



**Eric Jackson
President**

How to outfit your Jackson Kayak

1. First you need to start from the point of view that: "If this isn't the most comfortable I have ever been in a kayak, I am doing something wrong." The ergonomic design of the kayak, starting with the thigh and knee area, going to the feet/heels, and finishing in the seat, hips, and backband are all well engineered and the package is far and away the best kayaking has ever seen.

You need to get four things right for proper fit, and ultimate comfort, and they are:

- a. Proper Seat Position
- b. Happy Feet Footbag
- c. Proper butt position in seat
- d. Proper Backband position
- e. Proper Hip Pad position

Here is the best way to get your entire boat set up perfectly with each of the 5 key components.

- Proper Seat Position-
 - a. Your boat should trim out nicely with you sitting up straight (parting line of kayak should be the same height out of the water in the front and back.)
 - i. If you are short and heavy and have lots of room in front of your feet- move your seat forward to the front notch.
 - ii. If you are medium height and weight and have some room in front of your feet, keep it neutral.
 - iii. If you are tall and lightweight, and have no room in front of your feet- move it to the back position. (or just want to get a big body in a little boat!)
 - b. To move the seat-
 - i. pull the hip pads off and then reach behind the seat pan and loosen the thumbscrew. If it is really tight- use a screwdriver on the screw.
 - ii. Pull the seat pan out getting the screw out of the drop down tab in the cockpit and then put it back in the hole you want to use.
 - iii. Put the Lockwasher back on the screw and tighten the thumbscrew.
 - iv. Tighten with a screwdriver if you don't want it to loosen while you paddle.
- Happy Feet Footbag- This is one of the best pieces of equipment you will ever own- but like anything useful, you need to know how to use it...
 - a. Remove the hip pads and loosen the backband all of the way.
 - b. Open the Blow tube valve and blow air into the bean bag
 - c. Fold the front of the footbag in on itself to make a small pocket that goes across the entire front of the bag.
 - d. Get in the kayak with your butt on the seat and your knees up and feet by your butt.
 - e. Put your feet down into the kayak and your toes into the pocket you made in bag at the same time.
 - f. Push your feet into the footbag making footpockets, while getting your legs in the thighbraces.
 - g. As the air is being pushed out of the beanbag, dig your toes and feet into the beans like digging your feet into the sand at a beach, until the footpockets hold your feet exactly how you like them to be in the boat when you paddle.

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- h. Make sure you are sitting up flush with the crotch block and then tighten the backband, then pump up the pump bulb (make sure the valve is closed all of the way) until your feet are tight enough.
- i. Suck the remaining air from the bean bag tube and close it tight. (keep it closed from now on, unless you want to change it again.)
- j. TROUBLE SHOOTING-
 - i. you can't fit in the boat- you need to get out, blow air in again, and then get in digging footpockets into the end of the boat- **NOBODY CAN FIT IN THE BOAT WITHOUT THE FOOTBAG, BUT NOT FIT IN WITH IT! IF YOU FEEL YOU NEED TO REMOVE IT- YOU ARE DOING IT WRONG!!!!**
 - ii. Your footbag keeps getting messed up- You didn't suck the air out and then close the tube valve. If you leave the valve open and you will have to fix the bag every time you get in and out, bad idea.
 - iii. Your pumpbulb doesn't work- this is one of two things- most likely you didn't tighten it enough. If the little valve cap comes off you are loosening it way too much. One full turn to loosen! There are two stops on the valve, designed to keep people from losing the valve cap- don't loosen it past the stop and you won't lose the valve. The other issue is a quality issue we had with a few of them. Glue clogged the tube at the bag. If you can't pump your bag up, pull the tube out of the bag, and then cut the end of the tube off to remove the clogged area and put back into the bag.
- Proper Butt position in the Seat-
 - a. Crotch should be against the crotch block, no space between it and your crotch.
 - b. How do you know if you are sitting too far back? Your outer thigh will hit the sides of the seat pan and cut off circulation in you leg causing your legs to hurt or fall asleep.
- Proper Backband Position-
 - a. The "prostraps" or nylon straps on the sides of the backband should be loose. If not you will be unable to tighten the backband far enough to pull you forward in the seat, causing the issues mentioned above.
 - b. The Prostraps should be either totally under the ratched strap or surrounding it, not over top of it. This holds the backband up properly.
 - c. Once you get in the seat properly, lean forward and pull the backband up to you (the quick way to tighten it), then ratchet it a few times until desired support is achieved.
- Proper hip pad position-
 - a. Want to know what was a Jackson Kayak design flaw? I made the hip pads too aggressive for most people to use in the factory installed position. Want to make them work as good or better than any hip pads yet? Read below.
 - b. Pull the hip pads off the vecro seat pan and rotate the front of the hip pads upward and move the entire hip pad back far enough to prevent extending beyond the front of the seat pan.

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- c. Get in the boat in the proper seat position- If they are still too tight- rotate up more in the front, period. At some point they will not be any tighter in the hips than no hip pads, but they will keep your butt from coming off the seat.
- d. Add the small 2" shims to the back pocket of the hip pad to house your butt better and prevent side to side movement. Add the 4" shims if they aren't aggressive enough (like for me).
- e. Tighten the strap down and they will stay in place, along with full Velcro coverage.

Trouble Shooting:

1. Your hips hurt
 - a. You are sitting too far back in the seat.
 - b. Your hip pads are too low, too far forward, or have too many shims.
2. You can't get far enough forward and be tight
 - a. Your prostraps are too tight on the backband, not allowing you to tighten it up far enough to pull you to the front of the seat.
 - b. In the 4 Fun and Super Fun- your red nylon backband extenders are too long in the most extended hole, so you need to move it to the second hole.
 - c. You haven't figured out how to get forward in the Happy Feet Properly so you are forced too far back.
 - d. You are really, really tall for the boat and need to move the seat back, bringing the crotch block to you! (this is also a possibility for #1 too)
3. You still can't get the Happy Feet right- Ask a friend to show you, or email me, and I will talk you through it.

Summary: It took tons of ergonomic studies to create the perfect angles for the leg position. David Knight spent sleepless nights so you would have the perfect fit. Clay Wright, David Knight, and I spent our years of expertise and experience on making the boats right, the first time, so you could enjoy them. They fit a variety of sizes, with larger people getting into smaller boats comfortably. You won't find your knees or hips torqued, your feet will be very happy, and you will have better knee and thigh contact than ever before. You will notice that you have full contact from the thigh to the knee, plus contact on the outside of your knee against the outside of the boat preventing your legs from dropping to the outside when putting your boat on edge or rolling.

We achieved all of this with less components and less weight. My dad always said, "A good engineer can do with an ounce, what any idiot can do with a pound."

Enjoy your Jackson Kayak paddling experience- May your whole body be as happy as your feet!

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EJ

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