

Tom's Musings — An Example of the Process

While running skis over this new Wintersteiger stonegrinder, the mind always gets busy with grind thoughts and things that slide. Always thinking about a new grind idea and crunching variables. Shape . . . depth . . . natural snow . . . man-made . . . cold . . . dry . . . relative humidity . . . dirty . . . old . . . skied in . . . freshly fallen . . . Dec . . . Jan . . . Feb . . . Mar . . . sunny . . . cloudy . . . snowballs . . . snowmen . . . squeaky . . . nostrils stick together . . . wind . . . sugary . . . ice . . . trees . . . pollen . . . city . . . woods . . . rural . . . flex . . . hinge . . . tail . . . on and on . . . etc, etc, etc, etc . . . and always writing stuff down. My desk is a mess. Eventually a viable idea comes along. I grab a junk ski. Punch in some numbers/parameters. Run the structure preview. Run the ski. Look and feel with the eye and fingernail, and find the right light angle with the loupe.

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Last winter I sent a bunch of newly ground test skis with the guys to West Yellowstone, JNQs in Houghton, Telemark, Wausau and Theodore Wirth, and all of the usual Midwest master races—City of Lakes, Mora Vasaloppet, Noque, Birkie, Finlandia, Bear Chase.

Blind testing provided some unexpected interesting results.

I have a new true “uni”—“CU1 42.”

Come on in and I'll show you.

— Tom Novak, Head Stonegrinder at Finn Sisu