

Skate Types

Contributed by Dan Solo
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A lot of people do not realise that there are a number of different types of inline skate, each with their own merits for the type of activity they are designed. Each type of skate is not exclusive for instance you can use aggressive skates for recreational skating but each type is better suited for it's own particular style of skating.

Recreational Skates

These feature a lightweight and comfortable boot, a fairly long wheel base and larger (70mm-80mm) wheels. They are designed for skating on flat tarmac or concrete such as around parks and on smooth roads. They usually come equipped with a heel brake.

Aggressive Skates

These are composed of a strong, heavy boot on top of a tough frame with a shorter wheel base and no heel brake. The frame usually has a gap in between the middle wheels that is curved to allow for tricks "grinding" rails and kerbs. The wheels themselves are much smaller and squarer in profile to other types of skates for ramp/trick work.

Free Skates (FSK)

These skates are a hybrid between Recreational and Aggressive skates. They combine the larger recreational wheels with a shorter wheelbase. The frame is stronger than the usual Recreational skate frame but does not have the gap for "grinding". The boot is also of a strong construction but not at the expense of comfort. These skates are popular for street skating involving up/down kerbs and a variety of different skate surfaces. Heelbrakes are optional!

Speed Skates

These skates have an extremely long wheel base and can also feature 5 wheels instead of the usual 4. Speed skates can also use ceramic bearings instead of the usual metal ones which, although noisier provide a much quicker ride.

Hockey Skates

These are very lightweight in construction and of a similar wheelbase length as free-skates. The wheels are of a softer compound for better grip when playing indoor hockey. The boot has a lower cuff than most other skates and is generally made of a soft material such as leather rather than hard plastic.

Quad Skates

These are the more traditional roller skates with 4 wheels in 2 pairs rather than in a line (hence in-line). They generally feature a toe stopper and while not so fast as inlines are more stable and preferred by people dancing and skating.

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