

The Shaper's Handbook

Foam, rocker, rails, and what actually matters

Second edition · KahunaCart Demo Press · Printed in the demo store

One hundred and eighty pages on getting a board out of a blank without ruining it, written by somebody who has ruined more blanks than they care to admit. Every diagram in the full book is measured off a finished board rather than traced from a catalogue, and every number in it is one you can put a tape on.

This excerpt is the opening of Chapter Three. It is public: anyone looking at the product page can read it, whether they buy the book or not. The complete book is a separate download and a purchase is what unlocks it.

Sample text set for the KahunaCart demo catalog. No part of this store sells anything, and no part of this book exists outside it.

Three • Rocker is the first thing the water reads

Lay a blank on the racks and sight down it from the tail. What you are looking at is the only decision in the whole build that you cannot take back later. Outline can be trimmed. Rails can be softened after a session that told you they were too hard. Rocker is cut once, and everything you do afterwards is an argument with it.

The useful way to think about it is time rather than curve. A flat entry gets the board moving early, which is why a long fish will catch a wave that a shortboard watches go past. A lifted entry buys you a fraction of a second at the bottom of the drop, and that fraction is the whole difference between making the section and wearing it.

Measure it the way the factory does: a straight edge on the stringer, the board flat on the racks, and a rule at the nose and at the tail. Write both down every time, even on a board you are copying, because a blank that has sat in a hot shed has moved and it will not tell you.

BOARD	NOSE	TAIL	READS AS
Longboard, single fin	4½"	2¼"	Early, forgiving, slow to turn
Retro fish	4"	1¾"	Paddles into anything
Everyday thruster	5¼"	2½"	The compromise most people want
Step-up, overhead	6"	2¾"	Late, steep, unforgiving on a soft day

Those four rows cover most of what anybody rides, and the gap between the first and the last is under two inches at the nose. That is the scale you are working at. A quarter of an inch is a different board, which is why the tape comes out before the planer does and not after.

End of sample. The full book continues for another hundred and seventy-six pages, with the measured drawings this excerpt refers to.