

# SEA EAGLE.com<sup>®</sup>



## Frameless Pontoon Boat

285FPB

Instruction & Owner's Manual

**Sea Eagle Boats Inc.**  
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## Introduction

Thank you for purchasing the Sea Eagle 285 FPB our frameless pontoon boat that provides the fisherman with a rugged, lightweight and super portable weapon to catch fish almost anywhere!

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## Decals, Stickers & Registration

If you plan to install a motor on your Sea Eagle, most states will require that you register your boat with the state. It is also possible that at this time you will be charged your own state sales tax on the order if you did not pay sales tax when you ordered it.

After registration your state may also require that you apply a registration number to your boat hull. We do not recommend the use of decals and stickers as once applied they will tend to crack and peel over time with inflation and deflation of your boat.

Applying them to a small piece of hard plastic or marine plywood and hanging it from the boat is recommended where permitted. Otherwise you can apply the registration numbers with a PVC based paint or permanent marker.

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## Inflation Valves & Pumps

### Recessed One-Way Valves

The valve cap unscrews to reveal the valve stem. When this stem is in the up position as shown the valve retains air. This is the position for inflation.



Use the recessed one-way recessed valve adapter included (**placed in the repair kit**) to inflate this valve. Insert the recessed one-way valve adapter into the yellow hose of the A-41 foot pump.



Push the adapter into the valve and turn to the right to lock it in position. You can then inflate the boat until you start to feel resistance on the foot pump which lets you know that you have reached the recommended pressure.



To deflate the air chamber, push the valve stem in with your thumb and turn to the right to secure it in the down position. This will let the air out of your boat



### Deluxe One-Way Valve

The one-way valves are only found on the deluxe inflatable seats. The outer cap makes the permanent seal, and must be fastened firmly. Be sure the threads are not crossed when tightening the cap or screwing the valve base. Also check to make sure there is no sand or dirt that could break the seal.



To inflate the deluxe inflatable seats simply place the large round nozzle into the valve. To deflate, unscrew the inner valve and most of the air will rush out in a minute or two. You can easily fold the seat to push out any excess air.



To deflate, simply unscrew the inner valve and remove. Most of the air will be released immediately



### A-41 Foot Pump

Our A-41 is a high capacity foot pump made of durable ABS plastic. Packs down for easy travel and comes with a variety of different adapters for different styled boat.



### One-Way Recessed Valve Adapter

The one-way recessed valve can be used with the A-41 foot pump to inflate your boat. This nozzle is located in the orange repair kit canister and is not packaged with the A-41.



### Triple Nozzle Adapter

You'll need the large rounded nozzle on this triple nozzle adapter to inflate the deluxe inflatable seat.



### MB-100 Electric Pump

Designed specifically for our higher pressure Sea Eagles. Comes complete with 12V DC power supply, hose and a various attachments.



Included with the MB-100 are a cluster of seven adapters. The only adapter you will need for this boat is adapter number 1.



Also included is the same triple nozzle adapter as your A-41 foot pump. Using the large rounded nozzle take the ribbed end and insert into the hose of the MB-100.



Remove adapter number 1 and push firmly into the large rounded nozzle. To ensure that the adapter is on as tight as possible, push it against a hard surface like a floor or table once it is connected to the nozzle.



Locate the red joint piece and attach the ribbed end into the other end of the hose.



Once the joint is attached to the hose you can then hook it up to the inflation port on the MB-100. The inflation port can be identified as the port that the printed arrows are pointing to and is located directly above the pressure dial. The port on the opposite end can be used for deflation, although this is not necessary for use on our boats.



Adjust the pressure dial to read 3.2 PSI which is the operating pressure for your Sea Eagle. To inflate the drop stitch floor you will need to set the pressure to 4.4 PSI which is the maximum air pressure the MB-100 inflates to.



Connect the power supply to a 12V battery (car or marine battery) using the alligator clips at the end of the extension cord. Connect the red to the positive pole and the black to the negative pole.



When you are ready to inflate switch the pump on with the ON-OFF switch. The MB-100 will automatically stop once the set pressure is reached. You will still need to switch the pump off when you are finished.



### BTP12 Mano Electric Pump

The BTP12 comes complete with a nylon shoulder carry bag, 12V DC power supply, hose and various attachments.



Included with the BTP12 are a cluster of seven adapters. The only adapter you will need for this boat is adapter number 1.



Remove adapter number 1 and push firmly into the joint that is already connected to the end of the hose. To ensure that the adapter is on as tight as possible, push it against a hard surface like a floor or table once it is connected to the joint.



Screw in the other end of the hose into the red inflation port which is located directly underneath the ON and OFF buttons.



Adjust the pressure dial to read 3.2 PSI which is the operating pressure for your Sea Eagle. To inflate the drop stitch floor you will need to set the pressure to 4.4 PSI.

**NOTE: When the device is under pressure, never turn the dial on the manometer anti-clockwise as this would immediately cause the instrument to break.**



Connect the cord at the end of the power supply into the end of the cord attached to the BTP12.



Connect the power supply to a 12V battery (car or marine battery) using the alligator clips at the end of the extension cord. Connect the red to the positive pole and the black to the negative pole.



If you ordered the BTP12 Kit then you have the option of connecting the BTP12 to a portable battery. Connect the cord at the end of the portable battery into the end of the cord attached to the BTP12.



To charge the battery plug it into the battery charger and then plug the charger into a household electrical outlet. The light on the battery charger will blink red until it is fully charged. When it is fully charged the light will be a solid green.



There is a small opening inside of the carry bag so that you can carry the battery in one compartment and the BTP12 in another. This makes the pump easy to transport and protects the pump from sand which could get jam it.



Press the ON button to begin inflation. The BTP12 operates in two stages which can be identified by the noise of the turbine at the beginning followed by the piston. The BTP12 will automatically stop once the set pressure is reached. You will still need to switch the pump off when you are finished.

## Inflation & Setup

The Sea Eagle 285 FPB requires no pre-assembly. Simply unroll the SE 285 hull and lay both the pontoons parallel to each other flat on the floor.

The working pressure of the hull for our 285FPB is 3.2 PSI and can easily be met with our A-41 foot pump. Electric pumps are sold separately and for this model we recommend our MB-100 or BST SuperTurbo.

Air compressors designed for other uses like tire inflation (usually around 50 PSI) can easily harm your Sea Eagle which works at a much lower pressure. **Using any other pumps than what we have recommended in this manual is not suggested and will void your Sea Eagle warranty.**



Before starting, locate a relatively flat, clean space to unpack your boat. Unroll the boat so that it is laid out flat and inflate the boat to 3.2 PSI using the directions covered in the **Valves & Pumps** section of this manual. If you are installing the swivel seat kit it is best to install the seat before inflating.

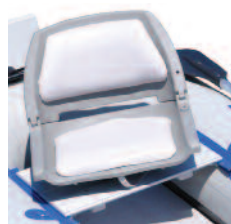


### Deluxe Inflatable Seat

This seat should be inflated so its rigid & reasonably hard. You should be able to push your finger about 3/4" into the seat, which will make it firm enough for good back support. If overinflated it will bulge out. Please note this seat should be inflated with A-41 foot pump and NOT the BST or MB-100 electric pump.



To use with the frameless pontoon boat, attach the straps on the back of the seat to the D-Rings on each side of the boat.



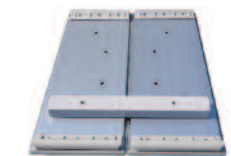
### 285FPB Swivel Seat Kit

The swivel seat for 285FPB is extremely comfortable (great back support) and allows a 360 degree rotation. This seat also sits up higher than the Deluxe Inflatable Seat which makes it easier to row, stand up and cast. It also gives you a greater line of sight and the back of the seat folds down for easy storage.



The swivel seat kit includes...

- 2 Aluminum Boards
- 2 Wooden Underbars
- 4 Bolts
- 4 Nuts
- 4 Screws
- 4 Small Washers
- 4 Large Washers
- 4 Wing Nuts



Begin by turning the aluminum boards upside down (the seat hooks at the ends are facing upward) and align the wooden underbar over the two pre-drilled holes at the end. Both the underbars and seat hooks should be running in the same direction.



It is important to align the pre-drilled holes on each aluminum board so that when it is time to connect the swivel seat the fittings are in the correct place. The pre-drilled holes on each aluminum board should be closer together than further apart.



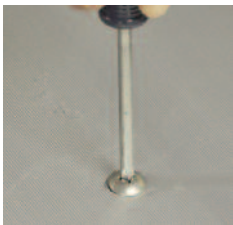
Each wooden underbar is connected to an aluminum board using 1 nut, 1 screw and 1 small washer at each end of the undbar. Begin by running the screw through the pre-drilled holes on the top portion of the aluminum board.



Once the screw is in place, flip the board over so that you can place the small washer over the screw and then fasten the nut to the screw and tighten by hand. Both the small washer and nut should be on the underside of the aluminum board, directly connected to the wooden underbar. Repeat these steps for both underbars at both ends of each underbar.



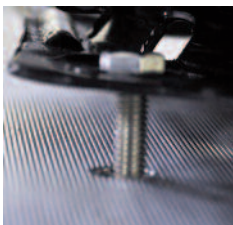
Both the small washer and nut should be on the underside of the aluminum board, directly connected to the wooden underbar. Repeat these steps for both underbars at both ends of each underbar.



Tighten the screws on the underbars so that they are secured firmly to the aluminum boards. You can use a Phillips head screwdriver (not included) to best accomplish this task. It is also important to make sure that the aluminum boards and the underbars are straight so that they are not crooked when you attach the swivel seat.



Before attaching the swivel seat to the aluminum boards, we recommend attaching the aluminum board (with the installed underbars) to the fabric beads on your frameless pontoon boat. The seat hooks on the underside of the board should slide right into your boat (which should only be partially inflated), this can be made even easier by wetting the fabric beads with soapy water.



Once the aluminum board is attached to the boat you can now install the swivel seat.

Start by placing the seat over the 4 pre-drilled holes at the top of the aluminum bench seat and then drop the bolts through the top of the seat and through the aluminum board.



With the bolt through the seat run the large washer up the bolt and then secure using the wing nut. Do this for all 4 bolts running through the seat. Be sure to tighten the wing nut firmly by hand so that the seat is tightly secured to the board. You are now ready to use your 285FPB Swivel Seat Kit!



#### **Motormount (Included w/Pro Package)**

The motor mount is simple to assemble as you simply slide the wooden block into the motor mount bracket and secure the block with the included screws. Once fitted with the wooden motor mount block you can then slide the motor mount bracket into the grommets placed at the stern of the boat.



#### **Floorboard (Included w/Pro Package)**

To Provides a rigid stable platform for fisherman to stand and cast. 15 3/4" x 43". Marine plywood floor for 285fpb. Weighs just 6 lbs.

### **Frameless Pontoon Boat Accessories (Optional)**

#### **Mushroom Anchor Kit**

8 lb. PVC coated Mushroom Anchor with 25' of 5/16" rope and an Anchor Grip to hold the rope in place.



#### **Side/Stern Bag (Included w/Pro Package)**

Though not totally waterproof, they will keep most spray out. To install, simply clip the bag onto the clips attached to the frameless pontoon boat on either side. You may roll the side/stern bags up with your boat for storage. Included with Pro Package.



#### **Stripping Apron (Included w/Pro Package)**

This stripping apron is easily installed and comes complete with fishing ruler printed on the apron.

### **Safety**

In addition to properly registering your Sea Eagle, it is your responsibility to be aware of and to comply with all relevant safety regulations. In all water sports you should have reasonable swimming ability.

The next point to consider is having a PFD (personal flotation device). Not only is it the law, but from our point of view, it is just plain foolish not to have PFD's for everyone aboard. You must use U.S. Coast Guard approved PFD's. The type of water conditions you are going in should determine which is safest for you. Depending on the circumstance and the type of boating you enjoy, you should consider other safety measures (i.e. if you're white water rafting, it might be wise to wear a wet suit, gloves, and even some sort of protective helmet).

In a manual of this type it is impossible to give adequate space to the topic of water safety. We strongly suggest, however, that you enroll in one of the excellent water safety courses offered by the Power Squadron or Coast Guard Auxiliary in your area.



## Operating Your Sea Eagle



### Basic Motoring

The Sea Eagle 285 FPB is a very light weight pontoon fishing boat. Since only the pontoons and the tube under the rear are in touch with water, there is less drag so it motors very well even with a small outboard motor. It takes only up to 3 HP gas engine. You can also use up to 74 lb. thrust electric motor.

As with any boat, while motoring you need to be keenly aware of the wind and water conditions around you - especially while using an electric motor, you don't want to be caught with a 4 knot boat trying to fight a 5 knot tidal current. As with all boating, a little planning goes a long way. However, you will be surprised at the fine maneuverability of the Sea Eagle 285 FPB even with an electric motor.



### Basic Rowing

You will be surprised how easy it is to row your Sea Eagle 285 FPB pontoon fishing boat. If you have never rowed a boat of any kind, there are some fundamental concepts that you will have to grasp.

Before embarking on the water, you should realize one fundamental truth: when you row forwards, you face backwards. This means that you will have a great view of where you have been, but almost no view of where you are going.

As in any boating situation, it is vital to carry a life jacket or PFD and to be aware of the conditions of the water you are rowing in. You should be aware of any and all obstacles and dangers that you might encounter (i.e. sailboats, motorboats, moored boats, buoys, docks, rocks, winds, waves, lightning, rain, etc.). Please remember to give way to both sailboats and motorboats, as they have the right of way.

Before getting in, you should unscrew the oarlock pins, slip the two oars onto the two pins and screw down the oarlock pin caps. If this is truly your first time rowing, we recommend that you practice rowing for several hours near the shore before venturing out further on open waters. Practice not only makes perfect, it ensures that you are comfortable in your boat in almost any weather conditions you come across.

When pulling your oars through the water you should try to keep the blades fully immersed, but as close to the surface as possible. This will give you greater rowing leverage. You should continually practice your rowing strokes, trying to make them as fluid and smooth as possible.

You can row the 285FPB facing forward or backwards. By rowing forward you'll gain the advantage of seeing where you are rowing and by rowing backwards you can row more easily and for longer distances.

## Deflation & Rollup

First deflate all the valves and let the boat deflate naturally for about a minute or two. Note that it is not necessary to remove the aluminum step bench/foot rest when folding your frameless pontoon boat. Roll each pontoon towards the center of the boat.



You can push out any excess air by pressing down on the boat starting from the stern and working your way to the bow where the air will come out through the recessed one-way valves. Make sure that the valve stem is locked in the down position so that air can escape.

When the air is out you can begin folding the boat from the stern to the bow. If you plan on storing your boat for more than a few days, it is best to towel it off or let dry in the sun to remove any excess moisture which might cause unsightly mildew.

Once the boat is rolled up you can unroll the boat carry bag and lay the boat in the center of the bag.

Once Continue to secure the boat in the bag by folding the sides of the bag over the boat and fastening them with the straps.

## Care & Maintenance

There is very little that you have to do to keep your boat in almost new condition for many years. You may store it inflated or deflated. If you leave it outside, you should raise it up off the ground and cover it with a tarp if it is going to be in direct sunlight or exposed to leaves, berries or rain. If you leave it in the water, you will probably have to empty out the water every time it rains (this will also harm the wooden floorboards over time).

We do not recommend using your boat below 30 degrees Fahrenheit. PVC material can become brittle in extremely cold temperatures. This will not harm a boat stored in cold conditions as long as it is not dropped or subjected to a sudden impact in the extreme cold.

If you store it in a closet, basement or garage, we recommend picking a cool, dry spot, making sure the boat is clean and dry before you pack it up - otherwise mold can accumulate while it is stored.

Extend the life of your Sea Eagle boat with periodic use of this amazing protectant! Spray on every 30-45 days to improve resistance to UV, chemical and many other types of harmful exposure.





We all try to keep our boats clean, but there are some stains you just can't avoid. With 3M Marine Cleaner & Restorer, you can remove the toughest stains from mud, bird droppings, oil, and many others.

Also wear rubber gloves while handling MEK. MEK is very flammable so please keep it away from fire, lit cigarettes or sparks.

To remove old patches, dip a cotton swab in MEK and start applying it on one end of the patch. You will notice that the glue dissolves in MEK and the patch starts to separate. Sparingly keep applying MEK under the patch and keep peeling it off. Once the patch comes off the residual glue may be cleaned with a rag moistened with MEK solvent.

## Troubleshoot

### Air Leaks

If your boat appears a bit soft, it might not be because of a leak. If the boat was inflated late in the day with 90 degree air, that air might cool 20 degrees overnight. The cooler air exerts less pressure on the hull, so it could appear soft the next morning. If there has been no temperature variation, you need to start looking for a leak. Below are the three best methods.

### Visual Inspection.

Get a good look at your boat from just a few feet away. Flip it over and closely check over the outside. Any large leaks should be clearly visible.

### Listen

If you have a rough idea where your leak is, you can sometimes hear it in a quiet room.

### Soapy Water Test

Use a mix of dishwashing liquid and water in a spray bottle, and spray over suspicious areas. Any leak will produce bubbles that will pinpoint the location of the leak.

### Valve Checks

Look, listen, and if necessary, spray soapy water around your valve and the valve base. Make sure that both the inner valve and the outer cap are firmly screwed together. If threads are crossed on either item a slow leak could result. A good way to avoid this is to first turn the outer cap back 1/4 turn. Check the diaphragm at the bottom of the inner valve for sand between the diaphragm and the inner valve. Also check the threads on the inner valve, boat hull, and outer cap for any dirt or sand which might break the seal. Extreme over tightening of inner valve into valve base can cause a depression in the top of the valve base. In this case, simply sand the depression out with fine sandpaper to create a flush surface.

## Repairs

Through use you may occasionally puncture your boat. Most leaks only take a few minutes to repair. Your boat comes with a repair kit, and additional repair supplies can be ordered from our website.

### TIPS:

Pre-wash the surfaces to be glued with acetone or MEK (Methyl Ethyl Ketone) which is a widely available paint thinner found in most hardware and home supply stores. Make sure the surface is both clean and dry before adhesion. **DO NOT use a heat gun on your Sea Eagle.**

Any glued item can be removed by heating it with a hairdryer while pulling at the edge with pliers. The item may become damaged in the process. Perform this work in a well ventilated area and heed the warnings for all adhesives and solvents. These methods can also be used to patch air leaks. Make sure the boat is deflated before repairing air leaks.

### Removing Old Patches

Old patches can be easily removed with a solvent called MEK (Methyl Ethyl Ketone). MEK can be obtained from any hardware or paint store and it easily dissolves the marine PVC glue that we use on our boats.

### WARNING!

Please bear in mind that MEK is a very strong solvent and can also cause damage to the material of the boat. So use it very carefully and sparingly.

### Small Repairs

Deflate your boat and thoroughly clean and dry the area to be repaired. For a small puncture (less than 1/8") apply a small drop of glue and let dry for 12 hours. If you need to get on the water sooner, let dry 30 minutes and then inflate the boat (inflating the compartment with the repair only 3/4 full) and be sure to make a permanent repair later.

### Patches

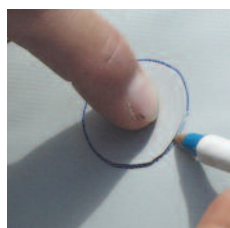
Leaks larger than a pinhole can be patched. Most patches can be done in a few minutes, but we do offer a repair service for more complex jobs out of warranty. Our minimum repair fee is \$55.00 (hourly rate) and you will be responsible for freight expenses to our facility in Port Jefferson and return freight to your destination.



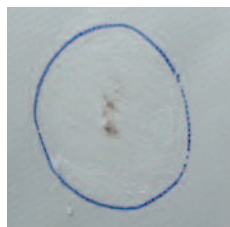
First locate the leak by the methods above. Soapy water will bubble out from the source of the leak.



Thoroughly clean the area surrounding the leak to remove any dirt or grime.



Cut a piece of repair material large enough to overlap the damaged area by approximately 1/2". Round off the edges, and place over the leaking area. Using a ball point pen, trace the outline of the patch. Angle the pen inward a bit so that the ink will be covered by the patch later.



Apply adhesive to the underneath side of patch and around the area to be repaired. Coat the affected area lightly but completely with glue. Let the glue sit for 2-4 minutes until it appears tacky.



Place the patch on the damaged area and press down firmly. Place a 3-5 pound weight over the patch and allow 12 hours for repair to dry. After patch has dried, apply glue around the edges for a complete seal (dry 4 hours).



### Valve Removal & Replacement

**DO NOT** change out the valve unless you are sure it is broken. Under most circumstances the valve will not leak and should outlast the boat. The base is built into the boat and cannot be replaced without cutting the chamber open.



If it is necessary for you to replace a recessed one-way valve than we suggest having both channel lock pliers and vice grip pliers (not included) as well as the valve wrench and a piece of repair material from inside the orange repair kit canister.



Inflate the chamber to full pressure if possible and loosen with the valve wrench by turning it counterclockwise. Deflate the chamber and unscrew the valve body from the base.



Place a piece of repair material in the jaws of the channel lock pliers to protect the hull material. This is especially true of new boats because the material is still quite soft. Once the body of the valve is unscrewed from the base, pull the valve body from the opening. The opening is very tight, so you may have to pull hard.



Do not allow the base to fall away from the opening, or you will be feeling around for it and pushing back towards the opening. The new valve must be an exact duplicate of the existing, otherwise it may not fit tightly into the base. The inner valve is loose, so make sure you hold the hull so that it does not move.



Insert the replacement valve and tighten by hand until secure. Once the replacement valve has been screwed in, inflate the chamber to full pressure and use the valve wrench to tighten the valve completely.



### D-Ring Installation

D-Rings can easily be glued onto your Sea Eagle for custom seating arrangements. They can also be used as tie-down and anchor points for gear and extra storage and are easily installed using a PVC based glue.



The small sized D-Rings that are already equipped on your Sea Eagle are 3/4" and come attached to a patch of the same 1000 Denier material as the hull of your Sea Eagle.

To begin make sure the boat is fully inflated to 3.2 PSI. You'll want to make sure the area where you are applying the new D-Ring is thoroughly clean and dry and then trace an outline of the D-Ring onto the boat hull. Angle the pen or pencil inward a bit while you're tracing so that the D-Ring patch covers the trace mark once applied.

Apply a thick coat of adhesive both to the boat hull (where you just created a trace mark) and to the underside of the D-Ring patch and spread evenly on both surfaces. Using a paintbrush or other like utensil is recommended.

Allow the glue to dry (anywhere from 5 to 15 minutes) and then apply a second coat of adhesive and possibly a third if the first two coats are thin. You can use a hairdryer set to high (hot) and heat both surfaces (approximately 160° F) and then apply them to the boat.

Press the surfaces together and using your hands or a tool for smoothing to make sure that there are no air bubbles underneath the patch. The adhesive should hold the entire glued surface within minutes. If the surfaces begin to separate, press them together for a few more minutes to allow the adhesive to firm up.

Put a heavy object (5 to 7 lbs.) over the patch and allow it to dry for about 12 hours. If the surfaces continue to separate after they have cooled, apply more adhesive and heat with the hairdryer. Press surfaces together until adhesion is complete. Allow adhesive to set in for at least 12 hours, full curing time is 5 to 7 days.



### 2 Part Adhesive (Weaver Davit Glue)

The adhesive that comes standard in your repair kit will work for most installations and repairs, but for tougher projects you'll get better results with this 2 part adhesive (sold separately and available at SeaEagle.com). Mix the necessary amount of adhesive and accelerator and apply 2 to 3 coats of adhesive as described above.

After drying, use the hairdryer or wipe both surfaces with a rag soaked with MEK (Methyl Ethyl Ketone). Allow the MEK to evaporate (approximately around 15 seconds) and apply the item to the boat. Smooth the patch and allow to set in anywhere from 12 to 24 hours. The 2 part adhesive provides the best bonding and can also be heated with a hairdryer as described above. Either MEK or the hairdryer methods are acceptable for the repair kit (PVC based) glue, Vynabond or 2 part adhesive.

Should you need assistance on a repair, please feel free to contact our Sea Eagle Tech Support at 1-800-748-8066 during our business hours which are Monday through Friday, 9AM to 5PM. If you would like to send your Sea Eagle to us for repair please note that you will need to request a return authorization number. Our minimum repair fee is \$55.00 (hourly rate) and you will be responsible for shipping expenses both to and from our facility here in Port Jefferson, NY.