

Impressions of G3's ROAMr 100 & 108 Skis

I own the 1st generation of these and cannot post any Review on G3's site since they are not the 2nd generation. I did have a post & review up in 2020 on their site about the ROAMr100 but its down now, same reason.

So I got to ski these skis more this past season (2021-22). True to their claim these skis are suited for 70% resort and 30% backcountry (108's 30% resort, 70% backcountry)...I was hoping they could be more Backcountry, the 108's probably can, you'll see why. But never like G3's SENDr 112's. This ski and from close attention of the Technical Specs, a lot of the claims now make sense. Both ROAMr & SENDr have wood core & 2 sheets of Titanal metal, then they differ. ROAMr's have fiberglass (2 sheets) and the SENDr's carbon (2 sheets). Another difference is the camber. SENDr's have a 1mm ('flat' camber), and the ROAMr's 4mm camber (more traditional). This, is where the similarity ends and the differences begin. If you could ski these skis blind, the skis are completely different. The SENDr's are easy turning, hold an edge, can take speed w/o chatter (or minimal, since every ski chatters after a point), but surprisingly are very Nimble...the skis turn on a dime, handle tight places, and give you the confidence to do so.

The ROAMr's ski like a stiff ski in comparison. Unless you're skiing a resort with groomed trails, it takes effort to start turns, they are better with speed and steeps, but you have to be aggressive and really hop on them. Some of this has to do with the skiers weight, I'm light at 150lbs and have to work to get the camber flat, someone at 175lbs will have a different view and love these. But the skis are sketchy on tight spots, on dicey conditions, really narrow trails, and don't exude confidence like the SENDr skis. To me the ROAMRs are a resort ski, and in the backcountry they are work and not fun like the SENDr's. Frankly with the SENDr's I was surprised that G3 would design a ski at a lower price point and more traditional camber. The SENDr does everything and is so much fun to ski, why go backwards? I would like them to change the ROAMr to the profile of the SENDr, that could work and they could be a serious backcountry contender.

So the camber makes more of a difference combined with stiffness than I would have thought. The slight or no camber of the SENDr means it does not have to be weighted to flex it, its there already, all you do is turn them effortlessly-joyfully from turn to turn with a big grin. This camber also allows them to smear easily (basically a fast controlled sideslip). It takes a lot of hopping or stomping on the ROAMrs to flex them to attempt the same results...yeah you can link turns, but you won't be grinning much. They are a great technical ski that can make a better skier out of you, but the SENDr is an unbelievable ski that allows you to get to your best. I will gladly use the ROAMr's on hardpack man-made snow and icy conditions, but choose the SENDr's on soft snow and anything else, even hardpack man-made snow. For example, on the Sherburn Ski Trail on Mt. Washington, or the Gulf of Slides Ski Trail (2.5mi trails) the ROAMr's would not be my choice, and if so would not be a pleasant ski down.

To compare stiffness, I have 2 skis Voile makes, V6BC and V8 with similar camber as the ROAMr. But, without the metal. The carbon and fiberglass allow the skis to flex to make effortless turns, yet hold an edge, and are so much fun on soft snow to hardpack. The difference is the metal. The Voile's inspire confidence just as the SENDr, and these would be my choice on any backcountry snow or trail I have experienced. Easy to turn is critical in the backcountry, as well as being able to handle various snow conditions. Skis that can do this are confidence builders, skis you can trust to turn when needed and handle any snow and narrow-sketchy trail you may encounter. The only need for a stiff ski is on really dense, hard-firm snow. There you have it. Get out & enjoy the Backcountry!