

# Snyder Skate Co.

## Complete product manual

### Introduction

Sooner or later, every serious skater discovers Snyder Skates. For some it happens when they first hear the name "Snyder" mentioned with a certain reverence in conversation, others hear the name for the first time when they ask the best skater in their rink what kind of skate he or she uses. No matter how you first hear of "Snyder," You hear the name again and again, and each time you hear the name you learn more about Snyder Skates, and the reason why Snyder Skates really are "The Choice of Champions." While Snyder Skates are legendary for their durability, their precise control, and the number of champions that have skated successfully on them, most skate enthusiasts know very little about the technology of the skates themselves. Like any piece of precision equipment, your Snyder Skates must be properly maintained to insure maximum performance. This Owner's Guide has been designed to provide you with all the information you will need for proper mounting, adjustment, maintenance, and selection of your Snyder Skates. Also included, are the exclusive Snyder lifetime Exchange Program and the Snyder Guarantee. Please read this Owner's Guide carefully and become familiar with its contents. As a handy, quick reference, this text will be a valuable guide to the experienced and inexperienced skater alike. So, whether you are a first-time Snyder Skate owner, or a long time respected customer, you will find that you possess a powerful instrument to expand your roller skating skills. Snyder Skates "The Standard for Excellence."

### Selecting the Snyder Skate that's right for you!

Many skaters often ask, "Should I buy the Imperial or the Super Deluxe?" Well, your choice depends to some extent on the kind of "action" you want and the type of skating that you will be doing. Although both models are proven performers, it might be helpful to compare the two, so you can understand the advantages of both models. The Snyder Super Deluxe was developed years ago, and incorporates the double-action concept made famous by its predecessor, the Snyder Deluxe. The double-action Super Deluxe was invented and patented in 1950 by Charles Snyder founder of the Snyder Skate Company. The Super Deluxe is an excellent Free-Skating plate, with a 15° action, this truck design allows the skating action to take place over the king pin for outstanding stability and control. The Super Deluxe is known for its strength and dependability, and is designed to put most of the action on the cushion. An action that has been proven to be so excellent that it remains to be the "standard of the industry." Proficient free-skating competitors realize that peak performance is only achieved when the precise execution of content items are performed. The Snyder Super Deluxe is designed to meet those competitor's needs.

The Snyder Imperial was introduced in the mid-sixties, and works on the basis of a flat geometric plane much different from the Super Deluxe. That is, the trucks on the Imperial work horizontally to the skating surface. The Imperials' 45° action is sensitive to a skaters movement, deeper lobes and faster edge changes. There is a side-to-side pressure on the Imperial which necessitates controlling the heel and toe pressure. By applying heel-toe pressure, you can press a deep edge and cause one of the wheels to come off the floor while still maintaining superior control, but only if that's what you intend to do. This is one reason the Imperial is an excellent skate for international Dance competition, where exceptionally deep lobes and quick rock-over are required. Because the action of the Imperial is primarily over the pivot pin, you get a quicker, more responsive action – very similar to that of an ice blade. When skating forward on an ice blade, the skater presses back with their heel, pulling their toes up, to achieve a good, clean flow... and then reverses the process when skating backwards, giving more toe pressure so the heel rocks up. These same pressures are used on the Imperial skate for forward or backward motion. There's no question about it, the Imperial is also an excellent figure skating plate. Snyder's Figure Imperial allows skaters to quickly accomplish loops while all four wheels remain on the floor. Stability and response are the hallmarks of the Figure Imperial. For example, with the Imperial you can execute an edge change in half a skate length, "rock-over" are

much cleaner and quicker, turns (under proper control) are much sharper and crisper, and take-off are easier with the Imperial's quicker, more responsive action.

The Figure Imperial and Figure Deluxe models both feature our patented "Click-Action" and the new action-Lock figure post that absolutely prevents the changing of the skate's action once it is set, yet still permits the skater to quickly change the setting with little effort. Action-Lock is the most significant advancement in figure skating since the introduction of the Snyder Figure Skate itself. You will find that the Imperial is powerful in its response and reliable in its control.

## **The New Generation of Snyder Skates**

Snyder Lites! Snyder Lites are the most significant advancement in roller skating technology. A skater's desire for a responsive lightweight skate is now a reality with our complete selection of Lite models. We have reduced the weight of all our standard models without sacrificing their strength, performance or reliability. Snyder Lites have it all – light weight, reliable performance and Snyder Skate Company, at your service. Super Deluxe and Imperial Lite The Super Deluxe Lite and Imperial Lite cannot be compared in their effortless performance, Titanium axles and kingpins as well as featherweight hex nuts contribute to a remarkable 20% reduction in the weight of our Standard Super Deluxe and Standard Imperial. The reliability and response of our Super Deluxe and Imperial was not sacrificed in the reduction of their weight. Figure Deluxe Lite and Figure Imperial Lite The base plates of our Lite Figure models are constructed of lightweight drop-forged aluminum, similar in thickness and design to our FLEX-PLATE. The profiled aluminum plate performs identically to our stainless steel plate but weighs less. In fact, our Figure Deluxe and Imperial Lites weigh 50% less, over-all, than our standard models. Dance Deluxe Lite and Dance Imperial Lite The 50% weight reduction in the Dance Deluxe Lite reduces skater fatigue and improves the quality of practice required of competitive skaters. Just how light is it? Lighter than the wheels and bearing under it. The outstanding performance of the 45° Imperial Action, coupled, with nearly a 50% weight reduction, offers dance skaters and skate that is light, responsive and reliable. Junior Deluxe Lite and Junior Imperial Lite Our Junior Lite models are a full 55% lighter than their standard adult counterparts. The serious young skater has a distinct advantage in a Junior Deluxe Lite: Less weight, less fatigue, more control and more skating enjoyment. The Junior Imperial lite offers a full 55% weight reduction over its adult version. The positive 45° Imperial Action keeps all four wheels on the floor and allows the quickest edge response.

## **The Importance of Sanding Before Mounting**

Sure, your brand-new boots look perfectly all right, but before you mount your plate, there are a few things you should know first. Even the finest custom made boots available are seldom level between the heel and sole, nor are the heels aligned with the rest of the boot. You can see this if you place the straight edge of a ruler, for example, across the heel and sole. When the straight edge is level and even with the heel, it pulls up from the sole or only touches at one point, or vice versa... but it won't level on both surfaces at the same time. This simple step shows you why sanding the heel and sole is necessary to achieve the flat, even, parallel surface you'll need for a firm, accurate plate mount – See Figure 1. (Remember, to make allowance for the rivets which protrude through the top of the plate on some skates.) After you've sanded the heel and sole, you'll want to use your straight edge again to check if they are level with one another, and to determine if any further sanding is required. Quite clearly, if you were to omit the important steps of sanding and alignment you would get an inaccurate plate-to-boot mount that would eventually distort and twist the plate or boot out of shape because of uneven stress placed on one or the other. Once sanding is completed and your plate rests flatly on your boot, you are now ready to proceed with these easy to follow mounting instructions.

## Easy to Follow Mounting Instructions

1. Remove the truck assemblies from both plates. IMPORTANT, be sure to note the position of each truck before you remove the assemblies.
2. Sand the heel and the sole of each boot, so they are level, and parallel. SEE FIGURE 1. This must be done properly to insure that the skate and the boot are not distorted after the skate is mounted.
3. Locate the center line of the bottom of the boot by using a Snyder Boot Marking Tool. \* If you do not have this tool, determine the center line by (a) locating the center of the heel, (b) drawing a line across the widest point of the sole (the position of the ball of the foot), (c) measuring an equal distance from both sides to the center, then (d) drawing a line through these two points.
4. Position the plate so the center line marks on the plate match the center line marks on the boot. Then adjust the plate forward or backward so the front axle is under the inside ball of the foot and the rear axle is under the center of the heel.
5. Once the plate is positioned correctly, mark the front mounting holes with a pencil, hold the plate securely, and strike the front and rear hangers sharply with a wooden mallet. This will make rivet marks on the bottom of the boot.
6. Use a punch to enlarge the rivet marks and the marks of the mounting holes.
7. Drill a shallow hole at each of the rivet points. Then drill a hole through the boot sole at the front mounting holes. This will allow the plate to lie flat against the bottom of the boot.
8. You are now ready to mount the plate to the boot. Use a countersink on the front mounting holes inside to make a place for the mounting cups. Insert the small bolts (with mounting cups) through the front mounting holes and attach the plate. Use lock washers, but do not tighten the bolts down at this time. DOUBLE CHECK TO MAKE SURE THE CENTER LINE MARKS LINE UP! Drill the holes through the heel of the boot. Use a countersink to relieve the leather for the heel of the long mounting. Do not use mounting cups on the rear mounting bolts. Insert long bolt. Use long washers, but do not tighten down the bolt at this time.
9. Check to make sure all the center line marks line up. THEN TIGHTEN ALL THE BOLTS. Use a Snyder Bolt Break-Off Tool \*\* to break off the portion of the mounting bolt that extends above the mounting nut. Then use a punch or hammer to round off the sharp edges on the tops of the bolts. Check the bolts for tightness.
10. Reassemble the trucks in the same location they were in when received. \*The Snyder Boot Marking Tool is available through authorized Snyder Distributors and Rink Operators. \*\*The Snyder Break-off Tool is available through authorized Snyder Distributors and Rink Operators.

## Bearing Maintenance

Since bearings are an intricate part of your Snyder Skates, Snyder recommends periodically cleaning your bearings. This should be done once every two months using a degreaser-type solvent which can be purchased at your local hardware store. Using a bearing press your bearings should be pulled from your wheels, then placed in a glass container, a small mason jar is perfect, (glass is best suited for this since most degreaser-type solvents will eat through plastic) then, fill it with 6 ounces of your degreaser-type solvent and let your bearings soak overnight. Next, place your bearings on a clean lint-free cloth, tapping gently to remove excess solvent. Once the solvent has evaporated, place 4 to 6 drops of bearing oil between the balls and the race of the bearings. Before replacing the bearings in the wheels, spin them gently to insure maximum lubrication. When consistently followed, this simple procedure will not only improve your bearings performance, it will also greatly extend the life of your bearings. Snyder recommends the use of Sure-Grip Qube bearings and Qube lube, a complete write up on the bearings can be found on our website, [www.surregrip.com](http://www.surregrip.com)

## Cushions – The Key To Performance

Snyder recognizes that no two skaters are exactly alike. Differences in height, weight, strength, reflexes and age all affect a skater's performance capabilities. That's why a skater's overall skating requirements can be matched to the performance characteristics of the specific design of their Snyder

Skates action using Snyder's exclusive cushion systems. For the adult skate, we make cushions available in five degrees of hardness: extra soft, soft, medium, hard and extra hard. Of course, we have no way of knowing the size and weight of a skater, so we use the flexible cushions for smaller-size plates, and as the plate size increases, so does the hardness of the cushions. However, a small, light skater with large feet should be on a large skate with flexible cushions, while a large, heavy skater with small feet should be on a small skate with hard cushions. Snyder's standard live rubber cushion systems have a very good "memory." Is a term describing rubber's tendency to return to its original shape. Live rubber also "Takes a set." This phrase "Takes a set," means that live rubber cushions can be compressed into a different shape ("the edge" of the skate) and then can be expected to keep that shape with little resistance. Standard live rubber cushions permit graceful and easy edge changes needed for Dance Skating. Snyder's live rubber conical cushions offer less resistance than any other cushion to a small lightweight skater, and they also offer much needed control needed in Figure skating. The clear advantage in a live rubber cushions is its willingness to hold an edge. When using live rubber cushions in time, live rubber's "memory" loses its strength and the live rubber cushions should be replaced every three to six months to insure your skates are kept "top-performance" condition. One of the latest performance enhancement options affecting all models of Snyder Skates blends design and materials to achieve a totally new cushions system, which is quick and responsive. The premier cushion system is made possible by using Snyder's own high quality formulated urethanes. Urethane has a strong "memory" and by correctly selecting the cushion system that fits your needs, a skater can obtain near perfect edge quality and control. Though urethane has a strong "memory" it does not easily "take a set," depending on the skater, urethane cushions may require more ankle and leg strength to hold an edge than cushions of the same size and shape made from Live Rubber. A urethane cushion system utilizing conical bottom cushions can make a remarkable difference in a skater's abilities on loop circles. Also, standard cut urethane cushions completely change the response of a Snyder for a freestyle skater. The advantage of a urethane cushion is how quickly it can respond to a change of edge. By selecting the cushion system designed to the precise weight, height, and strength of a skater, you are enabled to "fine tune" a skater's action to the requirements of the discipline being skated. No other skate offers this remarkable ability to "fine tune" a skater's action to the needs of the skater.

Snyder cushions:

Snyder cushion	Hardness	Plate size
Orange	W-Soft	0000-0
Red	Soft	1-3
White	Medium	4-8
Yellow	Hard	9-11
Green	X-Hard	12-16

### Snyder Toe Stops

Toe stops are the most essential piece of equipment needed for freestyle skating. Toe stops are necessary for performing specific toe jump items and special footwork sequences. Snyder toe stops have been designed to perform under any and all floor conditions. Throughout the years, Snyder toe stops have been legendary for their responsive grip and control. This responsive grip and control is made possible due to Snyder's natural rubber compound which is formulated to give a skater the maximum performance necessary to execute near perfect triple rotation toe jump items. By listening to the demands made of our equipment by high performance skaters. Snyder toe stops are known for giving the skater a responsive grip, but there have been instances in the past, when skating on freshly coated floors, the natural rubber has peeled away from the aluminum post of the toe stop. This has been solved by using a slightly firmer rubber compound in our new line of Blue Snyder toe stops. These new Blue Snyder toe stops offer the same quality characteristics found in Snyder's original toe stops through will not tear at the post when skating on freshly coated skating surfaces. Now that you have a choice, a skater can now select the Snyder toe stops which are best suited to their free skating needs.

## **Adjustment of Ball Pivot Screw**

Always adjust the ball pivot screw so that the ball pivot just touches the bottom of the hardened pivot cut, no more, no less. The ball pivot tolerances should be checked regularly. If the ball pivot does not touch the pivot cup, you will be able to press down on the truck assembly and feel or see a slight motion-up & down of the ball pivot into and out of the pivot cup. Adjust the ball pivot screw until the pressure applied to the truck assembly no longer results in this movement. When satisfied that the ball pivot is resting with slight tension in the pivot cup, hold the pivot screw with one wrench while tightening the pivot screw lock nut with another, do not over adjust. If the ball pivot is forced into the pivot cup too far it will result in unreliable skate action and place excessive strain on kingpins. Be sure to check your pivot pin action for proper seating monthly.

## **Improperly Adjusted Pivot Pin Can Cost You A King Pin**

Of all the broken kingpins and pivot pins returned to the Snyder Skate factory, about 90% of them were caused by improperly adjusted pivot pins. The pivot pin, designed to give the skater support, is seated into the bottom of the hardened insert where it is used as a pivot point. But it cannot perform the function when it is not seated properly into the pivot cup. Instead, what you get is a free-floating truck, hanging from the king pin and the cushions. This results in far too much stress being placed on the kingpin when landing a jump. On a Snyder Skate the angle and design of the skate can be maintained whether there is a loose or tight action tension by properly adjusting the pivot pin. On a skate with no adjustable pivot pin, if you loosen or tighten the action of the skate, you are actually changing the working angle of that skate by not being able to properly seat the pivot pin into the pivot cup. When adjusting the pivot pin, the main thing you want to do is to get the ball to fit securely into the bottom of the pivot cup. That is, when the truck is in its loosest position, the ball of the pivot pin should go all the way in until it actually touches the bottom of the pivot cup. If you can press the pivot pin down or move it from side-to-side, then you will know the pivot pin is loose and must then be positioned lower into the pivot cup. Proper lubricant will also lessen the destructive effects of metal-to-metal wear. Over a period of time, damages can result from an improperly adjusted pivot pin. For one thing, the steel pivot pin can damage the truck, which is made of softer aluminum, by wearing away the threads. Also, it can pierce the hanger, which will run your skate. If you let a loose pivot pin and loose jam nut go too long, chances are you will never again be able to get the pivot pin sufficiently tight because the threads are too worn. If you break a king pin, look at the pivot pin and jam nut and make sure they are properly adjusted. An improperly adjusted pivot pin can result in the cause your broken king pin troubles. Figure Skate Adjustments: If you are one of the many skaters who own the Snyder Figure Skate, which features a calibrated repeatable action setting, the following will help you achieve the adjusted setting that's right for you. You will note that the king pin on this figure skate is a factory pre-set stud, which needs no further adjustments. However, the one adjustment you will have to make, different from normal adjustment, will be the pivot pin. You should first adjust your skates to "long figures" to obtain the correct action tension. Next, click your action tension for adjustment on loop figures. This is done with the 9/16" nut driver which comes with your Snyder Figure Skates for this adjustments. Now, while the action is adjusted to its loosest position for loop figures, adjust the pivot pin by turning it until it touches the pivot cups insert, then turn it one-half turn further into the pivot cup insert before locking. This pivot adjustment is now correct for any setting of the "Click-Action" tension on your figure skates. Your Snyder Figure Skates can now be adjusted to your action tension preference.

## **How To Avoid Broken King Pins**

Broken kingpins can be easily avoided by following these simple procedures: 1) Pivot Pin – pivot pins should be properly adjusted to avoid excessive stress on the kingpins. 90% of all broken kingpins occur from improperly adjusted pivot pins. 2.) Hex Nuts – Hex nuts should be properly tightened

down, not only to avoid a broken king pin, but to avoid a broken hanger lip, which is located under the hex nut. If the hex nut is securely tightened, the hanger lip will not break and you will also save a king pin from breakage. 3.) "Super Tuff" kingpins – Snyder "Super Tuff" kingpins are fabricated from the same steel that Pratt and Whitney, the makers of jet engines, specifies for the bolts used to attach their engines to aircraft. There are cases though when a skater will break a king pin due to the excessive impact and abuse a king pin takes when a skater comes down from a jump landing. This can be solved by using Snyder's "Super Tuff" kingpins. "Super Tuff" kingpins are so tough Snyder will replace and broken or bent "Super Tuff" kingpins at no charge and with no questions asked.

## **General Maintenance**

- 1.) Toe Stop – Lubricate the threads of the toe stop stem prior to inserting into the plate. Also, remove the Allen screw that locks the toe stops, lubricate completely and re-insert.
- 2.) Kingpin and Hanger – The kingpin and the neck of the hanger should be lubricated every six months and prior to re-assembly.
- 3.) Bearings – Bearings should be removed every two to three months and cleaned to insure maximum performance. Do not use leaded gasoline on the bearings: the lead particles can accumulate and damage the bearings. Cleaning is most effective when soaked overnight or when cleaned with compressed air. After cleaning re-lubricate and re-assemble.
- 4.) Pivot Pin – The pivot pin ball and the pivot cup insert should be lubricated periodically with a heavy grade of oil.
- 5.) Cushions – Cushions should be checked monthly for wear, such as tears and cracks, also, check cushion tension. When you notice a lack of response, cushions should be changed.

## **Trouble Shooting – Toe Stops**

In some instances a skater will have a problem with loose toe stops. This occurs when the steel Allen screw begins to bring against the plate. Which is made of aluminum. There is a simple solution to this problem, just follow the procedures listed below.

- 1.) Remove the Allen screw and take the toe stop completely out.
- 2.) Place a drop of oil in the screw hole, replace the Allen screw and tighten it down securely. This draws the plate and screw together and tightens up the hole.
- 3.) Leave it just like that overnight.
- 4.) Now, loosen the screw, put a small amount of Vaseline on the stem of the toe stop so it does not strip out the treads in the plate. Vaseline is the best lubricant you can use for your plates.
- 5.) Finally, replace the toe stop, and re-tighten securely. This simple procedure will give you a tight, secure toe stop once again.

## **Trouble Shooting**

It is best to consult with the experts if you have any questions regarding maintenance or repairs. Do not attempt to make repairs on your own. It is a good idea to re-read this manual again if you do encounter any problems because most skate technicians are familiar with the language used here.

## **Snyder Exchange Program**

Authorized Snyder Skate Distributors carry complete inventories of Snyder Exchange plates. The Exclusive Snyder Exchange. Ask your skating center operator or coach about how the Snyder Exchange Program works. The Snyder Exchange Program provides the parents of growing children with an alternative to buying new skates or attempting to locate used ones every time their child requires a larger plate size. However, the advantages of the exchange program are not just for the parents of growing children but many skaters find that a change in boot manufacturers may require a plate change. The continued operation of a plan such as this is dependent on the cooperation of all who use the program. Below we have outlined the guidelines that are to be followed:

**I** Your trade-in plates and parts are to be in good condition. Any one of the following conditions will make your plates unacceptable. A. Enlarged mounting holes B. Writing or engraving on plates or parts C. Plates or parts that have been modified D. Rivet holes larger than 1/8" E. Hanger or toe stop threads stripped beyond repair or broken hangers

**II** We will honor the following exchange plan requests: A. Junior Deluxe to Junior Deluxe B. Junior Deluxe to ANY STANDARD Adult Skate (Exchange Junior Skate Complete with Trucks for ANY Adult Skate Complete With Trucks) C. Junior Imperial to Junior Imperial D. Junior Imperial to ANY Adult Skate (Exchange Junior Skate Complete with Trucks for ANY Adult Skate Complete with Trucks) E. Super Deluxe to Super Deluxe F. Imperial to Imperial G. Figure Deluxe to Figure Deluxe H. Figure Imperial to Figure Imperial I. Dance Deluxe to Dance Deluxe J. Dance Deluxe to Super Deluxe K. Super Deluxe to Dance Deluxe L. Lite Models to Lite Models M. World Dominator to World Dominator

## **GUARANTEED FOR LIFE**

All Snyder Skate chassis, trucks, and "Super Tuff" king pins are unconditionally guaranteed for life against breakage. All other Snyder Skate parts failing, due to defects in material or workmanship, provided the defect is not the result of mis-handling, tampering, abuse or misuse, will be replaced or repaired free of charge, at the factory, if such defects are returned to Snyder Skate Company, Inc. within two (2) years from the date of purchase and only when the Snyder skate Warranty Card has been received by the factory within 90 days from the date of purchase. This Guarantee does not include parts subject to normal wear and tear, such as cushions and ball pivots. Use of other parts, other than Snyder Skate parts shall void the Snyder Guarantee. Postage will be paid by customer for the return of skates under this guarantee. If, in the opinion of the manufacturer, the skates or parts have been damaged due to modifications, improper use or care, or have passed the two year guarantee period, a nominal service and labor charge will be applied and damaged parts replaced at current published list prices. Warranty work must be completed by Snyder Skate Company under the terms and conditions outlined at our Nationwide Service Center. It's the sincere and expressed desire of the manufacturer to build, maintain and service the finest roller skating equipment in the best ways possible. Notices of manufacturing or service failures shall receive immediate attention. Repairs or service failures shall receive immediate attention. Repairs or replacement work shall be completed within two working days of receipt of equipment.