



SKI & SNOWBOARD PREPARATION

## BASE PREP AND WAXING GUIDE FOR ALPINE, FREERIDE AND SNOWBOARD

SWIXSCHOOL.COM

**SWIX**  
YOUR WINNING MARGIN

# Alpine ski and snowboard preparation

## PERFORMANCE USER LEVEL

This is the level for alpine skiers and snowboarders who use their equipment often and want to get the most out of their equipment. The focus is on achieving "the optimal feel".

## STEEL EDGE AND BASE TREATMENT WITH SWIX PRODUCTS

In a few simple steps, you can prep your skis or snowboard to gain higher performance from your equipment. These simple steps can help you improve the glide and turning properties of your equipment significantly, and should also give you greater confidence that your equipment will optimise your skiing experience. The greatest benefits come when skiing on hard surfaces.



T149-50 Alpine Ski Vise



SB31XF Snowboard Vise



T165 Ski Brake Retainer



R392 Ski Straps with base protector

## New skis and snowboards

New skis and snowboards that have not been pre-treated at the shop should be given a base treatment before use. A base treatment ensures the best possible starting point for the original surface coating and improves glide properties. The edges should also be sharpened in order to ensure the best possible carving properties on snow and ice. Sharpened steel edges provide you with better control and feel when turning, and is like putting new tires on your car – the equipment will be more responsive and tuned to your body, and you will gain more confidence in your skiing abilities.

When prepping skis and snowboards, a vise will help you work more easily and efficiently. We recommend T149-50 for alpine skis and SB31 for snowboard. For alpine skis retract the ski brakes with the T165 Brake Retainer.

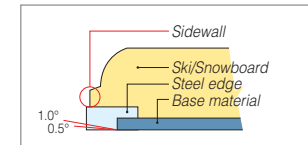
## ADVICE:

When treating the surface and steel edges, always start by prepping the edges first, which will ensure that you avoid getting wax on the filing tools. When the ski or snowboard is new, start the preparation by establishing the edge geometry (edge bevels). The key to obtaining optimal carving properties on snow and ice is to ensure that the edges are as smooth and even as possible.

## Three important areas when prepping edges

- Base edge
- Side edge
- Sidewall (Edge offset)

### BASE EDGE:



Generally 0.5 to 1 degree bevel

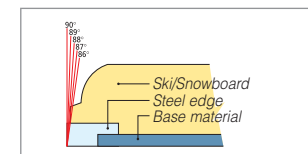


TA3002



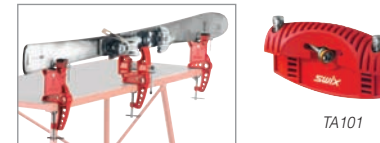
Base-edge filing

### SIDE EDGE:



Generally 87 to 89 degree bevel

### SIDEWALL:



TA101



Removing sidewall offset

### 1. Base edge:

• Make sure that the base edge is level with the base surface. Scraping the base surface is more difficult if the edges are too high, and this may also cause problems steering (erratic "hooking" effect). By beveling the base edge 1 degree, the edges will not grab immediately when you are skiing, but you will gain control progressively, which will allow you to turn your skis or snowboard more easily.

• Place the ski or snowboard in the horizontal position in the vise (base up).

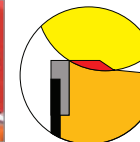
• For coarse filing of the base edge, use TA3002. Put the file in position for filing the base edge. If you mark the edges with a marker before you start, you can see the effect the file is having. Bevel the base edge 1 degree (see illustration). Using overlapping movements, file by moving the file holder from the tip to the tail.

### 2. Side edge (and sidewall):

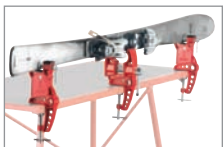
• Place the ski or snowboard in the ski vise in a vertical position and with the base facing away from you (see illustration).

• In order to obtain optimal carving properties on snow and ice, bevel the side edge 3 degrees, which will produce a sharper angle between the base edge and side edge (see illustration).

• Before coarse filing the side edge, we recommend that you remove some of the sidewall offset (see illustration); this will allow you to avoid filing the sidewall with the file and to focus your efforts on filing the steel edge. Use the special tool Swix TA101. You will have to repeat this procedure periodically when the side edge is filed down to the point where the sidewall and side edge are even. Make sure to not remove too much at a time.



## SIDE EDGE FILING:



TA3002



Generally 1 to 3 degrees resulting in a total edge angle of 87 to 89 degrees.



Removing burred steel from filing with a diamond stone



TAA400S - 70 mm



Maintenance of edges with a diamond stone



TAA400S - 70 mm

- Now you can start coarse filing the side edge. Use TA3002. Fasten the file in the holder in the appropriate position for working on the side edge. File from the tip to the tail, using a pattern of overlapping strokes. Generally 1 to 3 degrees resulting in a total edge angle of 87 to 89 degrees.

### 3. Removing burred steel from filing:

- When coarse filing the edge, burrs can develop on the edge. Unless such burrs are smoothed off, the edge will become rounded and duller more quickly.

- Use the diamond stone TAA400. Work with the stone back and forth along the entire side edge and base edge (see illustration). The edges should now be sharp and polished without any irregularities.

### 4. Maintaining sharpness of edges:

- As with knives, it is not necessary to use a file every time you need to sharpen the steel edges. A diamond stone, TAA400 can be used instead (see illustration). Using such a tool will save time and the result is usually excellent. If you still feel that the edges are not sharp enough, then apply the file in the same manner as described in the base treatment of the edges.

### 5. Rounding/dulling of edges in front and back:

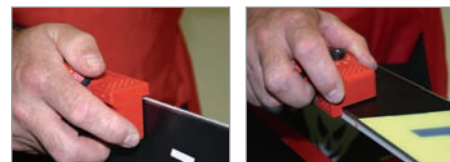
- Some prefer to dull or detune the edges in the front and back sections of the skis or snowboard. If you feel that the tip cuts out to the inside at the start of a turn too quickly, then you can round the edge on both sides of the tip. Use the diamond stone TAA400 and dull the edge in the "shovel" area from the point of snow contact and forward. Do the same procedure at the tail section of the ski or board, approx. 2 inches. If you want to take advantage of the entire turning curve on the skis/snowboard or want to optimise use of the front section, then there is no need to dull the tip and tail sections. Depending on skill level, technique and application, some prefer this alternative.



Removing cuts in edges with a diamond stone



TAA400S - 70 mm



Fixing the damaged side and base edge

### 6. Removing nicks and cuts in edges:

- In order to achieve satisfactory carving properties on snow and ice, the edges must be smooth and without any nicks or cuts. Damage to the steel edges are most often caused from hitting rocks. When this happens, the edges of the damaged spot become hardened. When you start filing, you will notice that the file will skid and you will have problems repairing the damage. In order to eliminate the hardened top layer, use diamond stone TAA400, which must be dipped in water.

- Use the stone on the base edge and side edge at the damaged site. Then pass over the spot with a file holder TA3002 on both sides of the edge. The file should be filing better now. Finish off with the diamond stone in order to even out and polish the edge.



JON OLSSON

# Cleaning and saturation waxing



## 1. Cleaning the surface:

- You need to clean the surface of the ski or snowboard if it comes straight from a store or after having sharpened the edges. Spray the base with I62 Base Cleaner and wipe dry with Fiberlene T151 after 15 seconds.



## 2. Saturation waxing:

- Use a soft, warm temperature wax such as Swix CH8 with waxing iron T74. Softer waxes are used for base treatment because these waxes penetrate deeper. Drip the wax in a zigzag pattern and then spread it evenly across the surface with the waxing iron.

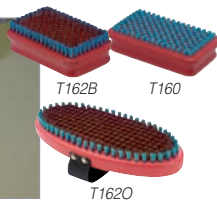


- Move the iron from the tip to the tail with even passes. Do not stop in the middle of a pass. Complete 3 passes across the entire surface. Be careful to use the recommended temperature on the iron as specified on the wax package. Let the ski or snowboard cool to room temperature, approx. 10 minutes.



- Repeat the procedure 3 times without scraping off the wax. Make sure that the waxing iron has enough wax to glide smoothly across the surface.

- Scrape off the excess wax while it is still hot with a plexi scraper T824, which will clean the surface even more. Do not press the scraper hard against the surface. If the scraper is dull, then it can be sharpened with plexi sharpener T409.



- Brush the surface with a bronze brush T162 from the tip to the tail (see illustration). Brush approx. 10 passes with an overlapping movement. Avoid using hard pressure on the brush so the bristles don't flatten. Finish off with the blue nylon brush T160.

# Three ways to wax alpine skis and snowboards!

"Poor glide when skiing is like bicycling with a flat tire". By selecting a wax matching the day's temperature and snow conditions, you will ensure that you have a better ski experience - you will glide faster across flat sections and turn much easier as well.

## 1. The "Express Method" of waxing skis and snowboards



Swix liquid wax is fluorinated and based on formulas featured in the most award-winning glide-wax system in history - "Swix Cera Nova".



### FOLLOW THESE EASY STEPS:

- Select the wax that matches the day's air temperature (in the shadow).
- Shake the bottle and then press it against the base. Distribute evenly.
- Let the wax dry for about 2 minutes and then polish with Fiberlene T151, just like you would polish your shoes.

### Remember:

The general rule is that liquid wax does not last as long as when using a waxing iron.

## 2. The "Fiberlene Method" of waxing skis and snowboards

Using solid CH waxes heated into the surface provides a quick and clean approach to prepping your skis or snowboard.

1



1 Select a wide range wax like CH7 or LF7 (fluorinated) that matches the day's air temperature. Or a Universal wax like F4-60 (fluorinated).

2 Use an iron setting of appr. 140°C (285°F). Press the wax gently against the waxing iron so that it softens.

2



3 While it is still soft, rub it quickly along the base. Press the wax several times against the iron to soften the wax as needed. The entire surface must be covered with an even layer of wax so that the waxing iron glides easily.

3



4 Select a suitable length of Fiberlene T151 so that the entire waxing iron is covered. Place the paper on the surface at the tip of the ski or fold (see illustration). Put the waxing iron T74 on top of the paper. Hold the roll with one hand and support the waxing iron with the other hand (see illustration). Run the iron along the base in an even motion taking approx. 15 seconds. The paper will absorb the excess wax and will at the same time clean the surface. Let the skis cool off and that's it - the snow on your first ski trip will finish off the surface treatment!

4



### Ironing with Swix Fiberlene

Waxing with an iron gives longer lasting performance through deeper wax penetration into the base. Traditionally ironing is followed by scraping and brushing to remove excess wax. However, by using Swix Fiberlene when ironing, scraping is eliminated along with the messy wax scrapings. The base is cleaned at the same time, and the base is protected against overheating by the waxing iron.

## 3. The "Professional Method" of waxing skis and snowboards

For this approach, we recommend the Cera Nova system (CH or LF waxes).

1



1 Select the wax that matches the day's air temperature in the shadow.

2



2 Set the temperature of the waxing iron in accordance with the instructions on the packaging of the selected wax.

3



3 Drip the wax in a zigzag pattern on the surface (see illustration). The temperature on the waxing iron is ideal when the wax drips relatively quickly, but does not run. The wax must not become so hot that it emits smoke.

4



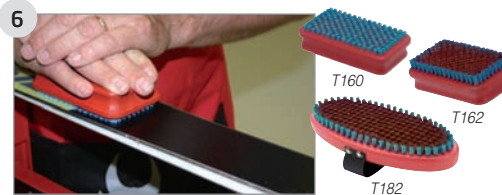
4 Move the iron from the tip to the tail with an even and steady pass. Do not stop while making the passes. Complete 3 passes across the entire surface. Let the ski or snowboard cool down to room temperature for approx. 10 minutes.

5



5 Scrape off excess wax with a plexi scraper T824 (see illustration). Use light pressure when you do this. Start from the front and scrape in an overlapping pattern from tip to tail. If the scraper is dull, then it can be sharpened with plexi sharpener T409.

6



6 Brush the surface with a bronze brush T162 (or T182 oval) from the tip to the tail (see illustration). Brush approx. 10 passes with an overlapping movement and moderate pressure. End by brushing with a blue nylon brush T160.





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