Owner's Manual

FOR YOUR NEW INFLATABLE KEEL BOAT

Thank you for choosing North Atlantic Inflatables!

North Atlantic Inflatables

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Rob & Bridget O'Brian
Owners

Who We Are

Based in Portland Maine, North Atlantic Inflatables (NAI) is a family-owned business that has been selling and shipping Inflatables across the United States for over 20 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:

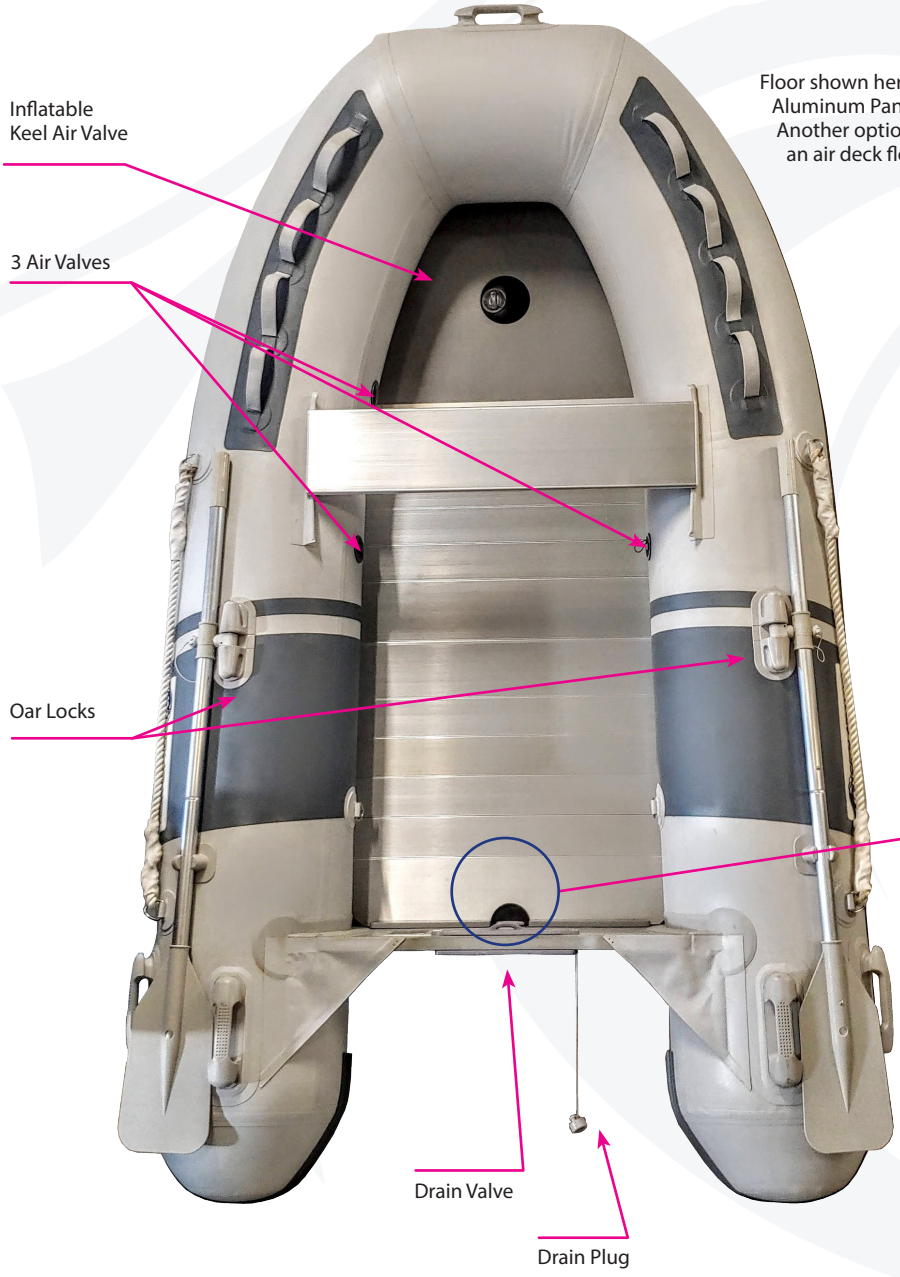
1. Aluminum Hull RIBs
2. Fiberglass Hull RIBs
3. Inflatable Keel boats

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

In addition, we sell Inflatable Boat Fenders, Boat Accessories and Tohatsu 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.

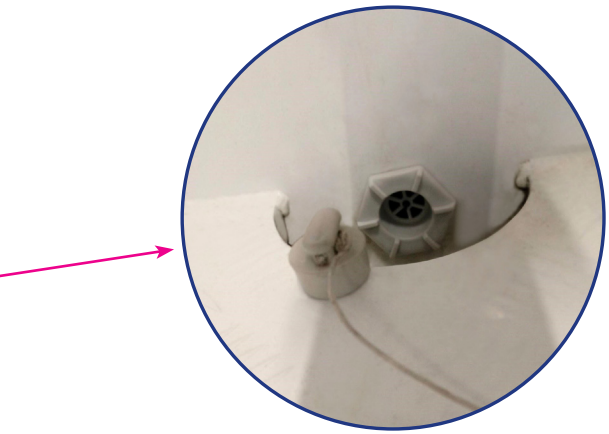
Get to Know Your New Boat



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 value 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 Slats or Panel floor options)
- 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

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.

For our navy blue tube boats, we highly recommend only pressurizing to 3 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.

Air deck floors should be pressurized to 8-10 psi, which should be very hard to indent. The inflatable keel should be inflatable to about 5 psi.

Our boats come with a 5 year warranty. This warranty is intended to cover manufacturing defects or problems that arise due to manufacturing errors. The warranty does NOT cover negligence, abuse, excessive wear or accidents. For the warranty to remain in effect, the owner must have taken proper care of the boat (see Care & Maintenance Section.) The warranty is not transferable.

General Assembly for Our Inflatable Keel Boats

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 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.

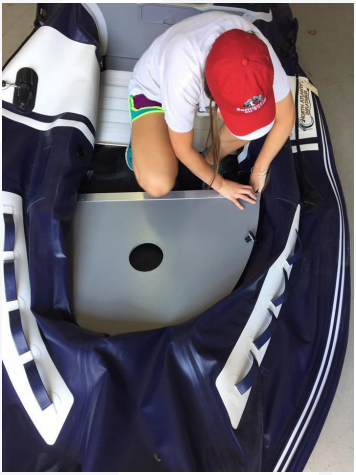
Floor Assembly Options: Air Deck or Aluminum Panel Floors

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 value 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)

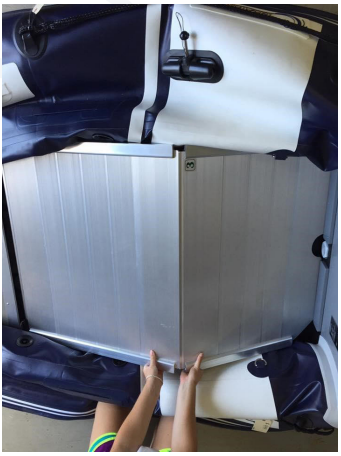
ALUMINUM PANEL FLOOR

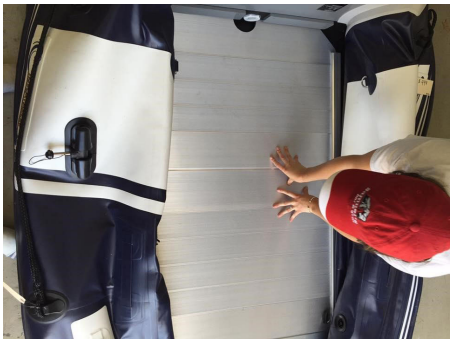
1. Inflate the boat to20% capacity to just give it "shape" but not make it difficult to insert the panels
2. Notice the panels are numbered
3. Insert #1 into the bow and line the hole up with the valve for the inflatable keel so you can inflate the keel later



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.



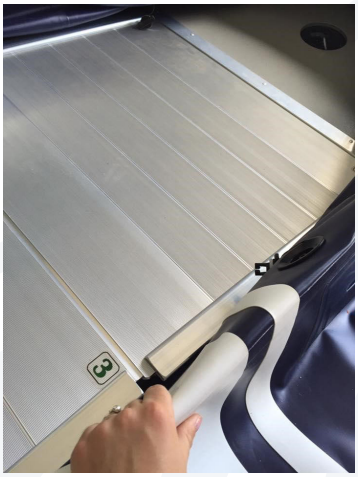


6. Place oars under the boat (running stern to bow, lengthwise) to help give the middle of the boat some height. This will help you put in the side joiner pieces in step 10 into place.

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

Stern View

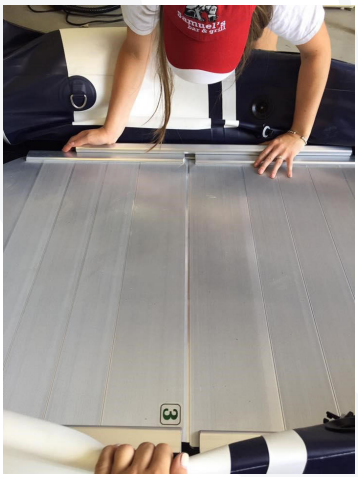
7. Add the side joiner pieces on each side of panels 2 and 3 (or 2, 3 and 4 slats in larger boats) to add stability to the floor. Pull back the tube (be sure the oars are under the boat to give you extra help on this step.) The smaller flat side of the joiner piece should be on top and wider flat side 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 grove 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 or even 30 years and your PVC boat for 12-15 years.

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
- bleach
- ammonia
- highly alkaline cleaners (pH greater than 11.5)
- abrasive scrub pads
- steel wool

These products can damage and/or discolor the fabric and attack the adhesives of your inflatable boat.

Household soaps or detergents can leave a sticky residue on the boat surface that attracts and holds dirt. Soap scum can also serve as food for mold and mildew.

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. We also suggest Mary Kate Inflatable Boat Cleaner. For really tough stains, you could try PolyMarine Inflatable Boat Cleaner.

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 for a few minutes, and then wipe it off with a clean cloth or an eraser sponge.

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. You will end up with a nice, glossy-looking inflatable boat.

Once the boat is clean, you should apply a UV protector such as 303 AeroSpace Protectant 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. And even for brand new boats, there may be some lubricants left from the manufacturing process that you need to clean off before use.

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 Aluminum RIBs, you **must** select paint that is **Copper Free** to avoid galvanic corrosion that will weaken the aluminum. We suggest Pettit's Hydrocoat Eco (water-based paint.)
- For Fiberglass RIBs, we suggest Aquagard Waterbased Bottom Paint for Inflatables.
- For Inflatable bottom boats, we suggest Aquagard Waterbased Bottom Paint for Inflatables.

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 RIB boats, lightly sand the aluminum surface you plan to paint (do not sand the tubes.) Using a fine (180-220 grit) sand paper, sand just enough to take the shine off and rough up the surface so paint adheres better
3. For inflatable bottom boats, and for the tube portion of a RIB, 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.
4. Paint first coat and let it dry overnight
5. 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. You can also purchase stencils at any art or hardware store and paint using an **inflatable** boat paint.

Boat placards or number plates can be ordered from BoatNumberPlate.com.

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.

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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