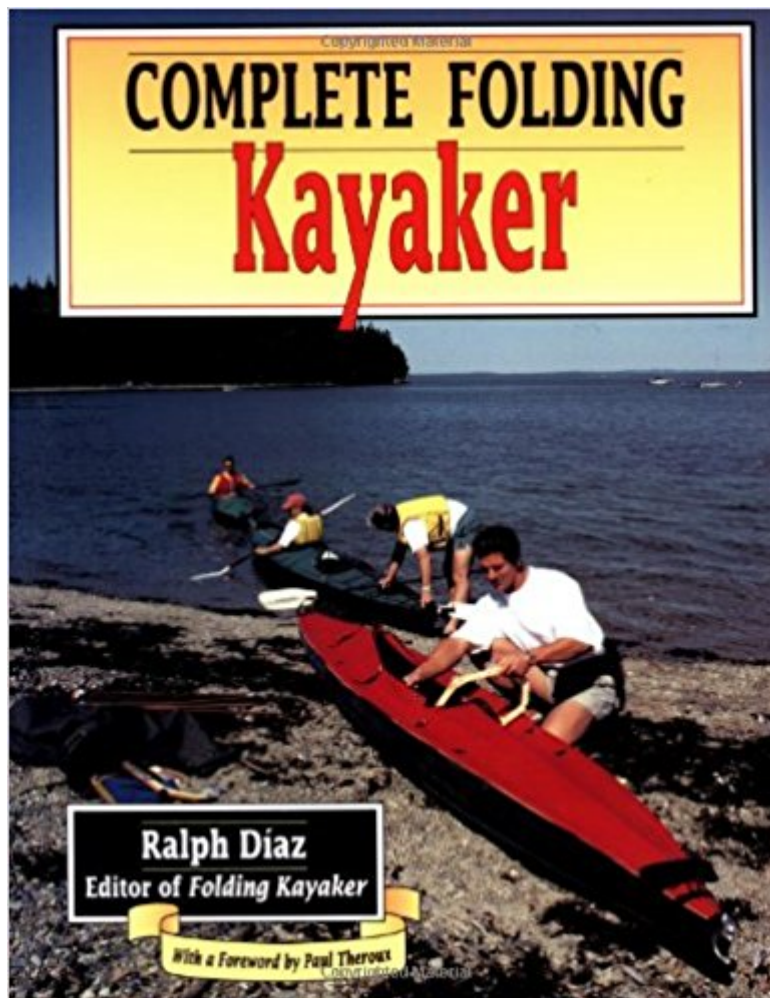


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# Complete Folding Kayaker



## Synopsis

Compared with conventional rigid kayaks, foldables are more stable and forgiving, more seaworthy and more easily repaired and modified. They have proven their worth in difficult, rugged service, carrying ashore commandos, making at least two transatlantic crossings, voyaging the length of the Nile, rounding Cape Horn and touring the South Pacific. In addition they are the only seaworthy boat you can store in a corner of a small cupboard and carry to bay or lake on a bicycle, the subway or an airline. This book is a complete guide to the only seagoing boat that qualifies as hand luggage.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Diaz's guide is sensibly divided into three parts, corresponding to the preliminaries, acquiring knowledge and skill, and actual practice and use. Besides all phases of kayak operation, Diaz discusses taking a folding kayak through customs, and considers such operational details as how to distribute equipment in the boat for best operation. He also includes a look at the history of sea kayaking, all the technical tips the novice kayaker is apt to need, tips for where and how to enjoy the freedom and excitement of kayaking, and even a bibliography, which is rare for a recreation book. Libraries with collections on either individual sports or water sports would do well to add this handy, clear, and entertaining guide. Mike Tribby

"Ralph Diaz is still the best connected person in the industry, and the best source of information on folding boats." Michael Edelman *An Introduction and Guide to the World of Folding Kayaks* (2001)

[www.foldingkayaks.org](http://www.foldingkayaks.org) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book is apparently out of print. It needs a re-print. Badly. Wonderful in-depth overview of folding kayaks. Why a folder in a day and age when most kayaks are rigid hulled? Folders cost more, often much more, require more time to set up to get out on the water, are generally heavier, and usually are slower for a given paddler. On the other hand, they can be stored in a spare closet or under a bed, are easier to travel with, are quieter on the water, are often more forgiving, and have more room for stuff should camping be part of the fun. For the gadget freak in all of us, folders are just plain neater. They have an interesting history too, and are used by most special ops military forces who have a need for covert activity on the water. There are many manufacturers, so how do you choose? Dealers are few and far between, so this book fills a very real need for anyone interested in learning about these boats. Then there are issues of how to modify folders to fit your needs. What are the options? Where does the reader turn for help? Everything from a Sunday afternoon in the park, to an arctic expedition is discussed in this book. Analyses of several available boats gives the reader not only specific information on specific boats, but an analytical approach to boat evaluation that can be applied to any boat. The book is well written and well illustrated. Highly recommended. If a re-print is not possible how about a Kindle version?

This book is, roughly speaking, a consumers' guide to buying and using a folding kayak. A guide like this is especially useful because the market is quite diverse and it's almost impossible to test-paddle all the brands that are available. Especially important is Diaz' summary of the two main reasons for choosing a folding kayak. The first and most obvious is portability. You can, indeed, take it with you—even on an airplane. This means that any trip has the potential to become a kayaking vacation. The second advantage of folders—and one that's not often mentioned is their flexibility. Like the original Inuit skin-on-frame boats, a folder flexes in the sea. This makes for a softer, less-punishing ride and reduces fatigue. There is also a pleasant sense of place that goes along with a flexible boat, a sense of being on the water instead of being on an amusement park ride. So: buy this book to get a good sense of why folding boats are worthwhile and study it to find out which one is best for you.

Back in 1997 I wrote the first review of what was then the only book devoted entirely to folding kayaks. (You might want to scroll down and read it; everything I wrote still applies). With no competition you'd think Ralph would be content to rest on his laurels, but instead he's put a lot of

effort into an extensive rewrite of the original book. All the new boats that have appeared on the market since the first edition have been included, and plenty of solid information from Ralph's invaluable Folding Kayak Newsletter has been integrated into the new edition. If you have the slightest interest in folding kayaks, you certainly owe it to yourself to buy a copy of this book. And if you already own the first edition, you should absolutely get this one as well, for all the new material Ralph has included. It's still the bible of the sport.

I'd hoped for an in-depth book about the history; structure and building of folding kayaks. I guess the word "complete:" led me to that conclusion. Instead, the book does a thorough job of detailing a number of presently available commercial offerings. If one wants a review of a commercially available folding kayaks, then this book will serve that purpose.

The classic book on folding kayaking unfortunately hard to find. Thanks. Pierre

GREAT BOOK! JUST WHAT I NEEDED.

Exactly what I expected: clear, complete and a huge amount of useful informations.

Dated

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