

THE BEST 2018 BOOTS FOR SENIOR SKIERS



Finding a comfortable and good-fitting ski boot is an elusive goal for many older skiers.

The ski boot authorities who organize the annual America's Best Bootfitters Boot Test evaluated this season's crop of boots to determine the most suitable for older skiers.

Testers include bootfitters, retailers, instructors, coaches, patrollers, and other skiers; many of them seniors.

Evaluations are based on performance, value, easy on and off, warmth, and convenience of buckles and other adjustments. Close attention was given to models with custom molding capabilities, allowing an experienced bootfitter to fit difficult foot anatomies.

The following abbreviated reviews are categorized as Men's or Women's, each according to foot width and All-Mountain (no "walk-mode") or On-Off Area (with "walk-mode"). The highest scoring models in each category appear at the top of that category.

In depth reviews are available at <http://www.bootfitters.com/reviews>, where the best boots for older skiers can be found by clicking on the RECOMMENDED FOR SENIORS filter.

Men's All-Mountain (narrow)

Salomon X Max 120

The narrowest (very snug ankles and heel), most on-piste oriented of the bunch—shell and liner both heat moldable.

Roxa Element 120

Snug fitting, lightweight, strong on edge with a long-travel, soft flex feel on the shin. Glen Plake design.

Full Tilt First Chair

Super easy to get on and off with a highly moldable and lightweight liner (closest thing to the venerable Raichle Flexon Comp you can find).

Men's All-Mountain (medium)

Nordica Speedmachine 130

A test favorite—easy on, super cushioned, comfy and warm, but skis like a weapon. Special Infrared shell molding system.

K2 Spyne 120 Heat

Our favorite K2 boot this year! Terrific out-of-box fit but highly customizable liner and it comes with a slick electronic heater on-board.

Head Vector Evo 130

Skis shockingly well for how comfortable and warm this boot is—good performance and luxury combo.

DaleBoot VFF Pro

The easiest to get on and take off of the test! Lightweight, in tune with the snow, and fully-custom built to your shape and needs.

Fischer RC Pro 130 Vacuum Full Fit

A cushioned liner along the likes of a luxury S.U.V. interior—wider than expected for a medium. Fully customized via the Fischer Vacuum system.

Roxa Bold 120

Comfy cushioning found in this well-padded liner. Thicker ankles and higher insteps will like this solid edger best.

Apex XP

The ultimate solution to ski boot walking woes—the soft walking inner boot mates with the rigid exterior chassis when it's time for skiing.

Men's All-Mountain (wide)

Nordica Sportmachine 130

This brand new model takes the successful shape and skiing performance of the Speedmachine and opens up the fit for thicker feet and bigger calves.

Rossignol Allspeed 100

One of the top scoring boots of the category but weighs in at over 200-bucks less than its competition—a test favorite for comfort, performance and ease on and off.

Lange SX 130

Classic Lange performance and accurate fit through heel and ankle pockets with more room in width, at the instep and for the calf.

Head Advant Edge 125

An upright stance for easing quad-burn with an open fit throughout the lower boot and cuff for high volume feet and legs.

Salomon X Access 80

A sleeper of a smokin' deal, said our test team! Lots of room and a well-cushioned, plush liner for cruisers looking for comfort above all else—though performance was better than expected.

Full Tilt Descendant 8

Perhaps one of the easiest boots to get on and take off, ever! A luxuriant liner feel and a medium-wide fit through the lower boot makes this a go-to for convenience minded skiers.

Women's All-Mountain (narrow)

Fischer My Curv 90 Vacuum Full Fit

Vacuum-molding capability in a narrow class cruiser! Testers say its high instep and roomy toebox make it warm and tingle-free.

Full Tilt Soul Sister

A snug (and slightly short in length) narrow classic, the Soul Sister is supremely easy to get on and off, lightweight, agile and warm. It's forward leaning and soft flexing, testers said.

Women's All-Mountain (medium)

Head Vector Evo 110 W

Testers say this boot shouldn't ski as well as it does for as comfy as it is! The warm, plush liner feel is backed up by real descending horsepower. Handy flip-out buckle levers ease lock-down with gloves on.

Nordica Speedmachine 105 W

Classic, silky soft Nordica liner feel against the foot pairs with a firm-enough grip at the ankle and heel for well-controlled turns. One of the best medium-widths for its broad skier appeal.

Salomon Pro 100 W

Smooth, stable, predictable—testers said it's on snow performance was as reliable as its even medium fit. Suits a lot of different foot and leg shapes they said.

Rossignol Pure Pro 100

A little extra toe room, lengthwise, makes this a go to for skiers trying to maintain a performance fit without jammed toenails. Its flared calf fit was a hit with the thicker-legged.

Women's All-Mountain (medium) con't

K2 Spyre 100 Heat

It has a heated liner, what else needs saying? Well, testers said its fit and performance was equally awesome as well.

Fischer RC Pro W 90 Thermoshape

The most smokinest deal in the medium width group, testers claimed! A little roomier and softer than most, but easy on and off and managed itself just fine all around the hill.

Atomic Hawx Prime 100 W

A perennial favorite amongst our women's test team for its universal fit appeal and strong skiing character. Tall through the instep, open at the calf and snug in the heel—a good fit combo.

Dalbello Chakra AX 85

A little extra room over the top of the foot and the heel, but not wide-ride sloppy. Ideal for intermediates and cruisers.

Apex XP-L

The ultimate walking boot (it's like a snowboard boot) that straps into the rigid chassis and clicks into bindings when it's time to ski.

Women's All-Mountain (wide)

Nordica Sportmachine 95 W

Testers were surprised by how well this wide ride rode! Roomy throughout but in an athletic, curvy kind of way, plus warm and cozy they said.

Atomic Hawx Magna 90 W

Huge bang for the buck with a slipper-soft initial fit. Roomy enough for thick feet and calves, but testers said it tipped and ripped like narrower performance models.

Lange SX 90 W

Skilled skiers with thick feet, high insteps and muscular calves will appreciate the fit here, as well as the more control-minded grip on the heel and ankle—all with classic Lange performance.

Tecnica Ten.2 85 W

A very high instep and ample room at the calf, the Ten.2 85 W is the go to for skiers with high volume feet and legs. Easy on and off, and works everywhere on the hill, testers said.

Head Advant Edge 85 W

Easy on and off with handy buckle levers for easy cranking—testers liked the way this wide one snapped off turns, agile and responsive.

DaleBoot VFF

A fully custom-built boot—made for you from measurements and tracings in the Salt Lake City factory and custom-molded at your DaleBoot dealer location. A favorite for fit and ease on and off.

Men's On-Off Area (medium)

Rossignol Alltrack Pro 130

A consistent perennial tester favorite for how well it fits and skis, and it has a walk mode which also aids in getting it on and off.

Salomon QST Pro 120

For those looking for a close fit over the top of the foot and instep but additional width for the forefoot and toes, this is the one. Snaky, slinky on-snow feel makes for quick moves.

Roxa Evo 120

Super cushioned, roomier than most mediums, and set up for secure strolling with a walk mode and grippy rubber soles. Easy on and off, testers said.

Men's On-Off Area (wide)

Rossignol Track 130

One of the widest boots on the market with a walk mode feature—testers liked how it skied and said the room in the lower boot was massive.

Men's On-Off Area (wide) con't

Dalbello Panterra 120

Lightened up over previous years' iterations, it continues to impress testers with its on-snow performance and easy fit—wide and tall through the instep with a flared cuff fit for big calves.

K2 B.F.C. 120

Stiffened up to 120 this year to handle the big boys attached to big feet. Supremely cushioned, warm and easy to get on. A tester favorite for its high comfort quotient.

Fischer Hybrid 120 Vacuum Full Fit

Testers liked this quick turner for its feel for the snow and responsiveness. The fit is closer through the instep and navicular than expected for a wide but Vacuum molding offers big customization options.

Women's On-Off Area (narrow)

Tecnica Cochise 105 W

The highest scoring women's walk mode boot impressed testers with its in-between-narrow-and-medium fit tension and the fact that it skied as well as fixed cuff boots.

Roxa R3W 105 Ti

A true, painted-on narrow fit pairs with three-piece construction for easing entry and exit and a fully moldable EVA foam liner for a well matched fit against the foot and leg.

Women's On-Off Area (medium)

Rossignol Alltrack Pro 110 W

One of testers' top faves year after year—they like the fit, the skiing performance and its fresh look. Its fuzzy, Thinsulate liner is one of the warmest.

Salomon QST Pro 110 W

Low insteps will love the snug contour across the top of the foot in this medium. Testers liked its upright stance for relaxed quads and slippery side to side moves on snow.

Women's On-Off Area (wide)

K2 B.F.C. 90 W

Built For Comfort is aptly named—testers claim it's one of the softest, warmest and easiest on and off of the test. And it skis well, they said!

Dalbello Kyra 95

Shockingly good for skiing, amazingly easy on and off, and testers of all foot and leg shapes seem to like it. Nuff said.

Roxa Kara 85

Super sleeper bargain shopper boot of the test, our test team said. Open fit in the lower boot and open at the calf, and it skis more like a 100-fl