

C-TUG Trolley

There are quite a few canoe and kayak carts on the market, but they generally fall into one of two categories. There are the ones that are homemade, or look like they could be made at home using parts from Home Depot. And then there are the aluminum tube carts that have many different names, but all look like they all came out of the same factory. Thanks to a little Kiwi ingenuity, there is now another option – an excellent option in my opinion.

The C-TUG was designed and is manufactured in New Zealand and is sold in North America by a “Kiwi expat” living in Canada.

Right away you notice that the C-TUG is mostly plastic – fibre-reinforced nylon to be specific. This stuff is essentially indestructible, plus corrosion-proof. The few metal parts, such as the axles, are stainless steel. What you don't notice

right away is that the whole cart is assembled without tools. Like most things, the first time that you construct the cart will take longer, but once you know what you are doing it only takes a minute or less.

Since the C-TUG breaks down quickly and easily into a few small pieces, sea kayakers can easily stow it through their smallest hatch opening. Canoeists might just leave the cart in one piece for a day trip or disassemble it and keep it in a stuff sack so none of the pieces go astray. (Replacement parts are available if you do lose a part, but it's best not to lose them in the first place, right?)

Using the cart is easy. There is a kick stand so the C-TUG will sit upright while you place your boat upon it. The pads tilt to match any boat profile and cover a large surface area of your hull so that your baby is well supported. And there is only a single strap needed to secure the cart to your boat. Normally, canoe and

kayak carts use two straps under opposing tension to keep a boat in place. The C-TUG uses pads with a soft, friction-full (I think I just invented a word!) material so that only a single strap is needed. Even knowing this, I had my doubts that the boat would stay in place over a rough portage, but it proved to work great!

The C-TUG comes standard with pneumatic tires that are great over rough portages. Starting this spring, the manufacturer will offer, as an add-on item, solid wheels with a rubber tread for pavement, grass and sand. I have not tried them, so cannot comment.

The C-TUG is priced slightly on the high side for quality carts, but its convenience and excellent design make it well worth the cost. Plus, I love that I can use the same cart for both my canoes and my kayaks!

www.c-tug.ca

MSRP \$180

