

INNOVA

Helios Tips

Folding

Take a good look at how the Helios is folded when you first remove the kayak from its bag. This is the most compact fold to use.

Inflation

Set the three main valve stems in the closed position before inflating, by pushing the little red button with your finger, turning slightly, then releasing until it pops up. This will allow you to keep air in the chamber when you pull out the inflation hose. You likely will need an adapter to make the hose end fit the valve tightly. Check the red plastic repair kit; inside are a couple of adapters with cords on them. Tie one to your hose end so it won't get lost.

Inflate the decks much softer than the main tubes— about half the pressure of the mains. This makes them much more comfortable to sit against, adds more legroom in the cockpits, and allows for air expansion. Inflate the three main chambers, the floor and the two side tubes, quite firmly.

If the boat sits in the sun, vent some air to avoid the tubes getting drum-tight.

UV Protection

Use UV Tech regularly on the kayak skin as a protectant and sunscreen. This stuff is also useful to lubricate the valves and their O-rings.

Rudder

Install the rudder before you inflate the kayak. It's easier to line up the holes.

Use the rudder with the stirrups placed just below your toes and with the lines tensioned. Keep your heels on the floor. To move the rudder, rotate your ankles like you are using a gas pedal.

Gear Storage

Gear can be stored below the foredeck and the aft deck, about a cubic foot each. This volume can be doubled by simply not inflating these decks. Your gear bags pushed under the decks will suffice to spread the side tubes. You can also fit a sea kayak deck bag to the center deck.

Drying and Cleaning

Take a terrycloth towel with you to sop up paddle drips while paddling, and to wipe sand, dirt, and water from skin of the kayak before packing it away.