SOFTWARE & TECH

How To Make A Skateboard Go Faster

PUBLISHED
November 25, 2026

REFERENCE
#1795580842429687

Introduction: Chasing More Speed on Your Skateboard

Every skater knows the feeling: the wind in your face, the rumble of wheels on pavement, and that pure rush of momentum as you fly down a hill or cruise across a flat stretch. Speed isn't just about thrill—it's about efficiency, carving more fluidly, and unlocking new tricks. Whether you're a downhill bomber, a long-distance pusher, or a street skater looking to roll faster between obstacles, understanding how to make a skateboard go faster can transform your riding experience.

Speed comes from a combination of hardware upgrades, proper maintenance, and refined technique. In this guide, we'll break down every factor that influences your skateboard's velocity, from the bearings inside your wheels to the way you position your body. By the end, you'll have a clear roadmap to maximize your speed without sacrificing control or safety.

1. Upgrade Your Bearings for Smoother Rolling

The single most impactful component for adding speed is your set of bearings. Bearings are the small metal rings inside your wheels that allow them to spin freely. The better they roll, the less resistance you face. If your bearings are dirty, dry, or low-quality, you're fighting friction every push.

Choose High-ABEC Bearings

ABEC rating (Annular Bearing Engineering Committee) indicates precision tolerance. While ABEC 3 or 5 is sufficient for casual cruising, moving to **ABEC 7 or 9** bearings can noticeably reduce rolling resistance. Keep in mind that ABEC ratings don't measure load capacity or impact resistance, so for downhill or rough surfaces, consider specialty bearings like **Ceramic bearings**(e.g., Bones Swiss Ceramics) which offer ultra-low friction and longer life.

Keep Bearings Clean and Lubricated

Even the best bearings slow down if they're packed with dirt or old grease. Regular **bearing cleaning**is essential for optimal speed. Here's a quick routine:

- Remove bearings from wheels and spacer tubes.
- Soak them in a citrus-based cleaner or isopropyl alcohol for 20 minutes.
- Agitate gently, then rinse with fresh solvent.
- Let them dry completely (use a hairdryer on cool setting to speed up).
- Apply one drop of speed lubricant (like Bones Speed Cream) to each bearing. Avoid over-oiling, as excess creates drag.
- Spin each bearing manually to distribute the oil, then reinstall.

Cleaning your bearings every few weeks (or after wet rides) will keep your skateboard rolling fast and smooth.

2. Select Wheels Designed for Speed

Your wheels play a huge role in how fast you can go. The wrong durometer (hardness) or diameter can leave you struggling to maintain momentum.

Go With Larger Diameter Wheels

Bigger wheels have a larger circumference, which means each revolution covers more ground. For pure speed, wheels in the **60-75mm range**are ideal. They roll over cracks and debris more easily, reducing energy loss. Longboard wheels often exceed 70mm, while street skateboard wheels typically stay around 50-54mm for flip tricks—but if speed is your goal, size up.

Choose a Hard Durometer for Low Rolling Resistance

Harder wheels (e.g., 78A to 101A durometer) deform less under pressure, resulting in less rolling resistance. For concrete or smooth asphalt, wheels around **82A to 88A**offer a good balance of grip and speed. For downhill, some skaters use ultra-hard wheels (90A+) to minimize friction, but softer wheels (78A-80A) can still be fast if the surface is rough, as they absorb vibration and maintain contact.

Consider the Wheel Core and Shape

Wheels with a **large, supported core** (like those from O-Tang or Seismic) provide better energy transfer. A **square or lipped edge**offers less rolling resistance than a rounded profile. Also, narrower wheels (around 40-46mm width) tend to have less drag than wide cruiser wheels.

3. Optimize Your Skateboard Hardware and Setup

Beyond bearings and wheels, the rest of your board affects how efficiently you convert push power into forward motion.

Tighten or Loosen Trucks for Stability

While looser trucks allow easier carving, they also introduce side-to-side wobble at high speeds, forcing you to lean and slow down. For straight-line speed, **tighten your trucks**(or use harder bushings) to reduce steering play. This creates a more stable platform, letting you push harder and maintain speed during pumps and tucks.

Check Your Axle Nuts

Over-tightened axle nuts create pressure on the bearings, hindering spin. The ideal tension: tighten until there's no side-to-side play in the wheel, then back off a quarter turn. Your wheel should spin freely for several seconds when flicked.

Reduce Weight Where Possible

Every extra gram on your board requires more energy to accelerate. Consider lightweight components:

- Lighter trucks (e.g., Tensor Mag or Ace AF1 hollow).
- Hollow kingpin and axle designs.
- Carbon fiber or fiberglass-reinforced decks.
- Smaller hardware bolts (but ensure they're strong enough).

Don't forget your own weight: carrying less gear in your pockets or wearing lighter shoes reduces the total mass you need to propel.

4. Master Technique: Pushing and Pumping

Hardware only gets you so far. How you move on the board is equally important for generating and maintaining speed.

Efficient Pushing Form

Most skaters waste energy with short, choppy pushes. For maximum speed, use **long, powerful strokes**. Place your front foot squarely over the front trucks, bend your knees, and push with your back leg, extending fully from hip to ankle. Keep your upper body relaxed and your weight centered. Practice pushing on flat ground until your pushes feel fluid and generate noticeable momentum.

Use Pumping for Extra Momentum

If you're not on a flat perfect surface, you can gain speed by **pumping**—a rhythmic body motion that transfers weight to create acceleration without pushing. Shift your weight from heel to toe while carving back and forth. This works best on gentle slopes or on flat ground with a slight incline. To pump effectively:

- Keep your knees bent and your center of gravity low.
- Initiate the movement from your hips and shoulders.
- Use the rebound of the trucks and flex of the deck.

Pumping is essential for longboarders on downhill runs, but street skaters can also use it to maintain speed between pushes.

Tuck for Aerodynamics

Air resistance becomes a major factor above 15 mph. The **tuck position**reduces your frontal area dramatically. Place one foot on the tail and the other on the front bolts, bend your knees deeply, and lower your torso until it's nearly parallel to the board. Keep your arms close to your body. A proper tuck can add 2-5 mph on a downhill run with no extra effort.

5. Maintain Your Board for Peak Performance

A neglected skateboard is a slow skateboard. Regular maintenance ensures every component works efficiently.

Check Wheel Alignment and Spacing

Misaligned wheels (wobbling side to side) create friction and slow you down. Spin each wheel and look for visible wobble. If present, swap spacers or ensure the bearings are fully seated. Use **bearing spacers**to keep the inner races aligned, reducing play and resistance.

Keep the Deck Clean and Grippy

Dirt and wax buildup on your grip tape can cause your feet to slip, reducing your ability to push and carve efficiently. Clean grip tape with a soft brush or a **grip gum eraser**every couple of weeks. A clean surface means better foot traction and more precise weight transfer.

Inspect Your Bushings and Pivot Cups

Worn or cracked bushings create sloppy steering that forces you to slow down to maintain control. Replace them with new ones of the same durometer for consistent response. Also, apply a tiny amount of **bushing lubricant** (silicon grease) to pivot cups to prevent squeaking and binding.

6. Additional Speed Tips and Considerations

Beyond the core factors, several smaller adjustments can contribute to a faster ride.

Choose Smooth, Favorable Terrain

Even the fastest setup won't fly on rough gravel. Seek out **smooth asphalt or newly paved roads**. Packed concrete or skateparks with smooth transitions also reduce rolling resistance. On your regular commute, plan routes that avoid bumpy or sandy sections.

Ride With a Tailwind or Draft

Wind direction has a significant effect. If you can, ride with the wind at your back. When riding in a group, drafting behind another skater reduces air resistance, allowing you to maintain higher speeds with less effort. Just leave enough room for safety.

Consider the Temperature

Bearings and urethane wheels behave differently in cold weather. **Cold makes urethane harder and less grippy**, but it also increases rolling resistance slightly due to thicker lubricant. If you ride in winter, store your board indoors before riding to keep components at optimal temperature.

Safety First: Speed Requires Control

Chasing speed is exhilarating, but it's vital to ride within your ability. Always wear a helmet, gloves, and pads when going fast. Practice your tuck and braking techniques (foot braking, slide gloves) before attempting high-speed runs. Speed is useless if you can't stop.

Conclusion: Build Your Faster Skateboard Step by Step

Making a skateboard go faster isn't about a single magic upgrade—it's a combination of quality components, meticulous maintenance, and refined technique. Start by cleaning and lubricating your bearings, then consider upgrading to larger, harder wheels. Optimize your truck tension and reduce board weight. Then practice your pushing and tuck position to get the most out of every ride.

Remember that speed and control go hand in hand. Take incremental steps, test your setup on safe slopes, and enjoy the satisfaction of feeling your board roll faster than ever. Whether you're commuting, carving down a hill, or just trying to beat your personal best, these strategies will give you the edge you need.

Now go out there, push hard, and feel the wind—your faster skateboard awaits.

Related Articles

- **Are James Blunt And Emily Blunt Related**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/are-james-blunt-and-emily-blunt-related.pdf
- **Was Remember Me Based On A True Story**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/was-remember-me-based-on-a-true-story.pdf
- **Ess Employee Self Service Costco**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/ess-employee-self-service-costco.pdf
- **The Case For Christianity By Cs Lewis**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/the-case-for-christianity-by-cs-lewis.pdf

TOPIC INDEX

#how • #make • #skateboard • #go • #faster

DIGITAL EDITION

how-to-make-a-skateboard-go-faster

DIGITAL EDITION

how-to-make-a-skateboard-go-faster

DIGITAL EDITION

how-to-make-a-skateboard-go-faster

DIGITAL EDITION

how-to-make-a-skateboard-go-faster