

V-SERIES SURF SKI USER GUIDE

**V10, V10L, V10 SPORT, AND V12 MODELS
20 MAY 2009 VERSION**

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SURF SKI USER GUIDE
www.epickayaks.com



Congratulations on your purchase of an Epic surf ski! Whether you're a beginning recreational paddler or a highly competitive racer, your new Epic surf ski will improve your paddling experience. We've paddled the equivalent of six times around the world with 70 years combined experience in all water conditions. Our passion for paddling and knowledge of high-performance racing technology is contained in every Epic-designed surf ski and paddle. Our models are optimized for ease of handling, efficiency in the water, and are extremely light weight. We hope you enjoy our products as much as we do. See you on the water!

Greg Barton



2 X Olympic Gold Medalist

Oscar Chalupsky



11 x Molokai World Champion

www.epickayaks.com

The Epic Kayaks website ensures you have convenient access to the latest paddling news and articles, tips, a convenient calendar of events, user guides and product information -- all at your fingertips! And/or choose to subscribe to our monthly Epic e-newsletter and receive concise bulleted updates on a wide array of surf ski races and happenings around the world.

Ease of navigation and content layout are key elements of the Epic website. We hope you enjoy the website, and that it helps answer any questions you have regarding Epic and the exciting world of surf ski paddling. Feel free to contact us with any comments or questions at info@epickayaks.com.

Meet the V-Series Family... the fastest and most comfortable skis on the market today. The Epic V-Series has revitalized the surf ski industry. Paddlers of all abilities find the **V10** incredibly fast and agile, while maintaining comfortable stability. Superior to the competition on flat water, the V10 really shines in downwind and upwind heavy sea conditions. Epic's groundbreaking adjustable footbrace, single footwell and high capacity venturi drain guarantee a comfortable ride, while the front deck cutaways allow a close, efficient catch.

The **V10L** hull is identical to Epic's award winning V10. The V10L is distinguished by its lower front deck, which decreases windage and overall volume, making it more practical for smaller sea conditions. The V10L seat is also two inches further forward in the cockpit, accommodating paddlers with shorter leg lengths.

An even wider array of paddlers can experience the thrill of surf skis in the Epic **V10 Sport**! Two inches wider and a foot shorter than the V10 and V10L, the Sport dramatically enhances stability, with little loss of performance or speed. Whether an entry level surf ski paddler or a more experienced paddler looking for an edge in stability, the V10 Sport is the perfect choice.

2009 Epic Molokai World Championship winner, the Epic **V12** is the latest addition to the V-Series fleet. The V12 is the fastest surf ski on the market today – specifically designed for more protected flat to moderate water conditions encountered in many parts of the world, such as mainland North America and Europe. As paddlers often encounter mixed water conditions, the V12 design also incorporates enough reserve buoyancy and secondary stability to handle rough water when necessary. The V12 includes a retractable bailer and optional cockpit cowling. For flat to moderate conditions, the speed of this ski is unmatched...and is perfect for highly trained paddlers with good stability skills, and for crossovers from the flat water sprint and marathon paddling arenas.



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V-SERIES SURF SKIS – THE V10, V10L, V10 SPORT AND V12 MODELS

V-Series Specifications

V10

Length: 21'4" (6.5 m), Width: 17.1" (43.4 cm)

Weights: Value -- 37 lbs/17 kg; Performance – 33 lbs/15 kg; Ultra -- 25 lbs/11.4 kg

V10L

Length: 21'4" (6.5 m), Width: 17.1" (43.4 cm)

Weights: Value – 36 lbs/16.4 kg; Performance – 32 lbs/14.5 kg; Ultra – 24 lbs/11 kg

V10 SPORT

Length: 20'0" (6.1 m), Width: 19" (48.3 cm)

Weights: Value – 37 lbs/17 kg; Performance – 33 lbs/15 kg; Ultra – 25 lbs/11.4 kg

V12

Length: 21'0" (6.4 m), Width: 17.1" (43.5 cm)

Weights: Performance – 32 lbs/14.5 kg; Ultra – 23 lbs/10.5 kg

The V-Series Footboard System

The V-Series footboard system (photo 1) has been designed to enhance leg drive and body rotation for an optimal forward stroke. The carbon fiber footboard fits across the width of the single footwell, giving paddlers the luxury of comfortably centering both feet and knees. A centered foot and knee position allows better leg movement and full rotation for a more comfortable, powerful and efficient forward stroke.

The V-Series footboard system is fully adjustable. We recommend you initially set the footboard to your desired setting on land, or in calm shallow water, while protecting the rudder. This will allow you to get in and out if necessary, and easily make adjustments in a safe environment. Once set to the desired length, the footboard remains locked in position.

Two pedals on top of the footboard operate the rudder on the back of the ski. This provides a solid platform to brace your legs, while still allowing you to control the rudder with your toes.



Photo 1. V-Series footboard system

Photo 2. V-Series back side of footboard system, nylon cord and pins to adjust length

Footboard Operation

The footboard runs on two rails molded onto either side of the footwell (photo 2). The rails have notched holes that catch pins coming from the back of the footboard. To adjust the settings of your footboard follow this procedure:

1. Reach behind the footboard and grasp the nylon cord running the length of the backside.
2. Pull on the cord to release the pins that set the footboard in the rails.
3. While pulling the cord (with the pins released) use the palm of your hand to slide the footboard on the rails forward or back to the desired position.
4. Once the footboard is in position, let go of the cord. This will release the pins back into the rails.
5. Apply pressure to ensure that the holes on the rails capture the pins and lock in the footboard. The rudder lines running through the pedals on top of the footboard are self-adjusting. Simply set the footboard at the desired setting and you're ready to go.

It may take one or two tries to find the optimal position, but the luxury of this system is that you can try as many as you like! And, use the handy number scale on the side of the footwell to reset your footboard position if someone else uses your boat!

Correct Positioning of the Footboard

Setting up your surf ski is a personal task. We recommend you position the footboard so it provides a solid platform for your feet, allows comfortable leg extension on your forward stroke, and allows easy manipulation of the toe pedals for rudder control. A slight bend to your knees will ensure you can rotate and work your legs while paddling. Use the Velcro® strap adjustment to set footstrap tightness.

Footboard Maintenance

The V-Series footboard is very user friendly and you should not encounter any problems with its operation. Routinely rinsing the footboard, rails and footstrap after use will keep salt, sand and other contaminants from collecting and hindering the action of the footboard. A light application of silicone spray applied to the notched rails once or twice a season will keep your footboard moving smoothly.

The V-Series Rudder

Rudder Operation

The V-Series rudder is operated with the two toe pedals on top of the carbon footboard. This “gas pedal” type system is extremely easy to operate. To turn the bow of the surf ski to the right, simply push the right toe pedal forward. To bring it back to center, push the left pedal forward until the two pedals are back in line vertically (and vice versa to point the bow to the left.)

While underway the rudder does not lock in a fixed center position. To keep the rudder centered and “neutral” keep equal pressure on the toe pedals, keeping them both in line. This is a very natural and comfortable position, and allows for instant corrections while paddling.

Do not over-correct with your rudder! V-Series surf skis are surprisingly maneuverable, and the rudder is easy to use and very responsive. While underway, start your corrections in small increments, with small adjustments to the rudder, and then correct accordingly. Pushing the pedals back and forth aggressively will only frustrate you and keep the boat from finding the line you want!

Rudder Options & Initial Rudder Installation

V-Series surf skis are sold with either Epic's Universal rudder (photo 3) or Epic's Surf rudder standard, depending on where the boat is purchased. Both rudder designs are installed the same way. New surf skis are sent from Epic with the following materials included: rudder, rudder pin, spreader bar (with rudder lines attached), and an allen wrench. The smaller items are shipped inside the rudder access cover (photo 4). The rudder is wrapped separately for protection, and then secured and shipped in the footwell.



Photo 3. V-Series – installed Universal rudder and weed guard

Photo 4. V-Series – rudder access cover with materials as shipped: allen wrench, spreader bar, rudder pins

To install the rudder, begin by opening the rudder access cover (loosen in a counter-clockwise direction). Run the rudder post up through rudder housing in the hull of the boat (photo 5). Then put the rudder pin through the small hole in the top of the rudder post and center the pin (photos 6 and 7). The pin ensures the rudder post is firmly captured and can not spin in the spreader bar assembly once the assembly is tightened. Place the spreader bar over the top of the rudder post (photo 8) and tighten the two spreader bar bolts so that the top of the rudder post and the pin ends are pinched and held fast. Tighten the screws with the allen wrench (photos 9 and 10).



Photo 5. V-Series – run rudder post up through rudder housing in hull of boat

Photo 6. V-Series – place rudder pin through hole in top of rudder post



Photo 7. V-Series – center rudder pin in rudder post

Photo 8. V-Series – place spreader bar over top of rudder post



Photo 9. V-Series – once spreader bar is over the top of the rudder post, use allen wrench to tighten the spreader bar bolts so that top of rudder post and pin ends are pinched and held fast

Photo 10. V-Series – rudder installed

Correct Positioning/Adjustments of the Rudder

The rudder is controlled with rudder lines that run from the footboard back to a spreader bar in the stern. The spreader bar is accessed by removing the small, round rudder access cover at the stern of the ski. The cover loosens in a counter-clockwise direction.

Inside, the rudder lines are tied off on the spreader bar. Stand at the stern of the ski and look toward the bow; the right pedal line is to the right, and the left pedal line is to the left. To adjust rudder or pedal unevenness, or to adjust the pedal angles for more comfort, adjustments may be made at the spreader bar. **Example:** the right toe pedal is angled too far forward, causing discomfort and keeping the rudder out of line. **Solution:** Have someone hold both pedals in line and even with each other at your desired angle. While they hold the pedals steady, untie the right rudder line from the spreader bar, and pull up the slack so that the tension is even. Make sure that the rudder is perfectly straight, and then retie the rudder line to the spreader bar. Replace the cover. This method can be used any time you want to make pedal adjustments and/or fine tune the rudder alignment. For quick on-the-beach *minor* adjustments, without untying the lines, it is also possible to slip and adjust rudder line slack around the foot pedals and footwell to alter rudder position or pedal angles as needed.

Rudder Maintenance & Removal

Maintaining and working with V-Series rudders is easy. They are designed to be low profile, unobtrusive and hassle free. There is very little hardware and few moving parts to worry about. Remove the cover and rinse the rudder in fresh water after you paddle.

To switch out rudders or completely remove the rudder for maintenance or repair, begin by opening the rudder access cover (loosen in a counter-clockwise direction). The spreader bar assembly is opened by loosening the two spreader bar bolts -- use the allen wrench provided with your boat (photo 11). Once the spreader bar bolts are unfastened, the rudder will be loose. BEFORE pulling the rudder post free from the hull, be sure to remove the small pin inserted in the top of the rudder post. This will allow you to pull the rudder blade and post completely clear of the rudder housing. Keep track of your pin (e.g. tape it to your rudder) (photo 12)! Reattach a rudder by tightening the spreader bar assembly back around the rudder post and pin when the rudder is back in place (if needed see Initial Rudder Installation section above).



Photo 11. V-Series – loosen spreader bar assembly using allen wrench

Photo 12. V-Series – be sure to remove and keep track of rudder pin removed from top of rudder post, e.g. tape it to your rudder post

V10, V10L and V10 Sport Deck Design Features & Rigging

Epic's groundbreaking seat design, adjustable footbrace, single footwell and high capacity venturi drain guarantee a comfortable ride in V10, V10L and V10 Sport surf skis. Front deck cutaways allow a close, efficient catch. In addition, all V-Series skis are equipped with deck rigging behind the cockpit and in front of the footwell. Elastic bungees immediately behind the cockpit are there for safety and to provide extra storage space. Store items such as extra safety gear and personal effects including: a spare paddle, maps and charts and other accessories. The small elastic bungee setup in front of the footwell provides just a little more space for accessories (photo 13). Many paddlers find this an ideal location to store their water bottle, or to attach a GPS unit.

At the top front of the footwell is the drain plug/breather tube (photo 13). Open the plug to drain water if necessary. Otherwise, keep the drain plug/breather tube closed to keep water out while allowing equalization of pressure inside the surf ski.



Photo 13. V-Series – footwell bungee and drain plug/breather tube in closed position

Maintenance

Check all the bungee cords periodically to make sure there are no weaknesses, cuts or abrasions. If you find a faulty line or bungee on your boat, replace it immediately. Give all deck rigging, lines and the drain plug a quick rinse with fresh water after paddling, especially when paddling in salt water, to remove salt, sand and any other materials.

V12 Deck Design Features & Rigging

Like other V-Series skis, the V12 features Epic’s groundbreaking seat design, adjustable footbrace, and single footwell for a guaranteed comfortable ride. Front deck cutaways allow a close, efficient catch. All V-Series skis are equipped with deck rigging behind the cockpit and in front of the footwell. Elastic bungees immediately behind the cockpit are there for safety and to provide extra storage space. Store items such as extra safety gear and personal effects including: a spare paddle, maps and charts and other accessories. The small elastic bungee setup in front of the footwell provides just a little more space for accessories (photo 13). Many paddlers find this an ideal location to store their water bottle, or to attach a GPS unit.

At the top front of the footwell is the drain plug/breather tube. Open the plug to drain water if necessary. Otherwise, keep the drain plug/breather tube closed to keep water out while allowing equalization of pressure inside the surfski.

While other V-Series skis have venturi drains, the V12 has a retractable **bailer** (photo 14). Specific recommendations for strategic use of the bailer while paddling are located in the “tips” section of the Epic website -- correct and strategic use of the bailer varies depending on paddling conditions. Practice opening and closing the bailer, with your ski in a sling or other safe place, before taking the V12 out for a paddle. To open the bailer, lift the bailer lever and press straight down on the lever (photo 14), pushing the bailer down into the hull of the boat. Do not force the bailer! Practice until you are sure of the correct angle for opening. To close the bailer, again use the lever in the up position (photo 14), but rather than pushing down on the lever, push the lever forward. This will pull the bailer back up into the hull of the ski. When closed the bailer should be flush to the hull of the surf ski. When not being used to open or close the bailer, the lever will tuck out of the way in the resting position (photo 15). Use caution to ensure you do not bend the bailer in shallow water, on the beach or dock, and never force the bailer.



Photo 14. V-Series – bailer in position to open or close

Photo 15. V-Series – bailer in resting position

In order to provide front deck cutaways, the V12's front deck was further narrowed. This could result in water splashing into the footwell in some conditions. To counter this possibility, the V12 includes an optional removable footwell **cowling** that may be attached with Velcro® fasteners.



Photo 16. V-Series – cowling installed

V12 Maintenance

Check all the bungee cords periodically to make sure there are no weaknesses, cuts or abrasions. If you find a faulty line or bungee on your boat, replace it immediately. Give all deck rigging, lines, the drain plug, bailer and cowling a quick rinse with fresh water after paddling, especially when paddling in salt water, to remove salt, sand and any other materials. Keep sand out of the bailer. If the bailer seems sticky, you can try a very light application of silicon spray – however, realized this may attract more sand/dirt. Store and cartop your ski with the bailer in the closed position, to ensure it does not get bent or otherwise damaged. Remove the footwell cowling when cartopping your surf ski – see section on transporting your surf ski.

Overall Surf Ski Care

Your Epic surf ski is for the most part "wash and wear." If done on a regular basis, maintenance should be minimal, consume little time and can actually be an enjoyable part of paddling. Routine maintenance not only takes care of your boat, but helps you foster a bond with your surf ski. After all, your surf ski needs to take care of you as well. It's an important relationship!

Perhaps the simplest (yet important) task is washing your ski. This should be routine and automatic, especially after every saltwater or beach paddling session. A good rinse with fresh water is all it takes. It is essential to keep the deck and its components (footbrace, rails, rudder, drain plug, bailer, etc.) clear of salt and grit to prevent corrosion and jamming of the parts. For a more detailed cleaning, dish washing soap or mild boat cleaners can be used to remove any dirt, grime or stains. We use a product called *Roll-Off*. It is very effective, biodegradable and comes in a convenient spray bottle.

Occasionally look your boat over thoroughly, on the exterior and interior. On the exterior look for any damage or cracks, make sure there are no structural problems. You're bound to find scratches. Sometimes very fine sanding and polishing can help remove scratches, but usually it is better to just leave them alone. Check the condition of your deck bungee cords and footstrap. Be sure to replace anything worn or frayed, tighten any hardware that is loose, and contact your local dealer for advice on repair work that needs to be done.

Protecting your surf ski from harmful UV rays will keep it sound and looking its best for many years. There are a number of products available that work well. *303 Protectant* and *UV Tech* are two examples that may be sprayed on the boat then wiped down with a rag. This simple process protects, and restores shine. You only need to do this 3-4 times a year.

Take Special Care of Your Ultra Layup!

Epic Kayaks is committed to manufacturing the finest surf skis available using only the highest quality materials. If you have purchased an Ultra layup you know they are exceptionally light, but they require more care when handling. Avoid direct impact with hard objects such as rocks, which can dent and/or delaminate the lightweight honeycomb core. Do not tie your Ultra ski directly onto hard metal racks! Appropriately shaped saddles or padding are required to eliminate stress concentrations when transporting and storing an Ultra layup boat.

Storing Your Surf Ski

Available storage options obviously depend on your available space. Ideally, store your surf ski indoors, in a garage or barn. Your boat may be on the ground, on wall racks or stands, or suspended from the ceiling (to save space.) For floor storage, use padded saw horses or kayak cradles. Space the horses or cradles about 1/3 the distance from the bow and stern. For suspended storage, use polypropylene straps that wrap around rafters or hooks in the ceiling. Loop the straps under the surf ski about 1/3 the distance from the bow and stern, so that it is balanced.

For outdoor storage use the same padded sawhorses and/or cradles that you would use inside. However, take some additional critical steps to protect your surf ski from the elements. Store your surf ski out of direct sunlight. Keep rain, snow and ice off your surf ski; long-term parking in the shade is not enough. From the hardware store get a weatherproof tarp. Once you know where you want to store the boat, put the storage racks and surf ski in place. Create a protective tent with the tarp, using some rope and wooden stakes. You can even use existing fences and trees to tie off if needed. A "tent" is better than wrapping the ski with the tarp. Wrapping can keep moisture and other contaminants trapped close to the hull. Also, make sure the surf ski is well secured and protected from the wind, so it does not blow off your stands and get damaged.

Regardless of whether you store your surf ski inside or outside, here are a few simple storage points:



- Place racks or straps under the surf ski for support; space about 1/3 the distance from the bow and stern
- Make sure the surf ski is clean and completely dry, inside and out (especially in cold climates)
- The decision of whether to store your surf ski in a cover is a personal one, however, use one for long term storage only if you are sure your boat will remain dry
- Apply a UV protectant for long term storage
- Store your V12 surf ski with the bailer closed to prevent damage

Excellent storage rack options may be found at:

- www.maloneautoracks.com
- www.talic.com

Transporting Your Surf Ski

Even if you live on the water, eventually you'll want to load up and drive your surf ski somewhere. Luckily, there are a great selection of rack systems and car-topping accessories that make transportation a cinch. Many cars, vans and SUV's also now come standard with pretty decent factory roof racks. Transporting your surf ski right side up or upside down is personal preference, as is the use of a boat cover.

NOTE: If you are transporting a V12, close the bailer and do not leave the optional footwell cowling on your ski! The cowling is not strong enough to support the weight of your ski and/or the tie down tension of standard straps when car-topping or transporting on a trailer.

The main objective is to make sure your surf ski is securely fastened to whatever rack system you have chosen, and to ensure driver visibility is not compromised. The systems can vary from inexpensive foam blocks to more pricey aftermarket cross bars that incorporate all types of accessories for transporting. We recommend that you talk with your local paddlesports retailer about what roof rack options are available for the vehicle you use. Most retailers will have a variety of options, will be able to install whatever you choose to use on your vehicle and will also show you how to properly secure your surf ski.

Below are a few recommended companies to consider for surf ski transportation:

- Thule – www.thuleracks.com
- Malone – www.maloneautoracks.com
- Yakima – www.yakima.com

Recommended Gear and Accessories

The following list of accessories and safety items represents essential gear that should be accounted for each time you head out on the water. Having the items on this list will help ensure you have the capability to perform self-rescues, signal for help, and will make your overall paddling experience more comfortable and enjoyable. Check with the maritime authorities in your area (e.g. the Coast Guard) to determine applicable regulations.

- PFD (Personal Flotation Device)
- Whistle or other sound-signaling device
- Spare Paddle
- Compass and/or handheld GPS
- Cell Phone / VHF radio
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses



- Hat
- Water

Epic Kayaks manufactures a variety of surf ski accessories. Check out the Epic website or your local Epic dealer for Epic brand paddle leashes, leg leashes, thigh pads, non-slip foot pads, weed guards (photo 3), and alternate rudder options.

Warranty Terms

Epic Kayaks warrants all products to be free from defects in materials and workmanship for one year from the date of purchase. This warranty applies to the original owner and is non-transferable. If damage is due to a material or manufacturing defect, Epic will repair or replace the surf ski free of charge. Epic reserves the right to determine if a product will be covered under warranty. Normal wear, cosmetic blemishes, and damage due to improper use, modification, negligence or transport are not covered under warranty. Demo equipment is not covered under warranty. Your original invoice is your proof of purchase.

Returns (Warranty/Repairs)

To pursue a customer warranty claim, contact your local dealer. We will work with you through your local dealer. If this process does not meet your expectations, you are welcome to contact Epic Kayaks directly. Follow the procedures below:

- Contact Epic – we need the surf ski serial number, model, color and location where purchased. You will be assigned a Return Authorization number (RA#) for tracking your claim. Failure to follow this procedure will result in a 10% restocking fee
- Epic will provide a correct return address (we have several locations)
- Your shipment should include your RA#, name, address and clear contact information, along with the reason for returning the item
- You are responsible for the shipping cost to Epic, however, Epic will pay return shipping costs
- Please call customer service with any questions, NEVER send product to Epic without an RA#

