Old Town®

Getting Started With Your PDL® Drive

BigWater PDL® 132 | PDL® 120 Pro | PDL® 106/120
Malibu PDL® | Malibu Pedal T



For more information on features, specifications, processes, maintenance, and troubleshooting tips, visit

OLDTOWNWATERCRAFT.COM

⚠ WARNING

Read and review all safety warnings, instructions, illustrations, and specifications provided before any installation or operation of this watercraft and the PDL® Drive System. Failure to do so could result in death or serious injury.

The images in this document may not look the same as your product but will function in a similar way.

03/2025

CONTENTS

Getting Started

Important Safety Information 3
PDL Watercraft Product Safety Warnings 4

Product Overview

BigWater PDL® 132 5
PDL® 120 PRO 6
PDL® 106 | PDL® 120 7
Malibu PDL® 8
Malibu Pedal T 9

What's Included?

PDL® Kit Contents 10

Unboxing and Assembly. 11

Unboxing 11
Seat Install: BigWater PDL®, PDL® 106/120, Malibu PDL®, Malibu Pedal T . . . 11
Seat Install: PDL® 120 PRO 12
Accessories Install 13

Drive Installation and Operation 14

Frequently Asked Questions 17

Maintenance and Care 19

GETTING STARTED

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Paddling enables people of all ages and abilities to experience nature with unrivaled closeness and variety. Adventures range from brief outings to challenging treks, but even the simplest trip can quickly lead to danger if proper precautions are not taken.

SAFETY LABELING AND SIGNAL WORDS

DANGER, WARNING, and **CAUTION** are signal words used throughout this user manual to identify important safety and product information. It is important to recognize and understand the meaning of each signal word and its message before operation.

⚠ WARNING Indicates a hazardous situation, that if not avoided, **could** result in death or serious injury.

⚠ CAUTION Indicates a hazardous situation, that if not avoided, **could** result in minor or moderate injury.

NOTICE Indicates important product information, that if not followed, **could** result in product or property damage.

GENERAL OPERATING SAFETY WARNINGS

Read and review all safety warnings, instructions, illustrations, and specifications provided before operation. Keep this manual in a safe place for future reference if necessary. Failure to do so could result in product damage, death, or serious injury.

⚠ WARNING

You are responsible for the safe and prudent operation of your watercraft. You must avoid hazards to navigation and always maintain a permanent watch so you can respond to situations as they develop. You must always be prepared to regain manual control of your watercraft. Learn to operate your Old Town product in an area free from hazards and obstacles.

- **READ THE OWNER'S MANUAL** and follow the manufacturer's recommendations for the use of this product. Consult the manufacturer's information prior to adding aftermarket equipment, and never obstruct entry or exit to the craft.
- **DO NOT IMPAIR ENTRY OR EXIT ACCESS.** If additional outfitting is added to this watercraft, use the manufacturer's approved materials only.
- **WEAR U.S. COAST GUARD APPROVED LIFE JACKETS,** and where appropriate, wear a helmet.
- **CHECK WEATHER FORECAST BEFORE DEPARTING DOCK** and heed all weather advisories.
  - **DRESS APPROPRIATELY** for the weather conditions, as cold water and/or cold weather can cause hypothermia.
  - **DO NOT PADDLE IN FLOOD CONDITIONS.**
- **NEVER PADDLE WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE** of drugs or alcohol.

⚠ WARNING

- **BE AWARE OF THE WATER CONDITIONS,** including appropriate water levels, tidal changes, dangerous currents and other water hazards. Always scout unfamiliar waters, and portage where appropriate.
- **CONSULT WITH A PHYSICIAN** prior to beginning paddlesport training. Paddlesports can be very dangerous and physically demanding.
- **OBTAIN PADDLESPORT TRAINING** specific to this type of craft. Do not exceed your paddling ability - be honest with yourself.
- **BRING A PADDLE** when operating a powered watercraft.
- **NEVER PADDLE ALONE.**
- **KEEP A PROPER LOOKOUT AND SAFE DISTANCE** from other vessels and hazards at all times.
- **OBEY APPLICABLE BOATING LAWS.**
- **REGULARLY CHECK YOUR EQUIPMENT** prior to each use for signs of wear or failure.
- **OBTAIN CERTIFIED FIRST AID AND RESCUE TRAINING.** Be sure to carry first aid and rescue equipment with you.
- **ALWAYS CHECK WITH LOCAL REGULATIONS** for watercraft safety requirements in your area.

PDL® WATERCRAFT PRODUCT SAFETY WARNINGS

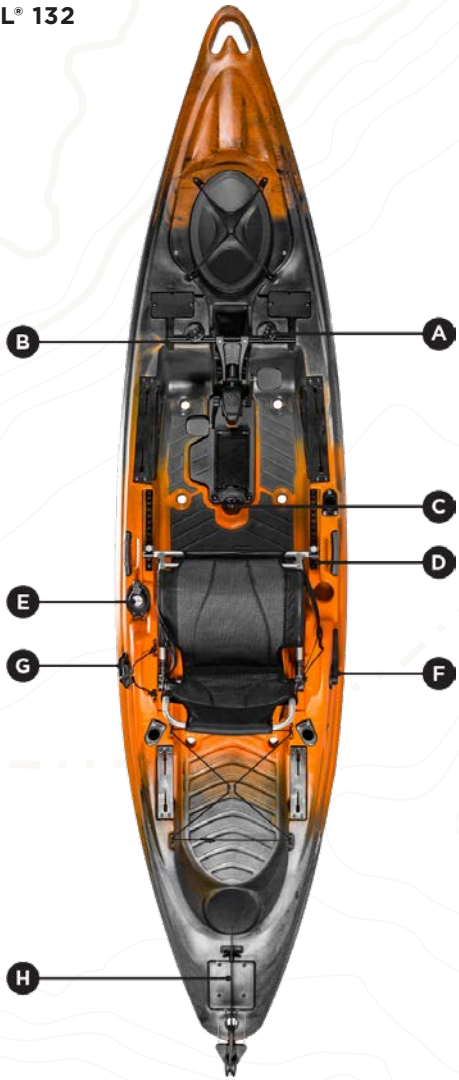
⚠ WARNING

Failure to follow these warnings could cause death or serious injury.

- **KEEP FINGERS AND FEET CLEAR** of all hinges, pivot points, and moving parts when stowing or deploying the motor or drive.
- **AVOID CONTACT WITH PROPELLER** when the PDL® Drive propeller is in motion.
- **DO NOT OPERATE IN THE VICINITY OF SWIMMERS** or others that could come in contact with the propeller.
- **WEAR SAFETY GLASSES WHEN HANDLING TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT** to prevent injury.

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

BIGWATER PDL® 132



A. PDL® Drive Thwart Lock Knobs

B. PDL® Drive Thwart Tube

C. PDL® Drive Lock Knob

D. Seat Adjustment Shuttles

E. Rudder Steering Knob
(may need to be installed)

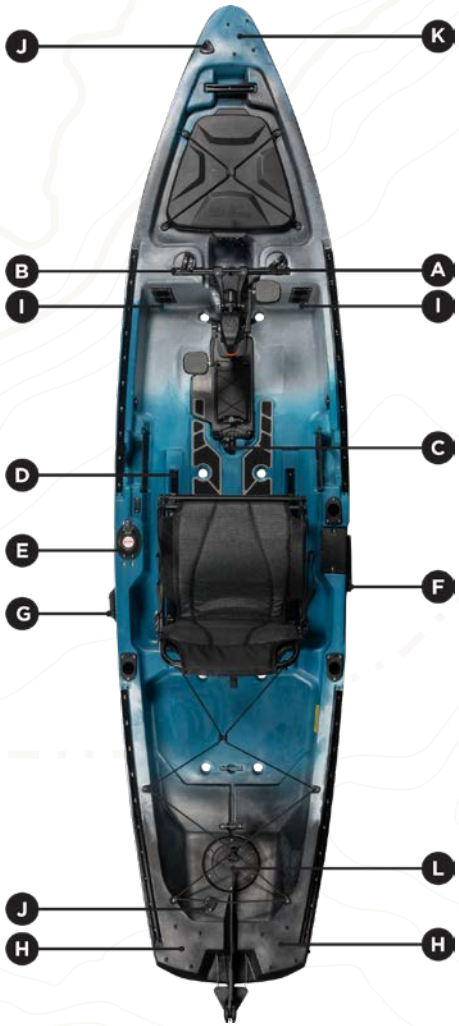
F. Rudder Stow/Deploy

G. Paddle Clip Location
(may need to be installed)

H. Shallow Water Anchor Mount

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

PDL® 120 PRO



A. PDL® Drive Thwart Lock Knobs

B. PDL® Drive Thwart Tube

C. PDL® Drive Lock Knob

D. Seat Adjustment Shuttles

E. Rudder Steering Knob
(may need to be installed)

F. Rudder Stow/Deploy

G. Paddle Clip Location
(may need to be installed)

H. Shallow Water Anchor Mount

I. Horizontal Rod Storage
(PDL® 120 PRO models only)

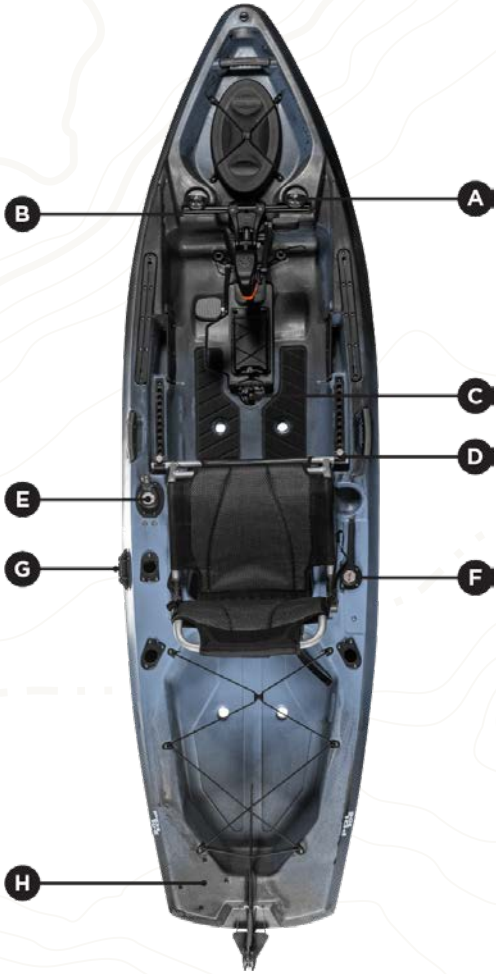
J. Thru Hull Wiring Kit
(PDL® 120 PRO models only)

K. Bow Mount Motor Inserts

L. Stern Access Hatch

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

PDL® 106 | PDL® 120



A. PDL® Drive Thwart Lock Knobs

B. PDL® Drive Thwart Tube

C. PDL® Drive Lock Knob

D. Seat Adjustment Shuttles

E. Rudder Steering Knob
(may need to be installed)

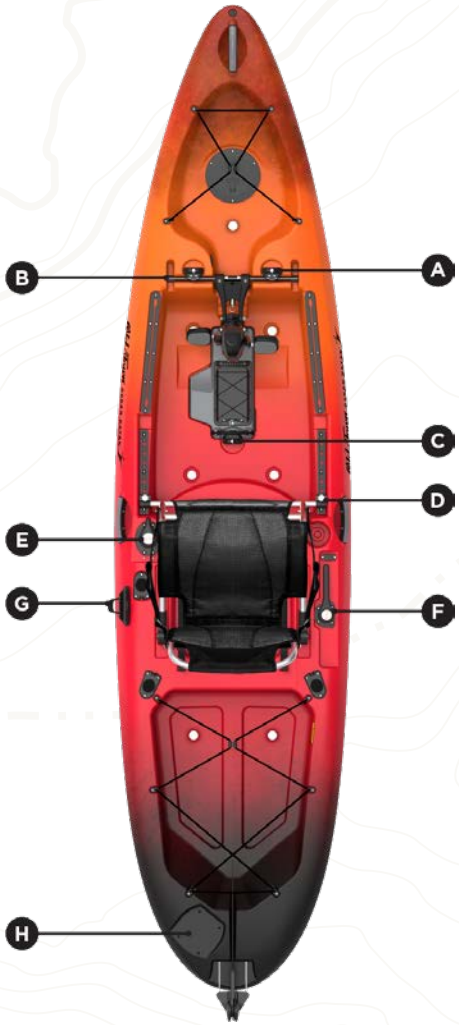
F. Rudder Stow/Deploy

G. Paddle Clip Location
(may need to be installed)

H. Shallow Water Anchor Mount

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

MALIBU PDL® 120



A. PDL® Drive Thwart Lock Knobs

B. PDL® Drive Thwart Tube

C. PDL® Drive Lock Knob

D. Seat Adjustment Shuttles

E. Rudder Steering Knob
(may need to be installed)

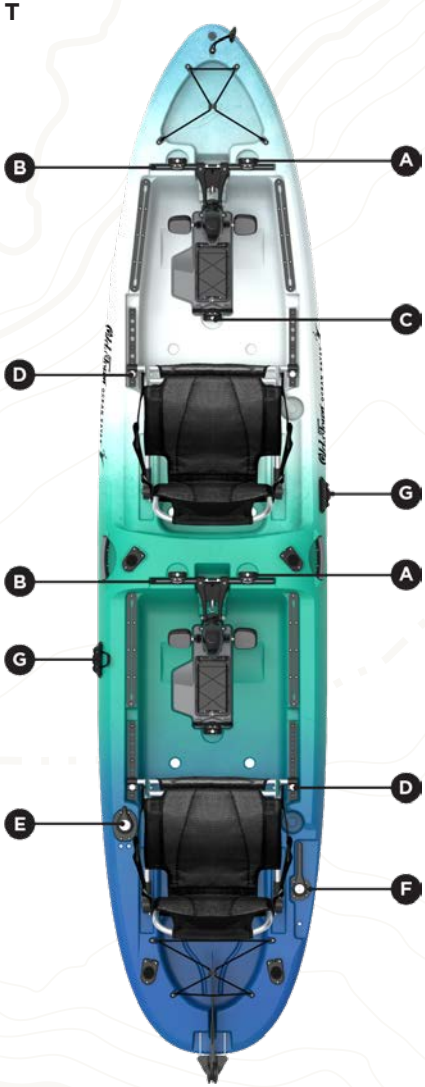
F. Rudder Stow/Deploy

G. Paddle Clip Location
(may need to be installed)

H. Shallow Water Anchor Mount

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

MALIBU PEDAL T



A. PDL® Drive Thwart Lock Knobs
B. PDL® Drive Thwart Tube
C. PDL® Drive Lock Knob
D. Seat Adjustment Shuttles
E. Rudder Steering Knob *(may need to be installed)*
F. Rudder Stow/Deploy
G. Paddle Clip Location *(may need to be installed)*

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

PDL® KIT CONTENTS



M. Paddle Clip x 1

N. Paddle Clip Strap x 1

O. 10-32 x ½" Phillips Head Screw x 2

P. Steering Ball Top x 1

Q. Steering Ball Base x 1

R. ¼-20 x 1 Phillips Head Bolt x1

S. Rudder Tension Control Knob x 1

T. Prop Pin x 2

U. 5/32 Hex Key - for tightening or replacing lock down knob shoulder bolts x 1

UNBOXING AND ASSEMBLY

TOOLS NEEDED

- Phillips head screwdriver (*#2 and #3*)
- Small adjustable wrench
- Scissors or wire cutters *(for removal of cable ties)*
- 5/32 Hex Key *(included in tackle box)*

UNBOXING

Some watercraft models have wooden shipping braces installed.

1. Remove and set aside the screws taped to the wooden shipping brace(s). Unscrew the wooden shipping brace(s) from the watercraft. You can save the wooden shipping brace(s) and use when storing your watercraft during the off season to prevent the hull from warping.
2. Install the formerly taped Phillips head screws in the stern-most holes of the seat rails.
3. Locate the PDL Kit and set aside. The components inside will be used in the following assembly steps.

SEAT INSTALL

BIGWATER PDL®, PDL® 106/120, MALIBU PDL®, AND MALIBU PEDAL T MODELS

The Old Town seat is adjustable forward and backward to accommodate most leg lengths for a comfortable pedaling position. The front of the seat is anchored by two pin-adjustable seat shuttles, while the back of the seat rests on the top of the hull and is anchored by two straps. No tools are needed to install the seat.

NOTICE

Seat adjustment shuttles should be adjusted evenly to prevent damage and to keep seat aligned in rear tracks.

1. To install the seat, place a seat adjustment shuttle **(D)** onto one end of the cross tube at the front of the seat. The pull pin should be up and towards the front of the seat. Gently stretch the line between the bases to secure the second seat adjustment shuttle base onto the other end of the seat cross tube **(FIG 1)**.

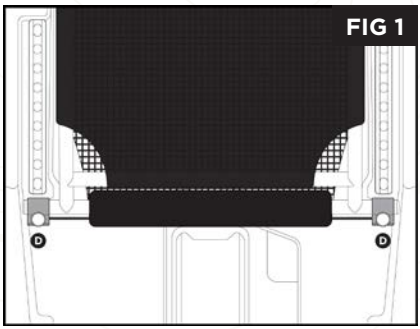
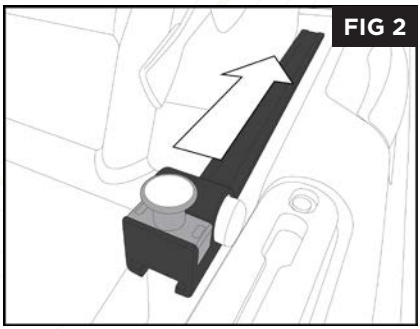
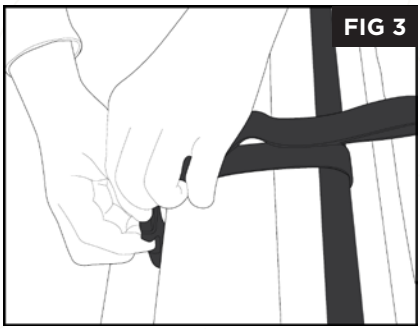


FIG 1

2. Check that the hook and loop strips under the front of the seat and across the top rear tube are firmly attached and the fabric is taut. Tuck the shuttle retention line into the flap using the hook and loop strips on the pocket. This retains the seat adjustment shuttles when the seat is removed.

3. Align the seat adjustment shuttles **(D)** with the front edge of the seat track. Keeping the front end of the seat tube even, start the seat adjustment shuttles on the track and slide them onto the rails at the same time **(FIG 2)**. Once both seat adjustment shuttles are started, the lock pins can be lifted, and the seat can be moved to the desired location.
4. Secure rear seat strap(s) over the rear seat tube. DO NOT overtighten as this may limit the seat adjustability **(FIG 3)**.
5. To recline the seat's backrest, use the straps on the sides of the seat. For transport, the seat may be left attached to the hull but securing the seat back is advised. This can be done by fully tightening the backrest straps to securely hold the backrest down against the seat base.


FIG 2


FIG 3

SEAT INSTALL

PDL® 120 PRO MODEL ONLY

The Old Town seat is adjustable forward and backward to accommodate most leg lengths for a comfortable pedaling position. The seat is mounted to the seat adjustment shuttles, with the front of the seat anchored by two forward-opening clips, and the back of the seat rests on the seat risers, anchored by a strap. No tools are needed to install the seat.

NOTICE

Seat adjustment shuttles should be adjusted evenly to prevent damage and to keep seat aligned in rear tracks.

1. To install the seat, attach the front of the seat into the forward-opening clips and rest the back of the seat on the seat riser. With the rear seat strap loosened, loosen all 4 knobs located on the seat risers *(2 on the left and 2 on the right)* **(FIG 4)**.
2. Slide the seat forward or backwards to the desired pedaling position.

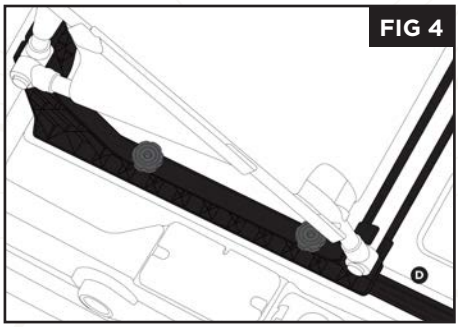


FIG 4

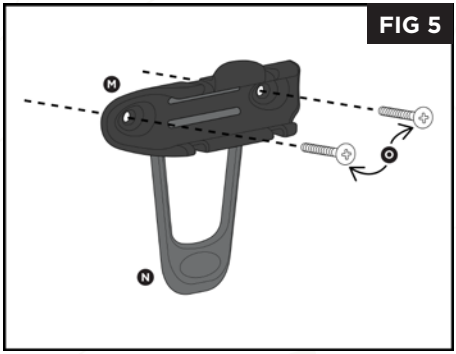
3. Tighten all 4 knobs located on the seat riser.
4. Secure rear seat strap(s) over the rear seat tube. Do not overtighten as this may limit the seat adjustability.
5. To recline the seat's backrest, use the straps on the sides of the seat. For transport, the seat may be left attached to the hull but securing the seat back is advised. This can be done by fully tightening the backrest straps to securely hold the backrest down against the seat base.

ACCESSORIES INSTALL

INSTALL PADDLE CLIP

1. Locate the paddle clip **(M)**, paddle clip strap **(N)**, and the two 10-32 x ½" Phillips head screws **(O)** in the PDL® Drive kit **(FIG 5)**.
2. Line up holes and slots on paddle clip strap with features on backside of paddle clip.
3. Locate inserts on the side of the watercraft **(G)**. Using a #2 Phillips head screwdriver, attach the clip and strap to the inserts with the two supplied 10-32 x ½" Phillips head screws **(O)**. Orient with the strap below the clip for easy access *(however, it can be mounted in either orientation)*.

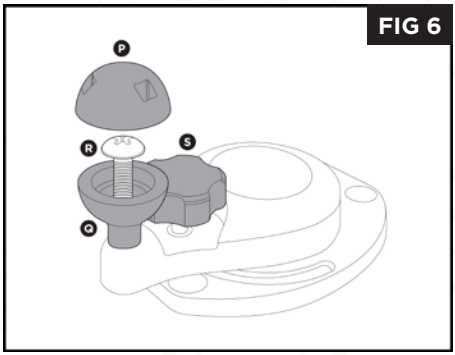
FIG 5



INSTALL RUDDER CONTROL

1. Install the tension control knob **(S)** to brass insert near the logo.
2. Locate the two halves of the rudder control steering ball **(P)** and **(Q)**, and the 1/4 - 20 x1" Phillips Head bolt **(R)** inside the kit. Thread the screw **(R)** through the steering ball base **(Q)** and into the rudder knob.
3. Tighten the 1/4 -20 x 1" Phillips Head **(R)** with a #3 Phillips head screwdriver, then loosen until steering ball spins freely. The pre-applied thread locker will cure and reach full strength in 72 hours.
4. Snap on the steering ball top **(P) (FIG 6)**.

FIG 6

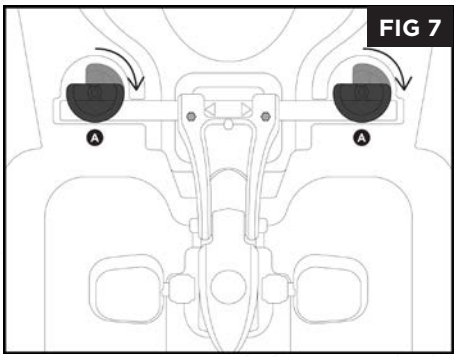


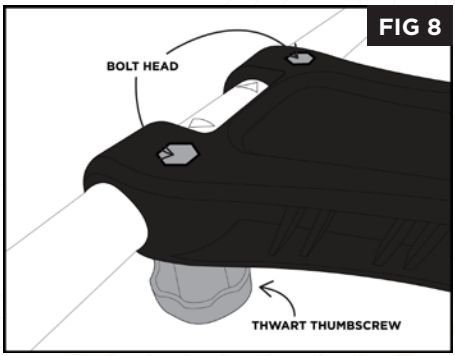
PDL® DRIVE INSTALLATION AND OPERATION

BEFORE GETTING ON THE WATER

PREP THE DRIVE FOR INSTALLATION

1. Remove the drive thwart tube **(B)** at the front end of the cockpit. It is secured to the watercraft by the thwart lockdown knobs.
2. Place the PDL® Drive on a flat work surface so that the screen and the propeller are facing upwards.
3. Locate the two thumbscrews on the PDL® Drive and loosen, but do not remove. Insert the drive thwart tube **(B)** into one opening and push it through until exiting the other opening.
4. Center the drive thwart tube on the drive using the two triangle markers on the drive thwart tube, but do not tighten the thumbscrews yet. Set the drive near the watercraft.
5. Place the thwart/drive assembly back into the thwart channel. Lock the two thwart lockdown knobs **(A)** by turning clockwise to keep the drive thwart in place **(FIG 7)**.
6. Check that the drive is still centered on the thwart tube and tighten the two thwart thumbscrews, being careful to keep the bolt heads recessed on the opposite side of the thumbscrews **(FIG 8)**. This is the parked position of the PDL® Drive.
7. Using the flexible black handle on the console, raise, rotate, and lower the drive console into the deck opening. This is the operating position.
8. **Malibu Pedal T models only:** Repeat these steps for the second drive.





DEPLOYING THE PDL® DRIVE

AFTER LAUNCH AND WHEN AT ADEQUATE DEPTH

NOTICE

Use caution in shallow water *(less than 16")* and avoid running the PDL® Drive aground. This could cause damage to the drive and/or propeller.

1. Deploy the drive by pulling the handle on PDL® Drive to release the stow clip. Guide the prop and lower unit through the console opening. Secure drive with the drive lock knob **(C) (FIG 9)**.
2. The lock knob must be fully engaged to achieve proper sealing around the console perimeter.
3. The lock knob is designed to limit drive damage. In the event of a high impact object strike, the lock knob should break into pieces. Use the supplied 5/32 Hex Key **(U)** to tighten down or replace the lock knob shoulder bolts. Replacement knob kits are available through Old Town customer service. Always operate at safe speeds.

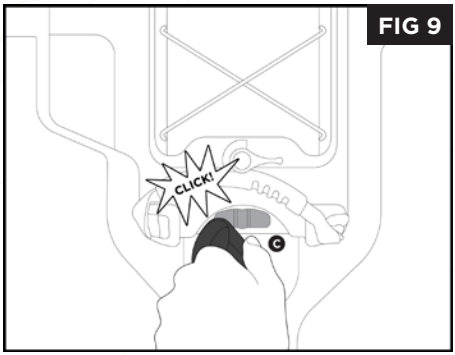


FIG 9

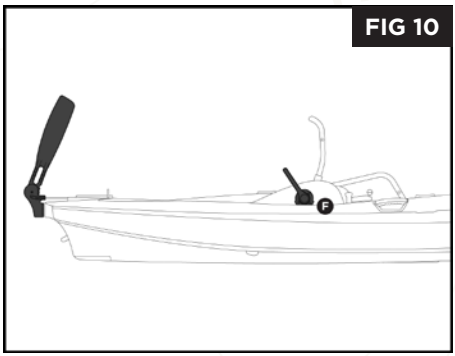


FIG 10

STEERING PDL® DRIVEN WATERCRAFT

- Rudder Stow/Deploy is controlled using the long lever found next to the seat **(F)**. Remove the rudder bungee and use the lever to deploy and stow the rudder **(FIG 10)**.
- Steer the watercraft using the rudder steering knob installed earlier **(E)**. This can be locked down using the rudder tension control knob **(S)** to hold direction or course **(FIG 11)**.
- **Malibu Pedal T:** Steering for the Malibu Pedal T is controlled from the stern seat.

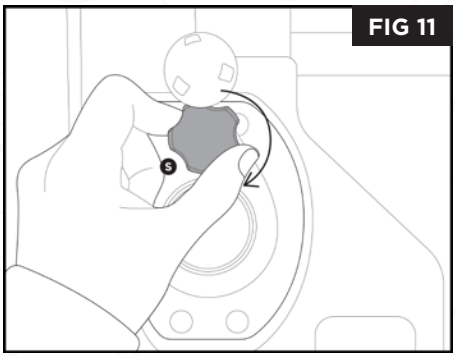
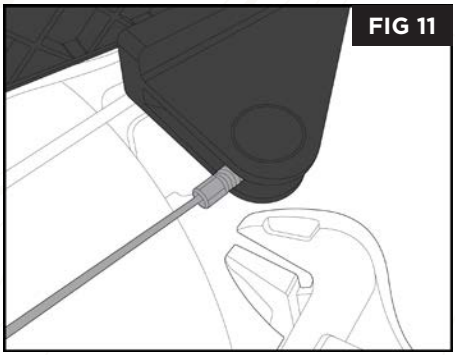


FIG 11

- Always check rudder hardware and cables are tightened before going out on the water. Rudder cable tension can be adjusted with the barrel adjusters found at the stern of the watercraft using an adjustable wrench or a 3/16" open end wrench **(FIG 12)**.
- These cables should not have slack but also not taut. Excessive slack will result in decreased rudder response. Excessive tension will result in increased force required to operate the steering knob.


FIG 11

- If steering becomes more difficult while out on the water, check and ensure that the rudder is fully deployed to the vertical position, with the rudder lift handle all the way back. If the rudder blade gets pushed to the horizontal position, steering will become stiff and require greater force.

AFTER ON THE WATER

NOTICE

The PDL® Drive mount was not designed to hold the drive during road transportation. Remove the drive from the hull prior to transport and for any extended storage periods. Failure to do so can result in product damage.

REMOVING PDL® DRIVE

1. Unlock the two lock knobs located at the drive thwart, the lock knob located at the drive console, and remove the PDL® Drive from the watercraft.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: How do I get a replacement Manufacturer's Statement of Origin (MSO) for my watercraft?

A: A replacement MSO is available at **oldtownwatercraft.johnsonoutdoors.com/us/blog/how-register-your-motorized-kayak-or-canoe.**

Q: Can I use a landing-gear or scupper-style cart to transport my watercraft?

A: Kayak carts are a great and convenient way to transport your watercraft to and from the water's edge. We strongly discourage the use of landing-gear style carts that are drilled into your watercraft or scupper-style carts. These carts place undue pressure on your watercraft's hull and may cause irreparable damage to your hull. Damage caused by accessories will not be covered by warranty, as it is not a manufacturer's defect. We recommend selecting a bunk-style, cradle-style, or other strap style kayak cart, that provides maximum hull support.

Q: Can I replace the prop on my PDL® Drive with an aftermarket prop to make it go faster?

A: The use of an aftermarket propeller on your PDL® Drive voids the warranty. PDL® Drives are designed to balance performance, durability, and reliability. To purchase a replacement prop for your PDL® drive, visit **oldtownwatercraft.johnsonoutdoors.com/us/shop/accessories-parts/parts-repairs-other/replacement-prop-kit-PDL-ePDL,** or call our customer service team.

Q: Can grease or lubricant be added to the PDL® Drive?

A: Yes, Bel Ray marine lubricant can be added by removing the round inspection cap at the top of the PDL® Drive and adding a small amount to coat the gears.

Q: Can I adjust the tension on the rudder stow/deploy line?

A: Yes, if an adjustment is needed pop the cap off the rudder stow/deploy lever with the tip of a small screwdriver. Loosen the two screws that are inline with the handle and pull the lines taut. Loop the line around the screw in a clockwise direction and fully tighten the screws back down. Coil the excess line into the recess and press the cap back in place.

Q: How should I store my PDL® Drive watercraft?

A: Your PDL® Drive watercraft should be stored deck-side down on padded supports placed about 30% of the watercraft's overall length from the ends. When storing your PDL® Drive watercraft, the metal PDL® Drive thwart should be installed. The PDL® Drive unit should be kept inside.

Storing your kayak inside is always preferred. Even without climate control, inside storage removes two crucial factors from the equation: ice and sunlight. Without the possibility of rain, snow, and ice accumulating in the kayak's hull, you can store your kayak deck-side-down or deck-side-up, whichever configuration fits your space. Additionally, inside storage prevents damaging UV rays from directly hitting your kayak over long periods.

When storing your kayak outside, remember one thing: deck-side-down. Even if covered by a tarp or eave, moisture will accumulate in the nooks and crannies of your kayak. Once there, it can freeze and expand, causing damage to the hull.

For more information and tips, visit **oldtownwatercraft.johnsonoutdoors.com/us/blog/ultimate-kayak-storage-guide.**

Q: Which seat controls the steering on my Malibu Pedal T?

A: The stern seat controls the rudder and steering.

Q: Can I operate the craft by myself or do you need two people?

A: Yes, you can operate the Malibu Pedal T solo, but only from the stern position because that is where the rudder control is located. Please note that operating the Malibu Pedal T solo may result in a minor performance impact because of weight distribution.

MAINTENANCE AND CARE

NOTICE

The PDL® Drive mount was not designed to hold the drive during road transportation. Remove the drive from the hull prior to transport and for any extended storage periods. Failure to do so can result in product damage.

Fight corrosion from day one
If any metallic elements of the drive and/or watercraft have been exposed to saltwater or brackish water, thoroughly rinse with freshwater upon return.

Check equipment
Check that the propeller and surrounding area is clear from debris and that the prop hardware is secure. Inspect rudder hardware and cables and tighten before going out on the water. Test drive functionality on land before taking out on the water.

Support your watercraft
When storing your watercraft long term, store upside down on padded bars or straps. It can also be stored deck side up with straps or pads that conform to the hull's shape. For long term storage, we recommend storing the boat indoors and/or out of sunlight. If your watercraft arrived with packaging thwart(s) installed, you can reinstall the packaging thwart(s) for support. For more information go to **oldtownwatercraft.johnsonoutdoors.com/us/blog/ultimate-kayak-storage-guide**.

Immediately address any damage that could lead to larger issues
Abrasions, nicks, and gouges on the watercraft are common. Address any of these on metallic or powder-coated surfaces as soon as possible. Tighten any elements that seem to be loosening or backing out of their factory condition.

The PDL® Drive is backed by a limited 5-year PDL® Drive warranty.
Please register your craft at **oldtownwatercraft.johnsonoutdoors.com/us/register.**

⚠ WARNING

Operating, servicing and maintaining a recreational marine vessel can expose you to chemicals including engine exhaust, carbon monoxide, phthalates, and lead, which are known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. To minimize exposure, avoid breathing exhaust, service your vessel in a well-ventilated area and wear gloves or wash your hands frequently when servicing this vessel. For more information go to www.P65warnings.ca.gov/marine.

Old Town®

For more information or links to owners' groups
for your Old Town watercraft, visit

OLDTOWNWATERCRAFT.COM/FAQ