



Assembly Instructions for Puffin Saco and Saranac 2014

We recommend that you study this manual carefully before you start the assembly procedure. The Puffin Saranac (double) is used for illustration. The Puffin Saco (solo) has fewer cross ribs and only one seat, but is otherwise similar.



1. Lay out all the parts as shown in the picture. Please note that one end of the keel rod (with plastic clips) is marked with color tape. Please place this end next to the bow stem (attached to the boat skin) that is marked with matching tape. Note: The other long rods (gunwales) have a plastic plug at one end. Please place the gunwales next to the Puffin skin with the plastic plugs facing the stern (opposite end from the color tape on the keel).
2. **Skegs.** Before you start assembling the Saranac aluminum frame, you should attach the skeg fins to the brackets under the stern (some paddlers prefer to use the Saranac without skegs).

Note: The Saco solo kayak does not have skegs.



3. The Puffin skin has a channel along each edge. Insert a gunwale rod into each of the channels, all the way until it stops against the stern. Please make sure the gunwales stay inside the channels all the way.
4. Connect the keel to the stern stem (the aluminum part that is attached to the rear of the boat skin). The bottom end of the stem will fit into the keel rod.
5. Pivot the bow stem up and forward, and connect the gunwale rods to the stem as shown in picture on left. Press the connecting arms and gunwales



Inserting the Gunwale Rod



down so they become straight. Pivot the stem back into the boat and connect the front end of the keel to the bow stem when it is part way down (*picture above right*). Turn the keel sections so that all the plastic clips on the keel face up.



Largest Rib

on the keel, and the latch clip should catch the cross rib clip. Please reinforce the connection by stretching the rubber band that is around the keel over the end of the latch clip.

7. Press keel and cross rib down and connect one end of the cross rib to the gunwale through the opening in the gunwale channel. The clip should be completely inside the gunwale channel.

Note: The clip at the top of the cross rib is lockable, and it needs to be in the unlocked position when the cross rib is installed. To unlock, the “wing” on the locking sleeve, position it so it points partly into the boat. To secure, press the “wing” so it is flush with the side of the Puffin.

8. Press the other end of the cross rib down while pulling the gunwale up so the cross rib can be snapped into place. *Note: The keel will not be straight at this point. That is ok. It will straighten as more cross ribs are installed.*

9. **Saranac:** Locate the other cross rib marked “5” and install it at the next position towards the stern.

Saranac and Saco: Working towards both ends, install ribs marked “4”, then “3” and “2”.

10. Cross rib “1” (the Saranac has a rib “1” only at the stern) does not have lockable clips. If it is hard to get it up over the clips at the top, you can tilt it so that the bottom is behind the latch clip. This will make it easier to pull the gunwales up to engage the top of the “1” rib. Then pivot the rib into the latch clip.

11. **Saranac** has no “1” rib at the bow. Instead, there are two short straight rods with a locking clip at one end and a simple “C” clip at the other. Install one into the forward cross rib opening in the gunwale channel like you did with the cross ribs, and connect the other end to the keel. It may be easiest to get it onto the keel if the rod is at an angle, then pivot it so it connects to the keel straight below the connection point to the gunwale. Repeat with the other rod on the opposite side.

12. Make sure the bow stem is perfectly aligned with the seam at the bottom of the skin.

13. With the pump, inflate the upper cells of the inflatable tubes.



Air Tube Position

14. Inflate the lower cell on one side, hard enough to pull the skin so that the white lines at the bottom of the skin are on “your” side of the keel. Change to the other side and inflate the bottom cell until the keel is centered between the two white lines. The boat is now straight. The lower air cells should be resting on the cross rib bends.



Inflation

6. **Saranac:** Locate one of the (largest) cross pieces, marked “5” and connect it to the latch clip on the keel next to the forward end of the Pakboats logo that is on the outside of the skin.

Saco: Locate the widest cross piece, marked “4” and connect it to the latch clip at the center of the Puffin.

Note: The plastic clip at the center of each cross rib has one open side. The open side should face into the latch clip



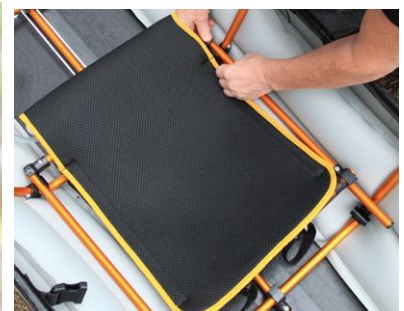
Latch Clip



Locking Clip



Short Straight Rods



15. 15.

Assembling the seat(s). Each seat has two side rods with a latch clip. The front of the seat has a cross bar with a short hinged aluminum section at each end. Insert the narrow end of of the aluminum section into the end of a side rod. Twist the side rod so that the latch clip faces away from the seat. Place the plastic clip at the end of the rear cross bar on the side rod so that the side rod can be turned 90 degrees to secure the cross tube to the side rod. Repeat on the other side of the seat. The seat is now assembled.

16. Place the seat in the kayak. Several seat positions are possible in the Saranac. To install the seat in the Saco or the stern seat in the Saranac, place the front end of the seat on cross rib number 4 and snap the side rod onto the plastic bracket that is attached to the cross rib on each side. Repeat with the rear end of the seat. In the Saranac, place the front end of the seat on the other number 4 cross rib and repeat the procedure.

17. **Installing the back band.** The back bands have elastic cords on the back. Place the back band so that the webbing loops for the elastic cord are at the bottom of the back band. Snap the male plastic buckles on the cord into the female buckles on the sides of the boat skin behind the seat. *Note: There should be some tension in the elastic cord. Tighten the cord if needed.* There are webbing straps attached to the ends of the back bands. Snap the male buckles to the female buckles on the sides of the boat skin in front of the seat. You can adjust the position of the back band with these straps.



Velcro Tab

will help support the end cap when a deck is not used. Fold the two end cap flaps in over the bow or stern (you will need to do

18. Closing the end caps on bow and stern.

There are Velcro tabs attached to the outside of the Puffin skin near each end. Pull the Velcro tab across to the opposite side and attach the end to the Velcro strip that runs along the side of the Puffin. This

both ends). The stern end cap has a flap

that wraps around the stem and secures to the skin's Velcro strip. The handle is attached on one side, and you need to pull it across the hull over the end cap and attach the other end of the handle strap the same way, noting that the handle is completely symmetrical. Please refer to the picture if somebody undid both ends.



Stern End Cap Flap



Strap and Handle

Your Puffin is now complete. We hope you will have a great time on the water.

A few pointers:

Stepping into your Puffin, you can step on the bottom fabric. This will not cause any problems. In shallow water, you may find it easiest to get into your Puffin by straddling it and sitting down in the seat, then bring your legs into the boat.

If you assemble your Puffin on a chilly morning and leave it on a beach, exposed to direct sun later in the day, the pressure in the air tubes will increase. You may need to let out some air to prevent the pressure from rising too much.

Storage: Please let the Puffin dry completely before you put it in storage. A cool and dry place is preferable, but severe cold will not do any damage.

No particular maintenance is needed, but we recommend that you rinse your Puffin with fresh water after use in salt water.

Disassembling: Disassembly is simply the reverse of the assembly process, but a couple of points are worth paying attention to. Unlock all the cross rib clips. To fold up the skin, start from the bow to avoid air getting trapped in the inflatable tubes.



Puffin Saco, top view



Puffin Saranac, side view



ScanSport, Inc.

234 May Street
P.O. Box 700
Enfield, NH 03748
Phone: 603-632-9500

info@pakboats.com
www.pakboats.com