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**Ivan Babikov and his Salomon production skis
are turning the heads of World Cup stars.**



In his first three World Cup races Babikov earned three top 20 finishes including a stunning 4th place finish in Canmore’s 15km freestyle.



Babikov on route to a 4th place finish in the 15km World Cup Freestyle race.
Canmore Alberta, Canada-Thursdays Dec 15th

Babikov raced on a pair of Salomon Equipe 10 Skate Skis (107 KG 2.7 cold) with Salomon boot covers over Carbon Pro 2 Skate boots.

Remember; Babikov's skis are identical to the skis sold by Salomon retailers worldwide. In fact, Ivan's race proven skate skis actually came this fall from Gear West, Salomon's largest North American race center, because the Subaru Factory Team director failed to order enough stiff skis from the Salomon warehouse last summer.

When the story of Ivan's "ski shop Salomon's" was told to the other World Cup stars, ski technicians and coaches, they all stared back in amazement. Never before had they heard of a ski starting out on the retail wall and ending up in the top 30, let alone 4th place of a World Cup ski race. Most of the skis raced by today's World Cup stars come from secret "race rooms" where skis are "hand made" without production line inconsistencies, lay-ups or molds.

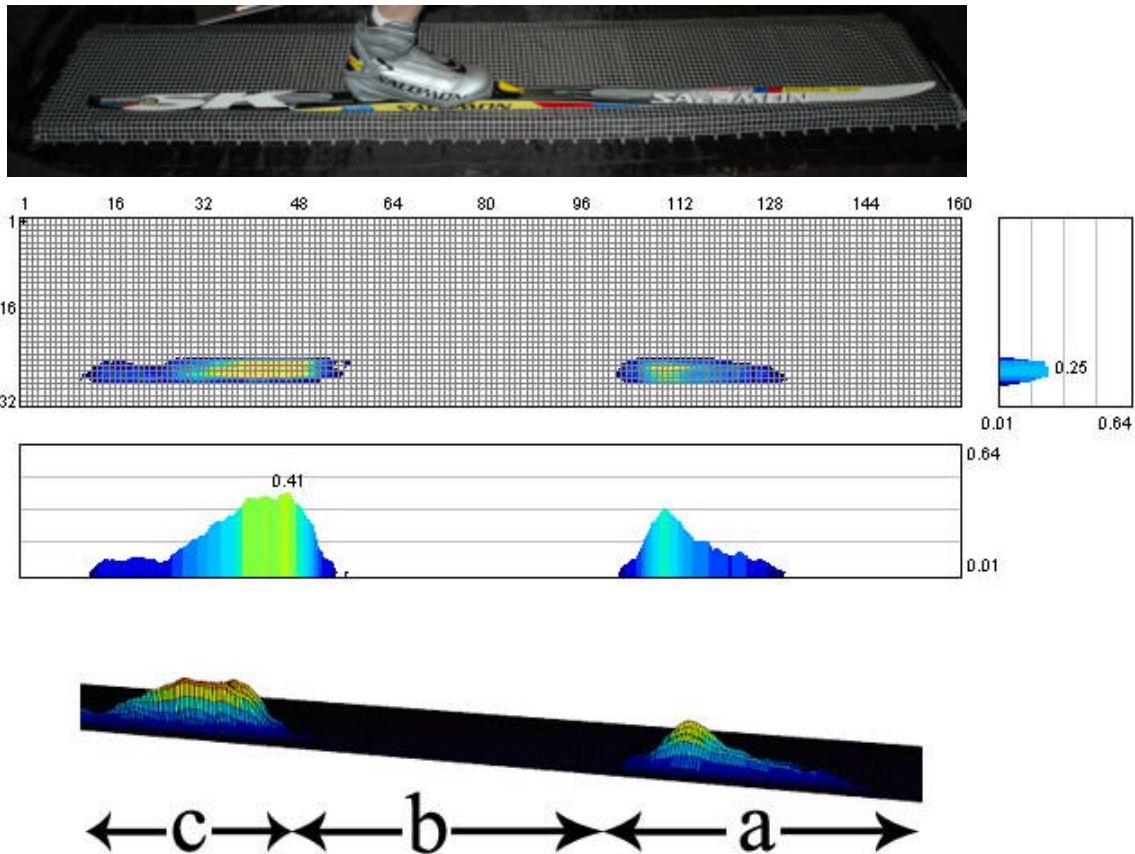
How then is it that Salomon's production ski line, in its very first year no less, can be as fast or faster than other manufacturer's "race room" skis? It's because Salomon engineers understood the drawbacks of designing a finicky ski that performed well only when manufactured under "race room" tolerances. Instead, they concentrated on crafting a tolerant design where ultimate performance isn't excluded by the inherent inconsistencies of mass production.



Ivan leading the pack in the World Cup 30km Pursuit race on Saturday Dec. 9, 2005.

The tolerant design of Salomon skis provides Babikov the opportunity to become a World Cup champion and allows every day skiers to feel like World Cup stars.

So what makes for a tolerant ski design? A forgiving pressure distribution!



The graphs above show the pressure distribution of one of Ivan’s race proven Salomon skate skis from tip (right) to tail (left) under Ivan’s full body weight. The higher bar and brighter color represents the highest pressure in kg/sqcm. The pressure-mapping image above shows the long and gradual increase in pressure of the skis front glide zone (a), the no pressure zone under the skis carbon powered bridge (b) and the long and gradual pressure decrease in the skis rear glide zone (c). This forgiving pressure distribution is a result of the skis “stiff but low riding camber.”

Salomon and the Subaru Factory Team have teamed up to develop and deploy Dynamic Ski Pressure Mapping. This versatile and portable technology allows Salomon engineers and Subaru Factory Team ski technicians to analyze and show all skiers a ski’s pressure profile; the ultimate indicator of ski performance.

The pressure profile above shows that the Salomon Equipe 10 skate ski distributes Ivan’s forces through long and low pressure glide zones even though this ski is a very “stiff ski for Ivan’s weight” (it flattens at 159% of Ivan’s body weight). This design provides Ivan with skis that in his words, ”squirted up the steep hills” while being the “straightest tracking and longest gliding ski in both my World Cup Pursuit and Freestyle races.”

Salomon’s unique mating of a stiff bridge with a low riding camber also allows every ski coming off the production line to have a race worthy pressure distribution. Through tolerant design, inherent production line inconsistencies are expected and “averaged out” as each ski’s stiff

bridge lay-up automatically counterbalances the skis low riding core and mold. While slight variations in pressure distributions will occur, these variations are within acceptable tolerances in this skis forgiving design.

In the coming months the Subaru Factory Team and Salomon will use Dynamic Pressure Mapping to create pressure profiles of the team's fleet of Salomon Equipe 10 skis, and Salomon's entire ski line. Findings will be paired to skier's weight, technique, physique and snow characteristics. The end sum will provide every Salomon retailer and the skiers they serve, an easy and accurate guide to ultimate ski fit.

Retailers and everyday skiers will finally be provided with accurate and simple information for the best ski fit. Information provided will include ideal flex ranges as well as length and location of kick and glide zones under various snow conditions and skier characteristics. Salomon will share how women's ski needs differ from that of men's and how a growing junior racer should select their skis to some day become a World Cup champion and much more.

Salomon, with tolerant ski designs, forgiving pressure profiles and Dynamic Pressure Mapping will continue to make Cross-Country skiing simply rewarding.



Ivan staying with the front pack in Saturday's 30km Classic Mass Start. Ivan would finish 18th. He skied on a pair a 201 soft cold, Equipe 10 (37FA .8HR).

Babikov is a member of the U.S. based Subaru Factory Team. (www.enjoywinter.com) and a member of Team Canada 2010.

