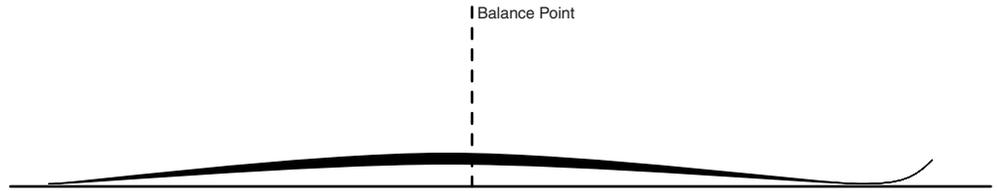


Classic Ski Pressure Distribution & Wax Pocket

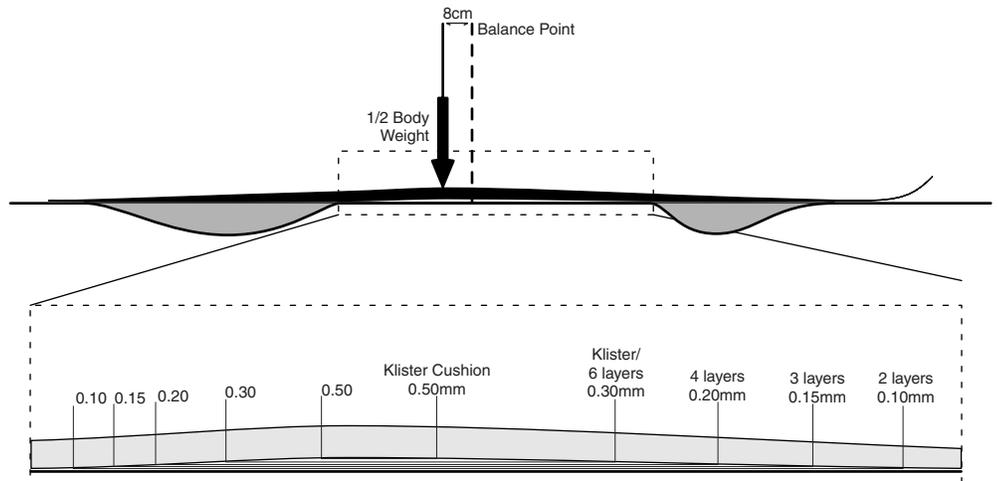
An unweighted ski stands on its tip and tail. The resulting "resting camber" can be quite high or quite low. This has very little to do with the performance of the ski though it may suggest a more or less "lively" feel.



With half the body weight applied about 8 cm behind the balance point (through the ball of the foot, simulating a forward position) the wax pocket is defined by the residual camber of the ski.

At this stage the height of the pocket can be measured and marked. This provides valuable information for tuning a kick wax application to the shape of the pocket.

For hard wax I generally look for a pocket between 0.3 and 0.7mm high. I recommend waxing from the 0.2mm mark at the back of the pocket, forward to the 0.1mm mark at the front of the pocket. If the marks at the front of the pocket are clustered close together it suggests that the pocket ends quickly with very little taper and it's probably not necessary to taper the thickness of the wax application. If the marks are far apart, it may be a good idea to add additional layers under the 0.2 and 0.3mm zones while keeping the wax thin where the pocket is thin. Many people have very good luck simply waxing by the numbers, exactly as they appear on the ski after marking.

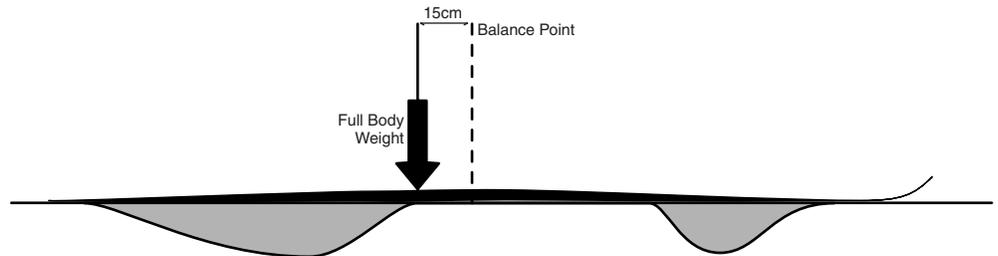


A standard thin layer of hard wax is about 0.05mm thick.

For Klister I recommend waxing the 0.3mm pocket with a thin layer and I mark the 0.5mm pocket as a cushion zone where additional thickness can be applied as necessary. Ideally a specific Klister ski will have a camber height of over 0.75mm

With full body weight applied 15cm behind the balance point (simulating a balanced, neutral gliding position) the forward part of the pocket should remain open. The height of the pocket will generally be much diminished and the pocket will close further forward under the foot.

If the forward margin of the pocket opens up significantly beyond the 0.1 mark it suggests that the ski is well suited to soft snow and to lengthened wax applications forward of the half-weight pocket. If the pocket is closed significantly behind the 0.1mm mark it suggests that the ski may require some shortening of the zone for optimal speed.



With full body weight applied in a forward position the pocket should close completely and should bear a good margin of the force of the body weight. It is important to note that a good classic ski will have very different characteristics depending on whether it is weighted in a forward (pocket closed) or neutral (pocket open) position.

It is not uncommon for there to be a short zone of residual camber open in the pocket even with full weight applied in a forward position. Some skis are designed this way and some skiers actually prefer this. In general it is not desirable. The exceptions are specific "hard track" skis or klister skis. Also, Fischer's 812 construction skis usually have this residual camber (it's built in as a design feature to optimize the speed of the ski). I mark this zone as an appropriate place to start waxing with a slightly softer cushion layer on days when kick is questionable.

