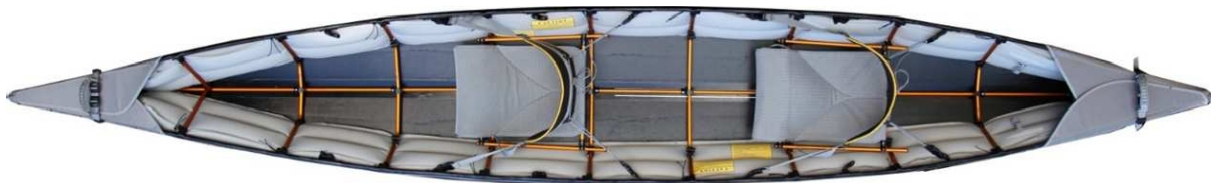


Assembly Instructions for Pakboats Puffin Saranac / Puffin Saco Recreational Kayak



QR code for assembly video:



FALTBOOT.DE

Assembly Instructions for Pakboats Puffin Saranac / Puffin Saco

Dear Customer,

You have purchased a **Pakboats Puffin Saranac / Saco**. An innovative recreational folding kayak with exceptionally versatile uses, a small pack size, and low weight.

We have made the assembly instructions very detailed, and every step is illustrated. However, you will find that after 2–3 assemblies, you won't need the instructions at all.

Experience shows that the first few setups are a bit more difficult than later ones, once you've gotten to know the system. The setup system for **the Pakboat Puffin Saranac/Saco** is extremely simple, and after just a few setups, you'll need barely more than 15 minutes.

Please take plenty of time for the initial assembly, however, and follow the instructions carefully. Even though this requires a bit of discipline, it helps you learn the assembly system properly. Please read through the instructions carefully first, and only then begin the assembly step by step, following the instructions. You will always find the explanation for the images on the left-hand side on the right-hand page.

If you have any questions, your dealer will certainly be happy to assist you. Otherwise, you are also welcome to contact us directly—as the importer. (Phone: +49 (0) 731 - 4007675; Email: kontakt@faltboot.de).

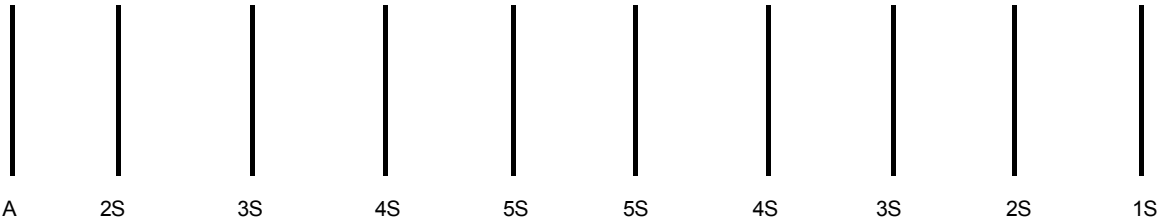
Note:

*The assembly instructions are based on **the Pakboats Puffin Saranac** (two-seater).*

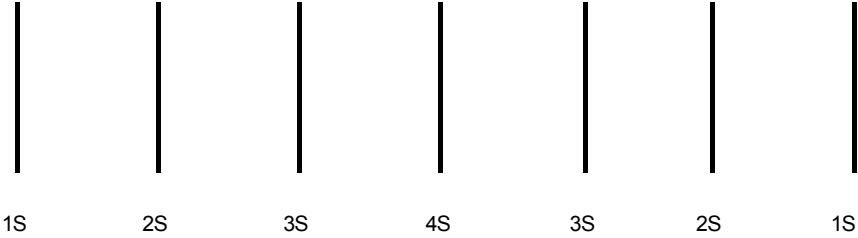
*The **Pakboats Puffin Saco** (single-seater) is built almost identically, except that it has fewer frames and only one seat.*

Framing layout:

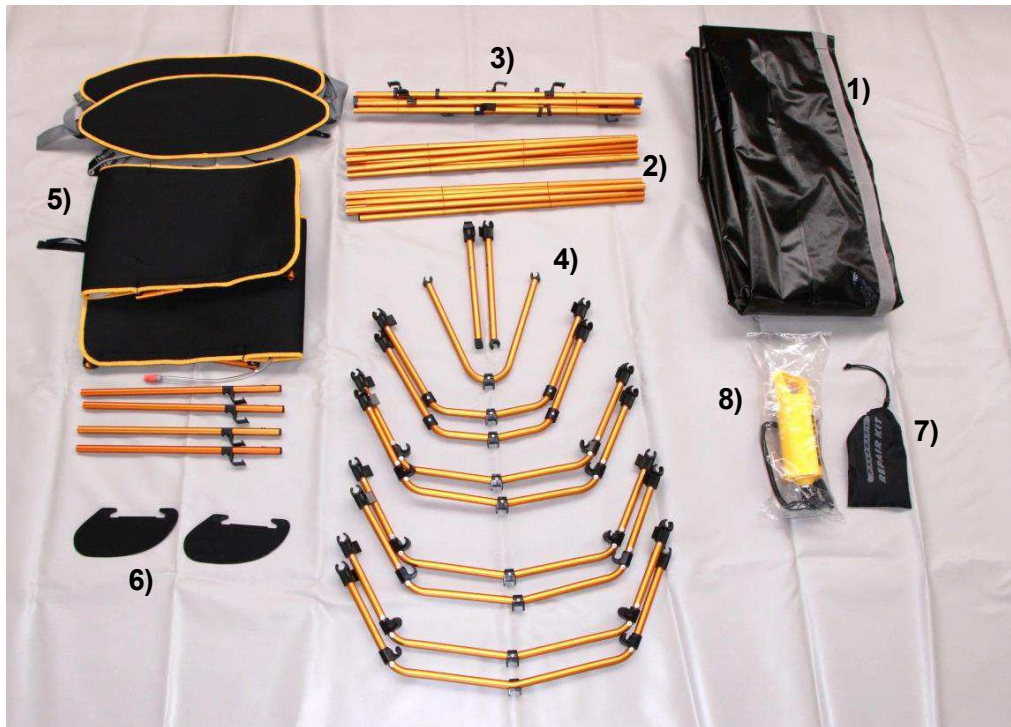
SARANAC



SACO



1) Package contents



Included:

- 1) 1x boat hull with 2 permanently integrated stem elements
- 2) 2x gunwale
- 3) 1x keel bar
- 4) 9x Frames and 2x Bracing pieces
- 5) 2x seats, 2x backrests, 4x seat mounts (short tubes with latch clips)
- 6) 2x skeg
- 7) Repair kit
- 8) Double-action pump
- 9) Pannier (not shown)

2) Assortment

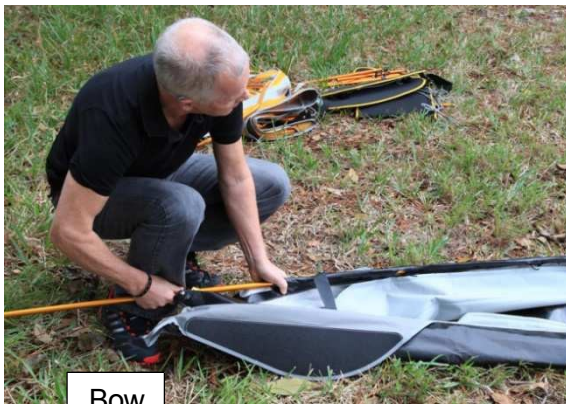


Please first spread out the skin. Then place the three longitudinal rods, unfolded, next to it. The **keel rod** (with the plastic clips) has a **colored mark**. This end will later be slid onto the **bow stem** (located in the skin with two movable mounts at the top).

The other two longitudinal tubes each have a plastic end on one side, which is pushed forward toward the stern into the gunwale channel of the hull.

Please refer to the diagram on page 3 for the arrangement/order of the frames.

3) Body (2-seater version)



Bow

First, spread out the boat cover. Then take the two **gunwale poles**. Clip them together (each pole is connected internally with an elastic band).

Slide each rod into the so-called **gunwale channel** toward the stern, **with the plastic end leading the way**.

Push each rod all the way forward **toward the stern**.



Then take the **keel rod** (which has clips attached) and slide the **unmarked end** onto the **stern element** firmly fixed to the **hull**.



Stern



Bow



Please read through the following section first before you get to work:

Now go back to the bow. The inserted gunwale rods are secured at the top by the bow stem. To do this, flip the **stem upward** and insert the gunwale rods under the riveted half-tube. (You can see the procedure in the pictures on the left.)

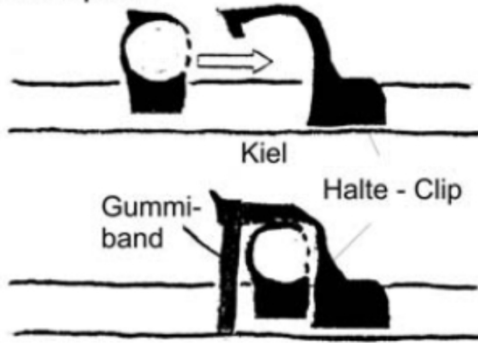
Once you have positioned the gunwales on both sides **beneath the half-pipe**, you can press down on the stem and push the two side support tubes into place—including at the level of the gunwale channel—so that the gunwale stanchions and the supports each form a straight line.

This lever effect creates tension, and the gunwale rods are “pressed” into the gunwale channel. This already provides the necessary basic rigidity.

CAUTION: After you have pressed the **stem** down, **please do not let go of it**, as the tension will automatically push it back up!

At the same time, place the color-coded end of the keel rod onto the lower end of the stem. Then please press the keel into the boat. It has a predetermined bend point, so you do not need to press it straight into the hull. The inserted keel creates additional tension, and the keel initially bends, forming a slight S-shape in the boat. It will be brought into position in the next step by inserting the frames.

Querspant



Now insert the frames one after the other, **starting with the widest one.**

SARANAC: Take one of the frames marked **“5S.”**

SACO: Start by inserting **frame #1S**

Please refer to the **overview on page 3** or the description under **“2) Sorting.”**

With the Saranac, start in the middle and work your way toward the bow and stern.

For the Saco, start at the bow or stern.

To install the frames, first slide the frame onto the retaining clip on the keel, then clip the upper ends into the gunwale bar and close the latch.



Make sure you insert the frame in the **correct direction** (see sketch above).

The clip, which will later sit on the keel bar, always points with the **open side** toward the so-called retaining clips located on the keel.



Slide the frame onto the retaining clip on the keel and secure it with the rubber ring. Then clip the upper ends into the gunwale bars.

The clips have an open and a closed position. Make sure **the clip is in the open position** before clipping it onto the gunwale bar. When the clip is “open,” **the twist lock points slightly toward the inside of the boat.**

After clipping the fastener into the gunwale bar, close it by turning the fastener toward the hull (see left image).



The frame is now in place. Repeat this process for all frames.

SARANAC: Next, take the second frame “5S” and then work your way toward the ends (4S, 3S, 2S, 1S). There is **only one 1S frame in the stern**.

SACO: After the 1S frame, follow with 2S, 3S, 4S

With each additional frame inserted, the keel is pressed into a straight position.



SARANAC: In the bow, the two stiffening tubes are inserted instead of a frame. First clip these into the gunwale at the top, then position them at a slight angle, clip them onto the keel bar, and press the bar into a straight position.

Please then check whether the keel is in a straight and centered position.



Now take the two seat rails and the seat (as shown on the left).

Insert the end of one of the perches (the one farther away from the riveted clip) into the short mount on the seat.

(The matching parts are marked on the left.)



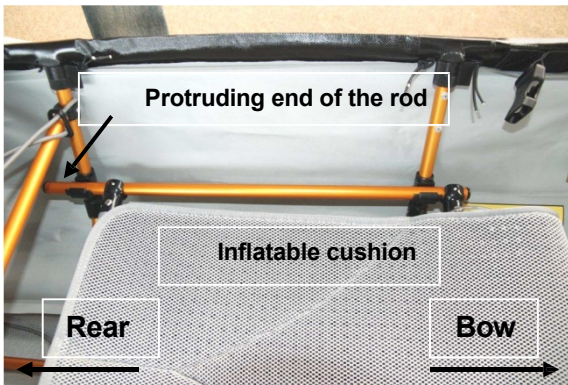
Then rotate the perch downward so that the plastic clip faces down. Next, place the other clip—which is securely attached to the seat—onto the rod.

Then rotate the seat bar upward. As you do so, the clip will snap into place and the



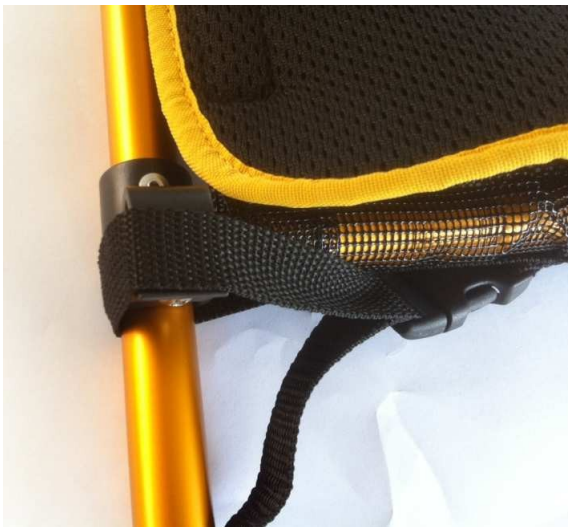
seat fabric is tensioned.

Repeat the same procedure on the other side of the seat and also with the second seat of the Saranac.



Then pick up one of the two seats. The seat has an integrated inflatable cushion. This faces the direction of travel. The protruding rod end, on the other hand, faces the stern.

You can place the seat in various positions. See page 3 for the “normal position.”



IMPORTANT: Please thread the quick-release fastener through the clip and tighten it securely on both sides (*see left image*); otherwise, the seat will “rotate” out of position.



The backrest has an elastic strap for adjusting the angle. Make sure you insert the backrest the right way around. The elastic runs along the bottom of the backrest.

Then clip the quick-release fastener once into the tab at the front and once into the tab behind the seat, so that there is some tension. You can adjust the straps to the position that is ideal for you . The same applies to the elastic band.



There should be a slight tension here.

Depending on the seating position, the backrest can, of course, also be installed in different positions.

Install the second seat in the same manner.

4) Installing the skegs (if needed)



The two skegs provide greater directional stability and can be installed if needed.

The **air tubes must not be inflated** when you install the skegs.



The skegs are located at the stern of the boat. The wider side of the skeg faces the stern.

First, slide the right side (*as shown in the picture*) into the mount. Slide it in flat, pushing the second mount, located further forward, slightly to the side if necessary.

Then reach inside the boat and push the second holder slightly into position so that you can slide the front "hook" of the skeg into the second holder.



The skeg must sit firmly in both holders. Only then is it correctly installed.



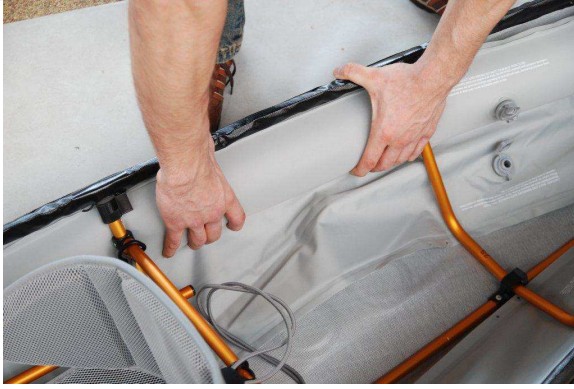
Installing the skegs requires a bit of force, especially at the beginning. If you prefer, you can also install them before inserting the frame into the hull—which is, of course, easier. However, please make sure that “dry ground.”

NOTE: Do not sit in the boat on solid ground when the skegs are attached. Attaching and removing the skegs is only possible with the air tubes deflated!

5) Inflating the air tubes



Now inflate the four air tubes.

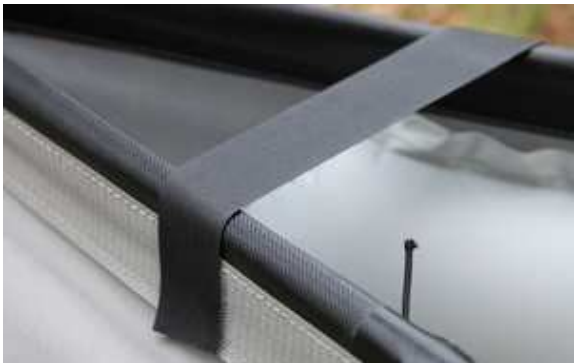


Start with the top section and inflate it to **about 50%** capacity. Then pull it up slightly all around. **Next**, inflate **the bottom section** to **about half** capacity, then fully inflate both the top and bottom sections.



You can see from the mark in the middle of the boat whether you have inflated both sides equally. The **keel** must be **within the mark**.

Attaching the end caps to the bow and stern



If you are **not** using **the canopy**, first take the short Velcro straps and stretch them across the tip (see *image on the left*). This supports the end caps.

(This step can be omitted when using the canopy).



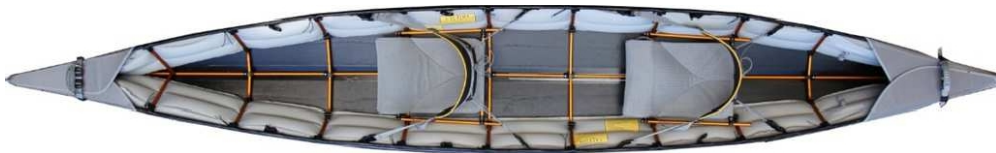
At the stern, wrap the fabric once around the tip and secure it with the Velcro (*this is not necessary at the bow*). Then fold the caps into each other.

Now secure the tension straps



The end caps are secured by the D-rings attached to the hull. These now also serve as handles.

Your boat is now fully assembled and ready for use.



Here are a few more tips on usage, safety, disassembly, and stowing in the carry bag.

6) Setting up the canopy (optional)

NOTE: The *Pakboats Puffin Saranac/Saco* can be paddled without a canopy—similar to a “sit-on-top” kayak—i.e., open. As a rule, it is used with a canopy. The installation of the canopy is described below.



Position the canopy at the stern (or bow) so that the canopy’s Velcro sits exactly on the corresponding Velcro strip on the boat’s hull.

Secure the Velcro at the stern (or bow) for a few centimeters and slowly work your way toward the other end. Always pull it taut by about an arm’s length and smooth the edge with your other hand. This way, you’ll position the canopy perfectly on one side of the boat.

Then do the same on the other side. If you have trouble pulling the cover over the Velcro strip, pick up the boat, place it on one



side, and press the fabric together slightly (as shown on the left in the picture). This will make it easier to attach the cover.

(You can also start by securely attaching a section in the middle of the boat (the widest part) so you don't have to use as much force for the rest of the cover. Try out what works best for you.)



Please now position the deck struts (which are mounted on the inside of the canopy). To do this, please rotate the half-strut until it is positioned under the canopy.

(On the SARANAC, there is a half-frame in front of each cockpit.)



Now fold the excess fabric at the bow (as shown on the left) and press it against the side of the boat.

Then, please pull the end cap (attached to the skin) over it by pulling it upward.

Then close the end caps (as described earlier on p. 12).



NOTE:

If you find it too difficult to attach the canopy, try attaching most of it BEFORE you inflate the air tubes.

See which method is easier for you.



Now assemble the coaming frame. It is connected in a ring shape with a rubber band.

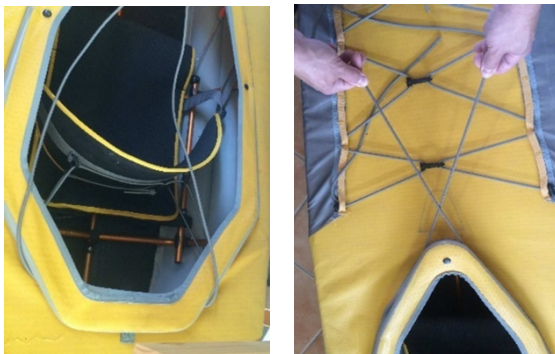


Place the frame completely inside the boat beneath the cockpit opening...

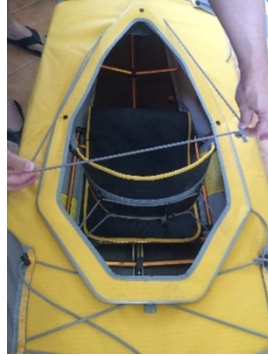
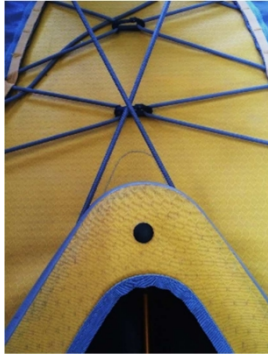


...before securing it to the coaming with the snap fasteners.

(The coaming frame is always located between the snap fasteners. This secures its position.)



Now take the included rubber cord, which is attached to the loop behind the cockpit, and guide it forward under the coaming.



Make a half-loop with the bungee cord and thread it back under the coaming (as shown in the pictures on the left).



This secures the coaming, and a spray skirt can be attached to it if necessary.

7) Disassembly

Disassembly is essentially the assembly process in reverse order.



When folding the skin, please lay it flat. Completely deflate the tubes. Fold the skin lengthwise into the interior of the boat.



Then fold the hull into equal-sized sections—use the width of the stuff sack as a guide.

Place the skin in the stuff sack. Do the same with the frames, seats, and accessories. The stuff sack is large enough to hold everything comfortably.

Care, safety, storage, and additional notes:

Important: If you're out on the water in direct sunlight for an extended period and/or have the boat on land, be sure to check the air pressure in the tubes regularly. Air expands when heated. If in doubt, it's better to carefully release a little air.

Step on the skin (not the keel bar) when boarding. The skin is sturdy enough and this won't cause any problems.

Make sure the kayak skin and frame are dry when packing it up—and especially when storing it.

The kayak skin is resistant to saltwater. Nevertheless, it should also be rinsed with fresh water after returning from a kayaking trip. This is especially important if sand or small pebbles can cause significant abrasion inside the kayak. Also rinse the aluminum frame to remove saltwater.

When carrying the boat, **always** reach under it

Always wear a life jacket when you are on the water in your kayak!
Be aware of sudden changes in weather!

You can store your **Pakboats Puffin Saranac/Saco** in the carry bag, either assembled or disassembled.

Please make sure your boat is not exposed to high heat for an unnecessarily long time
. If it is stored assembled, please relieve the pressure from the air tubes by deflating them.

Repairs and Reinforcements

The PU skin can be easily repaired in the event of an abrasion, small tear, or hole using the included repair kit.

- To do this, cut a strip of PU material from the included repair kit. Make sure it extends generously beyond the damaged area.
- Round off the corners of the strip with scissors or a similar tool.
- Clean the strip and the area to be patched. Both must be free of grease.
- It is best to roughen the area with fine-grit sandpaper
- Apply a thin layer of PU adhesive to both surfaces
- Wait a moment until the adhesive has dried slightly, then press the patch firmly onto the area to be repaired. Ideally, gently heat the patch again (e.g., with a heat gun).

The kayak can be used again shortly after the repair. However, the adhesive and protective properties improve within a few hours once the adhesive has completely dried. The air tube can be repaired and patched in the same way as described above.

Please ensure the surface is clean and free of grease.

Useful accessories for your boat:

- Canopy: Single-person or two-person canopy for the Saranac.
Solo canopy for the Saco
- Spray skirt from Pakboats
- Inflatable footrest



You can also find accessories, instructions, and lots of other interesting information at any time at:

FALTBOOT.DE