

Boy from California invents a new kind of skateboard

By Orange County Register, adapted by Newsela staff on 10.27.16

Word Count **392**



Carson Kropfl, 11, shows off his Locker Board in San Clemente, California, October 13, 2016. Leonard Ortiz/Orange County Register/TNS

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif. — Carson Kropfl is 11 years old. He lives in California. Carson likes to ride skateboards. One day, he had an idea.

What if a skateboard could fit in a locker?

Normally, they are too big. Carson decided to invent the Locker Board.

He takes old skateboards and makes them smaller. The new skateboard is 14 inches long. Normal skateboards are two times as big. Carson's board is square. It looks like a cube. The deck has rounded edges. The deck is the flat part of the board. It is what the skater stands on.

He is offering each skateboard for \$20. Carson's parents like the idea. His mother has a skateboarding business, too. It is a plastic sheet that curves up. Skateboarders ride on it.

Big Dreams, Small Skateboard

"He has big dreams," she said. "I think it's going to be a hit."

Carson's mom said he had to pay for his own surf contests and lessons. She said she would pay him to help around the house. He did not want to do that. He decided to make something to sell.

Carson's website asks people for help. He needs used skateboards. He wants to sell 200 new skateboards by the end of the year.

Steve Van Doren owns Vans Shoes. The company makes skateboarding shoes. Van Doren saw Carson's deck in a video. Now, he wants to help Carson.

He said he would talk to people in the skateboarding business. He is asking them to help Carson. The other businesses give him their used skateboards.

It Took A Few Tries To Get It Right

Carson's idea is a good one. So why is he the first to try it? Carson's mother said no one thought a skater could ride a board this small before.

It took some experimenting. Carson needed to find a size and shape that worked.

Carson's first skateboard had round edges like a normal one. He made it smaller, though. "The tail would make it wiggly and it wouldn't really work, so I cut off the tail but kept the round shape." It was still too small to stand on. He cut the board into a block. That makes it easy to stand on.

Carson said many people have ordered the Locker Board. "Everybody's saying, 'These are amazing, when can we get them?'" he said.