

# FERNIE TEST '05

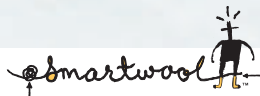


## PERFORMANCE ALL-MOUNTAIN

Good manners and a versatile personality are the two key requirements on the résumé for any ski in this category. Intermediate to advanced skiers who want more than a one-trick pony have many good choices in this category. It's important to consider the tester recommendations for this lineup because of a fairly wide range of skis that overlap at times with the High-Performance All-Terrain category in last month's issue. For example, lighter intermediates will enjoy the Salomon Scream 8, while powerful cruisers may enjoy the Atomic SX:11 more.

## TEST CONDITIONS

Testers faced frozen spring snow to start but temperatures rose quickly to beach-worthy. The pit crew was basking in a sunny +5 by test's end. This category should be able to handle everything at moderate speeds and above as well as a variety of snow conditions. Fernie dished up everything for this test day.



▲ Women ▼ Men

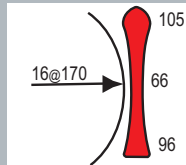
### ATOMIC SX:11

★ Editors' Choice

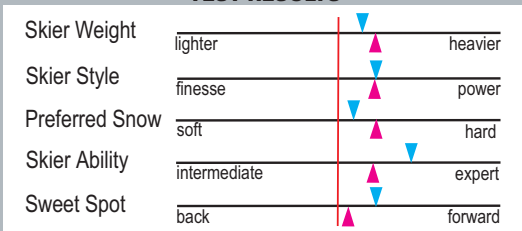
<b>Stats</b>	<b>Men/Women</b>
Lengths tested	170, 180/160, 170
Lengths available	160, 170, 180
Best in	Long radius/Edge Grip
Suggested retail	\$1199

TARGET: ◆◆ Strong skiers and experts

Two enthusiastic thumbs-up says it all. Testers were very impressed with the high octane combination of stability, edge hold and bring-it-on attitude of the SX:11. This ski is definitely pushing the upper limit of this category and testers wisely recommend it to good/aggressive skiers. For advanced skiers who want to take it up a notch, this ski will have no trouble keeping up.



#### TEST RESULTS



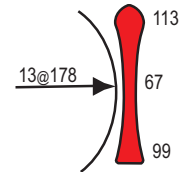
### BLIZZARD SIGMA X-CROSS TI

★ Editors' Choice (men)

<b>Stats</b>	<b>Men/Women</b>
Lengths tested	168, 178/158, 168
Lengths available	158, 168, 178, 184
Best in	Groomed/Groomed
Suggested retail	\$999

TARGET: ◆ Advanced all terrain skiers

Some women couldn't decide on this ski but the lightest testers had the most fun playing with the smooth agility of the X-Cross Ti. Men were even more impressed, giving top marks for agility and all-round versatile design although it is probably aimed at good skiers. Women's reaction varied widely on this model but the men were united—they liked it.



#### TEST RESULTS



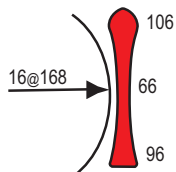
### DYNAMIC ZR 67

★ Editors' Choice (men)

<b>Stats</b>	<b>Men/Women</b>
Lengths tested	168, 177/159, 168
Lengths available	159, 168, 177
Best in	Groomed/Stability, Groomed
Suggested retail	\$999 with binding

TARGET: ■◆

The snappy tail certainly got testers' attention, especially the women. They loved the energy but this ski needs a competent rider and they wanted more versatility for this category. Men couldn't get enough of this lively ski and gave it a big thumbs up with the advisory that technical skills will certainly help. The Dynamic heritage of dynamic performance lives on.



#### TEST RESULTS

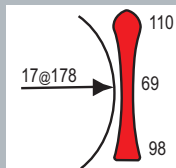


### DYNASTAR CROSS 10

<b>Stats</b>	<b>Men/Women</b>
Lengths tested	170, 178/170, 178
Lengths available	162, 170, 178, 186
Best in	Groomed/Off piste
Suggested retail	\$1199

TARGET: ■◆ Advanced skiers

Some testers found it hard to relax because of the nimbleness of this ski. It's energetic and was most fun in short turns on groomed snow. Tester opinion was split, a sign that you need a run or two to find your comfort zone. This is not a ski for learners; testers recommended better-than-average skills to get the most out of the Cross 10.



#### TEST RESULTS

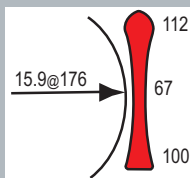


### ELAN FUSION S-12

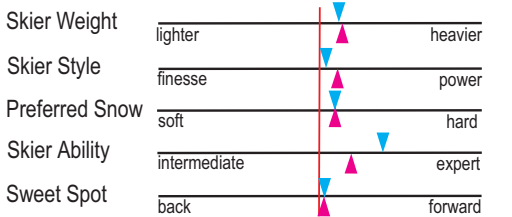
Stats	Men/Women
Lengths tested	168, 176/160
Lengths available	152, 160, 168, 176
Best in	Groomed/Long Radius
Suggested retail	\$1200 with binding

TARGET: ◆◆ All Mountain Experts

A solid performance from a solid ski. The S-12 felt a bit heavy and tame to some testers but those who put energy into the ski were rewarded with grippy, quick edge changes especially in short turns. Versatility is a big factor in this category and testers couldn't agree on versatility. Only a few could make it do everything with a smile.



#### TEST RESULTS



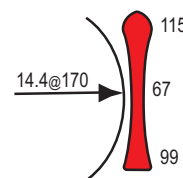
### HEAD I.XRC 1100 CHIP

★ Editors' Choice

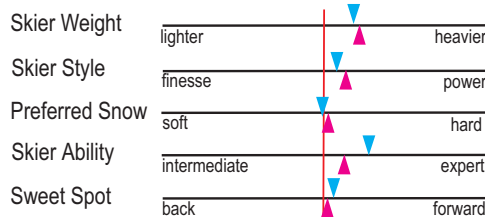
Stats	Men/Women
Lengths tested	170, 177/163, 170
Lengths available	149, 156, 163, 170, 177
Best in	Groomed/Groomed
Suggested retail	\$1600 with binding

TARGET: ■◆◆ A wide range of skiers

Top-drawer performance is one thing but getting that verdict from a wide range of skiers is another and that is where Head shines. The predictable good manners in all Head skis set the stage for a crowd-pleasing performance. Testers of all shapes and sizes were happy with the i.XRC 1100. The better your skills the more you will enjoy them.



#### TEST RESULTS

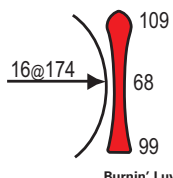
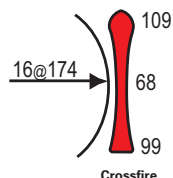


### K2 CROSSFIRE K2 BURNIN' LUV (women) ★ Editors' Choice

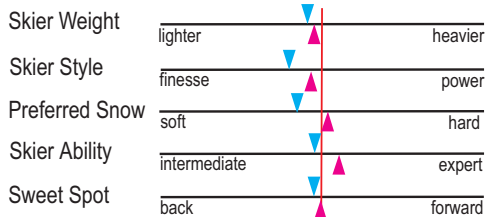
Stats	Men/Women
Lengths tested	167, 174/153, 160
Lengths available	153, 160, 167, 174, 181
Best in	Agility/Initiation, Edge Grip
Suggested retail	\$920/\$760

TARGET: ■◆ Advanced, performance skiers

Burnin' Luv was agile, stable and fun, fun, fun. Versatility and playfulness got unanimous approval from testers. Men were split and generally ho-hum on the Crossfire, some wanted more pizzazz, but at slower speeds they had to agree this was also a versatile and enjoyable ride.



#### TEST RESULTS

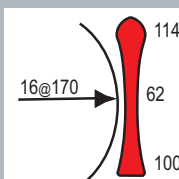


### NORDICA SPEEDMACHINE 14 X BALANCE ★ Editors' Choice

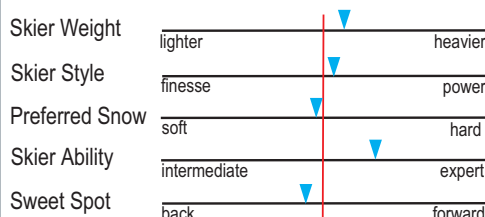
Stats	Men
Lengths tested	170, 178
Lengths available	154, 162, 170, 178
Best in	Groomed
Suggested retail	\$1450 with binding

TARGET: ◆ Advanced and better skiers

Only the men skied this model and they loved the smooth flex, big sweet spot and steadiness under pressure. This ski was on the performance end of the scale for this category but praise of competence in all conditions was unanimous. Only the heaviest testers wanted more beef at speed but in the parameters of this category the 14X excelled.



#### TEST RESULTS



PERFORMANCE ALL-MOUNTAIN