

# New Products

## The Electric Paddle

It's August so it's time to go cruising and that also means it's time to get the dinghy, kayaks, canoes, and all the rest of your water toys ready to go. One of the great things to consider for your dink or kayak is this new electric paddle from PropEle Electric Boat Motors located right here in North Bend, Washington. This is a very cool and very well thought out system and not to mention, very green. Plus considering how the salmon and fishing season in general is shaping up, if you want to be able to troll very slowly and very quietly, this is the total bomb!

Other electric motors power boats up to 1.5 tons. Since boat motors have only one speed, they're over-gearred for small boats. In contrast, the Electric Paddle is the first and only motor optimized just for small boats. So they designed peak motor efficiency right on top of efficient boat speeds. That's why the Electric Paddle is so light and portable while still providing competitive speeds and great runtimes.

The Electric Paddle is a complete

portable power system including motor, battery, and charger plus handy accessories like a lock and carry bag. It is designed for canoes, small tenders - both inflatable and hard-shell, sailing dinghies, inflat-

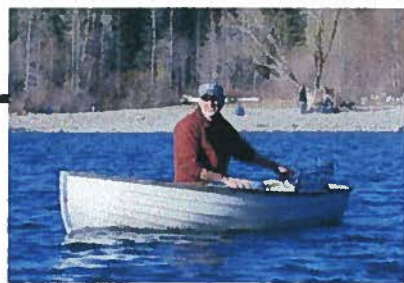


able pontoon boats, and some kayaks (if fitted with a motor mount).

It's suitable for salt or fresh water use and set-up requires no assembly and takes less than one minute. All you have to do is clamp the unit to the transom, tighten screws until the motor is secure, adjust tilt stop so the motor is vertical when lowered, plug battery connector into motor and you're ready to go.

When you're in water deep enough for the motor (at least 18 inches deep) pivot the shaft into the water by pushing back on the tiller handle. For convenience, all controls are at the end of the tiller handle. Insert the key, and twist throttle knob to go. The Electric Paddle is steered like a normal outboard motor. The tiller is offset to the side to permit a more comfortable steering position.

As with all electrics the next question is always how long will it run (about 3.3 hours at the medium setting) what about recharging the battery? With the Electric Paddle it's really simple, just plug in the



Smart charger to a standard wall outlet (120/240v AC50/60 Hz) and attach the battery cord to the charger. There's only one battery cord and one connector so there's no possible way to hook it up incorrectly (perfect for sailors). It takes approximately 3 hours to reach a full charge. The Smart charger draws less than 150 watts so you can use an inverter to power the charger while traveling on a larger boat or vehicle.

The total weight of the Electric Paddle system is less than 14 pounds with the motor plus carrying bag coming in at only 6.2 pounds, the battery pack at 7.5 pounds, and the Smart Charger at only 2 pounds.

With any kind of luck you'll be able to see the Electric Paddle at the Shilshole Summer Boat Show or you can go to their website [www.electricpaddle.com](http://www.electricpaddle.com) or you can contact them at 425-502-5232 or by Email: [info@electricpaddle.com](mailto:info@electricpaddle.com).

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## Preserve Fiberglass with Proper Maintenance

On many boats, molded fiberglass with a gel coat finish makes up the structure of the hull, deck and some interior parts. The gel coat is the outer surface, often colored, that presents the shiny, smooth appearance associated with fiberglass products. In some areas, this gel coat surface is painted or taped for styling purposes. To protect these delicate areas, regular maintenance is critical.

First, fiberglass should be washed regularly with a quality boat soap, such as Shurhold's Brite Wash, and fresh water. Shurhold's Pro Polish also can be used on gel coat to maintain its luster. In northern climates, a semi-annual polishing may suffice for the season, while in southern climates, a quarterly application of polish is required for adequate protection.

If the gel coat surface gloss cannot be restored by polish alone, owners should power buff with a compound, such as Shurhold's Buff Magic followed with Pro Polish. Care should be utilized in waxing commonly walked upon areas of the boat to

ensure that they are not dangerously slippery. If gel coat is not maintained and becomes heavily oxidized, light sanding may be required before buffing.

Gel coated and painted surfaces are very resistant to deep stains, but common surface stains can be easily removed with Shurhold's Serious Marine Cleaner. Unlike abrasive, porcelain-cleaning powders, it does not contain ammonia or chlorine, which can permanently discolor the gel coat and paint. Minor scratches and deeper stains that do not penetrate the gel coat may be removed by light sanding and buffing with the prescribed products.

Contact Shurhold, 3119 SW 42nd Ave., Palm City, FL 34990. 800-962-6241; Fax: 772-286-9620. [www.shurhold.com](http://www.shurhold.com).

