

THE SECRETS OF EXPEDITION SUITABLE STOVES

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH

If undertaking a serious expedition, your life may also depend on your stove. On high mountains or polar regions you must be able to melt snow. Swedish stove specialist Primus has a long tradition of manufacturing expedition-suitable stoves. “Three elementary criteria characterize such a stove”, explains Eric Svartström, Head of R&D at Primus, “the right engineering, a high-quality manufacturing, and the stove must be fully serviceable out in the field.”



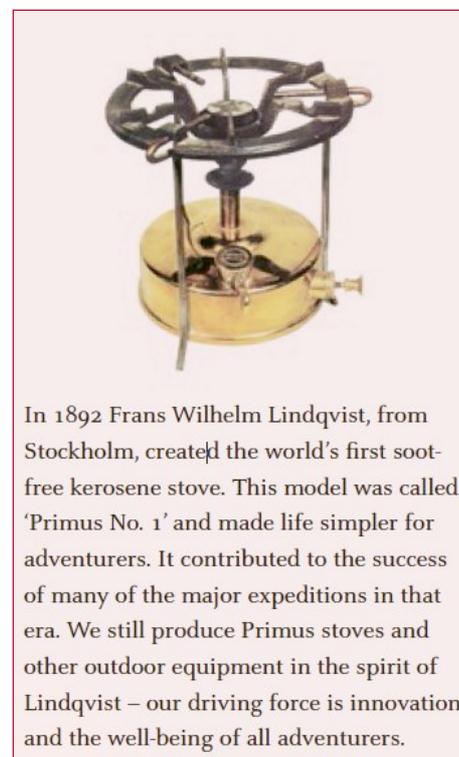
Founded in 1892, Primus has a long heritage of making extremely reliable stoves, suitable for the most adverse conditions on earth. Explorers such as Roald Amundsen, Edmund Hillary or Salomon August Andrée have trusted the Swedish stove specialist. Until today, Primus keep on engineering their stoves in-house in Sweden, run their own manufacturing plant in Estonia, and have some of the strictest quality control one can imagine.

Everything starts in the test lab at Primus' headquarter in Solna, Stockholm. The R&D team's playground is stuffed with tons of instruments, tools, machinery, and various simulators to help the engineers construct and test new prototypes in all kinds of conditions. Every design has to undergo the same rigorous testing, resulting in as many number of laps back to the drawing board as it takes to perfect the design. And that's before any prototype ever sees live testing in the fields.

Manufacturing durability

In 1994 Primus moved their stove production to Estonia, the neighbouring country across the Baltic Sea. The short distance from Stockholm, ease of quality control and a historical tradition of craftsmanship were major factors in that decision. Today the factory in the city of Tartu employs 22 skilled workers.

Every single stove passes through three pairs of hands before final assembly is done. Primus' expedition and trekking stoves, as well as their gas lanterns, also have to withstand a final test before they leave the factory: They are checked for leaks and lit up to ensure they burn with an optimal flame. This means there may appear a few tarnishes



around the burner of a new Primus stove. These marks are a sign of quality and assure the user that his new stove is in perfect working order, ready for years of reliable, safe service.

Out in the field

But even with the best engineering and the highest quality of manufacturing, there may occur problems during the journey. Small particles in the fuel or soot may clog the system. Pieces might break because somebody steps on them. Or there is simply natural wear and tear. That is why all Primus expedition stoves can be fully disassembled with the included tool. Every single part can be cleaned or exchanged if necessary. For every expedition stove, Primus offers a special service kit that includes the most important spare parts.

Today it's considered normal that mobile phones can not be repaired and that printers are waste after two years. As a traditional metal working company Primus, however, stocks spare parts for stoves that many years old, sometimes decade. So field serviceability also adds to a long lifetime of a stove – making it both an economical and ecological product over the years.

See <http://www.primus.eu/our-story-110> for more photos and details.

Media may download high-resolution digital data (8 MB, 300 dpi jpgs) from:
http://www.k-g-k.com/download/PRIMUS_Exploration-Ready.zip

About PRIMUS:

Swedish company Primus has been creating products for outdoor use since 1892. They have been tested on expeditions by such pioneers as Fridtjof Nansen, Roald Amundsen and Sir Edmund Hillary. Today, Primus is known for its reliable, safe and innovative products that make people enjoy their outdoors adventures – both big and small. The focus is on creating environmentally friendly, easy to use and lightweight products. Primus AB, based in Solna (Sweden), is an independent part of Fenix Outdoor AB. 90% of Primus' product range is sold in more than 70 countries worldwide.

