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Paddleboard Assembly

Abstract

A paddleboard assembly and method of use. A method of assembling the paddleboard includes assembly. The method comprises: positioning a forward arm on top sides of two paddleboards in proximity to a front end of the paddleboards. A rear arm is positioned on the top sides of the paddleboards in proximity to a rear end of the paddleboards. Lateral arms are aligned along inner lateral sides of the paddleboards. A platform is positioned between the first lateral arm and the second lateral arm. The forward arm, rear arm, and lateral arms are attached to the paddleboards.

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Background/Summary

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present application is directed generally to watercraft and, more specifically, to an assembly having multiple paddleboards.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Paddleboards are popular watercraft for people who want to get onto the water. The paddleboard is a relatively long and narrow board constructed to float on water. The paddleboard is sized to form a base with a top side for a person to stand. The person is equipped with an elongated paddle which allows for paddling while standing upon the paddleboard. Paddleboards can be used for a variety of reasons including but not limited to one or more of exercising, sightseeing, fishing, and exploring.

[0003] The paddleboard is sized to be stable when a person is standing up and paddling. However, it does not provide adequate stability when using the paddleboard in different ways. A paddleboard may not be adequate for a parent to ride with a small child. The paddleboard can sway and/or tip if the child were to move around to different positions such as by moving close to an edge. This same issue can occur if a person were to take their dog on the paddleboard. The dog may move around the top side causing the paddleboard to rock and possibly tip over. The paddleboard may also not be adequate to support a person that is fishing. The motion of the person casting their line into the water can cause the paddleboard to sway and possibly capsize.

[0004] Another issue with paddleboards is they are not conducive to holding more than one person. Two or more people riding on a paddleboard can be unstable, particularly when one of the persons moves or shifts their weight. If multiple people want to go paddleboarding, each person is required to have their own paddleboard. This can be difficult because some persons may not be able to operate a paddleboard by themselves. Further, it can be difficult for persons operating their paddleboards to remain close together which can make it difficult for the persons to have a conversation.

SUMMARY

[0005] One aspect is directed to a method of assembling a paddleboard assembly. The method comprises: unfolding a forward arm, a rear arm, a first lateral arm, and a second lateral arm from a folded orientation to an unfolded orientation; after unfolding to the unfolded orientation: positioning the forward arm on a top side of each of a first paddleboard and a second paddleboard in proximity to a front end of each of the first and second paddleboards; positioning the rear arm on the top side of each of the first paddleboard and the second paddleboard in proximity to a rear end of each of the first and second paddleboards; aligning the first lateral arm that extends between the forward arm and the rear arm along an inner lateral side of the first paddleboard; aligning the second lateral arm that extends between the forward arm and the rear arm along an inner lateral side of the second paddleboard; positioning a platform between the first lateral arm and the second lateral arm; and attaching the forward arm, the rear arm, the first lateral arm, and the second lateral arm to the first and second paddleboards.

[0006] In another aspect, the method further comprises positioning the first paddleboard and a second paddleboard in a side-by-side arrangement and separated by a gap prior to positioning the forward arm and the rear arm on the top side of each of the first and second paddleboards.

[0007] In another aspect, the method further comprises spacing the first and second lateral arms upward above the top side of each of the first and second paddleboards.

[0008] In another aspect, the method further comprises aligning the forward arm and the rear arm in a parallel orientation.

[0009] In another aspect, the method further comprises aligning the first lateral arm and the second lateral arm perpendicular to each of the forward arm and the rear arm.

[0010] In another aspect, attaching the forward arm, the rear arm, the first lateral arm, and the second lateral arm to the first and second paddleboards comprises attaching a first strap attached to the forward arm to the first paddleboard and the second paddleboard and attaching a second strap attached to the rear arm to the first paddleboard and the second paddleboard.

[0011] In another aspect, the method further comprises: detaching the forward arm, the rear arm, the first lateral arm, and the second lateral arm from the first and second paddleboards; folding the

first lateral arm and the second lateral arm and positioning the forward arm and the rear arm together; and folding the forward arm and the rear arm and positioning the first lateral arm and the second lateral arm together.

[0012] In another aspect, the method further comprises positioning the first lateral arm and the second lateral arm on top of the forward arm and the rear arm.

[0013] In another aspect, the method further comprises attaching the forward arm, the rear arm, the first lateral arm, and the second lateral arm to the first and second paddleboards prior to positioning the platform between the first and second lateral arms.

[0014] One aspect is directed to a method of assembling a paddleboard assembly. The method comprises: unfolding horizontal members and vertical members of a base; positioning the base on the top side of a first paddleboard and a second paddleboard with the base spanning across a gap formed between the first paddleboard and the second paddleboard; aligning a platform of the base over the gap; and securing the base to the first paddleboard and the second paddleboard.

[0015] In another aspect, the method further comprises: pivoting first and second sections of the horizontal members about first hinges and unfolding the horizontal members; and pivoting first and second sections of the vertical members about second hinges and unfolding the vertical members.

[0016] In another aspect, the method further comprises: positioning outer sections of the horizontal members on the top side of each of the first paddleboard and the second paddleboard; and positioning central sections of the horizontal members that are between the outer sections across the gap.

[0017] In another aspect, securing the base to the first paddleboard and the second paddleboard comprises attaching straps attached to the horizontal members to the first paddleboard and the second paddleboard.

[0018] In another aspect, the method further comprises unfolding the platform concurrently with unfolding the base with the platform connected to the base.

[0019] In another aspect, the method further comprises folding the platform and the base together from an unfolded orientation to a folded orientation.

[0020] One aspect is directed to a paddleboard assembly comprising a first paddleboard, a second paddleboard, and a base. The base comprises a forward arm, a rear arm spaced away from the forward arm, a first lateral arm connected to each of the forward arm and the rear arm, and a second lateral arm connected to each of the forward arm and the rear arm. Each of the forward arm, the rear arm, the first lateral arm, and the second lateral arm comprise multiple sections that are hingedly connected together. The base is adjustable between a folded orientation that has a reduced size and an unfolded orientation that has an enlarged size and is configured to be mounted to the first paddleboard and the second paddleboard.

[0021] In another aspect, in the unfolded orientation the forward arm and the rear arm are parallel and the first lateral arm and the second lateral arm are perpendicular to both of the forward arm and the rear arm.

[0022] In another aspect, a platform that is connected to each of the first lateral arm and the second lateral arm with the platform constructed from a material sheet and configured to extend over a gap between the first paddleboard and the second paddleboard in the unfolded orientation.

[0023] In another aspect, the platform is configured to fold together with the base in the folded orientation.

[0024] In another aspect, each of the forward arm and the rear arm are constructed from two pieces that are connected together by a hinge.

[0025] The various aspects of the various embodiments may be used alone or in any combination, as is desired.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0026] FIG. **1** is a perspective view of a paddleboard assembly.

[0027] FIG. **2**A is a top view of a paddleboard assembly.

[0028] FIG. **2**B is an end view of the paddleboard assembly of FIG. **2**A.

[0029] FIG. **3**A is a top view of the base in a partially folded orientation with the lateral arms partially folded.

[0030] FIG. **3**B is a top view of the base of FIG. **3**A now in another partially folded orientation with the lateral arms fully folded.

[0031] FIG. **3**C is an end view of the base of FIG. **3**B.

[0032] FIG. **3**D is an end view of the base of FIG. **3**C in a fully folded orientation.

[0033] FIG. **4**A is a schematic end view of a platform in an unfolded orientation.

[0034] FIG. **4**B is a schematic end view of the platform of FIG. **4**A in a folded orientation.

[0035] FIG. **5** is a flowchart diagram of a method of assembling a paddleboard assembly.

[0036] FIG. **6** is a flowchart diagram of a method of assembling a paddleboard assembly.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0037] FIG. **1** illustrates a paddleboard assembly **10** that include a pair of paddleboards **20** and a base **30**. The base **30** connects together the two paddleboards **20**. The base **30** also includes a platform **60** that is positioned above the waterline. The assembly **10** forms a secure structure for multiple persons to use while on the water. The assembly **10** also enables use of the paddleboards **20** in additional ways that are otherwise not available, such as a swimming structure, and fishing boat.

[0038] The paddleboards **20** have an enlarged size and are constructed to float. As illustrated in FIGS. **2**A and **2**B, the paddleboards **20** include a length measured between a first end **21** and an opposing second end **22**. A width is measured between opposing lateral sides **23**, **24**. The top side **25** provides a surface for the user to stand while the bottom side **26** faces into the water. One or more fins (not illustrated) can extend outward from the bottom side **26**.

[0039] The paddleboards **20** can be constructed from different materials including but not limited to one or more of fiberglass, expanded polystyrene foam, either alone or in layers that are secured by an epoxy resin. In some examples, one or both paddleboards are inflatable. In some examples, the paddleboards **20***a*, **20***b* are substantially the same. In other examples, the paddleboards **20***a*, **20***b* include one or more different shapes, sizes, and constructions.

[0040] The base **30** is configured to be positioned on the top sides **25** and extend between the paddleboards **20**. The base **30** is sized to space the paddleboards **20** apart to form a gap **90** between the inner lateral sides **24**.

[0041] The base **30** includes a forward arm **31** and a rear arm **32**. The forward arm **31** is configured to be positioned on the top side **25** in proximity to the front end **21**. The rear arm **33** is positioned on the top side **25** in proximity to the back end **22**. In some examples, the forward arm **31** and the rear arm **32** are the same to facilitate manufacturing and also assembly by a user. In other examples, the forward arm **31** and rear arm **32** are different.

[0042] The base **30** also includes lateral arms **33**, **34** that extend between the forward arm **31** and the rear arm **32**. In some examples as illustrated in FIG. **2**A, the lateral arm **33** extends along the inner lateral side **24** of the first paddleboard **20***a* and the lateral arm **34** extends along the inner lateral side **24** of the second paddleboard **20***b*. The lateral arms **33**, **34** are mounted with fasteners **70** to the tops of the forward arm **31** and rear arm **32**. This positioning elevates the lateral arms **33**, **34** above the top sides **25** of the paddleboards **20**. This positioning also elevates the platform **60** as will be explained in more detail below.

[0043] As illustrated in FIG. **2**A, the forward arm **31** and the rear arm **32** form horizontal members. The outer sections of these members **31**, **32** contact against the respective paddleboards **20**. A central sections of the members **31**, **32** span across the gap **90** formed between the paddleboards **20**.

In some examples, the members **31**, **32** are parallel when mounted to the paddleboards **20**. The lateral arms **33**, **34** are referred to as vertical members as these are transverse to the horizontal members. In some examples, the lateral arms **33**, **34** are parallel. In some examples, these members are perpendicular to the horizontal members.

[0044] Straps **80** extend from the forward arm **31** and rear arm **32** to secure the base **30** to the paddleboards **20**. The straps **80** extend around the outer lateral sides **23***a*, **23***b* and bottom sides **26***a*, **26***b* and connect to an inner portion of the forward arm **31** and rear arm **32** respectively. In some examples, a total of four straps **80** connect the base **30** to the paddleboards **20**. In other examples, two straps **80** connect the base **30** to the paddleboards **20**. In some examples, the straps **80** include hook and loop fasteners to secure the positioning. In other examples, the straps **80** include buckles to secure their position.

[0045] The platform **60** is connected to each of the lateral arms **33**, **34** and is sized to extend across the gap **90** between the paddleboards **20**. In some examples, the platform **60** is formed from a sheet of material such as canvas, nylon, netting, plastic, and aluminum. The platform **60** has adequate strength to support one or more of a person, pet, and supplies (e.g., cooler, life jacket, fishing box). In some examples, the outer edges of the platform **60** are connected with fasteners **70** to the lateral arms **33**, **34**. In other examples, the platform **60** has sleeves formed along the outer edges that receive the lateral arms **33**, **34**. Other examples include hook-and-loop fasteners to connect the platform **60** to the lateral arms **33**, **34**. In yet another example, the platform **60** includes J-clamps to connect to the paddleboards **20**.

[0046] The base **30** is formed from multiple sections that are mounted together into a single unit. The sections of the base **30** can be constructed from a variety of different materials including but not limited to aluminum, plastic, wood, and various metals.

[0047] The base **30** is configured to be selectively adjusted between an unfolded orientation and a folded orientation. In the unfolded orientation as illustrated in FIGS. **1**, **2**A, and **2**B, the base **30** has a rigid shape to connect the paddleboards **20** and support the items that are on the platform **60**. In the folded orientation as illustrated in FIGS. **3**A-**3**D, the various components are positioned together to have a reduced overall size to facilitate handling and storage.

[0048] As illustrated in FIG. **3**A, lateral arm **33** includes sections **35**, **36** that are pivotally connected at a hinge **41**. Likewise, lateral arm **34** includes sections **37**, **38** that are pivotally connected at a hinge **42**. Fasteners **70** at the ends connect the lateral arms **33**, **34** to the forward arm **31** and rear arm **32**. The hinges **41**, **42** and connectors **70** enable the sections **35-38** to pivot outward to a collapsed position as shown in FIGS. **3**A and **3**B. In the collapsed position, the sections **35**, **36** of the lateral arm **33** and sections **37**, **38** of lateral arm **34** are positioned together. In some examples, the sections are in contact with other examples including the sections spaced apart by a small distance. The forward arm **31** and the rear arm **32** are also positioned together and can be in contact or separated by just a small distance. As illustrated in FIG. **3**C, the lateral arms **33**, **34** are positioned on the top of the forward arm **31** and the rear arm **32**.

[0049] The base **30** can further collapse in size by folding the forward arm **31** and the rear arm **32**. The forward arm **31** includes sections **51**, **52** that are connected at a hinge **43**. Rear arm **32** includes sections **53**, **54** that are connected at a hinge **44**. The hinges **43**, **44** provide for folding the forward arm **31** and rear arm **32** as illustrated in FIG. **3**D.

[0050] Supports **89** are positioned under the lateral arms **33**, **34** to provide support since the lateral arms **33**,**34** are spaced upward away from the top side **25** of the paddleboards **20**. In some examples, the supports **89** are attached to the undersides of one or more of the sections **35-38** in proximity to the hinges **41**, **42**. The supports **89** are sized to extend from the sections **35-38** and contact against the paddleboards **20**. In one example, a support **89** is attached to each of the sections **35-38** adjacent to the respective hinges **41**, **42**.

[0051] As illustrated in FIG. **3**A, the hinges **41**, **42** of the lateral arms **33**, **34** enable pivoting in a first plane. Hinges **43**, **44** enable pivoting of the forward arm **31** and the rear arm **32** in a different

second plane. This provides for the base **30** to fold into a reduced size to facilitate handling and storage.

[0052] The platform **60** remains attached to the lateral arms **33**, **34** of the base **30** in the unfolded and folded orientations. In the unfolded orientation as illustrated in FIG. **4**A, the platform **60** has an extended size that is substantially flat between the lateral arms **33**, **34**. In some examples, the platform **60** is tensioned. In the folded orientation as illustrated in FIG. **4**B, the platform is folded together and has a reduced size. In some examples, the platform **60** includes folds **61** that are located together.

[0053] FIG. **5** illustrates a method of assembling a paddleboard assembly **10**. The method includes positioning a forward arm on a top side **25** of each of a first paddleboard **20***a* and a second paddleboard **20***b* (block **200**). The forward arm is positioned in proximity to a front end **21** of each of the first and second paddleboards **20***a*, **20**b). A rear arm is positioned on the top side of the paddleboards **20***a*, **20***b* in proximity to a rear end **22** (block **202**). A first lateral arm **33** is aligned along an inner lateral side **24***a* of the first paddleboard **20***a* (block **204**). A second lateral arm **34** is aligned along an inner lateral side **24***b* of the second paddleboard **20***b* (block **206**). A platform **60** is positioned between the lateral arms **33**, **34** (block **208**). The arms are attached to the paddleboards **20***a*, **20***b* (block **210**).

[0054] FIG. **6** illustrates another method of assembling a paddleboard assembly **10**. Horizontal members **31**, **32** and vertical members **33**, **34** of a base **30** are unfolded (block **250**). The unfolded base **30** is positioned on the top side **25** of the first and second paddleboards **20***a*, **20***b* with the base **30** spanning across the gap **90** (block **252**). The base **30** is aligned with the platform **60** positioned over the gap **90** (block **254**). The base **30** is then secured to the paddleboards **20***a*, **20***b* (block **256**).

[0055] In some methods, the base **30** is deployed fully to the unfolded orientation prior to attaching to the paddleboards **20**. In other methods, the base **30** is attached to one or both of the paddleboards **20** prior to being fully unfolded. Further, the various steps of the methods of assembling the assembly **10** can be performed in various different sequences.

[0056] Spatially relative terms such as “under”, “below”, “lower”, “over”, “upper”, and the like, are used for ease of description to explain the positioning of one element relative to a second element. These terms are intended to encompass different orientations of the device in addition to different orientations than those depicted in the figures. Further, terms such as “first”, “second”, and the like, are also used to describe various elements, regions, sections, etc. and are also not intended to be limiting. Like terms refer to like elements throughout the description.

[0057] As used herein, the terms “having”, “containing”, “including”, “comprising” and the like are open ended terms that indicate the presence of stated elements or features, but do not preclude additional elements or features. The articles “a”, “an” and “the” are intended to include the plural as well as the singular, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

[0058] The present invention may be carried out in other specific ways than those herein set forth without departing from the scope and essential characteristics of the invention. The present embodiments are, therefore, to be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive.

Claims

1. A method of assembling a paddleboard assembly, the method comprising: unfolding a forward arm, a rear arm, a first lateral arm, and a second lateral arm from a folded orientation to an unfolded orientation; after unfolding to the unfolded orientation: positioning the forward arm on a top side of each of a first paddleboard and a second paddleboard in proximity to a front end of each of the first and second paddleboards; positioning the rear arm on the top side of each of the first paddleboard and the second paddleboard in proximity to a rear end of each of the first and second paddleboards; aligning the first lateral arm that extends between the forward arm and the rear arm along an inner lateral side of the first paddleboard; aligning the second lateral arm that extends

between the forward arm and the rear arm along an inner lateral side of the second paddleboard; positioning a platform between the first lateral arm and the second lateral arm; and attaching the forward arm, the rear arm, the first lateral arm, and the second lateral arm to the first and second paddleboards.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising positioning the first paddleboard and a second paddleboard in a side-by-side arrangement and separated by a gap prior to positioning the forward arm and the rear arm on the top side of each of the first and second paddleboards.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising spacing the first and second lateral arms upward above the top side of each of the first and second paddleboards.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising aligning the forward arm and the rear arm in a parallel orientation.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising aligning the first lateral arm and the second lateral arm perpendicular to each of the forward arm and the rear arm.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein attaching the forward arm, the rear arm, the first lateral arm, and the second lateral arm to the first and second paddleboards comprises attaching a first strap attached to the forward arm to the first paddleboard and the second paddleboard and attaching a second strap attached to the rear arm to the first paddleboard and the second paddleboard.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising: detaching the forward arm, the rear arm, the first lateral arm, and the second lateral arm from the first and second paddleboards; folding the first lateral arm and the second lateral arm and positioning the forward arm and the rear arm together; and folding the forward arm and the rear arm and positioning the first lateral arm and the second lateral arm together.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising positioning the first lateral arm and the second lateral arm on top of the forward arm and the rear arm.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising attaching the forward arm, the rear arm, the first lateral arm, and the second lateral arm to the first and second paddleboards prior to positioning the platform between the first and second lateral arms.

10. A method of assembling a paddleboard assembly, the method comprising: unfolding horizontal members and vertical members of a base; positioning the base on the top side of a first paddleboard and a second paddleboard with the base spanning across a gap formed between the first paddleboard and the second paddleboard; aligning a platform of the base over the gap; and securing the base to the first paddleboard and the second paddleboard.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising: pivoting first and second sections of the horizontal members about first hinges and unfolding the horizontal members; and pivoting first and second sections of the vertical members about second hinges and unfolding the vertical members.

12. The method of claim 10, further comprising: positioning outer sections of the horizontal members on the top side of each of the first paddleboard and the second paddleboard; and positioning central sections of the horizontal members that are between the outer sections across the gap.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein securing the base to the first paddleboard and the second paddleboard comprises attaching straps attached to the horizontal members to the first paddleboard and the second paddleboard.

14. The method of claim 10, further comprising unfolding the platform concurrently with unfolding the base with the platform connected to the base.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising folding the platform and the base together from an unfolded orientation to a folded orientation.

16. A paddleboard assembly comprising: a first paddleboard; a second paddleboard; a base comprising: a forward arm; a rear arm spaced away from the forward arm; a first lateral arm connected to each of the forward arm and the rear arm; a second lateral arm connected to each of the forward arm and the rear arm; wherein each of the forward arm, the rear arm, the first lateral

arm, and the second lateral arm comprise multiple sections that are hingedly connected together; wherein the base is adjustable between a folded orientation that has a reduced size and an unfolded orientation that has an enlarged size and is configured to be mounted to the first paddleboard and the second paddleboard.

17. The paddleboard assembly of claim 16, wherein in the unfolded orientation, the forward arm and the rear arm are parallel and the first lateral arm and the second lateral arm are perpendicular to both of the forward arm and the rear arm.

18. The paddleboard assembly of claim 16, further comprising a platform that is connected to each of the first lateral arm and the second lateral arm, the platform constructed from a material sheet and configured to extend over a gap between the first paddleboard and the second paddleboard in the unfolded orientation.

19. The paddleboard assembly of claim 18, wherein the platform is configured to fold together with the base in the folded orientation.

20. The paddleboard assembly of claim 16, wherein each of the forward arm and the rear arm are constructed from two pieces that are connected together by a hinge.