pressure to the *air tube* on that side.

9. Mount the *forward deck support*.

→ The straight rod with a *latch clip* close to one end, is the *forward deck support*. The *latch clip* will attach to a corresponding clip at the top of *cross rib (B2)*. The “naked” end of the rod should be placed against the flap at the forward end of the boat skin.

10. Locate the *strap* attached to the front end of the *boat skin* and secure *cross rib (B2)* as shown in *Figure 4*.

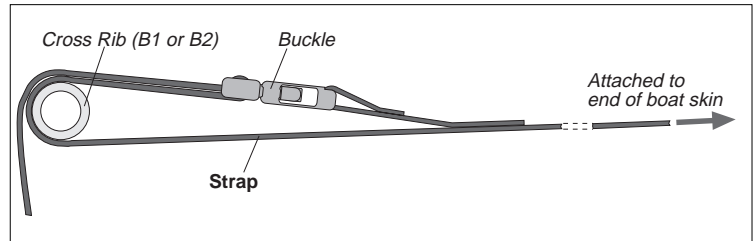


Figure 4, Securing Cross Ribs (B1) and (B2)

11. Mount the *stern deck support*.

→ The straight rod with a *clip* at one end, is the *stern deck support*. The *clip* will attach to the top of *cross rib (B1)*. The “naked” end of the rod should be placed against the flap at the rear end of the boat skin.

12. Locate the *strap* attached to the rear end of the *boat skin* and secure *cross rib (B1)* as shown in *Figure 4*.

13. Inflate the *seat*.

14. Mount the *seat*.

→ The *seat* is placed with the foam down on the bottom of the kayak and the back against *cross rib (B1)*.

*Front seat-straps:* Run ends under *cross rib (A)* and buckle across the *keel*.

*Back seat-straps:* Run longest end under *cross rib (B1)* and *keel*, and buckle to short end.

The *seat* is equipped with additional straps on each side for back adjustment.

15. Hook “short” end of *deck* over the stern (boat’s rear end) and pull other end of *deck* towards the boat’s front end.  
Support the boat with your foot while stretching the *deck* to fit over the bow.

16. Attach the Velcro fastener along the edge of the *deck* to the matching Velcro strip on the *boat skin*.

**The Puffin Kayak is now complete.**

## Note!

- If a *cross rib* becomes disconnected from a *gunwale*, there is not enough pressure in the *air tubes*. You need to get to shore and add more air. Reduced pressure is common if you assemble the boat on a warm, sunny day and go paddling in cold water. Under these conditions you should add some extra pressure during assembly.

## Disassembling the Puffin Kayak

*Disassembling is essentially the assembly process in reverse, but there are a few important details:*

- Undo all the Velcro before you try to get the ends of the *deck* off.
- To remove the *gunwales*:
  - Open the black flaps and move to the other end of the boat.
  - Grip the side fabric on one side just below the *gunwale*, about a foot (30 cm) from the end.
  - Push with the other hand against the end of the *gunwale*.
  - Straighten the *boat skin*, move your hands, and repeat the process on both sides of the boat until the *gunwales* can easily be pulled out.

*NOTE!* If some *gunwale sections* disconnect, you can still pull the *gunwales* out, but it is then important to stretch the *boat skin* so the *gunwale channels* are straight.

- Open the *air tube valves* and roll up the *boat skin* from the end opposite the *valves*.

## Some general information about your Puffin Kayak

### Patches and Reinforcements

Punctures and abrasions to the kayak skin are easily repaired with the enclosed repair kit.

- Cut a patch to cover the damaged area plus 3/4" around it.
- Round the corners of the patch.
- Clean the patch and the area to be covered, and apply a thin coat of adhesive to both surfaces.
- Wait until the adhesive feels dry and apply the patch. Make sure the surfaces are pressed together well. *Note: The smooth side of the patch should face out.*
- Apply adhesive to the side that appears embossed.

The kayak can be used immediately after the repair, but the bond will get stronger for several hours as the adhesive cures.

You can add reinforcement to wear areas. The keel line is the most exposed to wear, and we recommend that you add a keel strip if you anticipate a lot of abrasion. After some use it is easy to see which areas are exposed to wear. Simply install patches of same color fabric or contact your dealer for a keel strip kit.

Punctures of the air tubes can be repaired with the adhesive in the repair kit and a patch. The patch material in the repair kit can be used on the air tubes as well. Follow the procedure described above. It is important to clean the surfaces well before applying the adhesive.

*Note:*

Adhesives work best on rough surfaces. We recommend using fine sandpaper before adhesives are applied.

*Note:*

303 Protectant and other similar products will protect canoe skins and air tubes from harmful UV rays and help extend the life of your Puffin, but we never use protectants on our own boats. Nor do we recommend that you do.

The reason is that you can not apply a patch without completely removing the protectant from the area to be patched, and the protectant has to be removed with a chemical solvent.

Also, the Puffin skin's PVC coating has very good UV resistance without any protection and should last for many years.

We recommend that you store your Puffin Kayak in the shade whenever practical.

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