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Jake Blauvelt, Jackson, Wyoming | Photo: Tim Zimmerman
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05

Burton Blunt

burton.com				
\$339.95				
Sizes Available				
142	147	151	155	158
Waist Width				
24.2	24.5	24.7	25.0	25.3

Freeride

Freestyle

The word Blunt is defined as, "having a cutting edge or point that is not sharp." For the Burton Blunt this loose definition works well because our testers found the Blunt to be sketchy on the steeps and a bit unstable at high speed. However, the dull nature of its freeride attributes served it very well in the park. A softer flex pattern gave the Blunt a fun freestyle feel while lapping the park at low to medium speeds. Skatey in nature, Editor Colin Whyte enjoyed it for "slashes, ollies, last minute corrections, lip tricks and butters." How's that for being blunt?

"Great spring board for anyone or a solid all-around board for an intermediate."—Colin

"It's a pretty good all mountain board. The glass is 2/3 full"—Brad

06

Flow Quantum

flow.com		
\$399.00		
Sizes Available		
152	156	158
Waist Width		
24.8	25.0	25.4

Freeride

Freestyle

If Scotty Lago has brass balls it's no wonder his board has brass edges. More than just bling, brass is softer than steel, making it easier to initiate turns and also less likely to buck yourself off a rail. A healthy heap of sidecut and energy plates below the feet—what Flow calls its Whiskey Royale design—and you've got a board teeming with energy, just like Lago. Add to it a sword and some brass knuckles on the graphic side and you're ready for shred battle.

"Beautiful sidecut. Lends itself to the rider who pumps turns. Fun to ride—like a unicorn when you're on acid."—Colin

"Its stability is amazing. No chatter at all."—Ben

"Stable. Nice turns as you turn up the volume."
—Brad

07

Palmer Pulse

palmerusa.com			
\$389.00			
Sizes Available			
154	158	160	162
Waist Width			
25.1	25.2	25.3	25.4

Freeride

Freestyle

All the testers had similar things to say about the Pulse. As steady as a heartbeat, it was a solid board that held its line and was really fun to ride. While receiving mixed reviews in the park, the Pulse shined during higher speed freeriding situations where its extra stiffness and weight aided in stability. Also notable was its edge control in the pipe, perfect for blasting lofty airs like Andy Finch and easing into smooth landings.

"Easy board to ride, since it almost does everything for you."—Ben

"Not my pick for freestyle, but still a fun board and not bad in the pipe."—Steven



05

GNU B-Nice MTX

gnu.com				
\$399.00				
Sizes Available *all sizes available with or without Magne-Traction				
144	147	150	153	156
Waist Width				
234	238	240	242	244

Freeride | Freestyle

Starbucks was founded in Seattle, so it comes as no surprise that Seattle-based Mervin Manufacturing now has some connection to the coffee conglomerate. This graphic was designed by Fumi Watanabe, the same artist who creates the brand look of Starbucks. But the B-Nice didn't make it into the Top 10 on good looks; since the testers never saw the topsheet during the test, a solid performance was needed. Marketed as an all mountain freestyle board, our testers ranked the B-Nice higher for freeriding. The test model was equipped with Magne-Traction which may have contributed to the freeriding success, especially on those crisp early spring mornings.

"Great all-around board—definitely worth droppin' some dooz on." —Stacey



06

Palmer Jade

palmerusa.com				
\$349.00				
Sizes Available				
140	144	148	152	156
Waist Width				
228	232	237	240	244

Freeride | Freestyle

All three testers appreciated the stability and versatility of this board. Its highest scores were earned for turning (fast or slow) and its ollie-ability. June, our toughest critic, was pleased with the well-rounded performance of the Jade, loving its talents in the park and in the pipe. The only criticism the girls offered was when it came to jibbing. Both Kirstin and Stacey thought it was hard to maneuver and tough to press.

"This board reminds me of Sierra Nevada Pale Ale—it's full of hops." —Kirstin

"I recommend this board to anyone who mainly rides for jumping and only hits a couple jibs. It was awesome on jumps!" —Stacey

"It's for the aggressive chick who wants to shred freestyle but still has love for freeriding."
—Stacey



07

Atomic Tika

atomicssnowboarding.com				
\$299.99				
Sizes Available				
139	144	149	151	153
Waist Width				
232	234	236	237	238

Freeride | Freestyle

A universal favorite among the testers in the park, the Tika scored in the top five for all park boards in the test. According to Atomic, the Tika's forgiving flex and twin-progressive sidecut instills confidence. The testers agreed. On less than perfect springtime park landings, the Tika was solid and stable. With ample pop and a three degree base bevel, it seems the Tika is built for the park and at a price point that won't break the bank.

"I can't really find a weakness in this board." —Kirstin

"Great pop off jumps, stable in the air and confident landings." —June