altai skis

Universal Binding

Owner's Manual



Congratulations!

You have chosen the Altai Skis Universal Binding. Over the last 15 years we have tested many bindings of this type. Our version combines what we liked about them and improves on what we didn't.

The Altai Skis Universal Binding allows you to:

- Ski in your own boots, from women's size 7 to men's size 14.
- Quickly adjust the binding to fit different boot sizes.
- Once the length adjustment is set, quickly enter and exit the binding with two ratcheting buckles.

This unique binding makes it possible for you to ski or skishoe without a dedicated boot/binding system. You can use all sorts of winter boots in the binding as long as they have a flexible sole. Whether you wear warm winter boots, hiking boots, or even “Sorel” style winter boots, just clip into the binding and you are ready to head out for a tour. Please read this manual carefully. It will help you make the most of this all-purpose binding.

Limitations of Usage

The Altai Skis Universal Binding is well designed, and we have tested it extensively under hard use. That said, we have found over the years that nothing is indestructible. If used improperly or with boots the binding was not designed for, breakage could occur. Here are a few cautions about using this binding:

- Do not use this binding with stiff-soled boots. This includes (but is not limited to) mountaineering boots, downhill ski boots, and stiff-soled telemark boots (for the latter we recommend our 3-pin binding or a 3-pin cable setup).
- This binding is not designed for lift-served (downhill) skiing.
- Do not use this binding with boots larger than men's size 14.
- We do not recommend using these bindings in conditions colder than -30°F (-35°C).
- **This is not a release binding!** It will not release in a fall, so ski accordingly.

For more information go to **https://altaiskis.com/faqs/**

Limited Warranty

We warrant the bindings for one year from the purchase date to the original retail buyer only. The warranty does not cover normal wear and tear, unauthorized modifications, or use outside the product's intended purpose. If you discover a defect, contact the place of purchase or Altai Skis. If the binding is covered under warranty, we will repair or replace it at our discretion. We reserve the right to require proof of purchase for all warranty claims.

Spare Parts

Spare parts are available, including shorter toe straps, buckles, and every other part of the binding. Contact Altai Skis or visit www.altaiskis.com to order.

For more information go to **www.altaiskis.com**

Attaching the Binding

Each binding mounts with 3 screws using the 75mm nordic/tele hole pattern. If your skis have threaded inserts in this pattern (such as Altai Hoks and Altai Taos), simply place the binding over the insert holes and screw in the 3 screws using a #3 Pozidrive or #3 Phillips screwdriver. For drill-and-mount skis (skis without inserts), we recommend having a ski shop (with the correct jig) do the binding mount.

Rotate between the 3 screws as you tighten them to keep the toe plate parallel with the ski. Tighten the screws by hand so you don't accidentally overtighten them with a power driver. Looking at the side profile of the ski and binding, make sure the binding toe plates are snug against the skis. Do not overtighten! Snug is good! If you notice screws loosening during use, you can add Loctite Blue (#242) to the threads, but this is generally not a problem. You are ready to go!

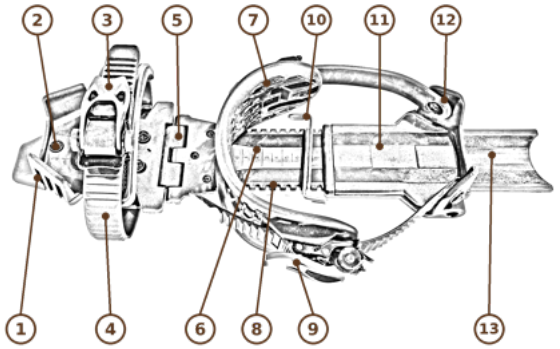
Adjusting the Binding

You can adjust the length of the binding for different boot sizes by sliding the heel assembly (11) forward or back on the flex plate (13). To do this, squeeze the two looped ends of the locking spring clip (10) together. This frees the clip from the adjustment notches (8) on the side of the flex plate and allows the heel assembly to slide forward or back. The numbers on the flex plate (6) are for matching the right and left bindings and don’t correspond to boot sizes. Adjust one binding to your boot and note the reference number on the flex plate. Use this number to set the other binding to the same length.

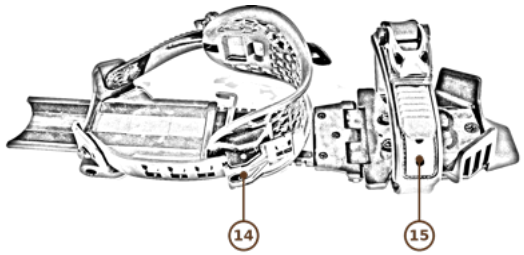
The Universal Binding has no specific left or right binding. However, we strongly recommend putting on the bindings so the buckles close on the outside of each foot. This keeps the buckles from catching on each other while skiing.

Parts

Top view – buckle (outer) side



Inner side



1 Toe stops
2 Mounting screws (3)
3 Toe strap buckle
4 Toe strap
5 Hinge
6 Reference numbers
7 Ankle strap
8 Adjustment notches
9 Ankle strap buckle
10 Locking spring clip
11 Heel assembly
12 Heel cradle
13 Flex plate
14 Secondary ratchet
15 Toe strap adjustment holes

Setting the Length

You will notice that the heel assembly is spring-loaded. To set the correct length, first find the notch where your boot fits exactly between the toe stops (1) and the heel cradle (12), then move the heel assembly one notch shorter. To enter the binding, put your heel in first and push slightly back so the toe of your boot fits into the toe stops. This slightly compresses the heel springs and adds a small amount of forward pressure, keeping your boot firmly nested in the toe stops.

Strap Adjustment

The ankle and toe straps both have plenty of adjustment in the standard setting. If needed, you can lengthen or shorten the toe strap by unscrewing the retaining screw and moving the T-nut and buckle forward or back to another hole (15). The toe buckle should sit roughly centered over your foot so it can be tightened properly (we recommend doing this indoors!). The ankle strap has additional coarse adjustment through the secondary ratchet (14) on the inner side of the foot.

Care and Maintenance

Check regularly to make sure that the screws and T-nuts are not loose. If they keep loosening, use Loctite Blue (#242) on the threads of the screws. If you ski or skishoe in spring conditions (our favorite after powder snow!) or dirty snow, regularly check the springs in the heel assemblies to make sure they are flexing properly. If the heel assembly is not sliding smoothly, squeeze the spring clip ends and slide the heel assembly back, off the rear of the flex plate. Clean the flex plate and lubricate the springs inside the heel assembly with silicone spray if needed.