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- ◆ Small tip and tail rocker can be good for all-mountain skiers, but it foregoes a little short-turn quickness and the precision and accuracy of a traditional ski. On the plus side, the ride takes less effort. This ski is good for longer-radius turns and shaped—rather than carved—short turns.
- ◆ Large tip and tail rocker offers a very surfy feel in soft conditions and powder snow, but on the groomed your arcs will be less carved. A round, skidded arc is more common.
- ◆ This is a broad category with ski sidecuts and widths from narrower all-mountain shapes to wide, powder-specific options.

FULL ROCKER

This is a ski with no camber. Its shape resembles a banana or rocking chair.

- ◆ Very easy to initiate turns. Extremely maneuverable and playful. The most float of any ski shape in softer conditions.
- ◆ Different versions—from twin tips to more traditional shapes and sidecuts.
- ◆ Full-rocker twin tips are good for powder, tricks, park sessions, skiing switch, and just being innovative.
- ◆ Traditional sidecuts are very good in powder, junk, crud, and variable conditions. Easy to initiate, very forgiving. Best in bigger arcs.
- ◆ Best off-piste. Reverse camber makes arcing turns on groomed terrain a challenge, but the design is capable of making long and stable cruiser turns. The more ski you have up in the air at the tip and tail the more it will just bounce around.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT WAIST WIDTH

Just as the type and amount of rise/rocker plays an important role in ski performance, so too does waist width—especially with regard to turn quickness, edge grip and hold, and the ability to float in soft, cruddy, or loose snow conditions. Here's how:

- ◆ The narrower the ski underfoot the less mass (swing weight) it has, which makes for easier and faster

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THE GOODS ON GEAR: EQUIPMENT CONSIDERATIONS BASED ON STUDENT PROFICIENCY AND TERRAIN PREFERENCES (con't)

TERRAIN PREFERENCES	IDEAL SKI CHARACTERISTICS	HOW THE CHARACTERISTICS WORK	HOW TO LOOK FOR THE RIGHT CHARACTERISTICS	MANUFACTURER OPTIONS (For more details see the "Web Extras" for 32 Degrees at TheSnowPros.org)	WAIST WIDTH (MILLIMETERS)	TURN RADIUS (METERS)
SIDECOUNTRY	Early rise, tip-and-tail rocker.	Tip rocker or tip-and-tail rocker helps the ski float, making turn initiation easier in the variable conditions found in the sidecountry. Full rocker can be a challenge to use if traversing is required or you need to use skins to hike in or out of the terrain.	Do you plan to use skins to hike or traverse out to your lines? Tip rocker works for skins, while full rocker is a challenge. Traversing is easier with tip rocker whereas full rocker can be more work. Your choice here.	Broad range. If you are hiking or skinning you might want lighter skis made without metal. All have wide skis that will work.	90 mm and up	21-34 m
OFF-PISTE	70% traditional baseline camber; 30% rocker to full rocker.	Wide waist and rocker help the ski float, providing easier turn initiation and more consistent for/aft balance. The more challenging the snow conditions or variable the powder, the more float and more consistent the ride. Tip rocker allows the strong arc associated with groomed turns while full rocker allows for all varieties of unprepared, pivoted,	The wider the ski the more the weight and energy needed to drive it all day. For most, 100 to 110 mm waist is all you need. Tip rocker makes nice arcs while tip-and-tail rocker allows for easy short turns and the ability to skid in the powder.	If you want lighter skis look for ones without metal. For high-speed charging you probably want metal and can put up with the extra weight.	98 mm and up	18-34 m