Guide to Fin Selection

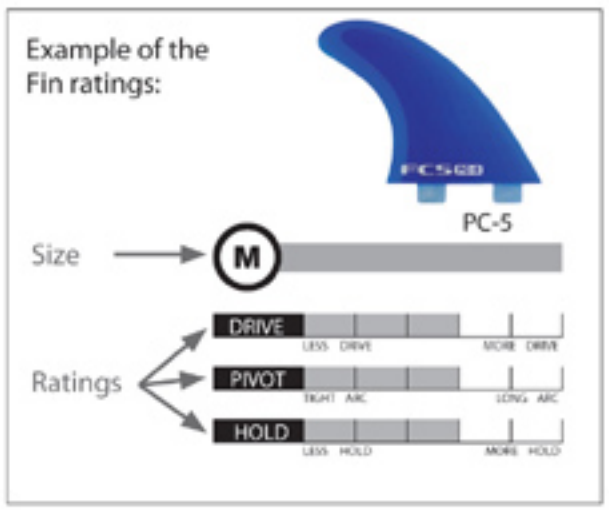
FCS thruster and quad sets are categorized by size. Each size category has an optimum weight range that can be used as a guide when choosing a fin:

- (XS) optimum weight range: under 121lbs
- (S) optimum weight range: 121lbs - 154lbs
- (M) optimum weight range: 143lbs - 176lbs
- (L) optimum weight range: 165lbs - 198lbs
- (XL) optimum weight range: over 187lbs
- (★) for specific surfboard designs or as specialised fins

All FCS thruster, quad and quad rear fins come with fin ratings. These fin ratings provide the drive, pivot and hold characteristics of each individual fin set and are based on elements such as area, base length, sweep, depth, material and template.

FCS provides these fin ratings as a guide to individual fin performance. They can also be used as a reference when choosing a fin for specific performance requirements.

Fins are rated relative only to the fins within each size category and are not comparable across other sizes. For example, the drive rating on a medium fin can only be compared to the drive rating on other medium fins.



Performance Characteristics

Drive

Drive provides forward acceleration and helps maintain speed through turns. The amount of drive produced by a fin is directly influenced by the base length, the material, and the total surface area. Put simply; a larger fin with a longer base will offer more drive.

less drive
more drive

Pivot

Pivot refers to the length of the turning arc. Pivot is influenced by the sweep angle or rake, the foil and the depth of the fin. Fins with less sweep angle will turn in a tighter arc; fins with more sweep angle will turn in a longer arc.

t arc
ong arc

Hold

Hold is defined as the binding of the board to the wave. Hold is determined by flex and the overall fin template. Fins with more hold prevent the board sliding through turns, less hold allows the board to easily break free from the wave during turns; this is often referred to as 'release'.

hold
more hold

Fin Technologies

Tricoil Technology

Multi-directional flex pattern harnesses energy and de-coils through turns, giving back to the surfer in the form of speed and acceleration.

SNAP-BACK TECHNOLOGY

Carbon inside face produces a high tension 'snap back' flex pattern through the top of the fin. Highly responsive and very popular among the world's best surfers.

BAMBOO CORE TECHNOLOGY

Lightweight bamboo core foiled to mimic the actual foil of the fin producing a unified flex between the materials. As bamboo is bias towards the grain, the natural flex of this wood further enhances the directional flex of the fin.

COMPOUND GLASS TECHNOLOGY

Multiple fiberglass layers are set under pressure to produce an extremely stiff, high-strength material. The machine cutting process delivers a fin with highly accurate foils.

Fin Constructions

(UL) ULTRALIGHT

Ultralight construction uses the highest quality materials to produce a lightweight fin offering superior strength, flex and overall performance.

(PC) PERFORMANCE CORE

Performance Core construction delivers a stiff, lightweight fin with a highly responsive tip flex. These fins are made using a resin transfer molding process.

(PG)PERFORMANCE GLASS

Performance Glass (PG)
Performance Glass construction offers a stiff base with a subtle tip flex. These fins are machine cut from solid layers of fibreglass.

(GF) GLASS FLEX

Glass Flex construction has been formulated to replicate the flex and memory properties of traditional hand laid fibreglass.