

Hagan Z01 and Z02 Alpine Touring Ski Bindings Now Available in the U.S.

Colorado Springs, CO - Hagan Ski USA has completed the steps to bring the Hagan Z01 and Z02 bindings to the United States. The Hagan Z binding was introduced in the European market for the 2010/11 season. The binding was withheld from the U.S. market for the 2010/11 season pending attainment of a U.S. liability insurance policy, which was recently negotiated.

"The Hagan Z ski touring binding was developed to serve the growing market for recreational alpine ski touring in the European and U.S. markets," said Max Kumpfmüller, Operations Director at Hagan Ski headquarters in Austria. "The design priorities were ease of use and adjustability, compatibility with a wide variety of ski boots (AT and downhill), and excellent uphill and downhill performance at a reasonably low weight and price."

Hagan has expanded the Z binding to two models for this season. The Z01 All Mountain is designed for the demands of advanced skiers, with a higher DIN rating of 4-12. The Z02 Tour is designed for the recreational ski touring market, with a lower DIN of 4-10, a slightly lower weight and a lower price.

"We are excited to bring the Hagan Z bindings to the United States," said Michael Hagen of Hagan Ski USA. "The AT skiing market in the U.S, while behind that in Europe, is growing rapidly. We hope to speed the growth of this fantastic sport - which combines terrific exercise with the thrill and speed of downhill skiing, all in the beautiful backcountry - by making it more accessible and less intimidating."

The Hagan bindings are particularly aimed at those new to the sport and for those desiring to ski tour for fitness and recreation. They are designed for the large middle ground of recreational skiers intrigued by the ability to get away from crowded ski slopes and develop fitness while skiing. They are not designed or intended for the extremes of randonee racing or highly aggressive free riding.

"We want to reduce the intimidation and cost factor of highly specialized bindings. The great adjustability of the Z bindings is terrific for those getting into the sport, who don't want to get locked into a boot/binding system and have no pretensions, at least initially, of launching themselves off cliffs with regularity," said Hagen. "With the Z bindings, they can even use their existing downhill boots. They are perfect for taking a first step into the sport, or for a set up that is great both on and off piste."

Both the Z01 All Mountain and Z02 Tour feature Double Force rollers in the toe pieces, easy stepping pivot points and four climbing mode heights.

Retail price of the Z01 is \$489. The Z01 has a DIN range of 4-12 and comes with an 80mm ski brake. The Z02 retails for \$389 and comes with a safety leash. Ski brakes are also available in 90, 100 and 115 widths and are compatible with both the Z01 and Z02. The Z01 and Z02 come in 3 sizes, fitting boots with sole lengths of: 255-310 mm, 285-340 mm and 315-370 mm. A Hagan ski crampon is available for and compatible with both bindings.

Hagan has produced AT skis in Austria for over 70 years. Hagan specializes in serving the traditional light, fast and far segment of the ski touring market. The Z bindings, designed in cooperation with a leading German engineering firm, represent Hagan's entry into the binding market.