

# How to choose a Longboard?

*“Which longboard is right for me?”*

**8** Simple questions to help you make an educated choice!

Longboard Buyers Guide 2015



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**Cruising**



pintail bamboo cruiser

**Freestyle**



drop down drop through

**Length**



50"  
42"  
34"

Soft ←  
Low ←  
More ←

70A

# How to choose a Longboard?

The most common question people ask - "Which longboard would be right for me?" It is not that easy to answer as everybody is different and there are many exciting - completely different - things you can do with a board.

"Do you want to buy a complete longboard or the individual parts and assemble it yourself?" In both cases you need to understand what each part does so you can decide which complete board or what parts are the best for you. Many combinations are possible and you know best what you want to do with your board.

The following **8 questions** are a good starting point to pick your perfect board.

## 1. What are the parts of a longboard?

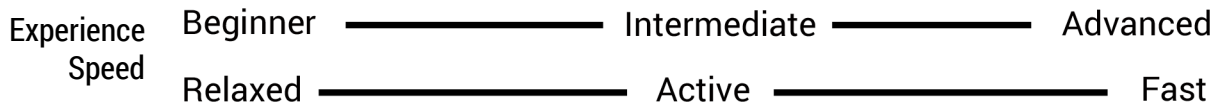
There are many variations in boards available, however they all have the same parts. Each part may have different characteristics, which makes a huge difference on how the board behaves and what you can do with it.



## 2. How am I going to ride my longboard (what is my style)?

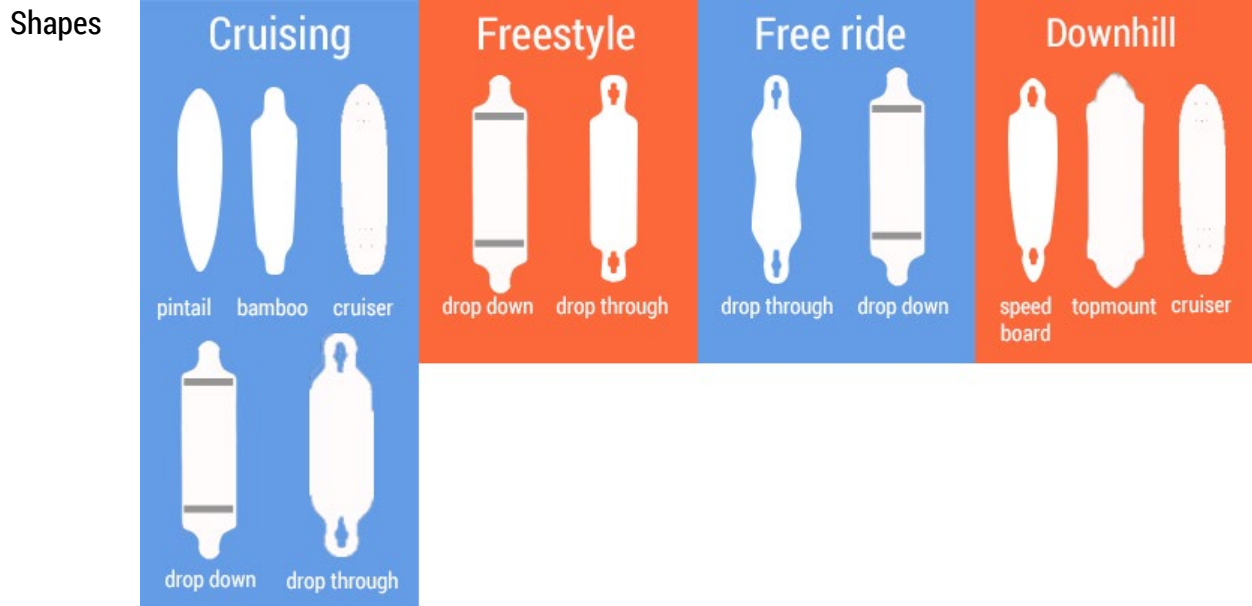
Many boards can be used for multiple activities, so pick your main purpose to get started.

Cruising	Freestyle	Free ride	Downhill
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- fun cruising around</li> <li>- transportation</li> <li>- gentle rides</li> <li>- get you from A to B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- doing tricks</li> <li>- old style skating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- riding on hills/streets</li> <li>- technical maneuver</li> <li>- carving downhill</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- fast downhill</li> <li>- racing</li> <li>- mostly strait</li> </ul>



### 3. Which longboard shape should I get?

Boards come in different shapes for every style. You will see some overlap. Personal choice is a large factor in this as many shapes are right. Here the most common shapes per style.



### 4. How FLEXible do I want my longboard to be?

The flex determines how shock absorbent the board is and influences the stability. Flex and speed don't go together. When you choose a style and shape it will come with a certain flex. Not every combination exists, however it is good to know what's out there.

Most boards have a flat deck, some have a bit of a camber (more for cruising) and some are more of a rocker (more appropriate for freeride and downhill).

	Cruising	Freestyle	Free ride	Downhill
Board Flex	<p><b>Soft</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- excellent shock absorbent</li> <li>- mellow cruising</li> </ul>	<p><b>Soft/Medium</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- good shock absorbent</li> <li>- some stability at speed</li> <li>- spring like feel</li> </ul>	<p><b>Medium/Stiff</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- some stability</li> <li>- most stable at moderate speed</li> </ul>	<p><b>Stiff</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- most stable at moderate speed</li> <li>- enhanced board feel</li> </ul>
Profiles	<p><b>Camber</b></p>	<p><b>Flat</b></p>	<p><b>Rocker</b></p>	<p><b>Rocker</b></p>

## 5. Should my longboards have a kicktail?

The kicktail makes it easier to do turns and tricks.

For many riding styles and shapes you can find a board with or without a kicktail.



- maximize wheelbase
- more stable
- beginners
- intermediates



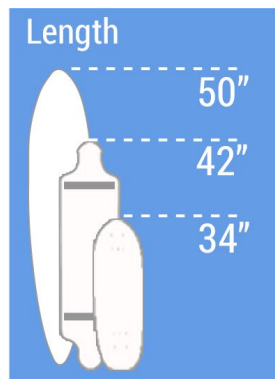
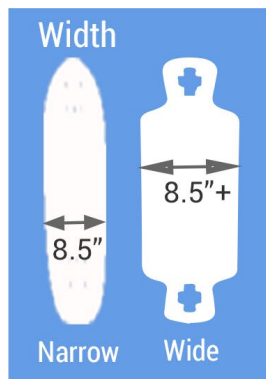
- quick turns
- do tricks
- more fun
- beginners to advanced

## 6. What size longboard should I buy?

Width is more important than length as it determines how much space your feet have to stand on. You feet will stand almost perpendicular to the boards, so pick one that's about your shoe size. Most decks are between 7"-10" wide.

Longer length gives you more stability during your ride.

Board size



- Long** - for longer/faster relaxed rides  
- taller people
- Midsized** - just right for all riding types  
- most cruising boards
- Short** - young riders  
- small riders

## 7. Which longboard trucks are the best for my board?

The trucks connects your wheels to your board. They are typically available in 2 hanger sizes: 150 mm and 180 mm of which the 180 mm is most common for longboards. The axel size should be about the same as the width of your board.

**Small trucks - 150 mm**

- boards less than 8.5"
- narrow decks
- smaller cruisers

**Wide trucks - 180 mm**

- decks wider than 8.5"



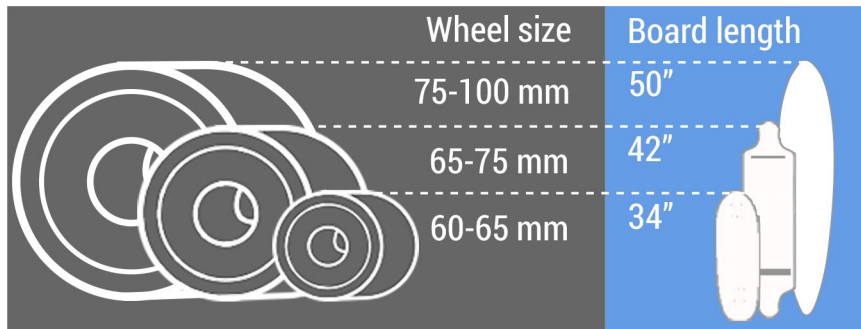
Some truck sizes and matching boards:

hanger	axel	board width
130 mm	195 mm (7.6")	7.0" - 8.0"
150 mm	220 mm (8.6")	7.5" - 8.5"
180 mm	250 mm (9.8")	8.5" - 10"
195 mm	265 mm (10.4")	10"+

## 8. Which wheels should I get for my longboard?

Smaller wheels go with shorter boards. Bigger wheels are more suitable for higher speeds, however they accelerate slower. The most common longboard wheel sizes are 65 mm and 75 mm.

Wheel size



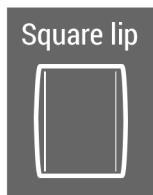
**Durometer** The durometer indicates the hardness / softness of the wheels. Softer wheels are more shock absorbent and provide a smoother ride for your board, where as harder wheels are a bit more bumpy. Harder wheels are better for speed. Rating is indicated by an "A" . The lower the number the softer the wheels are. Most common cruising wheels are 78A durometer, for freestyle and free ride it's 86A.



**Wheel Shape** There are 2 main wheel shapes: square lip and round lip. The square lip is most common on longboards.



- sliding
- quicker response
- predictable slide



- cruising
- more grip
- more straight riding

## Now choose **YOUR** perfect longboard - and enjoy!

You now know about the major longboard parts, shapes, sizes, flex, kicktail, wheel size, wheel shape and wheel durometers. Also their impact on how your board behaves and what you can do should be clear.

Everybody is different and most longboards will be great to ride on whatever you specifically want to do. It's time to select your longboard.

*Go outside, go shred and have some fun!*

p.s. check out the beginners section: <http://longboardsusa.com/beginners/>  
 If you have question contact us at: [info@longboardsusa.com](mailto:info@longboardsusa.com).