

HOBIE QUEST



OWNER'S MANUAL



Hobie Quest

FEATURES

Unique Features Of Your Hobie Quest

Sit-on-top Design

The Hobie kayak open-top cockpit allows the paddler to enter and exit the kayak easily from the shore, dock or water. Scupper hole(s) make the kayak self-bailing. The design also eliminates the need to perform an Eskimo roll (advanced kayak technique). The contoured seat may be fitted with an adjustable backrest for added comfort. The pedal adjustment system allows you to make adjustments for maximum comfort.

Hull Design

The long center "keel" area encourages boats to track straight when paddling and coasting. The wider "shoulder" area of the hulls rides high at the surface of the water without compromising speed under moderate paddling conditions.

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 Hole(s)

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

Graphics

Graphics are molded into the kayak, assuring that they will not peel or flake off for the life of the boat.

PERFORMANCE
Fine bow entry, reduced wetted surface, lightweight and sleek shape make the Hobie Quest faster

LARGE STORAGE
Easy access to large internal storage with a custom color matching lid

ADJUSTABLE FOOT BRACES
Multiple foot positions fit all paddlers comfortably

SELF-DRAINING COCKPIT
Scupper(s) drain water from cockpit

MOLDED-IN DRINK HOLDER
Keeps beverage available for easy access

SIDE-STORAGE POCKETS
Molded in side trays with mesh covering on both sides

EASY ACCESS 8" HATCH
A large hatch to stow your stuff an arm's distance away

TWO-PIECE PADDLE WITH MOLDED IN PADDLE HOLDERS ON BOTH SIDES

EASY-CARRY HANDLE
Molded-in handles offers an excellent hand hold

COMFORTABLE
Seat is ergonomically designed to reduce fatigue and pressure points on the paddler's legs. Positioned higher than footwells, the seat is dry and comfortable

MOLDED-IN ROD HOLDERS

LARGE PICK-UP STYLE CARGO AREA
Pick up style cargo area with Bungee tiedowns provides a huge space for all your kayaking gear

OPTIONAL HATCH
Circular flat for optional 8" hatch installation.

DRAIN PLUG

MOLDED-IN INSERTS FOR OPTIONAL RUDDER SYSTEM



Welcome to the Hobie way of life!

Thank you for choosing a Hobie kayak. As part of the Hobie way of life, 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. More important, it is designed to help you use it safely.

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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 side of the boat, at the stern.

In the middle of the boat, there 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. Your particular model may have hatches that 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.

All Hobie kayaks are made of linear polyethylene, making them repairable and recyclable.

Pedal Adjustment System

The Hobie Quest is 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 that 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.



Note: If you purchased your Quest with the rudder package installed, the steering line tension will be part of the adjustability of the pedals. Refer to the section of the adjustment of the steering lines for further details.

Rudder System

The Hobie Quest is designed for the addition of an optional rudder system. Rudder systems in boats like this allow you to adjust the steering trim of your boat when paddling in high wind or strong current conditions. If you purchased the Quest with the rudder package installed, continue reading for rudder installation and operation. If you bought the rudder kit as an installation option, consult the instructions that come with the rudder kit.

Installing the Rudder Kit

Attached to the rudder packaging should be the following items.

1. One rudder with lifting line
2. One mounting bracket with screws
3. Steering Lines (these will come installed in the boat)

Installing the Rudder-Bracket

There are two molded in inserts at the stern of the boat that are intended for mounting the rudder bracket. If your boat has seen some use prior to installing the bracket, be sure to wash out the holes in the inserts to remove any sand that may have collected in the threads.

1. Orient the bracket on the back of the boat with the longer bend of the bracket at the top.



2. Using a screwdriver, thread in the screws until the bracket is tight against the hull.

Mounting Your Rudder

1. Remove the screw and washer from the bottom of the rudder pin and slide the pin into the bracket mounted on the stern of your boat.



2. Install the washer and screw back onto the bottom of the rudder pin, making sure it is nice and tight. Check the tightness of the screw from time to time to be sure it is secure.



3. Run the black line at the top of the rudder up to the cockpit and tie it to the padeye that your seat snaps to. This will keep the up-and-down control line of your rudder close by at all times.



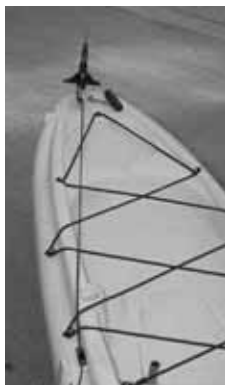
4. At the stern of the boat, grab the right and left steering lines that exit each side of the boat and tie them through the right and left horns on the rudder.



Using your Rudder System

Raising and Lowering the Rudder

To raise your rudder, simply pull on the black line that attached to the top of the rudder blade and cleat it off in the large black cleat above the right rear paddle holder.



To lower the rudder, simply uncleat the black line and the rudder will automatically spring back into the down position.



Adjusting the Steering Lines for your Leg Length

To adjust the steering lines, it helps to be sitting in the kayak and the rudder needs to be in the down position.

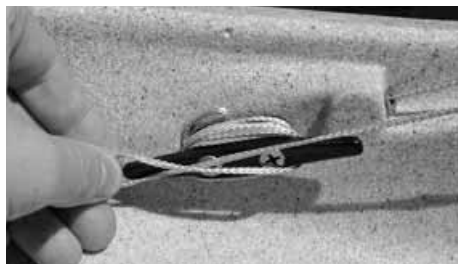
1. Make sure that the small steering lines are not tied around the low profile cleats. Adjust the pedals so they are in the position that is most comfortable for you.
2. Place your feet on the pedals and keep some pressure on them so they don't move and are in a comfortable position. Using your right and left hands, grab the steering lines that are coming back to you after wrapping around the pulley in the corner of the pedal. Try pulling on one of the lines and look back at the rudder. You'll notice that by pulling on one line, the rudder will turn. Pulling on the other line will make the rudder turn in the other direction.



3. You want to adjust the amount of pull on each line so the rudder is straight. With the rudder straight, keep pressure on the pedals and pull the lines tight. Lower the lines and wrap the slack in the line around the cleats in the cockpit. As the extra line wraps around the cleat, test their tension by putting your feet against the pedals and see how comfortable they are. If you want the pedals to be more vertical, wrap



another loop around the cleat. If you want them more horizontal, let out a loop from the cleat. This rudder adjustment system allows you to fine tune the trim of the pedals to where it is most comfortable for a range of users. You may want to wrap a smaller loop around one horn of the cleat to make slight adjustments.



Using the Rudder on the Water

Once all your steering lines are trimmed, you are ready for the water. The rudder operation is very simple. By rolling the right pedal forward, you turn right. Rolling the left pedal forward will make you turn left. It typically requires very little turn in the rudder to help you maintain a straight course in a strong crosswind or current.

If it feels like your steering is a bit loose, you probably need to re-adjust your steering lines. Roll both pedals back toward you so that it is just beyond where it is most comfortable and re-tension the steering lines on the cleat. When you put your normal pressure on the pedals, the lines will settle a bit and the pedals will adjust back to their optimal comfort angle.

Installing a Rod Holder

(Note: Quest Fisherman packages have the rod holder base pre-installed)

The center console in the Hobie Quest is designed to accommodate a deck mounted rod holder. If you are using the rod holder from Hobie, follow the instructions below.

Your Hobie rod holder kit comes with the following items:

1. One Rod Holder Base
2. One Baitcaster Rod holder
3. Four Screws
5. Four Lock Nuts

1. Sit in the kayak and find the best position for the rod holder. Using the rod holder as a guide, drill a 1/4" hole through the top of the console in the 4 locations for screws.

2. Open the large flip-up hatch and reach inside the kayak. Place the screws through the rod holder base, through the holes you just drilled and place the lock nuts on the screws. Tighten the nuts onto the screws and you're ready to go. See the next page for Baitcaster Rod Holder operation.



Hobie® BAITCASTER

Scouty

ROD HOLDER



- Holds a Bait Caster reel in a cushioned cradle.
- A slot in the front of the rod holder allows for a spinning reel to be securely held in position.
- The rod holder design has a side-mounted flange, which leaves the bottom open. This allows for the rod holder to accommodate trigger sticks.
- Pistol grip rod butts easily clear the side of the rod holder for quick rod retrieval.



A. Swivels Laterally.

B. Tilts up and down, including full upright for rod storage when traveling.

C. Rods can be secured in holder with a soft latching strap which snaps over the top.



Mounting Instructions

The rod holder is designed to enter the mounting bracket only when pointing inboard, and is locked in every other direction. To ensure the mounting bracket is correctly positioned, the "Hobie" logo on the bracket should read right side up, when looking from inboard. When side mounting the rod holder, the bracket should be mounted as close to the gunnel top as possible, to allow full swivel rotation. When reassembling your rod holder, make sure the adjusting knob is on the right-hand side of the rod holder (see photographs above).



Optional Accessories

- 1 1-1/4" Square Rail Mount No. 243
- 2 Flush Deck Mount No. 244
- 3 Combination Deck or Side Mount No. 241
- 4 Rail Mount No. 242
- 5 Oarlock Mount No. 248
- 6 Portable Clamp Mount No. 249



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LETS HIT THE WATER!



SAFETY

Paddlesports can be dangerous and physically demanding. The user of this product should understand that participating in paddlesports 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.

- Consult your physician prior to beginning paddlesport / training.
- Carry a spare paddle.
- Obtain paddlesport 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 nationally 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 use a paddle leash.
- Do not paddle in flood conditions.
- 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.
- DO NOT use alcohol or mind-altering drugs prior to or while using this product.
- Follow the 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 paddlesports/paddling.

Beware of offshore winds that may make it difficult to return to shore.

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.

Hobie Kayaks were not designed for fast moving water

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 scupper hole and pull the boat upright.

Position yourself so your head is near the cockpit area of the boat and you are facing the boat. You will also want to be 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 bellybutton 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, and any 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.



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 a 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 stays 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.

MORE 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 square.

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 in weather or direct sunlight.

Kayaks should be stored on edge, upside down on the cockpit rails, standing on end. When hanging your kayak, hang it upside down, run straps around the boat, near the cockpit. A word of caution: hanging by the scupper hole(s) may cause distortion; and hanging from the handles may place undue strain on them. 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 secure your kayak, simply run a cable through a scupper hole and lock it to something secure.

TRANSPORTING YOUR HOBIE KAYAK

One of the easiest ways 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 car 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.

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.

RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT FOR SPECIFIC TYPES OF PADDLING

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

Longer Distance Touring: Dry Bags, Chart, Compass.

Additional Equipment for Diving: Dive Flag, Anchor.

Fishing: Fishing Rod Holder, Drip Guards, Gear Bags, Knee Braces.

ABOUT POLYETHYLENE

Continuing Hobie's tradition of offering the latest in technology at an affordable price, your new kayak is made of rotomolded super linear 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.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

How watertight is my boat?

It is normal for any type of kayak to experience a small amount of seepage due to the installation of rivets, hatches, etc. Kayaks may take on a few cups of water while out paddling. If a kayak is taking on more than a small amount of water, check to make sure the drain plug is in, then check the rest of the boat for leaks. Silicone can be used to seal the rivets. If you have any questions, please call your dealer.

How should I store my kayak?

It is best to store your kayak on edge, upside down, standing on end or hanging on edges.

Is my boat repairable?

Hobie kayaks are very durable, however, on occasion they 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 dimensions: may not exceed 130" for the length plus girth, and 108" for the height. Ship the boat to: Hobie Cat 4925 Oceanside Blvd. Oceanside, CA 92056.

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

WARRANTY INFORMATION

Hobie provides a two year limited hull warranty.

Your warranty registration card is packaged with this owner's manual and should be completed and returned to Hobie within 30 days of the date of purchase. If you have problems

with your boat, contact your dealer first. If you need further assistance, contact Hobie. To help process any warranty problems, please complete your warranty card and give it to your dealer or mail it directly to Hobie.

Hobie warrants each kayak to be free from defects in materials and workmanship for retail customers in the United States, U.S. possessions and Canada. Hobie will repair or, at its discretion, replace defective parts.

All hulls are covered for a period of two years.

This warranty does not cover:

- Normal wear and discoloration.
- Damage caused by abuse or failure to perform normal maintenance.
- Damage caused by mooring or storing boat in water.
- Damage caused by alterations or modifications.
- Transportation of boat or parts to Hobie or its dealers.
- Any boat used as a rental or placed in commercial service.
- Any other consequential damage, incidental damages or incidental expenses, including damage to property. Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation may not apply to you.

To Obtain Warranty Service: Within 30 days of discovering a defect, take your boat, along with the proof of purchase (sales receipt) to the authorized Hobie dealer from whom you purchased your boat, unless you have moved or are traveling. In that case, take it to the nearest authorized Hobie dealer.

Implied Warranties: Any implied warranties, including implied warranty of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, shall be no longer than the duration of this express warranty. Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, so the above limitations may not apply to you. Hobie makes no express warranties in addition to this limited warranty. Hobie Dealers have no authority to make warranties on behalf of The Hobie Cat Company in addition to, or inconsistent with, those stated herein.

To the extent any provision of this warranty is prohibited by Federal, State or Municipal law and cannot be preempted, it shall not be applicable. This warranty gives you specific legal rights.



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