

YOUR ADVENTURE UNFOLDS

# Heron

*Feathercraft*<sup>TM</sup>

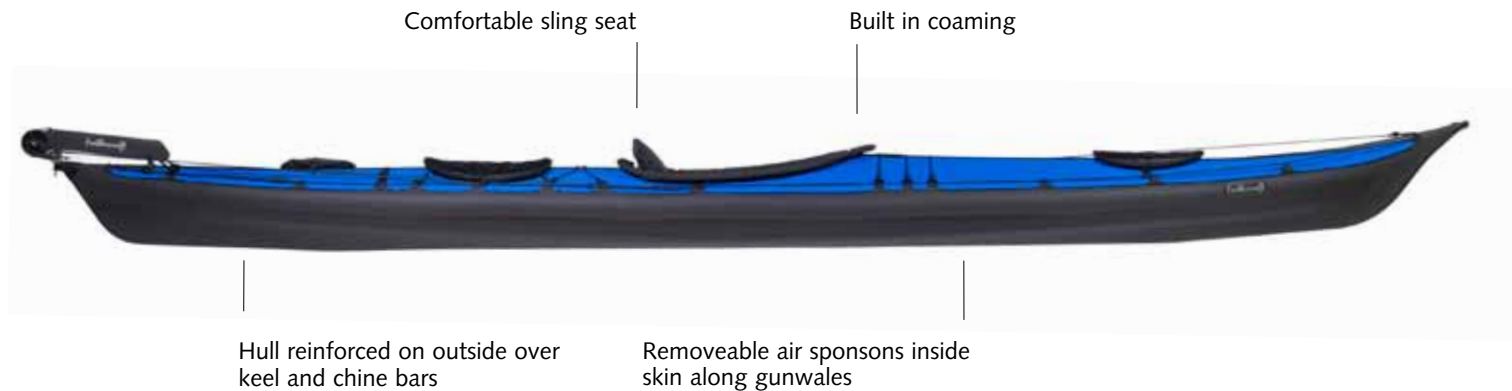
FOLDING KAYAKS

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# Contents

Heron Folding Kayak.....	Page 2
Specifications .....	Page 3
Heron Frame .....	Page 4
Care and Maintenance .....	Page 5
Heron Assembly Instructions .....	Page 7
The Feathercraft Sea Sock .....	Page 20
Disassembly .....	Page 21

# Heron Folding Kayak



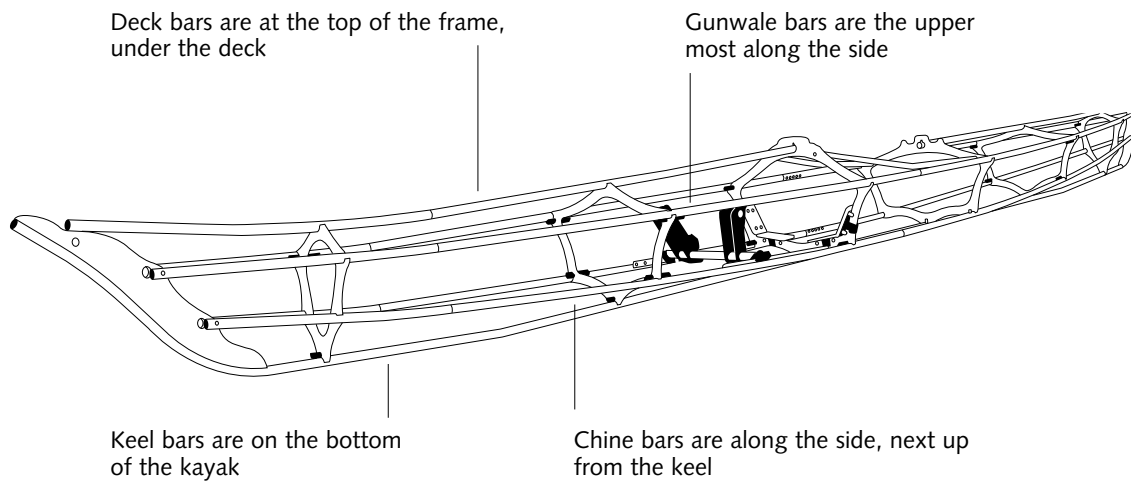
# Specifications

Length:	5.4m (17' 7")
Beam:	61cm (24")
Weight:	24.5 kg (54 lbs)
Pack size:	98 x 50 x 31cm (38.5 x 19.5 x 12")
Storage Volume:	High
Frame:	3/4 and 5/8 round aluminum magnesium alloy tubing with clear anodized coating
Crossribs:	1/2" High Density Polyethylene
Skin Material:	Welded Urethane

Seat: 420 denier rip stop nylon cover with closed cell foam, inflatable seat back and moulded plastic seat bottom

Accessories: Included with every kayak:  
Double coated nylon spray skirt  
Double coated nylon sea sock  
Pivot Foot Brace  
Calf Plates  
Medium bow hatch  
Small and large stern hatch  
Repair Kit  
Pack Bag  
Rudder  
Assembly instructions

# Heron Frame



# Care and Maintenance

## The Frame

The tubular frame is very strong and corrosion resistant. We recommend that the frame be disassembled after extensive use (2 – 3 months). The inside and outside of the tubes should be washed with fresh water. Try to keep the inserts and extension bars free of sand and grit.

Included in your repair kit is a small dropper tube of Boeshield T-9. This product is made by Boeing and is an excellent lubricant and protectant for aluminum.

Aerosol containers of Boeshield can be found at marine hardware stores. We also have available 4 oz bottles of Boeshield. However, please note, that the lid closure is not suitable for shipping after the bottle has been opened. This container would be good for your “at home” clean-up.

Apply the Boeshield lubricant to frame tube inserts, spring buttons and sliding pieces prior to assembly. If you should leave your boat assembled for a maximum of two months, this will assist in preventing tubes seizing.

Other maintenance “musts”:

- every two months completely disassemble the kayak.
- wash the frame completely with fresh water.
- reapply lubricant and/or wipe down tubes with Boeshield T-9.
- after paddling, sponge out the inside of the kayak. Do not allow water to pool along keel bar.

## The Skin

The surfaces of the skin will not rot. They are stable in sunlight and are very tear-resistant. On the hull, areas likely to be exposed to abrasion have been reinforced. However, we recommend care when approaching shore. Sharp rocks, and barnacles can penetrate the skin. Avoid pulling a loaded boat over rocks whenever possible.

For patching and repairs, a patch kit is included. For quick field repair, duct tape works very well, and is a good addition to your repair kit.

## Welded Sealskin

The Polytech deck and Duratek hull are urethane. Seams are permanently sealed.

A patch kit is provided for deck, hull or sponson punctures. The urethane glue will work for repairs to all of these fabrics. For preparation and application, follow the instructions on the adhesive container.

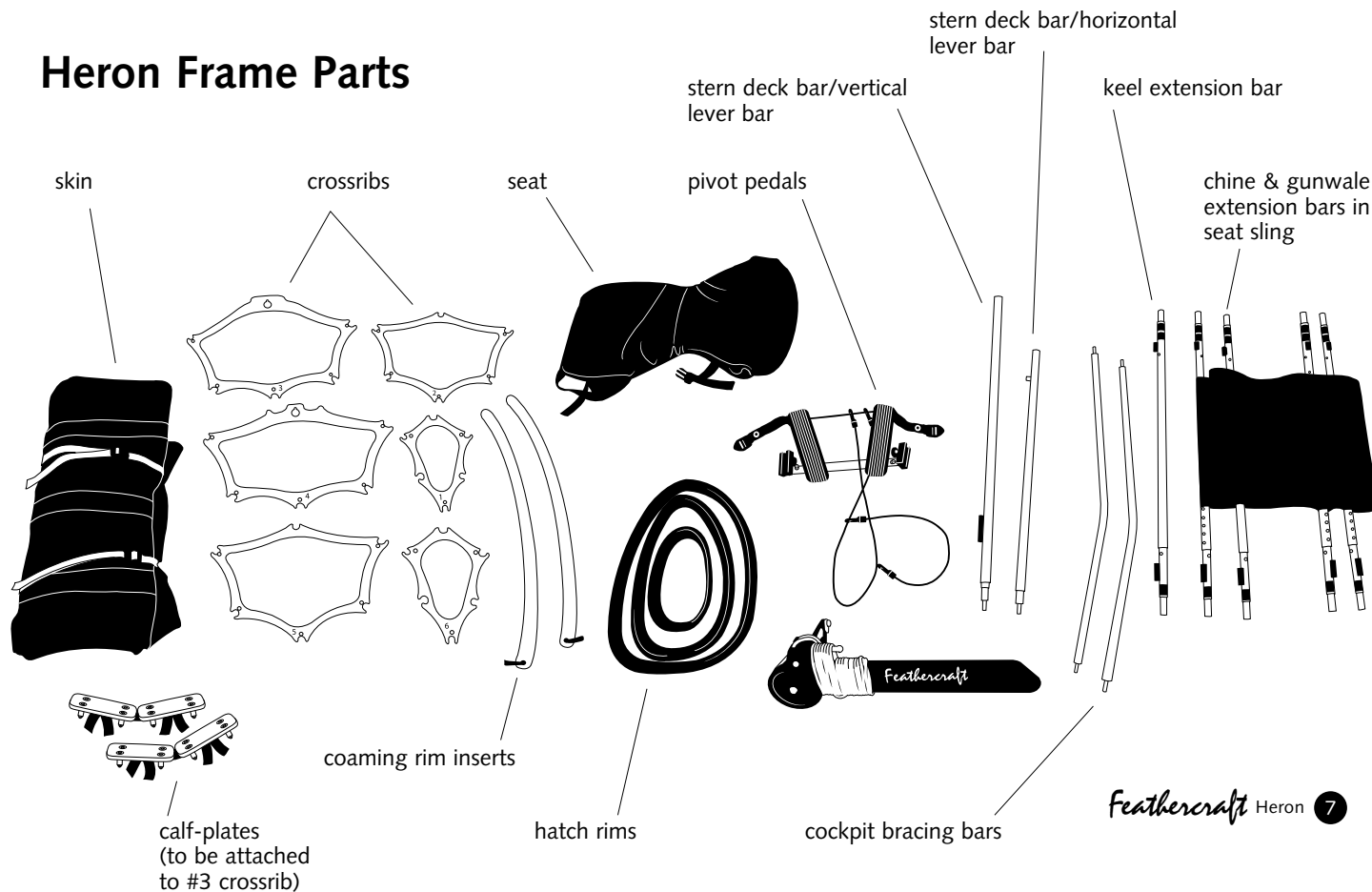
## Sponsons

Due to the tight fit of the skin, the sponsons are under considerable pressure and some seepage of air may occur. It is advisable to periodically reinflate the sponsons. After paddling on hot days, release air from sponsons.

## To Repair/Replace Sponson

The sponsons can be completely removed from the sleeve sewn to the inside of the skin. Turn the skin inside out. The sponson chamber is open at bow and stern ends. Tie a long string through the hole in the tab at the end of sponson. Pull sponson through the center opening of the chamber (where sponson hose is attached). To reinstall, pull the cord attached to the new sponson back through the chamber. Ensure sponson is not twisted in the chamber. Repeat with the opposite side. Urethane glue and patches are included in the repair kit. Duct tape works well on the sponsons.

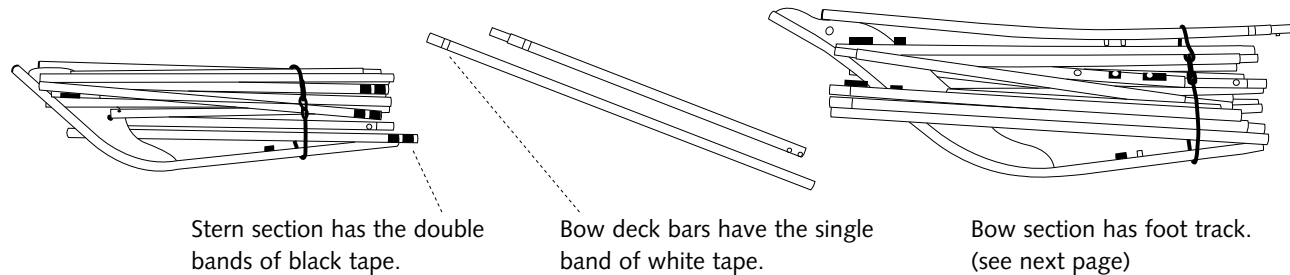
# Heron Frame Parts





1 SET OUT FRAME PARTS AS ILLUSTRATED ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE

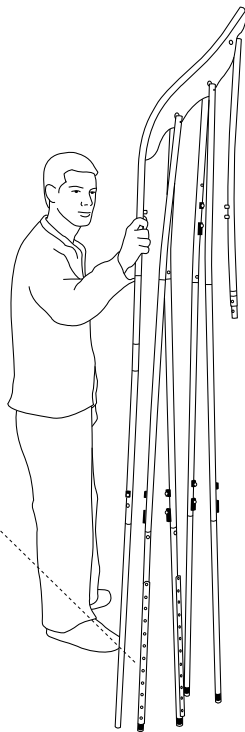
- Stern and bow frame sections.



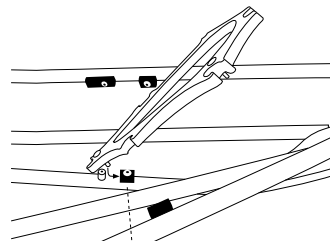
## 2 ASSEMBLE BOW SECTION

- “Shake” out bow section. Shock corded tubes take shape.

Bow section with foot track.

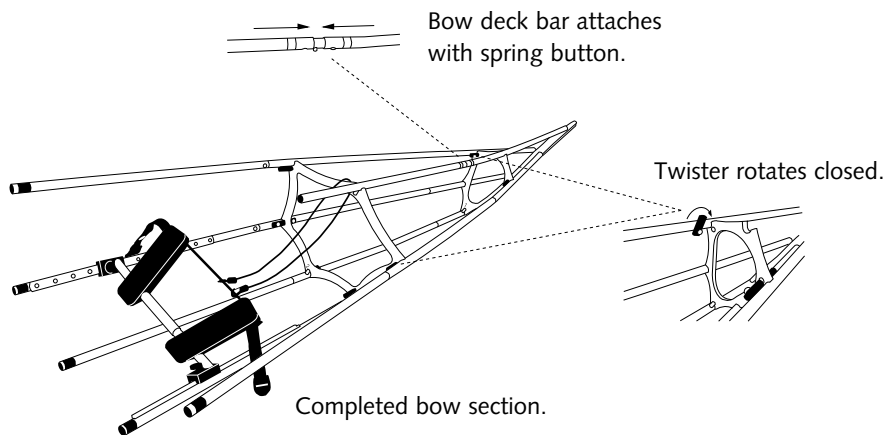


- Attach #1 bow crossrib to bow section.



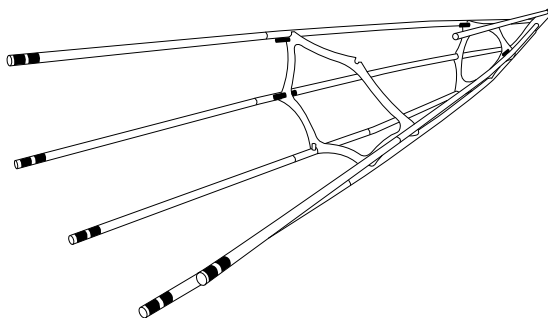
Pin on crossrib goes into black block.

- Install #2 crossrib
- Connect deck bar with spring button and white tape.
- Slide the pivot pedals in place now.
- Loop bungee cord with clips through #2 crossrib as shown.



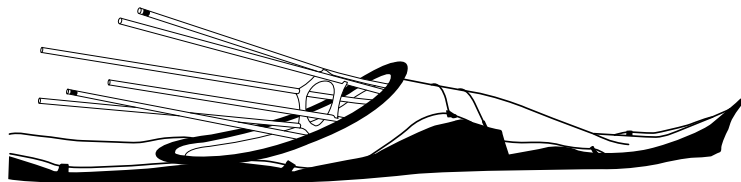
### 3 ASSEMBLE STERN SECTION

- Shake out stern section as you did the bow.
- Attach stern deck bar with double band of black tape.
- #6 and #5 crossrib are attached the same as #1 and #2 for the bow.



4 UNFOLD SKIN. INSERT BOW AND STERN FRAME SECTIONS.

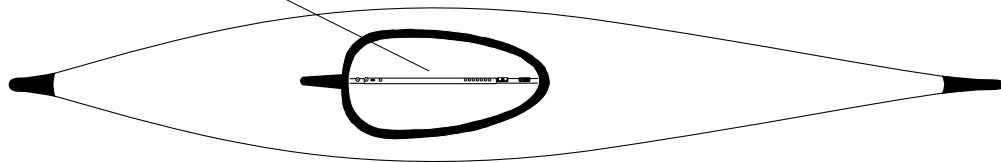
- Slide bow and stern frame sections into skin. Reach through hatches to pull frame into skin, and align along the keel. Velcro closures are attached to inside of the skin. Wrap these around keel bar.



- Insert keel bar, sliding apart to connect bow and stern keel bars.



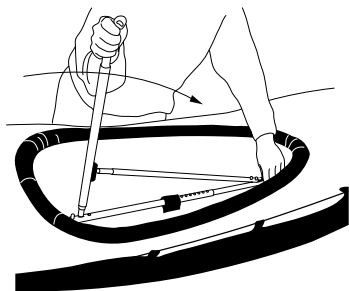
Stern



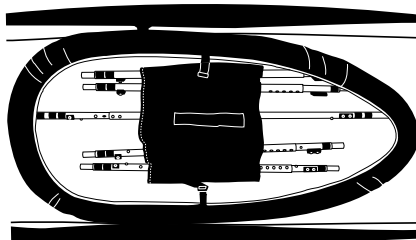
Bow

## 5 EXPAND EXTENSION BARS

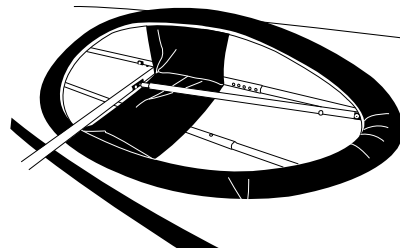
- a. Using the stern deck bars as horizontal and vertical lever bars, extend the keel extension bar till the spring button pops up in the first hole.



- b. Insert Chine and Gunwale extension bars, keeping them in the sleeves of the seat sling. Double bands of tape indicate stern end.



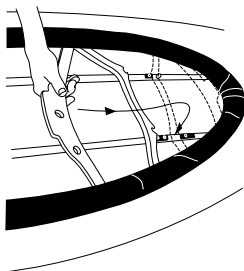
- c. Attach matching colours to bow and stern frame sections. Expand chine extension bars to the first hole, as you did with the keel extension bar. Expand gunwale extension bars to the first hole.



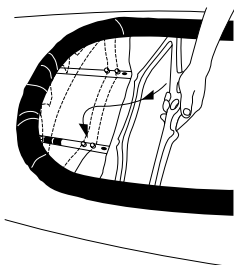
- d. Return to the Keel extension bar, and extend further, to the center hole. Continue to expand each of the chine and gunwale bars till each one is at the center hole. When using the lever bars to extend, situate yourself across from the parts you are working on. Each extension bar should be extended to the same position.

## 6 INSTALLING LARGE CROSSRIBS

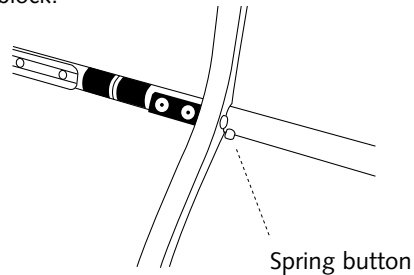
- a. Insert #3 crossrib to bow.



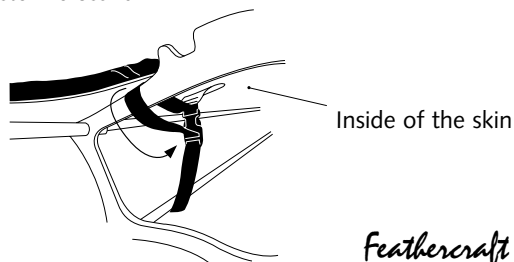
- b. Insert #4 crossrib to stern.



- c. Crossribs slide over spring button. Screw end fits into black block.

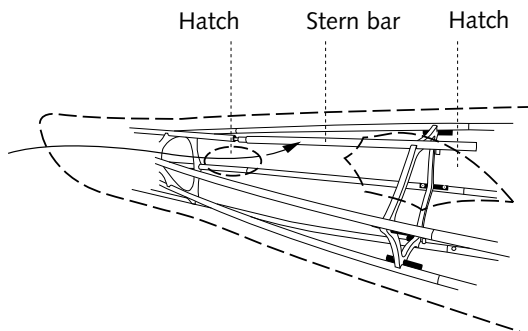


- d. Under deck webbing with buckle loops around stern crossrib.

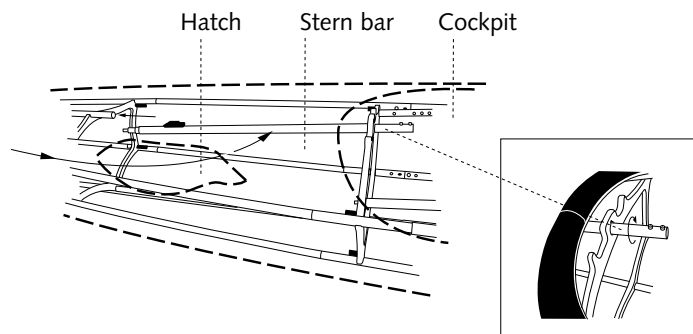


## 7 COMPLETE STERN SECTION

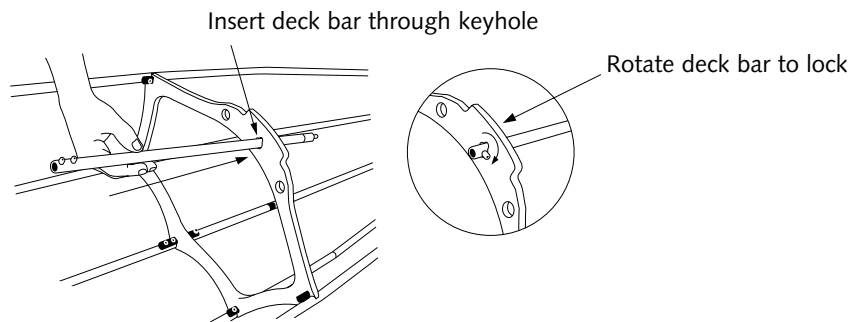
- Insert the Horizontal lever bar/stern deck through the stern hatch; connects to the deck bar attached to stern frame section.



- Insert Stern deck bar/vertical lever bar through the hatch. Bar slides through hole in top of crossrib #4; slide back to connect to deck bar, then twist to lock.



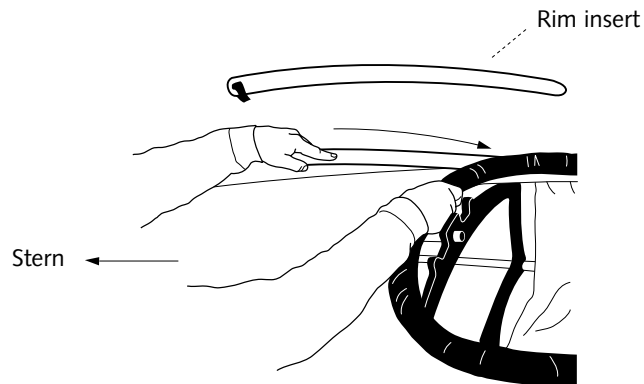
8 INSTALL REMAINING BOW DECK BAR





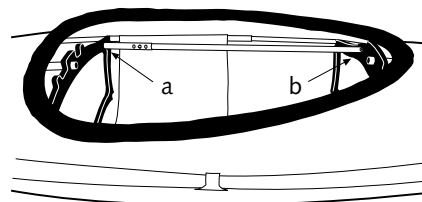
## 9 INSTALL RIM INSERTS

- Slide into pocket with tab on underside of coaming rim.

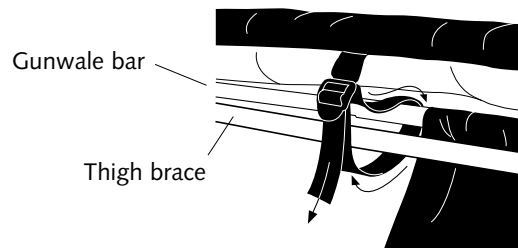


## 10 INSTALL BRACING BARS

- Slide oversleeve on thigh brace towards bow. Insert stern end of tube (a) through hole in large stern crossrib. Insert bow end (b) through hole in large bow crossrib. Slide oversleeve towards stern till snug and spring button appears.

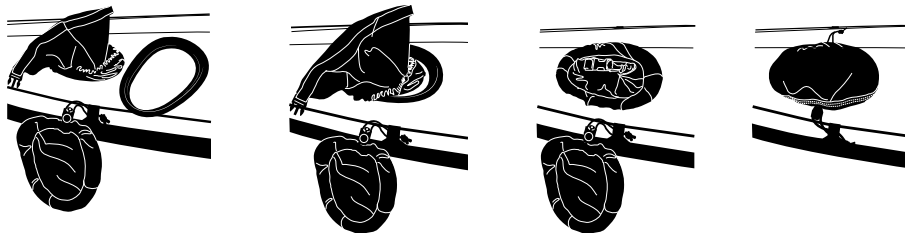


- Web strap goes around gunwale bar and thigh brace.

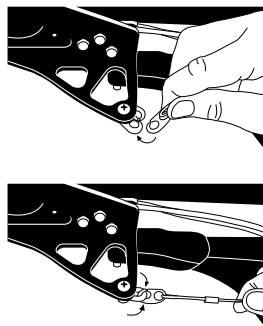
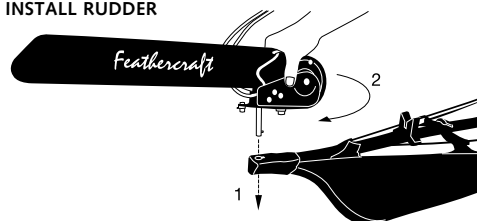


## 11 INSTALL HATCH RIM AND COVERS

- Small and large hatch rims are installed at the stern. Medium hatch is on the bow. Remember to remove hatch rims when rolling up the skin.



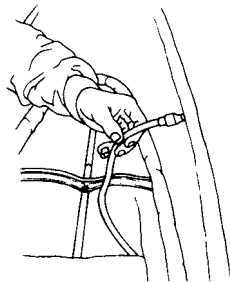
## 12 INSTALL RUDDER



### 13 INFLATE SPONSONS

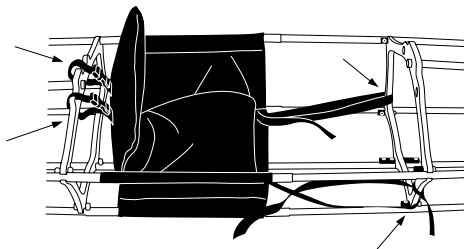
- Turn the top of the valve to open. When inflating, alternate sides to ensure the frame remains centered. The air pressure from the sponsons can shift the frame within the skin. Keep inflating until skin feels tight, and you can not orally inflate any more.

CAUTION: If you leave the kayak sitting in the sun, release air from sponsons.

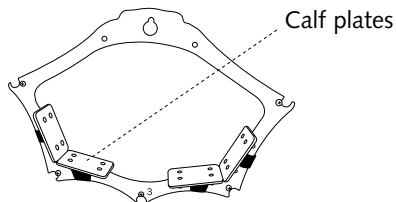


### 14 INSTALL SEAT

- Inflate air bladder in the seat back to suit personal comfort.

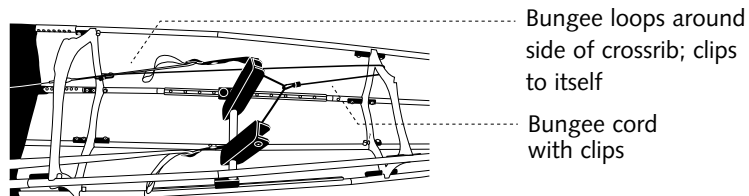


### 15 ATTACH CALF PLATES TO CROSSRIB #3



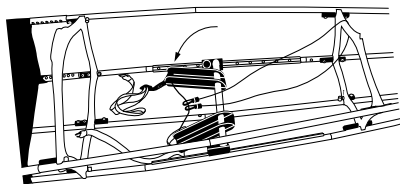
## 16 CONNECT PIVOT FOOT PEDAL TO RUDDER CABLES

Red web strap attaches to tension lock on foot pedal webbing.



Velcro on the web strap adds grip for the buckle.

Foot pedals fold flat for easy gear loading.



When using the Sea Sock, no need to use bungee to hold the pedals in the upright position. The sock keeps them from falling forward.

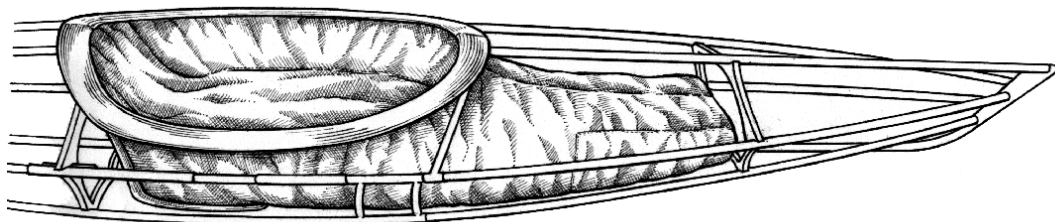
## 17 THE FEATHERCRAFT SEA SOCK

- Made from high-quality coated nylon, the sea sock is a great safety item. The top of the sock fits tightly around the cockpit coaming rim. Contoured to fit along the seatback and bottom, the “foot” is loose through the cockpit, creating a “pod”. The paddler then sits in the sock. Legs and feet are not constricted. The spray skirt fits as usual. In the event of a capsize, water will only enter the sock, and not the whole boat.

We can not stress enough the importance of the Sea Sock. It is your key safety item in a capsize to prevent flooding your kayak; it also prevents sand and dirt getting in the kayak.

### *Tips on Usage and Installation*

- The embroidered Feathercraft label indicates the “right” side of the sock.
- Center the seam on the rim of the sea sock with the center point on the bow of the coaming.
- Once the Sea Sock is in place, sit in the sock, and “burp” it by lifting the edges, releasing trapped air that causes the sock to billow up.



## Disassembly

Let the air out of the sponsons. Remove rim inserts. Remove deck bars. Remove bracing bars and large crossribs. Remove Gunwale and Chine Extension bars using the lever bars to release the spring buttons. Release the Keel Extension Bar last. Follow the rest of the assembly steps in reverse order.

### Packing the kayak in the bag

Put the seat cushion in the bag first. Arrange the white plastic crossribs over the seat. Roll the kayak skin up tightly—fold the ends to the center of the kayak; fold in half; roll tightly; secure with webbing ties. Place the skin bundle in the middle of the bag; put the bow and stern frame bundles on either side of the skin. Take chine and gunwale extension bars apart, leaving one half installed in the seat sling. Roll up the loose sections together in the seat sling. Tuck all additional pieces (ie: sea sock, repair kit) into any available space.

### Lifting the Kayak

The kayak can be lifted with two people, one at either end; at either side of the cockpit, holding the frame cockpit area; or one person, lifting over the shoulders.

Avoid lifting a **fully** loaded kayak.

### Storage

Once clean and dry, the kayak can be stored assembled or disassembled in a shaded, dry place. When storing the kayak disassembled, **take extension bars apart**.

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