

BUTEO PHOTO GEAR®

Floating Hide ‘The Grebe II’

Instruction and safety guide:

- 1. Safety first**
- 2. Assembly instructions**
- 3. Care and maintenance**
- 4. List of components**
- 5. Warranty**

1. Safety first

- Always check your floating hide’s air bladders, outer cover and seams for possible damage before use, never use your floating hide “The Grebe II” if you suspect any damages on these areas.
- Floating hide “The Grebe II” has 2 air bladders/air compartments for your safety.
- Never use your floating hide “The Grebe II” on your own, make sure your buddy is there to watch over you from the shore.
- The floating hide “The Grebe II” is a personal recreational watercraft, it’s not a boat! It is intended for use in still, shallow waters only and in close proximity to the shore.
- The floating tube “The Grebe II” is not intended for use by children under 12 years of age. Children between 12 and 18 years must only use the floating hide under the direct supervision of an adult. An adult should review all instructions in this manual with children between 12 and 18 years old.
- Do not exceed your physical capacities.
- Do not use this product if you are under the influence of alcohol, drugs or medication.
- Never use your floating hide “The Grebe II” in running water and/or deep water, pay very close attention when in use on lakes and large waterways.

Be careful when floating in strong and offshore winds – never take a risk!

- Stay safe, the best locations to use the floating tent is where your feet can still reach the bottom.
- Check and follow local laws and recommendations concerning security, safety, photography, all the regulations and areas of use.
- Always make use of a proper life jacket, ideally with a whistle attached, in case needed when you're in trouble.
- Carry a fully charged mobile phone with you - either in a waterproof bag or plastic box.
- If the inflated floating tube has been stored or not been used for some time, you need to check the air pressure before you use it again, because naturally the volume decreases in the course of time.
- It might be helpful to take a waterproof torch and a headlamp and/or light stick with you when you plan to photograph from dusk till dawn.
- Make sure you wear proper clothing:
A wetsuit, wader or a drysuit is recommended. Especially in colder water, a drysuit + warm undergarments is the best solution.
- Do not use the floating hide during a thunderstorm.
- Always check if you have mounted your ball-head or gimbal-head or any other device properly so it will not come off the plate(s). Also check if your camera/lens combination is properly mounted on your ball-head or gimbal-head. We don't recommend the use of beanbags as your gear can easily fall off. The use of photography gear is always for your own risk. You also can attach your own safety strings on your gear, connected with the D-rings of the floating hide's tube.
- Never use the floating hide "The Grebe" without both air bladders fully inflated. Do not fill the air bladders with more air than you can push your finger about 1 cm down into the floating tube, and never over inflate your floating hide "The Grebe II".
- Max loading capacity; person and equipment total: 130kg/286,6 lbs. Do not exceed the maximum load capacity. Floating hide "The Grebe II" is a one-person floating hide, so never use it with more than one person!
- Benel B.V. / Buteo Photo Gear accepts no responsibility for accident or injury caused by improper use of this product, failure to comply with the instructions provided in this manual, or modifications made to this floating hide "The Grebe II".

2. Assembly instruction

- First unpack your new floating hide “The Grebe II” and make sure all components are included in the package and without damage, see components list below.
- Fill the air chambers gradually, so do not inflate one full and then the other, but half-full first, then pump both completely full.

Please note:

The mouthpiece must be inserted sufficiently into the inflatable port, after which the mouthpiece must be turned to close it!

Beware of too much air pressure. Bursts may happen during a break, when the float tube lies in direct sunlight, which causes the air pressure to increase.

- The floating hide’s valves are one-way type, so even if the plastic valve cap is unscrewed the valve will not allow air to escape. To deflate the bladders, push the valve to let escape the air. When using the floating hide, always keep the plastic valve cap mounted to keep water and dirt out of the valve.
- After the floating hide is inflated, you can add the mounting plates. You can choose to add just the front plate, just the back plate (lower) or both. Slide the plates carefully over the strips attached to the sides of the floating tube.
- You can add your gimbal-head or ball-head to the plate(s) with the brass screw. Be careful you don’t lose the screw. Attach it when you are not in the water, but still on land. Secure it using a suitable wrench.
- Attach your photography equipment when you are still on land, the risk of set-up your gear in the water is too risky.
- Additionally you can mount 1 or 2 small carrying bags to the floating tube using the Velcro strips.
- To set up the tent, spread the umbrella system a little bit and pull the rope in the top. The tent will fold out easily.

Please note:

Make sure that the four poles and plastic connectors are in the correct position, and only then pull the rope to open the tent.

If the four poles and plastic connectors are slightly stuck (after being folded for a long time), please first adjust the tent fabric and the four poles + plastic connectors.

Make sure that the umbrella is in the correct open position before pulling the string.

Then place the tent on the floating tube by attaching the poles ends into the small plastic tubes in the outside corners of the floating tube.

If you want the tent to stay tight, use the attached elastics and fasten them into the D-rings attached on the floating tube.

- To camouflage the cone shaped ends of the floating tube, two cone shaped fabric pieces are supplied. Place them around the ends and fasten them with the elastics/hooks.

3. Care and maintenance

- Do not store your floating hide “The Grebe II” in direct sunlight.
- If you are leaving your floating hide’s tube out in the sun for a longer period, be aware that the heat can increase the pressure inside the air bladders to a dangerous level. Let some of the air out of the bladders if it will be out of the water in the sun for some time, or if it is stored in a vehicle, etc.
- Always rinse the float tube with freshwater, after you have been in saltwater. Especially clean the zippers!
- A gain in altitude will increase the pressure in the air bladders also. If you are taking your inflated floating hide from a low elevation to a high elevation, be sure to let some of the air out. Also an increase in temperature (cold morning, hot day) can also make the pressure rise.
- For short term storage, we recommend you let some of the air out of your floating hide.
- Clean the floating tube with fresh water as soon as you leave the water. For long term storage, make sure your floating hide’s tube is completely dry and deflated and stored out of the sunlight in a cool, dry area.
- For long term storage of your floating hide’s tent, we recommend your tent is completely dry and clean. Also check the zippers before and rinse with fresh water if needed. Especially when you used the product in salty environments.
- The best way to store the tube is half inflated. Poorly insulated attics are not a good idea due to possible temperature fluctuations. If you plan to store your floating hide’s tube without any air and to avoid mould stains, make sure the float is absolutely dry.

4. List of components

- 1x Floating tube.
- 1x Tent with integrated frame.
- 2x Cone shaped end pieces of fabric.
- 1x Duffle bag.
- 1x Brass screw.
- 1x Air-pump.
- 2x Storage bag.
- 2x Mounting plate.
- 1x Safety net.
- 1x Container with repair set.

5. Warranty

This warranty covers defects in materials and workmanship only for a period of 2 years from the date of purchase for the original owner. Please keep your invoice at a safe place.

Defects caused by improper use and not following our safety rules, assembly instructions, care and maintenance tips are not included in our warranty program.

If you experience a problem with the floating hide, please contact us at outdoor@benel.nl. Repairs not covered under the warranty will be made to the floating hide at a charge.

Benel B.V. / Buteo Photo Gear reserves the right to determine whether to repair or replace any product covered by this warranty and the right to replace any discontinued models with current models when necessary. Colors may vary between original and replacement parts.

Buteo Photo Gear, 10-06-2025

BUTEO PHOTO GEAR®