



MERLIN

OWNERS MANUAL



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WELCOME!

Welcome to the **KAYAKS2FISH** family. We hope you enjoy this kayak and the adventures it may bring.

For 10 years, **KAYAKS2FISH** has focused on one thing — allowing paddlers of any skill level to enjoy the thrill that comes from being surrounded by water and nature.

Visit our website at any time for more information

<https://k2f.com.au/s/cn5>



Visit our blog for tips and tricks when it comes to kayaking

<https://k2f.com.au/s/cn6>



INTRODUCTION

This guide will take you through the components of the Merlin, installation guides and tips and tricks to make your kayaking trip safe and enjoyable.

Some facts about the Merlin Fishing Kayak.

- The Merlin is made from High-density polyethylene (HDPE).
- It has a user capacity of 210Kg and an overall weight capacity of 250Kg.
- The Merlin weighs 34Kg and is 3.7 Metres long.
- The hull shape is a V-shaped hull which helps the kayak cut through the water and helps keep it straight while paddling.
- Three-year hull warranty.
- The Handles of the Merlin are flush with the hull reducing the chance of hitting the handles when paddling.
- Can Come with the Aluminium seat as standard in the Merlin Pro.

INCLUDED EQUIPMENT

Paddle



The paddle that comes with the Merlin fishing kayak package is a lightweight 2 piece paddle. It is extendable up to 2.5 metres and can be feathered depending on your preference. The paddle has the feature that it floats when joined together.

Paddle leash

The stretchy red cord that comes with the Merlin is a useful tool to keep the paddle attached to the kayak so in the event, you or a young family member kicks the paddle overboard you will not have it float away.



Vantage Aluminium Seat



The Aluminium Vantage seat provides a comfortable, padded ride. The breathable mesh fabric dries quickly, keeping you and your seat dry!

One large centre console with a lid

The Merlin comes standard with 2 Water resistant hatches While only water-resistant they will handle the normal splashing that would occur when out on the water. We recommend a small drybag for your valuables.



Scupper plugs



The drainage holes in the kayak are also known as scupper holes. The purpose of these holes is to add rigidity to the kayak's hull and to also allow water to drain from the hull of the kayak. The black plugs that come with the NextGen Duo 13 fishing kayak are the plugs for these holes. They are not required to be in for operation but are recommended by Kayaks2fish to be kept in while out on the water as not having them in can reduce the weight capacity of the kayak.

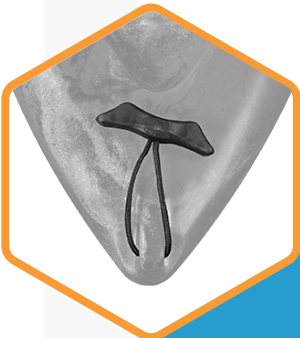
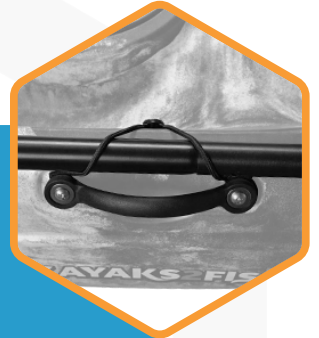


360° Rod holder

The NextGen Duo 13 fishing kayak comes standard with the Kayaks2Fish 360° swivel rod holder.

Paddle Holder strap

The Merlin fishing kayak comes with 2 built-in paddle holders on either side of the kayak under the handles.

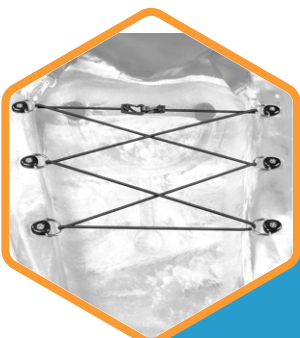


Toggle Handles

The Merlin fishing kayak comes with two comfortable toggle handles which make carrying or using the Sit-On-Top kayak trolley much easier.

Inbuilt rod holders

The Merlin fishing kayak comes with 4 inbuilt rod holders to make it a simple task to transport up to 4 fishing rods at a time.



Rear Bungee cord

The Merlin fishing kayak comes with a rear storage bungee cord to strap down any cooler boxes or gear you want in the back of the kayak.

INSTALLATION GUIDES

LUXURY PADDED SEAT



Ensure the straps on the Luxury seat are loosened, so they can reach the connection points.



Connect the top two straps to the pad eyes on either side of the kayak.



Connect the bottom two straps to the D-rings in the rear storage area.

3



Tighten all straps evenly.

4

Here is a link to an instructional video of the seat installation



<https://k2f.com.au/s/cn8>



RUDDER SYSTEM



Insert the rudder into the steel ring at the back of the kayak.

1



Secure the rudder onto the back with the included steel pin.

2



Set the rudder into the groove to ensure it is sitting in the center.

3



Feed the cord through the hole on either side of the rudder assembly.

4



Pull the cord until the top of the foot pedal is in line with the bottom of the pedal.

5



Wrap the remaining cord around the rudder assembly and tie it off.

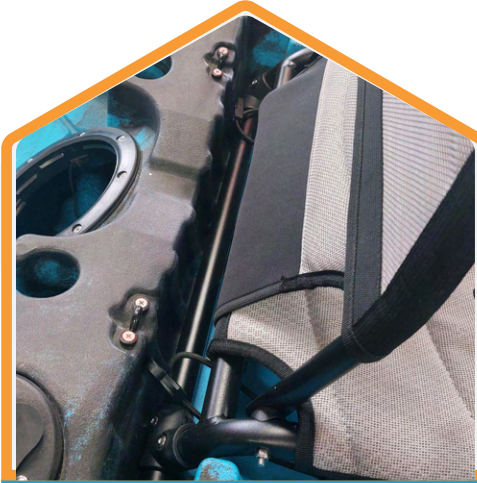
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VANTAGE ALUMINIUM SEAT



Place the seat in the allocated grooves.

1



Using the bungee cord underneath the seat strap, loop the bungee cord over the clip.

2



Connect to the rear eyehooks to secure the seat

3

360° ROD HOLDER



Step 1

Screw the 360° rod holder base onto the preassigned mounting area.

Step 2

Insert the rod holder tube into the mounting base and turn until it locks in.

To swivel the rod tube, just lift the tube slightly and twist.

PADDLE LOCK



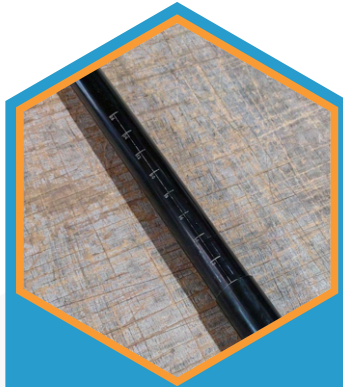
To tighten the paddle lock, Twist the paddle locking tab clockwise.

PADDLE LEASH



Disconnect the paddle end of the paddle leash.

1



Disconnect the paddle into two pieces.

2



Place the disconnected paddle into the paddle leash.

3



Reconnect the paddle leash and paddle.

4

HOW TO INSTALL AND USE A COMPACT TROLLEY



Stand trolley up at the back of the kayak

1



Lift the kayak up onto the trolley

2



Strap the kayak to the trolley

3

IMPORTANT THINGS TO CHECK BEFORE YOU GO KAYAKING

- Ensure you have all drainage plugs before you head out.
- Ensure all fittings and fixtures are tight.
- Give the hull a once over to check for any cracks or deformities.
- Check the weather forecast.
- Ensure you have first aid supplies.
- Ensure you have a dry storage bag for your valuables.
- Ensure you have told someone where you are going and when you are expected back.

KAYAKING CHECKLIST

A QUICK LIST TO HELP WITH WHAT TO TAKE OUT KAYAKING.

KAYAKING GEAR

- PADDLE
- PADDLE LEASH
- DRY BAG
- ANCHOR KIT
- KAYAK TROLLEY
- SCUPPER PLUGS
- SEAT / CHAIR

CLOTHING

- SPF RATED SHIRT
- HAT
- SUNGLASSES
- WATER SHOES
- PADDLING GLOVES
- QUICK-DRY PANTS
- RAINCOAT
- FACE SHIELD

ESSENTIALS

- INSECT REPELLENT
- SUNSCREEN
- FIRST AID KIT
- DRINKING WATER
- SNACKS
- WET WIPES
- FISHING LICENSE
- MOBILE PHONE

SAFETY

- LIFE JACKET
- HIGH VISIBILITY FLAG
- SIGNAL MIRROR
- EMERGENCY POSITION INDICATING RADIO BEACON (EPIRB)
- ELEVATED LIGHT POLE
- AIR-HORN
- GPS
- TORCH

FISHING GEAR

- LANDING NET
- MICROFIBER CLOTH/TOWEL
- ROD-LEASH
- ROD HOLDERS
- FISH-GRIP
- MEASURING DEVICE
- CUTTING BOARD
- COOLER BOX
- CRATE
- TACKLE BOXES
- PLIERS
- ROD SLEEVES
- POCKET KNIFE
- BAIT BUCKET
- FILLET KNIFE
- ZIP LOCK BAGS

ACCESSORIES

- TROLLING MOTOR
- BATTERIES (CHARGED)
- TROLLING MOTOR MOUNTING BAR
- SCREWDRIVER
- GOPRO
- FISH-FINDER
- OUTRIGGERS
- SUNSHADE

TRANSPORTATION



ROOF RACKS

A common question we receive is what kind of roof rack is needed to transport a kayak. We recommend a hard roof rack or a trailer for transporting your NextGen Duo 13 fishing kayak.

It can be found here



SOFT ROOF RACKS

While soft roof racks are a great temporary solution that is easy to install, we recommend having hard roof racks as a permanent solution.

HOW TO LOAD A KAYAK BY YOURSELF



Step 1

Line the kayak up alongside the car as below and remove any loose items or items that could get loose when driving.



Step 2

Spread your moving blanket over the roof of the car tucking it under the roof bars to avoid it moving or if the blanket is large enough to close the corners in the car doors or windows. Make sure the blanket is over each roof rack.



Step 3

Lift the bow and rest it on the edge of the car but high enough that it does not slip easily off. We have demonstrated this on the grass with a kayak that does not have a rudder. If your kayak has a rudder that could get damaged then consider loading in reverse with the stern first.



Step 4

Keeping your hands on the kayak to avoid it slipping, walk to the stern of the kayak, bend your knees, lift the stern and push forward, sliding the kayak further onto the roof until you have about half the kayak on the roof.



Step 5

Carefully lift the kayak at each end to remove the blanket then secure your kayak with tie-downs.

Here is a YouTube video demonstration



HOW TO STRAP A KAYAK TO A SET OF ROOF RACKS



Step 1

Lay the Kayak Straps Over the Bars of the Roof Rack.

Thread each strap underneath and around each bar and let the kayak straps lay flat against your vehicle.



Step 2

Place Your Kayak or Canoe on the Roof Rack.

If you are tying the kayak directly to the crossbars of the roof rack, place the boat upside down on the rack.



Step 3

Bring the Kayak Straps Over the Kayak.



Step 4

Secure the Kayak Straps.

Bring the other end underneath the crossbar and back up to meet the buckle. Thread the kayak strap up through the buckle by pushing the button on the clamp and opening a slot for the strap to fit through. Finally, pull the straps to take up the slack.

ROOF RACK ACCESSORIES

We stock two different kinds of mounting options for roof racks to make the kayak more secure or fit more kayaks onto the roof at once.

● J-RACKS

The typical use for the J-racks is to stand the kayaks up on its side to make it easier to transport 2 or more kayaks.

It can be found here

<https://k2f.com.au/s/cpc>



● KAYAKS2FISH UNIVERSAL KAYAK CARRIER

The main use of the universal Kayak carrier is to have a more secure way to strap the kayak down to the roof racks without having to worry about the roof rack scratching the kayak.

It can be found here

<https://k2f.com.au/s/cmj>



STACKING



The Merlin fishing kayak can be stacked with other kayaks. Here is a good example of how they should be stacked.

It is recommended only ever stack the kayaks 3 high at any time. **Please check your roof rack weight capacity before attempting to stack multiple kayaks.**

MAINTENANCE



WASHING YOUR KAYAK

To wash your kayak it is required to wash after each use to wash any saltwater off the kayak as that can cause the metal parts of the kayak to rust.

To wash the kayak you need to use fresh water to thoroughly rinse the kayak then leave it in the sun to dry completely.

It is recommended to store your kayak with a storage cover to keep the dust and spiders out as well as protect your kayak from the elements.

WARPED PLASTIC

If the hull on your boat is distorted due to an accident, improper storage or transportation, correction may be simple: brief exposure to the heat of the sun often restores a hull to its original shape. If that fails, hull shape can often be restored by applying a low heat source (such as a low wattage bulb or hairdryer) to the deformed area. When the hull is pliable enough, hand-shaping can restore the hull.

CAUTION: Overheating can burn you or damage the hull.

GIVE YOUR KAYAK A CHECK-UP

Occasional operational checkups will keep your boat in tip-top condition. Check hatch covers, cables, buckles, straps and other moving parts for wear, and replace them when necessary. Keep all nuts tight and check hardware exit holes for watertight silicone seals. Give your hull and deck a thorough review annually. Light nicks, scratches and scrapes are part of the paddling experience, but deep scratches should be repaired.

On rare occasions (one in a thousand), kayak may have tiny holes around the scupper plug area, which are very hard to notice during the manufacturing process. This can cause a leak and fill the hull with water and can potentially cause the kayak to become unstable and flip. So it's best to take the kayak out for a test run in a shallow area first if you are planning a big trip.

STORAGE SOLUTIONS



KAYAK HOIST SYSTEM

The Kayaks2Fish hoist system is a hoist that allows the user to store the kayak on the roof freeing up ground space. This system is perfect for sheds and garages.

It can be found here

<https://k2f.com.au/s/cpd>



KAYAK COVER

Our covers offer long-term protection from the elements. It is highly recommended a cover if storing the kayak outside.

KEY FEATURES

- 600 denier silver painted waterproof Oxford cloth.
- UV Resistant to protect from harsh Sun.
- 3M Kayaks Cover is suitable for Kayaks up to 2.7m to 3.0m Length.

It can be found here

<https://k2f.com.au/s/cpf>



KAYAK STANDS

Lightweight folding aluminium kayak stands. Ideal as a storage solution or to carry with you when you are washing down your kayak or surf ski at the end of your paddle.

KEY FEATURES

- Padded for kayak protection
- Folds flat when not in use
- Lightweight
- 42cm high when standing
- Sold in a pair
- Weight capacity: 46Kg

It can be found here

<https://k2f.com.au/s/cpg>



WALL RACKS

A Two hook design for convenient storage - rest your kayak on the top hooks and your paddle or other accessories on the bottom hooks. Foam padding to protect your kayak when mounted on the racks. Easy installation - screwdriver required. Fold-away arms - The arms can be folded flat against the wall when not in use to avoid accidents and save space. Max weight capacity 40kg.

It can be found here

<https://k2f.com.au/s/cph>



BASIC SAFETY TIPS FOR KAYAKING



As with all recreational activities, there is always the possibility of injury or death. Always use common sense and follow all safety guidelines at all times.

- Be aware of weather conditions and water temperature. Prepare for changes in weather and the possibility of a capsized. If paddling in cold water, a wet suit or dry suit can keep you warm and comfortable. In warm weather, a long sleeve shirt can provide sun protection.
- Invest in appropriate clothing for your climate. One advantage of sit-inside kayaks is that you can shield yourself from some of the elements, while sit-on-tops leave you more exposed. Dress for the day.
- Beware of off-shore winds that make it difficult to return to shore.
- Always follow the boating rules of the area you're in.
- Never mix alcohol or drugs (prescription or non-prescription) with kayaking.
- Never exceed the weight capacity of your kayak and always check your equipment for wear and tear before you paddle.
- Seek qualified instruction to learn proper paddling techniques, water safety and basic first aid.
- Brush up on self-rescue first in calm, warm, shallow water, and again in more extreme conditions.
- Most importantly, **WEAR YOUR FLOTATION DEVICE**. Australian regulations require that all kayaks have a life jacket on board. Wearing your life jacket will help keep your head above water and add insulation to your body, keeping you warmer in cold water. There are great Life jackets designed specifically for paddlers. Buy one that fits well, and always wear it while you paddle.

It can be found here

<https://k2f.com.au/s/cpj>



- Tell someone your paddle plan, which includes: where you are going, what you will be doing, how long you expect to be gone and how many people are in your party. Then stick to your plan.
- Paddling in the surf zone or rivers can be dangerous. Always wear a helmet.
- Stay hydrated. Always bring plenty of water and food.
- 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 it. Abiding by these rules will help to make your kayak adventure safe and fun.

HOW TO FLIP YOUR KAYAK

Unfortunately, Capsizing is a natural part of kayaks even though Kayaks2Fish kayaks are very stable fishing platforms it can be unavoidable due to rogue waves or aggressive chop or wake. The best way to stay safe if your kayak flips over, though, is to prepare in advance for that possibility and to make sure you have the right safety equipment. When you are doing any form of kayaking, it is vital that you wear a personal flotation device (PFD) at all times.

It is also best to understand and practice the techniques of exiting and re-entering your kayak in the water.

The first thing to do when your sit-on kayak flips over is to stay calm. Panicking makes you unable to concentrate and can put you in danger.

Your sitting position on the kayak will most likely have you falling sideways into the water. If you do find yourself fully inverted, try to move away from your kayak to avoid banging your head on your kayak as you surface.

Try and remember to grab your paddle as it will be your only means of moving. You can get into a tricky situation if it floats away.

Kicking your legs to provide thrust, push your torso onto the upturned kayak of the kayak and use both hands to grab the edge of the kayak on the far side.

Keeping hold of the kayak, bring your knees up and lean backwards. Your body weight will pull the kayak over to the point where the shape of its hull will take over and the kayak will right itself.

Try practicing in a shallow area first.

HOW TO GET BACK ON A SIT ON TOP

This time, allow your legs to float up to the surface behind you instead of bringing your knees up and leaning back. Your levelled body will keep the kayak from flipping over.

You can pull yourself onto it until you are lying flat with your centre of gravity in the middle of the 'yak. Once you feel stable, roll your body around until your backside is in the seat and then swing your legs up.

WARRANTY

Our warranty information can be found here

<https://k2f.com.au/s/cpk>



SPARE PARTS

In the unlikely event that you break something on your kayak, Kayaks2Fish carry a wide range of spare parts.

<https://k2f.com.au/s/cpl>



THANK YOU

CONTACT US



NEWCASTLE, THORNTON 2322.
02 4047 5340.

ADELAIDE, PORT ADELAIDE 5051.
08 7009 4818.

BRISBANE, COORPAROO 4151.
07 2101 2968.

PERTH, NAVAL BASE 6165.
08 6323 8695.

SYDNEY, WETHERILL PARK 2164.
02 8379 5333.

ROCKLEA, ROCKLEA 4106.
07 3557 2178.

MELBOURNE, CAMPBELLFIELD 3061.
03 8579 0979.

WOLLONGONG, PORT KEMBLA 2505.
02 4067 2465.



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SALES@KAYAKS2FISH.COM

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