

# Get a grip on sidewalk surfing

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"You can do the tricks the surfers do, just try a 'Quasimodo' or 'The Coffin', (Why don't you) grab your board and go sidewalk surfin' with me?" What were Jan and Dean talking about back in the day? Skateboarding of course, and it sure has evolved.

Although there were some meager prototypes in the 20s, it wasn't until San Diego native Peter Parken mounted roller skate trucks onto a plank of wood that the skateboard was born. It became known as "sidewalk surfing" after a North Hollywood surf shop owner attached roller skate trucks to surfboards in 1958, but what makes this child's toy a cultural icon?

The sport really came in its element in 1965 when the first national skateboard championship

was held. The sport began to earn recognition and sales of skateboards increased to \$50 million. In the 70s some new features were added. The first kick tail and polyurethane wheels gave the skateboard both traction and maneuverability. With new maneuverability the term sidewalk surfing took on a whole new meaning. Skaters used stair rails, curbs, benches and empty swimming pools to perform Ollies, flips, grinds and slides. "Skateboarding is not a Crime" stickers could be found almost anywhere in the 80s and 90s, almost like a war chant. The idea of a skate park was the answer to the clash.

According to skateboarding legend, Tony Hawk, it doesn't take long for cities to realize that their modest skate

parks get more use than the local tennis courts or baseball fields. The quality of public skate parks is improving and their numbers are growing. San Diego County has a number of skate parks, but the city of Escondido boasts the biggest, baddest of them all. Recently expanded to 22,000 square feet, it incorporates a sick street course with a unique design featuring hips, ledges, boxes, handrails, stairs, step-ups, spines, roll-ins, fly box, fun box, endless runs and the obstacle course is moveable allowing park officials to create endless challenges.

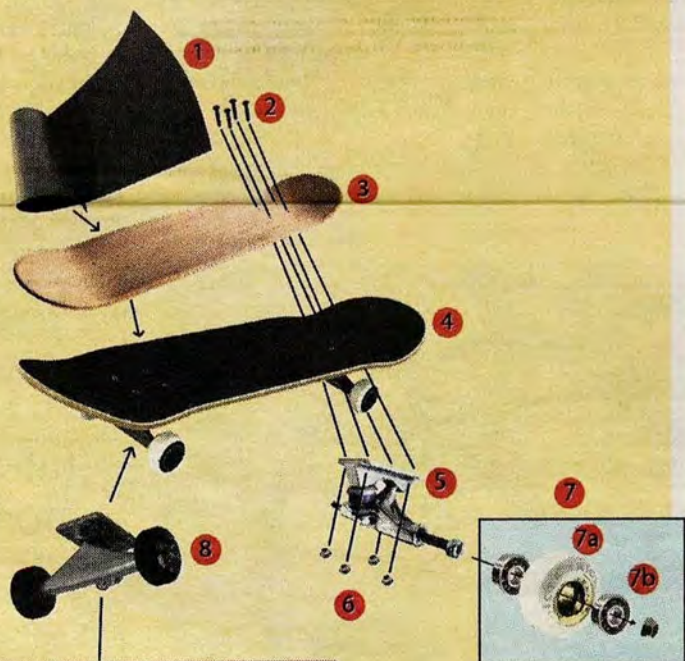
All skill levels are represented. There are sections for younger skaters just learning and the park is set up so that skaters can practice and perfect their skills. The goal being to reach

features reserved for the pros. If you want air, Escondido's skate park has ramps 13 feet high. The park has quarter pipes that are eight and ten feet high, round and square rails, a two-sided ramp with a flat top and a 35-foot-long curved ledge. The park is part of the \$2 million sports center in Kit Carson Park.

The city of Vista is also considering a new skate park location near the intersection of South Santa Fe Avenue and Monte Vista Drive. The popularity of skateboarding has brought a high degree of professionalism and money to the sport. Exposure on ESPN in the Extreme Games and X Games has elevated professional skaters to the level of other professional athletes.

Skateboarding is no longer just a pastime, it is a competitive sport where athletes develop routines and tricks and put on a show and amateurs tape their antics for show on YouTube. Skateboarding has come a long way from that chunk of wood with roller skate wheels. It has been transformed from a toy to a vehicle of self-expression, athleticism, creativity and rebellion. It could be said that the skateboard transformed generations of young people.

## Anatomy: of a complete skateboard



- 1 -Grip tape  
Function: to keep you on the board while moving or doing tricks
- 2 -Hardware (bolts)  
Function: to keep the trucks attached to the wooden deck
- 3 -Deck  
Function: puts the "board" in skateboard and acts as the backbone to most tricks and transportation aspects, serves as basis for the slide tricks
- 4 -Complete Skateboard  
Function: recreation, transportation and exercise
- 5 -Truck  
Function: acts as an axle for the wheels, provides a pivot point in order to turn while in motion as well as the key contact point when performing grind tricks.
- 6 -Hardware (nuts)  
Function: to keep the trucks attached to the wooden deck
- 7 -Anatomy of a wheel
  - 7a -Wheel  
Function: the part that contacts the ground and considered an evolutionary jump in human history, also serves as basis for manual tricks
  - 7b -Bearing  
Function: attaches wheel to the truck's axle and keeps the wheel rolling smoothly
- 8 -Complete truck  
Function: serves as the functional part of the complete skateboard
- 9 -Anatomy of a truck

