



Gary Linden:  
Shaping Innovation Since 1967

Three thousand years ago, Polynesian Fishermen began shaping wooden boards to ride waves to get to shore with their catch before it spoiled.

Forty-nine years ago, Gary Linden began shaping boards because he fell in love with an Aussie-style 8-foot vee-bottom short board that was unavailable in America—so he stripped down his big board, chopped off the tail, sold the prototype and bought more blanks.

Gary's an engineer in the ancient sense, whose wisdom comes from a collective knowledge passed down verbally and expanded upon by personal experience and experiments, resulting in a half-century of innovating the relationship between board and water.

- ❖ 1962: Gary begins surfing at age 13
- ❖ 1967: At the dawn of the short board revolution, 17-year-old Linden begins shaping 8' Vee bottom boards unavailable outside of Australia.
- ❖ 1970s: To offer sustainable, organic solutions to a petrochemically-dependant surfboard industry, introduces Ecuadorian Balsa and Agave wood as naturally-structured, rigid alternatives to foam
- ❖ 1980s: Partners with Gordon Clark to make an ultra-light blank by pouring less foam into the mold that's allowed to expand
- ❖ 2005: When Clark Foam—provider of 90% of the United States supply of surfboard blanks—closes its doors, to help supply the industry's need for blanks, becomes general manager at Walker Foam and increases production by ten times.
- ❖ 2009: Founds the Big Wave World Tour, the first big wave surfing league that organizes the world's best big wave riders to compete at the best big wave spots.
- ❖ 2010: To allow more controlled buoyancy, develops a parabolic, stringer-on-the-rail system, enhancing drive and increasing speed
- ❖ 2013: To increase compression strength and limit board fatigue, incorporates DuPont Kevlar into the manufacturing process, resulting in a board that is significantly lighter and six-times more resilient than the strongest fiberglass.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> [www.surfsience.com/topics/surfboard-anatomy/deck/materials-used-to-strengthen-your-deck](http://www.surfsience.com/topics/surfboard-anatomy/deck/materials-used-to-strengthen-your-deck)

WHAT KEVLAR MEANS FOR YOUR SUP

*NO SACRIFICE*

Due to its high tensile strength-to-weight ratio, DuPont Kevlar® removes weight without sacrificing strength or durability. Five times stronger than steel on an equal-weight basis (and five times less dense), for over fifty years Kevlar has reinforced everything from racing sails to bicycle tires to body armor.

*RELIABLE LANDINGS*

Kevlar® increases compression strength without adding rigidity because its chemical structure naturally makes it form in tiny straight rods that pack closely together—picture lots of stiff new pencils stuffed tightly into a box. These rods form extra bonds between one another giving extra strength—as though you've glued the pencils together as well—protecting the board from getting crushed in and resulting in consistently strong, reliable landings.

*EASIER TO TRANSPORT, EASIER TO MANEUVER*

Boards made with Kevlar® are easier to carry and maneuver because they are lighter than those made from other materials, with improved impact resistance. Lightness is achieved by removing 90% of the material.

*FASTER ACCELERATION*

Increased flex allows the surfboard to build energy through turns when materials change shape. When the foam snaps back to its original shape, it releases the stored energy and shoots you out of the turn. A thinner tail makes for better flex and a more lively feeling board by reducing the rigidity and increasing torque.

*DEATH TO DINGS*

Kevlar's long molecular chains are highly-oriented with strong interchain bonding. What does this mean for your board? Pressure dings are a thing of the past, thanks to natural toughness that allows fabrics and threads to stand up to repeated abuse.

*DURABILITY: YOUR BOARD IS YOUR SURVIVAL VEHICLE*

If it breaks, you could find yourself in 40-foot seas clinging to pieces of lethal fiberglass. When a NASCAR vehicle crashes, DuPont Kevlar holds the parts together. Same thing happens to a Kevlar-reinforced surfboard, resulting in a reliable, safer SUP that will last four times longer than a standard Fiberglass/Polyester combination.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> [www.surfscience.com/topics/surfboard-anatomy/deck/materials-used-to-strengthen-your-deck](http://www.surfscience.com/topics/surfboard-anatomy/deck/materials-used-to-strengthen-your-deck).