



A Board Dissected

Unless you're slaying the park on a skate deck, your board is built from a slew of magical ingredients. These materials work together to ensure your deck has plenty of pop, looks good, and survives the season. If you've ever wondered what those materials actually look like, here's the inside view. —Mike Sudmeier

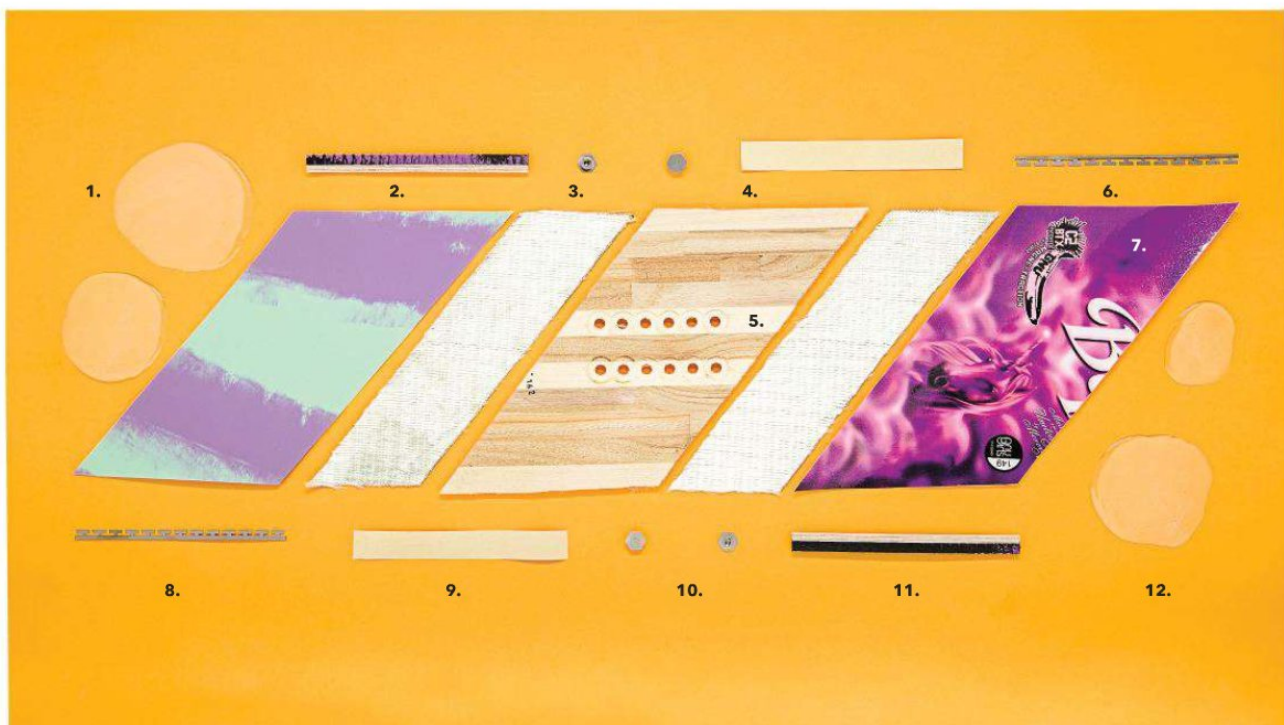


PHOTO: TIM ZIMMERMAN

1. Epoxies:

A super strong glue that holds materials together.

2. P-tex:

This base material is made from a dense plastic that protects from impacts, reduces friction and readily absorbs wax.

3. Fiberglass or Basalt:

A woven, fabric-like material layered above and below the core providing strength and flexibility.

4. Core:

Strips of joined wood like poplar, ash, aspen, beech, and maple. Can also include carbon fiber, Kevlar, aluminum honeycomb, composite woods, and foam.

5. Stringers:

Strips of carbon fiber, hemp, basalt, fiberglass, bamboo, or additional wood that add pop and stiffness.

6. Topsheet:

Usually made from plastics, some use eco-friendly castor beans.

7. Ink:

Used in printing graphics.

8. Edges:

Usually made from heat-treated carbon steel.

9. Sidewalls:

Made from P-tex, ABS plastic, bamboo, or urethane, these protect from impacts, transfer energy to the edges, and dampen vibrations.

10. Inserts:

Stainless steel.

11. Vibration Dampening:

Sheets of rubber or Kevlar that help dampen your ride.

12. Lacquers:

Makes the board shine. Some manufacturers digitally print graphics on their topsheets to reduce environmental impact and weight.