

TEST FIRE

Per Jacobsen tested...

Scarpa Kinesis Pro GTX boot

WHAT I LIKED

The hardwearing rubber rand that protects the lower part of the boot against sharp rocks. This feature is perfect, especially when descending down shingle scree which every man and his dog tends to use after a full day of hunting the tops.

The Vibram sole. I have always, since I was a kid, been taught that if you want a good boot, then buy one that has a Vibram sole. Knowing no more than the sentence passed down through generations, I assumed that this automatically was a great feature. But since I had to test the boot I had to consider what the Vibram sole actually does to the boot. My biggest problem is that I have not worn a boot without a Vibram sole in this fine ol' century. I therefore borrowed a pair of boots without Vibram soles from a mate to try and grasp what the difference is. The other sole proved strong and durable, and so did the Vibram sole. Upon closer inspection I did find that the other sole brand was less hardwearing, and had lost a great amount of traction over the seven months of wearing it had experienced.

Looking at my previous hunting boot, which I fastidiously tortured for the length of two years, the sole was slightly less in traction. However, considering two years versus seven months usage, there was no doubt that the Vibram sole, in my opinion, won in terms of hard wearing and durability.

The full leather piece. Personally I dislike boots that have large amounts of stitchings, or combinations of leather and synthetics. This all boils down to two facts: Firstly, it tells us that we all like our boots dry. I have always stated that having dry boots in New Zealand as a hunter (South Island anyway) is an illusion. This was not the case in the first 25 kilometres of our trip, but that's because we didn't wear our boots!! However, when we did cross small streams, walked through swamp, or on the ice plateau, I couldn't detect water seeping in at all. Secondly, the lifetime expectation of our boots. When looking at the Scarpa Kinesis as a full leather piece, with minimal stitching, it appears very durable as a hardwearing boot. After our adventure came to an end I was honestly astounded to see that the boot still appeared as a newish boot.

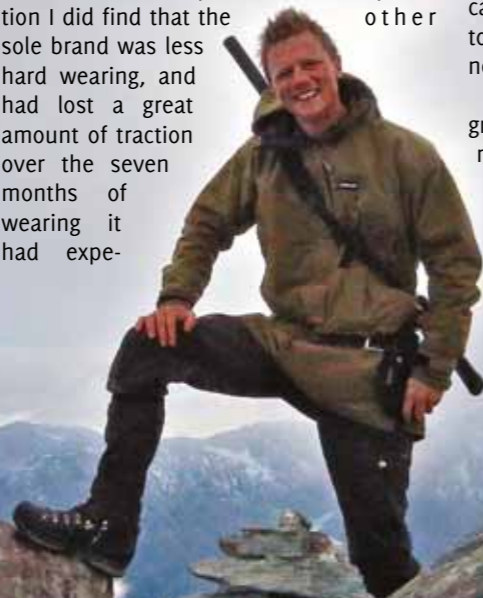
No boot however is better than the grease you apply on it. When I received my Scarpa boots I made the journey down to Christchurch's best and finest shoe service, Bennett's Shoe Service. They had a good look and gave some

I was kindly given a pair of Scarpa Kinesis pro boots to test and produce a review of them as an all round hunting boot.

During our southern crossing I had decided to put them to the test, which was either a really great idea, or incredibly stupid, as I hadn't worn them for long before our departure. Scarpa however re-assured me that the boot's new sole system adapts really well to the sole of the foot. Being the free minded individual I am, I decided to take their advice and go for it.

The boot itself is a full leather piece. Scarpa has minimized the stitchings, whilst still creating a versatile boot. The shank is very stiff and the sole of the boot is that of a Vibram sole. The tongue also is a full leather piece. It doesn't have a tongue grip to hold the tongue in centre. The boot has a Gore-Tex membrane, and it has a durable hardwearing rubber rand from the sole that reached 30mm up to protect the immediate lower part of the boot.

Hiking in riverbeds, on snow terrain and climbing mountains, this boot certainly lived up to its features!



Adapting Crampons onto the boot was very easy.

valuable advice on how to take care of my new boots. Having used the advice and the grease they sold me, I was happy to see how well the boot performed. I would be walking on the Ice Plateau early in the morning before the sun had awoken, with snow and ice up along my boots and gaiters. When the sun came onto the Scarpa's it melted the snow onto the boots and gaiters, and then all slid off the boot, leaving me utterly dry along with a great performing boot. Normally the leather piece would soak up the melting snow, but this was not the case with the Scarpa's.

Adapting Crampons onto the boot was very easy. I tried three different styles of crampons and they all fitted well without being loose on the boot.

Weight is 870 grams per boot (this weight is for a size 41.5 Euro).

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WHAT COULD BE BETTER

The holes for the shoelaces are incredibly small. I had to try and change laces on them, the much hated job of any huntsman, and found that it is relatively hard to feed your standard shoelaces through the shoe lace holes.

I can't quite work out if it really is a con, but I have gotten used to the tongue grip which many boots offer and this particular boot has not got it. However I couldn't really feel it being annoying that the tongue slid a bit to the left, but feel it's important to mention in the review.

SO WHAT'S THE VERDICT?

I am greatly impressed with the boot. It performed well when we were hiking in the riverbeds, on the cut tracks, off the beaten track, on snow terrain, and when we climbed a few mountains. It certainly gave me the support around my ankles, whilst shaping to

fit my foot. Scarpa has used an inner sole called Active pro. I must be honest and say that I don't know the technology behind it, but I do know from testing the boot that it actually shapes to the sole of your foot.

Being waterproof and actually working is for me a rare combination, but this boot certainly lived up to its features! I enjoyed the user friendliness the boot offered when applying crampons, and even though we didn't embark on any crazy climbs, I still felt the boots were supporting me, giving me full faith in the Kinesis Pro. Like any boot, it reacts very fondly towards the right grease. The rubber rand at the bottom of the boot is a legendary feature in New Zealand conditions, and has saved the boot more than once from being shredded.

I will gladly recommend this boot to any keen huntsmen who are serious about protecting their feet.

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