

ALMOND'S GUIDE TO:



AGING GRACEFULLY

Maximize your surf enjoyment at any age

Almond Surfboards Guide to:

Aging Gracefully

Maximize Your Surf Enjoyment at Any Age

A really great surf session requires a whole slew of variables to cooperate—tide, wind, swell, crowds, and your personal schedule.

If you can count the time since your last great surf in years—instead of the usual weeks—maybe it's time to stack the deck in your favor.

You've been noticing that your trusty 5'9 x 19.25" doesn't float you the same way it used to before the mortgage and the kids. You know you would benefit from a little more foam—but on your own terms. I'm here to tell you that in the 2020's there are plenty of ways to up your wave-count

If you feel like your shortboard has been avoiding retirement like Brett Favre, here are a few prospects to anchor your surfboard quiver as you adapt to the changing needs of your surfing career.

Door #1: STAY SHORT, ADD FOAM.

Since the dawn of the *Ride Everything Revolution*, somewhere in the mid 2000's, the number of options to keep your surfboard short—while adding a previously unthinkable amount of foam—has exploded. All manner of shapes, widths, and fin setups have been explored over the last decade and a half, and we have narrowed in on a few that we feel serve the widest number of needs:



Secret Menu: despite its compact frame, even at 5'6, this little quad packs 30% more volume than a standard 5'9 shortboard. That's 30% more float without sacrificing the ability to get your foot right on top of those fins when you want to wrap that cutback on the shoulder.

See all that tail? That takes your downward force and converts it into forward speed. And we both know you've got your fair share of downward force these days.

Mailbox: This thing is just weird enough to dance the line between futuristic soup du jour and retro-inspired fish. The Mailbox features the familiar Twin fin setup, but adds the bonus stabilizing of a small, third trailing to make it feel more like home.



The wings on this board mean you have the width through the middle to get the speed you remember from your youth, yet the narrowed tail assists your stiff legs in turning this board with all of the vigor of your twenties.



Fish: The unmistakable outline of The Fish. should be a familiar face—both from its heyday in the 1970's and its resurgence this century. The Fish accomplishes several helpful things outside of nostalgia—it places an ample amount of foam under your chest for paddling, and a wide, flowy tail for surfing that looks as easy as it feels, on your best days.

We build a few different fish models, with varying fullness to the outlines. The fuller, rounder one being better for soft, high-tide type conditions. The more pulled-in, streamlined outline being better for waves with a bit more punch.

Door #2: AIN'T AFRAID OF A LITTLE LENGTH

At a certain point, adding extra foam without adding length becomes a game of diminishing returns. (Illustration is guy floating on a cork) If we truly want to make the largest impact on upping your wave-count in your next season of life, we are going to need to add a little height to your next surfboard.

Proven to get you into waves at least 2-3 strokes earlier than the boards in Door #1, and 100% earlier than the recently retired shortboard, this selection of mid-lengths fills the 6 foot to 8 foot range and offers a variety of options based on your personal goals and preferences.

BBF: The Big Bueno Fish, or the BBF for short, is the unapologetic dad-board. Round and full outline, with a pulled in, slightly narrower tail. The most classic trope in surfboard design is *“paddles like a longboard, but turns like a shortboard!”* It’s kind of the infomercial-esque promise that surfboard shapers love to fall into.

At the expense of falling into that trap ourselves, that’s essentially what this board is aimed to do. Feel like a big board up front, but turn like a smaller board in the back.



Pleasant Pheasant: The Pleasant Pheasant is nice blend of a variety of elements that make a user-friendly surfboard. In fact, this chapter should almost be moved to the introduction.

In surfboard design, everything is give and take. By definition, the middle of the road is the most versatile option. It’s not too big, not too short, not too wide. Kind of the “just right” that Goldielocks was searching for.

The round tail equates to a tighter turning radius, while the side bites provide a bit of extra drive and acceleration. At 6’4 to 7’0, it’s a lot of wave-catching in a manageable frame.



Joy

The Joy is no work at all. The gliding, speed generating it baked into the full, trim-friendly outline—which means you get to go along for the ride while the Joy does most of the work for you.

The elliptical outline puts the maximum amount of curve behind you, allowing for graceful, arcing turns. The Joy is aptly named because it's a delight to ride. Primarily ridden between 7 and 8 feet in length, stack the deck in your favor and employ the Joy to do the heavy lifting for you.



Door #3: The dun-dun-dun.... Longboards.

If you have made it this far and are still searching for the right surfboard to usher in the next few decades, below are a list of boards that will keep you catching waves for as long as you care to be out of doors. We did a fairly lengthy breakdown of our longboard models, which you can [read here](#).

Longboards for cruising:

You recognize that noseriding and tricks are a young man's game... you're not here to pose on the nose, you're here to stay active and keep the kids from out-paddling you. Avoid longboards with lots of straight lines, and lean more on the outlines with some curves.

In our Almond range, that would be the Surf Thump, the Pinwheel, and the wave-catching aircraft carrier of them all, the Sano Special. (Who's featured break is called Old Man's, so that should tell you something about this board's intent).

These boards will provide the glide without feeling unwieldy under foot. And properly maintained, they'll last you decades.



The noseriders:

Forget what I said about noseriding being a young man's game, this old dog is here to prove he's got some new tricks left in him. Or he's got some old tricks to rediscover, like that movie where Dennis Quaid realizes he can still throw a fastball 98 mph.

If you're looking for a noserider, we have you covered—wide tails, full noses, and plenty of stability under your feet. The Walks on Water, Lumberjack, or Logistic are where you should focus your search.

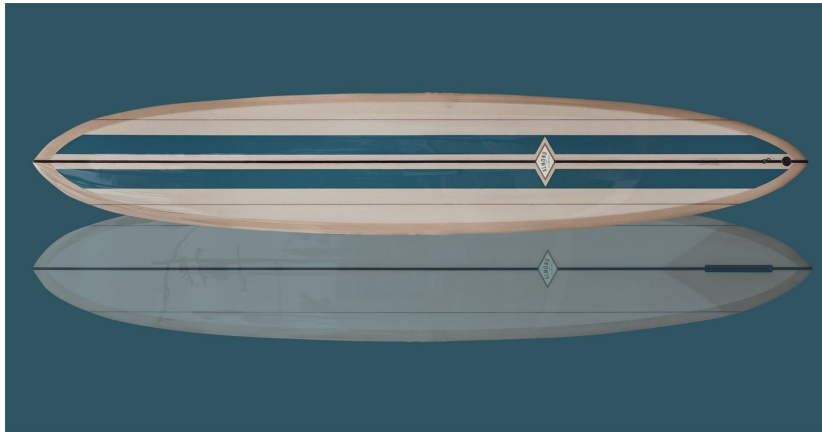
Like any moment of glory, it's the setup up and the groundwork that make it possible. Before you go walking the plank, make sure you're doing the necessary bottom-turn and tail-centric work to facilitate your time spent out on the bow.

Bonus Door #4:

F%#* it, bring out the big guns.

If you want to be king of the peak and make the rest of the lineup your loyal subjects, there is one bonus door, but it comes with a warning. With great power comes great responsibility. Your wave count will only be limited by your discretion.

By wielding a 10'6 or 11' glider, you are positioning yourself in the spotlight. You can either be the generous, friendly ruler who everybody loves or the dreaded "every wave is mine" monarch.



Point and shoot is the name of the game with the Cash-Yew II. You can sit out further than everybody else, or you can catch waves too small for others to bother with.

Conclusion:

Which door you choose is ultimately dependent on what you are looking to get out of your surfing. Surfboard design is fueled by man's desire to maximize every opportunity.

As Mikey Munoz famously said, "***there is no bad wave, just bad equipment and bad attitudes.***"

Have a good attitude, share with the younger generation, protect the pristine nature of the beach, and whenever possible, *stack the deck in your favor.*