

All Rocker

GEAR OPTIONS DEPEND ON SKIER TYPE AND TERRAIN PREFERENCES

Rocker is the rage in today's ski design and is widely hyped on the Internet and in the ski press as the new revolution. In reality "rocker" is a broad category name and actually represents many different variations of a ski's baseline design—from shallow early tip rise/low rocker, high-tip rocker, and tip-and-tail rocker all the way to full reverse-camber rocker.

This article and the accompanying chart describe the different types of rocker—along with skiing characteristics and related waist widths and turn radius—and offers some general recommendations relative to skier ability, terrain preferences, turn shape preferences, and snow conditions. All with the intent of giving you a better idea of what to look for when selecting gear or advising those students who seek your expertise before making their own choices.

EARLY RISE OR TIP ROCKER

This is a traditional camber ski in which 70–90% of the running surface is traditional camber but the final 10–30% toward the tip rises up slightly. If you place the ski on a flat surface and flatten it you will see the front bit of the ski angle upward, with the tip being about 1 centimeter (early or low rise) to 5



Photo courtesy of Marker Volk USA / Scott Markewitz

BY MIKE PORTER