

Puma Dallas check-out

You know the feeling when you stumble over a shoe that's not intended for skateboarding, but looks tempting to be skated anyway?

As we start 2013, almost every major sports company has kicked off their own skate shoe program, with the newest being New Balance. That exciting feeling of discovery seldom arises nowadays. However, throughout the history of skateboarding, finding non-skateboarding shoes to skate in was more common than finding shoes specifically designed for skateboarding. And additionally, whether they are basketball-, tennis-, badminton-, or indoor soccer shoes, skateboarding footwear designs always borrowed heavily from other famous sport shoe silhouettes. Personally speaking, a discovery that always looked too good to pass up was the Puma Dallas. How it lived up to the expectations, as well as the griptape abuse can be read in the following check-out.

The Puma Dallas fits true to size.

The Puma Dallas proved to be quite durable during the 5 hours it was skated. The toebox showed hardly any noticeable wear, the panels were still attached to each other and the stitching didn't break.



Additionally, the collar looks as good as new and still tidy, an area that most skate-specific models often struggle with. The laces ripped through only once, a result of the narrow space between the eyestays and the

resulting tight way of lacing the shoe. The only weak area of the upper that was discovered during this short-term test was the Puma formstripe.



Due to its expansive shape it was affected by the griptape abrasion very much; the stitching ripped and parts of the panel were worn off. The thin cupsole proved to be durable as well. The toebox area of the outsole still features a noticeable edge. The bottom sole did not look deep enough to ensure long-lasting grip on first sight and the star-shaped pyramids of the thread pattern on the outsole are sparse. However, the solid circle patterns seemed to compensate that and not too much abrasion took place.

The cushioning shows that it is not a shoe solely intended for skateboarding. The sole construction is able to dampen low impact skating, but not much more. Additionally, the sockliner is not removable and rather thin. Still the cupsole structure manages to dampen bails pretty well. Compared to most skate-specific vulc models that don't offer a lot more, the cushioning of the Dallas seemed more protective.

With the impact absorption being average, the boardfeel is actually very good. The contact between foot and deck is very direct due to the thin cupsole construction, especially in the front half of the shoe, the most important area. The grip of the shoe transformed during the first 2 hours of skating: At the beginning, the traction was standard, but exponentially became better

with wear, to the point where it could compete with most cupsole skate shoes on the market right now.



A reason might be the pyramid-shaped thread pattern: with wear the pyramids get dull and as a result, the contact surface increases.

The shape of the Puma Dallas resembles other indoor soccer styles such as the adidas Samba.



Overall, it is slim pointy toed, low and very close to the foot, which results in outstanding flick. The heel area features just the bare minimum of padding while the tongue doesn't feature any at all.

Nevertheless, the Dallas is still a very comfortable shoe, even with the absence of padding. One of the highlights of the model is the smooth synthetic leather collar lining. Usually typical for soccer shoes, it is superior to most materials used in skateboard shoes today: Due to the moisture that develops from skating, the shoe develops a heel lock that is unparalleled. The foot is

securely positioned and it feels like it's sucked in place by a vacuum.



The remaining inner lining also feels very comfortable with no stitching noticeable and the overall craftsmanship of the shoe soars far above average.

One of the biggest disadvantages is the lack of stability. The very soft heel reinforcement is comfortable, but a higher level of support would be beneficial when used as a skate shoe. The higher cut around the achilles tendon compensates the missing support a bit; but a more rigid and bigger heel-reinforcement would be desirable.

Summary:

The Puma Dallas works surprisingly well as a skate shoe and proved to be durable, grippy and offers great boardfeel. A minor disadvantage is the missing support in the heel area.

Text: Clemens Dyckmans
Tester: Clemens Dyckmans
Correction: Edan Qian

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