

# SKI SELECTION TIPS

## IF YOU LIKE TO SKI: **MORE FREERIDE** (On/Off Piste and/or Park)

### ALL-MOUNTAIN FREERIDE

- all-around skiing on any terrain, formerly called "mid-fats"
- designed to tackle powder and crud, and still hold a great edge on groomed
  - waist widths of 75- 85mm

### PARK & PIPE

- Terrain parks
- Halfpipes & quarter- pipes
  - Rails & boxes
  - Jumps & booters
- Park & Pipe skis feature "twin-tip" designs which allow for skiing backwards ("Switch")
- feature reinforced edges for durability on rails

### BIG MOUNTAIN

- for higher speeds and fun in powder
- blasting through crud
- fattest of all skis, waist widths range 85-105mm

## IF YOU LIKE TO SKI: **MORE CARVE** (On-Piste/Groomed)

### ALL-MOUNTAIN CARVER

- all around skiing on hard-pack & groomed only
  - wider in the shovel (tip), narrow at the waist (mid- section) and flared at the tail
  - easy to turn, stable at speed, good edge hold on hardpack
  - forgiving, until you get into chopped stuff/crud
  - waist widths of 65- 75mm

### RACE

- specialized skis (Slalom, Giant Slalom) for racing on hardpack
- recommended for racers and expert skiers only
- built for edge control and quick turns on hard-pack
- fast but unforgiving

## GEAR-BUYING ESSENTIALS

- 1. Ask yourself** truthfully what kind of terrain you actually ski on to pinpoint a category above.
- 2. Ski Length:** Most skis range in length from 160-195cm. Heavier skiers and/or faster speeds = longer lengths. Lighter skiers and/or easier maneuverability = shorter lengths. Women specific skis generally range from 145-175. Junior skis range from 120-160.
- 3. Ski Waist Width** (Mid-Section): Wider means more control and fun in powder and chopped stuff.
- 4. Ski Turning Radius:** A larger radius is better for higher speeds and fewer turns.
- 5. Bindings:** Most current ski models come with an integrated binding system. Heavier skiers require bindings with a higher "DIN" range (ie 4-15).
- 6. Boots:** Last but not least, these are your most important purchase. Take the time to guarantee a good comfortable boot fit. Remember you'll be wearing slightly thicker, warmer socks when you ski. The trend in boots is to a softer forward flex. For women, look for women specific models which feature "lasts" designed for narrower feet.

### 7. Used Skis – Things to Check:

**Camber:** Camber is the bowing of skis in the centre when aligned base to base along their length. There should be at least 1 cm of camber, otherwise the camber has been flattened out of them with use.

**Bent or Twisted:** When you have the skis aligned base to base, as above with the camber check, look for irregularities throughout each skis' length that might indicate permanent bend or twist.

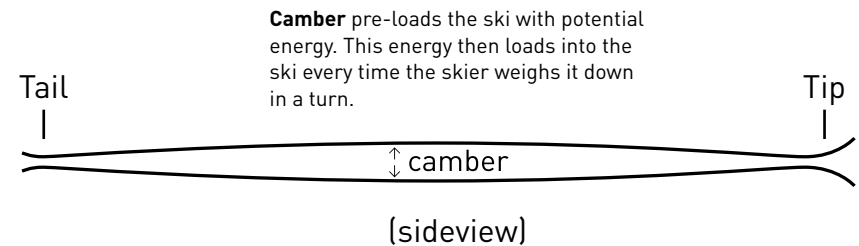
**Additional Binding Holes:** Check the ski topsheet in the binding area for additional "used" binding mounting holes. A good indication of how well used a ski might be.

**Base & Edge Damage:** Stay away from skis with obvious damage, and rounded edges. With the exception of Park & Pipe skis, edges should be square.



Tail | Waist | Tip

fatter = fun in powder & crud  
narrower = faster edge-to-edge



**Camber** pre-loads the ski with potential energy. This energy then loads into the ski every time the skier weighs it down in a turn.