

PORTLAND PUDGY

9. Boat Cover

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BOAT COVER

Portland Pudgy, Inc offers an optional boat cover. The Portland Pudgy is made of rugged UV-resistant polyethylene; however, to best protect the Pudgy from the elements (including sunlight) it is best to use a boat cover.

IMPORTANT: The boat cover is *required* if you are going to use the exposure canopy in pre-set mode. Not only does it protect the canopy from sun damage, it also prevents accidental inflation by preventing the canopy from blowing about in the wind. (See *Using The Boat Cover with the Exposure Canopy* on page 4, and chapter 4. *Exposure Canopy*.)

You can choose from three types of cover:

- Basic boat cover
- Boat cover for use with arm davits
- Boat cover for use with swim platform davits.

All standard boat covers are light gray, Odyssey III, 6.5 oz/sq yd, coated polyester, with 12" deep skirt. Odyssey custom color, and Sunbrella fabric and color are also available.

Basic Boat Cover



Portland Pudgy's basic boat cover

The basic boat cover includes:

- Bungee cord around perimeter of skirt for snug fit
- Two one-inch webbing straps with stainless steel snap buckles that pass under bottom of boat to secure cover
- One one-inch webbing strap with snap buckle on the stern of the cover
- Four covered slots for access to through-holes in boat (for tie-down).

Using the Basic Boat Cover

To use the basic boat cover, simply cover the boat, fasten the snap buckles, and pull the webbing snugly to secure the cover in place.

The web strap and buckle on the stern should be pulled tight if wind is expected. This is critically important if you are using the boat cover with the preset exposure canopy.

See photo of aft strap and buckle, at right.



Boat Cover for Double Arm Davits



Portland Pudgy's boat cover for use with arm davits

The boat cover for use with double arm davits is the same as the basic boat cover plus:

- Two 24-inch (.61m) double pull zippers to access davit lifting lines to Portland Pudgy lifting bridles
- Four 12-inch (.305m) double pull zippers to access davit harness spring lines to lifting eye bolts on Pudgy.

Using the Boat Cover with Arm Davits

The following instructions explain how to use the boat cover with Portland Pudgy's optional davit harness.

You put the boat cover on the Pudgy before attaching the davit blocks and spring lines. To do this:

1. Lay the cover on loose, so you can stand in the Pudgy and put the davit blocks and lines through the boat cover's slots and connect to the lifting bridles.
2. Put the cover on as completely as possible, making sure it's over the bow, the stern, and the far side of the Pudgy. The buckles should be on the near side (towards the transom of the mother boat).
3. Get out of the Pudgy, and from the mother boat, lift the Pudgy to the level where you can secure the straps for the boat cover to the boat cover buckles. You may need to use a boat hook to retrieve the bitter ends of the H strap.

The web strap and buckle on the stern should be pulled tight if wind is expected. This is critically important if you are using the boat cover with the preset exposure canopy.

For complete instructions on using the davit harness, see *10. Davit Harness*.

Boat Cover for Swim Platform Davits



Detail of boat cover for Weaver davits, showing one of four openings in sides for davit loops

The boat cover for use with swim platform davits is the same as the basic boat cover plus four twelve-inch (.305m) double pull zippers for access to Weaver davit mounting loops and stand-off rods.

Using the Boat Cover with Swim Platform Davits

1. Bring the Pudgy up alongside the swim platform.
2. Put the stainless steel davit loops in the appropriate through-holes and secure with the retaining pins. Be very careful not to drop the davit loops in the water.
3. Put the slots in the boat cover over the loops. (See photo, previous page.) Then put the boat cover on as completely as possible. You may need to finish putting it on when you hinge it up. See step 5.
4. Snap the davit loops into the davit heads on the swim platform, to fasten the Pudgy to the mother boat.
5. Hinge up the Pudgy. If you have not yet done so, fasten the boat cover's web straps snugly. The web strap and buckle on the stern should be pulled tight if wind is expected. This is critically important if you are using the boat cover with the preset exposure canopy.
6. If you use stand-offs, put the stand-offs through what are now the upper zippers. Secure to the receiving L-clips which you previously installed in the Pudgy.
7. Zip all openings closed.

USING THE BOAT COVER WITH THE EXPOSURE CANOPY

As noted previously, you must use a boat cover if you are going to pre-set the exposure canopy. The boat cover prevents accidental inflation because it holds down the CO2 cylinders' pull lanyards, protecting them from wind and from jostling about.

In serious weather conditions or for blue water sailing, it is not advisable to carry a dinghy on davits. It is better to carry it on deck securely fastened down. In a roll or extremely heavy weather, the Pudgy, like any lifeboat or life raft canister, could be washed overboard or off davits.

Nonetheless, some skippers may elect to carry their pre-set Pudgy lifeboat on davits.

The procedures for deploying the Pudgy are different in some respects depending on whether it is carried on deck, on swim platform (Weaver) davits, or on arm davits. The type of boat cover used is an important factor in deploying the Pudgy lifeboat.

For more detailed information, please see *Deploying the Pudgy with Pre-Set Exposure Canopy*, in *Chapter 4. Exposure Canopy*, page 11.