

Purchasing Skates

Purchasing Skates? - Choosing the right figure skates depends on your skill level, goals, and budget. Talk with coaches, but here's a guide to help you select the perfect pair:

Determine Your Skating Level

- **Beginner** (Learn to Skate or Basic Skills):
 - Look for skates with good ankle support and a soft, comfortable boot.
 - Blades should come pre-attached and have a moderate toe pick for basic skills.
 - **Brands to Consider:** Riedell (models like 14 Pearl or 18 Sparkle), Jackson Ultima (SoftSkate series), or EDEA Tempo.
- **Intermediate** (Freestyle, Spins, and Small Jumps):
 - Choose skates with more rigidity and support to handle jumps and spins.
 - Consider boots with a leather or synthetic upper and a quality blade.
 - **Brands to Consider:** Jackson Mystique or Jackson Elle, Riedell 229 Edge, EDEA Overture.
- **Advanced** (Double/Triple Jumps and Competitive Skating):
 - High-performance skates with rigid boots for maximum support.
 - Separate purchase of boots and blades is common at this level.
 - **Brands to Consider:** Jackson Competitor, Riedell 435 Bronze Star, EDEA Chorus or Piano

Boot Material:

- Leather boots provide flexibility and a snug fit but require break-in time.
- Synthetic boots are lighter and more durable but may not mold as well to your feet.

Ankle Support:

- Beginners need soft, padded support.
- Advanced skaters require stiff boots to protect against strain from jumps and landings.

Blade Quality:

- Beginners can use skates with pre-attached blades.
- Intermediate and advanced skaters may want high-quality blades (e.g., MK or Wilson).

Toe Pick:

- For beginners, a smaller toe pick is ideal to prevent tripping.
- Advanced skaters need larger, sharper toe picks for jumps and spins.

Fit:

- Proper fit is critical. The skate should feel snug but not tight. There should be no movement of your heel inside the boot.

Budget Considerations

- **Entry-Level:** \$100–\$150. Ideal for beginners or recreational skaters.
- **Intermediate:** \$200–\$400. Good for skaters progressing to jumps and spins.
- **Advanced:** \$500–\$1,200+. Custom boots and blades are common at this level.