

Disclaimer: Well since I've got the time and am in the mood for typing, I've rewritten the previous basic skate knowledge posts. To add on, all the information presented here may not be objectively right as some of them are based on my own subjective experience and other's opinions so please don't flame us

By the Passionate Skaters of Freewheelers ^.^

Shops in Singapore/Places to purchase skates from:

- **Freeskate Inline** (Opposite Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park)

[338 Ang Mo Kio Ave 1, #01-1649, Singapore 560338]

- **ERNSPORTS** (<https://www.facebook.com/Ernsports-105325898057817/>)

[920 East Coast Parkway #01-14/15/16 Parkland Green, 449875]

- **Hi Roller Retro-Disco Themed Skate Rink** (previously Hyper Sport)

[1 Pasir Ris Cl, Level 5 E!Hub @ Downtown East, Singapore 519599]

- **OneUpSkates**

Online Shop - <https://oneupskates.com/>

Physical Shop - 3 Ang Mo Kio Street 62, #02-13, Singapore 569139

- **Inlinex** (Online Shop - <https://www.inlinex.com.sg/>)

- **Other available options**

- **TaoBao** (Chinese online shopping platform) [<https://world.taobao.com/>]

- **Wheel Love Skateshop** (Malaysia) [<https://wl33.com/>]

- **Loco Skates** (UK) [<https://www.locoskates.com/>]

- **Proskaters Place** (US) [<https://www.proskatersplace.com/>]

- **Shop Task** (US) [<https://shop-task.com/>]

- **Inlinewarehouse** (US) [<https://www.inlinewarehouse.com/>]

- **Wheel Addict Skate Shop by Lino** (EUR) [<https://wheeladdict.shop/>]

- **Aggressive Skate Shops**

- <https://www.grindhouse.eu/en/home.html> / <https://hedonskate.com/>

Popular Skate Brands:

- Powerslide [<https://www.powerslide.com/>]
- Rollerblade [<https://www.rollerblade.com/?cc=1>]
- Seba Skates [<http://www.sebaskates.com/>]
- FR Skates [<http://frskates.com/>]
- Flying Eagle Skates [<https://www.facebook.com/flyingeagleskates/>]
- Micro Skates [<https://www.micro-skate.com/>]
- K2 (Known for Fitness skates) [<https://k2skates.com/en-sg>]
- Roces (Known for Aggressive skates) [<https://www.roces.com/en/>]
- Oxelo (Decathlon In-House brand)
 - Recommended for entry level kids skate. For Adults, recommend to get other brands

General Knowledge:

There are a couple categories of boots in the inline skating scene [**Fitness, Freestyle, Slalom, Aggressive/Aggro, Speed Skating** and **Hockey** (uncommon) etc.] To break it down, in common skating, there are 3 main variations of boots which one can use [**Soft-Boot, Hard-Boot** and **Carbon boot**] each with their own pros & cons.

Soft-boot: Are defined as boots which are usually made of a plastic outer-shell with an inbuilt liner that is not removable. These boots usually consist of a fabric liner which provide a high level of comfort and are typically used for leisure skating. It is also usually equipped with a heel brake that can be removed, however additional wheels bolts will be required to prevent rattling noises and damage to frame+wheels.

Pros:

- Light, Comfortable, Breathable
- Usually with heel brake which is good for beginners

Cons:

- Lesser control over movement as compared to hard-boots
- Usually lack in "snug"/"tightness" and support on ankles which may cause pronation or supination while skating

With that said, it is still a good entry-level type boot that many beginners go for.

Hard-Boot: As the name suggests, it is definitely more sturdy and structurally sound due to its exterior hard-shell which houses a (usually) removable liner. Some hard-boots may or may not come with heel brakes depending on models. Hard-boots provide the user with more support and controlled experience with lesser space to shift your feet around as opposed to soft-boots. On top of the improved control, it is also easier for modifications and customisations to be done due to its durability as almost all the wheels, frames, axles, parts, buckles and liners etc are replaceable.

Pros:

- Helps you to stand straighter by offering better support on the ankles
- Solid Outer shell that can withstand damage through falls and etc
- Extremely durable with parts usually interchangeable & allows customisations
- Better Liners with cushion for comfort and increased responsiveness

Cons:

- Heavier boots requires more effort & less comfort due to hardness of boot
- More expensive usually however it is well worth the investment.
- Due to it being tighter and more snug, certain hotspots and pain points can be identified due to different feet sizing and cuttings (To be shared further down)

With that said, it is usually the boot a majority of skaters use and swear by and if you are fortunate to find a pair which fits you perfectly, you would most likely never need to change the type of boot you are using unless you intend to change disciplines.

[Before we move on to Carbon skates, here is just a note when it comes to disciplines]

Soft-Boot: Can be difficult to learn slides/slalom/jumps due to its limited control over the boot however many soft-boots excel at recreational urban skating whereby comfort and minimal tightness is required.

Hard-Boot: The all-rounder boot for most disciplines including slalom, aggressive skating, freestyle and sliding

Carbon Boots: As the name suggests, it features an exterior carbon shell which allows the user an unmatched fit (subjective) and control over movements which allow for precise and fast movements during skating, which can be extremely important to sliders and slalom-skaters. Majority of carbon-skate users don't use a heel brake due to it impeding on the user's mobility and movements. These forms of skate boots are also typically light but tight due to its very-very compact and snug fit, providing a tighter fit than most hard-boots. Some carbon skates are heat-moldable to fit the user's foot shape.

Pros:

- Extremely High level of control
- Carbon shell that can withstand high amounts damage through falls and sliding
- Parts are usually interchangeable which allows for customisations
- Light and provides a high level of power transfer (This allows the user to put in minimal amounts of effort for maximum amounts of energy output which drive higher speeds and momentum maintenance)
- If a carbon boot fits perfectly to your feet, chances are that you will not need to invest or make another boot purchase for years to come due to it being extremely cost effective to just maintain and repair whenever required.

Cons:

- Most expensive compared to Soft & Hard Boot skates (Usually costs <\$600-\$700 and above)
- Due to it being tighter and more snug, certain hotspots and pain points can be identified due to different feet sizing and cuttings (To be shared further down)
- Adding to the previous point, Carbon boots are **NOT FOR EVERYONE**, with many individuals expressing intense pain due to the boots inability to expand significantly and causing aggravated pain points due to feet expansion. TRY BEFORE YOU PURCHASE ONE.

As mentioned, Carbon Boots are not everyone and should only be used after thorough trials and experimentation of whether it fits you or not. However from a subjective opinion viewpoint, they have been great in terms of power exchange, comfort and control personally due to it retaining majority of the energy exerted and this allows for quick and smooth turns and manoeuvres during skate sessions, however, do note that carbon boots may not be the most suitable for jumps due to a majority of the impact obtained during jumps going straight into your feet if improper landing techniques are used.

Discipline Types: (There are definitely more, but for the sake of practicality, these are the most common and main disciplines in Singapore's Skating Scene. If you are curious, disciplines such as Urban Skating and Freestyle Skating also bring its benefits and lessons)

1. Sliding

(Depicted through the act of "Going against the motion/momentum" whereby a skater will turn and perform a trick or hold a position which enables the wheels to roll/grind against the ground in an attempt to slide/stop)

[Practicing this discipline is crucial/important as it allows for new skaters to have a form of emergency stop or brake in the event of unforeseen traffic during urbans. Tricks such as Back-Powerslide, Front-Powerslide, Acid Slide, Soul Slides and Parallel Slides are the most commonly used as it allows skaters to stop quickly as opposed to the usual T-Stops.]

2. Slalom

(Defined as "performing tricks around cones", slalom skaters typically practice weaving between cones that are spaced out with intervals; 50cm for Speed Slalom, 80cm for default slalom and 120cm.)

[Acting as a fundamental discipline which teach skaters the core essence of how movements on skate works, it can be helpful in enabling skaters to "flow" and move more efficiently through techniques such as edging, balancing, weight shifting and so forth. Tricks such as watermelon/lemon, fishbone and Nelson allows skaters to understand how simple things like shifting weight and moving your Centre of Gravity can affect speed and balance.]

3. Aggressive Skating

(Aggressive Skaters typically use a different type of boots; aggressive/aggro boots which boasts a heavier weight to it, soul plates for grinding and stalls on rails and ledges as well as a special frame which incorporates an "upside-down U" in the frame which allows skaters to perform grind tricks)

[Functioning well as a discipline which teaches skates to balance and stay grounded, it incorporates the element of knowing how to maintain momentum. Tricks such as grinding and stalling on ramps and ledges allow for skaters to grasp how the posture of their body can affect their Centre of Gravity and therefore balance while also improving their jumping and pushing techniques.

4. Speed Skating

(Requiring a special kind of boot: Speed Skates, they typically feature a long frame encompassing big sizing of wheels (90mm's/100mm's/110mm's/125mm's) and come in forms of both tri-wheeled setups as well as the usual 4 wheelers. The key difference in boot structure is the lack of ankle support due to most boots cutting off at the ankle and not having additional cuffs or boot support above your ankle)

[Difficult to pick up, it is known to require high levels of ankle and lower-body strength. However, as the name suggest, this disciplines enables skaters to understand weight shifting to a further extent (subjective) than other disciplines as well as proper pushing techniques and these skaters can hit extremely fast speeds due to techniques such as double pushing as well as drafting (the act of having skaters in front to absorb the headwind so as to reduce drag and effort for the skaters behind) which is used by groups of skaters.

Additional Notes:

Although I am not well-versed or an expert in skate gears and setups, these are the usual skate setups used by many of our members and the general skate community:

Urban and Freestyle Uses:

- 4x80mm's and smaller
- 4x90mm's
- 3X100mm's

Long Distance/Efficient Pushing:

- 3*110mm's
- 3*125mm's
- 4*100mm's

Skate Cuttings and Sizing Notes:

To find the perfect boot with the most optimum fit is no easy task, however some information that is beneficial to note is that when purchasing a boot, understand that as much as a boot may feel tight and snug when brand new, liner sizing should be taken into account during the purchase.

Inline brands use many different size charts. Some have more than one chart within the same brand! Because of this, it is highly recommended to measure your foot and use the manufacturer provided sizing chart found with each skate. Manufacturer charts can still be seen in the "Sizing" section of each product description.

How to Measure

Measure your foot length in mm (or convert to mm) while wearing socks that you plan to skate in.

1. Place a piece of blank paper on a hard surface against a wall.
Place foot on paper with your heel against the wall (while wearing your socks).
2. Draw a line marking the longest point of your foot, making sure that the pen stays perpendicular to the ground. If your foot is too long to fit on the paper, rotate the paper so the corner is touching the wall instead.
3. Step off of the paper and measure the length from the edge (or corner) of the paper to your mark in millimeters. If converting from inches, it will not be as accurate. Write your measurement down.
4. Repeat with your other foot and use the longer of the two measurements.

How to Use the Measurement

Once you have an accurate foot measurement and the skate model you are interested in, you can view the model-specific sizing chart in the "Sizing" section of the product page. Keep in mind that charts may vary from model to model and it is not uncommon to need different sizes in different skates.

Each size chart recommends a performance fit that is tighter than your street shoes. For a more relaxed fit add 5mm (a half size) to your measurement. If you normally purchase wide shoes, we recommend adding 10mm to your measurement (a full size). If you find yourself between sizes, round up to the next largest size.

Although a pain to use at the start, purchasing a boot that is 1-2 size smaller compared to a boot that feels perfect at brand new condition can actually be beneficial when considering that based on the brand of liner, it will eventually wear out and break-in and reduce in size by 1-3 sizes. What this means is that a boot that may be perfect fit for you at the start may eventually get looser and looser to the point of which your toes and feet may have space to wiggle about (potentially causing blisters for some people). Although this is subjective to many, a good fit should be one that is half or 1 size smaller such that your feet feel tight when fully buckled in so as to accommodate for the breaking-in of the liner.

Liners such as MyFit Fatboy Liners have been known to break in and reduce in sizes of up to 3 which results in a spacious boot.

When it comes to brands of skates though, there are some brands which are known to cater to different feet cuttings and sizes so do also keep the following in mind:

RollerBlade: Caters to a very narrow toe cutting which results in people with wide feet having a hard time skating in these boots. If you are someone with a narrow-foot structure, RollerBlade Skates may suit you well.

PowerSlide: Catering to a slightly wider feet as opposed to rollerblade, these can be used by a majority of skaters due to its wider toe space however as many Powerslide Skates utilize the MyFit FatBoy Liner, this may be countered during the break-in phase, resulting in a fairly tight fit when first worn however once broken-in, it is spacious as compared to RollerBlade's.

SEBA: Debatable, however, SEBA skates tend to have the widest fit in the market. Being one of the most popular and famous brands in the market, there is a wide presence on both brick and mortar retails and digital shopping platform for parts, skates and wheels. All in all, SEBA has one of the biggest spaces in their boots enabling skaters with wide feet to have a comfortable skate boot.

If you've read all the way to the bottom, thank you very much, here's a cookie 🍪