



OLD TOWN CANOES



OLD TOWN CANOE CO.
OLD TOWN, MAINE, U.S.A.

Antique Boat Museum

1910

Reprinted 1981

by the

Wooden Canoe Heritage Association, Ltd.
P. O. Box 5634 **Madison, WI 53705**

The Wooden Canoe Heritage Association, a nonprofit membership association of persons interested in the history of North American canoeing, seeks to preserve, restore, construct, study, and use modern and historic wooden and birchbark canoes. The association publishes a regular journal, *Wooden Canoe*, holds assemblies of the membership, reprints hard-to-find material relating to canoeing history, such as this Old Town Canoe Company booklet, and sells books and booklets on canoe buildings, use, and history.

The Wooden Canoe Heritage Association chose to reprint this, the ninth catalog of the Old Town Canoe Company, Old Town, Maine, because of the singular importance this company holds in the history of North American canoes and canoeing. Association members own, restore, and treasure Old Town wood-and-canvas canoes more than any other make of canoe. May the reprinting of this booklet, in its small way, help to foster the preservation of Old Town canoes and boats throughout the United States and Canada.

CANVAS COVERED WATER CRAFT AND THEIR EQUIPMENTS

MANUFACTURED BY

OLD TOWN CANOE COMPANY, Old Town, Maine, U. S. A.



FOREIGN AGENCIES

Buenos Ayres, S. A.
DONNELL & PALMER

Paris, France
A. A. TUNMER & Co.

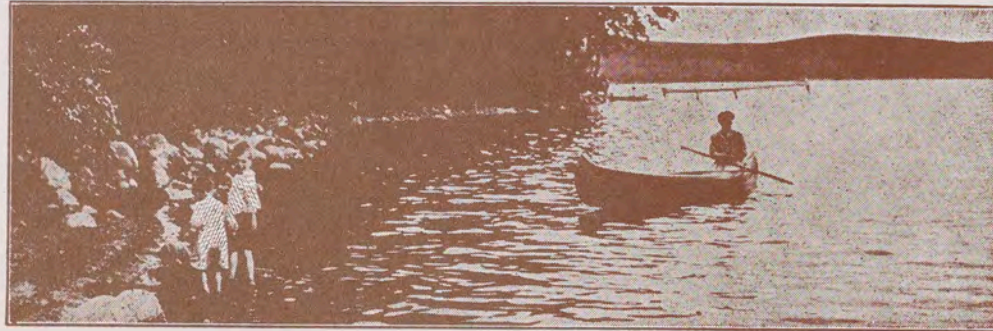
North Bay, Ontario, Canada
BROWN & MAXWELL

PACIFIC COAST AGENCIES

San Francisco, Cal.
WEEKS HOWE EMERSON Co.

Seattle, Wash.
SPELGER & HURLBUT

Portland, Ore.
REIERSON MACHINERY Co.



F O R E W O R D

It seems fitting as a foreword to this our ninth catalog to make some mention of the factory back of "OLD TOWN CANOES." From a small shop having less than four thousand square feet area our plant has grown to more than forty thousand square feet of floor space, including three connected factory buildings, two storehouses, one capable of housing 1400 canoes and the other 1100 canoes, lumber sheds to hold upwards of 300,000 ft. of sawed lumber, together with a spur railroad and ample land for double the present capacity. On February first the number of canoes completed and in process exceeded two thousand. Our factory runs steadily the year 'round and every canoe is built by an experienced workman insuring perfection in every detail. To the manufacture of canvas covered canoes, boats, and equipment our entire attention is given and should the variety we make, complete as we believe it is, not include the model or style in construction you wish to obtain our equipment of experienced men, modern machinery and ample materials is at your service.

IMPORTANT

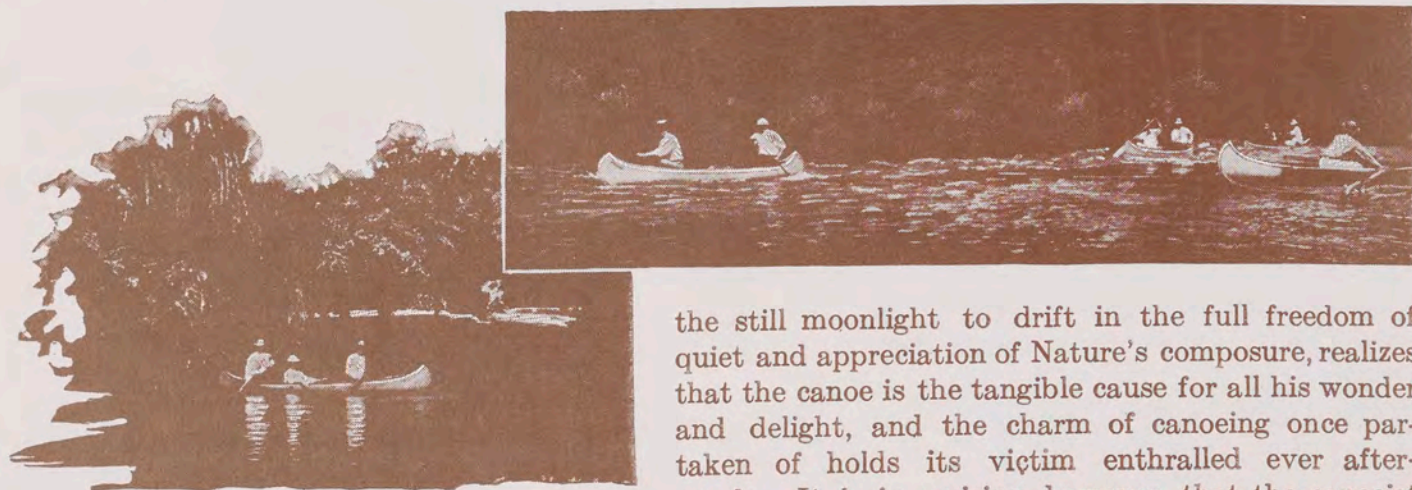
We urge all purchasers of "OLD TOWN CANOES" to assure themselves of the genuine by our trademarked name plate, shown in facsimile on the front cover of this catalog. This name plate is on the bow deck of every genuine "OLD TOWN CANOE," and the only way to avoid the substitution of an inferior canoe by unscrupulous dealers is to insist on the name plate. REMEMBER the name, "OLD TOWN CANOE," and the name of the manufacturers, OLD TOWN CANOE COMPANY.

Canoes first made by Indians

Have you ever think that of all the primitive implements of the Indian none have survived civilization in a recognizable form except his canoe? The test of time and the ingenuity of the white man have found nothing of comparable size superior to his model of a water craft, be it for pleasure or for service on stream, river, lake or ocean bay. Until, however, there was substituted cotton duck or canvas for his birch-bark covering, the use of canoes was restricted to those localities where the materials could be easily obtained, and where there were Indian workmen to apply them. Improvisation of a better covering and improvement in methods of construction now provide the canvas-covered canoe, but fundamentally in lines and model the water craft of the red man survives.

It is the adaptability of the canoe which makes it so universally needed, and for some purposes, like cruising in the far reaches of our north country, no other craft can be used. Best of all the canoe furnishes means of enjoying that water-way or body of water which lies nearest each of us, and whether it be lake or pond, stream, river or bay, the pleasure of water travel is not denied. An afternoon's paddle can take one far from the toils and turmoil of the town, and affords association with nature than which nothing is more conducive to quiet thoughts, a happy mind, a good appetite and resultant red corpuscles. He, who ever on a summer's night has dipped his paddle and pushed far out under





the still moonlight to drift in the full freedom of quiet and appreciation of Nature's composure, realizes that the canoe is the tangible cause for all his wonder and delight, and the charm of canoeing once partaken of holds its victim enthralled ever afterwards. It is in cruising, however, that the canoeist

reaches the height of his hopes; and to follow the ways traversed, as we can imagine, by the native red men a century and more back, to live by a camp-fire as he lived, and to make shelter wherever night overtakes him, is to understand the independence of the savage and to know the truth of self-reliance.

In practical work the canoe offers the best and in some cases the only means for exploration, hunting, etc., and last year scores of "OLD TOWN CANOES" went into Northern Ontario for miners' use in prospecting, while from Alaska the report reaches us that "OLD TOWN CANOES" can always be depended on in hard service.

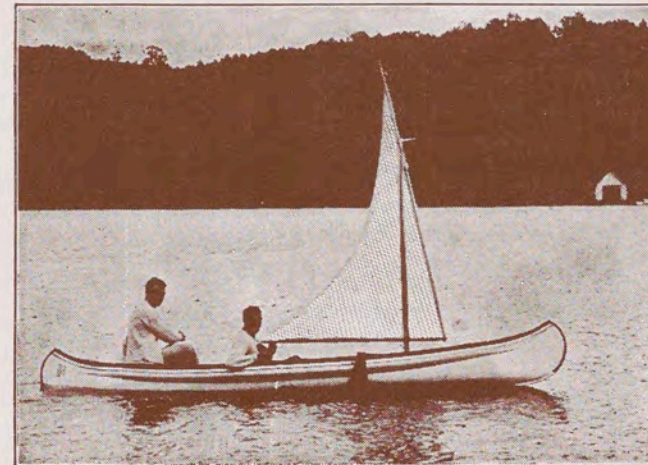
Development of Canvas Canoes

THE birch-bark canoe, the Indian's water craft, early won the admiration of the whites because of its lightness (rendering portages less toilsome), its ease of propulsion and, for the æsthetic, its gracefulness on the water. Like almost all primeval implements, however, it was prone to defects. And particularly, even when built in the most careful manner, one might spring a leak because of a severe bump or by the pitch running through exposure to the sun. Then, too, the difficulty of procuring bark restricted extensive manufacture. Obviously the whole trouble came from the covering, but it was not until within three decades that cotton duck or canvas was substituted. As this innovation had its origin here on the Penobscot River it comes as a natural and appropriate sequence that the invention should be personified in the "OLD TOWN CANOE." And the propinquity of the Penobscot Indians—but a river's breadth away, who are equally as well known as "OLD TOWN INDIANS"—makes the name we have selected particularly apt.

By our Indian workmen—and a number are included in our employees—there is infused into our canoe all that is possible of the old Indian romance such as Hiawatha felt in the lines given us by Longfellow:

"I a light canoe will build me,
That will float upon the water,
Like a yellow leaf in Autumn,
Like a yellow water lily."

Because of our nearness to the Penobscot River sorting booms we are enabled to select carefully the lumber we use, and particularly Eastern Cedar, the lightest and toughest wood obtainable.



We have taken the primitive canoe of the Indian, modernized it by substituting canvas for bark, metal fastenings for wood fastenings; we have added symmetry and perfectness in model where necessarily his lines lacked uniformity; materials best adapted to canoe requirements have been selected; and a corps of workmen have been carefully trained, all to the end that the "OLD TOWN CANOE" shall symbolize perfectness of model, acme of quality, and the minimum of cost.



There no longer is any question of permanency in the use of this type of water craft. Canoe Clubs are being organized over the entire country and their commodious and sumptuous Club Houses indicate the deep hold this water sport has gained. While ten years ago except in a few localities canoeing was an unpracticed art, today there is hardly a water course without its devotees to the sport, and as the numbers increase organization is made into clubs whereby enthusiasm is accentuated by regattas, water carnivals and camping trips. To learn to paddle is as easy as to learn to row and



the extreme simplicity in the means of guiding and propelling a canoe is what has made its use so popular and wide spread. If you spend your summer near the water and have not experienced the exhilaration of canoeing you have a joy to look forward to, and this year you can double the charm of your outing and make an inseparable and ever ready companion by acquiring an "OLD TOWN CANOE."

Details of Construction



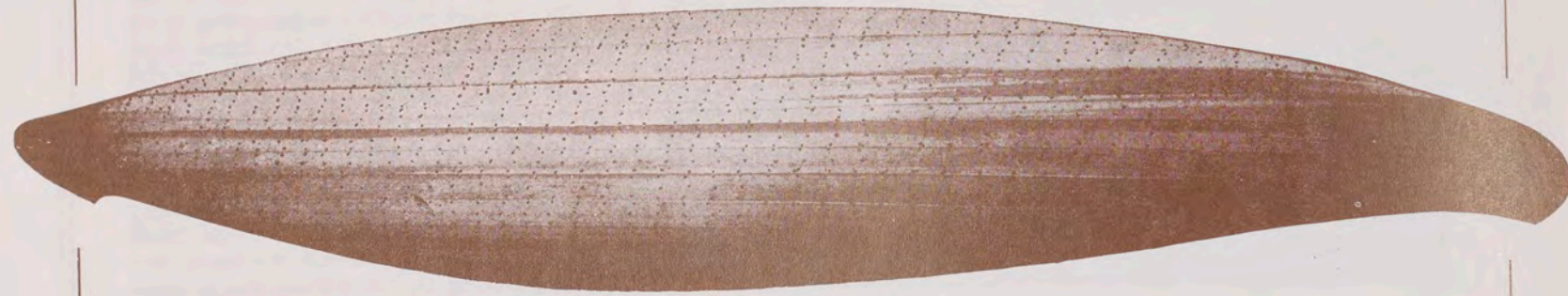
IN the construction of the hulls of our canoes and boats, cedar ribs 5-16 inch thick and cedar planking 5-32 inch thick are used. The ribs in the Charles River Model have a uniform width of 2 inches. In the H. W. Model the ribs are two inches wide, tapering, as they leave the bottom, to 1½ inches at the ends. By placing the ribs near together the necessity of a bottom rack is avoided. This, however, to meet the requirements of many we regularly supply in A. A. Grade canoes, but only to

order and for additional cost (\$1.00) in C. S. Grade. The planking is smooth laid with square joints, and by thoroughly *oiling the hull before canvassing* all possibility of *absorption of moisture* and consequent *decay is annulled*.

In canoes of stock specifications the decks are 16 inches in length. Long decks supplied to order only. All canoes have two caned seats and two thwarts as shown in cuts. A third thwart in center for carrying will be put in when ordered. Seats and thwarts are attached to gunwales by bolts and are removable. Thumb nuts will be used for securing middle thwart if desired. Bow seats are dropped 4 inches below top of gunwale unless otherwise ordered. For the outer covering No. 8 seamless canvas of special weave is used. This is drawn tight and fastened, and its pores filled with a water-proof composition. After this has hardened the imperfections are removed by rubbing with sandpaper and steel wool. Then a smoothing coat is applied which must set thoroughly before the canoe is colored and varnished.



Some Reasons for "Old Town Canoe" Dependability



METHOD OF PLANKING

WE doubt if any manufacturer of canoes has ever given you a picture of the wooden shell before it is canvased. It is in an out-of-sight place like this that things occur which determine a canoe's life and worth; and in particular, the lengths of the planking, if they are in long pieces, or jointed here and there like patch work, tell almost the whole story. There is a word used provincially here in Maine by guides and users of canoes in general which aptly expresses as "hogged" a canoe which has gone out of shape because of patchwork planking. You perhaps recall the curve a teter-board takes when it is loaded at each end—this is the shape the bottom of a canoe takes when carrying a bow and stern paddler, if there is patchwork planking in the hull. The possibility of a canoe's "hogging" is also increased by using ribs sparingly to save cost. All "OLD TOWN CANOES" have their full quota of ribs, to which are fastened long lengths of planking. A "hogged" canoe drags water at the stern and paddles not much better than a raft.

METHOD OF TACKING

Then, too, see with what regularity the copper tacks are driven—one or more tacks in the center and a tack at each edge of every piece of planking in each rib—all firmly clinched on the inside. Attention to these details is what has given "OLD TOWN CANOES" their universal reputation for strength, rigidity and longevity.

METHOD OF PRESERVATION

One more process we wish to speak of, *i. e.*, the thorough oiling of the hull before the canvas is drawn on. Then, if you ever are caught out in a shower, your hull will not absorb all the water which collects in the bottom of the canoe. Any wood is porous, and cedar in particular absorbs water almost like a sponge, but a coat of linseed oil effectually prevents the hull soaking water and thereby increasing the weight many pounds, at the same time hastening decay.

SUBSTANTIATION

The closing paragraph of Dr. Robt. T. Morris' article "To Hudson Bay by Canoe," appearing in *Forest and Stream*, begins: "For freedom from accident of any sort we give credit to our tough and shapely 'OLD TOWN CANOES';" and the author by letter advises us that "The canoes had very rough usage in the trip of over 1,000 miles and came through with hardly a scratch. I do not know of any other canoe which has pleased me so much. . . . I have used many kinds of canoes in various exploring trips and the 'OLD TOWN CANOE' is the best yet."

An "OLD TOWN CANOE" may be depended on to bring you safely back.



Charles River Model



As indicated by the name, this model is designed for use on rivers. Its flat floor gives the minimum draft and great steadiness. We do not recommend it for use on salt water or large lakes where heavy winds would be encountered, as it does not displace enough water to hold its course as well as a canoe not so flat. For any use but this, however, it has every requisite demanded by a canoe connoisseur. In its lines are speed and gracefulness, and it responds with ease and quickness to every movement of the paddle. The sides have a good bilge or convexity (sometimes called "tumble-home"). One trial will show its merits. Notice the graceful curve at the ends where it leaves the water.

Through its beauty of outline, steadiness and speed this model earns its place as the most popular canoe on the market.



H. W. Model



INSTEAD of having a perfectly flat floor like the Charles River Model the H. W. Model tends toward the shape of the well known salt water yawl boat below the water line. This shape gives it more draft and hence greater steadiness in windy waters. In heavy winds and ocean swells more draft is required than for river use in order to give stability and ease in handling. A flat bottomed boat is not very effective in such places and the same is true of a too flat bottomed canoe. A little more fullness at bow and stern enables this model to ride over large waves instead of cutting thru them as in the case of a canoe with sharp ends.

To the casual observer the bottom of this canoe would seem almost as flat as the Charles River Model but one trial in windy waters would convince him of its superior handling qualities under such conditions. The lines are speedy and of graceful symmetry and the ends curve with that nicety given by the Indians to their bark canoes.

For cruising, for carrying heavy loads and for use on large rivers, lakes, large ponds and salt water this is the canoe.

A. A. Grade

IN designating this grade the purchaser is assured of our very best production. All materials are of the highest order procurable. Planking and ribs are of cedar carefully selected, of uniform color, and without any imperfections; gunwales and finish rails are of straight grained piano spruce; stems of ash; decks, thwarts and seat frames are of selected straight grained mahogany, guaranteed genuine; polished brass bang plates and copper and brass fastenings throughout. The canvas is of special manufacture and filled with the utmost care in order to produce an absolutely smooth surface for the color coats and varnish. The inside of the canoe is assiduously sandpapered and smoothed, then coated with a special varnish, prepared alike for wear and to withstand water and atmospheric changes. For the outside we use a Spar Varnish manufactured especially for us of the highest luster and durability.

Every detail in the matching of woods and finish is accomplished with painstaking care to the end that the completed product will permit of no criticism. This grade will satisfy the most exacting.

A floor rack as shown on page 24 is furnished at no additional cost in A. A. Grade, and variations in style of gun-

wales may be had as described on pages 19 and 21.

A. A. Grade means highest possible quality of materials and our most expert workmanship.



C. S. Grade

OUR aim in this grade is to produce a canoe of thorough construction, good finish, and with the omission of no detail essential to strength, serviceableness and long wear. There is not given, however, the same attention as in the A. A. Grade to produce fine finish. No shaky or unsound lumber is used, but the ribs and planking are subject to slight defects such as discolorations, small knots, etc. This grade supplies a good common-sense canoe, built as strong as we know how, and at a very moderate price.

Planking and ribs are of cedar; gunwales and finish rails of spruce; stems of ash; decks, thwarts and seat frames of oak, spruce or ash; bang plates of brass, and fastenings throughout of brass and copper. Canvas of the same quality as in A. A. Grade, carefully filled, colored and varnished. The same materials are used, but not so much care taken to produce fine finish as in the best grade.

As the worth of a watch depends not on the case but the works contained by it, so a canoe in this grade will give the best possible service without any additional investment in extra finish or expensive woods. For exacting service where superior finish is not desired this grade provides a canoe of guaranteed dependability. If a floor rack is desired in a canoe of this grade it will be furnished to order for \$1.00 additional.

A new model of increased beam and in C. S. Grade is described on page 22, also an extra light model on page 31.



Canoe Price List

All Prices are F.O.B. cars Old Town and cost of transportation is not included. Local agents add freight.

	Length	Width	Depth	Approximate Weight	Approximate Weight Packed	A. A. Grade	Code Word	C. S. Grade	Code Word
Charles River Model,	*15'	31"	11 1/2"	60	90	\$36.00	Raft	\$28.00	Rebel
" " "	16'	32 1/2"	12"	65	100	38.00	Ramp	30.00	Rebuff
" " "	17'	34"	12"	70	105	40.00	Rain	32.00	Recover
" " "	18'	34 1/2"	12 1/2"	75	110	42.00	Ransom	34.00	Return
H. W. Model,	*15'	31 1/2"	11 1/2"	60	90	36.00	Hang	28.00	Heft
" " "	16'	33"	12"	65	100	38.00	Hatch	30.00	Heal
" " "	17'	34"	13"	70	105	40.00	Harbor	32.00	Hector
" " "	18'	35"	13"	75	110	42.00	Hamstring	34.00	Hearken

* The sale of 15' canoes is steadily decreasing because their capacity and stability are limited. The number sold last year represented less than 3% of our output. We recommend the longer lengths.

Keel 7/8" deep, Code Word, add- ing to Code Word of canoe, i. e. Rafting	\$1.00
Outside stems, continuations of the keel encircling the ends	2.00
Bird's Eye Maple long decks, extreme length 37"	6.00
Mahogany long decks, extreme length 37"	6.00
Mahogany finish rails	2.00
Oak finish rails	1.50
Copper air tanks	10.00
Mast seat and step	1.50
Mast seat and step (in place of regular bow seat)	1.00
Mast thwart and step	1.00
Gold stripe 1/2"	2.00
Oak long decks, extreme length 30"	4.00
For cost of sailing outfit see page 23	
Galvanized iron air tanks	6.00
Brass painter ring35
Names using 2 1/2" shaded gold letters, per letter12
Monograms special to order	\$2.00 to 4.00
Prices of paddles and equipments on pages 34 and 35.	
Repair Kit, see page 21.	

In order that one price shall rule and to accord all purchasers of "OLD TOWN CANOES" equal consideration we have avoided the practice in vogue with most manufacturers of placing list prices high and allowing discounts, varying with the exigencies of the case, to consumers. The above are our net retail prices.

TERMS

Cash with order, or satisfactory reference. On special order work a deposit of 25 per cent is required when order is placed. On C. O. D. express and freight shipments part payment must accompany order and, in the latter case, the balance is collectible by sight draft with endorsed Bill of Lading attached.

PACKING AND DELIVERY

Prices quoted for canoes and boats include packing in loose hay and burlap and delivery to the transportation company. For crating there will be a reasonable charge based on actual labor and material used. The average cost for crating is \$1.75, and we advise it for foreign shipments. Less than one per cent of the canoes shipped last year to points in this country and Canada were crated. Shipments are generally made by freight. Express charges are three to four times as much as freight charges.

Approximate freight rates to New England points	\$1.00 to \$2.75 per cwt.
Approximate freight rates to North Atlantic States	2.50 to 3.50 per cwt.
Approximate freight rates to points beyond above States and east of the Mississippi River	2.80 to 9.00 per cwt.
Approximate freight rates to points west of the Mississippi River to the Pacific	4.50 to 12.00 per cwt.

COLORS

We intend to carry in stock canoes colored dark green, light or New Haven green, dark or Tuscan red and bright red. If no color is specified we shall assume that dark green is desired unless we are instructed to ship any color. During the rush season it is well to give second choice. Any special color will be furnished to order at no additional cost except white, for which there is an extra charge of \$2.00.



KEEL AND OUTSIDE STEMS

A keel affords protection to the bottom of a canoe and gives increased steadiness. Especially is it advisable when canoe is to be kept at a livery where attendants are apt to be careless in dragging it out on to a float. More and more keels are attached each succeeding year, and last season over four-fifths of the canoes sold were equipped with them. The regular keel is $\frac{7}{8}$ -inch deep. A shoe-keel $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch thick will be supplied to order. Outside stems improve the looks and add to the wear of a canoe. They are shaped to the ends of the canoe by steaming, and after being screwed in place the brass bang plates as usual are attached to them for further protection.

All canoes ready for immediate shipment are equipped with $\frac{7}{8}$ keel. To furnish a canoe without keel, allow five days time.

LONG DECKS

These give greater attractiveness to the canoe and, from a practical viewpoint, provide for dry stowage. A low combing is used for finishing the ends of the decks, and complete they add very much to the appearance of any canoe, particularly the A. A. Grade where all the finish is mahogany.

NAMES

Shaded gold letters are used by us for supplying names to canoes. Generally the name is placed on both sides of the bow or on the left bow and right stern. We can execute monograms of two and three initials, the price varying with the work involved but within the limits of the prices given in the list. Usually letters 4 inches high are used, but this particular can be changed to meet individual taste. Also sometimes a single initial letter is applied 4 inches high. These cost \$1.00 each if done in gold and shaded.

**Guide's Special Canoe (18 feet, Thirty Dollars): I. F. Model**

THIS canoe is planned throughout for the use of professional guides and sportsmen. It is built from our improved I. F. Model, which has a generous width for large carrying capacity, and a flat floor to give the smallest possible draft. The combination makes a very fast canoe. By extending the flatness of the bottom farther into the ends, greater stability and more speed have been given this canoe than it had formerly.

It is strongly built of good lumber, the ribs and planking being of selected cedar, with spruce gunwales and finish rails, and ash, or oak decks, seats and thwarts. All fastenings are copper and brass, seats caned, and the hull after being oiled is covered with No. 6 canvas carefully filled with a special filler that dries hard and firm. The inside is filled, rubbed down, and varnished. The outside has a fairly bright surface but is not varnished. An honestly built canoe with no money put into ornamenting, guaranteed to wear and be satisfactory. Stock color, slate. The above is a description of our G. S. Canoe, carried in stock with and without keel. We can supply this model to order only in A. A. and C. S. grades.

Length	Width across Gunwales	Depth	Weight	Grade A. A.	Grade C. S.	Grade G. S.
18 ft.	35 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.	13 in.	83 lbs.	\$42.00	\$34.00	\$30.00
19 "	37 "	13 "	88 "	45.00	37.00	32.00
20 "	39 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	13 $\frac{1}{4}$ "	92 "	48.00	40.00	34.00

More words of praise have come to us for our "Ideal" Canoe than for any other one style we manufacture. In the words of one owner, "It's Canoe Perfection."



"Old Town 'Ideal' Canoe" (Open Gunwales and Half Ribs)

16 ft. A. A. C. R	\$38.00	17 ft. A. A. C. R.	\$40.00
Open mahogany gunwales	3.00	Open mahogany gunwales	3.00
Half ribs	2.00	Half ribs	2.00
Keel	1.00	Keel	1.00
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$44.00		\$46.00

"Old Town 'Ideal' Canoe"



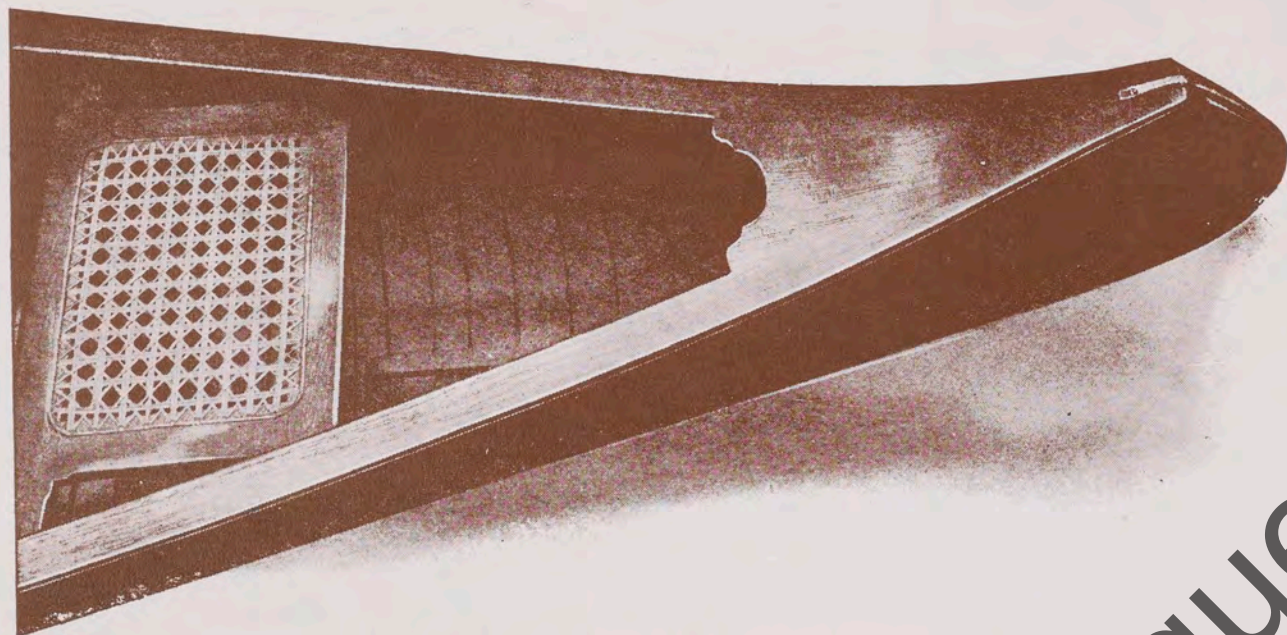
If you wish a canoe with distinctive features, this is built particularly to fill your want. It is the canoe without a peer, designed for the discriminating purchaser, and assures him exclusive ideas in canoe construction.

Open gunwales of mahogany and half or short ribs give originality, beauty and utility. The open gunwales accomplish ease in washing out where, in canoes of regular construction, dirt gathers beneath the gunwales when the canoe is turned over to remove water, etc., and is cleaned out with difficulty if at all. Half ribs add strength to the bottom of the canoe, making a floor rack unnecessary. Their lengths are graduated from amidships to the ends of the canoe and conform to the flatness of the bottom. The ends of the ribs as shown in the illustration are cut off square and held in place by two gunwales which are screwed and doweled together, the rib ends being finished

flush and smooth with the top surface. A small pocket is made in the lower inner edge of the outside gunwale to receive the planking and canvas. This canoe will satisfy the critical purchaser and it begins its fourth season with unexampled prestige. We shall carry it in stock only in A. A. Grade, Charles River Model, 16 and 17 foot lengths, colored dark green; for different color allow one week's time. This construction can be accommodated to any canoe we make for the additional charges as noted, but four weeks' time will have to be allowed for the work. *Get your order in early.*

Code Word, prefix Ge to word for Canoe as given in price list, p. 14. Example: Geramping would be 16 A. A. C. R. Dark Green with Open Mahogany Gunwales, Half Ribs, and Keel.





Double Gunwale Construction

Double Gunwale Construction



MAHOGANY double gunwale construction represents the acme in canoe-building art. This style finish is supplied only in A. A. Grade from both our Charles River and H. W. Models, and it not only produces a most attractive canoe, but at the same time even more strength is obtained than in the regular finish. The construction is as follows: The ordinary gunwale of spruce is replaced by one of mahogany, to which are attached the ribs, planking and canvas. In another gunwale, also of mahogany, by rabbeting the lower inside edge a pocket is made to receive the ribs, planking and canvas. The two gunwales are screwed and doweled firmly together at intervals of six inches, making a tight joint, and when finished and varnished they appear to be but one piece of wood.

The inclination of canoe lovers for canoes of exclusive and attractive finish is fulfilled in this style canoe, and the fact that the sales of it last year more than doubled those of the preceding season clearly indicates its growing popularity.

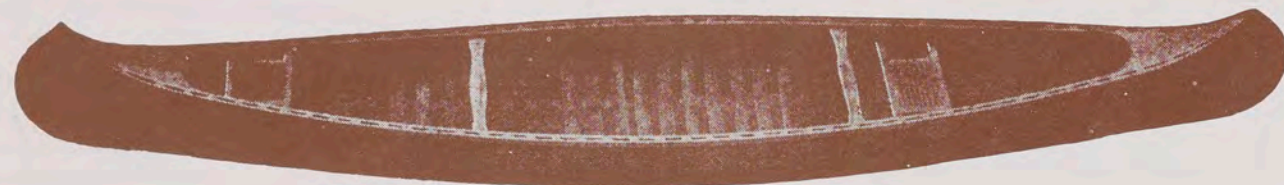
The use of these gunwales provides mahogany finish throughout except planking, ribs and stems, and when long decks of mahogany are added a more handsome, distinctive and serviceable canoe cannot be obtained.

The additional charge for these is \$2.00.

Code Word, prefix Ro to code word for Canoe, as given in price list. Example: Roraining would be 17 A. A. C. R. with Double Mahogany Gunwales and Keel.

Repair Kit.—There are times when the canoeist cannot obtain near at hand suitable materials for repairing tears and punctures in the canvas of his canoe, especially when he is on long cruises. In response to a demand for such items we have prepared a complete outfit with full directions as follows:—White lead, Japan, pieces of canvas for patches, copper tacks, color and varnish,—all packed securely in compact box. Price \$1.00. In ordering specify color of canoe.

“Old Town ‘Otca’ Canoe”



IN our “Otca” Model are comprised dimensions which are distinctive in our other models and the style of finish includes open spruce gunwales and 20-inch long decks with low combing. The bows are full as in our H. W. Model, the floor is flat like our Charles River Model, while increase of beam provides a maximum of steadiness without proportional loss of speed. It’s a fast canoe. We know the model will make as many friends as it has users, while the originality in finish provides a canoe in C. S. Grade of relative attractiveness to our “Ideal Canoe.” It was introduced two years ago and proved so popular that our stock was soon exhausted. Last year’s sales doubled those of the first season and we’ve built a very large stock this year to prepare for all demands.

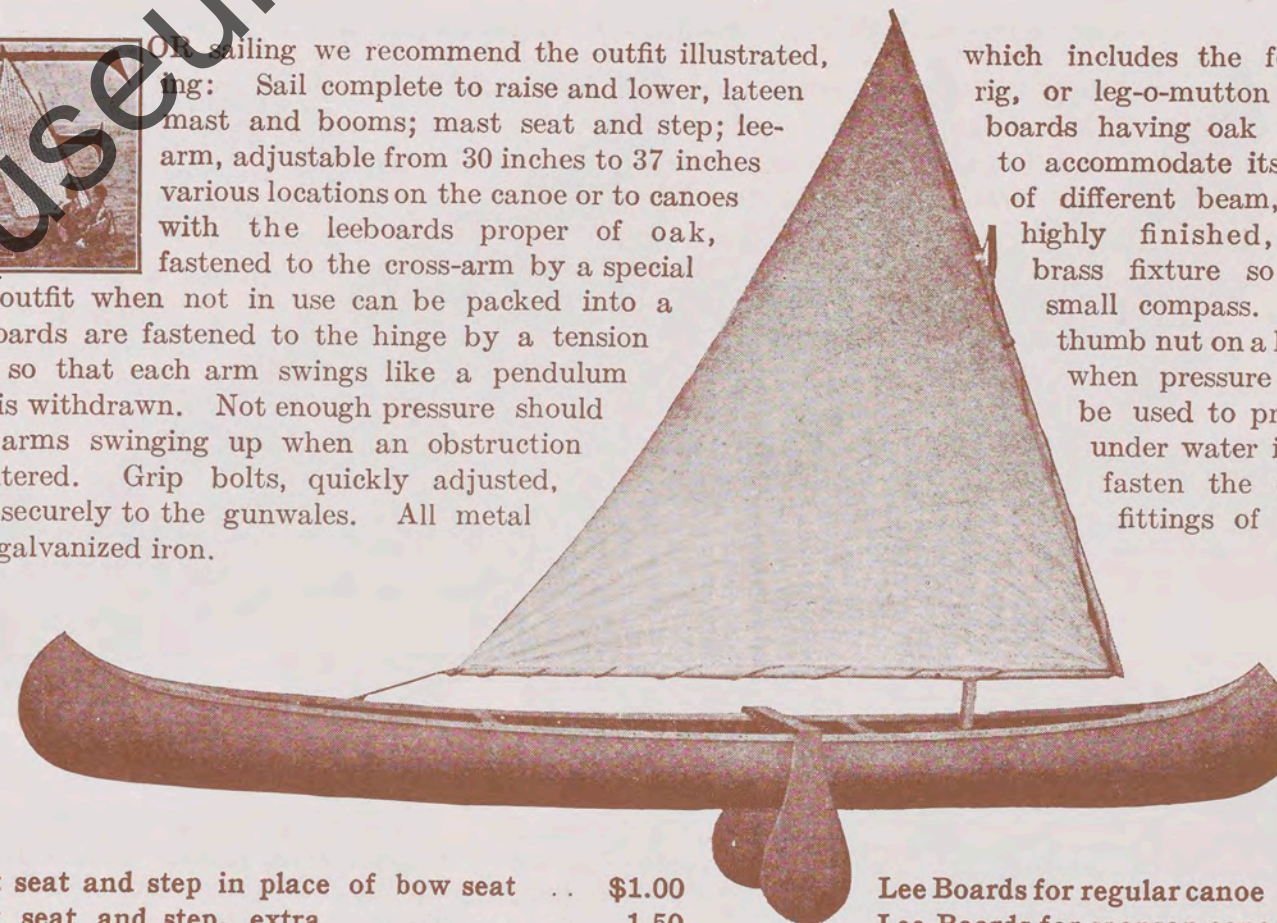
This canoe has the most steadiness of any model we make. Stock color, Dark Green. (Another view of this model is shown on page 23.)

Length	Beam	Depth	Weight	Price	
16 ft.	34 1/2 in.	12 in.	70 lbs.	\$36.00	With keel, \$37.00
17 “	35 1/2 “	13 “	75 “	38.00	“ “ 39.00

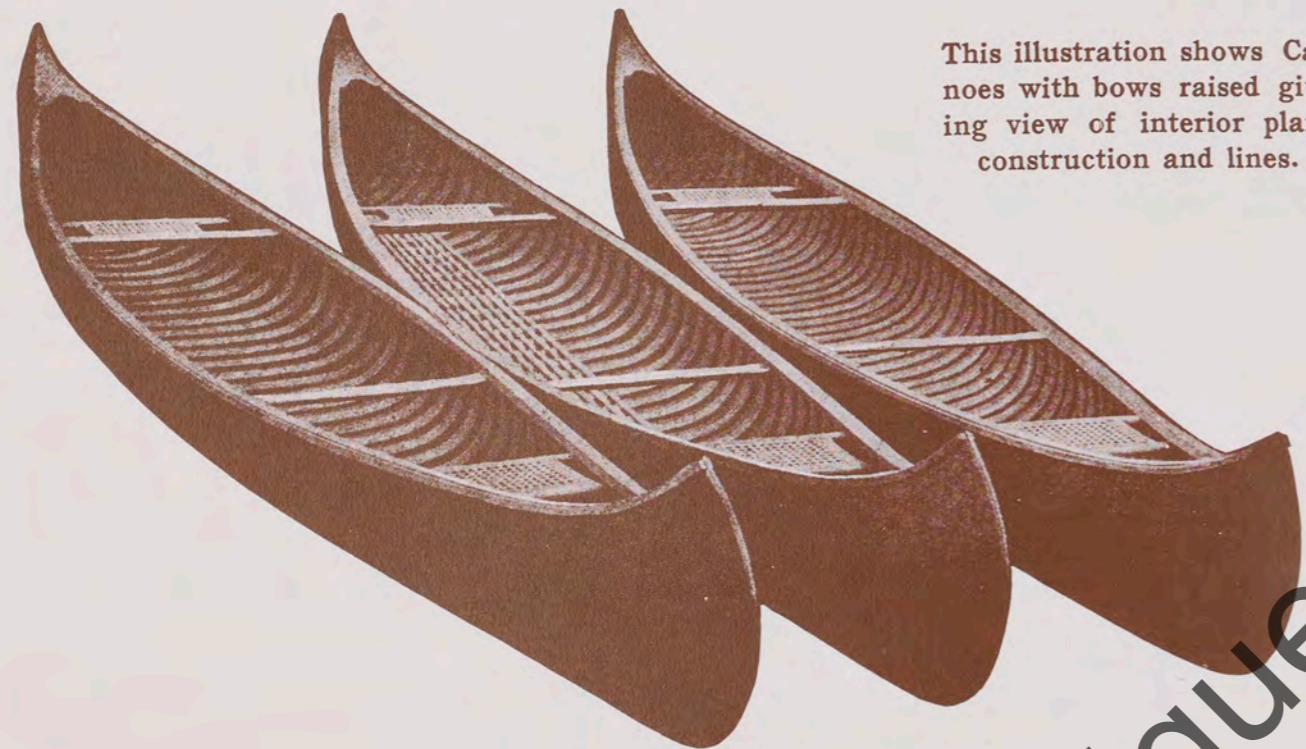


For sailing we recommend the outfit illustrated, including: Sail complete to raise and lower, lateen mast and booms; mast seat and step; lee-arm, adjustable from 30 inches to 37 inches at various locations on the canoe or to canoes with the leeboards proper of oak, fastened to the cross-arm by a special hinge. The outfit when not in use can be packed into a box. The leeboards are fastened to the hinge by a tension bolt so that each arm swings like a pendulum when the thumb nut is withdrawn. Not enough pressure should be used when the arms are swinging up when an obstruction is countered. Grip bolts, quickly adjusted, fasten the lee-arms securely to the gunwales. All metal and galvanized iron.

which includes the following: rig, or leg-o-mutton with boards having oak cross-arms to accommodate itself to canoes of different beam, and highly finished, and brass fixture so that the compass is small. The thumb nut on a heavy bolt is used when pressure from under water is encountered to fasten the cross-fittings of brass.



Mast seat and step in place of bow seat ..	\$1.00	Lee Boards for regular canoe	6.00
Mast seat and step, extra	1.50	Lee Boards for sponson canoe	6.50
Sail complete with mast and booms, area not greater than 45 sq. ft.	8.50		



This illustration shows Canoes with bows raised giving view of interior plan, construction and lines.

17-foot C. S. Grade
Canoe Charles
River Model

17-foot A. A. Grade
Charles River Model
with Mahogany
double gunwales and
floor rack

17-foot C. S.
Grade Canoe H.
W. Model

“Old Town ‘Sponson’ Canoes” (Non-Capsizing)

FOR use at summer homes, for children, and for those who are inclined to be cautious upon the water we particularly recommend the SPONSON CANOE. This canoe is so called from the air chambers built out from each side and extending from stem to stern. In ordinary use it is next to impossible to upset a sponson canoe. Even when filled with water the confined air will support a heavy weight. By the addition of rowlocks this may be made a satisfactory all-around craft. It may be either rowed or paddled and oars and paddles may be used together. For general use we unreservedly recommend a sponson canoe. It is light (the sponsons add about 25 pounds), stanch, safe, easily handled and fast. It is the canoe best adapted for sailing because of its assurance of safety.

Sponsons are of the same construction as the canoe proper and are enveloped entirely by canvas, thereby rendered water-tight. Amidships they are four inches wide and taper symmetrically to within a foot of each end of the canoe. They are five inches deep amidship and do not touch the water unless the canoe is careened.

Sponsons will be built upon any canoe we list, but we recommend the H. W. Model as best adapted and carry only this model in sponson canoes in stock. The additional cost is \$12.00.

For the practical demonstration of this canoe we refer you, in addition to the illustrations, to several letters written by customers and published in the accompanying folder. A safe canoe for fishing.



Sponson Canoes

This picture shows what a weight one chamber will support. These people are sitting on the side of a sponson canoe. The water does not come into the canoe.



This sponson canoe is completely filled with water and is supporting in addition the weight of the passengers. It would support a much greater weight were the people clinging to the outside of the canoe.

Examples of Cost of Sponson Canoes

16 ft. C. S. Grade canoe	\$30.00
Sponsons attached	12.00
$\frac{7}{8}$ in. Keel, unless otherwise ordered	1.00
	<hr/>
For outside stems	2.00
For polished brass rowlocks	2.50
For medium decks, 30 in... .. .	4.00
	<hr/>
Finish rails, of spruce, unless otherwise ordered, are fastened to the outer edges of the sponsons for their entire length and serve also as protections to the canvas covering.	
Rowing seat and foot brace	2.50



17 ft. A. A. Grade canoe	\$40.00
Sponsons attached	12.00
$\frac{7}{8}$ in. Keel, unless otherwise ordered	1.00
	<hr/>
	\$53.00
For outside stems add	2.00
For polished brass rowlocks	2.50
For mahogany long decks... .. .	6.00
For mahogany finish rails	3.00
For mahogany panels on sponsons	5.00
This is the highest grade canoe we make and one its owner may justly be proud of.	
Spruce oars, 7 ft., leathered, tipped and varnished	2.10



“Old Town ‘War’ Canoe” (34-ft.)

“Old Town ‘War’ Canoe”

Do you think these boys are getting all the pleasure possible from their summer outing? This picture represents one of our “War Canoes” on a lake in New Hampshire, and when fully manned it has passed every launch it has encountered for a short sprint. They are built from a special model, the planking and ribs are of extra thickness, reinforced longitudinally by floor braces, and the bottom is still further strengthened by a keel outside and a floor inside. All materials are carefully selected to procure the maximum strength. They are equipped with one stern seat for the coxswain and the thwarts (spaced 27 inches apart) are 4 inches wide, ample width for the paddlers to sit or rest on. Decks 30 inches long are installed and the sides are strengthened by heavy spruce “open” gunwales.

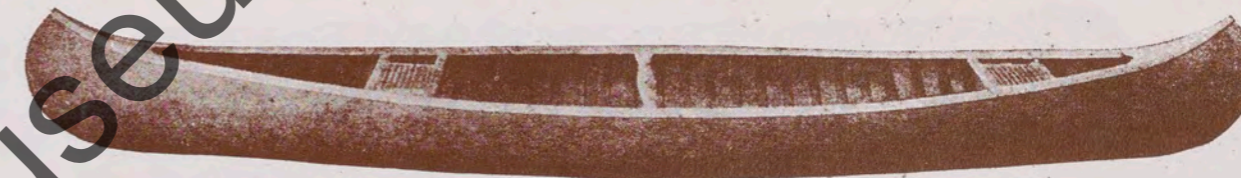
These canoes we build to order only, and four weeks’ time is required for completion. The price includes crating and loading for shipment, and, as they are generally forwarded on open flat cars, we use great care in packing, so as to avoid any possibility of damage in transit.

We shall be pleased to correspond with you in regard to these canoes, and if the lengths do not fill your requirements, will submit quotations on any length canoe you may desire. Our experience, however, has shown these lengths to meet nearly every requirement and we have supplied them particularly for the use of canoe clubs.

Length	Width	Depth	Capacity	Price	
34 ft	40 in.	14 in.	12 to 20 paddlers	\$135.00	Illustrated page 28
25 ft.	44 in.	14 in.	6 to 10 paddlers	75.00	Illustrated page 30



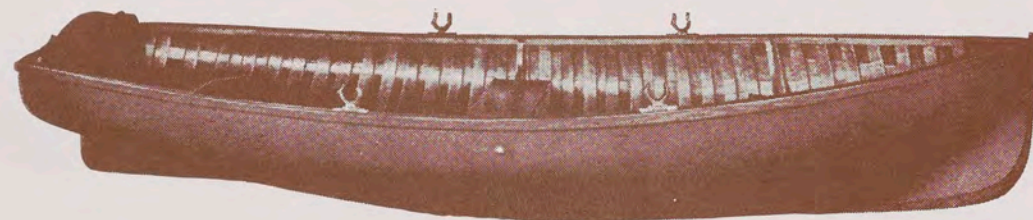
“Old Town ‘War’ Canoe” (25-ft.)



Fifteen Foot—Fifty Pound “Old Town Canoe”

To meet some requirements of camping, cruising, and exploring there appears to be a limited demand for an extra-light-one-man-canoe, *i.e.*, a canoe not burdensome in portaging and at the same time capable of carrying one man and his equipment or two men with a light load. Such a canoe we have been building to order for the past eight years, so that before offering it as a stock model its worth has been tried out under most exacting conditions and diversified waterways from Newfoundland to California and from Hudson Bay territory to Florida. All materials are carefully selected for strength and correspond to the standard C. S. grade. The planking is $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch thick and the ribs are regular size, tapered at the ends and spaced $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches apart. It has a removable middle thwart for carrying. The canvas is No. 10 and finished in the same manner as the standard canoes except the final coat is of white lead paint as in the Guide's Special canoe, instead of varnish. Stock color, slate. Immediate shipment can be given without keel; with keel four days time.

Length	Width	Depth	Weight	Price	
15 ft.	34½ in.	11 in.	50 lbs.	\$30.00	With keel, \$31.00



Canvas-Covered Dinghy or Yacht Tender

Designed by B. B. Crowninshield, Naval Designer, of Boston

THE canvas-covered dinghy has a predominating advantage over one of all-wood construction from the fact that it is always water-tight. A wood boat often requires several days in the water for the joints to swell.

A very light and satisfactory tender for a launch or yacht. It will carry a large load, handles easily, and tows well. Material: Cedar ribs and planking; stems, knees, rubbing streaks, rudder, etc., ash, maple, or oak; copper fastenings; woodwork finished natural color and varnished. Covering is of heavy canvas, thoroughly filled with a waterproof coating and colored dark green, unless otherwise ordered. Construction the same as in our canoes, but heavier material is used. Built with open gunwales to facilitate washing out inside, and it has been lightened and improved by using light spruce seats, narrower keel, and shorter bilge keels.

Length	Width	Weight	No. Seats	Price
9 ft.	45 in.	82 lbs.	3	\$45.00
11½ ft.	50 in.	125 lbs.	3	50.00

Above prices include rudder, 1 pair polished brass rowlocks, 2 pairs sockets. Five dollars additional will supply mahogany trimmings throughout.

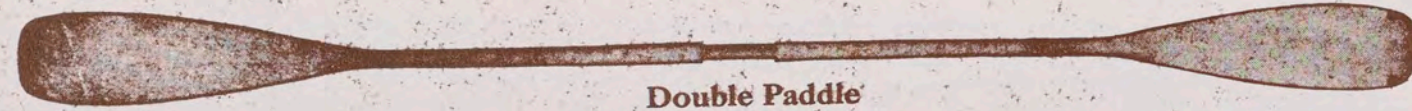


Canvas-Covered Double End Boat

THE model and construction of this boat are first class. It sits almost as lightly in the water as does a canoe, and handles easily. Paddles can be used as well as oars. It is of shallow draft and offers exceedingly slight resistance to the water. Very little effort is necessary for its propulsion, and for this reason it is a desirable craft for children and for women. The shape is right for a steady, stanch boat, which will afford a feeling of comfort to one at all timid on the water. A good, practical family boat. Material and construction same as in our canvas canoes in two grades with the exception that outwales or rubbing strakes of boats are of hardwood to correspond with other trimmings. Its lines follow the well-known Adirondack skiff, but this boat is offered at a much more reasonable cost. The depth has been increased from 13½ inches.

Length	Width	Depth	Weight	Seats	A. A. Grade	C. S. Grade
16 ft.	38 in.	14½ in.	100 lbs.	4	\$48.00	\$40.00

Prices include rudder, 2 back rests, 2 pairs galvanized common swivel rowlocks (polished brass rowlocks furnished with A. A. Grade), keel and outside stems as illustrated. Spruce oars, leathered, varnished, copper tipped; straight blades, \$0.15 per foot; spoon blades, \$0.25 per foot.



Double Paddle



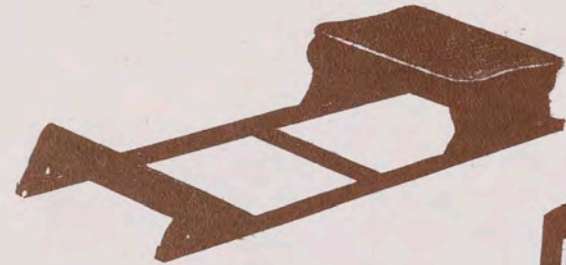
Single Paddle

Single Paddle Lengths

4', 4'3", 4'6", 4'9", 5', 5'3", 5'6", 5'9", 6'

Pneumatic Boat and Canoe Cushions

Covered with brown duck, life line attached. Each cushion is a perfect life preserver. A cushion 12 inches square will support a grown person in the water.



Rowing Seat with foot brace



Folding Slat Canoe Chair
back tips backward—to be leaned against canoe thwart.



Folding Caned Canoe Chair

back tips forward but does not go back beyond present position.



Double Pneumatic Cushions

No.	Cushions	Price
1	seat 12x12", back 12x12"	\$5.50
2	seat 15x15", back 15x28"	11.00
3	seat 12x14", back 12x20"	7.00

Single Pneumatic Cushions

No.	Cushions	Price
3	12x12"	\$2.75
4	12x14"	3.00
5	12x20"	4.00

For prices see page 35

Miscellaneous Price List



Paddles, single, first quality spruce or maple	\$1.50 each
Paddles, single, second quality spruce or maple	1.00 "
Paddles, selected, bird's eye maple	2.50 to 3.00 "
Paddles, spruce, double, with friction joint, first quality	3.50 "
Setting poles, with picks	1.50 "
Oars, spruce, straight blades, leathered, varnished, copper tipped	.15 foot
Oars, spruce, spoon blades, leathered, varnished, and copper tipped	.25 "
Carpets to cover bottom of canoe, good quality, special lot	1.00 yard
Canvas covering for canoe	.30 foot
Rowlocks, common, swivel, malleable iron, galvanized	1.25 pair

Rowlocks, common, swivel, polished brass 2.50 pair

Cushions, awning stripe, cork filled, 14x14x2 1/2 1.00 each

Cushions, awning stripe, cork filled, 14x24x2 1/2 1.25 "

Flag pole sockets, flush35 "

Flag pole complete, mahogany, nickel-plated acorn end60 "

Brass flag pole with special socket90 "

Back rests, slat, light and good,75 "

Back rests, hardwood frames, caned, an excellent back 1.50 "

Back rests, mahogany frame, caned, high finish 2.00 "

Chairs, folding slat, finished in varnish 1.25 "

Chairs, folding caned, high finish 2.50 "

Chairs, folding caned, high finish, mahogany frame 3.50 "

Carrying yoke 2.25 "

Rudder for canoe 2.25 "

Sail, extra light material special, with mast and booms, maximum area 50 feet, lateen or leg-o'-mutton rig 8.50 "

Specify length canoe and we will furnish sail it will best carry.



Care of Canoes

TO insure continued good appearance to your canoe it should wherever possible, if not in use, be kept in a dry place under shelter and given the same care as a carriage or other vehicle. If out of doors on shore, place it bottomside up to keep out the rain and dampness or hot sun. Every season or two, depending on the service it has had, it should be refinished so as to afford protection to the canvas and wood work from wear and exposure. A new coat of varnish will brighten it up and make it look like new. To do this work properly the old varnish coat, both inside and outside, should be rubbed to a smooth dull surface with fine sand paper. Fill any deep scratches or bare places on the canvas with a pure white lead paint, and bare places on the woodwork should be coated with shellac. Have the surfaces clean and apply the color coat on the canvas. After it has dried give the entire canoe a coat of the best Spar Varnish. The same materials that we use in quantities sufficient for the canvas of a canoe cost as follows:

For A. A. and C. S. Grade Canoes	
1 pt. Japan color coat (except white) specify color	\$0.60
1 pt. Special Spar Varnish50
For White Canoes	
1 pt. white color coat60
1 pt. white enamel	1.00
For G. S. Canoes	
1 qt. Slate color paint special60
For the interior and woodwork of any grade canoe.	
1 pt. Special Spar Varnish50
Repair kits for mending canvas (see page 21)	1.00

A large number of "OLD TOWN CANOE" owners have sent us pictures of their canoes in service, some of which are shown in this catalog. If you have been fortunate in getting some good negatives we should be very glad to receive copies to add to our collection. Should you wish information as to care and maintenance or repair of your canoe we will appreciate your writing us.

Reprints by the Wooden Canoe Heritage Association, Ltd.:

- Old Town Canoes: Canvas-Covered Water Craft and Their Equipments*, originally published in 1910, reprinted in 1981.
- Build Your Own Wooden Canoe*, originally published in 1938 by *Popular Mechanics* magazine, reprinted in 1981.
- Build Your Own Wooden Canoe Blueprints*, two 18 x 24-inch drawings originally published ca. 1938 by *Popular Mechanics*, reprinted in 1981.
- Rebuilding the Wood & Canvas Canoe*, reprint of three articles by Jerry Stelmok, Jack McGreivey, and Gordon Orr from *Wooden Boat* and *Canoe* magazines, reprinted 1980.

Books offered by the Wooden Canoe Heritage Association:

- Building the Maine Guide Canoe*, by Jerry Stelmok, 1980.
- Path of the Paddle*, by Bill Mason, 1980.
- On the River*, ed. by William Teller, 1976.
- Rushton and His Times in American Canoeing*, by Atwood Manley, 1968.
- Builder of Birchbark Canoes*, by William Rossman, 1970.
- Building a Chippewa Indian Birchbark Canoe*, by Robert Ritzenthaler, 1950.
- The Weymontaching Birchbark Canoe*, by Camil Guy, 1974.



"OLD TOWN CANOES"



OLD TOWN CANOE CO.
OLD TOWN, MAINE, U.S.A.

Antique Boat Museum