

SNOWBUTTERSWEET

RIDER DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

SNOWBOARDING SLOPE DIFFICULTY GUIDE

UNDERSTANDING TERRAIN, PROGRESSION & RIDER DEVELOPMENT



GREEN CIRCLE

LEARN
THE BASICS

Perfect for beginners
building skills and
confidence.



BLUE SQUARE

BUILD
INDEPENDENCE

Denking control and
ride a variety of
terrain.



RED SLOPES

DEVELOP
TECHNIQUE

Progress on steeper
terrain and refine
your skills.



BLACK DIAMOND

ADVANCED
RIDING

Ride challenging
terrain with control
and precision.



DOUBLE BLACK
DIAMOND

EXPERT
TERRAIN

For experienced riders
ready for the most
demanding terrain.



The roadmap how to choose
the Right Slope for *Confident
Independent Riding.*

RIDE. LEARN. PROGRESS.

SNOWBUTTERSWEET RIDER DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

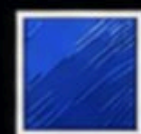
UNDERSTANDING SLOPE RATINGS


SINGLE BLACK
DIAMOND


DOUBLE BLACK
DIAMOND



GREEN CIRCLE



BLUE SQUARE



RED SLOPES



**SINGLE BLACK
DIAMOND**



**DOUBLE BLACK
DIAMOND**

HEEL & TOE EDGE CONTROL

- Controlled J-TURNS

HEEL & TOE EDGE CONTROL

SIDE & TOE EDGE SLIPPING



LINKING C-TURNS

- Hockey Stops
- Carving



TECHNICAL PROGRESSION

- Steeper Terrain
- Dynamic Turns
- Precision Control
- Line Choice
- Speed Management



MOGUL ABSORPTION

- Steep Terrain Handling

COMPLEX TERRAIN

upper/lower body
separation

EXTREME CHUTES

- Rapid Edge Changes



SIDE SLIPPING

- Controlled J-TURNS

CARVING TURNS

- Hockey Stops
- Carving

MOGUL ABSORPTION

- Steep Terrain Handling

EXTREME CHUTES

- Rapid Edge Changes



RATINGS ARE RELATIVE WITHIN EACH RESORT

Non European equivalents (e.g. blue=blue, red=red, black=black)



GREEN CIRCLE: THE LEARNING ZONE

THE LEARNING ZONE

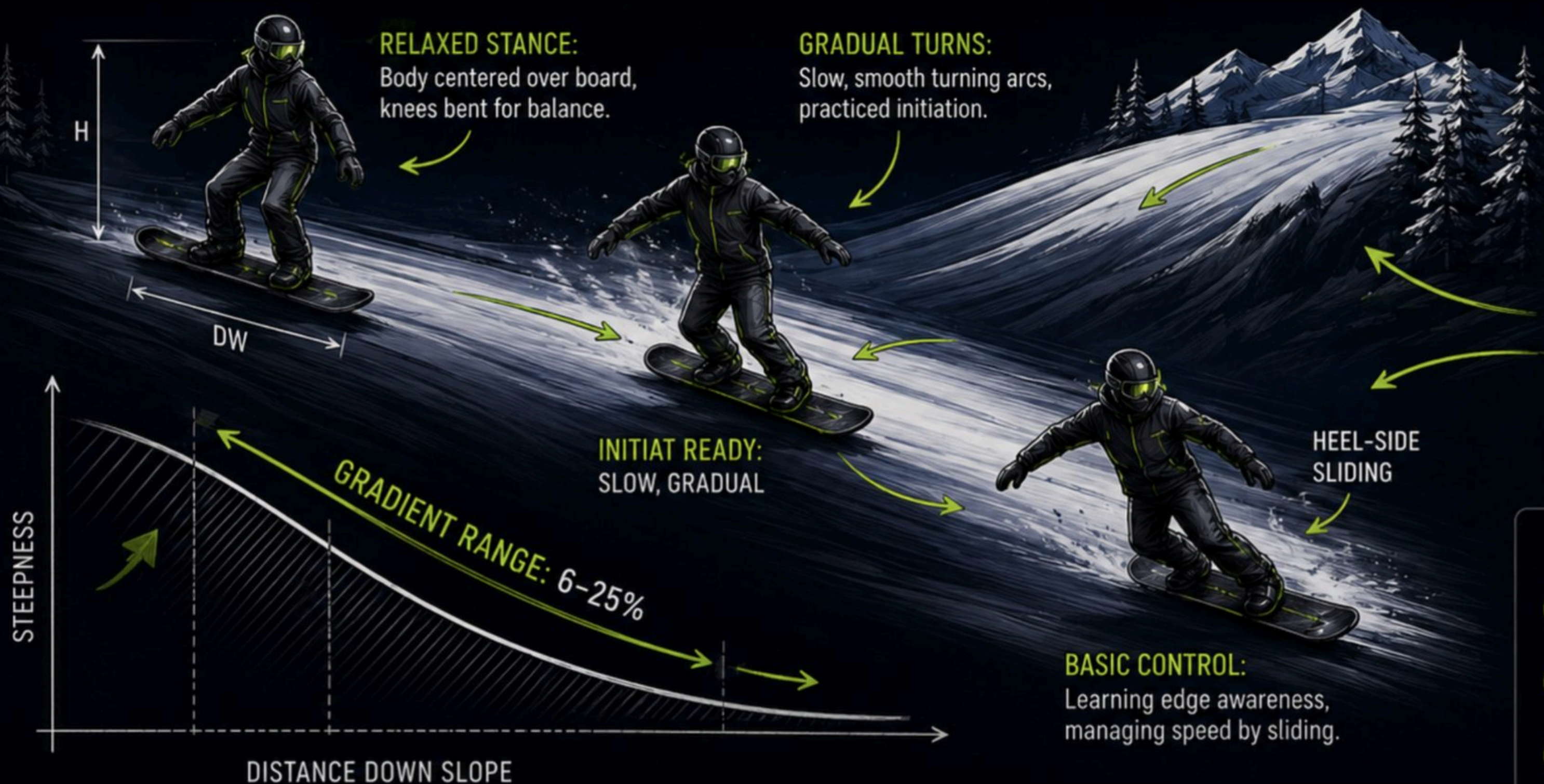
RELAXED STANCE:
Body centered over board,
knees bent for balance.

GRADUAL TURNS:
Slow, smooth turning arcs,
practiced initiation.

INITIAT READY:
SLOW, GRADUAL

**HEEL-SIDE
SLIDING**

BASIC CONTROL:
Learning edge awareness,
managing speed by sliding.



BEGINNER TERRAIN CHARACTERISTICS

-  **GENTLE WIDE SLOPES:**
Plenty of room to turn.
-  **CONSISTENT PITCH:**
Predictable descent.
-  **GROOMED COMPACT SNOW:**
Even surface for practice.
-  **OPEN AREAS:**
Clear of unexpected obstacles.

FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS FOCUS

-  **1. BALANCE & POSTURE**
(Bend knees, look ahead)
-  **2. BASIC BRAKING**
(Learn to stop with heel or toe edge)
-  **3. CONVERSION**
(Building confidence to complete controlled turns)



GREEN CIRCLE: ESSENTIAL SKILLS

EDGE & SLIDE CONTROL



HEEL EDGE
CONTROL

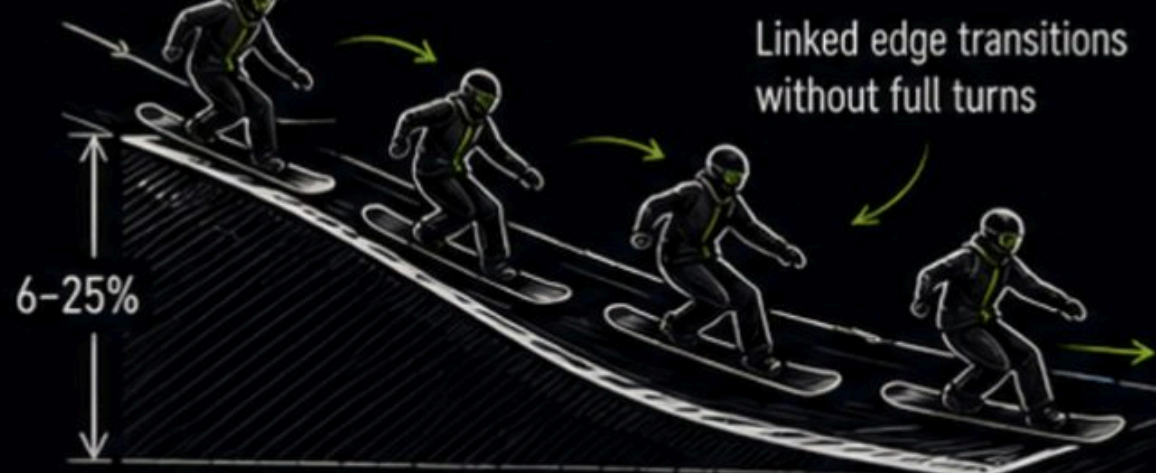
- MASTERING HEEL & TOE EDGES
- SIDE SLIPPING ON BOTH EDGES

TOE EDGE CONTROL



MOVEMENT SEQUENCES

THE FALLING LEAF TECHNIQUE



Linked edge transitions
without full turns

6-25%

- ZIGZAG SLIDING (FALLING LEAF)
- PRACTICING TURNS & STOPPING

J-TURNS & STOPPING



- Balanced stance
- Bright stance
- Speed control

Speed control
of reed control

J-Turns

CONTINUOUS RIDING & SPEED CONTROL

LINKING C-TURNS



- RIDE CONTINUOUSLY
- BASIC SPEED CONTROL THROUGH TURN SHAPE



STOPPING
GRACEFULLY
WITHOUT
FALLING

SAFETY & OPERATIONS

- SAFELY LOADING/UNLOADING CHAIRLIFTS
- BALANCED STANCE WITH BENT KNEES



- SAFELY LOADING/UNLOADING CHAIRLIFTS
- BALANCED STANCE WITH BENT KNEES
- LOOK IN THE DIRECTION OF TRAVEL

BOARD
PREP





BLUE SQUARE: STEPPING UP

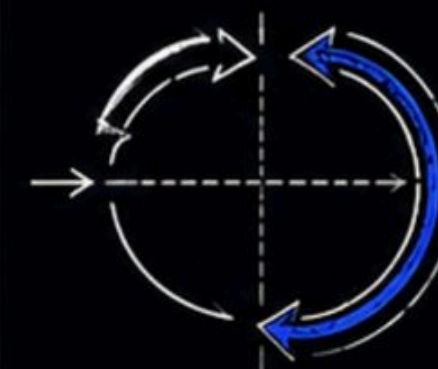
BLUE SQUARE: INTERMEDIATE TERRAIN CHARACTERISTICS



KEY INTERMEDIATE SKILLS

TIGHTER TURNS

- Demonstrates linking quicker, more responsive C-turns on steeper slopes, using a detailed, smaller turn-radius diagram



RIDING VARIABLE TERRAIN

- Figure studies is showing absorption of smaller rollers



CONTROLLED SPEED

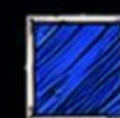
- Manage momentum on wider, slopes on wider, steeper slopes



THE INTERMEDIATE BRIDGE



GREEN CIRCLE



BLUE SQUARE



RED SLOPES

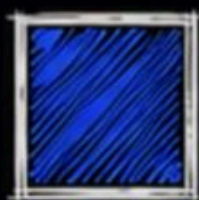


BLACK DIAMOND



APPROXIMATELY 50%
OF TERRAIN AT MOST
RESORTS: THE ESSENTIAL
BRIDGE TO ADVANCED
TECHNIQUES.





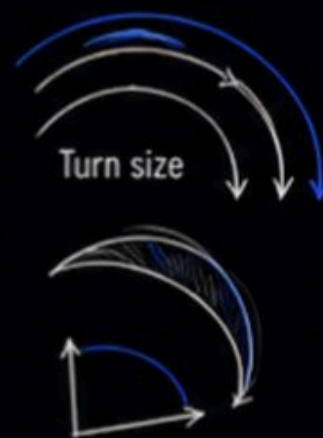
BLUE SQUARE: BUILDING YOUR ARSENAL

UPPER/LOWER BODY COORDINATION



TURN SIZE & SHAPE CONTROL

TURN SIZE



VARYING SIZE



VARYING SHAPE



J-TURNS



C-TURNS

BASIC FREESTYLE

BOXES



SMALL JUMPS



SPEED CONTROL TECHNIQUES

HOCKEY STOPS



- Quick Speed Dumps
- Set the Edge for Stopping

ADVANCED CONTROL



- Ungroomed Terrain Confidence
- Develop edge control for variable snow

SLASHING & SPRAYING

Speed & Style
Maneuver



RIDING SWITCH



Build
Symmetry

Non-Dominant
Foot Forward

SMOOTH EDGE TRANSITIONS

HEEL EDGE

TOE EDGE

Heel-to-Toe
Transition Point



Digging
Edges for
Carving

TOE/HEEL EDGE AWARENESS





RED SLOPES: YOUR NEXT LEVEL

RED SLOPES ARE WHERE YOU BUILD CONFIDENCE, CONTROL AND CONSISTENCY.
STEADY PITCH, LONGER RUNS, AND MORE ROOM TO LINK YOUR TURNS.

RED SLOPES TERRAIN CHARACTERISTICS



STEADY PITCH
15-30%



LONGER RUNS
More time to connect turns and build flow



WIDER TRAILS
More room, more options



GROOMED SURFACES
Consistent snow for skill development



CONSISTENT PITCH
Ideal for linking turns and building rhythm

MORE TIME
Longer runs give you time to practice and stay relaxed

MORE CONTROL
Perfect place to refine your technique and edge control

BUILD CONFIDENCE
Every good run on red builds confidence for advanced terrain

KEY SKILLS FOCUS

LINKING TURNS



Smooth, consistent turns down the fall line

SPEED CONTROL



Manage your speed using turns, not just skidding

EDGE CONTROL



Stronger edges, cleaner turns, better grip

RHYTHM & FLOW



Find your rhythm and make your runs smooth

PROGRESSION ROADMAP

GREEN CIRCLE



Learn the basics
Gain stability and control

BLUE SQUARE



Build turns and confidence on easier terrain

RED SLOPES



Link turns
Control speed
Build consistency

BLACK DIAMOND



Advanced techniques and terrain

WHAT TO EXPECT

- ✓ MORE SPEED
- ✓ LONGER TURN RADIUS
- ✓ CHANGING TERRAIN AND CONDITIONS
- ✓ MORE TRAFFIC – STAY AWARE
- ✓ MENTAL FOCUS – STAY RELAXED

FOCUS = CONTROL
CONTROL = CONFIDENCE

TIPS FOR SUCCESS



LOOK AHEAD
Plan your line and stay aware



CONTROL SPEED
Use turns, not just brakes



STAY BALANCED
Centered stance, athletic position



LINK YOUR TURNS
Start turns early and finish strong



BE PATIENT
Progress takes time. Trust the process

READY FOR MORE?

Master the red slopes, and you'll be ready to unlock the entire mountain.

KEEP RIDING.
KEEP GROWING.
KEEP PROGRESSING.





RED SLOPES: MASTERING CONTROL & FLOW

Where technique becomes confidence.

① DYNAMIC EDGE CONTROL

- Higher edge angles
- Stronger pressure control
- Clean edge release
- Edge-to-edge transitions



② TURN SHAPE MANAGEMENT

LONG RADIUS
Speed carrying turns



MEDIUM RADIUS
All-mountain control



SHORT RADIUS
Steep terrain management



③ SPEED CONTROL THROUGH TURNS

Control speed with turn shape

- LONGER TURNS**
= more speed
- SHORTER TURNS**
= less speed
- TERRAIN ADAPTATION**
Adjust turn size to terrain & conditions



④ TERRAIN READING

ROLLERS
Absorb & stay balanced

TERRAIN CHANGES
Read slope shape



SIDE HITS
Use features to your advantage

NARROW SECTIONS
Stay centered & plan ahead

Learn to choose the safest and most efficient line.

⑤ PRESSURE CONTROL

Managing pressure throughout the entire turn.

FORE-AFT BALANCE



Stay centered over your board

LATERAL BALANCE



Pressure the edge, not the boot

PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION



Smooth pressure flow front to back & back to front

⑥ FLOW RIDING

Linking turns with rhythm and flow.



⑦ RED SLOPE READINESS CHECKLIST

- ☒ Confident on blue slopes
- ☒ Linking C-turns
- ☒ Consistent edge control
- ☒ Riding variable terrain
- ☒ Speed management
- ☒ Comfortable on steeper pitches



RED SLOPES ARE NOT ABOUT SURVIVING STEEPER TERRAIN.

THEY ARE ABOUT LEARNING TO CONTROL YOUR BOARD ANYWHERE ON THE MOUNTAIN.





BLACK DIAMOND: THE SERIOUS STUFF



TERRAIN PROFILE

BLACK DIAMOND SLOPE

STEEP SLOPES
> 40% GRADIENT

UNGROOMED
SECTIONS

VARIABLE SNOW:
Powder to Ice

NARROW TRAIL
WITH LIMITED
ROOM FOR ERROR

ADVANCED SLOPE FEATURES



**STEEP
GRADIENTS**
Demands control
& commitment



**UNGROOMED
SECTIONS**
Always changing



**VARIABLE
SNOW**
Powder, chop,
ice, crust

~25%
of resort terrain

REQUIRED SKILLS & ABILITIES

QUICK REACTIONS FOR MOGULS & BUMPS

- Absorb, adapt, stay balanced
- Keep your core strong
- Stay loose & reactive

ABSORPTION
for moguls
& terrain impacts

BODY POSITIONS
for absorption
& control

TREE RUNS & GLADES

NATURAL
OBSTACLES:
precise
navigation

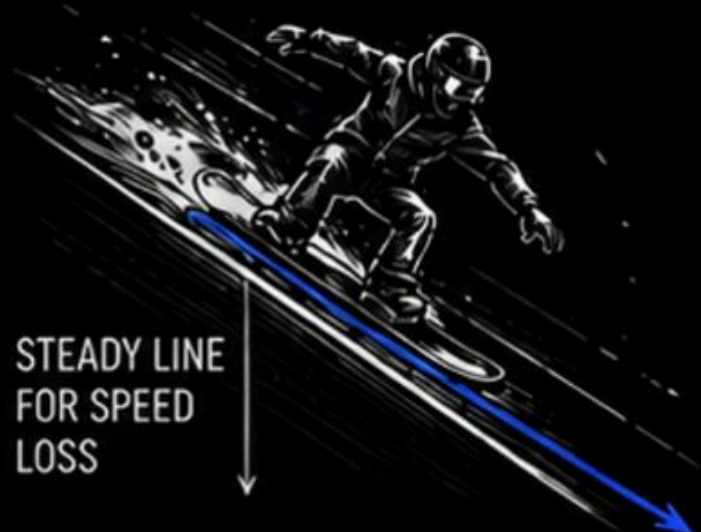
Physical Fitness,
Technique,
Mental Focus

TECHNICAL SECTIONS: CHUTES & GULLIES

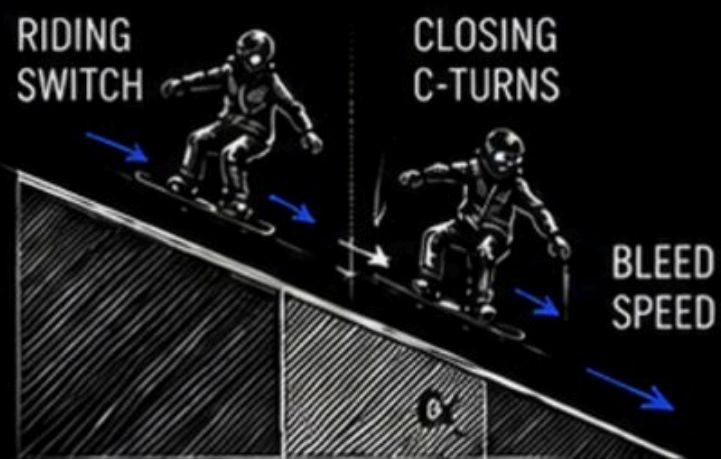


BLACK DIAMOND: ADVANCED TECHNIQUES

① STEEP PITCHES & SPEED MANAGEMENT

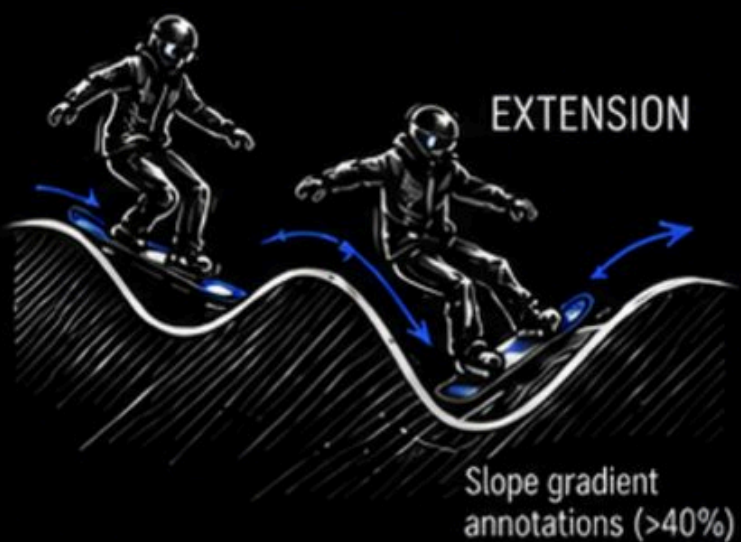
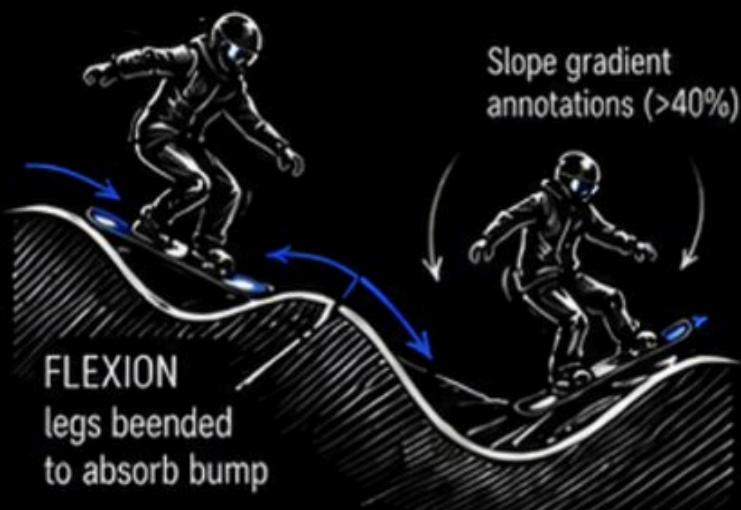


Master steep pitches by riding switch to control speed, closing turns to bleed velocity, and using precise flexion/extension.



Master steep pitches by riding switch to control speed, closing turns to bleed velocity, and using precise flexion/extension.

② ABSORPTION & TERRAIN VARIATIONS



Use flexion and extension to dynamically absorb bumps, undulations, and complex terrain variations.

③ UPPER & LOWER BODY SEPARATION



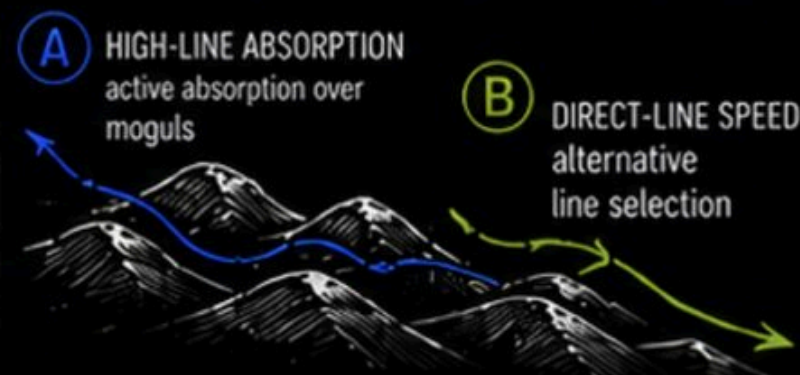
Isolate upper body for counter-rotation, allowing lower body to generate powerful, dynamic turns.

④ TREE GLADES & OBSTACLE AVOIDANCE



Negotiate tight tree glades with advanced obstacle avoidance, proactive line selection, and planned escape routes.

MOGUL LINES & LINE SELECTION



Select and master different lines through moguls, adapting absorption and direction for flow.

⑤ MOGUL LINES & LINE SELECTION

A HIGH-LINE ABSORPTION
active absorption over moguls



B DIRECT-LINE SPEED
alternative line selection



TECHNIQUE
Master your board.



CONFIDENCE
Trust your skills.



FREEDOM
Explore the mountain.



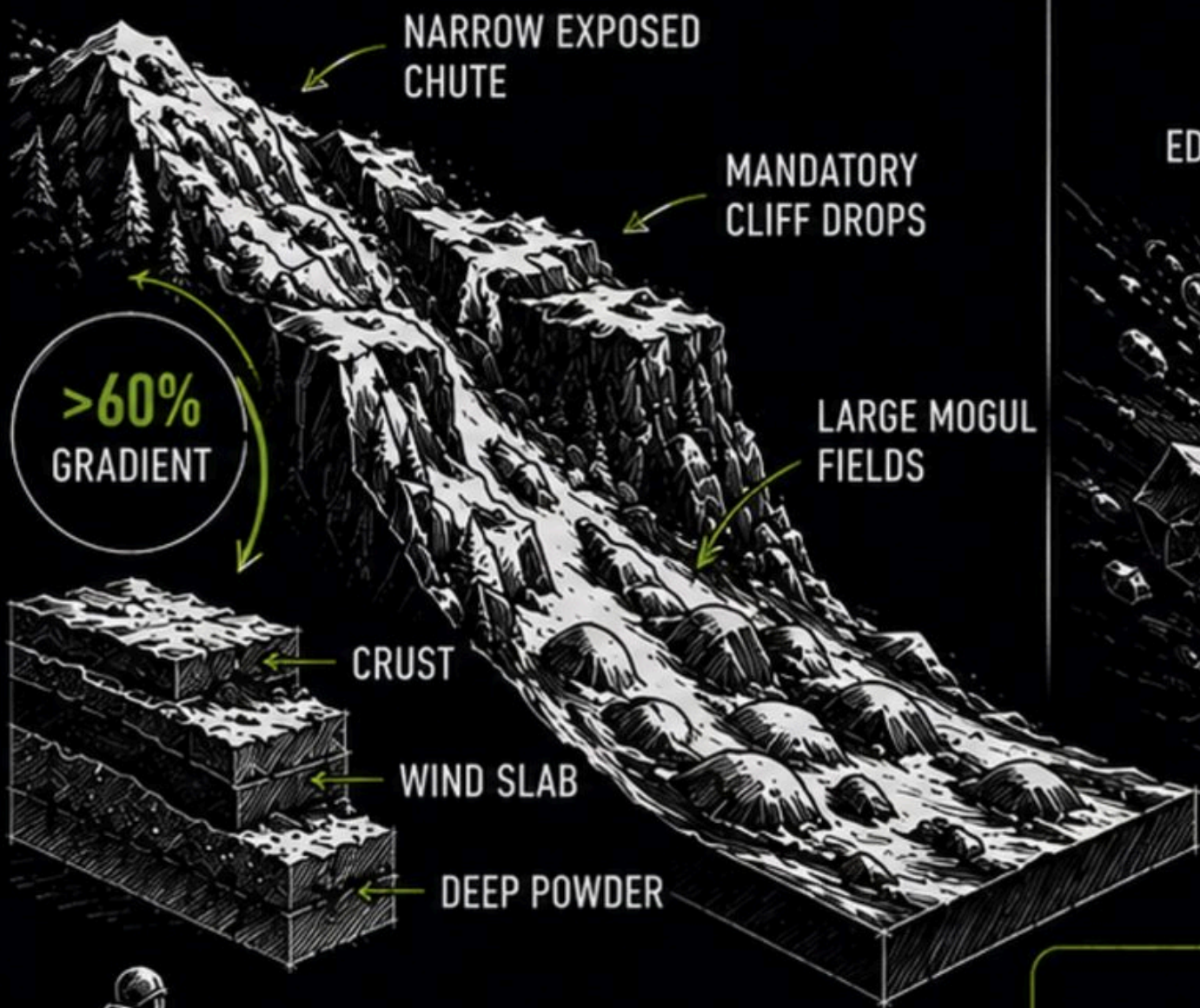
MASTERY
Ride without limits.

RIDE. LEARN. PROGRESS.



DOUBLE BLACK DIAMOND: EXPERT ONLY

TERRAIN & CONDITIONS



HIKE ACCESS ONLY

NO-FALL ZONE SKILLS



OVERALL DIFFICULTY SUMMARY



EXPERT ONLY. Terrain characterized by extreme gradients (>60%), mandatory technical moves, exposed chutes, and highly variable conditions. No-fall zones require flawless execution and years of experience.



MANDATORY ADVANCED MOVES

CONTROLLED CLIFF DROP



IMPACT ABSORPTION

LANDING COMPOSURE

TIGHT PASSAGE TRAVERSAL



RAPID-FIRE OBSTACLE NAVIGATION

VERTICAL COULOIR ENTRY



NO-HESITATION ENTRY

ADVANCED MOGUL MANAGEMENT



UPPER-LOWER BODY SEPARATION

HIGH AS-LOWER BODY SEPARATION

RAPID TURNS



TECHNIQUE
Master your board.



CONFIDENCE
Trust your skills.



FREEDOM
Explore the mountain.



MASTERY
Ride without limits.

RIDE. LEARN. PROGRESS.



DOUBLE BLACK DIAMOND: MASTERY IN MOTION

STEEP, COMPLEX SLOPE
>40% GRADIENT

NARROW, BOULDERED CHUTE

EXPERT POMDER HANDLING

WEIGHT SHIFT TO BACK FOOT

BACK-FOOT DRIVING FOR FLOATATION AND TURN INITIATION

HOP TURNS IN NARROW CHUTES

PIVOT 90+°

~10+°

RAPID EDGE ENGAGEMENT

PRECISE EDGE CONTROL ON ICY FACES

AGGRESSIVE SIDECUT PRESSURE

AGGRESSIVE SIDECUT PRESSURE

MINIMAL SLIP

CORNICE ENTRY & AIR AWARENESS

DROPPING IN

STABILIZATION IN AIR

ACTIVE LANDING

AVALANCHE RISK ZONES

PLANNED DESCENT LINE

HAZARD AVOIDANCE POINTS

TERRAIN NAVIGATION WITH MULTIPLE HAZARDS

AVALANCHE SAFETY KNOWLEDGE & EQUIPMENT USE

- ☒ TRANSCEIVER CHECK
- ☒ SHOVEL & PROBE USE
- ☒ SCENARIO PRACTICE

ADVANCED AWARENESS OF SNOWPACK AND MOUNTAIN HAZARDS IS CRITICAL.

① GREEN CIRCLE ESSENTIAL FOUNDATIONS



- Edge Control
- Side Slipping
- Falling Leaf
- J-Turns
- Basic Stops

GOAL:
Ride safely on
beginner terrain.

② BLUE SQUARE INTERMEDIATE SKILLS



- Linking C-Turns
- Confident Carving
- Speed Control
- Riding Variable Terrain
- Switch Foundations

GOAL:
Independent riding
on blue slopes.

③ RED SLOPES CONTROL & FLOW



- Dynamic Edge Control
- Pressure Management
- Turn Shape Control
- Terrain Reading
- Flow Riding
- Short Radius Turns

GOAL:
Ride confidently on
steeper terrain.

④ BLACK DIAMOND ADVANCED TERRAIN MANAGEMENT



- Moguls
- Steep Terrain
- Tree Runs
- Variable Snow
- Advanced Line Selection

GOAL:
Adapt to any mountain
condition.

⑤ DOUBLE BLACK EXPERT MASTERY



- Couloirs
- No-Fall Zones
- Cliff Drops
- Extreme Terrain
- Avalanche Awareness

GOAL:
Expert-only terrain.

TERRAIN DIFFICULTY & STEEPNESS GUIDE



Note: Slope ratings vary by resort. Difficulty is not determined by gradient alone.

COMPLETE TERRAIN ADAPTABILITY



The bridge between independent riding
and advanced terrain.

KEY ADVICE



- ✓ Advancement based on confidence, not just slope color
- ✓ Master each level before moving up
- ✓ Train consistently
- ✓ Understand terrain & conditions
- ✓ Respect the mountain

PHYSICAL CONDITIONING RECOMMENDATIONS



STRENGTH
Lower body power
& stability



MOBILITY
Hip & ankle
mobility



BALANCE
Board control
& stability



CORE
Core strength
& endurance



& recovery

ADAPTABILITY



ICE
Low friction
management



WIND
Variable snow
awareness



SUN
Soft snow
adaptation



TECHNIQUE
Master your board.



CONFIDENCE
Trust your skills.



FREEDOM
Explore

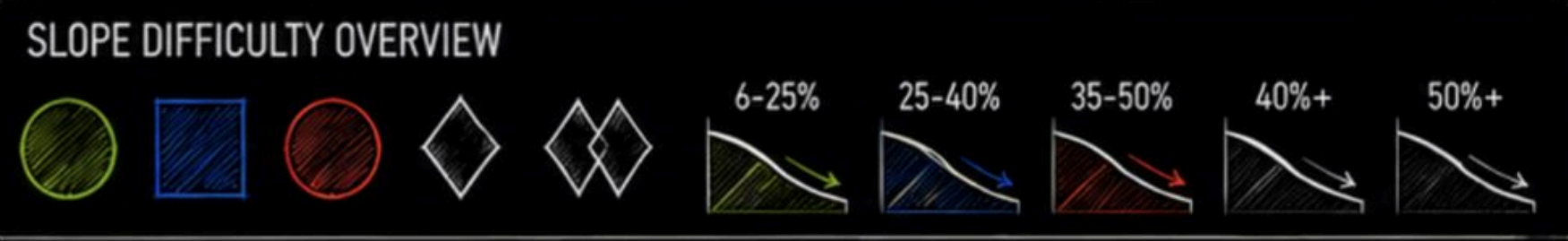


MASTERY
Ride without limits.

RIDE. LEARN. PROGRESS.

RESPECT THE MOUNTAIN

SLOPE DIFFICULTY OVERVIEW



GREEN CIRCLE: ESSENTIAL SKILLS

HEEL EDGE CONTROL

RESURRECTIONS

- Basic recoveries to heel-side slip

SIDE SLIPPING

- Normal edge
- Storing sides
- Side slipping
- naturals

LINKING C-TURNS

J-Turns

BLUE SQUARE: BUILDING YOUR ARSENAL

CARVING TURNS

- Speed control
- Carving and more carving turns

HOCKEY STOPS

- Fast stop too line a fast stop, always carving of speed
- Redress me stop

QUICK EDGE CHANGES

- Always arrive rows to oring mts directions

RIDING SWITCH

Calving ride slalives over use statites, bearing turns and riding witch.

RED SLOPES: CONTROL & FLOW

DYNAMIC EDGE CONTROL

- Adjust edge angle to terrain and speed

PRESSURE MANAGEMENT

- Control pressure for grip and release

TURN SHAPE CONTROL

- Shape your turns for better flow

TERRAIN READING

- Spot features and plan your line

FLOW RIDING

- Connect turns smoothly

SHORT RADIUS TURNS

- Tighten your turn radius with control

BLACK DIAMOND: ADVANCED TECHNIQUES

COMPLEX LINES

Upper/Lower Body Separation

MOGUL ABSORPTION

- Hugal aesorption for post pent tess tax vigul pont on by point

NARROW CHUTES

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

HELMET (Properly fitted)

AVAILANCHE SAFETY GEAR (Off-piste use)

• Couloirs

• No-Fall Zones

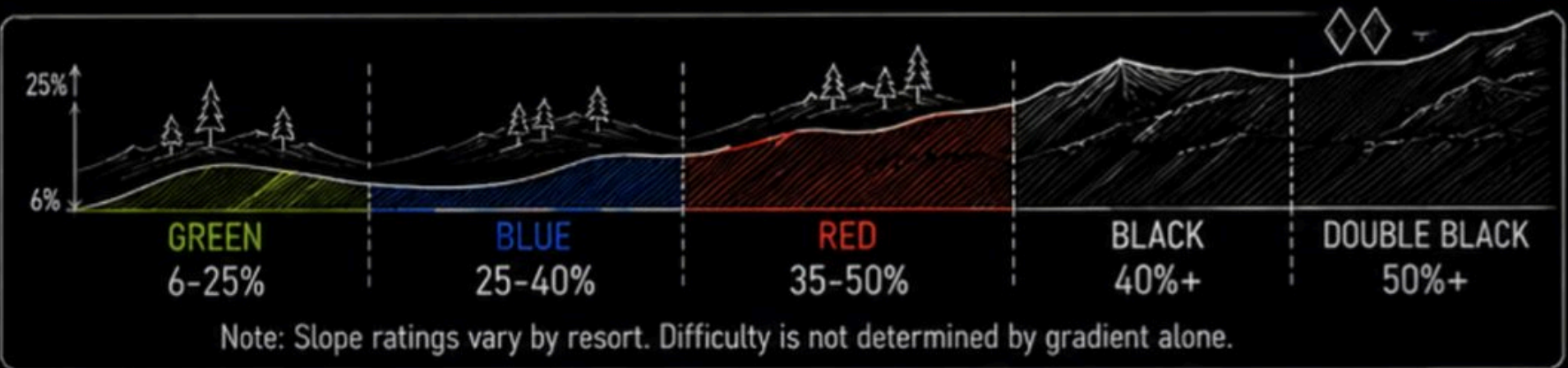
• Cliff Drops

• Extreme Terrain

• Avalanche Awareness

DOUBLE BLACK: EXPERT MASTERY

- Couloirs
- No-Fall Zones
- Cliff Drops
- Extreme Terrain
- Avalanche Awareness



KEY ADVICE

- ✓ Advancement based on confidence, not just slope color
- ✓ Master each level before moving up
- ✓ Train consistently
- ✓ Understand terrain & conditions
- ✓ Respect the mountain

CLOSING MESSAGE

The mountain will always be there - make sure you are too. Always choose appropriate terrain. Condition changes occur. Ride with partners. Carry safety equipment beyond control areas. Seek progression through lessons.