

Lib Tech Review

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Lib Technologies generally makes snowboards I have never had a pleasure to ride one of their snowboards but I have ridden their longboards which the technologies they apply to their snowboards have been infused with. On entrance to the Lib Tech Skateboard website Lighter, Stronger, More Pop is emblazoned across the top of the page. Although these aspects are virtually obvious with the short board counterparts the Lib Tech Longboards often go unnoticed hiding in a few well knowing quivers.

The lib tech longboard line to my knowledge is same deck different graphics surfer, dagger, koi and demon with the toxic surfer being the current model being created by artist Quincy Quigg. Dimensions 28in Axel to Axel

deck 44x9 (both med flex and firm flex)

4in deck height invader 190 setup

4 ½in tracker setup

ConstructionPlastihide top sheet with biaxial fiberglass on an aspen wood core edged by golf ball tough tips. End to end 84 vertical laminates alternating 0deg and 90deg on the tips, tight carbon fiber layer with abrasion resistant sidewalls complimented by birch wood sidewalls and covered with a sublimated semi-slick plastihide coat.

What this means in plain English is this board is a massive conflagration of almost every design concept possible resulting in a board that is highly responsive and built to be durable to the very end. On a personal note I have had a lib tech koi many years have ridden it through snow, sleet, heat and thrash and it still is kicking strong. It got hit by a car a few months ago and other than a little delam on the nose which was easily fixed it suffer none the worse. The double kicktails seem strong and over the years it has lost none of its shape. The sealed plastihide coat makes it a very worthy contender for a good bad weather boards and it sheds off moisture and is easy to wipe up after late season monsoon slide sessions or eager winter garage sessions. The abrasion resistant sidewalls help to keep fiber from fraying from curb impact and other compression fractures. Once again I have put mine through the ringer and still no harm done. Setup I have had 3 setups the first ever was the surfer running Randall 150's and I sold that 2 weeks after getting it, I felt the deck was too high for the width of the deck and I liked the koi design and my friend wanted the surfer design, After selling that deck I got the med flex Invader deck koi and finally was given the firm flex koi tracker deck. Carver Firm Flex Deck

Tracker 150

Goodyear 78a 65mm

Soft Angle risers

Bearings

You can feel it when you step on the deck the mild concave feels like it pushes the deck out. When you push, the deck width gives it a thin line and carves come off sharp and hard. Pumping is difficult but not impossible with the very rigid deck. The firm flex means no flex to anyone in the 140lb area. The rigid form lends itself well to cutting lines on the hill face the deck goes from carve to carve reliably and the firmness of the deck helps to hold the line on hard turns with no unexpected pop outs on exit. The serious tension of the firm flex also holds the same pop through those turns and carves so you have that power there if you want it and on exit you can really feel it. This deck feels like a razor blade opening the line as it carves a hill you can sense the tight grip on the asphalt and it is very comfortable with speed check carves or a smooth flow of a lazy descent down the sloping road. The deck has wheel wells carved so wheel bite is at a minimum. The double kick makes it an agile board in small spaces and a great commuter deck although the rigid nature would give lots of vibratory feedback if not for the 78a meats it is running. I would prefer to run the deck without risers however I really like the way it runs and this deck is an on loan gift from my triplets having brother so I will keep it as is until I give it back to him. Slider Medium Flex Deck

Invader 190 Black Bushings

Sergio Sliders 65mm 99a

Bearings

The medium flex fits the bill for me when it comes to a large slider board, it makes it easier to push around and a lot more forgiving on botched carves, the med flex of the deck absorbs a great deal of the vibration harder wheels generate and gives a great platform for high speed agility. The double kicktail and slight concave locks the feet in and the 44inch deck gives plenty of room to work with. The sweet spot just behind and in front of the trucks is low vibration and great for drop knee slides or carves. The inner rails on the plastihide coating are great for board grabs and provide a good amount of feedback when pumping into the deck. With no visual difference between firm and med flex it's amazing how much the difference feels at speed. The minimal sag of the flexing deck gives a good cradle for any heel side work and a proper response feel when going at it toeside. Pump is responsive and powerful, enhanced I am sure by the deck

ingredients. The durability of the deck is wholly unmatched in my experiences and the ability to shake off water is almost numinous. The deck itself is not overly heavy making the walks back uphill less of a chore and damage to itself on impact a hair less. Wheel wells make carves a little safer and the hard truck wrenching wheel jamming slides a little less damaging to the deck. The weight of the deck also makes it a good deal easier to reel in after the mid point of a pendulum. Comparison Conclusion It is a commonality for shortboard deck companies to make one longboard for their lineup what sets the lib tech apart from most of these one type decks is the technology that goes into the lib tech boards. The durability along with the high response of the boards creates a synergy of adaptability that really makes these decks shine. I would more than recommend this deck to anyone looking for a cruiser and the dual kick makes this a great deck for shortboard riders looking for something a little longer and this has to be the easiest longboard. An awesome sidewalk surfer perfect for weaving moving cones on city sidewalk. A great deck that can serve almost any purpose depending on the setup that is applied to it. As with all reviews I have tried to make it as deck oriented as possible with little emphasis on how the actual setup feels an attempt which is enhanced in this case by reviewing two decks of common background and opposing setup. The strong points of this deck would be compatibility to riding styles and it's almost indestructible construction the price one can get the deck for (137\$ comp) makes it very good for an entry level rider looking for something a little less common. The only detractors I feel about the deck are the slim width that may be a problem for bigger feet and the fact that it is the only longboard in the lib tech lineup. Other than that after years of riding these decks my affinity for them only grows. A good deck to grow that will always match the riders ability and rise to the occasion.

Purchase Lib Tech boards here:

Hog Town Extreme

The Prime

Contact Malakai Kingston - shogun ~at~ obscure ~dot~ org