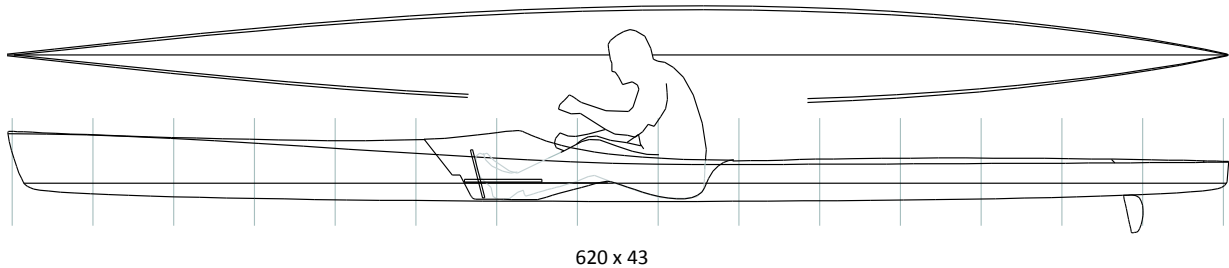


NORDICK KAYAKS™



Björn Thomasson designs new surfski-hybrid for Nordic Kayaks

Autumn 2008 Nordic Kayaks began a cooperation with Swedish kayak designer Björn Thomasson, to develop a new surfski-hybrid aimed at cold water paddling and for a broad spectrum of conditions.

Specifications:

- The kayak should be safely handled by the experienced athlete on the open sea and by the intermediate paddler in sheltered waters
- Speed potential to win ocean races and races in rough conditions in general
- Optimized hydrodynamically for stability and speed
- Closable minimum-turbulence self bailer installed under the hull
- Big surfski style cockpit with low volume for fast draining
- Integrated cockpit rim for spray deck use in waves or low temps
- Low aft deck for easy entering from the water
- Rudder options: under the stern ocean rudder or a hydrodynamic kick-up rudder
- Two lightweight inspections hatches on deck

The project started with defining the critical performance characteristics and a couple of months on developing the hull shape and hydrodynamics in a boat design software, followed by building a wooden prototype that were subjected to extensive testing and evaluation by us and some invited elite paddlers. After very good feedback from these and some small changes will we now proceed with the preparation for factory production during spring 2009. The goal is to have the kayak on the market in august.

- *We have been doing a lot of testing and we now believe that we have achieved what we wanted with the kayak. Björn's great knowledge in hydrodynamics and hull design is impressive and it really shows off in how the kayak combines stability with high speed, it is amazing! We have been thinking of this kind of model for a couple of years and when we contacted Björn we found out that we shared many ideas about how to make this kayak.*

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Together I think we have come up with some great solutions that will be appreciated by those appreciating fast and safe paddling in open sea and in cold water.

Fredrik Lindström, Nordic Kayaks

- *The hydrodynamics has been developed following a conviction that speed potential alone is not enough. Even more important is that the paddler is comfortable and secure enough to utilise his or her strength and technique to the fullest potential even in confused seas. Thus the hull is wider at the bottom than is the consensus of the day, positioning the paddler deeper in spite of less overall beam. The benefits are better stability and increased top speed as well as directional stability, due to a more favourable length-width ratio. Then the sheer and deck can be slightly lowered with less windage, better wave handling and comfortably getting the paddle closer to the centerline at the catch. The result is that a lot of "ordinary" paddlers can reach the full speed potential - otherwise reserved for a small group of elite paddlers. Tests have shown that the hull is as fast or slightly faster than comparable models, but with calm and predictable movements in waves and challenging conditions. Designed primarily for sea races, the kayak will perform well on fast and light touring.*

Björn Thomasson, designer

For more information contact Nordic Kayaks: info@nordickayaks.se

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