

# oceanpaddler

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# KAYALU POWER SUCTION MOUNT SYSTEM WITH TOUGHBAR EXTENSION

With the increase in popularity of small video cameras, paddlers are now looking for ways to attach their cameras and other gadgets to their sea kayaks. One particular product has received a lot of positive feedback from a large number of sea kayakers. After becoming well known for their excellent Kayalite, a deck-mounted light for night paddling, Kayalu Gear has continued to expand their range of products; the Power Suction Mount System is one of their best-selling products.

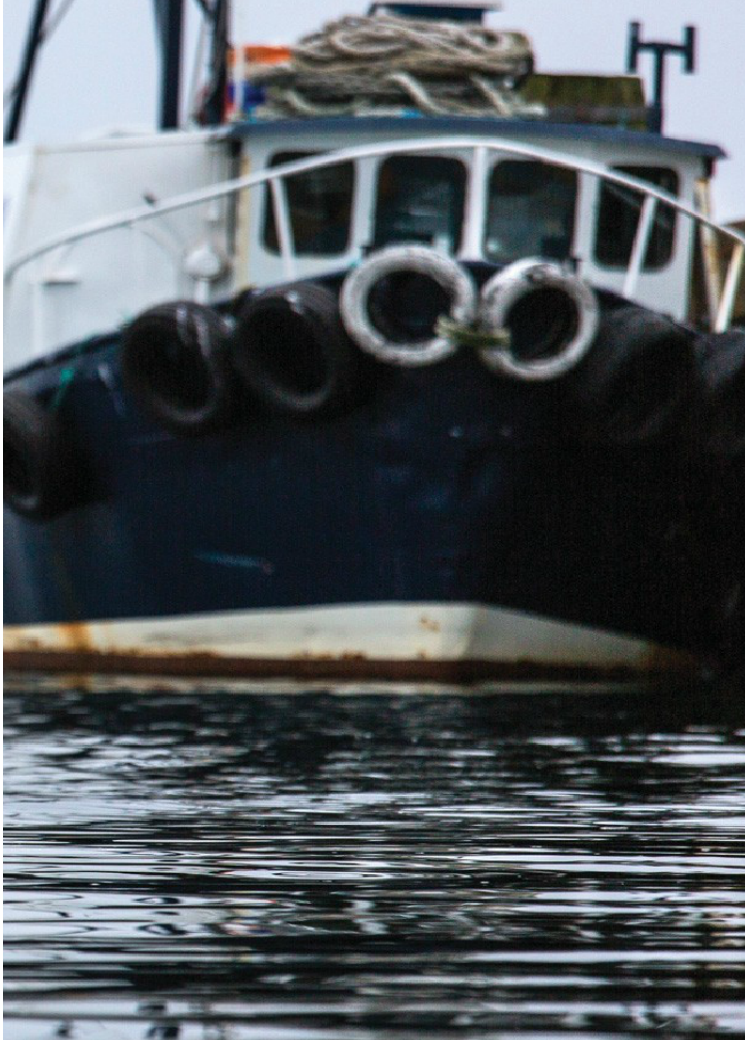
*Photo by Dr Douglas Wilcox.*





### Design and construction

The Kayalu system is modular, comprising a suction cup to secure it to the kayak, a 10.5-inch extension bar, the camera mount and two clamps for connecting all the parts together. The design hinges, figuratively and literally, around the use of RAM (Round-A-Mount) ball joints, 1-inch balls on the top of the suction mount, both ends of the extension bar and the bottom of the camera mount. The clamps are designed to fit around any two of the ball joints using a thumbscrew to tighten and connect the parts together.



This modular set-up allows the camera mount to be connected directly to the suction cup, or the suction cup and camera mount to be connected to either end of the extension bar.

All the materials utilised within the system are designed to avoid saltwater corrosion and degradation from sunlight. A composite fibre polymer is used instead of standard ABS plastic, while all metal parts utilise marine-grade aluminium or stainless steel bolts and screws.

### In use

The beauty of the Kayalu design is that you effectively have an articulated joint at either end of the tough bar. This allows for a large number of possible positions for placing the camera high, low, out to the side or at a wide variety of angles, rather than simply having a vertical rod with the camera sat on top. During testing it became obvious that taking the time to vary the shooting position provides much more flexibility and interest when it comes to editing the resulting photographs and videos. Without this flexibility, footage could become very boring, very quickly.

The suction mount is highly effective and holds fast on all smooth surfaces; on a range of composite sea kayaks it was possible to find multiple mounting points where the suction mount held beautifully. However, on plastic sea kayaks with textured surfaces, the mount doesn't hold as well (if at all). Luckily for us, some manufacturers are now allowing for this in their design process (the P&H Hammer reviewed in this issue, for example) by creating specific smooth mounting points on their sea kayaks.

Although the suction mount is highly effective, there is always the risk that something could dislodge the system; a retaining cord with stainless steel clip is therefore clamped securely through the suction mount end of the system. The bungee cord used allows for some stretch, which ensures you can clip the mount onto decklines or secure spots on the deck.

The whole system is easy to fit and adjust, off and on water (assuming it is positioned within reach or you are paddling with friends). The over-sized thumbscrews on the coupling clamps and large locking mechanism on the suction mount are simple to operate, even with cold wet hands. When required, for example filming rolling or rough water paddling, the system can be locked down tight to minimise any vibration in the footage. During the review period the system was tested in dynamic water and repeated rolling situations, and always held fast. However, it is also possible to tighten the clamps enough to hold things steady but be able to adjust the angle or direction of the camera without needing to undo and retighten the various thumbscrews; this feature is handy for quick changes to capture a range of footage.

The Power Suction Mount System has only been tested over a relatively short period for this review. However, since the majority of the components are the same as those used in the Kayalu light system which we have been using for a couple of years without any significant sign of wear or tear, we have high confidence in the durability of this set-up.

### Conclusion

This is a well-thought-out, highly versatile and durable system. There are (slightly) cheaper alternatives on the market, but attaching something like a £360+ GoPro set-up to any mount demands the best in terms of security and stability. Kayalu have an established and proven track record of creating high-quality products, and the Power Suction Mount System is another shining example of their functional design. At just \$64.95 (plus shipping) with Toughbar Extension and GoPro Hero loss-proof adaptor, it is worth every penny (or cent). 📸

For more information and ordering, visit [www.kayalu.com](http://www.kayalu.com)