

Stance Socks – the comfortable thread

Nobody might be as technology-dismissive as skateboarders. While other freetime-athletes try to tease out the last few percent by using the latest high-performance gear, they jump down stairsets in flimsy vulc shoes that basically haven't changed since the 60s.

But what if technology and innovations could actually make skateboarding more comfortable? Stance socks' attempt to introduce a performance skate sock could be seen as breaking down the last boundry between skateboarding and every other performance sport, without adding the smell of locker rooms and competition.



Immediately, when trying them on for the first time, they do not feel like any ordinary socks. Instead of bulky threats, Stance socks feature a seamless construction that push their comfort to new levels. If you turn them inside out, you'll see that the different panels are woven together without any noticeable overlapping, so they won't cause any blisters or hot spots. The thinner stretch part in the middlefoot area, the added thickness on the bottom, heel and toes, as well as a top part that doesn't strangle the area above the ankle, add further comfort and set them far apart from regular socks.



The performance version, called the Gripper Cush, features additional pads of a material with a silicone feel and grip, with the goal to keep your feet in place within the shoe and to add cushioning. These pads work quite well, although it takes some time to get used to the added grip and it is a bit of a hassle to get your feet into your shoes. Don't expect them to add a great amount of cushioning, though, the pads just add a pleasant feeling when skating very thin vulc models, not more.

Apart from a comfort, which makes it hard to switch back to normal socks – whether it be for skating or all other sock-involving activities – another main advantage is the use of 40% coolmax fibers. This creates a fast-drying material that transports sweat away from the foot. While you might feel like you have a wet towel wrapped around your foot after several hours of skating when wearing regular socks, the Gripper Cush keeps your feet dry, even if it is moist on the outside. The whole design, with different thicknesses in certain areas according to the geometry of the foot, including a very thin top part for maximum breathability, plays into that too.

Stance's washing instructions, which can be found on their homepage ([stance.com](https://www.stance.com)), describe how you should ideally treat your socks to keep them nice, tidy and colourful. Aside from that, between the lines, they also more or less admit that most people won't do it that way. The tested pairs, after several washes and runs in the dryer, are not as good as new anymore but still offer the same comfort, so they are definitely durable enough for the daily grind.



Only the colors lost a bit of their brilliance, but this is just a marginal objection though.

To summarise: Stance socks, whether they be the Gripper Cush or the regular ones, are severall foot-lengths ahead of most other socks regarding comfort and breathability and well worth the money. Once you tried a pair, it is hard to go back, on or off the board.