



## **Whitehall Rowing & Sail**

### **Whitehall Spirit® Solo 14™ and Tango 17™ Owners Manual**

Welcome and congratulations on your purchase! At Whitehall Rowing and Sail we are not only accomplished manufacturers, but also passionate open water rowers. We have combined our extensive rowing experience with innovative designs and the most advanced materials and methods to create the world's first thermoformed slide seat rowing boats. Our focus on detail is evident in both our boat's appearance and performance and we are confident that you will enjoy our beautiful crafts for many years to come.

Please take some time to read over this owner's manual. It will help familiarize you with the many benefits and features of your slide seat rowing boat to help you get the most out of your rowing experience.

#### **Whitehall's Unique Design and Construction**

The shape and design of our rowing boats are created using the latest computer modeling and analysis software ensuring that each boat performs at an optimal level for its intended use in various conditions. Designer, Harold Aune, has over thirty years experience in small craft design and plastics manufacturing.

Whitehall Spirit™ Thermoformed Slide seat Rowing models are molded from highly specialize thermoplastic materials. The rowing boat's hull and deck are a multilayered construction featuring a "Solarkote" exterior layer for the ultimate protections against fading and weathering. This material gives our boats the high luster finish, and excellent abrasion resistance that will provide many years of virtually maintenance-free service. The substrate or secondary layer is a very tough high impact ABS thermoplastic, providing a rugged back up to the Solarkote surface layer. These materials have higher impact strength than composite fiberglass and gel coats and are also easily polished or repaired if required. Unlike polyethylene boats, our thermoformed rowing boats are far less likely to deform in the sun or on your roof rack or trailer because they have a higher heat deflection threshold. Hulls are formed from .25" thick material for maximum strength and durability.

Your hull is extremely buoyant due to the watertight hull to deck joint. All fastenings are glued in place to ensure watertight integrity. An inter-deck support grid provides further strengthening in higher action areas such as the slide seat riser bases and footstop area.

## Safety

There are always risks involved in sports and open water rowing is no exception. It is very important to be aware of these before you embark on your rowing experience. Although rowing can be a very safe and fun-filled activity, rowers at the beginner stage should note that they might be particularly at risk in unfavorable conditions, such as bad weather or rough waters. It is important to learn how these conditions affect rowing boats and their operation. In addition, it is crucial to know how to re-enter your boat in the event of capsize, particularly if this happens in cold water. It is also advised that you row with a partner at all times so that there is someone available to assist you in the event of a capsize or other emergency, again especially in cold water. Wearing a PFD (Personal Floatation Device) is vital to your safety while rowing as well as the proper clothing for the appropriate conditions. These are only preliminary guidelines and Whitehall Rowing and Sail strongly recommends that you take a course from a certified instructor and learn as much as you can about rowing to ensure your experience is as safe as possible. New boats come with a "Learn to Slide Seat Row" DVD. This can also be seen online.

## Care and Maintenance

Your Whitehall Spirit Solo 14 or Tango 17 is designed to be as durable and maintenance-free as possible. However there are some simple measure you can take to ensure that your rowing boat stays in the best condition possible giving you many years of use and enjoyment. The built-in Solarkote finish resists against abrasion and harmful UV rays. All that is required is washing with a soft cloth or sponge and warm soapy water.

Whenever possible, avoid dragging your rowing boat on rough or rocky surfaces. If minor scuffs and abrasions do occur, we recommend the use of Novus or similar polishing products. **Note: Never use strong solvents, such as acetone, lacquer thinners, Lysol spray disinfectant, or paints containing strong chemicals such as turpentine or xylene on your rowing boat as these can seriously damage the finish of your boat.** A list of chemicals and some products and their usage provided by the plastics manufacturer is available on request. The outside of the rowing boat can be waxed but this is not necessary.

After use in saltwater it is very important to ensure that you thoroughly rinse your rowing boat with clean freshwater to prevent salt and grime buildup. Pay particular attention to the slide seat tracks and the outrigger arm bases. Flushing out the salt water will prevent crystallization with resultant wear and potential metal corrosion. Routinely check all safety items for wear and abrasion. Replace these as required.

## Storage

Your rowing boat can be stored either right side up or upside-down. Ensure that you have supports on areas that the hull makes contact with. Before you store your rowing boat make sure that all salt water is thoroughly rinsed off and that any gravel, sand or grit is wiped off of the slide seat tracks, footstop tracks and other hardware. Dry the boat off well before putting a cover on it for long term storage to reduce mold and mildew formation. We recommend keeping the boat securely covered with cover battens in place to keep water from pooling in the cover when stored right side up and with the drain plug removed.

When stored upside down, keeping water from pooling in the hull joint is advised by covering the entire hull with a well-secured tarp. Never allow water to sit on the hull during freezing weather. It is best to store your rowing boat out of direct sunlight whenever possible to further prolong the life of your rowing boat.

## **Transportation**

Transportation of your rowing boat can be made safe and easy with the proper gear. We recommend the use of any good galvanized bunk trailer of a 12' length for the Solo 14 and a 14' length for the Tango 17. The lightest weight trailers possible work well. Several keel rollers or slippery plastic guides located along the length of the rowboat's keel will help with loading and off loading. Use at least two 2" gunnel tie down straps with a proper cam lock buckle to secure the rowing boat to the trailer. Rope may be used as a substitute but is not as convenient. Pay attention that you do not over tighten to the point of distorting the rowing boat's shape. On road trips at higher freeway speeds be aware that flapping material in boats covers can cause shredding, extreme wear and complete failure of the cover. It is best to take the cover off during road transport and remove the drain plug to ensure that rainwater does not collect. Check the boat often by stopping during the road trip and make sure the drain plug is not blocked by debris, the tie downs are secure and the boat is sitting evenly on the trailer bunks.

## **Repair**

Your thermoformed rowing boat is made with materials that, if required, make repair very simple. Review the following repair methods below to determine the best course of action to take for your rowing boat's particular damage.

### **Abrasions**

Carefully wet sanding with 400 grit wet-dry sandpaper, followed by 600 grit, can repair scratches and abrasions. Use a cut polishing compound, such as Novus #2 or #3, to bring the finish back to its original high polish.

### **Leaks**

If a leak is found in a deck seam we recommend sealing the problem area with Devcon Plastic Welder (methyl methacrylate), which is a two-part adhesive that can be purchased at most hardware shops across NA. A urethane marine sealant can also be used.

### **Cracks or Perforations**

To repair a crack, begin by ensuring that the edges of the fracture are tight and aligned together so there is no gap and the surfaces are flush. Lightly sand and clean the site of the damaged area, extending at least an inch beyond the crack. Cover the crack well with Devcon Plastic Welder (a urethane marine sealant should **not** be used in its place for this type of repair) and then immediately apply a piece of ABS plastic sheet that is cut to overlap by at least ¼" around the outside edge of the sanded area. Fill around the edge of the ABS plastic sheet patch with Devcon Plastic Welder to ensure a watertight seal. Applying a piece of light plastic poly sheeting over the patch immediately after filling the edges with using light pressure will help to smooth out excess glue and produce a better looking patch.

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## Whitehall Rowing & Sail

### ***Solo 14<sup>th</sup>* & *Tango 17<sup>th</sup>* Warranty and Waiver of Liability**

Whitehall Rowing & Sail and its owner Whitehall Reproductions Canada Ltd. are proud to accompany the ***Solo 14<sup>th</sup>* & *Tango 17<sup>th</sup>***, the world's first thermoformed Whitehall rowing boat, with a two-year limited warranty to the original owner of the boat. You must activate your warranty by mailing the completed registration form enclosed to Whitehall Rowing & Sail, Box 8850, Central Station, Victoria, BC V8W 3Z1 within 30 days of your purchase in order to initiate the warranty.

The ***Solo 14<sup>th</sup>* & *Tango 17<sup>th</sup>*** warranty covers defective materials or workmanship for a period of two years when used as intended under normal conditions. Wear and tear, damage caused by rough or improper usage, accidents, or 'Acts of God' are not covered by this warranty. The ***Solo 14<sup>th</sup>* & *Tango 17<sup>th</sup>*** warranty applies only to the original purchaser excluding rental fleets, outfitters, tour operators or other similar operations, and cannot be transferred to another person. See separate warranty for commercial operations.

**The warranty does not apply to *Solo 14<sup>th</sup>*s & *Tango 17<sup>th</sup>* that are altered or modified in any way from the original state of manufacture when purchased.** Use of strong solvents, acetone, and lacquers or similarly based paints will nullify the warranty. Warranty does not include damage incurred due to improper storage or ice damage. Every claim must be accompanied by the original bill of sale. All warranty claims will be subject to an investigation by Whitehall Rowing and Sail to determine whether the problem is a result of defective materials or workmanship or the result of misuse or accident above and beyond the scope of the warranty. Photos accompanying the damaged part of the ***Solo 14<sup>th</sup>*** or ***Tango 17<sup>th</sup>*** may be requested to ensure an accurate evaluation during the investigation. **Whitehall Rowing and Sail may repair or replace a defective product at its sole discretion. This warranty does not extend to or include a return of any portion of the purchase price.**

In the event that you realize a problem exists, it is your responsibility to immediately notify Whitehall Rowing & Sail in writing or by email.

### ***Waiver of Liability***

Whitehall Rowing & Sail and its owner Whitehall Reproductions Canada Ltd. are not responsible for injury or accidents sustained during the use of their product. Users acknowledge all assumed risks and are solely responsible for all damages or injuries incurred, including death, which may result from the use of Whitehall Rowing & Sail products and waive any and all claims against Whitehall Rowing & Sail and Whitehall Reproductions Canada Ltd.

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## **IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS FOR SET UP OF YOUR NEW BOAT**

### **Bow Vent**

Your Whitehall Spirit® Solo 14™ or Tango 17™ will arrive with it's bow vent loose to allow for temperature and pressure changes during transport. You will need to gently tighten the screw in cap with a slot type screwdriver of the appropriate size (a coin will also work). This vent also enables any condensation that might build up in the hull from time to time to be drained, by loosening the cap and turning the boat over, then elevating the stern of the boat to allow any water to drain out.

### **Slide Seat Set Up**

Your slide seat (the black seat you sit on) is mounted on a movable nylon undercarriage that houses stainless steel axles with nylon wheels and roll on the two anodized tracks. There are two "tabs" that keep the undercarriage on the track which though quite strong, can be broken if the slide seat is not installed properly. **\*\*Important always make sure that the cutout for your coccyx (tailbone) in the black seat faces towards the bow.\*\***

#### **Lock Down**

For travel a short bungee cord run from one side of the tracks to the other will keep the slide seat from rolling freely.

#### **Removal**

Your slide seat unit can be removed from either end of the tracks by first sliding the undercarriage, the part with the wheels, needs to be pulled away from the seat itself to face the end of the track that you want to remove the seat unit from. You can then gently pull the whole unit off of the end of the tracks. This process takes seconds.

#### **Replacement**

Your slide seat can be replaced on the boats tracks by pulling the undercarriage all the way towards the end of the tracks that you installing the seat from. Position the wheels in the tracks at an even angle and gently slide the seat back on, ensuring that it rolls freely and that the undercarriage tabs are in the notch on the inside of your tracks.

### **Bilge Drain**

Your boat's bilge drain plug is an adjustable rubber and metal version. It can be easily removed by first pulling up on the pivoting metal arm at the top that is attached to the rotating center pin for the purposes of draining any water that has accumulated inside the boat. The rotating pin adjusts the tension/width of the plug slightly, to allow for a tight fit. Your boat's plug has been adjusted to fit, however you can adjust as needed. We recommend leaving it out if you are storing the boat right side up to allow any rainwater that might get in to drain. Remember to put it back in before you go rowing!

**(See next page for more important set up information...)**

## Foot Stop Adjustment

Your footstop pad is designed for use with soft soled sports shoes such as tennis shoes and adjustable in two ways.

First heel cups can be changed to accommodate the size of your foot and second, placement of the footstop on the track – **very important** – will enable the correct set up of your oars for your body size and shape. Watch your How to Row DVD that came with the boat!!! This contains complete instruction footstop adjustment.

### Heel Cups

First you can set your heel cups up to accommodate your specific size of foot. There are wing nuts on each side of the bottom underside of the pad that allow you to remove the heel cups and change from low (long to medium feet) to middle (medium to small feet) to top (child size) location. Place your foot on the footstop, heel in the cup and secure the Velcro strap tightly first to determine if the heel cup feels right. If you find that your straps are too high, then move the heel cup upwards.

### Footstop Tracks

Two stainless steel T-nuts are captured by the notched black footstop tracks and adjusted by using the stainless steel wingnuts. **\*\*Important:** Make sure that the black nylon pipe end fitting is rotated so that it engages the notched track correctly. If it is not correct the footstop will be slide and not be secure even though you've tightened down the wingnuts. When your footstop is located at the correct point along the track for your leg length, your oar handles will clear your body by an extended thumb with when you are in the fully extended legs position with shoulders and torso back. Again... WATCH THE DVD!

**We welcome your input and suggestions so please call 1-800-663-7481 or email us at [info@whitehallrow.com](mailto:info@whitehallrow.com)**