



Owner's Manual

FOR YOUR NEW INFLATABLE KEEL BOAT



Thank you for choosing North Atlantic Inflatables!



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Rob & Bridget O'Brian
Owners

Who We Are

Based in Maine, North Atlantic Inflatables (NAI) is a family-owned business that has been selling and shipping Inflatable boats & fenders across the United States for over 15 years. NAI is owned and operated by Rob & Bridget O'Brian. Rob is a USCG licensed captain as well as a Naval Architect who has brought many innovations to the world of inflatables. We pride ourselves on reliable, safe, high-quality inflatable boats at reasonable prices. Our boats come with both a 5-year manufacturer's warranty and customer service that stands out in this industry. You will work directly with the owners who take pride in their boat designs and quality. We have grown dramatically as more and more boaters discover the advantages of buying a North Atlantic.

We sell 3 major types of inflatable boats:

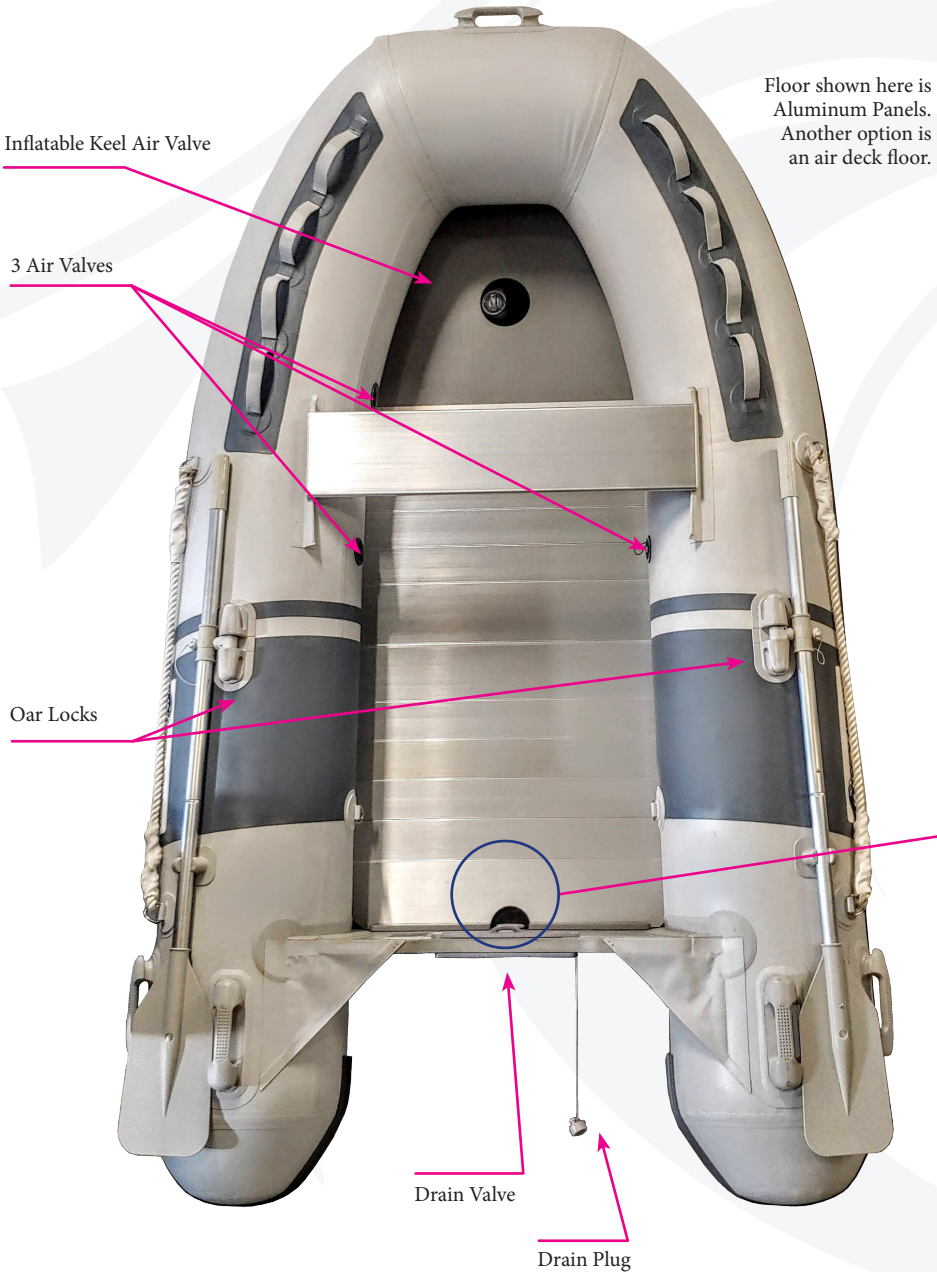
- 1.** Aluminum Hull RIBs
- 2.** Fiberglass Hull RIBs
- 3.** Inflatable Keel boats

All boats come with tubes made of either Heytex (German) PVC fabric or Orca (France) hypalon.

In addition, we sell high quality inflatable fenders or bumpers in various sizes, inflatable boat accessories, boat covers, boat trailers, and both gas and electric outboard motors.

Our inflatable boats are designed to meet the international standard of ISO-6185 and carry CE certification so you can be sure that your North Atlantic Inflatable boat is safe and reliable.

Get to Know Your New Boat



DRAIN VALVE & PLUG

The drain valve is located in the lower center portion of the boat's transom. The picture below shows the correct orientation with the plastic star pattern facing inboard & the smooth (non-threaded) portion of the valve also points towards the bow.

The drain plug inserts into the smooth valve (just like a sink or a bathtub) and will keep the water out while the boat is at rest. If you have water in the boat and would like to "self drain" your boat, you should pull the plug out while the boat is moving forward. Don't forget to plug the drain valve when the boat is stationary again.



Equipment



STANDARD:

- Two Aluminum Oars
- Metal Seat (s)
- Repair Kit
- Foot Pump (Bicycle pump for our air deck boats)
- Carrying Bag
- Flooring (Air Deck or Aluminum Panels or Slat Floor)
- Drain plug

OTHER OPTIONS:

- Seat cushion with removable zipper bag (for life jackets or other storage)
- Boat Cover
- Navigation Lights
- Inflatable Fenders and Fleece Covers
- Inflatable Boat Stenciling Kits for Registration #
- Towing bridles
- Boat cleaner and UV protectant
- Dinghy wheels

Safety Tips & Warranty

Weight should be distributed evenly in the boat. If your boat is loaded lightly and you have a motor, be sure not to accelerate suddenly. Be sure to check the metal plate on your transom for capacity & power requirements.

Be sure not to over pressurize your boat when you inflate the tubes. Tubes should be pressurized to between 3 and 5 psi. A good test to ensure you have the right psi is to press your finger against the tube. It should indent slightly. Over pressurizing your boat can reduce the longevity of your boat over time. Our boats have pressure relief valves to help maintain safe pressure on particularly hot days.

For our navy blue tube boats, we highly recommend only pressurizing to 3-4 psi, leaving room for the air to expand in the heat on a sunny, hot day. The darker color heats up the air in the tube more than a lighter color.

If you have navigation lights installed, be sure batteries are charged and bow light is installed with green on the right (starboard) and red on the left (port).

We are proud of our boats and back them with a 5-year warranty for recreational use. This warranty covers Hypalon tubes in any climate, PVC tubes in northern climates, and both the aluminum or fiberglass hulls, in any climate. Warranties are not transferable.



We have a 2-year warranty for PVC tubes in southern, intense UV light climates. This is because PVC tubes do not hold up as well as Hypalon in the intense sun of southern, or extreme UV light climates. We suggest our Hypalon tubes for these boating locations. Hypalon carries a 5-year warranty for any climate.

We have a 2-year warranty for commercial use. We use common sense for our warranty. What does that mean? Things like tying an inflatable to a dock with 1 line in a hurricane is not supported by common sense. Cleaning your boat with Acetone or harsh chemicals is not common sense and is not supported by the warranty. Basically, our warranty does NOT cover negligence, abuse, excessive wear or accidents. Please see our Care & Maintenance section to help you care for your new North Atlantic Inflatable. We are happy to answer questions anytime!

General Assembly for Our Inflatable Keel Boats

For the 7'6" slat floor boats (DB230SL), there is no floor to assemble or keel to blow up.

Follow steps 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10 and 11.

1. Find a clean, flat surface like a dock, driveway or cement floor
 2. Remove any sharp objects from the area
 3. Unfold and spread the boat out flat surface
 4. Check that your valves are closed before you connect your pump. The valve stem should be raised and turned counterclockwise. When you push on it, it should pop right back out. This will ensure the spring will close when you remove the pump and you won't lose any air.
- 
5. Partially inflate (~20%) the boat to give it a little "shape", but not so much to make it difficult to put in the flooring
 6. Assemble your floor using instructions in the next part of this manual
 7. Fully inflate the rest of the tubes
NOTE: Do not use a compressed air source to inflate your boat. This could lead to overinflating, which may cause damage to fabric and seams. Inflate all 3 tubes to about 60% and then go back around and finish inflating to avoid putting extra pressure on the sections between tubes.
 8. Once your floor is installed completely, inflate the keel and close that air valve.
 9. Install Oars
 10. Slip your seat onto the seat hanger that is attached to the tube.
 11. Close the drain plug when the boat is at rest and remove the drain plug when you're underway to enable self-draining.

Floor Assembly Options: Air Deck or Aluminum Panel Floors

AIR DECK FLOOR

1. Inflate tubes halfway or less to give the boat shape
2. Put in the deflated air deck floor, lined up with the hole for the keel valve in the front and the gap for the stern drain in the back. Inflate the deck to about 70% using your North Atlantic Inflatable bicycle pump. The gray board should slide under the straps on the underneath side of the air deck floor to add stability.
3. Inflate boat tubes to 100%
4. Inflate the air deck floor to 100%. It should be hard to pump anymore (at least 8-10 psi)



ALUMINUM PANEL FLOOR

1. Inflate the boat to 20% capacity to just give it “shape” but not make it difficult to insert the panels
2. Notice the panels are numbered
3. Insert #1 into the bow and line the hole up with the valve for the inflatable keel so you can inflate the keel later



4. Insert #3 or the stern panel (#4 in larger boats) and line it up with drain plug



5. Insert "2" slat into the grove attached to "1" floorboard. For larger boats, then also insert "3" slat into the grove between "2" and "4." Press floorboards down so they are flat.



6. Place oars under the boat (running stern to bow, lengthwise) to help give the middle of the boat some height. This will help you put in the side joiner pieces in step 7 into place.



Side View, for larger boats, put 2 oars under the boat, parallel to each other



Stern View

- 7.** Add the side joiner pieces on each side of panels 2 and 3 (or 2, 3 and 4 slats in larger boats) to add stability to the floor. Pull back the tube (be sure the oars are under the boat to give you extra help on this step.) The smaller flat side of the joiner piece should be on top and wider flat side should be on bottom.

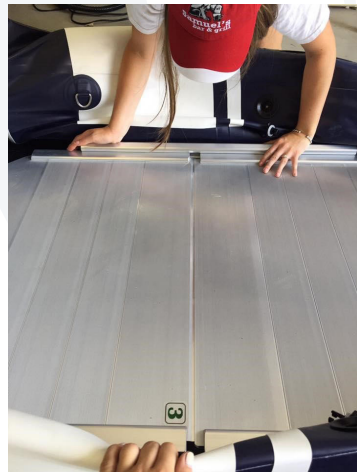


Pull back tube from the side



Keep concave edge along the tube

- 8.** Position the side joiner piece so the concave edge will be along the side of the tube and the groove edge will grab the slats. Roll it into place so panels fit snugly into the box groove of the side joiner.



- 9.** Fully inflate the rest of the tubes
(NOTE: Do not use a compressed air source to inflate your boat. This may cause damage to fabric and seams.)
You may hear a few creaks and groans as the floor adjusts when the boat is inflated.



- 10.** Inflate the keel (Do not inflate the keel until the panel floor or air deck floor is assembled)



- 11.** Slip your seat into the seat hangers on the side of the tubes
12. Put on the valve caps
13. Enjoy your North Atlantic Inflatable!



Care and Maintenance Tips

Like any other boat, inflatable boats need proper care and maintenance to function at their best and last a long time. Without maintenance, inflatable boats may last only a few years - particularly in the south where the sun is intense 12 months/year. With regular cleaning and occasional treatment with a UV shield such as 303 Aerospace Protectant, you can expect to enjoy your Hypalon boat for 20+ years and your PVC boat for 12+ years. We recommend covering your PVC boat in the winter months.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT CLEANING PRODUCTS

The first and probably most important step to properly cleaning an inflatable boat is to choose the right cleaning products. Using the wrong cleaners can end up damaging your boat/tubes.

While inflatable boats may be made of durable PVC or Hypalon fabric, they are still susceptible to damage when exposed to harsh chemicals. They should therefore not be exposed to the same types of boat cleaners as fiberglass or aluminum boats.

Products you should **never** use to clean inflatable boats include:

- toluene
- acetone / MEK
- bleach
- ammonia
- highly alkaline cleaners (pH greater than 11.5)
- abrasive scrub pads
- steel wool
- soap (leaves a residue that attracts dirt and mold)

These products can damage and/or discolor the fabric and attack the adhesives of your inflatable boat. If in doubt, don't use it on your boat fabric.

To properly clean your inflatables it's best to use **inflatable boat cleaners**. These are made specifically for cleaning inflatable boats and can effectively remove dirt, grime, and stains without damaging the tube material. Some of these cleaners can also protect boat surfaces from the elements, keeping them in the best condition.

We recommend Star Brite super orange and boat eraser sponges (be sure they do not include any bleach or chemicals).

CLEANING YOUR INFLATABLE BOAT

Once you've got the right cleaning products and tools, cleaning your PVC boat becomes quite simple. You'll need a couple of clean cloths and some water. Most cleaners only require you to apply the cleaner on the surface of the inflatable boat, and then wipe it off with a clean cloth or sponge. Always wash off any cleaner with fresh water once you are done wiping off any scuff marks.

Start cleaning the boat floor and work in sections, moving outward while applying the boat cleaner. This will make it easy for you to check for any damaged areas, and see where you'll need to make some repairs. Flip the boat and apply the cleaner on the underside as well, as this area is most exposed to the water.

Once the boat is clean, you should apply a UV protector such as 303 AeroSpace Protectant (be sure to confirm any UV protector is specifically made for PVC fabric) to protect the fabric from the sun's UV rays. Typically 303 needs to get (re)applied every few weeks during the season - No worries, it only takes about 5-10 minutes to treat a 10' boat. This is particularly important for PVC fabric tubes.

Cleaning your inflatable boat is something you should do regularly especially if you use your boat often.

TOWING

When you tow your inflatable keel boat, it should be empty. We recommend a 2-hook towing bridle for towing at slow speeds (i.e. behind a sail boat.) Water, motors, and objects in your boat will add weight and stress when towing. If you are towing behind a faster boat, on a plane, you may want to loop a line through your rear stern handles (or add towing eyes to your transom) and then pull the line through your bow D-rings. If you tow regularly behind a boat on a plane, consider purchasing our aluminum RIBs.

BOTTOM PAINT SUGGESTIONS

We suggest you use anti-fouling paint on your boat bottom if you are concerned about organisms growing on the bottom of your boat.

For our inflatable keel, roll up boats, we suggest Pettit's Bottom Paint for Inflatable Boats. It is water based for easy clean up. However, the paint is ablative, and is meant to flake off as marine life grows on it. This can be messy when you are rolling the boat up. Here are few suggestions:

- Store your boat inflated. It does not hurt the boat to be left inflated during the winter months or when you are not using it. The most important thing is getting it out of the sun in months you are not using it.
- If you need to roll it up to put it away, use an old sheet to roll up inside the boat to catch paint chips.
- If you decide not to bottom paint your boat, pull it out of the water every few days to check for bottom growth and clean it off before it becomes a problem.

Here are suggested steps for prepping and painting your boat bottom:

- 1.** Using painter's tape (that will peel off easily later), tape off the area of your expected water line.
- 2.** For inflatable bottom boats, wipe the area of the tube you plan to paint very lightly with acetone. This removes any chemical residue from the PVC and RIB bottoms. DO NOT use acetone on any other part of your PVC or Hypalon tubes as acetone can damage the material.
- 3.** Paint first coat and let it dry overnight
- 4.** Paint 2nd coat, remove painters tape, and you are ready to go!

BOAT REGISTRATION NUMBERS

We suggest stenciling on your boat registration numbers as they last longer than the stick on variety. We sell boat paint stencil kits specifically for inflatables with paint that is flexible as your boat tubes inflate and deflate.

Boat placards or number plates can be ordered from BoatNumberPlate.com, or a local Maine company called Banana Banners. Let them know it is for an inflatable boat.

STORAGE SUGGESTIONS

To extend the life of your boat, keep it covered from the beating sun when not in use. Boats should be covered if stored outside in a New England winter. We carry boat cover options.

If you are storing your boat in a beautiful New England barn, or any spot where you may be prone to a few mice visitors, we suggest you wash off all saltwater (mice love the salt) and leave your boat inflated, or at least partially inflated, so mice can't find dark nesting spots.

BOAT REPAIRS

- 1.** The instructions below assume you have a North Atlantic Inflatables repair kit.
- 2.** DO NOT perform repair unless air is dry & temp is 60 degrees or more
- 3.** Feel free to call us at any point with questions: 207-844-1742
- 4.** The repair of a small leak or puncture less than 0.5 inch can be made with a round patch (3" diameter max)
- 5.** If repairs over 0.5 inches long are required, call us. This sized repair involves placing a patch inside & outside the tube...and is difficult to do.
- 6.** Both the patch & the surface of the tube must be dry and free of dirt or grease. In this very specific situation, it is OK to use either a solvent such as acetone or MEK (methylethylketone) to clean ONLY the portion of the tube where the leak is & the back of the patch (do not use these cleaners on your boat normally.) Best to use gloves & work in an open area with plenty of ventilation.
- 7.** Apply 2 thin, even coats of glue to the surface of the tube as well as the surface of the patch. Wait 15 minutes between coats....and wait 15 minutes after applying the 2nd coat in order to allow the glue to dry.
- 8.** Once the 2nd layer of glue is dry (your finger does not stick to it if/when you push it) push the patch into the glued area of the tube. Push hard - you may want to use a hard roller or smooth plate to push.
- 9.** Let the boat/patch set for 24 hours before testing under full pressure. Allow 3 days before putting the boat back in service.



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