



Frameless Pontoon Boat

Sea Eagle 285fpb

Instruction & Owner's Manual

For video instructions visit

SeaEagle.com/Instructions

or scan the QR code

Sea Eagle Boats Inc.

19 N. Columbia Street, Suite 1

Port Jefferson, NY 11777

1-800-748-8066

June 2026



Congratulations on purchasing a Sea Eagle!

With over 50 years of experience in designing, selling and using these quality inflatables, we're confident that you are going to love your Sea Eagle and we're ready to proudly stand behind them.

Sea Eagle Warranty

All Sea Eagle products come standard with a 3 year warranty against manufacturing defects. The warranty begins the date that your product is delivered.

See complete warranty details at SeaEagle.com/Warranty.

If you receive a damaged item, please call the shipping carrier to report the issue. Do not return damaged merchandise until it has been inspected by the carrier. Sea Eagle will be notified by the carrier when they have completed their inspection and if necessary, Sea Eagle will arrange for the repair or replacement of damaged merchandise.

Keep the shipping boxes if they are in serviceable condition until the end of the 120 trial period. Cut the tape and store the flattened boxes. Having the boxes or their dimensions could save shipping costs if you decide to return items.

Registration Decals and Numbers

Most states require a boat with a motor, including trolling motors, to be registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles, or at another office like Oregon's State Marine Board for example. ****The Sea Eagle 285fpb is rated for use with up to a 3hp long shaft engine.***

For most states, a Manufacturer's statement of Origin (MSO) and Bill of Sale (BOS) are needed for registration. The MSO is printed on blue safety paper with original signature. We typically place these documents in a protective pocket adhered to the outside of the boat box. Check the outside boat box for these documents before discarding the boxes. We are required to collect sales tax for most places we ship to in the United States and some countries. If we did not collect tax, it may be due when you register the boat.

Some boat specifications may be needed for registration, these can be found on the MSO and on page 4 of this document.

For Sea Eagle owners who purchased their boat from one of our dealers or affiliates, a copy of the Bill of Sale cannot be provided by Sea Eagle, it must be obtained from the dealer or affiliate, but Sea Eagle can supply a replacement MSO.

Boat registration stickers and numbers must be affixed to the boat in most jurisdictions. Registration stickers and vinyl numbers will not adhere well to an inflatable boat. Stretching from inflation and deflation causes vinyl numbers to peel off and the registration sticker to break up. We recommend gluing a plate for the sticker to the boat, using stencils and paint or a marker for the numbers, or purchasing a boat number plate online. Search the web for boat number registration plates for inflatable boats.

NICB

The hull identification number (HIN) for each boat Sea Eagle sells is registered quarterly with National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB). If stolen, authorities can search the national data base to see if anyone has registered the boat or it can be blocked from registration.

Contact Us

Unlike many other companies today we pride ourselves on answering the phone and helping you with any concerns, questions or special ordering needs that you may have! Feel free to give us a call and we will be happy to talk with you! Our business hours are Monday to Friday from 9AM to 5PM, EST.

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Get Ready for Boating

It is not possible to fully cover boat operation and safety in this owner's manual. We recommend boating safety education through reading, videos and mentorship from experienced boaters. Boating is challenging and inherently dangerous. Follow safe boat practices, be fit enough to meet the challenges, and prepared for any weather conditions that may occur. Build experience, start with small easy trips.

Boating Safety Course

In the United States, the Coast Guard is the authority on boating operation and safety. Many state and international requirements go beyond Coast Guard requirements including boating safety course and certification requirements. Call or visit local jurisdiction web sites for more information. Some states are requiring certification courses for operators of motorized boats.

Local Knowledge

Some agencies including parks and environmental protection departments may have special requirements. Be aware of dam release schedule, dangerous river hydraulic, tide flow issues, and gasoline motor restrictions.

Operator Responsibilities

The information in the owner's manual is supplied with the understanding that the boat will be operated using good seamanship with attention to safe loading, safe operating conditions, and safe speed. The manner in which the boat is loaded and operated is the responsibility of the operator.

Each Sea Eagle has a safety summary we call Boating Safety Basics printed on it. Please follow these suggestions and use good boating safety practices. In addition to the basics, we suggest you have a reasonable swimming ability and know that it is safer to go boating with a buddy. If you go alone, tell someone your float plan as described below. When possible, plan your trip so you go upwind on the way out and downwind on the way back.

Boating Safety Tips

- Wear a USCG approved PFD (life jacket) while on the water.
- Be aware of your local boating rules and regulations and abide by them.
- Check inflation levels each time before you go out and inflate your boat for a full 24 hours before undertaking long trips.
- DO NOT allow children to use your Sea Eagle unsupervised. Persons under 13 years of age must wear a life jacket.
- DO NOT consume alcohol while boating or operating a boat while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- DO NOT drag your Sea Eagle over pavement or cement (eg: parking lot or boat ramp) if it can be avoided.
- DO NOT exceed the certified maximum capacities of this boat.
- DO NOT go boating alone, if you are an inexperienced boater.
- DO NOT use compressors for tires or construction equipment. Use only air pumps (inflators) designed for use with inflatable boats and SUPs.
- DO NOT use your Sea Eagle Boat as a personal flotation device as they are not rated for that use.
- DO NOT sleep inside of your Sea Eagle while on the water.
- Bring a fully charged cell phone or other emergency contact device in a waterproof bag.
- Always tell someone of your boating plans.

Intended Use

The 285fpb is intended to be used for near-shore fishing. The primary intended forms of propulsion are small electric motors or gas engines. The provided oars are for short distance rowing on flatwater. The 285fpb is not intended for use in whitewater or surf.

Right of Way

Stay out of boat channels whenever possible. Be prepared to yield right of way to larger boats especially if the oncoming boat has structures such as cabins or open hatches that limit visibility of the waters ahead.

Safety Equipment & Safety Items

Personal Flotation Device (PFD) or "Life Jacket": Life Jacket or Paddle Vest PFD of correct size range is required for each passenger. Choose a PFD that is comfortable for you and wear it at all times. Stay hydrated, and take steps to cool off and avoid heat stroke, like wade or swim in the water. Statistics show that most drowning victims are relatively inexperienced boaters not wearing PFDs. Persons under 13 years old must wear a life jacket while on a boat.

Whistle: Every boat under 16' long must have a whistle or horn. Being heard by a passing boat can save your life. A whistle for each life jacket (PFD) is recommended.

SAFETY

Drinking Water & Snacks: Boating is a physical activity that can deplete your reserves. Have enough water and snacks to prevent dehydration and loss of stamina. Bring enough water for all passengers. Know the warning signs of dehydration and heat sickness such as dizziness and shaking.

Extra Clothes/Layers: Avoid deadly hypothermia. Water conducts heat faster than air, so go prepared with weather proof clothing especially if the water is cold. Use a “dry bag” to store extra clothing inside so they’re not damp when needed. Wear a wetsuit or drysuit when warranted.

First Aid-Kit: Contents of the kit may vary depending on your preferences but be sure to include items that match the hazards you are likely to encounter. A waterproof container is recommended.

Manual Pump/Repair Kit: Although our boats are both durable and rugged, it may be possible that you need to make a repair while on the water in which case you’ll need the repair kit and a manual pump to re-inflate the boat. How to make a field repair is covered in the owners manual and on the SeaEagle.com instructions page 19.

Sun/Rain Protection: A hat can protect both your face and head from the rain or sun. Sunscreen will help prevent serious damage to your skin from the sun and the sun’s reflection from the water. Reapply sunscreen as needed.

Float Plan & Phone: Similar to a pilot’s Flight Plan, consider having a Float Plan (www.floatplancentral.org), or text the information to a responsible person. Say where you are going to be boating and what time you plan to return. Keep a cell phone in a waterproof container that will float if it falls in the water, on a lanyard, or in life jacket pocket.

Navigation Lights: Fishing is often best at sunrise and after sunset, display navigation light(s) at night and at times of reduced visibility.

Valve Bulges and Cut Threads

There is a bulge or “blister” opposite the valve in drop-stitch air chambers. There are cut threads between the sides and floor chambers. These normal features are part of the manufacturing process for valve installation and chamber connection.

Creases

There may be creases in the material from packing the boat and accessories at the factory. They may appear to be white and show threads, but in most cases, they do not affect the integrity of the material and will ease out over time and become unnoticeable.

Motor Safety and Reboarding



Warning: Spinning propellers and carbon monoxide produced by gas engines can cause serious injury or death.

- Do not approach a running motor from the water.
- If you or your passenger falls overboard, **do not attempt to reboard in the motor mount area.**
- Turn engine off at a safe distance when approaching a swimmer in the water.
- Install propeller guard on gas motors

If the motor is equipped with an engine safety cutoff (kill) switch, the driver must attach the cable to themselves, either around the thigh or wrist, or to clothing (preferably a life jacket). In addition:

- Test regularly to ensure that the engine stops when the kill cord is pulled from the switch.
- Make sure that the kill cord is in good condition.
- Always attach the kill cord securely to the driver, ideally before the engine is started, but certainly before the boat is put in gear.
- Stop the engine before transferring the kill cord to another driver.
- Wireless kill switches are available and each passenger can wear one.

Reboarding:

To get back in the boat from the water, pull the boat around so you are in the front of the boat. Put both arms inside boat and grab the footrest. Allow legs to extend outward parallel to the surface of the water. With one smooth effort, pull with your arms and scissor kick with legs to launch your body into the boat. Turn over and pull legs into boat.

SAFETY

Warning Labels

The following warnings are displayed on the boat:



 **Warning:** This product can expose you to chemicals including DEHP (Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate), which is known to the state of California to cause Cancer, Birth Defects or other reproductive harm. For more information go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov

 **Warning:** Solvents used in materials contained in this product such as methyl ethyl ketone, toluene and acetone are known to cause disease in humans. Off gassing of solvents is most concentrated when the product is new, open packaging in well ventilated area and avoid transportation in enclosed vehicle with occupants when new.

Compliance

Sea Eagle boats comply with ABYC Standards, US Coast Guard standards for recreational boats and NMMA certification requirements.

OPERATING YOUR SEA EAGLE

Capacity Ratings and Dimensions:

Persons: 1 Person

Total Weight Capacity: 450 lbs

Maximum Engine Rating: 3 HP, Long Shaft recommended for gas engine.

Trolling Motor: Minimum 30 lb thrust, 32" shaft length

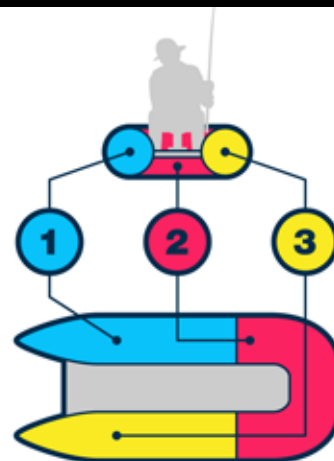
Chambers: 3

Length: 8'6"

Boat Weight: 33 lbs (65 lbs with floorboard, motor mount, oars, seat & rod holders.)

Width: 4'0"

Material: Reinforced PVC



Construction

The 285fpb air chambers are constructed of reinforced 1000 denier PVC coated fabric. Denier refers to the weight of the reinforced fabric. The air chamber material is 0.90 mils thick and the floor is 1.1 mils. Seams are glued or a combination of welded with glued ends. Seams construction is "quadruple overlap" which is a butt joint with a layer of seam tape inside and out.

Working Pressure

The working pressure for the 285fpb is 3.2 PSI (.22 bar). While achieving this exact pressure may be challenging, the boat is capable of safely accommodating a range of pressures, so slightly over- or under-inflating is acceptable..



Warning: Over pressurization could lead to catastrophic failure and sudden release of compressed air. Serious injury to persons nearby could result.



As air is compressed it heats up and expands. Warm air occupies more volume than cool air. If the water is cold, warm air in the boat will shrink and some rigidity will be lost. Allow a few minutes for the boat to cool off in the water, and if needed, top it off with enough pump strokes to bring it back up to pressure. The boat could also appear to lose pressure overnight if the nighttime temperature drops significantly below the daytime temperature.

Footpump Inflation

There is no gauge on the footpump, so how do you know if there is too much or too little air in the boat? New users typically underinflate the 285fpb when using the footpump. When fully inflated; the chambers will feel very tight, there will be no wrinkles in the sides, and the floor will not be sagging. You'll need to put your weight into the pump for the final strokes. Do not stomp on the pump and break it, but there must be strong resistance from the bellows.

A pressure gauge is available on Sea Eagle's website. A digital, solar powered gauge Trib Model HR is available from Flated.com.

The 285fpb holds a lot of air! Inflating with the manual pump is hard work and takes approximately 15 minutes with breaks to inflate the boat. The exercise from inflating the boat may be valuable, but often boating time is limited and it is better to get out on the water as quickly as possible. An electric pump is recommended for achieving that goal.



Caution: Inflating the boat manually is physically demanding. Pace yourself. If you feel uncomfortable, stop and rest, do not proceed if you are having a health issue.

Electric Pump Inflation

To save time, labor, and guesswork, inflate the 285fpb using an electric pump for inflatable boats and SUPs such as Sea Eagle's two-stage ADA pump. Requirements:

- automatic shutoff.
- hose needs to accommodate a "recessed" or Halkey-Roberts-type valve adapter. Typically, these adapters are hook-in style, and have a choice of flexible gaskets to prevent air from leaking between the valve and adapter. Bravo pumps require a black or red gasket. Most other manufacturer's adapters come with a choice of milky white gaskets. The thinnest gasket works best with Sea Eagle valves.
- For the 285fpb, set the pressure to 3.0 or 3.5 psi. Digital gauges cannot be set to 3.2.

If an electric pump for air mattresses or low pressure inflatables is used, a foot pump or hand pump must be used to get the boat up to the working pressure.



Danger: Chamber may fail with explosive force if air compressors designed for construction tools, tire inflation, or workshop tools is used to inflate the 285fpb. Serious bodily injury could result. Only use air pumps designed for inflatable boats and SUPs.

Avoid Damage



Caution: avoid the following hazards which can damage an inflatable:



- **Do not scuff** a folded boat on an abrasive surface such as a cement floor, asphalt parking lot, and cement boat ramp. Protruding folds and creases are easily damaged. Carry or wheel the Sea Eagle from the vehicle to the setup point, and then into the water when assembled.
- **Do not drag** an inflated Sea Eagle on an abrasive surface such as a parking lot or boat ramps.
- **Rubbing wheels** from cart, dolly, or trailer can do a lot of damage, be sure the boat is clear of the wheels. Strap the EZ Cart as shown in the instructions.
- **Ratchet strap** damage. When using a ratchet strap to secure an inflatable, use a protective pad between the boat and ratchet mechanism to prevent a puncture. Repair kit patch material is ideal for this purpose.
- **Bolts, screws, and other hardware** can puncture. Follow instructions when screwing hardware into glue-on pads. Do not use screws longer than recommended. Resulting damage is difficult to repair and not covered under manufacturer's warranty.
- **Dock and Pilings:** hold the boat away from the dock or use fenders to prevent punctures. Docks and pilings may have exposed nails, screws, and marine life such as barnacles or oysters that can puncture an inflatable. Boat bumpers or fenders are recommended to protect the boat from damage while tied to a dock.
- **Submerged hazards** during periods of low water such as discarded signs, concrete, and shopping carts can cause damage. River rocks and sticks usually will not damage Sea Eagles, but can if hit with enough force.
- **Hot exhaust and exhaust pipes** can melt an inflatable. Do not transport the boat in a hitch-mount box that is close to the vehicle's exhaust pipe. Do not place the boat near an RV's electrical generator exhaust pipe. Avoid unfolding or inflating a boat near to a hot vehicle exhaust pipe. Melting damage is often unrepairable.
- **Fish Spines.** Many species of fish have sharp spines that can puncture an inflatable. Keep fighting fish away from the side of the boat. Do not drop fish onto the inflatable chambers. When possible, use a net to land a fish.

PVC is resistant to the harmful effects of liquids such as gasoline, solvents and cleaning solutions. Prolonged exposure to gasoline from a leaking fuel tank, for example, will degrade the surface layer.

Motor Selection

The 285fpb can take an electric trolling motor or small, long shaft gas engine up to 3 hp. Because of its light weight, the 285fpb only needs a small trolling motor such as the Watersnake Venom 34 or Minn Kota Endura 30.

Gas Powered Engines

Some of the advantages of gas engines over electric trolling motors include; increased range, ample power against a headwind, and they do not require a heavy marine deep cell battery or expensive lithium ion batteries. Disadvantages include; high initial cost, maintenance costs and gasoline storage. Due to the large diameter of the chamber, long shaft works best. A short-shaft will work only at low speed and the boat must be weighted towards the rear, otherwise the propeller will pull air down from the surface.

The 285fpb is a “displacement hull” that does not plane, it pushes up a wave at the bow and cannot overcome the wave. A gas engine can provide more power than the 285fpb can take advantage of. In calm conditions, the speed of the boat is limited to its hull speed of approximately 4 mph. Beyond a certain setting, approximately ¼ throttle, the motor may shake, ventilate (pull air down to the propeller), or the sound may change to a deep rumbling with no increase in speed (lugging). For these reasons, using more than a small motor (like a Honda 2.3 hp) is not needed.

Torqeedo, ePropulsion and Similar Transom Mounted Electric Motors

We recommend the long-shaft version of these motors to prevent “ventilation.” Short-shaft versions of these motors can experience ventilation or loss of power at near full throttle. Ventilation occurs when the large diameter (10-11”) propeller pulls air down from the surface causing it to lose its grip and spin in an air pocket. The long-shaft does not ventilate, it operates smoothly at all speeds. Shaft lengths can vary between manufacturers, so we recommend the “long-shaft” designation instead of a specific measurement.

If you're concerned about the propeller hitting the bottom, use a propeller guard, or operate a short shaft motor at low speeds.

Electric Trolling Motor

Trolling motors are ideal for the 285fpb. Some advantages of trolling motors are; their low cost, light weight, ease of storage, low maintenance requirements, quiet operation, and usability in bodies of water that prohibit gas engines.

There are some basic features to know in order to understand electric motors. The thrust rating of the motor is usually its maximum electrical draw in amps. A 30 lb thrust motor draws about 30 amps on the highest setting. To extend range, operate the motor on a lower setting. For example, the Watersnake Venom 34 has five settings, and draws approximately 12 amps on the #3 power setting. According to Minn Kota, their trolling motor propellers are pitched to push a boat at approximately 4 mph. A larger thrust motor will not appreciably raise the speed of the boat, but could help in a strong headwind.

In a river or tidal current, the 285fpb cannot make progress against a current that is more than its hull speed or the speed of the trolling motor. Forward speed will vary depending on conditions, but if the current is moving faster than the boat can go, it cannot make headway and may go backwards relative to land. Because of the limits of a displacement hull, adding a larger motor may not be effective.

Battery Selection

A wide range of acceptable batteries are available. The battery must be 12 volt (unless otherwise stated by the manufacturer), deep cycle, and between about 20 and 120 Amp Hours (Ah). Amp hours is a very important number, if the battery you are looking at doesn't clearly state the amp hours, it may not be suitable. A 12v deep cycle lead-acid battery, personal watercraft battery, electric vehicle (wheelchair) battery, or lithium ion battery is acceptable. A Group 24 lead-acid battery or smaller is recommended for the 285fpb. Group 24 batteries weigh approximately 50 lbs and hold approximately 75 Ah of charge. Bigger batteries, like Group 27 batteries weigh approximately 60 lbs, hold approximately 100 Ah, but can be difficult to safely manage in a small inflatable boat.

- To determine a motor's approximate run time, divide the amp hour rating by the motor or thrust amperage. For example, a battery rated at 60 Ah connected to a 30 amp motor will last approximately two hours at full speed.

Note: this number will vary depending on conditions.

- Not more than 85% discharge is recommended. Multiply the above by 0.85 to get best run time. Running the battery all the way down will shorten its life.

Trolling Motors Battery Features and Safety

Lead Acid/Gel Cell (AGM) Batteries

- Charge battery after each use. Lead acid batteries like to be kept charged.
- Exposure to excessive heat will shorten battery life.
- Cold Cranking Amps (CCA) and starting power are not a consideration. 12v automobile, lawn tractor and motorcycle batteries can be used but are not designed for deep discharge and will wear out more quickly.
- A simple battery box is recommended, especially around aluminum paddle shafts which could cause an electrical short. A battery box will keep bare skin and clothes protected if any acid leaks from the battery.
- A circuit breaker provides important protection to the motor. See Circuit Breaker section below.
- Positive (+) red wire connects to positive (+) battery terminal. Black wire to negative terminal (-).
-  **Caution:** Do not attach the motor wires to the wrong battery terminals. Connecting to the wrong terminals can cause wires to heat up, melting the insulation and cutting through the boat.
- A 12v battery charger will be needed. A charger with at least three phases: fast charge, slow charge and maintenance is recommended. Chargers are widely available and prices range widely.
- Choose gel cell over wet cell. Gel will be less likely to leak acid, get ruined if submerged, and can be stowed on its side.
- For some, two small batteries are better than one large, heavy one. A small backup battery can be helpful too.
- Higher quality batteries will be somewhat lighter, the internal cells will charge and discharge evenly, and they will last longer (more charge/discharge cycles) than cheaper ones.

Lithium Iron Phosphate (LiFePO₄) batteries have a lot of advantages for inflatable boats, even if they are more expensive than lead batteries. They are much lighter weight, they fully discharge with very little dropoff in power, and will last longer (more charge/discharge cycles).

- According to WaterSnake, output of above 14.5 volts could damage switches and to avoid prolonged use at full power.
- According to Minn Kota, lithium iron phosphate batteries maintain a higher voltage than lead batteries. They recommend not running the motor at speeds above 85% for prolonged periods to avoid damaging the motor.
- Excessive heat is damaging to lithium batteries. Avoid charging or stowing lithium batteries in hot areas.
- Keep flammable items away from stored batteries.
- Look for a trolling motor battery with a gauge that indicates charge level or blue tooth connection to a phone app so charge level can be checked.
- Do not use a battery box with internal wiring for lithium batteries.
- Recharge the battery with a charger designed for charging lithium batteries.
-  **Caution:** Avoid fire hazard. Select a battery that is ISO 9001:2015, CE, or UL 2054 certified, and meet ABYC standards.

Circuit Breaker to Prevent Overload Destruction of Trolling Motors

A circuit interrupter (breaker or fuse) is needed to protect against electrical overload, reverse polarity, or short circuits. Overload can happen when the propeller gets bound up in weeds, fishing line, or anchor line. The battery will keep providing electric current until the motor burns out. Often smoke can be smelled or seen when this happens. Overload can damage the motor beyond repair. Also, protection of an ungrounded current-carrying conductor is a Coast Guard requirement.

Check the trolling motor manual for the circuit interrupter size recommendation. If the manufacturer's information is not available, get one that has an amperage rating that is more than the thrust rating, but as close to the thrust rating as possible. For example, if the motor is rated at 45 lbs thrust, the closest rated breaker may be rated for 50 or 60 amps.

Steering

The 285fpb takes some practice to operate smoothly, installing fins, skegs, etc., generally don't do much to change handling characteristics of the 285fpb.

Avoid trying to push the boat beyond its maximum hull speed. As the speed comes close to the maximum for the hull length, control will become very difficult as the boat tries to overcome the bow wave. When this is happening, the speed control must be dialed back. When trolling and trying to maintain a course, move the tiller with very small corrections.

High winds will make steering the boat difficult. Stay close to shore and in the lee of the land when possible.

Tiller and Steering Comfort

Since the motor is located directly behind the seat, it can be challenging for some users to steer the boat comfortably using the tiller. We recommend a Sea Eagle Side Steering Arm or a tiller extension handle with a universal joint like the Ironwood Pacific 0010 Helmsmate U Joint.

Here is a tip from Hawaiian Dan:

Part of controlling the boat is the need to get used to how to steer it. Trying to steer the 285fpb like a regular boat often results in over reaction and then over compensation.

It's a very short, very buoyant hull. Maybe unlike anything you have used before. It is incredibly responsive which takes time getting used to. There's usually a screw knob on trolling motors that works as a steering friction tensioner. Tighten it down a little to increase the friction to keep steering input minimal.

Practice just going straight for a while, then turn over and over again. Get used to how little input is needed to steer. Think micro steering input.

Tiller Extension

Since the motor is located directly behind the seat, it can be challenging for some users to steer the boat comfortably. We recommend a tiller extension handle with universal joint, like Sea Eagle's Trolling Motor Side Steering Arm or the Ironwood Pacific 0010 Helmsmate U Joint.

Motor Trim

Motor trim should be set at the innermost setting for the 285fpb.

Motor Depth

Sea Eagle conducts water trials to determine optimal transom height and provide recommendations for motor shaft length. The large diameter of the 285fpb's chambers necessitates the use of long-shaft motors.

When setting depth for a trolling motor, adjust it so the propeller remains submerged—avoiding both breaking the surface and pulling air down—but not so deep that it risks hitting the bottom before the boat is near the shore.

Anchor Selection

An 8 lb mushroom anchor, river anchor or folding grapnel anchor are sufficient for the 285fpb. Depending on the depth of the water, 24 feet of 5/16" twisted or braided anchor line is sufficient. If the water depth exceeds 20 feet or so, then more line will be needed. If you use an anchor with sharp points, be careful not to puncture the boat, especially in rough water which may cause anchor to bounce around.

Weight Distribution

Boat should be level in the water when loaded with motor, battery, gear and passenger. Place floorboard in boat with the front edge of the Quick Release Seat Mount lined up with the floorboard hold down grommets. If too much weight is in the back, the front will tilt upward making steering control difficult. Move the floorboard forward or aft to level the boat.

Rowing

The most effective rowing is done when pulling on the oars, not pushing them.



Caution: Avoid collision. When rowing you are pulling on the oars and facing opposite the direction of travel. Look around frequently to avoid hazards such as on-coming boats.

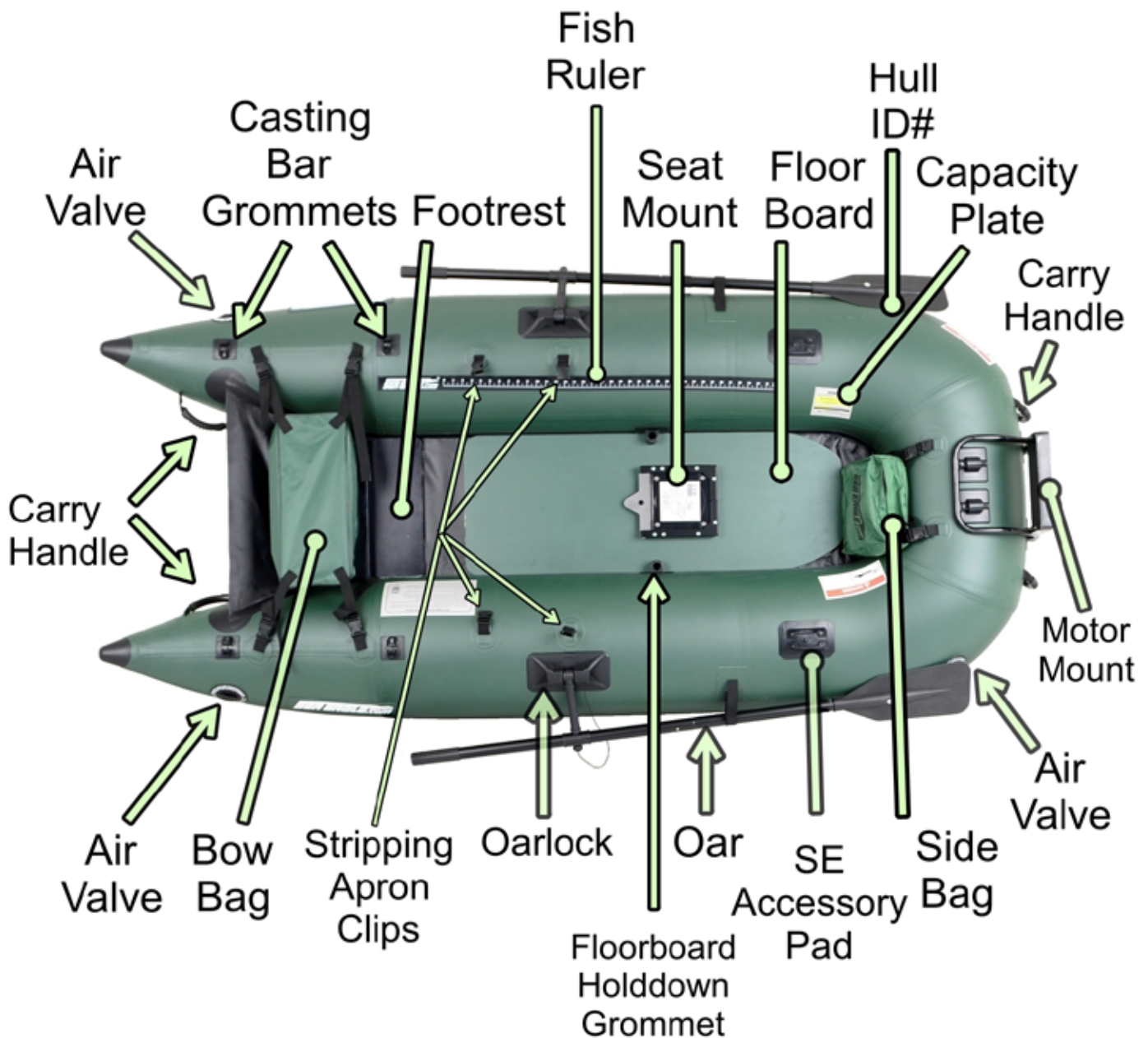
OPERATING YOUR SEA EAGLE

Invasive Species Control

If the boat is to be used in multiple waterways, drain, wash off aquatic growth, rinse, disinfect, and allow it to air dry (when possible) between uses. Boat is resistant to cleaning chemical disinfectants and it can be rinsed with hot water. Bleach diluted in water is effective but corrosive to metal and can discolor seats and other fabrics. Quaternary ammonium products "quat" are considered to be effective (Clean Quick, Lysol No Rinse Sanitizer) and noncorrosive.

For detailed information on preventing the spread of invasive plants and animals and specific local requirements, contact the local fish and wildlife authority or visit their website.

285fpb Features



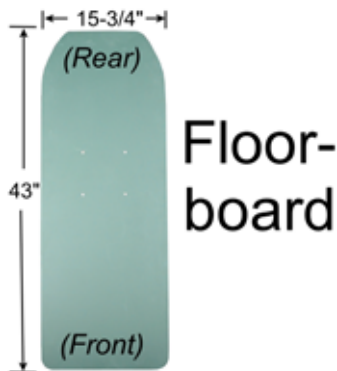
285fpb| SETUP: One Time Assembly

Some items that require one time assembly. Once installed they can remain in place when the boat is folded.

**Not all items described below are included with all boat packages.



Tools (needed one-time setup)
#2 or #3 Phillips Tip Screwdriver
7/16" Wrench or Adjustable Wrench

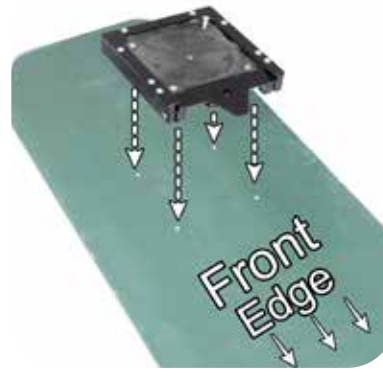


Floorboard (FB285)
The floorboard is 1/2" plywood with non-skid textured coating on the top surface. It has four holes for attaching the Quick Release Seat Mount. The rear (aft) corners are tapered.



Quick Release Seat Mount and Hardware
Seat Mount (SEATMNT16)

Hardware for mounting quick release:
4 - 1/4 20 x 1-1/2" flat head bolts (PHILFLAT)
4 - 1/4 20 T-nuts (TNUT)



Insert Flat Head Bolts
Insert flat head bolts through their holes in the Quick Release. With the rough side of the board facing up, align Quick Release with the bolt holes. The locking tab points to the front edge of the board. Lower the mount so bolts drop into the holes.



Insert T-Nuts
Holding the mount in place, turn the board onto its edge. Match the T-nuts with their bolts. Use a finger to hold the bolt while turning the T-nut.

Note: if a hole is partially covered by filler or paint, clear it with a screwdriver, round file, or drill bit. Hole diameter is 5/16".



Tighten Bolts
Use the Philips screwdriver to tighten the bolts. Hold T-nut with fingers or a wrench if needed.



Accessory Bases
Hardware for mounting Scotty Deck/Side Mount
8 - 1/4 20 x 7/8" pan head bolts (BOLTACC78)

Note: The Rod Holder Base has a quick release button.



The Anchor Lock Base uses a twist lock system. Operation see page 15.



Low Profile

Low profile bases such as YakAttack MightyMount Switch, RailBlaza Starport HD and others use 5/8" screws.



Caution: When screwing into non-Sea Eagle pads, use the recommended screws to avoid puncturing the boat.



Securing a Scotty Base

Position the base with the arrow or button pointing towards the center of the boat (inboard). Use a Phillips screwdriver to tighten and secure the base.



Caution: Puncture hazard, do not screw the bolts in unless the base is in place.



Attach Pedestal to Seat Swivel

Hardware:
Swivel Seat (SWSEATGRN)
7" Pedestal (PEDESTAL)
4 - 1/4 - 20 x 1/2" carriage bolt (BOLTCAR12)
4 - 1/2 - 20 locking nut (LOCKNUT)

Offset the swivel base so you have enough room to insert the screws and thread the nuts. Tighten the nuts securely.



Caution: Lay the seat on its side. Rotate the swivel to offset the plates. Attach the pedestal to swivel with the 1/2" bolts and locking nuts. Hand tighten nuts until all the bolts are inserted. Use a 7/16" or adjustable wrench to tighten.



Before each use, visually check all screws and bolts that attach the swivel to the plastic seat bottom and those attaching the swivel to the pedestal. Tighten as needed. Loose fasteners could lead to a fall and injury.

Spray seat swivels bearings with lubricating oil or grease as needed to maintain smooth operation. Check the locking lever spring for rust. Replace seat if spring is damaged. Tighten loose bolts. Replace seat if swivel screws pull out of the plastic seat, they cannot be retightened.



Using the Recessed Valves:

Remove the cap to access the valve stem.



Press and turn the stem counterclockwise so it can pop UP. When the stem is up, the valve is closed and will hold air.

To let air escape for deflation, press and turn the stem clockwise 1/4 turn to lock open.



Setup: A41 Large Bellows Foot Pump

The A41 foot pump comes with a Recessed Valve Adapter. A spare adapter is in the repair kit too.

Adapters have either a red or black gasket. Black gasket, which is thinner, may work better with 285fpb.



Using the A41 Large Bellows Foot Pump:
Open the pump by pushing down and releasing the black clip.



Slide the ribbed end of the Recessed Valve Adapter to the open end of the hose.



Screw hose into OUT port on pump. Make sure it is threaded in correctly and firmly for a good seal.



Locate an area large enough to safely unfold the 285fpb. Check that the area is free of hazards that could injure you or damage the boat.



Floorboards

Lay floorboard in boat. Line up front edge of seat release with floorboard holddowns. Board can go further forward or aft but this is a good position to start with. Holddowns must not be under floorboard.



Floorboard Holddowns

Holddowns must not be under the board, pull them clear of the board so they are pointing upward on both sides of the floorboard.



Close Valve

Close the valves. Twist the valve stem 1/4 turn in either direction and allow the stem to pop up. This will close the valve for inflation.



Inflation

- Inflate side chambers first. Firmly push the valve adapter into the valve and turn it clockwise to lock the hose in.
- With the footpump, pump air into the chamber with smooth strokes. Pump until chamber is very firm.

See page 5 for inflation tips.



Inflate side chambers one at a time until the hold-down secures the board. Correct any shifting during inflation. If using the footpump: inflate until more air cannot be forced into the chamber. Pump with gauge: 3.0-3.5 psi.



As the chamber inflates, the floorboard hold down will move over the top of the board. **Before inflating the rear chamber, install the motor mount (optional).**



Slide Mount Into Lower Grommets

Motor Mount (Optional) While the rear chamber is deflated or partially inflated, slide the motor mount bars into lower grommets.



Slide Mount Into Grommets

Slide upper motor mount bars into top grommets. Push bars onto the grommets until they are fully seated.



Inflate the rear chamber. Boat should be wrinkle free and floor should not droop in the front between the chambers. Push footrest and floorboard down tight against the black vinyl floor.



Caution: Avoid breaking oarlock. Underinflation can cause the oarlocks to bind while rowing. The increase friction may cause the axle to back out.



Swivel Seat (Optional)

Slide base of the pedestal into seatmount until you hear it lock.



Caution: Check nuts and tighten if necessary before each use.



Slide pedestal with seat onto seatmount. When pedestal is fully pushed into seatmount, the locking tab will pop down with a click.

If pedestal is hard to slide, refer to Troubleshooting, page 19.



To remove seat, lift the locking tab and slide pedestal out.



Turn Anchor Lock so anchor hangs overboard. An 8-12 lb. mushroom or river anchor works well with the 285fpb. Pay out enough line (rope) so that the anchor can lay on its side and dig into the bottom.



Sea Eagle Accessory Pads

Two pads are installed on top of the rear chamber. The SE pads protect the boat from puncture. Use with a base, like Scotty Deck Mount, to attach rod holders, anchor lock, fish finder display, transducer arm, camera mounts, etc.



Side Bags and Stripping Apron

285fpb is equipped with Sea Eagle bow bag, stripping apron, and side bag. As supplied, the male half of the clips are clipped into the female bases attached to the boat. It is easiest to attach straps to the clips while the clips are in their bases.



Scotty® Base Quick Release Button:

Push stem into base until it clicks. To rotate or remove rod holder, press button and pull rod holder upwards. To adjust rod angle, loosen large black knob until teeth clear grooves. Adjust angle and retighten.



Start by running the strap up through the top slot in the clip.



Scotty® Anchor Lock Base:

Line up the slot in the stem with key in the base. Slide stem into base. To spin the Anchor Lock, lift slightly and turn it. To remove it, turn it until the key and slot line up and pull it out.



Run the strap down through the bottom slot and pull tight. The clip can be ejected by squeezing the sides together.



Oars

The pair of two-part oars snap together quickly.



Caution: Pinching Hazard. Keep skin clear of joint when pushing oar shafts together.



Hold the pin down and insert the blade end into the handle end of the oar until the two parts snap together and the pin pops out of the hole locking the pieces together.



Attach oars to boat by inserting the oar lock pin through the hole in the oar.

Screw the ball tightly to secure oar.

Use the hook & loop closure to keep the oars strapped in place when not in use.



Trolling Motor and Power Center (Optional)

Secure motor to the motor mount by simply tightening the clamps. To install Minn Kota motors with butterfly screw heads, push down on the motor to make enough room for the butterfly clear the grommet. The Minn Kota Power Center or other battery box can be placed behind the seat. If more room is needed to clear the seat, deflate sides and slide floorboard forward

Your Sea Eagle 285fpb is ready to go!

285fpb Pro



285fpb Watersnake Motor



285fpb Honda Motor



285fpb Bixpy Motor





Place the boat onto the Boat Bag. Line up the straps with the oarlocks as shown. Remove seat, oars and Scotty accessories.



Fold the second side on top of the first and force air out. Make a crease in the boat just in front of the Scotty® rod holders.



To deflate, push down on the valve stem and quarter turn it to the right or left. The stem will stay in the down position, allowing the air to escape.

! *Caution:* Air escapes with force, do not place face directly over valve.



Fold the back of the boat up at the crease.



As the boat deflates, remove motor mount and floorboard.



Fold the front of the boat at the footrest as shown. All four screws for the footrest will be visible. Fold the end caps inward so one rests on the other.



Fold one side of the boat over the floor. Press down on the boat to force air out.



Fold the back section over the front fold and into the center of the bag.

285fpb | DEFLATION



Pull the end flaps on top of folded boat. Run strap through both loops, then back through the first loop and pull tight. Repeat with second strap.



Pull the side flaps over the end flaps and secure with the straps.

27 x 24 x 16"

285fpb | CLEANING & PROTECTING

Dry after each use to avoid mold. **While washing or rinsing: close the valve and twist the cap on so water cannot enter the chamber.** Sea Eagles can be cleaned very effectively with general purpose cleaning products and a scrub brush. Towel dry.

Protection from the Sun and Heat

Avoid leaving the boat in direct sunlight when ashore. Temperatures on a beach, dock, davit, etc. can get very high, which could affect the vinyl or glue. Excessive exposure to sun and heat can cause your Sea Eagle to become sticky or cause the glue to fail.

Treat the boat with a UV protectant such as 303 Aerospace Protectant. Generally, protectants are a thin film of oil, which will help keep your Sea Eagle clean and protected from UV damage. Avoid applying protectant on the EVA pad or places where foot traction is needed. Treated boat will repel sand, water scum and tar stains.

285fpb | STORAGE

If you're planning to leave your Sea Eagle outside, keep it raised off the ground and covered so it is not exposed to sunlight, rain, leaves, berries, bird droppings, etc.

Storage Tips: "The best way to store a Sea Eagle is folded up in it's bag". - Cecil Hoge, Jr., Sea Eagle President

- Check for water in the chambers. Water will leak out of open valves when it is rolled up.
- Water left inside can leak out and cause a lot of mold. Dry thoroughly to prevent mold.
- Rodent-proof the storage area. Mice, squirrels and other small rodents can do a lot of damage.
- Avoid excess heat. Do not store in direct sunlight, in an attic or a metal shed.
- In temperatures below freezing, do not drop, strike or unroll until it is brought to room temperature.
- It can be stored inflated. If hung, support it along its length.
- After storage, inspect for loose items, damage and leaks.
- Climate controlled storage is preferred.

285fpb | TROUBLE SHOOTING



Troubleshoot Valve Adapter

Adapter will not turn in valve opening. Remove red gasket and twist it tightly to stretch it. Once broken in, adapter will turn easily.



Reinstall gasket, groove must be facing outward. Press adapter into valve opening with force and turn it to the right.

If valve opens and air rushes out when removing adapter, pull on hose then twist adapter to left.

Troubleshoot Loss of Pressure

If your Sea Eagle has lost pressure, it does not necessarily mean it is leaking. If it is inflated during the heat of the day and the temperature drops during the night it will be softer in the morning. If launching in very cold water, the air inside may contract and cause a loss of pressure. Add more air to restore to full pressure. If temperature is not a factor and your boat is losing air pressure, it's time to look for a leak. Follow these 4 steps to help locate the leak.

Step #1. LOOK

Visually inspect the boat close up and if necessary, flip it over and closely check the outside. Any large leaks when your boat loses a considerable amount of air should be clearly visible.

Step #2. LISTEN

If you have a rough idea of where your leak is but can't see it, you may want to try listening for it as you may be able to hear the air escaping and pinpoint the leak.

Step #3. TIGHTEN

Check the tightness of the one-way recessed valves as well and if necessary, tighten them with the valve tool included in the repair kit canister.



Step #4. SOAPY WATER TEST

You'll need a bucket and liquid dish washing soap. Fill the bucket with clear water, add a good squirt of soap (tablespoon) to the water. Inflate the leaking chamber to working pressure. Spread lots of soapy water on the leaking chamber with a hand towel or large sponge. Don't assume the leak is coming

from the valve or seams. The leak may produce bubbles, make hissing or sputtering noises, or spray water. *Spray bottles are not effective at locating many leaks.*



Tighten Valve

Insert valve tool into valve opening. The valve has a base inside. Tightening is best done when boat is inflated which keeps base from spinning. If chamber will not hold air, stand with feet on either side of valve to hold base.



Press on center of valve tool with free hand to keep from breaking the teeth off the tool.

If loosening a very tight valve, an extension tube might be needed.



Pedestal Difficult to Slide

If the pedestal is hard to slide into the seatmount, apply a coat of silicone spray along the edge of pedestal base (top and bottom). Spray along the edges of the seatmount too.

285fpb | REPAIRS

Even though Sea Eagles are very rugged and tough, you may still experience the occasional puncture. Fortunately most repairs are fairly easy and only take a few minutes. For extensive repairs, please contact us directly to provide you with further assistance. The best way to do this is to e-mail us a digital photo of the area in question along with your hull identification number to staff@seaeagle.com.

You can also call us directly at **1-800-748-8066** and ask to speak with Technical Support for further assistance or a quote for having your boat mailed to our facilities for our professional repair services.

Sea Eagle repair fees start at \$75.00 and do not include return shipping charges. Please note that Sea Eagle does not service any other brand other than our own. All items sent to our repair facilities must have prior authorization in the form of a Return Authorization Number.



Repair Kit

All Sea Eagles come standard with a repair kit which includes PVC patches and PVC glue for inflatable boats. Repair kits also include a valve tool, spare adapter and 8 Scotty glue-on pad screws.



Trace the outline of a penny on the patch material and on the boat. If a larger patch is needed, use a larger item as a template.



PVC Based Glue

To patch your Sea Eagle, use an adhesive for PVC boats. Plumber's cement, epoxy, Flex Seal, water-proofing sprays and Gorilla Glue do not work.

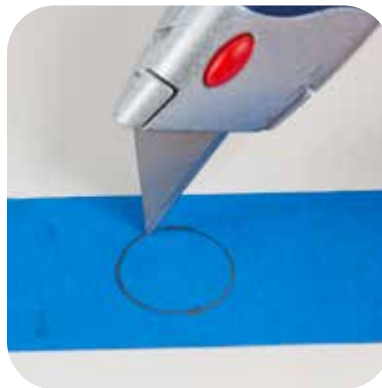


Cut patch along the outline with scissors.



Pinholes

Deflate the boat and thoroughly clean and dry the area that is to be repaired. For small punctures less than 1/8" apply a small drop of glue and allow 24 hours to cure.



Pro Tip: Trace the outline of the penny on masking tape and cut with a utility knife. Apply tape to the boat instead of tracing on the boat.



Patching

The most common repairs are a puncture or small cut. A penny size patch is sufficient for repairs of this type.



Apply glue to the patch and boat. Allow to dry 15 minutes. Glue must be dry to the touch. If glue layer is thin, apply second coat, allow to dry 15 minutes.



Apply patch to the boat. Smooth with finger or a smoothing tool such as a spoon, handle of a utility knife, or screwdriver. For best results, heat patch with a hair dryer 10-20 seconds and smooth with tool.

Patching Tips:

- The chamber must be deflated or the air will force a path through the glue.
- Keep the patch size to a minimum, the bigger the patch, the harder it is to seal. The most common repair failures occur because the patch is too big.
- For repairs larger than a puncture, overlap the damage area by about ½" on each side.
- Do not apply the patch while the glue is wet.
- Covering a leaking patch with another patch rarely fixes the problem. To remove a patch, heat it with a hair dryer and peel it off.
- For field repairs, allow at least an hour to cure. Other repairs, allow to cure overnight.
- Patches can be removed by heating with a hairdryer.
- **Never** use a heat gun on your boat.
- Clamps and weights are not needed.

For a demonstration of good patching technique, please view the **How to Repair** video on the instruction page of our web site. There is a link at the bottom of every page at **SeaEagle.com** or type "instructions" into the search box.

Contact Us

Unlike many other companies today we pride ourselves on answering the phone and helping you with any concerns, questions or special ordering needs that you may have! Feel free to give us a call at **1-800-748-8066** and we will be happy to talk with you! Our business hours are Monday to Friday from 9AM to 5PM, EST.

Sea Eagle Boats Inc.

19 N. Columbia Street, Suite 1
Port Jefferson NY 11777

1-800-748-8066
staff@seaeagle.com

Sea Eagle offers an array of accessories for your 285fpb.



Casting Bar

Casting Bar

Casting or "lean" bar for stability while standing and casting. The strong tubular frame is easy to install. Boats from model year 2025 and newer have the mounting grommets. Casting Bar is adjustable in the fore and aft direction.



Honda Motors (OPTIONAL)

Get the superior range of a Honda 2.3 Long Shaft gas engine for your 285fpb.



Electric Trolling Motors (OPTIONAL)

The 285fpb is perfectly suited for electric trolling motors. The lightweight WaterSnake Venom 34 provides sufficient power to quietly propel the boat up to near its maximum speed. Alternatively, for those seeking higher thrust combined with superior power conservation, we recommend the WaterSnake's Advance 70 brushless motor.



Scotty® Fishing Accessories (Optional)

Vast array of Scotty® products are available for your 285fpb, including Transducer Mounts, Rod Holders, Sounder Mounts & more.



Two-Stage Electric Pump (PUMPADA)

The Sea Eagle Two-Stage ADA electric pump is just as powerful but quieter than its predecessor. Pump can be powered by the 12v or the 110v power cord with plug. For greater convenience, purchase it with the optional lithium battery.



EZ Cart Small (OPTIONAL)

Transport your 285fpb from your car to the water and back with ease. Quickly assembles & disassembles.



Bixpy Pro Kit

The Bixpy® Pro Outboard Motor Kit with Larger Lithium 768 Watt Battery, Transom Adapter, and Telescopic Side (push/pull) Steering Pole with Side Arm allows you to control motor speed with a wrist mounted controller and steer without having to turn around.



Side Steering Arm

The Side Steering Arm clamps onto the trolling motor shaft with a U-bolt. Allows push/pull steering from the side, not traditional inline (side-to-side) steering directly behind your back. Face forward without having to stretch your arm behind you to steer.