

## Zoe's guide to buying new skates and parts.

So you've made the decision to buy a pair of artistic skates – good choice, you won't regret it! This guide will take you through the process.

### 1. Look in the right place.

- On Facebook type in "Artistic Roller Skaters Union" into the search bar. You will need to confirm how you are related to skating before being accepted as a member of the group. Say you are a member of CARSC and you will be accepted. This is just to prevent "trolls" on the page. This page regularly has second hand pairs of skates listed from reliable sellers.
- On Facebook search for "Skate Solutions" – previously known as J&P sports. They have multiple items of stock for good prices.
- Skatermate - <https://www.iceandrollerskates.com/> - they also have a great source of multiple items of stock.
- Speak to Zoe. If you are completely stuck, Zoe is happy to order skates and other parts for you.



### 2. Know what you want and need.

As skaters progress, they will require better "tools for the job" – imagine a Peugeot 206 trying to overtake a Lamborghini – regardless of the driver's skill, they won't be able to beat the Peugeot. This is the same with skaters and skates. We regularly see skaters in skates that won't let them do what they need to do, and these are often those that are purchased from sports shops. When skaters are still at a novice level they will usually only require a standard artistic set up with a universal boot, plate and wheels. The first thing skaters usually require is a pair of dance wheels. Eventually skaters will require individual boots for each discipline if they wish to progress further, however this can be costly. For this reason, we recommend purchasing wheels for each discipline first. The separate boots and plates can be purchased in the months to years to come. The following guide includes information on the individual plates, boots and wheels.

Aim to purchase a ready-made full set of boots, as this will work out more cost effective. However, if you wish to purchase a new, full set up, you will require the following:

- **The correct plate.** There are multiple plates available, but for beginners, the following are suitable:

- Roll-line Mirage. Made of reinforced fibreglass, they are affordable and good for beginners.



- Roll-line Variant. The plate most skaters will start off with. They usually cost approx £100 new. This plate will last skaters a long time throughout their skating career.



- Roll-line Mistral. This is a great plate which gives precise control over edges and is used by skaters for both dance and free. It is a good plate for skaters progressing onto doubles. If you can get a set-up with this plate for a reasonable price, go for it! These are usually around the £250 mark when sold individually brand new.



- Roll-line Dance. This is a plate designed for advanced dance. It offers brilliant control over edges, more so than the Mistral. I use it and swear by it! It is usually £300 brand new, but don't worry, you don't need to worry about buying this until at an advanced level of dance. Having said this – as with the Mistral, if you can get a set up for a reasonable price, definitely go for it.



Old plates you may come across:

- Star
- Atlas

➤ **The correct boot.** The two standard brands you will encounter are Risport and Edea. Note boots are available in black for male skaters too.

- Edea Classica/Ritmo/Rondo. These are all standard boots costing around £150-£250 new. These are suitable for beginner to intermediate level skaters.



- Edea Fly. This is an advanced boot, usually costing around £350 new. However, it is a great boot for the improving skater, especially starting doubles. The Edea Fly and Mistral plate is a great combination for free skaters. It is a lightweight, breathable and solid boot.



- Edea Flamenco. This is also an advanced boot, usually costing around £300 new. It is a dance boot with a low back, making it advantageous for dance. It is also lightweight and breathable, similar to the Edea Fly. The Edea Flamenco and the Roll-line Mistral or Dance plate are a great combination for dance skaters.



- Risport Venus/Antares. A good boot for beginner to intermediate level skaters. They usually cost around £100-£120.



- Risport Ambra. This is a good boot for the intermediate skater, and can be used for both dance and free. Its characteristic cut out heel and pearlescent design makes for an attractive looking boot. It costs around £200 new. Chris uses this boot in black.



- Risport Diamante. This is an advanced boot for use in dance. They usually cost around £300 new. I use this boot and love it! It is great in combination with the Roll-line Mistral or Roll-line Dance plate.



Other boots you may come across:

- Edea Jazz
- Edea Suono
- Risport Giada
- Risport Turchese

Other brands you may come across:

- Belati – these are an old brand which Rachel still uses! However, although they are still in production, they are not usually the brand of choice, with Risport and Edea ranking the more superior brands.

- Riedell – again, these are an old brand which aren't often used anymore. However, they are still a great boot if you can find an old pair.

### Skate language

The sizes for skates are as shown below:



## SIZE MATCHING CHART

26/06/02

CM	185	190	195	200	205	210	215	220	225	230	235	240	245	250	255	260	265	270	275	280	285	290	295	300	305	310
FRA	27	28	29	30	31		32	33	34		35	36	37		38	39	40		41	42		43	44	45	46	47
ENG				12	12,5	13	13,5	1	1,5	2	2,5	3-3,5	4	4,5	5	5,5	6,5	7	7,5	8	8,5	9	9,5-10	10,5	11,5	12
AMM				13	13,5	1	1,52	2	2,5	3	3,5	4-4,5	5	5,5	6	6,5-7	7,5	8	8,5	9	9,5	10	10,5-11	11,5	12,5	13
AML				13,5	1	1,5	2	2,5	3	3,5	4	4,5-5	5,5	6	6,5	7-7,5	8	8,5	9	9,5	10	10,5	11-11,5	12	13	13,5



### FOOT COMPARISON SIZING CHART/TABELLA DI CONVERSIONE TAGLIE PIEDE

Mondopoint sizes	170	175	180	185	190	195	200	205	210	215	220	225	230	235	240	245	250	255	260	265	270	275	280	285	290	295	300	305
French-EU sizes	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	31,5	32	33	34	34,5	35	36	37	37,5	38	39	40	40,5	41	42	42,5	43	44	45	46
USA MAN							13	13,5	1,5	2	2,5	3	3,5	4-4,5	5	5,5	6	6,5-7	7,5	8	8,5	9	9,5	10	10,5-11	11,5	12	12,5
USA LADY *	8	9	10	11	12	13	13,5	1	2	2,5	3	3,5	4	4,5-5	5,5	6	6,5	7-7,5	8	8,5	9	9,5	10	10,5	11-11,5	12	12,5	13
UK *	7	8	8,5	9,5	10	11	12	12,5	13	13,5	1	1,5	2	2,5	3-3,5	4	4,5	5	5,5	6,5	7	7,5	8	8,5	9	9,5-10	10,5	11,5

\* Junior range

The below chart shows the size of plate needed for specific boots. You will only need to know this if you decide to purchase boots and plates separately.



### SUGGESTED COMPARISON CHART FOR MOUNTING OPERATION OF EDEA BOOTS AND ROLL-LINE PLATES

**Chart for Roll Line Variant / Mariner Cup / Mistral / Saturno / Spin / Dance**

PLATES SIZES	90		100				110		120		130		140		150		160		170	180		190		200		
BOOTS SIZES	27	28	29	30	31	31½	32	33	34	34½	35	36	37	37½	38	39	40	40½	41	42	42½	43	44	45	46	47
	185	190	195	200	205	210	215	220	225	230	235	240	245	250	255	260	265	270	275	280	285	290	295	300	305	310

**Chart for Roll Line Giotto / Energy Steel / Energy / Matrix Steel / Matrix / Evo**

PLATES SIZES	130	135	140		145	150	155	160	165	170	175	180	190		200	
BOOTS SIZES	35	36	37	37½	38	39	40	40½	41	42	42½	43	44	45	46	47
	235	240	245	250	255	260	265	270	275	280	285	290	295	300	305	310

**Chart for Roll line Mirage II**

PLATES SIZES	100		110		120			130			140	150		160		170		
BOOTS SIZES	31	31½	32	33	34	34½	35	36	37	37½	38	39	40	40½	41	42	42½	43
	205	210	215	220	225	230	235	240	245	250	255	260	265	270	275	280	285	290

**INTERNATIONAL SIZES COMPARISON CHART**

FRA	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		32	33	34		35	36	37		38	39	40		41	42		43	44	45	46	47	
CMG							200	205		210	215	220	225	230	235	240	245	250	255	260	265	270	275	280	285	290	295	300	305	310
ENG	7	8	8½	9½	10	11	12	12½	13	13½	1	1½	2	2½	3-3½	4	4½	5	5½	6½	7	7½	8	8½	9	9½	10	10½	11½	12
AMM							13	13½	1	1½	2	2½	3	3½	4-4½	5	5½	6	6½	7	7½	8	8½	9	9½	10	10½	11	11½	12
AML	8	9	10	11	12	13	13½	1	1½	2	2½	3	3½	4	4½-5	5½	6	6½	7-7½	8	8½	9	9½	10	10½	11-11½	12	13	13½	

- **The correct wheels.** Often what people find the most complicated, there are multiple choices for wheels, depending on whether they are being used for figures, free and dance. Note that when buying wheels new, bearings must also be purchased, these usually cost around £22. A standard set of bearings is usually supplied - NMB 7mm. If a skater particularly requires extra help with producing speed, ABEC 9 bearings can be purchased which usually cost around £40.

**Figure wheels**

- Roll-line Giotto. The larger wheels – 60mm are used for figures. The cream 54D and blue 47D are both good sets of wheels which are great for performing smooth turns on the figures. The blue wheels are grippy and the cream have more slip. Some skaters find the combination of the two wheels effective, however from personal experience the cream 54D are a good universal wheel for all floors.



### **Free wheels**

- Roll-line Devil 39D – green wheels. These are a great universal wheel which are usually suggested to skaters at CARSC to purchase for free. Many of our skaters use these and are able to spin well on them with enough grip.
- Roll-line Giotto - 49 grey and 47 blue. These are also a good free wheel. Some skaters prefer these wheels although from experience they can wear out quicker than standard free wheels – especially the blue wheels as they are so soft. The grey wheels are more slippery and the blue wheels are grippier. Skaters may occasionally mix the two wheels together to get a mix of slip for spinning and grip at the same time.
- Roll-line Fluido – 45 pink and 47 blue. These are often used in combination. Although I have never used these before, Retroskate club use these as their standard set up and seem suitable for most floors.

Other free wheels you may come across:

- Roll-line Magnum
- Roll-line Rapido
- Panthers
- Komplex
- Mustangs

### **Dance wheels**

- Roll-line Formula 88A. These usually cost in the region of £60 but are worth the money. They last a long time and are great for producing speed and grip on deep edges. They are a great universal wheel for use on all floors. I use these wheels and would recommend these to all skaters for dance.



- Roll –line ICE, graded for slippery to rough floors in ascending order, from 88A being for slippery floor, to 97A for hard floors. The formula 88A and ICE 88A are very similar. They cost around £65 new.



### ➤ Toe stops

Toe stops are usually taken out for figures, this is because when doing backwards figures they can sometimes get in the way. Also, use of the toe stop makes for heavy deductions of points so not having a toe stop reduces this risk.

A variety of toe stops can be purchased in many different colours. At CARSC we recommend the amber toe stops due to the amount of bounce they have. They cost around £15 new.



Other toe stops available are:

- Pale blue
- Dark blue
- Pink
- Red
- White
- Grey



Some skaters prefer to take their toe stops out for dance. This is also due to the same reasons as for figures.

There are specific plates for figures which do not have a space for a toe stop. If a plate with a space for a toe stop is used, a plug may be used to cover the whole to prevent dust entering etc.



### 3. To buy new or second hand?

On the Artistic Roller Skaters Union, Skate Solutions, Skatermate - in the second- hand section, and at competitions you will usually be able to buy full sets of skates. There is also the option to hire skates on a long-term basis from Skatermate. Usually full sets will work out cheaper than buying a whole new set. If skaters are growing then it is usually recommended to buy a second-hand pair which is cheaper. However, by keeping skates in good condition by always wearing boot-covers – sometimes two

pairs to be safe – skates will also have a good re-sale value so this can be encouraging if wanting to buy a more expensive set-up. Also, CARSC will often buy skates second-hand if we have skaters lined up who require skates. If in doubt ask Zoe or Rachel who should be able to guide you as necessary.

### **In summary.....**

#### **Key points:**

- At CARSC we recommend artistic skates from grade 3 and above, however we are often able to provide second-hand skates to hire during grades sessions, so purchasing is not immediately necessary.
- Always try and find second-hand skates first as you will often be able to find a great value for money.
- We will let skaters and parents know when we feel that they need to purchase a full set of skates for a discipline, for example dance or figure boots. Until that point, changing wheels is suffice.
- If you are unsure, always check with Zoe prior to purchasing skates or extra parts.

### **Standard characteristics of discipline-specific set-ups:**

#### Figures

- Usually a stiff boot with good ankle support
- Usually more solid actions - more difficult to make edges preventing wobbling off line
- No toe stops
- Wheels more slippery to allow for variety of turns

#### Loops

- Similar to above, but with very loose actions - easy to make edges
- May be a less stiff boot

#### Free

- Boot not as stiff as for figures
- Actions can be variable depending on choice of skater
- Toe stops are required
- Wheels fairly slippery to allow for spins



Dance

- Can be a softer boot
- Actions can be loose
- Toe stops are optional
- Wheels should have grip to allow for control over edges and speed across the floor



**Happy shopping!**