

Get a Boost on the Ice

What if ice skates could help figure skaters jump higher, or hockey players get to the puck faster? That's what inventor David Blois wondered one day while he was ice-skating. The result: Launch Skates.

Launch Skates have two springs inside each blade holder. One rests under the boot's toe; the other rests under the heel. When a skater goes into a turn, his or her weight pushes down on the springs. The springs trap the **kinetic energy** created by the motion, converting it into **potential energy**. When the skater lifts his foot to skate out of the turn, the springs release their potential energy. This shoots the skater forward.

Blois hopes that Launch Skates will be approved for use in the National Hockey League.

—Stephanie Warren

