

One Day with... the C1rca Talon

-The idea-

As most of you 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 quantities 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

The C1rca Talon fits slightly smaller than other shoes. The US 9 was a bit shorter than a Lakai, Nike SB or Adidas model of the same size.

Durability

The C1rca Talon features a typical low-top Chukka-inspired design that basically every brand has in its current collection. One of the main features that helps the durability of such shoes is the single piece toe. Since there are no additional panels in the toe box area, there is no stitching to blow out and the only areas that might cause points of attack are the toes, which can press through from the inside and build small hills and valleys in the upper. An advantage of the Talon is the missing edge band that many other models of this kind feature – for example the Habitat Quest or the Nike SB Janoski – which always frays out and seems to weaken the stitching of the overlapping panels in this region. Not so with the C1rca Talon.

A small weakness of this model is the thin laces. They look good and fit the style of the shoe, but they were severed after just over an hour of skating. The design, with the heel panel that spreads until the last lace hole, provides protection for at least the 4th lace hole, because it is the main contact area with the deck – the eyestay is recessed behind it. A different kind of laces

might be an improvement here since, apart from that, the overall durability of the model seemed really good. The sole pattern of the C1rca Talon is very fine and features very small columns that seemed to wear down slightly faster than rougher patterns.



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The medium depth of the tread is likely to lead to flat areas, which aren't as grippy, before the shoe's upper is completely worn out. The midsole still looks great after the five hours of skating. It still has an noticeable edge where the sole and the upper meet, a sign that there hasn't been much wear. Vulcanised models, for example, usually get slightly curved in areas in the midsole with the edge having already been worn down during the test.

Cushion

The Talon doesn't feature any additional cushioning elements. It's not a shoe that can be unexceptionally recommended for high-impact skating. The design goal seems to be to create a shoe with a cupsole that is as thin as possible to allow the maximum boardfeel. The focus was not on outstanding cushioning. Due to the cupsole construction, however, it can take harder impacts than many vulcanised models, because the heel isn't as thin or as flimsy.

Breathability

The Talon's achilles' tendon is its breathability. There are no ventilation holes or mesh areas to aid air transport anywhere on the upper. The medium-thick padding material in the heel area and the tongue adds further insulation. This means the shoe has little to no breathability.

Shape

The models shape is a little bit broader and less triangular than the original chukka. The Talon tapers to a more pointy toe than expected with a well-rounded tip. The shoe seems a bit bulky at first, but if you have a close look, just the heel area and the tongue are thicker padded than your average vulc model, and then only slightly so. While on foot, the Talon feels close-fitting and supportive, rather than bulky.



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Boardfeel

The Talon provides better boardfeel than most other cupsoles. While the heel area is thicker, which doesn't affect the boardfeel too much, the forefoot is kept thin. The insole doesn't interfere either, since it doesn't add that much more material between board and foot. All in all, the C1rca Talon is a well-balanced model that has a good compromise between boardfeel and protection.

Grip

The rather shallow sole pattern, consisting of lots of tiny columns, offers surprisingly good grip. The observation that fine structures normally offer less grip than rougher patterns doesn't apply here. The columns, which can each move independently, combine with the flexible front area to allow a large contact area between board and sole, which explains the grip. The only downside might be that the pattern won't last forever because the tiny, rather short columns, will sooner or later wear flat at certain spots, as already mentioned.

The flexible layer of upper material and the grippy, not-too-high midsole also provide a good flick for fliptricks.

Comfort and Support

One of the strengths of the C1rca Talon is the great fit. This is especially true for the heel lock, because the padding is placed in all the right areas and the higher cut provides support around the achilles' tendon.

The tongue also features cushioning material but in a more modest manner, which helps the shoe fit snugly on the foot.

Furthermore, the only stitching on the interior of the Talon is flat, even in the front area where the sidepanel and the toebox panel meet. In shoes where this is not the case, the stitching can cause blisters.

The strong heel reinforcement, which holds the foot in place and stops horizontal movement within the shoe, is a huge advantage compared with the generally more flimsy Chukka-inspired models on the market. Skaters who like the panels and simple toebox of the Vans Classic, but want more support and comfort should take a closer look at the Talon.

Summary

The C1rca Talon is a thin, cupsole model with solid durability, support and good boardfeel, as well as medium lasting grip. Its only downside is the lack of ventilation.



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