



NORDIC ULTRATUNE UPDATE

News & Notes from NORDIC ULTRATUNE

134 Riverside Ave – PO Box 422
Winthrop, WA 98862
509.996.4145

Email: xcgrind@ultratune.net
Subscribe: newsletter@ultratune.net
WWW.ULTRATUNE.NET

September 2008

Volume 11, Number 1

News and Notes

A Busy Spring & Summer

Spring and summer went by in a blur. After finishing a very busy winter in the shop, I had to turn my attention to finishing work on our house.

With help with some great local guys, especially Alex Hall, Zach Huff, and Robert Courtney, we've finished and moved in.

Margaret and I took some time for a few short summer adventures, and now it's time to turn attention to fall and the upcoming ski season.

Autumn Approaches...

The 2008-2009 looks like it will be another exciting and busy season! Excitement surrounds the Pacific Northwest, with anticipation of the World Cup returning in January, as the ski nations get a preview of the Olympic venue.

...And Winter.

I've been asked to work with the Slovenian team at the 2009 World Cup, and the 2010 Olympic games. Naturally, I'm excited about the opportunity. It will be a terrific chance to work at the top level of the sport. Working with the very best technicians and skiers is a great way to stay up to date of the evolution of ski tuning – always searching for the best ways to make skis run well, which ultimately makes skiing more fun.

-Mark Waechter

In This Issue

- Zero Skis for Hairy Conditions
- New Rossignol Xium Rubber
- New Madshus Nano Boots
- Notes on New Skis & Ultratune Services
- Odds & Ends



Photo: Brent Reid

www.brentreid.exposuremanager.com

Kevin Hochtl leads the pack at Canadian Nationals

Schedule Stuff

Regular hours resume September 21st. During fall and winter, the shop is open Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon, 11-5. Stop in and say hello! Most days I'm in the shop earlier, but those hours are a sure thing. Usually Tuesday and Wednesday of every week are reserved for ski testing (when the snow arrives) and a little time off.

Zero Skis for Hairy Conditions

by Peter Hale,
Technical Service and Race Manager,
Madshus USA

You knew it would happen. And it did, in three consecutive weeks this March.

We had championship classic races, humid fresh snow, and warm, rising temperatures, around zero degrees Celsius. Snow clouds rolling in, sun coming back out for three weeks in three venues -- World Masters in McCall, US Junior Nationals in Anchorage, Canadian Nationals in Callaghan Valley.

"Hairies" -- but better yet, Zeros -- were the very smart answer. Abraded or sanded kick zones, and the resulting hairs provided the kick when waxing became the most difficult. These Zero-degree skis are rapidly becoming a vital part of any serious ski assortment, especially when both the racer and the skis are well prepared.

Madshus Nanosonic and Hypersonic "Zero-degree" models feature a special sintered kick zone area, inserted into the middle of the Madshus Nano P190 base. Additives to this special white kick zone material allow longer, more elastic hairs, with superior durability vs. the more brittle hairs created by abrading a normal waxable black base. Extra hydrophobic properties in the Madshus Zero base help resist icing. Best of all, the bases can be customized to each day's conditions, and to needs of the individual racer, with quick re-sanding.

The new Madshus Nanosonic 158 Zero for 2008-09 is available beginning fall 2008, in lengths from 180cm to 210cm, with a variety of skier-weight ranges in each length. Just as with top waxable race skis, matching the camber to the skier is important, then the skier needs to learn to ski them in changing conditions!

Our Madshus camber design for Zero skis -- Hypersonic or Nanosonic -- is a modified klister camber, slightly softer than klister skis but stiffer than Cold skis, and with a slightly higher half-weight camber. The high point of camber is slightly forward compared to cold skis, for best glide with effective kick when prepared properly.

Why the growing popularity of Zero bases? Partly from the increasing effect of global warming. Partly from longer racing seasons putting major races later on the calendar, and into warmer weather. Certainly the looming 2010 Olympics: more racers will return to B.C.'s Callaghan Valley, and its frequent tricky wax conditions, for major races leading to and following the 2010 Games.

But most of all, we are simply finding more and more conditions where Madshus Zero skis work well. Some years ago, hairies worked best in fresh falling, humid snow around 0c, and quit working when snowfall abated, tracks became glazed, and the black-base hairs wore off in mid-race. Today, our Madshus Zeros are working effectively in a wide variety of conditions, including glazed tracks, coarse, loose corn snow, and even in fresh humid snow down into the low 20s F.



Photo Credit: Peter Hale
Classic skiers at the 2008 Skarverennet in Norway

For the casual fitness skier, or for skiers from the skating-only crowd starting to embrace classic skiing, the Zero ski allows a more positive kick -- and positive experience -- in most conditions, but especially the most difficult wax conditions.

(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued from Page 2)

Here is what we at Madshus recommend to get the most from our Zero-degree skis:

Basic Zero-degree ski principles:

1. For all skiers – casual and serious – it is vital to get used to skiing on Zero-degree skis. Use them in all possible conditions for training, to learn when they are needed, and which abrading or sanding techniques can make them work even better in various conditions. In these conditions, a faster tempo and quicker, lighter kick often works better than hard kicking, and it's best to discover this on training days.
2. Even with the sport's top wax techs in McCall, Anchorage and Callaghan Valley, Zero skis had major impact on top results. The best skiers and technicians will certainly test both waxable and Zero skis to come up with best results.
3. Adjust kick with various sanding techniques and keep testing. A good prep job on Zero skis is tapered, with coarser sanding in the middle of the kick zone -- much like a tapered wax job is thicker under the ball of the foot, thinning toward the front and back of the kick zone.
4. Don't wait until 15 minutes before start time to give up on klister or hard wax testing, and try to find the Zero skis somewhere in the bag, in panic mode. Make Zero skis part of early race-day testing in any potentially tricky waxing weather, just to get a starting reference.

A good rule of thumb is to start with standard preparation techniques – linear sanding, tip to tail -- and customize for special conditions and for each skier. Starting in fall 2008, the new Nanosonic Zero skis will be abraded at the Madshus factory for immediate use on snow.

Here is what Reece Rendall of Madshus Canada reported to work best for 2008 Canadian Nationals at Callaghan Valley, in early March:

Yes, the Hyper or Nano Zero skis were the choice! Regular Hairies didn't last, as the hairs would tear off quickly. Our Zero ski with its softer material inserted in the pocket allowed much finer sanding to work. We sanded as follows:

- Red and Violet pocket (full zone): 100 G sandpaper - 4 times - Tail to Tip; lots of pressure.
- Klister pocket (inside/center of zone): 80 G sandpaper - 2-3 times - Tail to Tip; lots of pressure.
- Cleaning: 100 G sandpaper - 2 times – Tip to Tail; almost no pressure other than the weight of the cork on the sandpaper, to remove “fuzz”.
- Anti icing formula: ToKo Helix -- Very light spray; fast pass.

This abrading pattern was linear from Tail to Tip, and was very free on the snow.

Please note that sanding sideways or making circular swirls only serves to shear off the hairs from the linear sanding technique. We recommend linear sanding, and this should be tip to tail, or, when testing proves advantageous, tail to tip, as with the Callaghan Valley conditions.

In short, take advantage of this new Madshus “Zero-degree” technology: upgrade your “hairies” skis from wax-panic status, to effective, trusted Zero skis in a well-planned ski quiver.

--PETER HALE, Technical Service and Race Manager, Madshus USA



Success in difficult waxing conditions can put a smile on a technician's tired face.

Rossignol's Rubber Meets the Trail

The New Xium Classic C2 NIS Rubber

Rossignol has added a new ski to their Xium line-up. The new ski is called the Xium Classic C2 NIS Rubber.

The "Rubber" is based on the Xium C2, but with a specially formulated mid-section on the sole. It's intended for use in difficult waxing conditions around the freezing point.

I haven't had a chance to work with these skis yet, but my assumption is that the base will be treated similarly to the other "zero" skis on the market.

The Xium Rubber was used by Jorgen Aukland to win the 2008 Vasaloppet in Sweden.

The Xium Rubber should be considered a "special conditions ski" rather than your "one and only" pair of classic skis. For tricky waxing situations with fresh and falling snow near 0C, it's a life-saver.

The C2 NIS Rubber is available in 198, 203, and 208cm lengths. The price at Ultratune is \$524. If you're interested in a pair, contact Ultratune as soon as possible. Availability will be limited, so don't wait.



Ski Prices for 2008/2009

Prices have increased for any product coming from Europe; by now this shouldn't come as a surprise. For the 2008/2009 season, the Nordic Ultratune price for Rossignol Xium and Madshus Nanosonic models is \$524. As in the past, the price includes flex selection, the base grind of your choice, and hotbox service.



*Yes, they can get a grind!
Ultratune does careful structuring on the tips and tails of Zero skis and pattern-base waxless classic skis.*

New Madshus Boot Design for 08/09

New Nano Classic Boot

For the new season, Madshus has an entirely new classic boot! The new classic boots, called the Nano Classic, has a soft upper made of waterproof and breathable “MemBrain®” material.

Madshus claims that the Nano classics are the lightest classic boot on the market.

The new boots were designed by Madshus/K2 in Seattle, and the design effort was led by Paul Bennet. Paul visited Ultratune a few times during the past winter and we had ample time to test the boots, and there were some animated discussions with friends, food, and drink... Paul is a very thorough and thoughtful footwear specialist, and he’s really proud of the new Nano boots.

I tested these boots in late winter, and I can tell you that they’re the most comfortable classic boot I’ve used. Of course, different foot shapes find comfort in different boots, but for me these are super. Being a soft boot, they don’t feel like they have as much support – the fit is like a running shoe – but if you’re a confident classic skier with good downhill skills and good ankles, then I think you’ll love them.

Skiers with “foot issues”, such as bunions, are finding the soft material to be a big comfort asset.

Madshus is offering it with a women’s last as well, and with pink accents on the women’s model that are a little bit less bold than last year’s model. They both look great. See the picture... If you have any questions about them, contact Nordic Ultratune. We’ll have them in stock in a full run of sizes in the men’s and women’s version.



The new Madshus Nano Classic boots, shown in the men’s and women’s version.



New Nano Skate Boot

I’d prefer to call the new Nano Skate boot “updated” rather than “all new”. The fit and feel of the Nano skate boot is similar to last season’s boot, except that the fore-foot is using the waterproof and breathable “MemBrain®” material, so the area around the toes feels more flexible, and to me more comfortable.

The support around the heel and ankle, though, still has the rock solid and snug feel of the Hyper skate boot.



The new Madshus Nano Skate boots, shown in the men’s and women’s version.

The styling has changes slightly, with more black and less color (red for the men’s boot; pink for the women’s boot).

In addition, the material that covers the lacing is a more flexible, stretchy, fabric and the zippers seem to require a bit less work to tug.

Pricing for Madshus Nano Boots

The price for the Nano classic boots, at Ultratune, is \$279. The Nano skate boots are \$369. These are absolutely “top drawer” boots, and offered at a price that should make other brands nervous. As noted, Ultratune will have both the Nano Skate and Classic boots in stock in all the sizes. Send email to: xcgrind@ultratune.net

NORDIC ULTRATUNE
ULTRATUNE.NET



Podium-Ready Skis at Ultratune



Ultratune will again offer flex fit, hand picked skis for the 2008/09 season. The price, including stone grind of your choice and hotbox service is \$524 for either the Madshus Nanosonic or Rossignol Xium models. If you'd like some, let me know! xcgrind@ultratune.net

The hand picked ski program works like this: You send me a note letting me know what you want; I'll need some size and weight info, along with information on preferences. Boot size helps, too. I'll pick skis for you, and then I'll contact you for grind info and payment. They'll be stone ground, hotboxed, bindings mounted, etc, and shipped to you.

Ultratune is reserving ski picks for the autumn 2008. If you'd like some, let us know! New skis will arrive in late September.

The Rossignol Xium skis remain unchanged for the 08-09 season, but with the addition of the Xium C2 Classic Rubber (see article!).

Madshus skis have changed their graphics, but the Nanosonic skis are otherwise the same.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
There's a review of the New Rossignol Xium Carbon and the Madshus Nanosonic Highspeed in the March 2007 edition of the Ultratune newsletter.



Some of the new 2009 Madshus skis



*Photo Credit: Ian Harvey
Congratulations to Karin Camenisch!
Winner of the 2008 Supertour Sprint Title*

Hotbox Services at Nordic Ultratune

I routinely get emails asking for clarification of our Hotbox services. Here's what we offer:

Hotbox Basic - In our basic Hotbox process, skis are waxed with a warm paraffin and placed in the Hotbox for 90 minutes for thorough wax penetration. At \$15 it's a bargain.

Hotbox Deluxe - With the Hotbox Deluxe process, the skis receive an antistatic treatment using a special process, followed by a warm paraffin, then Hotboxed for 3 hours, providing super-saturation. The Hotbox Deluxe is highly recommended for all stone-ground skis, especially if you plan to race very soon after receiving your skis from the grinder.



James Southam at the 2008 Canmore World Cup

Questions? Topics?

If you have any questions or topics that you'd like to see in the newsletter, let me know!
Send email to: xcgrind@ultratune.net

When to Stone Grind Skis

Skis are subject to damage every time you ski on them or wax them, or just leave them sitting around. Abrasive skiing conditions, heat from wax irons, and exposure to air all degrade your ski bases. The performance of your skis is greatly affected by the condition of the P-Tex and the surface condition of your skis.

If your skis have base damage, they can be improved with a fresh grind. Any of these symptoms can be remedied with a new base finish from Nordic Ultratune:

- *Surface scratches*
- *Over-heated, oxidized, dried out*
- *Skis won't hold wax*
- *No longer flat – convex or concave*
- *No structure remaining*
- *Skis just aren't fast as they used to be...*

In addition, you can choose the base structure that you need – whether it's an all-around structure for your one-and-only pair of skis, or a special purpose grind for specific snow conditions.



*Please clean your skis - don't send them looking like this!
John, are you listening?*

Why Grind New Skis?

The bases of new skis are better than they've ever been in the past. However, your new skis have probably been sitting in a warehouse for the better part of a year. Often new skis have dried-out, oxidized base material. **It's also common for new skis to have a relatively aggressive structure on the base which can be slow for all but wet or icy conditions.** Sometimes new skis have scratches and often brand-new skis aren't perfectly flat.

Naturally, skis intended for specific conditions will need to be structured for the best possible performance. Ultratune can help you choose the best base structures for your needs.

Odds & Ends

Autumn Trail Work

Each fall I get on the soap box and comment on the need for volunteers. It's that time again.

The cross country ski trails near you are in need of work. Fallen trees need to be cleared. Overhanging brush needs to be trimmed. Rocks in the trail need to be tossed aside.



Don't wait till the snow falls to clear the trails.

Check with your ski club and see how you can help. Often ski clubs will have trail parties so that you can work in a group with like-minded crazy skiers! It really can be a fun weekend, and you'll appreciate the well manicured trails in the winter.

Whether you live in Tower, Minnesota, or Burlington, Vermont, or Fairbanks, Alaska, or Mazama Washington, someone has to do it. We have to do it. Please help with your local trails.

Roller skiing

If you haven't been on roller skis yet this summer, now is a good time to start. There are, for most of us, still a couple months till the snow is on the

ground. Two months is plenty of time to get a real training benefit from roller skiing.

In the past five years, the predominance of chip-seal surfaces on back roads has become a problem for "regular" roller skis. Skate roller skiers have slowly turned toward larger 100mm wheels, and that size has more or less become the standard. The larger wheels roll over the rough surfaces – at least tolerably – and they have a good skate "feel". If you have chip-seal roads, and haven't tried the bigger wheels, you'll really appreciate the difference.

Ultratune is keeping a few pairs of the new V2 XL100R skate roller-skis with 100mm solid rubber wheels with composite shafts in stock if you need a pair. They're \$329. Send email to: xcgrind@ultratune.net

PRICE INCREASES???

Yes, you've noticed increases in prices for skis and boots.

So far, the prices have not been raised on grinding services or shipping. However, there may be small increases coming in October. You can save a few dollars by sending skis before prices go up.

Shipping costs, in particular, are killing me! I'll be examining the costs of shipping for the month of September, when the volume really begins spiking upward, and use that data as a benchmark for setting prices for the season.

TAZZARI STONE GRINDING

ULTRATUNE.NET



NORDIC ULTRATUNE

XC-SKI SERVICE & SUPPLIES

WINTHROP, WA

NORDIC ULTRATUNE

September 2008 WORK ORDER FORM & PRICE LIST

(Please attach one copy of this form to each pair of skis)

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Please: we must have a fully completed order form to begin work on your skis!
- A personal check or charge card info (Visa/Mastercard) must accompany your skis.
- Remove all wax from skis - there will be a \$5.00 surcharge for removing wax from skis.
- Tie skis together with rubber bands or tape - ski ties will not be returned.
- Fold this form and tape it to your skis. One work order form per pair.

SHIP SKIS TO:

**NORDIC
ULTRATUNE**
134 Riverside Ave
Winthrop, WA 98862

Grinds (all grinds include travel wax):

	Prices in US\$
LJ03 - general purpose "all around" grind; very good on classic skis	\$ 64.00
MVX - universal layered cross-structure for skate skis in "east slope" conditions	\$ 64.00
MVL - general purpose linear grind for classic skis in colder "east slope" conditions	\$ 64.00
615B - fine, layered, interference pattern for skate skis in colder conditions	\$ 76.00
XC01 - for extreme cold conditions; linear grind with a secondary polishing stage	\$ 76.00
XC02 - for cold & dry snow; linear grind with a secondary polishing stage	\$ 76.00
SLC02 - an excellent klister grind for classic skis; a 2-stage compound grind	\$ 76.00
R2.3, R3.3 - for coarse, transformed snow, high humidity - 3-stage compound grind	\$ 88.00

Waxing (add to the above price):

Hot Box Basic - paraffin wax with 90 minute hotbox soak	\$ 15.00
Hot Box Deluxe - anti-static treatment followed by paraffin wax & 3 hour hotbox soak	\$ 25.00

Additional Services (add to the above price):

Binding Installation (specify boot size _____)	\$ 12.00
Ultratune Flex Analysis	\$ 15.00
Rush order and overnight shipping (please call in advance)	\$ 35.00

Subtotal: \$ _____

Washington residents add 7.7% sales tax: \$ _____

Packaging, Shipping & Insurance: \$20.00 first pair, \$10.00 subsequent pairs \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

SHIPPING ADDRESS

SKI INFO

NAME			
ADDRESS			
APT / SUITE			
CITY			
STATE		ZIP	

BRAND			
LAST 4 DIGITS OF SERIAL NUMBER			
SKATE		CLASSIC	

SKIER INFO FOR FLEX ANALYSIS

SKIER HEIGHT		WEIGHT	
--------------	--	--------	--

NOTES

DATE			
------	--	--	--

CHARGE CARD PAYMENT INFORMATION

NAME ON CARD			
VISA / M.C.		EXP	
SIGNATURE			

