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JULY/AUGUST 2007 [BestLifeOnline.com](http://BestLifeOnline.com)

**JOSH DUHAMEL**

Secrets of Spielberg's  
Next Action Hero

(Mr. Duhamel wears John Varvatos Star USA.  
Details on p. 130)

# Fine, Finer, Finest

The most coveted longboards for catching endless waves at a surf break near you

"The only rule about learning to surf," says Izzy Paskowitz, who runs Southern California's oldest wave-riding school, "is that you have to start on a longboard." Featuring a single fin, these nine- to 12-foot surfboards catch waves easier than their smaller kin (the aptly named shortboard) because they're more buoyant and stable. And, according to Paskowitz, 43, adult men want to learn the low-impact sport now more than ever. "They tried it on vacation when they were younger, but then they got careers and got married," he says. "Now they have the time and money to learn." The market-research group Board-Trac concurs, noting that the number of men who surf has nearly doubled in 20 years. In fact, in many beach towns today, it's easier to find a quality surf instructor than a decent fish taco. For North America's best surf camps, visit [BestLifeOnline.com/surfcamps](http://BestLifeOnline.com/surfcamps), and for a guide to the best boards for your buck, read on. MARK ANDERS

## FINE SOUTHPOINT KT, \$649

A little over a decade ago, this design by Australia's renowned surfboard shaper Kym Thompson would have set you back \$1,200. Now you can buy an exact replica for half the price because it's being mass-produced in Thailand. This nine-foot six-inch stick has more foam in its middle than most boards and a generous 23-inch width—two features that make paddling out and riding easier. And because it's made of epoxy, it's more durable than the two more expensive foam-and-fiberglass boards featured here. [surfindustries.com](http://surfindustries.com)

## FINER WALDEN MAGIC MODEL, \$850

This board is the same size as the SouthPoint, but it is handmade by Steve Walden, who has been crafting them in Ventura, California, and Hawaii for the past 42 years. With its wide concave nose and substantial rocker (the upward curvature between nose and tail), the Magic is quite possibly the easiest board to nose ride (walking to the front-most part of the surfboard) and is equally suited for all wave sizes—from ankle slappers to bone crushers. [waldensurfboards.com](http://waldensurfboards.com)

## FINEST LANCE CARSON CLASSIC PINTAIL, \$1,700

Surfers wait two months for this 25-pound '60s-style behemoth, which weighs almost twice as much as the other two planks here. Why pay for more weight? Because Lance Carson, who rode this same design in the 1966 classic *The Endless Summer*, still hand shapes one every two weeks, and, as in baseball, tradition rules surfing. Mastering this 10-footer shows that you respect the underpinnings of a practice that is equal parts sport and, as trite as it may sound, religion. [lancecarson.com](http://lancecarson.com)

## RENAISSANCE MAN

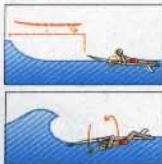
The first skill every longboarder needs to master

Paddling through sets of waves to reach the break can be a chore on a heavy longboard. Conserve your energy by learning how to "turtle."

**PREPARE** Paddle directly toward the wave to establish forward momentum. When the wave is a board's length away, firmly grab the board's sides and take a deep breath.

**ROLL** Barrel-roll 180 degrees in whichever direction is more comfortable so that you're hanging onto your board underwater. Hold on tightly as the wave passes overhead.

**POP UP** Once the wave has passed, push up on either the left or right side and climb onto the board.



L-DOPA ILLUSTRATIONS

STEVEN MOEDER