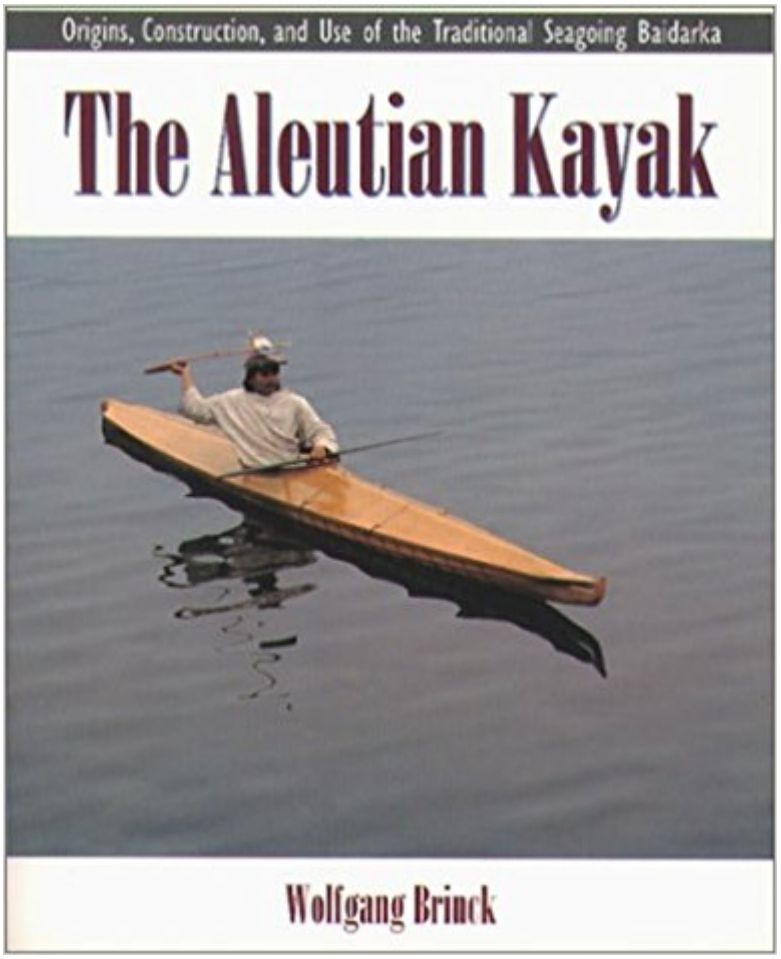
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The Aleutian Kayak: Origins, Construction, And Use Of The Traditional Seagoing Baidarka



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Synopsis

This book offers the complete plans and detailed building instructions for an authentic Aleutian Kayak - the ancient voyaging and hunting craft of the nomadic Unangan of Alaska. Plans based on originals in museums in Oregon and California are included. Kayaks can be built to fit owner’s exact dimensions using simple hand tools and readily-obtainable materials.

Book Information

Paperback: 176 pages

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Customer Reviews

"... the first-time builder will have little trouble making his or her boat... This is a book for those whose love of things natural has made them long for a change from the perfect glossy sameness of the mass-produced boats." -- Atlantic Coastal Kayaker"Descriptions are clear, the photos illustrate the finer points, and the drawings offer helpful hints." -- Canoe & Kayak"When I build my [baidarka], Wolfgang Brinck’s book will be on my workbench." -- Cunningham, Chris, Sea Kayaker

Whether you’re a hard-shell kayaker looking for an inexpensive, seakindly alternative, or a tradition-minded sea kayaker attracted to the look and feel of organic boats, this book’s for you. Skin-and-frame baidarkas have been used as hunting craft in the Aleutian Islands for thousands of years, their elegant yet simple design allowing hunters to take extended offshore voyages in treacherous waters. The light baidarka--a 17-footer weighs just 35 pounds--is a great cruising boat, with lots of space for gear and a forgiving hull shape that’s easy to build. The Aleutian Kayak tells you everything you need to know to build an authentic baidarka in your basement or garage for

$200, a fraction of what it would cost to buy an assembly-line plastic boat. You don’t need woodworking experience or an elaborate tool collection. If you can learn to use a handsaw, a block plane, and a drill, you can build a baidarka. And you don’t need exotic materials. Author Wolfgang Brinck has used scrap lumber from home remodeling projects for the deck beams of his last few boats. Here are clear, step-by-step, extensively illustrated instructions to guide you through the process--from buying materials, tailoring the boat to fit your body, building the frame and deck, and sewing the skin. You’ll also find instructions on building a paddle, sewing your own paddling jacket and spray skirt, making repairs, and using you baidarka. "This is a book for those whose love of things natural has made them long for a change from the perfect glossy sameness of the mass-produced boat."--Atlantic Coastal Kayaker When I build my (baidarka), Wolfgang Brinck’s book will be on the workbench."--Christopher Cunningham, Editor, Sea Kayaker "Nature failed to provide [the Aleuts] with the material necessary for boats, that is, wood; but on the other hand, as if in compensation, she gave them greater ingenuity for the perfection of a special new kind of fleet: the baidarka."--Ivan Veniaminov, 1840 " . . . The baidarka has survived intact across oceans, cultural boundaries, and time. Those who choose to build these craft today, whether for six weeks or for a lifetime, join in a collective journey whose beginnings as an interglacial experiment remain as mysterious as the origins of human intelligence itself."--from the Foreword by George B. Dyson, Author, Baidarka

It is a must.This book is very well-written, all the instructions and tips on building the baidarka are very clear.It lacks the history part, this is a DIY book. If you are going to search for news about aleutian people and the way they used their boats, this is not your book.Otherwise, if you look for a clear, well-written instruction manual on building a baidarka, buy it immediately.The atmosphere into those pages is absolutely nice. This book should show from the bookshelf if your interest is SOF kayaks.

Great information!

Building this boat was a profound experience. I now understand the workings of a kayak more intimately. As such, I will never look at a plastic, fiberglass, kevlar or even plywood kayak the same. There were one or two times in the building of this boat that were frustrating, but I just stepped back took a day or so off, thought about it and worked my way through it. Mr. Brinck’s instructions were as good as you can get, trying to explain a complex project such as this. His spiritual insights in the

text were quite inspirational. I love my boat...it paddles wonderfully... I am now a boat builder for life!

Within this book you will find the procedures for building a kayak in the traditional manner...but with a modern twist! I doubt you will use seal-hide for the exterior, but the ancient method of constructing the hull is well portrayed within these pages. As an amateur boat-builder, particularly of kayaks and sailboats, I found this book to be a unique gem among many similar titles.I have always admired the ingenious craftsmanship of the Inuit people, and other dwellers of the Arctic and Tundra regions. Surviving in the most savage climate on Earth, they developed a unique and complex culture. Those people who live in such challenging environments invariably possess the sharpest wit for improvisation with limited resources.A book of fourteen chapters, you will find within a narrative of the history of Inuit boat-building, detailed instruction of construction: tools and materials to make a modern re-creation, and all pertainent accessories: paddles, spray-skirt, paddling-jacket, and even some modern innovations: a rudder and sail. In general, the hull is built from a wood frame fastened together by string lashings, covered by a canvas skin. The end result: a traditional kayak, from mostly modern materials, (unless you really want to use seal-skin to cover the frame).

I’ve just completed a canvas covered Greenland kayak using G. Putz book, and I picked this one up along the way. Of four paperback books by the same publisher, this one is the least useful. There’s a lot to be said about attempting to replicate native boat-building - and the author deserves praise for his research and efforts. However, I have trouble understanding why you would make a canvas covered boat on a frame that can’t possibly be as good as an Aleutian’s work when you exert just as much effort in a similar boat with a western frame. It seems to me also that this particular boat is a first-time effort by the author and there are things about it that make it seem unstable and uneven. The hull dimensions, for example, are not exact which can make a tippy boat or one that drags to one side. For a canvas covered boat I would strongly recommend G. Putz’s book or for a strip boat, Mr. Shade’s. Both individuals have built many many boats and their narratives are much more detailed.

This is an excellent book on how to build your own light weight kayak or "baidarka". If your’e looking to do it yourself, and looking to do it very inexpensively, you just cannot beat the way the original Aleuts did it. They had thousands of years to do it right. Those who did not drowned. Mr. Brinck walks you through the process with clarity, lots of pictures, and large doses of common sense. There is no need for brain cell killing epoxy or for that matter, hardly any synthetic material. I am in

the process of building one now and I am very much enjoying the hand fitting and "hand" measuring. Best of luck.

This book helped me build a spectacular kayak. Beware, it can change your life. I am now a boatbuilder. Brinck's traditional methods are inspirational. The text left me with a few questions, but most of them were solved with re-reading, walking around the project a few times, or finding the Baidarka listserv on the net. Again, beware! If you buy this book you may spend the next six months in your garage.

I just finished building a traditional west greenland sea kayak. I can't wait to move on and build a baidarka. This book is an important guide for the traditional construction of an Aleutian Baidarka. This is an awesome book for anyone interested in building an authentic Aleutian Baidarka whether they have experience working with wood or not. I highly recommend it!

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