

# Build Your Own Skateboard Uk

Summary (160 characters): Build your dream skateboard in the UK! Learn how to choose the right components, assemble your board, and customize it to your style. Discover the benefits & find UK suppliers. DIYskateboard SkateboardBuilding UKSkateboarding

## Build Your Own Skateboard UK: A Comprehensive Guide to Custom Creation

Building your own skateboard in the UK offers a unique blend of creativity, skill-building, and cost-effectiveness. Unlike buying a pre-assembled board, the DIY approach allows you to meticulously select every component, ensuring a perfect fit for your riding style and preferences. This guide will walk you through the entire process, from selecting the right materials to the final assembly, empowering you to create your dream skateboard. **Benefits of Building Your Own Skateboard in the UK:**

- **Customization:** Choose every component – decks, trucks, wheels, bearings – to precisely match your riding style and aesthetic preferences.
- **Cost Savings:** Potentially save money compared to buying a pre-built board of equivalent quality, especially when sourcing components individually.
- **Educational Experience:** Gain valuable knowledge about skateboard construction and mechanics.
- **Unique Style:** Create a truly one-of-a-kind skateboard that reflects your personality.
- **Improved Understanding:** Develop a deeper appreciation for the quality and function of different skateboard components.

## Choosing the Right Deck: The Foundation of Your Skateboard

The deck is the heart of your skateboard, influencing its overall feel and performance. Consider these factors:

- **Size & Shape:** Length, width, and concave (the curve of the deck) significantly affect rideability and trick performance. Beginners often opt for shorter, wider decks for stability, while experienced skaters might prefer longer, narrower boards for speed and maneuverability.

| Deck Size (Inches) | Rider Type      | Description                                   |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 7.75 - 8.0         | Beginner/Street | Good balance of stability and maneuverability |
| 8.25 - 8.5         | Street/Vert     | More responsive, ideal for technical tricks   |
| 8.5+               | Vert/Cruising   | Larger, suitable for ramps and cruising       |

- **Material:** Most decks are made from 7-ply Canadian maple, known for its strength and flex. Consider the ply's quality for durability.
- **Graphics:** From blank canvases to vibrant artwork, choose a deck that reflects your style. Many UK suppliers offer custom graphic options.

## Selecting Trucks & Wheels: The Rolling System

Trucks connect the deck to the wheels, influencing turning and stability. Key factors to consider:

- **Truck Type:** Standard trucks are the most common. Consider the axle width to match your deck's width.
- **Truck Material:** Typically made from aluminum alloys; higher-quality alloys provide greater durability and strength.
- **Wheel Hardness (Durometer):** Measured in A (durometer scale), this

dictates the wheel's stiffness. Softer wheels (78A-85A) offer better grip and are suitable for rough surfaces, while harder wheels (90A-100A) provide speed but less grip. **Wheel Durometer Impact on Ride:** [Insert a simple bar chart here showing different Durometer levels (78A, 85A, 95A, 100A) on the x-axis and Grip/Speed on the y-axis. Show that as Durometer increases, Grip decreases and Speed increases.] • *Wheel Size:* Larger wheels provide more speed and smoother rides over rough terrain, while smaller wheels offer better maneuverability for tricks.

## Bearings: Smooth Rolling Essential

Bearings are crucial for smooth, effortless rolling. Look for high-quality ABEC ratings (ABEC 7 or higher), which indicate precision and durability.

## Assembling Your Skateboard: A Step-by-Step Guide

This requires specific tools (a skateboard tool, Allen wrenches), and careful attention to detail. Many online tutorials provide visual guidance. The basic steps include: 1. Attaching trucks to the deck. 2. Attaching wheels to the trucks. 3. Tightening all bolts and nuts securely.

## Finding Components in the UK: Suppliers & Retailers

Numerous online and brick-and-mortar retailers in the UK stock skateboard components. Research various suppliers to compare prices and product selection. Check out local skate shops for advice and support.

## Beyond the Basics: Customising Your Ride

Once assembled, personalize your board! Consider grip tape application (choose from various textures and colours), adding risers (for added stability and clearance), and customizing the trucks with different bushings (to alter the turning feel).

## Advanced Techniques & Modifications

- *Wheelbase adjustments:* Modifying the distance between the trucks to fine-tune turning responsiveness.
- *Truck modifications:* Changing bushings and pivot cups for various turning feels.
- **Deck customization:** Adding concave or kicktail modifications for specific riding styles.

**Advanced FAQs:** 1. **What type of glue is best for grip tape?** Use spray adhesive specifically designed for grip tape. 2. *How often should I replace my bearings?* Replace them when they become stiff, gritty, or noisy, typically every 6-12 months depending on usage. 3. **Can I build a longboard using this method?** Yes, the principles are similar, but you will need larger components and potentially different assembly techniques. 4. **What's the difference between different types of bushings?** Different bushings affect the trucks' responsiveness and turning feel. Experimentation is key. 5. *How do I know what size deck is right for me?* Consider your height, shoe size, riding style, and experience level. Many online resources offer size guides. *Conclusion:* Building your own skateboard in the UK is a rewarding experience that blends creativity with

practical skill-building. By understanding the different components and their impact on performance, you can craft a custom skateboard perfectly tailored to your individual needs and style. The process allows for a deeper appreciation for the nuances of skateboard design and technology. So, embrace your inner craftsman and embark on this exciting DIY journey.

## Build Your Own Skateboard UK: The Ultimate Guide to Customisation

So, you're thinking about building your own skateboard here in the UK? Awesome! Forget those off-the-shelf setups that feel a bit... generic. Building your own board is an incredibly rewarding experience. It's not just about having a unique ride; it's about understanding how each component works together, tailoring it precisely to your skating style, and gaining a deeper appreciation for this incredible sport. Plus, let's be honest, there's a certain undeniable cool factor to rolling up on a board you meticulously pieced together yourself. This guide is your comprehensive, no-nonsense roadmap to building your own skateboard in the UK. We'll break down every component, discuss what to look for, where to find the best parts (without breaking the bank!), and how to put it all together. Whether you're a complete beginner dreaming of your first ride or a seasoned skater looking for a personalised upgrade, this is for you.

### Why Build Your Own Skateboard?

Before we dive into the nuts and bolts, let's talk about the "why." What's the real advantage of building your own skateboard in the UK compared to grabbing one from your local shop?

1. **Personalisation:** This is the big one. You get to choose every single part. Want a super wide deck for stability? Need softer wheels for rougher streets? Fancy some eye-catching graphics? You're the artist here.
2. **Understanding Your Board:** As you assemble your skateboard, you'll learn exactly what each piece does and how it affects your ride. This knowledge is invaluable for maintenance, repairs, and future upgrades.
3. **Quality Control:** You can select higher-quality components than you might find in a pre-built complete. This often translates to a more durable, responsive, and enjoyable skating experience.
4. **Cost-Effectiveness (Potentially):** While you can certainly spend a fortune on custom parts, it's often possible to build a superior board for the same price, or even less, than a comparable off-the-shelf complete.
5. **Sense of Accomplishment:** There's a genuine pride that comes with riding something you built with your own hands.

### The Essential Components of a Skateboard

Every skateboard, no matter how fancy, is made up of six core components. Understanding each one is crucial to making informed choices.

## 1. The Skateboard Deck (The Board Itself)

This is the wooden platform you stand on. Decks come in various sizes, shapes, and concave profiles. \* **Size:** Measured in width (inches) and length (inches). Width is the most critical factor as it dictates stability and how your feet fit. \* **Beginners & Younger Riders:** Typically 7.5" to 8.0" wide. \* **All-Around Street & Park Skating:** 8.0" to 8.25" wide. \* **Transition/Vert Skating & Cruising:** 8.25" and wider (up to 9.0" or more). \* **UK Considerations:** Many UK skateparks and street spots can be a mix of smooth and rougher surfaces. A slightly wider deck can offer more stability on those less-than-perfect landings. \* **Shape:** Most modern decks are "popsicle" shaped (symmetrical nose and tail), but there are other styles like cruiser decks (often wider with a kicktail) and old-school shapes. \* **Concave:** This refers to the side-to-side curvature of the deck. It helps lock your feet in place and provides leverage for tricks. Common concaves include mellow, medium, and deep. \* **Materials:** Most decks are made from 7-ply North American Maple, known for its strength and pop. Some decks feature carbon fiber or other composite materials for added strength and lightness. \* **Graphics:** This is purely personal preference! Choose something that speaks to you.

## 2. Trucks (The Metal Axles)

Trucks are the T-shaped metal parts that attach to the underside of the deck. They house the wheels and allow you to steer by leaning. \* **Width:** Truck width should generally match your deck width. The axle (the bar that holds the wheels) should be roughly aligned with the edges of your deck. \* For an 8.0" deck, you'd typically look for 8.0" or 8.25" trucks. \* **Height:** Trucks come in low, mid, and high profiles. \* **Low Trucks:** Offer a lower centre of gravity, more stability for flip tricks, but can sometimes experience wheel bite (the wheel hitting the deck) if you use larger wheels. \* **Mid Trucks:** A good all-rounder. \* **High Trucks:** Provide more clearance for larger wheels and are often favoured for transition skating and cruising. \* **Bushings:** These are the rubbery parts inside the truck that determine how easily you can turn. They come in different durometers (hardness). Softer bushings make for easier turning, while harder bushings offer more stability. You can often swap these out to customise your turning feel. \* **Brands to Consider (UK Market):** Independent, Thunder, Venture, Ace, and Royal are all popular and reliable choices.

## 3. Wheels (The Rollers)

These are what make your skateboard roll! They come in different sizes and hardnesses. \* **Diameter (Size):** Measured in millimeters (mm). \* **Smaller Wheels (50-53mm):** Lighter, quicker acceleration, preferred for technical street skating and flip tricks. \* **Medium Wheels (54-56mm):** A good all-around size for street and park skating. \* **Larger Wheels (57mm+):** Faster top speed, better for cruising, rougher surfaces, and transition skating. \* **UK Street Skating:** Often, slightly larger wheels (around 54-56mm) are beneficial for navigating uneven pavements and rougher spots. \* **Durometer (Hardness):** Measured on the 'A' scale. \* **Softer Wheels (78A-87A):** Smoother ride, better grip, great for cruising and rough terrain. \* **Medium Wheels (90A-97A):** A good balance of grip and slide. \* **Harder Wheels (99A-101A+):** Faster, easier to slide, preferred

for smooth surfaces like skateparks and ledges. \* **UK Pavement Skating:** If you're primarily skating on pavements and roads, softer, larger wheels will be your best friend for a comfortable ride and grip. \* **Conical vs. Classic Shape:** Conical wheels have a more angled shape which can be better for grinding and sliding. Classic wheels are more rounded. \* **Brands to Consider:** Spitfire, Bones Wheels, OJ Wheels, Ricta are all top choices.

#### 4. Bearings (The Spinners)

These are the small metal rings that fit inside your wheels, allowing them to spin smoothly around the truck's axle. \* **ABEC Rating:** ABEC (Annular Bearing Engineering Committee) ratings (3, 5, 7, 9) indicate the precision of the bearing. Higher numbers generally mean tighter tolerances and potentially faster spinning. However, for skateboarding, ABEC ratings aren't the be-all and end-all. \* **Skate-Specific Bearings:** Many brands make bearings specifically for skateboarding. These are often built to withstand impacts and the rigors of skating better than standard industrial bearings. \* **Lubrication:** Bearings come pre-lubricated. Some prefer to clean and re-lubricate their bearings for optimal performance. \* **Brands to Consider:** Bones Reds, Bronson Speed Co., and Zealous are highly recommended.

#### 5. Grip Tape (The Traction)

This is the sandpaper-like sheet that you apply to the top of your deck to give your shoes grip. \* **Standard Black:** The most common and cost-effective option. \* **Coloured/Clear/Graphic Grip Tape:** For those who want to add a personal touch. \* **Grit Level:** Most grip tape is fairly standard, but some brands offer different levels of coarseness.

#### 6. Hardware (The Nuts and Bolts)

These are the nuts and bolts that attach your trucks to your deck. \* **Size:** Usually come in 7/8" or 1" lengths. \* **7/8" or 1":** Standard for most setups with normal griptape. \* **1.25" to 1.5":** Needed if you're using riser pads (explained later). \* **Coloured Hardware:** Available for aesthetic purposes.

### Optional Components

While not strictly necessary for a functional skateboard, these can enhance performance and protection.

#### Riser Pads

These plastic or rubber pads sit between your trucks and your deck. \* **Purpose:** They increase the distance between your deck and wheels, helping to prevent wheel bite, especially with larger wheels or looser trucks. They also absorb some vibration. \* **Thickness:** Typically range from 1/8" to 1/2".

## Bushings (Replacement/Upgrades)

As mentioned earlier, you can replace the stock bushings in your trucks to customise your turning feel.

## Where to Buy Skateboard Parts in the UK

The UK has a fantastic skate scene with plenty of excellent shops, both online and brick-and-mortar.

- \* **Online Retailers:**
- \* **SkateHut:** A very popular and comprehensive online store with a vast selection of decks, trucks, wheels, and accessories.
- \* **Route One:** Another leading online skate shop offering a wide range of brands and products.
- \* **Black Sheep Store:** Excellent selection, often with a more curated and independent brand focus.
- \* **Native Skate Store:** Great for a mix of popular and niche brands.
- \* **Focus Distribution (for wholesale/pro shops):** If you're looking to buy in bulk or support your local shop.
- \* **Amazon/eBay:** Can be an option for basic hardware or specific items, but always check seller reviews and product authenticity.
- \* **Local Skate Shops:** Supporting your local skate shop is always a great idea! They often have knowledgeable staff who can offer advice, and you can see and feel the parts in person. Plus, you contribute directly to your local skate community. Do a quick search for "skate shops near me."

## Putting It All Together: The Assembly Process

This is the fun part! Building your own skateboard is surprisingly straightforward with the right tools.

### Tools You'll Need

- \* **Skate Tool:** This is an all-in-one tool designed specifically for skateboards. It has sockets for truck kingpin nuts, axle nuts, and hardware nuts, plus screwdrivers. A must-have!
- \* **Razor Blade or Utility Knife:** For trimming the grip tape.
- \* **Phillips Head Screwdriver (sometimes):** If your hardware uses Phillips screws.
- \* **A Flat Surface:** To work on.

### Step-by-Step Assembly Guide

1. **Apply the Grip Tape:**
  - \* Peel the backing off your grip tape.
  - \* Carefully lay it down on the top of your deck, starting from the middle and working outwards to avoid air bubbles.
  - \* Press it down firmly, especially around the edges.
  - \* Use the edge of the deck to score a line around the perimeter where you want to cut.
  - \* Carefully cut along the scored line with your razor blade, holding it at an angle.
  - \* Use a spare piece of grip tape to sand down the edges for a clean finish.
  - \* Poke holes through the grip tape from the bottom of the deck where the truck mounting holes are.
2. **Mount the Trucks:**
  - \* Insert the hardware bolts through the holes from the top of the deck (through the grip tape).
  - \* Place your trucks onto the bolts. Ensure the kingpins are facing inwards (towards each other).
  - \* If you're using riser pads, place them between the deck and the truck baseplate.
  - \* Thread the nuts onto the bolts from the bottom.
  - \* Tighten the nuts evenly, alternating between them in a criss-cross pattern to ensure a snug and even fit. Don't overtighten, as this can damage the deck.

3. **\*\*Assemble the Wheels and Bearings:\*\*** \* Take a wheel and press two bearings into the inside of it. You can use the truck axle to help push them in evenly. \* Place a bearing spacer (if you have one – these go between the two bearings inside the wheel) onto the axle. \* Slide the wheel with its bearings onto the truck axle. \* Place the axle nut onto the end of the axle. \* Tighten the axle nut until the wheel has minimal side-to-side play but can still spin freely. If it's too tight, it won't spin. If it's too loose, it will wobble. 4. **\*\*Final Checks:\*\*** \* Give all your hardware nuts a final check for tightness. \* Check that your trucks can turn smoothly by leaning on the board. \* Ensure your wheels spin freely.

## **Maintenance and Care for Your Custom Skateboard**

You've built it, now keep it rolling! \* **\*\*Clean Your Bearings:\*\*** Over time, dirt and grime will slow down your bearings. You can clean them with a degreaser and re-lubricate them with bearing lube. \* **\*\*Check Hardware:\*\*** Bolts can loosen with use, especially after skating on rough terrain. Regularly check and tighten them. \* **\*\*Inspect Your Deck:\*\*** Look for cracks or delamination, especially around the edges or nose/tail. \* **\*\*Wheel Care:\*\*** As wheels wear down, they can become uneven. You might want to rotate them periodically.

## **Choosing Your Components: Tips for UK Skaters**

\* **\*\*Consider the Terrain:\*\*** Are you mostly skating smooth skateparks, or are you tackling the uneven pavements and streets of your local town? This will heavily influence your wheel choice (size and hardness). \* **\*\*Budget Wisely:\*\*** You don't need to buy the most expensive components. Focus on good quality for the parts that matter most to your skating (deck, trucks, wheels). Brands like Powell Peralta, Santa Cruz, and Plan B are iconic but don't overlook great value brands like Enjoi, Flip, or Deathwish. \* **\*\*Don't Be Afraid to Ask:\*\*** Chat to staff at your local skate shop or experienced skaters. They can offer invaluable advice based on their own experiences. \* **\*\*Experiment:\*\*** The beauty of building your own skateboard is that you can always change parts later. If you're unsure about a wheel size or truck height, go with a common setup and then experiment with replacements as you learn what you like. Building your own skateboard in the UK is more than just a project; it's an entry into a deeper understanding and appreciation of skating. It's about creating a piece of equipment that's uniquely yours, built for your style, and ready to take on whatever the streets or parks throw at it. So grab your tools, pick out your favourite parts, and get ready to roll on a board that's truly your own. Happy building!

Building your own skateboard in the UK is more than just a hobby—it's a creative journey that blends craftsmanship, personal expression, and a deep respect for the culture of skateboarding. Whether you're drawn to the thrill of riding or the artistry behind board design, constructing your own skateboard allows you to shape every detail from frame to finish. This alternative guide explores what it truly means to build a skateboard in the UK, offering key insights, practical applications, lasting benefits, and a look at where the craft is headed.

# **Understanding the Art and Craftsmanship of Skateboard Construction**

At its core, building a skateboard is a blend of engineering and artistry. Unlike mass-produced boards, a handcrafted skateboard lets you choose materials, deck shape, wheel hardness, trucks, and grip tape with precision. In the UK, where skateboarding culture thrives in both urban skateparks and underground scenes, this hands-on approach appeals to riders who value uniqueness and performance. The process begins with selecting a quality deck—often made from laminated maple wood—followed by careful shaping, sanding, and finishing. Each component is selected not only for durability but also to align with the rider's style, whether that means a lightweight, responsive board for street riding or a robust, flexible setup for park maneuvers.

## **Build Your Own Skateboard UK: The Ultimate Guide to Customization and Creation**

The rumble of wheels on pavement, the thrill of a successful trick, the freedom of cruising – skateboarding offers an unparalleled sense of individuality and adventure. While buying a pre-built skateboard is a popular option, a growing number of enthusiasts in the UK are discovering the immense satisfaction and creative control that comes with building their own. "Build your own skateboard UK" isn't just a trend; it's a gateway to understanding your equipment, tailoring it to your unique style, and potentially saving money in the long run.

This comprehensive guide will delve into every aspect of constructing your dream skateboard from scratch, right here in the United Kingdom. We'll explore the essential components, where to source them, the tools you'll need, and the step-by-step process, ensuring you're equipped with all the knowledge to embark on this rewarding journey. Whether you're a seasoned skater looking for a personalized setup or a complete beginner eager to learn the ropes, this article is your go-to resource for building your own skateboard in the UK.

## **Why Build Your Own Skateboard? The Benefits of DIY**

Before we dive into the nuts and bolts, let's understand the compelling reasons why "build your own skateboard UK" is such an appealing prospect for many:

### **Unparalleled Customization**

This is arguably the biggest draw. When you build your own, you're not limited to pre-selected decks, trucks, wheels, and bearings. You can meticulously choose each component to perfectly match your riding style, aesthetic preferences, and even your physical build. Want a wider deck for stability in the skatepark? A specific concave for flicking flip tricks? Or perhaps a unique graphic that speaks to your personality? Building allows for this granular level of personalization that off-

the-shelf boards simply can't offer. This is especially relevant for UK skaters who might have specific preferences influenced by local skate spots and styles.

## Deeper Understanding of Your Equipment

Assembling a skateboard piece by piece demystifies its mechanics. You'll gain an intimate understanding of how each component interacts and contributes to the overall riding experience. This knowledge is invaluable for maintenance, troubleshooting, and even choosing future upgrades. You'll know what to look for when your board feels "off" and be able to make informed decisions about replacement parts.

## Potential Cost Savings

While not always the case, building your own can sometimes be more cost-effective, especially if you shop around for deals on individual components or take advantage of sales. By purchasing parts separately rather than a complete setup, you can often find better value, particularly if you're on a budget or looking for specific, high-end components that might be bundled less favourably in pre-built boards.

## The Satisfaction of Creation

There's an undeniable sense of accomplishment that comes from riding a skateboard you've personally assembled. It's a tangible representation of your effort and dedication, and every push-off feels a little bit more rewarding.

## Longevity and Repairability

Knowing how to build your board means you know how to repair or replace individual parts. If a wheel wears out or a bearing becomes slow, you can easily swap it out without needing to buy a whole new board. This modularity contributes to a longer lifespan for your skateboard.

## Essential Components of a Skateboard

To effectively "build your own skateboard UK," you need to understand the five core components that make up a complete setup:

### 1. The Skateboard Deck

This is the wooden platform you stand on. Decks come in various widths, lengths, shapes, and concaves. For UK skaters, deck selection often depends on the intended use:

1. **Width:** Generally measured in inches. Wider decks (8.0 inches and up) offer more stability and are preferred for cruising, vert skating, and larger riders. Narrower decks (7.5 to 7.9 inches) are more agile and favoured for technical street skating and flip tricks.
2. **Length:** Typically ranges from 29 to 33 inches. Length influences stability and turning radius.

3. **Concave:** The curvature across the width of the deck. Deeper concaves provide more board feel and aid in flip tricks, while flatter concaves offer a more stable platform.
4. **Shape:** Most modern decks are popsicle-shaped (symmetrical with a nose and tail). Old-school shapes offer wider platforms and might be preferred for cruising or transition skating.
5. **Material:** Almost all decks are made from 7-ply maple wood, though some innovative designs incorporate carbon fiber or other materials for added strength and lightness.

When searching for "skateboard decks UK," look for reputable brands known for their quality and durability. Consider what kind of skating you'll be doing most in the UK's diverse skate environments.

## 2. Skateboard Trucks

These are the metal T-shaped components mounted underneath the deck. They allow you to turn and steer your board. Key aspects of trucks include:

1. **Width:** The axle width of the truck should ideally match the width of your deck. A common rule of thumb is that the wheels should be flush with the edges of the deck.
2. **Height:** Trucks come in low, mid, and high profiles. Lower trucks offer more stability and a lower centre of gravity, ideal for flip tricks. Higher trucks provide more clearance for larger wheels and can offer a tighter turning radius.
3. **Bushings:** These are rubber or urethane cylinders within the truck hanger that control how easily the truck turns. Softer bushings allow for easier turning, while harder bushings offer more stability.

Popular truck brands in the UK include Independent, Thunder, Venture, and Ace. Consider the type of terrain you'll be riding on – rougher UK pavements might benefit from slightly softer bushings.

## 3. Skateboard Wheels

These are made of polyurethane and determine the speed, grip, and smoothness of your ride. Key factors for wheels:

1. **Diameter:** Measured in millimeters (mm). Smaller wheels (50-53mm) are lighter and accelerate faster, ideal for technical street skating. Larger wheels (54mm and up) roll faster over rough surfaces and maintain speed, better for cruising, transition, and rougher UK roads.
2. **Durometer (Hardness):** Measured on the 'A' scale. Softer wheels (78A-90A) offer more grip and a smoother ride on rough surfaces, making them excellent for cruising and filming. Harder wheels (95A-101A+) are faster, slide easier, and are preferred for street and park skating.
3. **Shape:** Wheels come in various shapes, affecting contact patch and speed.

Consider the prevalent surfaces in your local UK skate spots. If you're often skating on grittier pavements, softer, larger wheels will be more forgiving. Brands like Spitfire, Bones, and OJ are well-regarded.

## 4. Skateboard Bearings

These small metal rings sit inside the wheels and allow them to spin freely. They are rated using the ABEC scale (e.g., ABEC 5, ABEC 7), which indicates their precision. However, for skateboarding, the ABEC rating is less important than the quality of the materials and construction.

1. **Material:** Steel bearings are most common, but ceramic bearings offer higher performance and longevity, albeit at a higher cost.
2. **Shields:** These protect the bearing from dirt and debris. Removable shields make cleaning easier.

Bones Reds are a popular and reliable choice for most skateboarders. Look for "skate-rated" bearings. You'll need eight bearings in total (two per wheel).

## 5. Skateboard Hardware

These are the nuts and bolts that attach your trucks to your deck. They come in various lengths, typically 7/8 inch to 1.5 inches.

1. **Length:** Use shorter hardware (7/8 inch to 1 inch) if you're not using riser pads. If you plan to use riser pads, you'll need longer hardware to accommodate them.
2. **Type:** Phillips head or Allen head are the most common.

Ensure your hardware is made of strong, corrosion-resistant material, especially if you're in a damp UK climate.

## Optional Components:

1. **Grip Tape:** A sandpaper-like sheet applied to the top of the deck for traction. Most decks don't come with grip tape pre-applied.
2. **Riser Pads:** Plastic pads that sit between the trucks and the deck, increasing the distance between the deck and wheels. They help prevent "wheel bite" (when the wheel touches the deck during turns) and can absorb shock.
3. **Spacers:** Small metal cylinders that sit between the two bearings inside each wheel, helping to align them and reduce friction.

## Where to Buy Skateboard Components in the UK

The UK boasts a thriving skate scene, meaning you have excellent options for sourcing parts. When looking to "build your own skateboard UK," consider these avenues:

### 1. Dedicated Skateboard Shops (Local and Online)

These are your best bet for quality, expert advice, and supporting the skate community. Many UK skate shops offer a wide selection of decks, trucks, wheels, and bearings from reputable brands.

1. **Local Brick-and-Mortar Stores:** Visiting a local shop is invaluable. You can see components in person, feel the decks, and get personalized recommendations from staff who are often skaters themselves.
2. **Online UK Skate Shops:** For convenience and a broader selection, many UK-based online skate shops are excellent. They often have detailed product descriptions, customer reviews, and fast shipping across the UK. Examples include [routeone.co.uk](http://routeone.co.uk), [skatehut.co.uk](http://skatehut.co.uk), and [native-skate.co.uk](http://native-skate.co.uk).

## 2. Online Retailers (General)

While not always specializing in skate gear, larger online retailers can sometimes offer competitive prices on components. However, always check reviews and brand authenticity.

## 3. Second-Hand Markets

For budget-conscious builders, platforms like eBay, Gumtree, or Facebook Marketplace can be good places to find used decks, trucks, or wheels in decent condition. Inspect items carefully before purchasing.

## Tools You'll Need to Build Your Skateboard

Thankfully, building a skateboard doesn't require a vast array of specialized tools. You can assemble a complete board with just a few essential items:

1. **Skate Tool:** This is a multi-functional tool specifically designed for skateboard assembly and maintenance. It typically includes sockets for the kingpin, axle nuts, and hardware nuts, as well as Phillips and Allen screwdrivers. This is an absolute must-have.
2. **Box Cutter or Utility Knife:** Essential for cutting grip tape. Ensure it has a sharp blade.
3. **Metal File or Screwdriver (for Grip Tape):** To help score the edges of the deck for a cleaner grip tape cut.
4. **Measuring Tape (Optional but helpful):** For verifying truck width against deck width.
5. **Pliers (Optional):** Can be useful for removing old bearings or for minor adjustments.

## Step-by-Step Guide to Building Your Skateboard

With your components and tools at the ready, let's get building!

### Step 1: Apply the Grip Tape

This is often considered the most challenging part for beginners, but with patience, it's straightforward.

1. Peel the backing off the grip tape.
2. Carefully lay it over the top of your deck, starting from the centre and working outwards to avoid

air bubbles.

3. Press down firmly all over the deck, ensuring good adhesion.
4. Use a metal file or the edge of a screwdriver to rub along the edge of the deck. This creates a visible line to guide your cut.
5. Using your box cutter or utility knife, carefully cut along the scored line, holding the blade at an angle to create a clean edge. Cut away excess grip tape.
6. Use the excess grip tape to sand down the edges of the applied grip tape for a smoother finish.
7. Use a sharp object (like a screwdriver or the pointed end of your skate tool) to poke through the mounting holes from the bottom of the deck.

## **Step 2: Mount the Trucks**

This is where your hardware comes into play.

1. Insert the hardware bolts through the mounting holes from the top of the deck (through the grip tape).
2. Place your trucks onto the bolts, ensuring the kingpins face inwards (towards each other).
3. If using riser pads, place them on the bolts between the deck and the trucks.
4. Thread the nuts onto the bolts from the bottom.
5. Using your skate tool, tighten the nuts securely. Work in a star pattern to ensure even pressure. Don't overtighten, as this can damage the deck.

## **Step 3: Install the Bearings and Wheels**

This is where your bearings and spacers (if using) come in.

1. Take one wheel and press one bearing into the hub until it sits flush.
2. If using a spacer, place it on the axle of your truck.
3. Slide the wheel (with one bearing already installed) onto the truck's axle.
4. Press the second bearing into the other side of the wheel. You might need to use some force.
5. Repeat for all four wheels.

## **Step 4: Attach the Wheels to the Trucks**

Finally, securing the wheels.

1. Place an axle nut onto the end of each truck's axle.
2. Using your skate tool, tighten the axle nut until the wheel spins freely but has minimal wobble. There should be a tiny bit of play. Overtightening will prevent the wheel from spinning properly, while too loose will lead to excessive wobble.
3. Repeat for all four wheels.

# Maintaining Your Custom-Built Skateboard

Once your masterpiece is complete, proper maintenance will ensure it lasts and performs at its best. Regular checks are key:

1. **Cleanliness:** Keep your bearings clean and dry. If they get wet or dirty, they'll rust and slow down.
2. **Tightening:** Periodically check your truck hardware and axle nuts.
3. **Bearing Care:** You can clean your bearings with specialized cleaning solutions or isopropyl alcohol.
4. **Grip Tape:** If your grip tape wears out or gets too dirty, it's easy to replace.
5. **Deck Condition:** Keep an eye out for cracks or excessive wear, especially on the nose and tail.

## Final Thoughts on Building Your Own Skateboard UK

Embarking on the journey to "build your own skateboard UK" is more than just a DIY project; it's an investment in your passion. It fosters a deeper connection with your equipment, allows for ultimate personalization, and equips you with valuable knowledge for the road (and the skatepark) ahead. The UK's vibrant skate culture provides a fantastic landscape for sourcing parts and finding inspiration. So, grab your components, gather your tools, and experience the unparalleled satisfaction of riding a skateboard that's truly your own.

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## Questions & Answers About build your own skateboard uk

| No | Question                                                                            | Answer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | What are the essential components needed to build a skateboard in the UK?           | To build your own skateboard in the UK, you'll need a deck (the wooden board), trucks (metal axles that attach to the deck), wheels, bearings (which fit inside the wheels and allow them to spin), and grip tape (a sandpaper-like sheet for traction). You'll also need skateboard hardware (nuts and bolts) to assemble it. |
| 2  | Where can I buy skateboard parts in the UK for building my own board?               | You can find skateboard parts for building your own board at dedicated UK skate shops (both online and physical stores), large sports retailers, and specialist online marketplaces. Websites like Route One, Native Skate Store, and Skatehut are popular choices.                                                            |
| 3  | What's the average cost to build a skateboard from scratch in the UK?               | The average cost can vary significantly depending on the quality of parts you choose. Expect to spend anywhere from £80 to £200+ for a complete custom build in the UK. Entry-level complete setups might be cheaper, but building your own allows for better customization and often better quality.                          |
| 4  | Is it better to buy a pre-built skateboard or build my own in the UK?               | Building your own skateboard in the UK offers superior customization, allowing you to choose parts that suit your riding style, preferences, and budget. It's also a rewarding experience and often results in a higher quality, more durable board than a budget pre-built option.                                            |
| 5  | What are some popular deck brands to consider when building a skateboard in the UK? | Popular deck brands available and favoured in the UK include Powell-Peralta, Santa Cruz, Plan B, Almost, Baker, Element, and Chocolate. Many UK-based brands also offer excellent quality decks.                                                                                                                               |
| 6  | How do I choose the right size skateboard deck for building in the UK?              | Deck size is usually measured in width (in inches). For beginners in the UK, a common starting point is a deck between 7.75" and 8.25" wide, suitable for street skating. Taller individuals or those with larger shoe sizes might prefer wider decks (8.25"+).                                                                |
| 7  | What tools do I need to assemble a skateboard I'm building in the UK?               | The most essential tool is a skate tool (a T-shaped tool with sockets for all the nuts and bolts). You'll also need a razor blade or utility knife to cut the grip tape, and potentially a screwdriver or Allen key depending on your hardware.                                                                                |
| 8  | Are there any specific UK regulations or considerations when building a skateboard? | While there aren't specific UK regulations for building your own skateboard, it's wise to ensure your parts are from reputable suppliers. For safety, always wear protective gear like a helmet and pads when riding, regardless of whether you built your board yourself or not.                                              |

build your own skateboard uk, custom skateboard kit uk, make a skateboard at home uk, diy

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Build Your Own Skateboard Uk eBooks provide structured digital knowledge.

## **Core Discussion**

Digital books help readers maintain productivity.

## **Practical Use**

Build Your Own Skateboard Uk eBooks support consistent study routines.

## **Conclusion**

Digital reading improves access to information.

Content depth can be revisited as understanding grows.

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