



ARELHO, PORTUGAL · HAND SHAPED

HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR SURFBOARD

A plain guide from the shaper. The few things that actually matter when you pick your next board, and how to end up with one that suits you rather than the other way round.

saúde, paz, amor e boas ondas

START HERE

IT IS ABOUT YOU, NOT THE PRO

Most people choose a board by copying the surfer they want to be. The board that actually suits you comes from looking honestly at yourself: your weight, your ability, and the waves in front of you. Get those right and the rest follows.

THE ONE NUMBER THAT MATTERS

Volume, measured in litres, is how much float a board has. Too little and you sink and miss waves. Too much and it will not turn. Everything else comes back to it.

1 WORK OUT YOUR VOLUME

A shaper reads volume from your bodyweight and your ability. As a rough guide, a beginner wants close to their bodyweight in kilos expressed as litres, an intermediate a good bit less, and an expert less again. Age, fitness and weak local waves all nudge it back up.

Do it in a minute. The free volume calculator at wattasurfboards.pro gives you a litres range and explains what it means, so you can talk sizes from there.

2 BE HONEST ABOUT YOUR SURFING

STILL GETTING UP

Float and stability first. A bigger, wider board catches more waves and teaches you faster.

RIDING THE FACE, LEARNING TO TURN

Keep plenty of float while you learn to move on the board. Do not rush down in size.

COMFORTABLE AND TURNING

Now you can trim volume for control and response, and start feeling the difference.

Dropping volume too soon is the most common mistake there is. It makes surfing harder, not cooler.

3 MATCH THE BOARD TO YOUR WAVES

The best board for you depends as much on where you surf as on how you surf. Small and gutless most of the time asks for a very different board than punchy and hollow.

SMALL, SOFT, WEAK More float and more planing area. Wide shapes that hold their speed through flat sections. A fish or a mid length.

AVERAGE, SOME PUSH An all rounder. A mid length, or a hybrid or shortboard if you surf well.

POWERFUL AND STEEP A drawn in, lower volume board that holds a line. A performance shortboard, or a step up when it gets big.

4 KNOW THE FOUR SHAPES

FISH

FAST & LOOSE

Wide and forgiving, made for small playful days. Catches everything and keeps its speed through the flat spots.

SHORTBOARD

PERFORMANCE

Drawn in and responsive, for waves with push and surfers who want to use the whole rail.

MID LENGTH

GLIDE

The most versatile shape in the rack. Paddles easily, trims beautifully, and still turns. A board for most days.

LOG

PATIENCE

A single fin longboard. Maximum float, noserides and old manners. Clean, gentle waves.

5 LENGTH, WIDTH AND THICKNESS

Volume is spread across these three, and that spread changes everything. The same litres feel completely different in a short wide board than in a long thin one. Wider and thicker is more stable and easier to paddle. Longer adds glide and paddle power. Thinner and narrower turns harder but forgives less. A good shaper balances all three around *where* the volume sits, not just the number itself.

WHY MADE TO ORDER BEATS OFF THE SHELF

A shop board is built for an average person who does not exist. A board built to order is shaped around your numbers and your waves, so it works from the first session instead of being something you grow into, or out of.

- ☐ Your volume, in the right places for how you surf
- ☐ The outline and rocker tuned to the waves you actually ride
- ☐ The fin setup and the finish you actually want
- ☐ One conversation, with the person who shapes it

IF YOU TAKE ONE THING AWAY

Tell Luis your weight, your ability and the waves you surf most weeks. That is enough to size a board properly. Everything after that is a conversation about shape and finish.

WATTA SURFBOARDS

READY WHEN YOU ARE

Every Watta is shaped by hand by Luis Brito in Arelho, Portugal, and built to you. Work out your volume, find your shape, or simply tell Luis your weight and your waves and he will size it for you.

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