

WaterDog Adventure Gear®

WAG Boarding Steps™

Model LM-6 / Model LM-6H

Owner's Manual

U.S. Patent No. 9,815,529



Read this manual completely and follow instructions prior to use.

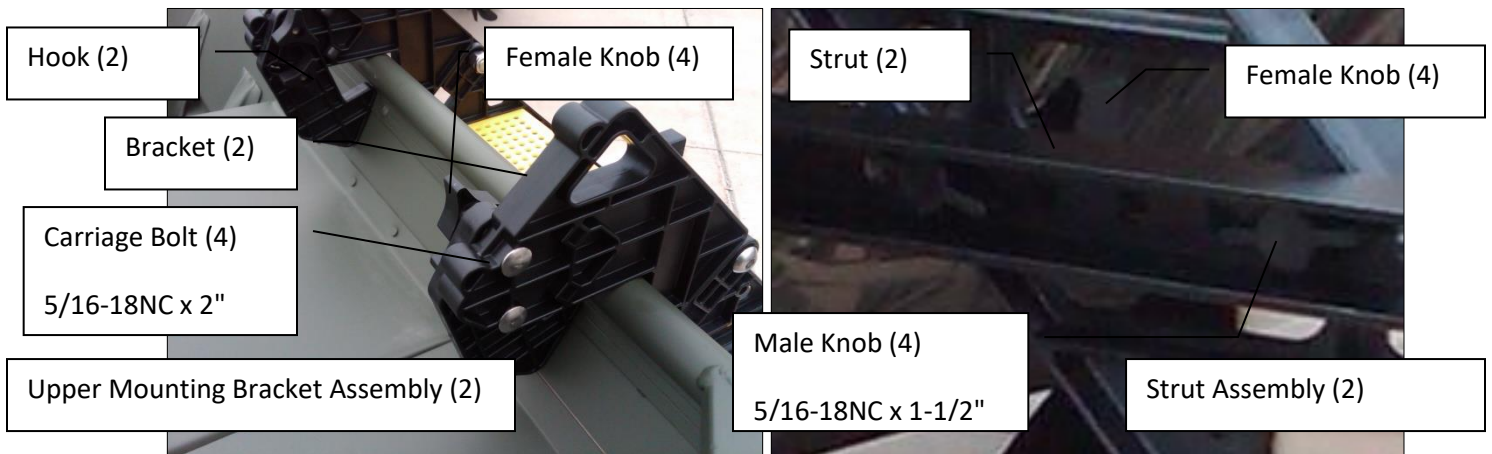
Improper use may cause injury and/or equipment damage.

WAG Boarding Steps have a maximum capacity of 130 pounds and are designed for dog use only.

Welcome to the WaterDog Adventure Gear® family and thank you for your purchase!

As excited as you and your dog are to begin using your WAG Boarding Steps, there are a few important actions to take prior to use and for safe and enjoyable ongoing ownership.

➔ Assembly Overview



➔ Initial Setup Prior to Use (Fitment)

Your new WAG Boarding Steps Model LM-6/LM-6H comes fully assembled from the factory and does not require tools to setup or use. The difference between the LM-6 and LM-6H is the component colors/finishes. For safe and optimum performance, the initial setup (fitment) for your specific boat must be performed prior to use since boats come in many different styles, shapes and sizes. The initial setup is best done with the boat out of the water to observe fit.

WAG Boarding Steps Model LM-6/LM-6H is designed to mount on the boat's gunwale or transom lip. To work effectively, the mounting location should have:

- a lip width of no more than 3-1/2" (hook can be modified for lips up to 4" wide; a crossbar conversion kit is available to replace the hooks for gunwales wider than 4")
- a flat lip section at least 15" wide
- no obstructions inside of the boat within 3-1/2" of the top of the lip (hook can be modified if less than 3-1/2")
- a freeboard (distance from top of lip to water level) of no more than 16" (less is better for bigger dogs)



Step 1 - Remove the collapsed assembly from its packaging, stand on end or lay flat and remove both struts by loosening the female knobs and removing the male knobs. The male knobs may initially be a tight fit in the runner clearance holes due to manufacturing tolerances. Set the struts and hardware aside.

Step 2 - Loosen the female knobs on both upper mounting brackets and pivot the hooks open. Hook the upper mounting brackets over the gunwale or transom lip in the desired mounting location. (If necessary, the lower carriage bolt can be temporarily removed to open the hook more or the hooks can be flipped or relocated to the other set of holes.) Do not tighten the knobs, yet.



Step 3 - With one of the struts in hand and the corners of the upper mounting brackets held tight against the lip, determine which set of holes in the runner and strut will provide a relatively flat step (unit mounted at approximately 45 degrees) and have the strut contact the hull in a stiff location. (The strut can be flipped as necessary.) Insert the male knobs and tighten the female knobs. Repeat with the other strut. The proprietary design allows the struts to be independently mounted to account for compound hull shapes.



Step 4 - Position the corners of the upper mounting brackets tight against the lip, rotate the hooks in tight against the inside of the lip/hull and tighten the hook female knobs firmly. (The hooks do not need to be under a lip and can be flipped, if necessary.) If the hooks prevent the brackets from sitting on the lip or your gunwale is 4" wide or less, they may need to be modified by cutting along a rib. (Examples are pictured to the left.) If your gunwale is wider than 4", a crossbar conversion kit is available to replace the hooks. Verify the mounting angle and adjust, if necessary. The unit is designed to flex some to accommodate minor irregularities but verify good contact of the upper mounting brackets and struts prior to use. Congratulations! You have completed the initial setup of WAG Boarding Steps for your boat and are now ready for hours of enjoyment.

Use/Training

It is highly recommended that you train your dog in shallow water where you can stand to the side as your dog gets used to WAG Boarding Steps. Some dogs may try to wrap their legs around them like a tree trunk or reach up trying to pull themselves up and stick their leg between the steps. Having your dog approach them straight on and spotting them to keep their legs under their chest (like they do stairs at home) will get them comfortable with this new thing they have never seen before. They should be able to swim on and walk up by themselves. A two-step extension kit is available, if necessary. Once they are used to it, they will learn to come in from the side and do it with large objects in their mouth. Do not operate your boat with the unit mounted and periodically check for damage to the equipment and/or your boat. Remember, WAG Boarding Steps are for **dog use only**.

Storage

With the desired strut location and hook orientation determined, you can remove and store your WAG Boarding Steps without having to repeat the initial setup. To remove, loosen the hook female knobs and pivot them open. Lift the assembly off the boat. Pivot the hooks all the way in and tighten the hooks for storage. Remove one of the strut female knobs and male knobs on each side. Loosen the remaining strut female knobs and allow each strut to pivot parallel to the runners. Make sure the female knob is loose enough to allow both rubber bumpers to rest against the runners. Tighten the knobs to hold the struts in the storage and transport position, but do not tighten to the point of deflecting the runners. Reinstall the removed male and female knobs in the holes they came out of and tighten for storage. Your setup will determine which is the best male knob to pivot the strut on. This storage procedure will make it easy for you to remember what mounting holes worked best for your installation.

Care and Maintenance

Your new WAG Boarding Steps are constructed from high-quality materials that should provide years of enjoyment.

- All fasteners are stainless steel (except for the step rivets and washers which are aluminum). Check for loose or missing fasteners prior to use and tighten or replace as necessary.
- The metal parts are anodized aluminum extrusions which offer excellent stiffness for their weight. Periodically check for bent or cracked parts and replace as necessary.
- The plastic parts are formulated for outdoor use and have good impact resistance. Periodically check for cracked parts and replace as necessary.
- Floatation material should be replaced immediately if damaged or missing. If your dog's nails tend to push the floatation material out of the pockets, it can be secured with adhesive.
- To keep your WAG Boarding Steps looking new, rinse after every use. For maximum life, do not store your WAG Boarding Steps in direct sunlight or in extreme temperatures.

Customer Support

For questions regarding your WAG Boarding Steps or to order replacement parts, please contact our toll-free customer support line at:

1-877-**WAG**-2272 (1-877-924-2272)