

“One day with... the Cons Pappalardo Pro”

-The idea-

As most of you will know, it takes around 3 sessions to decide whether or not you like a skate shoe. Based on that observation, I came up with the idea of a shorter review format that focuses on just the first 5 hours of skating in a new shoe.

These shorter reviews – about the first few hours, where almost all qualities and malfunctions of a shoe appear or at least can be foreseen – will be more compressed and on point, but still as objective as possible.

Sizing

Like most Cons models, the Pappalardo Pro doesn't fit true size. It is recommended to buy them a half or even a full size smaller than usual, depending on the width of your feet.

Durability

Although the Cons Pappalardo Pro doesn't feature any lace protection, the laces held up quite well. During the 5-hour test, the laces didn't rip through at any point.

The placement of several ventilation holes just behind the toebox area seemed very risky in terms of durability. Normal perforations are easy points of attack for the griptape, and wear away much faster than unperforated areas. Since this area is recessed below the eyestay, though, the durability was not affected.



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A typical problem area on the Adidas Stan Smith-inspired skate shoe shapes, such as the Pappalardo, is that the stitching in the ollie area rips through. However, the cross stitching where the eyestay meets the sole, makes sure that the panels remained firmly attached to each other for the duration of the test.

The flat silhouette minimises the abrasion of the more sensitive upper material, since the main contact between shoe and board takes place at the sole.

Unfortunately, the sole is rather soft, this means that the rubber is destroyed relatively quickly in some areas, which also reduces the protection of the upper material.

All in all the Pappalardo should be able to hold up for quite some time due to the construction of the upper, at least compared to other vulcanised models. One major weakness of the design itself is the missing toe bumper, which will cause the sole to wear down much faster.



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Cushion

The Converse Pappalardo Pro doesn't offer a special cushion element. The thicker heel area of the insole does make sure that the shoe can absorb landings to a certain point though, so you don't get heel bruises or similar injuries right away. You have to keep in mind that the Pops is a very thin model, especially in the forefoot area, and is therefore not really recommended for high-impact skateboarding.

Breathability

Although the Cons Pappalardo features two metal-lined ventilation holes on the sidewalls, as well as a perforated suede area near the toebox, the breathability is only average. The tongue features a full suede upper, which means it isn't breathable and traps the hot air that develops over the foot, especially over the in-step area.

A combination of mesh and suede on the tongue would be an improvement. If you aren't that worried about breathability though, this shouldn't bother you too much.

Shape

The toebox is very arrow shaped

.It's compareable to the OG Lakai Manchester or even the Adidas Busenitz Pro shape. The pictures will give you a good idea of the shape. Since it's a pretty basic design, while not being too dull, every skater should be able to skate with it.

A small disadvantage of the toebox is that the suede layer is very thin and not supported. This can cause waves to develop in the material, which not only spoil the look of the shoe, but also decrease the durability.



Boardfeel

The Pappalardo allows almost the maximum boardfeel that is bearable for a skate shoe, compareable with that of the Chuck Taylor Skate. The thickness of the sole in the forefoot area is as thin as possible and the insole doesn't decrease the direct contact either. For skaters who want the most direct contact with their board and want to feel it as much as possible, the Pappalardo is one of the best shoes on the market. The thicker cushioning in the heel area, with the thicker insole, doesn't affect the boardfeel either, because the construction between the toe and the middle foot areas is responsible for the subjective impression of it.

Grip

Compared to other Converse models, such as the CTS, the grip doesn't need as much time to develop. The Pappalardo can be skated right out of the box.

As you can see in the pictures, the classic sole pattern of the Chuck Taylor has been used for the Pappalardo. Since it features areas with little structure, the pattern can't compete with traditional herringbone patterns, which make it feel like your feet are „glued“ to the board. The rougher pattern in the forefoot area and the very flexible construction, which provides a large contact surface, compensates for this though.

All in all, the grip is pretty good and the shoe should especially appeal to those who like a soft grip without the feeling of being too „stuck“ to the deck.



Support

The Pappalardo offers only minor support. The c-shaped plastic reinforcement in the heel is the normal size and stiffness for such a model.

However, the low cut, especially around the ankle, and the thin sidewalls, which are made out of just one layer of suede and one layer of woven material, don't protect the feet from horizontal movement within the shoe after just a few sessions. The additional plastic element of the insole decreases this problem, but is not enough to remove it completely.

Additionally, especially in the the collar, the Pappalardo gets very soft and flexible with wear, which further decreases the support.

People who are looking for a shoe with a good ankle support, maybe because of former injuries, should consider a different model or at least try the Pappalardo in a local shop to get an impression of whether the shoe offers enough support for their needs or not. Skaters that look for freedom around the ankle and attach high value to boardfeel and soft grip should definitely consider this shoe though, since it features more support than the CTS but with the same excellent boardfeel.

