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TRADE ENQUIRIES WELCOME



Introduction

The WindPaddle™ is a self-launching, small-craft sail for kayaks and canoes. It was invented by Nicholas Mark Wiltz of Hood River, Oregon – the windsurfing and kite sailing capital of the world.

Wiltz, an engineer and sailing expert, looked at the variety of small-craft sailing devices on the market and saw inherent flaws in each with regard to a variety of factors, including overall design, operation, safety and cost. He decided to solve the problems associated with the rest of the competition, and in 2003 he invent a small-craft sail that was lightweight yet durable, easy to use, safe and affordable. The WindPaddle™ was born.



Design

The Sail

The WindPaddle™ is a flexible and forgiving small-craft sail made of ½-ounce rip-stop polyester spinnaker sailcloth, the same material used on racing yachts. This material is low-stretch fabric that will not absorb water or become heavy when wet. A large, horizontally-oriented clear window in the center panel of the sail allows for good visibility.

The Seams

The WindPaddle™ LOOKS like it is made by a sail maker, because it is. All of the seams are sewn using traditional triple-stitch zigzag sail seam construction. A triple stitch zigzag results in a strong seam where the panels are sewn. The WindPaddle sail has been subjected to sustained wind speeds of 40 knots (46 mph or 74 km/h) with no damage.



The “Mast”

The WindPaddle™ needs no installation of mast or rig. The windowed sail is supported by a laminated and non-corroding, high-modulus yet highly elastic and virtually unbreakable perimeter batten. This circular batten can be deformed (twisted or bent) yet will still return to its original circular shape. The batten allows the sail to be coiled into thirds (to 18% of its original size) for compact stowage and storage.

The “Rigging

The WindPaddle™ requires no modification to the boat or addition of separate hardware. Wiltz has designed a clever WindHarness™ deck-mounting system that connects the sail to the deck of the boat. These deck harness lines adjust to the shape of the boat, allowing the WindPaddle™ to be used on kayaks and canoes of all sizes.



Operation

The WindPaddle™ is an integrated sail system that stows compactly, attaches to existing boat hardware and launches instantly when released.

Ease of Set-Up

As previously stated, the WindPaddle™ requires no modification to the boat or addition of separate hardware. Wiltz has designed a clever WindHarness deck-mounting system that easily connects the sail to the deck of the boat. These deck harness lines adjust to the shape of the boat, allowing the WindPaddle™ to be used on kayaks and canoes of all sizes.

The WindPaddle™ stows coiled compactly on deck or below decks in one-eighth its deployed size. It can be attached to existing boat hardware anytime – even while out on the water.

Ease of Use

With one pull on the sheets (rope lines attached to sail), the WindPaddle™ launches and fills instantly from on deck. The WindPaddle™ can be quickly lowered horizontal to the boat deck, which easily and quickly de-powers the sail.



Folding the WindPaddle™ requires that the batten be coiled into thirds within the same plane, but is almost as easy as folding up an automobile sunshield. With The WindPaddle™ can easily be coiled and stowed on deck while out on the water.

Weight

At 0.36 kgs (13 ounces), the WindPaddle™ is the lightest weight small-craft sail on the market.

Safety

The unique circular design of the WindPaddle™ keeps the center of effort low for stability; the lowest center of effort of any small-craft sail available. As wind speed increases, the center of effort or force remains fixed and doesn't move up or down. This means the WindPaddle™ can use the force from the wind and convert this force to forward motion in the most stable and safest manner.

"...The WindPaddle™...solves many of the problems associated with kayak sails—the bulk, the hassles of foredeck storage, the over-big presence—in a unique way."

-Wavelength Magazine (January 2008)

The WindPaddle™ can be quickly lowered horizontal to the boat deck, which easily and quickly depowers the sail. The WindPaddle sail has been subjected to sustained wind speeds of 40 knots (46 mph or 74 km/h) with no damage.

Cost

The WindPaddle™ is less than half the price of other popular small-craft sails on the market.

Conclusion

The WindPaddle™ is a self-launching small-craft sail that stows either on-deck or below in a small coiled/folded package that is a fraction of its original size. Combine this with the ability to be quickly launched and doused while out on the water and you have a very easy to use sail.

As stated in a 2008 product review by Wavelength Magazine (January 2008):



Physical Dimensions

Deployed diameter	42 in (106.7 cm)
Coiled/folded diameter:	15 in (38.1 cm)
Sail area	9.62 sq ft (0.8937 sq m)
Weight:	14 oz (0.37 kg)

- The WINDPADDLE is the NEW approach to Kayak and Canoe Sailing -

Don't just Paddle... WINDPADDLE!!

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SAIL COMPARISON CHART

	Wind Paddle	Spirit Sail	Quiver Sail	Pacific Action Sail
MSRP - Approximate only. May change depending on exchange rate.	A \$250	A \$315	A \$410	A \$470
Weight	0.37 kg	1.1 kg	1.1 kg	1.5 kg
Set-up Time	10 secs	30-60 min.	24 hours	45 min.
Modification to Boat Required	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mast or Rigging Required	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mounting Device Required	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rigging Time	0 secs	1 minute	1 minute	1 minute
Rig & Launch Out on Water	Yes	No	No	No
Sail Center of Effort	Low	High	High	High