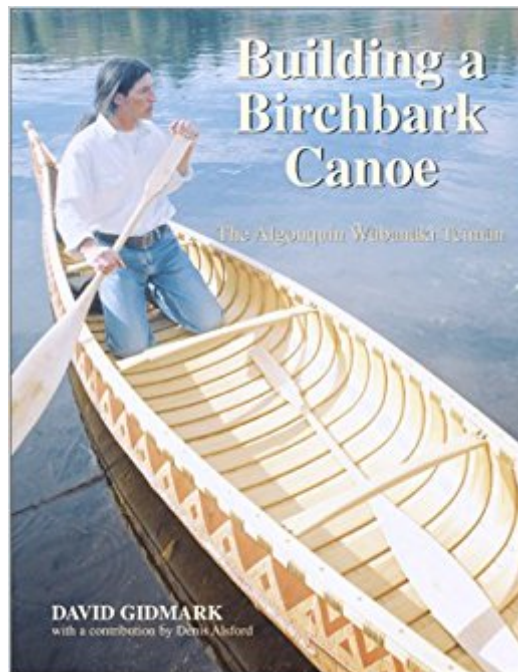




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Building A Birchbark Canoe: The Algonquin Wabanaki Tciman



Synopsis

In this groundbreaking book, David Gidmark reviews the early history of bark canoes, providing readers with an overview of construction methods and featuring the individual techniques of four traditional 20th-century Algonquin craftsmen and their assistants. Detailed descriptions of their step-by-step construction methods are included, and the adoption of tools and methods from non-Indian culture as shortcuts are noted (such as the use of canvas and roofing tar, duct tape and C-clamps). A chapter on paddlemaking in the native tradition completes the book. *Building a Birchbark Canoe: The Algonquin Way* is one of the most significant studies of Algonquin birchbark canoes and their construction. The author is one of the few outsiders to have learned the ancient craft of birchbark canoe making from the Algonquins, and in *Building a Birchbark Canoe*, he not only shares this skill but invites readers to appreciate the cultural significance of an elegant and practical craft that might otherwise be lost to history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Although this is a step-by-step guide to building an Algonquin birchbark canoe I found it most interesting historically. It answers all my questions about the origins of birchbark canoes. (Sue Russell *Georgian Bay Today*) Meticulously detailed chapters on the techniques used by each of the four master canoe builders... clear step-by-step instructions. (Bushwacker's *Wilderness Journal*) Fascinating reading for those interested in native culture as well as those considering building a canoe. (Wave Length Magazine)

Text: English

Great book, packed with information: historical, and the building approaches of a variety of expert Native canoe builders. All is well-written, and loads of pictures. I love it. Is there enough here to actually build a canoe from scratch? Hard to say: there are many aspects that, while covered, don't have enough detail (e.g. how to get the right consistency of spruce pitch to seal the sides. The process is described, but not in a cookbook style. Same is true of choosing good bark: described, but I think one has to go out into the field with an expert builder to really understand it). Nevertheless, I plan to try by starting with a model...

I was asked to give a talk on birch bark canoes (I weave with birch bark) but didn't really know the first thing about them. This book was very helpful!! I did make a 3 ft birch bark canoe but also learned a lot about the people and their ways which really made my talk much more interesting. They were awe struck with my canoe. Would suggest this book to anyone interested in learn about canoes!!!!

Best book on the subject with great diagrams and photographs, a variety of styles, well written. If you are as obsessed by the subject as I am.

This is an amazing read and instructional guide as the the history and techniques of a quickly dying, near dead art form.

Excellent!

This book has been a discovery. Gidmark, indeed, made me discover the passion of birchbark canoe building. He also made me discover the great canoe builders who live in my own country! This book helped me to build on my own my first birchbark canoe. The review of different builders, craftsmen and the numerous photos helped me to understand, step by step, all the building process. For all future birchbark canoe builders, this is the basic book to buy!

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