$4.95

How to Buy An Inflatable "Guide"

A-24 RIB

A-32 RI

APEX®

THE RIGHT INFLATABLE®

www.apexinflatables.com

INDEX

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Bonjour:

We at APEX want you to get the maximum enjoyment from the inflatable boat that you decide to buy. More and more people are realizing the big advantages these boats offer in a large variety of situations. Many different models using various materials and designs exist on the market today. This booklet is an effort by us at APEX to help you choose a boat that fits your unique needs. We hope to pass on some of the experience we have gained during our extensive blue water cruising with Inflatables, as well as our knowledge about the differences in design and manufacturing.
This brochure outlines the basic models and their individual advantages, the materials and designs generally found in the industry, and certain specific features of APEX boats.
We hope this information will help you to choose an inflatable that delivers the most fun while providing long-tern benefits. The most important thing is that you enjoy yourself while riding on ***The Right Inflatable.***

See you soon on the water!

Georges Dherlin
Senior Vice-President.
International Sales & Marketing

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WHICH IS *THE RIGHT INFLATABLE* FOR YOU?

First, you need to consider how you intend to use your inflatable.
This will influence the design and size of the boat that best meets your needs. Such considerations should include:

- Number of passengers and gear you will normally carry to estimate the weight capacity.

- Room needed for bulky equipment and supplies.

- What type of conditions and elements you will expose your boat to **U**ltra **V**iolet (UV), etc.

- Do you intend to use the boat as a tender, sport-boat, or for fishing, diving, hunting, charter, etc.?

- Would the performance and low maintenance of a Rigid Inflatable Boat be more beneficial or the easy of Rolling and Storage of Roll Up or Collapsible needed?

Categories of Boats

Four (4) main categories of inflatable boats exist on the market: **1) Rigid I**nflatables **B**oats (R.I.B). **2)** Performance Rigid Roll Up. **3) Collapsible** boat with floorboards). **4)** Flat-bottom boat with slatted floor and no keel (often wrongly marketed as a performance Roll-Up. See pg. 10

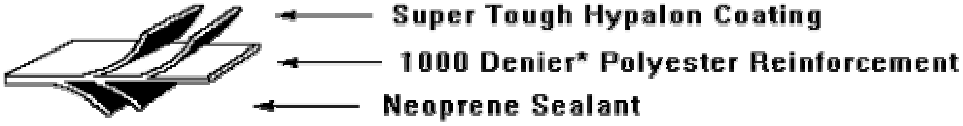
1. ***The RIBs*** offer higher performance capability and stability as a sport boat. In comparison to traditional power boats, there are lighter in weight, allowing them to deliver higher performance with a smaller size engine. They also offer virtually maintenance free use and are very popular both as tenders and sport boats.

2. ***The performance Rigid Roll Up*** is designed to provide ease of storage and its full-length floor allows the addition of an inflatable keel. This model can be rolled up and stored with the floor system still inside the boat. Allowing you to inflate the boat in any position or area.

3. ***The Collapsible*** with floorboards, although often accused of fingernail breaking, offers a more rigid floor system. The floor system is typically made of wood, which requires maintenance, and assembly and disassembly time increase, because the boards must be removed every time the boat is collapsed. The boats accept more horsepower than roll ups, but less than R.I.Bs.

4. ***The flat-bottom boat*** with a slatted floor offers easy storage and assembly, but at the price of several drawbacks! These boats are extremely difficult to stand in. In addition, they cannot have a keel and, therefore, will no track or plane, thereby greatly reducing performance, stability and enjoyment.

APEX Fabric



* 1000 Denier = 1100 Decitex

Inflatable boats are typically manufactured from a fabric that is reinforced with a coating on both sides, creating a material with several layers, as follows:

Outer Layer – To protect the boat against the elements and abrasions, this layer must be extremely tough. The layer must be resistant to ultraviolet (UV) sun rays, as well as gasoline products, water, environmental pollutants and temperature variations. The two most popular products used on the market are Hypalon, the registered trade name for a DuPont patented product, and polyvinyl chloride, commonly known as PVC.

Middle Layer- The boat's strength comes from this layer, which is made from a heavy-weaved fabric of either polyester or nylon. Polyester is more expensive, but will stretch significantly less than nylon, has better resistance and better memory.

Inner Layer – This layer ensures that the boat remains air-tight and that the seams are well bonded. The products used for this layer are usually Neoprene, Hypalon, or PVC

Outer Layer – Hypalon or PVC?
For the outer layer, we at APEX insist on using Hypalon®. This tough synthetic rubber by DuPont has proven to be the most resistant in the marine environment to **UV** sunrays, gasoline, oils, and extreme temperature. It also stands up to abrasions and punctures. Hypalon is an expensive material which requires hand gluing. Remember to ensure that the boat you buy has been built in humidity controlled environment (under 80%). If not, you may encounter problems with bonding.

PVC materials are cheaper, lighter products that can be machine welded. However, they have much less resistance to UV rays and will become brittle upon contact with chemicals such as oils and gasoline. Do not be confused by fancy names given to PVC by some boat manufactures, they are all part of the PVC family of products. PVC is PVC!

Apex recommends Hypalon for a tough material that give extended durability. If Hypalon® is required by Navy, Army, and Coast Guard, etc; why not by you?

Middle Layer – Polyester or Nylon?
Polyester reinforcement, although more expensive than nylon, has definite advantages. The higher resistance to stretch allows the boat to maintain a uniform shape, thus improving both performance and stability. Its high tensile strength increases its resistance to punctures and ensures that it will retain its shape for years to come under pressure, especially for the Roll Ups improving Rigid duty.
Polyester and nylon reinforcement are measured in Denier or Decitex. The higher the Denier or Decitex number the stronger the material. Denier is used in the United States, while Decitex is used in countries using the metric system. However, some manufacturers are now using Decitex in their U.S. brochures, which can confused the costumer on the quality of material, the Decitex numbers are always higher than the Denier references. Please do not be confused, just remember: **1,100 Decitex approx=1,000 Denier.**

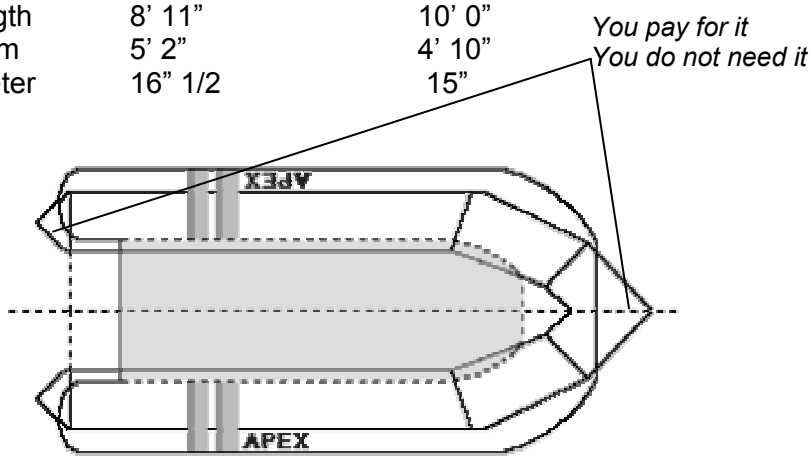
We at APEX use 1,000 denier (and more on large R.I.B) polyester reinforced Hypalon to ensure top quality for all our boats.

Inner Layer-Neoprene, Hypalon, or PVC?
APEX inflatable Boats have an inner layer of neoprene. This proven closed-cell elastomer has superior qualities for making material airtight and seams perfectly bonded. This ensures that the tubes remain airtight for a longer period of time.

Seam Construction
All Hypalon boats require a hand-gluing assembly process. Although time consuming, this process is used by all high-end inflatable boat manufacturers, and requested by commercial and military customers. We believe that hand-glued seams that are overlapped and taped are highly superior to those that are not.

DESIGN FEATURES

	APEX A-9	Typical 10’
Overall Length	8’ 11”	10’ 0”
Overall Beam	5’ 2”	4’ 10”
Tube Diameter	16” 1/2	15”



Innovation in design is important to us at APEX. We are constantly striving to improve the performance and reliability of our boats while maintaining a superior value for the price.
Certain design features are important to the customer in their search for a boat. We have outlined these features and recommend that you make the comparison.

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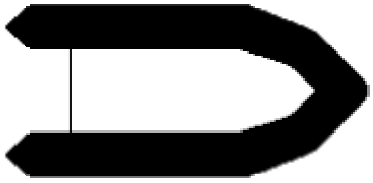
INTERIOR SPACE

The overall exterior lengths of Inflatables boats are measured tip to tip. Almost all manufacturers build boats with a long cone at the rear. This is a cheap method of finishing off the stern of the boat. The cone adds to the overall length without increasing buoyancy or the usable interior space of the boat and, therefore, gives a false impression of the usable capacity of a boat and value.

APEX boats are constructed with rounded ends and, consequently, have a shorter exterior length than their major competitors. We build our boats with rounded ends despite the additional cost because we want our tough rubbing strake to extend around and protect the stern of the boat. This shorter length eases storage on davits or dinghy racks.

Beware of Boats with points on the wrong end!



See pg. 8

In addition, when choosing a boat, it is the interior space of the boat that is key. Some boats are more pointed than others, some include extended cone ends, and all have various widths. The effect of the cone ends and others differences are show in our comparison chart at the end of this booklet. Here are two examples:

	Exterior Length	*Approximate Interior Square Feet*
APEX 11 RIB	11’	19
Zodiac YL340R	11’ 2”	19
Avon R 340	11’ 1”	17
APEX 27RI (Roll Up)	9’	15
Avon R280	9’	13
Zodiac YL 285	9’ 4”	14

Notice that shorter exterior length do not mean you have to compromise on interior space!

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TUBES

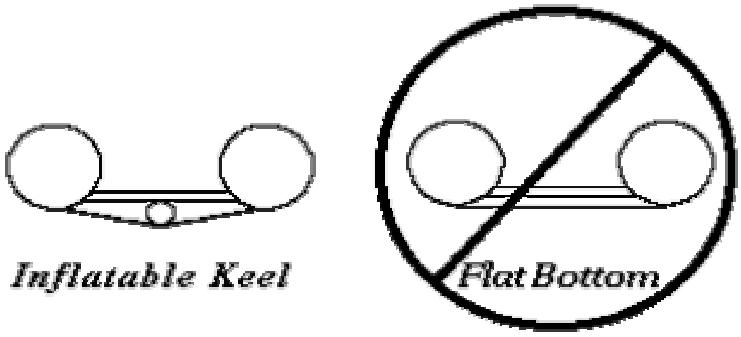
A-8

One thing is certain with tubes: bigger is better!

Larger tubes:
Increase buoyancy, thus allowing higher payloads.
Create more stability
Provide a drier ride by keeping water out of the boat.
Create more interior depth and space inside the boat.

Compare the APEX boat with their competitors. We are consistently at the top of market for tube size.

Inflatable keel



The keels allow the boat to plain and change direction faster, while providing more directional stability and less leeway drifting. For collapsible boats, Roll Up a keel is must to provide tracking and planning

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FLOORS, TRANSOMS

For fully collapsible models, floors are generally made from wood or aluminum. The wood must be marine grade. Some wood floors are varnished. This may have a nice appearance when new, but can create more maintenance afterwards.

APEX boats are made with marine grade plywood transoms and floors protected by 2 layer of 2 components epoxy barrier and then a layer of polyurethane. We use a light Grey paint to better resistance to fading under UV.

ROLL UP TECHNOLOGY

Certain manufacturers, including APEX, have models, which allow the boat to be rolled with the floor in place, and to have an inflatable keel. These models usually have a hinged, segmented floor that combines rigidity for performance and stability with ease of handling and storage. Do not confuse these floors with slatted floors, which are not full-length floors. Such floors cannot compare with roll up floors for rigidity, stability and performance, and do not allow for a keel. Remember with polyester reinforce fabric the tube are more rigged and there for the floor is stiffer and stable.

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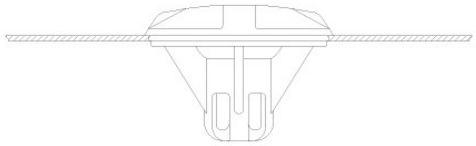
OTHER IMPORTANT FEATURES

Rubbing Strake

The rubbing strake is the tough rubber strip that goes around the boat to protect it from abrasions, and from splash & spray keeping you dry. Make sure that this streaking is made of a thick, tough material in a light color. Dark colors attract more UV, heat, dirt, and will deteriorate faster leaving marks on other vessels. APEX boats have a tough, raised, light Grey non-marking strake for better protection.

Valves



These should be recessed to avoid objects catching on them. The larger the size, the faster inflation and deflation. APEX recessed valves have spring-loaded diagrams to allow for one-way airflow when desired. These valves can be easily removed for maintenance.

Towing Rings

Collapsible models should have two large D-rings attached with heavy duty material located under both sides, forward of the boat for towing with a bridle. RIBs should have an U-bolt through the fiberglass hull in the bow. APEX boats have towing rings or U-bolts standard on all models.

Oars

The oars provided must be comfortable to use. Therefore, APEX tenders come with oars that can be adjusted to the needs of the user and pinned oarlock system that locks the oars in place and allows for feathering of the oar blades.

Other Accessories

Handles- For transportation, handles are a great help. APEX provides one on each side and another in front. Lifelines: Make sure well placed, heavy-duty lifelines are provided. APEX does!

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APEX MODELS

Rigid Inflatables Boat

Model	Length	Beam	Tube ∅	Persons	Weight
A-8	8’	5’	16 “1/2	4	94
A-9	8’11”	5’2”	16” 1/2	4	115
A-9LT	8’11”	5’1”	16” 1/2	4	79
A-10	10’	5’7”	17”	5	135
A-10LT	10’	5’7”	17”	5	88
A-11	11’	5’7”	17”	5	145
A-12	12’	5’10”	18” 1/2	6	165
A-15 Tender	14’6”	6’7”	20”	7	418
A-15OPEN	14’6”	6’7”	20”	7	333
A-17 Sport	17’3”	7’7”	23”	8	790
A-17OPEN	17’3”	7’7”	23”	8	638
A-20 Sport	19’8”	8’2”	23”	12	950
A-20OPEN	19’8”	8’2”	23”	10	790
A-24 RIB	24’6”	9’9”	24”	20	2130

Roll-Up/ Collapsible

Model	Length	Beam	Tube ∅	Persons	Weight
A-24RIL	8’	4’6”	15”	4	56
A-24RI	8’	4’6”	15”	4	66
A-24WI	8’	4’6”	15”	4	69
A-27RIL	9’	5’	16”1/2	4	72
A-27RI	9’	5’	16”1/2	4	82
A-27WI	9’	5’	16”1/2	4	94
A-32RIL	10’3”	5’5”	17”	5	83
A-32RI	10’3”	5’5”	17”	5	93
A-32WI	10’3”	5’5”	17”	5	115
A-42WI	13’10”	6’6”	20”	8	232
A-47WI	15’6”	6’6”	20”	10	298

For more detail info visit: **www.apexinflatables.com**, under Specifications.

INFLATABLES BOAT COMPARTION CHART

RIGID INFLATABLES BOAT

Name	*Model*	*External Length*	*External Beam*	*Internal Length*	*Internal Beam*	*Approx. Internal Tube Sq. Ft*	*Tube ∅*	*Max HP*	*Capacity Persons*	*Payload Lbs.*	*Weight Lbs.*	*Fabric*	*Denier*	*Sugg. Retail Price*
APEX	**A-8**	**8'**	**5'**	**5'4"**	**2'4"**	**12**	**16"½**	**10**	**4**	**750**	**94**	**Hyp/Poly**	**1000**	
Avon	R 280	9'3"	5'3"	6'2"	2'6"	12	17"	10	3	1010	135	Hyp/Nylon	840	
Quicksilver	Rigid	8'10"	5'2"	5'9"	2'2"	12	15"½	8	4	925	166	PVC/Poly	1000	
Zodiac	YL 275R	9'	4'11"	4'11"	2'4"	13	15"½	8	4	947	99	PVC/Poly	1000	
APEX	**A-11**	**11'**	**5'7"**	**7'11"**	**2'8"**	**19**	**17"**	**25**	**5**	**1150**	**145**	**Hyp/Poly**	**1000**	
Avon	R340 Rib	11'2"	5'3"	7'10"	2'6"	17	17"	25	5	1250	180	Hyp/Nylon	840	
Novurania	335 DL	10'11"	5'4"			17	16"½	30	4	944	310	Hyp/Poly	1000	
Zodiac	YL340R	11'2"	5'7"	7'7"	2'8"	19	18"	25	5	1212	167	PVC/Poly	1000	
APEX	**A-9 LITE**	**8'11"**	**5'1"**	**6'2"**	**2'6"**	**14**	**16"½**	**10**	**4**	**850**	**79**	**Hyp/Poly**	**1000**	
APEX	**A-10 LITE**	**10'**	**5'7"**	**7'1"**	**2'8"**	**18**	**17"**	**15**	**5**	**950**	**88**	**Hyp/Poly**	**1000**	
					ROLL UP INFLATABLE BOAT WITH KEEL									
APEX	**A-24RI**	**8'**	**4'6"**	**5'3"**	**2'**	**11**	**15"**	**6**	**4**	**850**	**66**	**Hyp/Poly**	**1000**	
Avon	R 250	8'3"	4'6"	5'7"	2'2"	12	14"	5	3	682	58	Hyp/Nylon	840	
Zodiac	260 YL	8"6"	4'11"	5'3"	2'4"	12	16½"	4	4	970	66	PVC/Poly	1000	
					COLLAPSIBLE INFLATABLE BOAT									
APEX	**A-24WI**	**8'**	**4'6"**	**5'3"**	**2'**	**11**	**15"**	**6**	**4**	**850**	**69**	**Hyp/Poly**	**1000**	
QuickSilver	Sport	7'6"	4'	4'4"	2'	9	15"	5	2	771	68	PVC/Poly	1000	
Achilles	LEX 235	7'9"	4'4"	5'4"	2'1"	11	14"	5	2	550	62	Hyp/Poly	750	
Zodiac	C 240	7'11"	4'7"	4'11"	2'4"	11	14"	4	3	727	37	PVC/Poly	1000	
APEX	**A-27WI**	**9'**	**5'**	**6'2"**	**2'4"**	**15**	**16" ½**	**10**	**4**	**970**	**94**	**Hyp/Poly**	**1000**	
Avon	R 280	9'3"	5'3"	6'2"	2'6"	13	17"	10	4	1060	130	Hyp/Nylon	840	
Zodiac	C 285 S	9'4"	4'11"	6'1"	2'4"	14	15"½	6	4	1080	63	PVC/Poly	1000	

Note: Dimensions and specifications are approximate based on information Available at time of printing in manufactures literature.
Not responsible for typographical errors or omissions, subject to change at any time Without notice.

Hyp: Hypalon®
Poly: Polyester

Apex offers many different models of Rigid Hull, Collapsible and Roll Up Boats, as well as White Water Raft and Banana Tubes.

For more information and copy of our catalogue, please visit WWW.APEXINFLATABLES.COM or call 1-800-422-5977

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