

steeze & bling

SO WHAT'S HOT AND WHAT'S NOT FOR THE 2007-08 SEASON?
DONNIE MCLEOD AND EMMA MORRIS CLARIFY THINGS FOR US...

Bling (often called 'Bling-Bling') refers to the products and materials that adorn you. I'm afraid that your silver studded belt from 2004 just isn't going out this season! Your new Idiom jacket, that Sweet trooper cut lid with integrated Skull Candy headphones and Gold Adidas Yodai goggles all will.

Yet all the diamond-plated, titanium-riveted, carbon fibre clad kit WILL NOT provide you with... 'STEEZE'. This, my friends, cannot be bought in a shop, strapped into or zipped up. Steeze or stylee (the extra 'e' is for the uber cool only) is something you must learn. Nor is it easily copied. It must be home grown and reflect the mastery of your riding. Gone are the days when a hucked f/s 720 melon would bring home the bacon. These days it's about stalling your air time with impossibly tweaked grabs that seek to express the individual's passion for the sport rather than simply out manoeuvre the next rider in the park. It is from this passion and mastery that the so-called Steeze is born.

Tribe does its best to avoid focusing on one discipline more than the other, but in this issue we are unashamedly talking snowboarding.

As everyone has different needs and wants, be it all mountain, freestyle, freeride, progressive or jib or all of the above, this section could be as long as the whole of Tribe itself. So we've pulled out some Bling from this season's snowboarding kit bag that we like and know a wee bit about from first hand experience.

Boards and bindings...

* The **Ride Decade** has been around for a few seasons now and has always been a great all mountain board but this year it has outdone itself! Usable technology with minimal jargon, except those useful urethane sidewalls (the same stuff that skateboard wheels are made of) and lots of core

'pop', make this Ride a treat. The weight range is from 45-100 kilos and comes in loads of different lengths, 151, 156, 160, 164, w158, w162, w165. Yep, those W's stand for wide, for you boys with bigger...feet. A strong board with a decent effective edge length, yet suitable lively sidecut means in the right hands this is a serious weapon all over the hill. Even more so when you consider it's priced at just £300.

* The **Ride DH** has also been signalled as one of the top buys for this season, for park rats and yo-boy jibbers, who want to stand out from the crowd. With a strong buttery flex the DH is equipped with 'Slimewall' sidewalls that reduce vibration and edge damage when hitting big rails. The difference is noticeable and makes first contact with the rail feel more stable (more so than certain other [triple] base technologies around!). Dope graphics and a steal at £340 you can buy this puppy in 151, 155, 157 and 159, and for big foots you can hook up with the DH's big bro, the Dose (with a 262mm waist!)

* For ladies the **Salomon Ivy**'s looking pretty hot and as Ivy Taylor's part of the British Olympic Snowboard team we think it's an aptly named deck with lots of life, a bit like the girl herself! Available in 143, 146, 149, 152 and 156 this all mountain/freestyle board is ready for the halfpipe or the backcountry, built with Salomon's ERA technology (designed to improve torsional flex) it's soft enough for cruising speeds but reactive and responsive when you want to pick up the pace or the attitude.

* As far as the girlies are concerned look no further than the **Rossignol Diva**. Like your typical Diva they scream 'look at me' and in all honesty the view is worth boasting about! These are light and compact with a super adjustable heel cup that also has good heel edge clearance i.e. no dragging. The straps are just as adjustable and really well ►

Left: Ride DH Board; Right: Salomon Ivy



Rossignol Diva

SALOMON IVY... SOFT ENOUGH FOR CRUISING SPEEDS BUT REACTIVE AND RESPONSIVE WHEN YOU WANT TO PICK UP THE PACE OR THE ATTITUDE

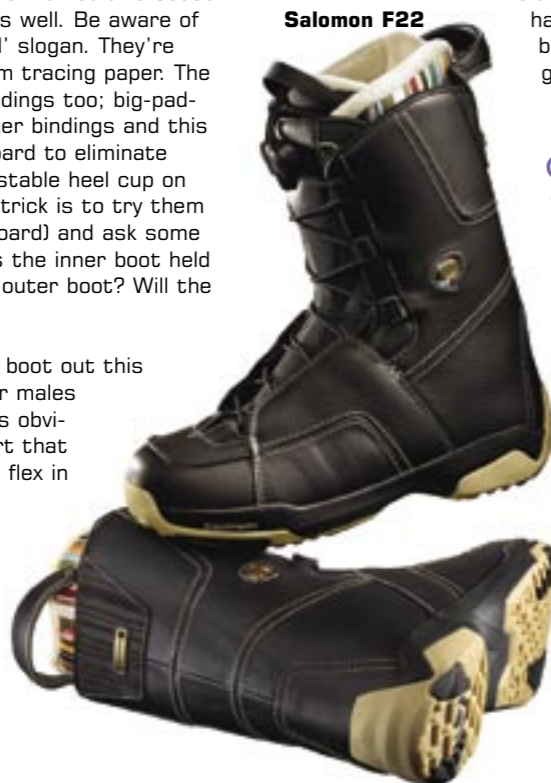
moulded, so don't go worrying about your titchy feet moving around in there. Oh and did we mention how great they look? They look RAD by the way!

* If you want to add a super lightweight, uber cool and beautifully manufactured binding to your deck then check out the **Burton Triad**. It's made from Italian leather...according to Burton, the Triad is living proof that insane comfort and powerful precision can co-exist. They adjust in all the right places and offer one of the best high backs on the market (although they do soften up). Moving up in the style stakes costs a bit more wonga, but not as much as some...cough...C60!! Coming in at £180 they're enough.

Boots...

When it comes to boots it's really every man for himself, there are some awesome boots on the market this season but there are some shockers as well. Be aware of the 'lightest boots in the world' slogan. They're light because they're made from tracing paper. The boots have an effect on the bindings too; big-padded boots (like Vans) mean bigger bindings and this may even mean a wider snowboard to eliminate heel/toe drag (although an adjustable heel cup on your binding will help this). The trick is to try them all on (with your bindings and board) and ask some questions. Will they pad out? Is the inner boot held down by laces attached to the outer boot? Will the boot soften over time?

* Salomon have got a great boot out this year - the **F22** is made for males and females (in different colours obviously) with great lateral support that manages not to block a natural flex in the ankles. Their anti-heel lift shape does a great job too and combined with Salomon's self fit make it as comfortable as it is responsive. Be careful with the laces though as they will twist and fray if you abuse them. Sizes start at a size 4 and



Salomon F22

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go up to 13 (ouch!), it's a low volume boot for good riders that want high-level performance at a decent price of £170.

* As for an all out bloke boot, we like the **Burton Ion**. This is an advanced snowboard boot and one that should only be bought by good riders with a strong leg. It's a stiff boot but moulds well under pressure. The inner is the most well thought out system on the market and the lacing is just plain lazy easy! It's not got a 6 inch sole either so you can actually feel what's happening under foot. At 230 though you better be worth it! For extra Bling points, get them in gold and white.

Clothing...

The technicalities of clothing are best left to the manufacturers, as long as it keeps us dry, snug and looking good we're happy, but then maybe we're easily pleased. Make sure you check breathing ability and waterproofing figures though. You'll want to adjust these numbers depending on what time of year you ride. 20,000mm water proofing in a jacket on a sunny park day in April is no fun, trust me.

* For the ladies we like the **Bonfire Endless jacket** in punchy poppy, with a vintage twist and awesome features. It has a breathable shell construction and some big vents for when you turn up the heat (with all that Steeze!). It's got plenty of fastenings, which could prove irritating if you were in a hurry to get your kit off!! ►



IT HAS A BREATHABLE SHELL CONSTRUCTION FOR WHEN YOU TURN UP THE HEAT

Bonfire Endless Jacket

* The **Bonfire Balance pants** for the guys are described by saying, 'lose particles of dirt forever in the sneaky shape shifting echo camouflage' which we think is brilliant! Surely that's every man's dream? Not only is the colour sweet, they're also proofed against ever having to wash them! Always check for vents in pants and make sure they have inner mesh to stop them filling up with the pow pow. Critically taped seams are also the way forward.

* Accessory wise, eyewear's going big. We love the **Von Zipper goggles**; **Sizzle Sand Weft** for £85 in bronze and chrome or the **Feenom** in Red for £100. **Bolle Scream goggles** are £90 and allow awesome viz, on trend in metallic blue. Make sure they manufacture replacement lenses and think about buying some for different light conditions. Oakley doesn't make great frames but when you can, take a look through their high intensity yellow lenses. Flat light becomes a distant problem.

If you need some advice don't hesitate to drop us a line as we know someone who has had it or got it and we'll give it to you straight! Now go get your Bling on you Steezey son of a...[t](#)

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