

**SOLSTICE™**  
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## **Introduction**

We thank you for your purchase of our **SOLSTICE SPORTSTER 265 & 266 series** boat. Please read the following instructions carefully before using this inflatable boat and keep the instructions for future reference. If you re-sell the craft, please hand this manual over to the buyer.

This SOLSTICE inflatable boat has been manufactured to the highest quality standards.

### Features:

- Designed for inshore use
- Easy assembly and maintenance
- Low cost on maintenance and operation
- High quality performance
- Quality certified construction
- Reliable, corrosion-proof, reinforced material
- Easy to store and carry
- GS, CE and NMMA certificated boat

This SOLSTICE inflatable boat manual will provide you with all of the easy instructions you need to follow in order to set up and operate this boat efficiently. If this is your first craft, or you are not familiar with this type of boat, please ensure that you obtain handling and operating experience before driving the craft. Your dealer or national sailing federation or yacht club will be pleased to advise you where to get training.

In addition to set-up instructions and operational guidelines, we have also included several very important Warning and Caution statements that pertain to the safe use and enjoyment of this new SOLSTICE inflatable boat. It is very important that you take the time to read them all. Please make certain that you understand the information contained in this Manual prior to initial use.

**Please retain this manual for future reference!**

### **Important Safety Guidelines** **Please read & understand prior to using boat**

To enhance the enjoyment of your boat and protect the safety of the operator using the product, **ALWAYS STRICTLY OBSERVE** the following important safety points.

1. **WARNING:** Boat designed for use in sheltered water only.
2. **WARNING:** This is not a life saving device. Use only under competent supervision. Never allow diving or jumping into this product. Never leave in or near the water when not in use. Never tow from any vehicle. Adult assembly and operation required.
3. **WARNING:** Inflating the product's chambers should be done in numbered sequence, do not over inflate. Excessive inflation of the product can cause the chambers to burst or cause damage to the seams. It is crucial that the boat's pressure be reduced during prolonged use in direct sun. Also, in cold conditions, the pressure may decrease and more air will need to be added to ensure proper inflation.
4. **WARNING:** Take a boating safety course and get hands-on training from your boat dealer or local boating authorities. Review all safety requirements regularly. Never navigate alone.
5. **WARNING:** A Personal Floatation Device (PFD) is required for each passenger. It is especially important that children and non-swimmers wear a Personal Floatation Device at all times. Children and non-swimmers need special instruction in the use of the Personal Floatation Device.
6. **WARNING:** Use caution when stepping or climbing aboard the boat. Step into the center of the boat for maximum stability. Distribute the weight of load and accessories evenly so that the boat sits level fore to aft and side to side.
7. **WARNING:** Do not use your boat if you suspect a puncture or leak. It may be unsafe.
8. **WARNING:** Beware of offshore winds and under-currents.

9. **WARNING:** The total number of persons and total weight shall not exceed the information printed on the boat. Do not exceed the maximum recommended capacities. Overloading violates regulations.
10. **WARNING:** It is the responsibility of the boat owner to identify and obey all local and state laws pertaining to boat safety **PRIOR** to use. Please consult your local authorities to ensure compliance.
11. Do not allow unattended children in the boat. Always make sure that at least one responsible adult is supervising all children and those who do not know how to swim **AT ALL TIMES**.
12. Always maintain the proper boat safety equipment.
13. Your boat is designed to be a storable, seasonal boat. If the boat will not be in use year-round, it is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** that you deflate the boat and dry it thoroughly, and store it in a protected area for the off-season. This will help extend your boats life and prevent a safety hazard from developing while the boat is not in use.
14. **WARNING: Certain household cleaning solvents, chemicals and other liquids (such as battery acid, oil and gasoline) could damage the PVC fabric. In the event of spill or mishandling, you should check for leaks and inspect for structural integrity. Use a mild soap to clean the boat, rinse thoroughly.**

## **ASSEMBLY**

1. Find a flat field and make sure that the area you have selected to set up the boat is completely free of stones, sticks, sharp objects or other foreign debris.
2. Carefully unfold the boat, spreading out the tubes and floor to make them as smooth as possible. **NOTE:** For ease of assembly, it is preferable to set up the boat on a warm and sunny day. If time permits, expose the unrolled boat to direct sunlight for 1 hour or more, so that the boat material will be more flexible during assembly. **CAUTION: DO NOT DRAG THE BOAT, AS IT MAY TEAR THE BOAT OR CAUSE OTHER DAMAGE.** We will not be held responsible for damage caused to the boat due to mishandling or failure to follow these instructions.
3. Slide the aluminum floor slats through the sleeves in the floor prior to inflating.
4. Inflate the boat's chambers in numbered sequences that are printed next to the valves. It is very important to follow the numbered sequence: Failure to do so will result in an improperly inflated boat. You can use a hand or foot operated air pump to inflate the boat. Do not use high-pressure air compressors. Inflate each air chamber in the number sequence until all chambers are full. **WARNING:** Do not over inflate. **Maximum pressure for all air chambers should be 0.15bar (2.17PSI).** Note: It is easier to install the bench seat when the boat is only partially inflated.



**A1**



**B**



**A2**

## **DIAGRAM #1**

5. Please see the Safety Valve Diagram #1. Inflation: Unscrew the valve cap (A1). Attach the air pump hose nozzle and twist to lock the hose to the valve. As each chamber is inflated detach the hose and screw in the valve cap (A2).
6. **Deflation:** Remove the Valve Cap (A1) push down the Deflation Button (B) and turn the valve clockwise by 90 degrees until it is locked. Release the valve and the air will flow out. If you want to stop deflation push down the Deflation Button (B) and turn it counter-clockwise by 90 degrees. The deflation will stop when the valve pops up. To fully deflate the boat for storage, use the deflation feature on your pump (inflator).

## **Operating Instructions**

Preparation before departing:

1. Acquire necessary information and inform other passengers:
  - A. Get information on local laws, regulation and hazards related to water activities and boat operation.
  - B. Check weather forecast, local currents, tides and wind conditions.
  - C. Advise someone on land of the time you plan to be back
  - D. Explain basic boat operation to all passengers.
  - E. Be sure that at least one of your passengers can operated the boat in case of emergency.
  - F. Learn how to determine the distance you can cover, and remember that bad weather conditions can alter this.
2. Check the working condition of the boat and equipment:
  - A. Check inflation pressure.
  - B. Inspect all safety valves.
  - C. Check the load is evenly distributed on deck of boat; bow to stern and side to side.
  - D. Do not exceed the recommended motor power maximum horsepower.

3. Check that required safety equipment is on board (check the laws and regulations of the country or locality in which you are boating):
  - A. One personal floatation device (PFD) for each passenger.
  - B. The air pump, oars & repair kit.
  - C. The boat papers and your boating license (if applicable).
  - D. Lights are required if operating after dark.

### **Disassembly**

1. Remove all accessories (seats, oars, motor mount, etc.).
2. Clean and dry the boat as previously instructed.
3. Open all valves and deflate boat completely.
4. Remove floor slats.
5. Fold the boat. Fold port and starboard sides in towards middle. Fold the boat from stern to bow.
6. Place boat and all accessories in carry bag for storage.

### **Trouble Shooting**

- If your boat appears to have lost air, first check that all valves are tightly shut. Also, notice if the temperature has cooled. As stated before, this may cause the pressure to decrease. If either of these have occurred, add air to return the boat to pressure.
- Sometimes the high pressure valve may become loose. To check this, use the supplied valve wrench in the repair kit to tighten the valve. Turn lightly in clockwise direction. (See diagram #2)



**Diagram #2**

- If you suspect a leak, visually inspect the boat. Some punctures are obvious. If you cannot easily detect any leaks, apply mildly soapy water around the boat and valve areas. Any leak will produce bubbles.

## **Repairs**

Small holes and punctures can be repaired with the provided repair kit.

1. Find the leak.
2. Deflate the boat.
3. Thoroughly clean and dry the surrounding area of dirt and grime.
4. Cut a piece of repair material in a round shape larger than the damaged area.
5. Use a pencil to lightly trace the outline of the patch over the hole area.
6. Apply adhesive to the underneath side of the patch and the area to be repaired. Coat both lightly but completely.
7. Put the repair patch on the damaged area and press down firmly.
8. Allow 12 hours to dry. After repair patch has dried, apply glue around the edges of the patch for a complete seal. Allow to dry 4 more hours.

After completing steps 1 through 8, the boat is ready to use.

### **INCLUDED PARTS**

- 1 boat
- 3 aluminum floor slats
- 1 aluminum bench seat
- 1 foot pump
- 1 repair kit with patching material and valve wrench
- 2 aluminum collapsible oars
- 1 carry bag
- 1 set instructions
- 1 warranty & certificate of origin card