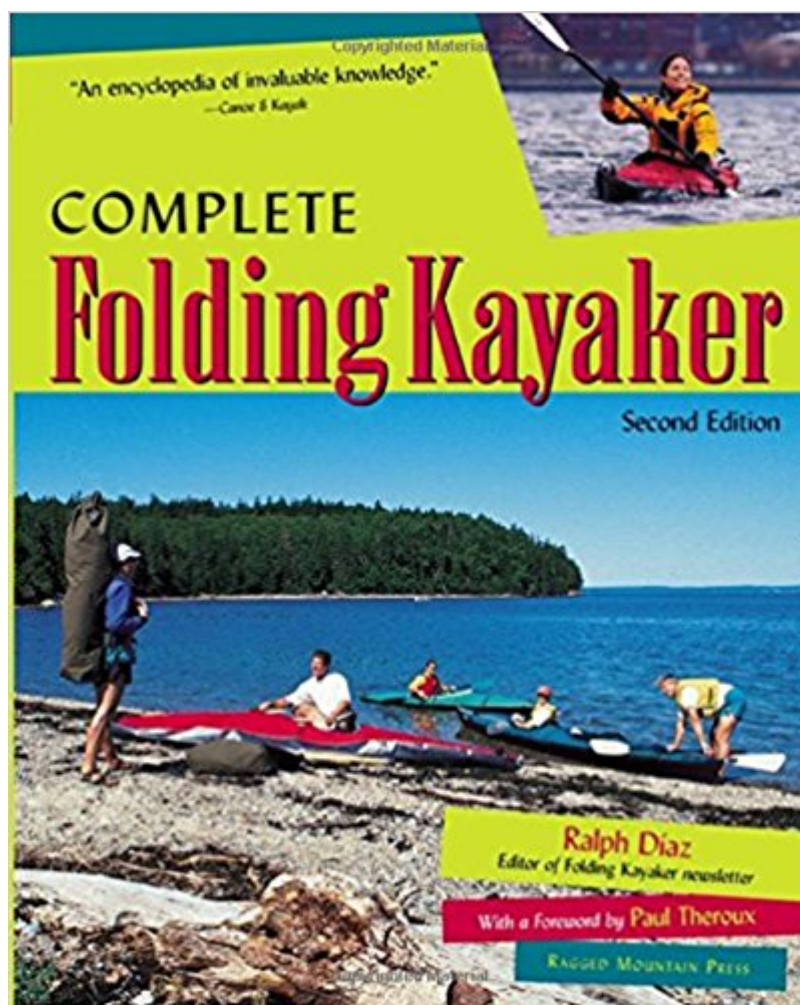


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# Complete Folding Kayaker, Second Edition



## Synopsis

Most kayakers paddle a boat with a rigid hull. Yet a distinct group of enthusiasts paddle "foldables", portable kayaks that can be assembled and disassembled in minutes, packed in a backpack and carried by plane, train or car just about anywhere. Foldable kayaks are more seaworthy, more durable, more versatile, easier to maintain, and more stable than hardshell kayaks. This new edition of "Complete Folding Kayaker" is both updated and enhanced. The best source of information on portable kayaks available.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (18 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

If you are about to buy a kayak, rigid or folding, you will benefit by reading this book, at least most of it. Each boat type has its virtues and drawbacks, but what are they? In a careful, comprehensive, and clear manner, Ralph Diaz sets forth the virtues of the folding kayak. In doing so, drawbacks of both designs surface. This book is invaluable in obtaining a perspective before you buy. Diaz discusses the heritage of the folding kayak: a boat used by Eskimos to hunt at sea; a boat built of bones, driftwood, and animal hide. Diaz points out that although springing from an old design, the current "skin and frame" vessel is constructed of modern materials. This synthesis of old and new renders a craft that is strong, light, roomy, seaworthy, versatile, easily repaired, and portable. These features now compete winningly with the contemporary rigid design. Diaz suggests criteria for selecting a particular model. These he puts into the category of "Sizing up your needs." Among the questions you need to ask are: Do you wish to kayak in a single or double? Will you need to

assemble and disassemble it regularly? For instance, do you live in the city and keep the kayak in your closet? Also, where do you paddle? In protected waters or the open sea? What is your predominant launching area like? Shells, rocks, sand, a dock, debris? How will you use it? What are your skill levels? How strong are you? Answers to these questions will ultimately determine which of the varied designs will meet your needs. This chapter includes strategies for buying a new folding kayak as well as what to consider when buying used. Diaz then compares the major folding kayaks made in the US, Canada, Germany, and France. Here he evaluates six double- and eight single-folding kayaks.

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