

HIGH-PERFORMANCE ALL-TERRAIN

All-Terrain is another way to say versatility. These boards are designed to handle soft and chopped-up snow, spring slush and most groomed conditions, all with a high degree of competence. By combining a moderately wide waist for flotation in the soft stuff with enough sidecut to slice arcs on the corduroy, an All-Terrain ski is born. "Do anything" skis have always been a huge challenge for ski-makers because of the conflicts in trying to combine the needs of soft snow with the sidecut and torsion that advanced skiers demand on groomed slopes. Modern materials and years of practical experience have made this family of skis possible, and the best of them are amazingly at home on almost anything the mountain can dish up.

TEST CONDITIONS

A warm slushy afternoon with sunny periods faced the testers as they strapped on the skis designed to do it all. After the upper slopes and trees in Lizard Bowl, testers could sample the harder groomed surface of Ballet before hitting the pit and making their judgments.



TESTER: MIKE WEISS

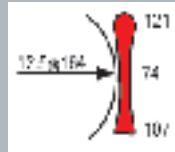
SKI CANADA TEST SPONSORS



ATOMIC M:10 PULS TI (Men) ATOMIC M:9 PULS (Women)

★ Editors' Choice

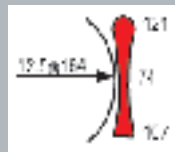
Stats **Men/Women**
 Lengths tested: 164, 171/157, 164
 Lengths available: 150, 157, 164, 171, 178
 Best in: Edge grip/Short radius
 Suggested retail: \$949 no bindings/\$849 with bindings



M:10 PULS TI

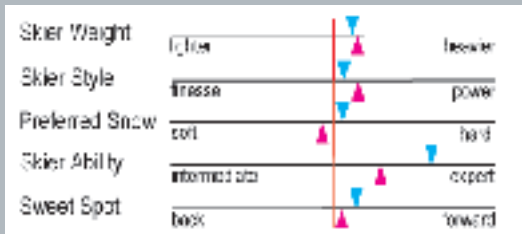
TARGET: **◆◆◆ Technical, skilled skiers**

The wide tips on these models floated through the Fernie spring snow with ease, but the huge sidecut got testers' attention. Women loved the stability and versatility of the M:9. Men found that the M:10 would not tolerate dozing and demanded a skilled driver. These skis are designed to dance through the crud and cut trenches in the groomed on the same run. They are high-end skis that require more skill than some others in this category. Riders with skill tasted a new era in versatility.



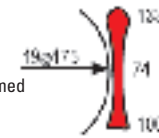
M:9 PULS

TEST RESULTS



BLIZZARD SIGMA GXP TI (Men) BLIZZARD SIGMA X SPIRIT 8 (Women)

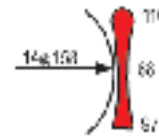
Stats **Men/Women**
 Lengths tested: 175/158
 Lengths available: 165, 175, 185/158, 163, 168, 178
 Best in: Versatility, Long radius/Groomed
 Suggested retail: \$899/\$799 with bindings



SIGMA GXP TI

TARGET: **◆◆ Strong technical skiers**

The Sigma X-Pressor core of the women's ski gave the edge hold it promised but not the versatility at speed and in soft snow that testers expected in this category. Most of the female testers couldn't find their zone on the Sigma X Spirit 8 on test day. Men enjoyed the GXP Ti a bit more but could not agree on the bottom line. Interestingly, racer-types loved the grip and responsiveness. The long 19-metre sidecut of the test pair gave a classic feel to these cruisers, and maybe harnessing that was the key to enjoying the ride. Only a handful managed to unlock the energy of wood and titanium on their test run.



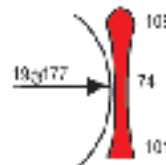
SIGMA X SPIRIT 8

TEST RESULTS



DYNAMIC VR 21 ★ Editors' Choice (men)

Stats **Men/Women**
 Lengths tested: 168, 177/159, 168
 Lengths available: 150, 159, 168, 177
 Best in: Long radius/Off-piste
 Suggested retail: \$799 with bindings



TARGET: **◆◆ Agile, skilled skiers**

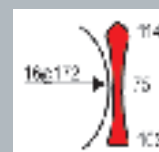
The men agreed that this was the best all-round ride of the day, but women were less enthusiastic. Only the strongest women liked the flex balance of soft tip and stiff tail. Men had a blast on the VR 21 and raved about the energy and liveliness. The soft shovel made this ski a natural in bumpy terrain, too. Despite a wide range of skiing styles, the male testers couldn't find anything on the mountain that wasn't exhilarating with these under their feet.

TEST RESULTS



DYNASTAR LEGEND 4800 (Men) DYNASTAR LEGEND EXCLUSIVE (Women)

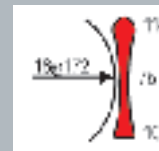
Stats **Men/Women**
 Lengths tested: 178/172
 Lengths available: 158, 165, 172, 178, 184/158, 165, 172, 178
 Best in: Agility/Bumps
 Suggested retail: \$949



LEGEND 4800

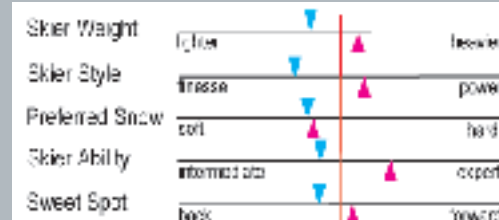
TARGET: **■ Light intermediate to advanced skiers**

Similar to at least one other ski on test day, the men thought the Legend 4800 was not beefy enough for the demands of this high-performance category. That's too bad because at slower speeds it felt versatile and forgiving. It hinted that this ski would be much more at home in softer, lighter snow—something we didn't have on test day. Women's results point in the same direction, but the Legend Exclusive also impressed with its playfulness and excellent balance.



LEGEND EXCLUSIVE

TEST RESULTS



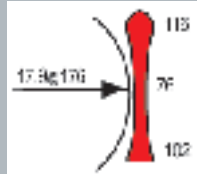
FERNIE TEST '05

ELAN FUSION M-666

★ **Editors' Choice (men)**

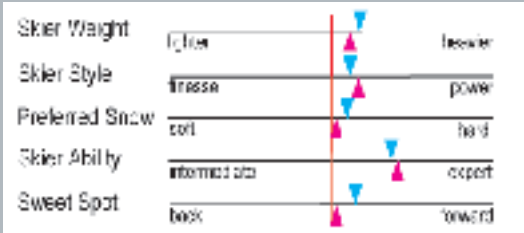
Stats Men/Women
 Lengths tested: 176/168
 Lengths available: 168, 176, 184
 Best in: Edge grip/Groomed
 Suggested retail: \$1,100 with bindings

TARGET: ◆◆ Strong athletes



The beefy nature of solid wood core and titanium gave aggressive testers the confidence to tackle anything on this hard-hitter. Technically strong skiers had the most fun; others had to work to get consistent performance. Among the female testers, it was interesting that the strongest women with racing backgrounds loved the M-666, but others found it tough sledding. Designed for good skiers who want to get better.

TEST RESULTS

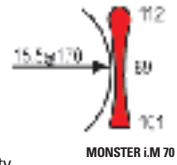


**HEAD MONSTER i.M 70 (MEN)
 HEAD LIGHTNING i.M**

★ **Editors' Choice**

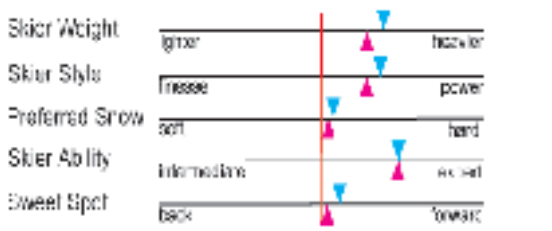
Stats Men/Women
 Lengths tested: 170, 177/163, 170
 Lengths available: 156, 163, 170, 177, 184/156, 163, 170, 177
 Best in: Stability, Long radius/Stability, Groomed
 Suggested retail: \$1,075/\$1,000 with bindings

TARGET: ◆◆ Experienced skiers



Although men and women tested different models, they both agreed that the famous smooth Head manners and confidence-inspiring stability were there. These are true All-Terrain cruisers best enjoyed by strong skiers with technical skills. They aren't the most nimble, but in the real world they never let you down regardless of conditions.

TEST RESULTS

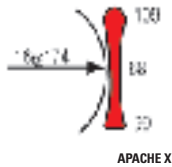


**K2 APACHE X (Men)
 K2 T-9 ONE LUV**

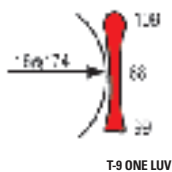
★ **Editors' Choice**

Stats Men/Women
 Lengths tested: 167, 174/160
 Lengths available: 153, 160, 167, 174, 181/153, 160, 167, 174
 Best in: Long radius/Off-piste
 Suggested retail: \$790/\$700

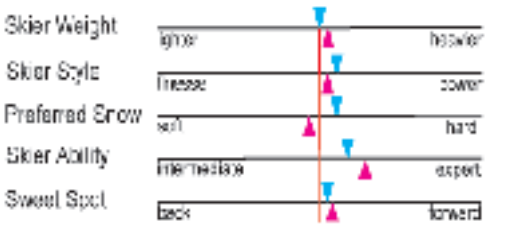
TARGET: ■◆ All-terrain skiers



Men gave the Apache X top marks for versatility and easy turn stability. It fell somewhere between the nimbleness of a Salomon and the stability of a Head. All agreed that soft snow is where the Apache X felt best. Women also gave thumbs-up to the T-9 One Luv for the same reasons. They enjoyed the all-round competence of this model, especially in soft snow. Not a hardpack-only ski.



TEST RESULTS

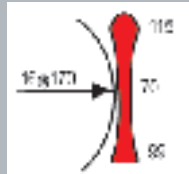


NORDICA SUV 12 X BALANCE

★ **Editors' Choice**

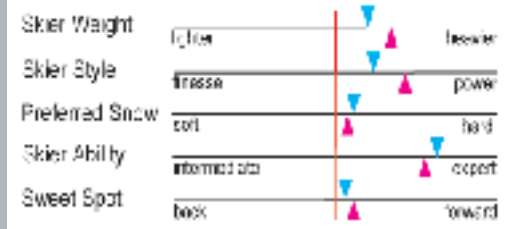
Stats Men/Women
 Lengths tested: 170/160
 Lengths available: 150, 160, 170, 180
 Best in: Groomed/Groomed, Long radius
 Suggested retail: \$1,120 with bindings

TARGET: ■◆ Wide range of skiers



Some testers called the 12 X Balance the best in category because of its great versatility. Not only was the even flex noted by many testers, but effortless skiing at all speeds was a big plus. The big sweet spot and energetic feel of this model may be due in part to the X Balance system that keeps the boot centred while the ski flexes to the max. Men enjoyed this ski a bit more than the women.

TEST RESULTS



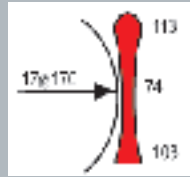
ALL-TERRAIN

OGASAKA E-TURN FX

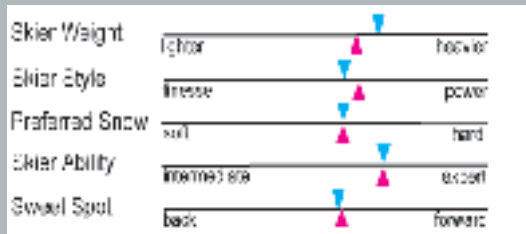
Stats Men/Women
 Lengths tested: 180/160
 Lengths available: 160, 170, 180
 Best in: Long radius, Groomed/Groomed
 Suggested retail: \$1,260

TARGET: ◆◆ Skiers with high skill level

These skis are light and playful. Several noted the light swing weight and some even called them hero skis, but others struggled to control the reactions off-piste. Only a handful of testers found the FX versatile and stable enough to give top marks in this category, but women testers loved the smoothness and stability. Others rated this ski one of the most enjoyable rides of the day. Because of the wide range of tester reaction, we highly recommend you test these yourself before deciding.



TEST RESULTS



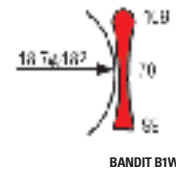
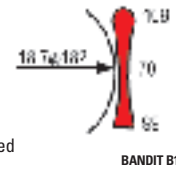
ROSSIGNOL BANDIT B1 (Men) ROSSIGNOL BANDIT B1W (Women)

★ Editors' Choice

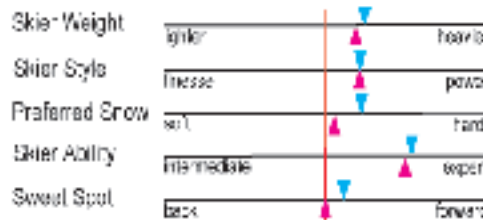
Stats Men/Women
 Lengths tested: 170, 176/160, 170
 Lengths available: 150-182
 Best in: Stability, Long radius, Groomed/Edge grip, Groomed
 Suggested retail: \$500

TARGET: ■◆ Wide range of skiers

The B1 must represent one of the safest bets in the category. As a high-performance ski it requires skill to fully enjoy, but there were very few disparaging words heard among testers. In fact, the B1 was the favourite pick of the day for most testers. They ran out of superlatives to describe the magic combination of liveliness and stability.



TEST RESULTS

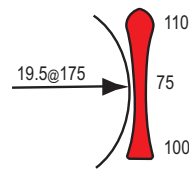


SALOMON PILOT SCREAM 10 HOT

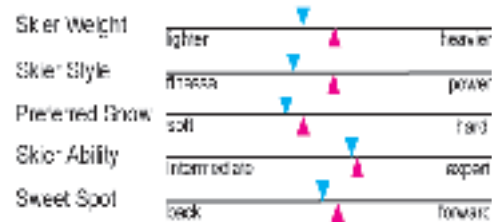
Stats Men/Women
 Lengths tested: 175/165
 Lengths available: 155, 165, 175, 185
 Best in: Agility/Groomed
 Suggested retail: \$1,149 with bindings

TARGET: ■◆ Light skiers with technical skills

The lightness of these skis took some testers by surprise. The 10 Hot shone in the softer conditions, but most testers, especially heavier ones, wanted more beef on the groomed. An All-Terrain ski needs versatility and the tester group struggled to feel comfortable in all conditions. Then the test group made an interesting observation getting to and from the test pitch—the skis felt great at slower speeds and medium turns. On this day they didn't impress, but take it down a notch and it's a whole different story.



TEST RESULTS



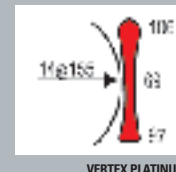
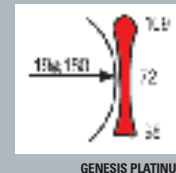
VOLANT GENESIS PLATINUM (Men) VOLANT VERTEX PLATINUM (Women)

★ Editors' Choice

Stats Men/Women
 Lengths tested: 170, 180/155, 165
 Lengths available: 160, 165, 170, 175, 180/150, 155, 160, 165, 170
 Best in: Agility/Long radius
 Suggested retail: \$999

TARGET: ■◆ Moderate-speed, good skiers

Women tested the Vertex model of this category and gave it rave reviews for effortless smooth performance. The combination of fun and versatility made this one of the best rides of the day for women testers. Men were less impressed with the Genesis. They wanted more energy and high-level performance to make this a truly versatile all-terrain machine. Steady performance at moderate speeds, especially in soft snow, seemed to be where the Genesis did its best work.



TEST RESULTS

