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Palmer P01 TwinTip (Austria) 2007-2008

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Posted: Wednesday, April 25, 2007 6:13:34 PM



Rank: Administration

Joined: 3/12/2007

Posts: 18

Location: Vermont, USA

**Palmer P01 171cm 121-85-113  
17.5m radius @ 171cm  
2007-2008**





Note: Palmer catalog declares ALL lengths (163cm, 171cm and 179cm) have the same 17.5m radius.

Each length has a different geometry - very interesting:

163cm = 116-83-108

171cm = 121-85-113

179cm = 127-87-118

**MSRP:**

P01: \$750 usd

**Manufacturer Info:**

Palmer Snowboards Ltd.  
1037B Broadway  
Denver, CO. 80202  
(303) 623-0334

USA <http://www.palmerusa.com>

Manufactured in Austria

(From the looks of the sidewall text...maybe in the Head factory?)

**Usage Class:**

All mountain freestyle/freeride

Palmer states "Before you start talking to first-timer riders about their riding style, just put them on these revolutionary DPD Klothoid twin tips. They'll come back next year or next week thanking you. Our all-mountain freestyle P01 finds the balance between the stiffness freeriders need for effortless, stable turns at all speeds and the snappy smoothness freestylers require for their own self-expression Blurring the distinction from peak to park, the P01 offers the perfect solution for every rider. This ski is so easy-to-ride, instructors will have a hard time recommending anything but the P01."

**Your Rating (with comments):**

(1="get me off these things"->10="I have to own a pair")

7

**Summary:**

The skis do exactly what Palmer describes them to do...ultra easy, do everything ski. Your grandmother could ski these boards and be happy. A park and pipe type could do anything with them easily. An all-mountain expert could use them all over the hill. More grip than you might expect for this kind of softie twintip. Great design, but unexciting...but then again...that might be a great thing...

**Ski Designer** (if known):

Rumored to have some design elements by Hansjürg Kessler (multi-time snowboard worldcup winner and design guru).

**Technical Ski Data** (if known):

NCF Prepeg beech/poplar wood core sandwich construction with titanium.  
DPD\* Klothoid geometry\*\* with laminated cyan sidewalls.  
7200 graphite base

**Pre-Skiing Impression:**

Good quality construction and finish. Sparse, clean, simple name graphic on blank, glossy topsheet.

First impression was "wow, look how THIN they are." (not width, but vertical thickness)

The P01's vertical profile is indeed very thin, with 5mm thickness at the tip (unladen resting contact point), 12.5mm at the boot center mark and 5mm at the tail.

The Palmer P01s are indeed very thin skis. Very, very soft flex.

Good looking ratio of width to sidecut for its purposes.

My second impression was "wow, look how flat the shovel is."  
(see the DPD description below)

Background: - What is "DPD" and "Klothoid geometry" ?

**\*DPD = "Dynamic Power Distribution"**

According to Palmer, DPD is the design of the tip and tail in such a manner as to dynamically allot the power distributed to the edge throughout a turn to prevent "digging" and "skidding". This spreads the resistance created when the snow deformation increasingly opposes the motion of the turn of the ski on edge. It reportedly reduces resistance, making the turn smoother and grippier as it reduces effort to maintain the carve. The design of the DPD is apparently targeted at extending the numerous radii of the "Klothoid" sidecut into the tip and tail regions, optimizing edge contact and pressure gradients along that contact surface. The user is supposed to experience reduced nose edge pressure and greater control. If you compress the skis against the snow surface, the contact point is farther down the ski's length than with "traditional" designs. Essentially, the nose and tail are flatter than traditional designs.

**\*\* "Klothoid" geometry**

According to Palmer, the Klothoid (also spelled "clothoid" in many reference books and articles) geometry produces an extremely high-performance sidecut with dynamic pressure properties. The general description of the Klothoid or Clothoid spiral curves is:

"The clothoid or double spiral is a curve, whose curvature grows with the distance from the origin. The radius of curvature is opposite proportional to its arc measured from the origin."

These curves are typically utilized in railroad track corner designs or roller coaster loop-de-loops which attempt to minimize the amount of input force required to complete the curve or loop, while minimizing the centripetal force experienced by the passenger. Essentially, you utilize an ovoid-type of curve instead of circular as the path proceeds from entry to exit of the apex. Maybe it works for skis?

Palmer has invested a great deal of effort in promoting its sidecut geometry and mating new shovel and tail profiles to that geometry to produce what it calls "A revolution in shape technology." The marketing hype from the sales materials works very well prior to trying the skis. "A" for marketing effort. (but I'm a notorious skeptic about all the poly-raz-ma-taz manufacturers spill out in ads and promo materials...having seen plenty of design "revolutions" come and go).

**Test Conditions:**

Late spring snow. Groomed corn and pocky, rotted surfaces from very warm days. Not refrozen for at least 48 hours. Corn had unlimited depth, edges of trails in the shade had firmer, softening ice base where you could find semi-hard surfaces. Soft, easy-going bumps with very low-profile faces. Superb spring conditions.

**Test Results:**

Wicked easy to ski. Goes anywhere with very, very little effort. This is the kind of ski you might want to ride the first ski day after getting your ACL fixed. Great spring ski. Really soft. One observer stopped me and said "Looks like you're having fun...that ski just flops down the hill through the bumps and corn snow like nothing...kinda cool watching it flap." (true quote). More grip than you might expect for a ski that can smear in any direction with the best of them. Surprising snap if you load up the tail and let it fly...comes back down soft as you like. I think Palmer has hit on a ski with appeal to newbies and park rats. Excellent maneuverability. Nice job...just no excitement. Extremely light weight (nice to see ...don't knock a light ski)

While they are pleasingly damp, I wouldn't want to get them up to warp speed on a hard surface...I think they'd get you unglued...but then again, that's not what they're for.

I totally agree with SierraJim's review of this ski:

**Analogies:** (this ski is like...)

Really friendly labrador retriever.

**After Skiing These, I Want To...**

Find something more exciting, but if I found a pair really cheap, I'd buy 'em.

**Self-Description of Skiing Style, Ability, Experience, Preferences** (be honest):

Expert groomed-surface carver, "old-style" race inspired, "foot steerer" with fairly sensitive edging feel. Loves to hold long arcs with lots of pressure on the downhill ski (you know the type), but also loves the feel of both skis on-edge leaving tiny railroad track edge tracks. Not an instructor, but 10 year coach for youth race team in New England (bulletproof is the norm).

SierraJim's review over at the excellent BarkingBear forums of

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ForumAdmin

Posted: Thursday, May 03, 2007 4:50:27 PM



Rank: Administration

Joined: 3/12/2007  
Posts: 18  
Location: Vermont, USA

Finished up the year in bottomless corn snow (smooth in the AM, cut up and deep in the PM), and the thing that sticks in my mind after getting back on the Palmer P01 twintips is "effortless". This ski really requires no muscle or effort to go into a turn or come out. It definitely has an upper speed limit, beyond which it starts to flake-out...but it's not meant for high speed...manuvering is what it's all about...and it does it well. A superbly soft, all-terrain ski for nearly anyone who does not muscle their ski or expect it to hold tight at mach speeds. Goes in and out of the bumps with no effort, turn here, turn there...no problem. Floppy at speed cutting across the shin-deep corn waves, but docile. This ski would appeal to a HUGE audience who are not hard-cores. One woman who tested the ski today said it would be ideal for intermediates looking to go in any terrain and get off the groomers all the time...just don't push DOWN on it too hard...it'll go away on you...it's not meant to be pushed down on...just steer it. Nice pop at the end of a soft snow turn...freindly...never explosive... Again, effortless and easy ride and it could go anywhere but the race course or nasty windcrud. Nice ski for the masses. Palmer hit their target audience...right on the money.

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tfavro

Posted: Thursday, May 03, 2007 6:19:11 PM



Rank: New Member

Joined: 3/23/2007  
Posts: 4  
Location: Vermont, USA

This ski is the most predictable easy going ski that I have been on in a while. Today at Killington consisted of LOTS of mushy piles of death after starting out on the firm side. The Palmer P01 made it all easy. (Oh god, a really BAD song just popped into my head!) Its not the type of ski that you want to hammer on, just steer it and let it go,steer it and let it go...repeat. Its soft flex surfed through the crud and I never felt any shimmy or wandering as long as you didn't pressure it. I tried pressuring it in the deep corn and almost went over....hard. It definitely has a speed limit and when you get there you'll know because it tends to lose its direction and becomes very unpredictable. Oh well its not designed for high speed antics. Its designed to be enjoyable in the park and pipe and the crud..and it is. I like the all white graphic and the thin profile. I hope some really heavy park kid doesn't crush the thing. Will just have to wait and see on the durability...On a scale of 1-10 it gets a 7.

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