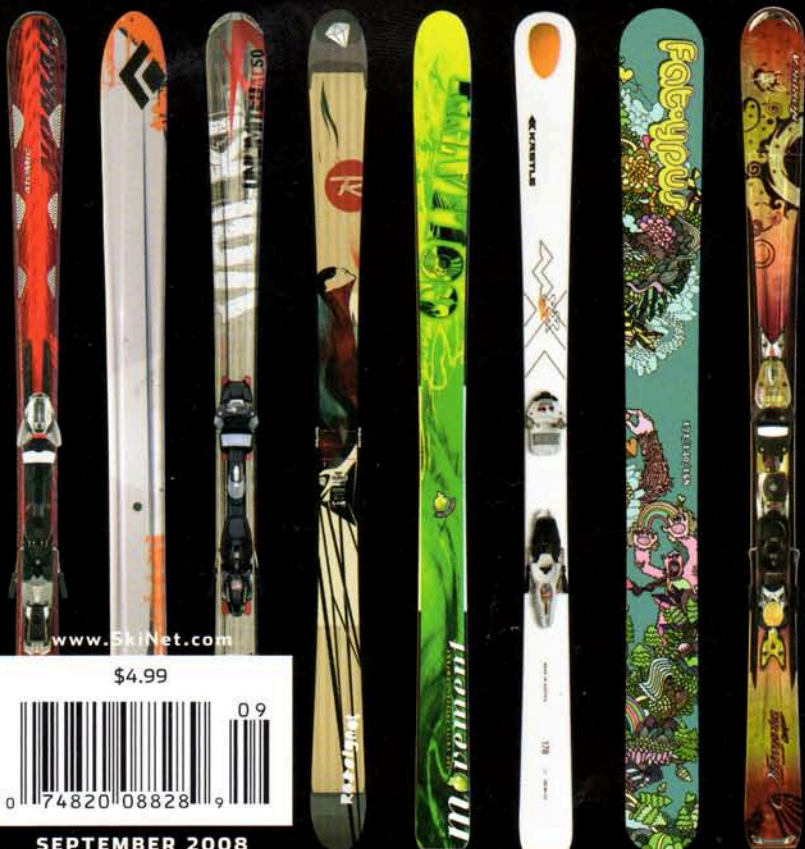


# Skiing

## GEAR GUIDE

**TESTED:** THE RIGHT SKIS  
AND BOOTS **FOR YOU.**



[www.SkiNet.com](http://www.SkiNet.com)

\$4.99



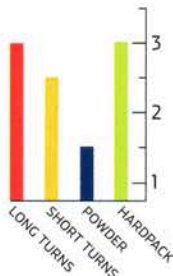
SEPTEMBER 2008





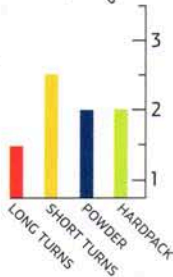
**H NORDICA HOT ROD HELLCAT**  
132/90/118 | \$1,485 (with binding)

They carve *and* own junk and powder, thanks to the Hellcat's deep sidecut and moderate flex. **PLUS:** Secure on edge, especially in long-radius turns. **MINUS:** Needs speed to shine. **TESTER'S TAKE:** "It didn't carry my poles for me. Otherwise, I'd recommend it to anyone." —Jeff Annetts



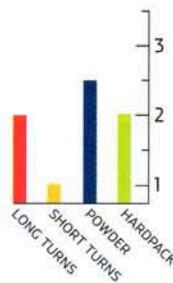
**I MOVEMENT YAKA JAM**  
136/85/117 | \$789 (without binding)

Whether on big turns, medium turns, or small turns, the Yaka Jam makes 'em smooth and round, and does so with exceptional stability and pop. **PLUS:** Nimble and reactive, the Yaka Jam is an excellent choice for technical lines or trees. **MINUS:** Chatter and jumpy at speed. **TESTER'S TAKE:** "Responsive and agile." —Chad Johnson



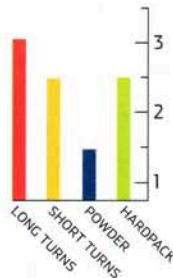
**J LINE PROPHET 90**

125/90/113 | \$625 (without binding)  
This Prophet (see page 109 for the Prophet 100 and page 116 for the 130) is at home in steep, cruddy chutes, but it carves confident GS turns on groomers, too. **PLUS:** Has a balanced blend of soft-snow and hard-snow chops. **MINUS:** Short turns are a chore. **TESTER'S TAKE:** "The supermodel of skis: all the right curves and the perfect flex." —Bunge Cook



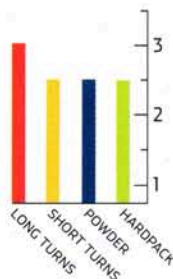
**K K2 APACHE XPLORER**  
128/84/112 | \$1,250 (with binding)

The Xplorer distributes assertive pushes into clean, fluid arcs. Stout yet agile, it's a smooth-flying crud torpedo. **PLUS:** Playful, easy to feather, and predictable. **MINUS:** Tough in quick turns. **TESTER'S TAKE:** "The whole ski is a sweet spot. Tip it and rip." —Greg Peruzzi



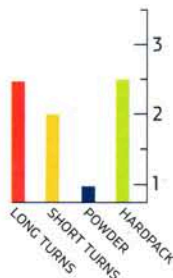
**L K2 APACHE RECON**  
119/78/105 | \$1,225 (with binding)

It has the mellow yet strong feel of its wider brother, the Xplorer, but it's a more adept carver and is therefore more frontside-oriented. **PLUS:** Adapts well to changing conditions. **MINUS:** Chattered when forced into tight turns on steep groomed terrain. **TESTER'S TAKE:** "Phenomenal handling, effortless turning, great all-around performance." —Eric Minkwitz



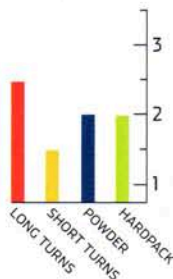
**M KÄSTLE MX78**  
121/78/105 | \$1,450 (with binding)

This groomer-oriented, all-mountain ski that's ideal for lighter or less aggressive skiers is going to kill it in the East. A natural carver no matter the turn length, it stays glued to the snow. **PLUS:** Initiates quickly and is easy to flex. **MINUS:** Our 200-plus-pounders found it too soft and light. **TESTER'S TAKE:** "Perfect for technically strong groomer lovers." —Chad Johnson



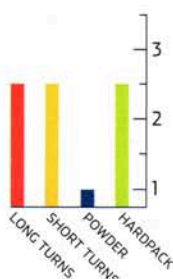
**N HEAD MOJO 94**  
132/94/119 | \$1,245 (with binding)

It's one of the category's widest skis but it manages to hold its own on the hardpack. Steady, substantial tails make for clean, strong, finished turns. **PLUS:** Very stable when tipped on edge *and* while straightlining. **MINUS:** So damp that it occasionally feels dead. **TESTER'S TAKE:** "A powder ski on juice, this one will make you improve." —Chad Johnson



**O FISCHER WATEA 84 RAILFLEX**  
126/84/112 | \$1,125 (with binding)

Playful off-piste but—thanks to the power-transfer abilities of the plate beneath the binding (not shown)—it rips corduroy. Soft tips dive into turns and pull firmly across the hill. **PLUS:** Endless edge grip, even on ice. **MINUS:** Nearly every tester found the 176-centimeter test length too short. **TESTER'S TAKE:** "Enough stability to host a cocktail hour." —Bunge Cook

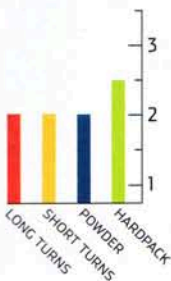


**P ELAN MAGFIRE 82 XTI**

126/82/109 | \$1,250 (with binding)

Responsive and adaptable, the Mag 82 made it fun to billygoat around rocky chutes. It released turns quickly on hardpack. **PLUS:** Lively and grippy on firm snow. **MINUS:** "Heavy," said one tester. "Could work me in the afternoon."

**TESTER'S TAKE:** "Will accept most challenges in most mountain zones." —Eric Minkwitz

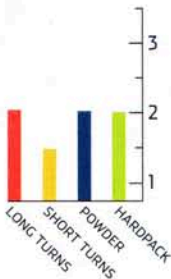


**Q ELAN 888**

127/88/108 | \$1,050 (with binding)

Crisp initiation is followed by strong cross-hill pull. It likes long turns best and devours days-old chop with ease. **PLUS:** Velvety smooth in off-piste conditions. **MINUS:** Needs a lot of power input. Lighter or weaker skiers should look elsewhere. **TESTER'S TAKE:**

"Dumps to bumps: This ski will get your rocks off every day." —Chad Johnson

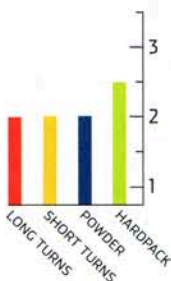


**R BLIZZARD TITAN CHRONUS IQ**

125/88/111 | \$1,075 (with binding)

Vertical sidewalls lend the Chronus superior grip. It also has a good balance of carve and float attributes and is very stable at high speed. **PLUS:** No-effort initiation. Disengage the turn at any point. **MINUS:** Heavy testers found it soft. **TESTER'S TAKE:**

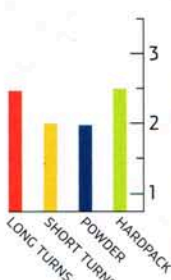
"You can rip groomers, but it still floats well and shreds trees." —Greg Peruzzi



**S BLIZZARD MAGNUM 8.7 IQ**

128/87/113 | \$1,325 (with binding)

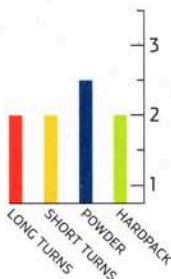
If your idea of all-mountain skiing involves lots of quick tree shots, bumps, and clean hard-snow turns, the 8.7 is for you. **PLUS:** Soft tip initiates and bends into turns easily. Very little effort required. **MINUS:** Not a straightline bomber. It'll vary turn shape, but it always needs to be on edge. **TESTER'S TAKE:** "A very well-rounded ski." —Chad Johnson



**T ATOMIC SNOOP DADDY**

129/94/118 | \$829 (without binding)

With enough width for good float and spunkiness in longer carved turns, the Snoop is a well-balanced, versatile tool. **PLUS:** An off-piste-oriented ski that's nimble enough for tight trees. **MINUS:** Heavy testers found it soft. **TESTER'S TAKE:** "Stable at high speeds, with playful twin tips." —Jeff Annetts

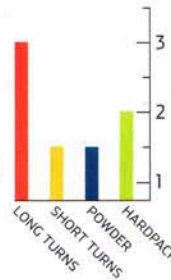


O P Q R S T U

**U ATOMIC CRIMSON TI**

128/86/114 | \$1,299 (with binding)

Turn around and admire your arcs. "This is the best GS turner of the category," said one. **PLUS:** Big guys loved it on- and off-piste. **MINUS:** Smaller guys found it too rigid for off-piste skiing. **TESTER'S TAKE:** "Austrian race heritage in a more forgiving build." —Greg Peruzzi



**BRING ME THE BEEF:** "I'm six-foot-three, 225-pounds, so I like a ski that's rigid underfoot. The Völkl Grizzlies were my favorite—they shot through crud without chattering, yet were nimble and quick on slalom turns. If I were going to have one ski for a variety of terrain, this would be it." —ERIC MINKWITZ, TESTER

SCOTT MARKEWITZ