

# ...service your board

WANT YOUR NEW BOARD OR SKIS TO LAST THE SEASON?

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PAR EXCELLENCE AT BARGAINBOARDS.CO.UK,  
DOLES OUT THE ESSENTIAL TECH TIPS

**Y**our season is in full swing – the mountains are drenched with powder, you’re throwing down 5s, everyone has a grin from ear to ear and you’re waking up with that stale taste of booze in your mouth every morning. The only downside is that your once-pristine board or skis have taken a pounding and rather than slicing the snow like the proverbial knife through butter, it’s more like trying to get a comb through Winehouse’s beehive. Avoid that by carrying out these handy steps from BargainBoards.co.uk before, after and during your season, and not only will your kit last six months of jibs, drops and chutes no worries, you’ll save a fair wedge on shop fees too.

## Step one: Edges

Whip out your board or skis and plonk them face down on the corner of your best antique oak coffee table, light some scented candles and pop on Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony. Start by checking your edges for burrs and dings. You should be able to feel any rough spots by running your finger up and down the rail. Next, grab your pocket stone and run it from tip to tail until the edge is nice and smooth – this’ll make tuning your edge a lot easier.

To tune, you’ll need a file and a file guide. The handy little file guide holds your file at the specific angles needed for skiing or snowboarding, namely 88° or 90° (see the picture above right). As a general rule, use the 90° guide for those oh-too-rare powder days and the 88° guide for hard-packed conditions or racing. With long smooth strokes, file the edge and overlap each section to maintain a uniform line from tip to tail. If you’re unsure how much edge to remove, a good tip is to line the side edge with a marker pen then file until the ink is gone from the base. As you go along, wipe away the little shards of metal from your base to stop them being ground into your board. Finish your edge by gently



File guide and file will give good edge

polishing it with your pocket stone – this’ll remove any little burrs the filing might have caused.

## Step two: P-Tex

Torn through the base of your board or skis so the inners are spilling out à la *Alien*? When those cheeky spring rocks or angry jibs attack your base, it’s time to get the P-Tex out.

Using a Stanley knife, cut off all the protruding bits of base (see picture two above right) then clean and smooth the area with sandpaper. Now you’re ready for the P-Tex. Light the stick of P-Tex so it burns by itself then let the liquid drip into the abscess (above right), overfilling it slightly, then let your board or skis sit and cool. To

### IN YOUR TOOL BOX

- Pocket stone
- File
- File guide
- Wax
- Iron
- Finishing brush
- P-Tex stick
- Lighter or turbo flame
- Plastic scraper
- Sandpaper
- Stanley knife

BargainBoards.co.uk sells

the Demon Mechanic  
Tuning Kit for £39.99

which has everything you’ll need, bar  
the iron and wax.



# or skis



**2** Cut off the rough innards with a Stanley knife




**Burn P-Tex burn, and drip into holes**

finish, remove the excess P-Tex with the scraper and sandpaper, so it's flush with the base of the board or skis.

## Step three: Waxing

Whatever some people may say, waxing is an integral part of skiing and snowboarding. You'll notice the difference as soon as you're on a long cat track, plus it prolongs the life of your board or skis – a waxed base is more resistant to minor damage. Grab your mum's finest iron (what's a few wax marks on her best dress eh?), or pick up a nice little compact one from our shop. Run the warm iron all over the base as this will help it absorb the wax – the silk setting is best. Hold the wax block to the warm iron so it starts

to melt and quickly let it drip onto the base until you have a good even amount all over. Smooth the wax out with your iron and spread it evenly, taking care to get right up to the edges. Leave it to cool – this allows the base to absorb as much wax as it needs. Then simply scrape off the excess wax with your plastic scraper, taking good care of the antique table, and finish by dragging a finishing brush from nose to tail.

And you're all set! This should take no longer than half an hour, and it's a lot cheaper than having a shop do it during the season. All the equipment you'll need can be bought from [www.BargainBoards.co.uk](http://www.BargainBoards.co.uk), who'll even deliver it to you in resort. Now turn off the Beethoven and go ride. 



**3** Iron out the creases in your board and smooth out the wax

