

Varsity's Choice

DESKTOP

SKATEBOARDING

Skateboarding is becoming “handier” than ever – you can do it anywhere, all you need is two fingers.

With four wheels screwed onto a slender deck, finger skateboards look just the same as traditional skateboards, except that they are smaller – tinier than a correction pen. And instead of standing with their feet on the skateboard, players perform tricks with only two fingers.

To control a finger skateboard, place your forefinger and middle finger on the centre and the end of the deck respectively. You can flip the skateboard by pressing gently on the end of the deck.

One of the cool things about finger skateboarding is you can play it anywhere. As it is tiny, you can put it in your pocket, play a few tricks with it while you are working in the office or cramming exam notes for hours on end. As long as there is a hard surface, you can turn any place into your playing field.

Finger skateboarding also saves players from the many bruises and wounds they would probably get when practising real skateboarding. First-

time players can enjoy the excitement of painless skateboarding. Skateboarding enthusiasts can design and practise new tricks before taking them to the field.

Easy as finger skateboarding sounds, speedy movement and a high degree of coordination of the fingers are needed before players can advance to higher level tricks.

It is recommended that new players start off by flipping the finger skateboard across small objects such as an eraser. Keep practising till you can flip the skateboard across obstacles smoothly.



COURTESY OF SKATE CITY

After that, you can try the basic skills of traditional skateboarding, most of which are tricks that involve flipping of varying complexity. The more common ones include the Ollie Trick where you press the end of the deck with

your middle finger and which should look like dolphins jumping. There is also the Kickflip Trick, which involves mastering a 360-degree flip along the board's axis with the fingertips, while the 360 Flip Trick involves spinning the board many times using the kickflip technique. Some skillful players submitted their kickflipping videos to a contest launched by Skate City, a local online skate shop, in June last year. The winner set a record of making 25 kickflips within one minute.

Before the contest in Hong Kong, players in Europe, where the craze for finger skateboarding first arose, launched several finger skateboarding contests in Switzerland and Germany. Videos of the contests can be found on YouTube.

There are two main types of finger skateboards: plastic and wooden. Beginners can start with plastic boards, which range from HK\$40 to HK\$50. Advanced players may consider using the more flexible wooden boards, which cost around HK\$200 to HK\$300 and are the standard boards used in contests.

For more information about finger skateboarding, visit <http://easyskateshop.maifou.net/index.php>. Cara Chan

