

Inflatable Boat Quick Launcher

Designed by Nick Petrescu, Sept 2006

General

If you own a inflatable boat then you certainly know the pain of launching it alone if you decide to go for an afternoon solo fishing. And even though products to help in that direction are available as expensive OEM launching wheels from your boat vendor or aftermarket, they all require basic installation skills and something that really I was not willing to do: drilling the boat transom. In addition, most of these products require that the wheels or the wheel mounting guides are left on. And while the lifted wheel steal the beauty of your boat, the guides in some cases prevent the installation of other equipment such as the planning flaps.

Our solution is based on few principles:

- simple, easy to install and store in the boat or in the car
- less expensive than currently offered solutions
- reliable and effective.

With these in mind, we came up with the Inflatable Boat Quick Launcher. The product is designed for inflatable boats that range from 2.6-3.6m in length and maximum 100Kg at the transom. with motor installed. We tested the product on a Zodiac FR340 equipped with a Yamaha 9.9 motor with amazing results.

Technical Details

The Quick Launcher axle assembly is comprised of a combination of two different aluminum alloys 6063 for the main axle and respectively 6061 for the machined wheel hub that are press fitted into an amazingly light, yet strong unit. The axle by itself weighs less than 1.5Kg but will support an inflatable boat with the motor weighing up to 100Kg at the transom. Once the pneumatic, corrosion free wheels are attached, the whole assembly can actually float eliminating costly mistakes during in-water attaching. One strap firmly secures the axle to the boat in matter of moments. One time adjustable donuts ensure the axle is centered and also preventing side sways. When not in use, the axle can be decoupled at its center and the two wheels can be removed by simply detaching the pins.

Installation Instructions

1. Unpack the Quick Launcher and identify the components:
 - Two corrosion free resistant wheels
 - Two ring pins
 - Four (axle press-fitted or screw fitted) anti sway, tube centering donuts (two per tube)
 - Center axle (two parts)
 - One 13 ft strap
 - Installation instructions

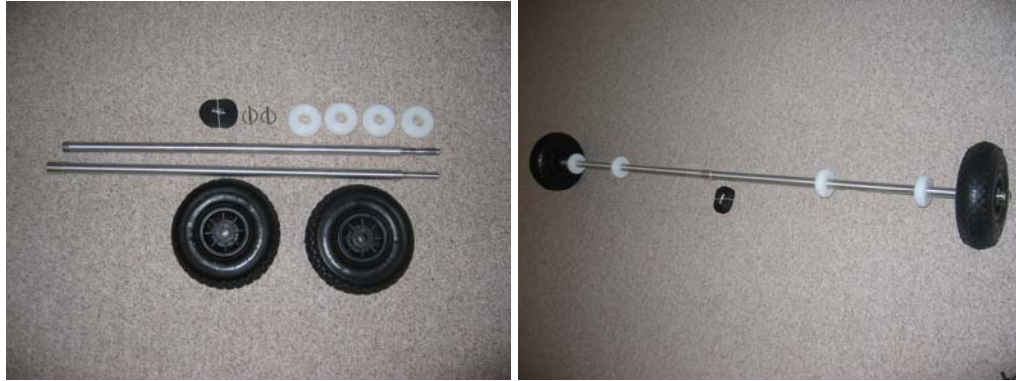


Figure 1. Launcher components and assembled

2. couple the two axle parts by screwing them together
3. Insert the 4 donuts two at each end and position them so they touch the tubes
Once in place, when the boat is resting, the weight of the boat will ensure the tubes fit perfectly so there is no side movement. The donuts may either need to be force fitted or by adjusting a screw that secures them to the axle once in place



Figure 2. Adjusting the anti sway donuts

4. Attach the two wheels and secure them with the ring pins.



Figure 3. Installing the wheels

5. Installing the Quick Launcher (no motor)

- Lift the boat one tube or cone at the time and position the assembly under the boat right under the transom.
- Run the provided strap so it fits in the center coupler groove and then secure it on the transom as per attached figures. Tighten the strap.



Figure 4. Adjusting

6.



Figure 5. No motor installation