

## Understanding Boot and Crampon Ratings

These are intended to help select appropriate boot and crampon combinations. Failure to make appropriate combinations can lead to crampons coming away from the boot in use. The general rule is that the boot must be stiffer than the crampon, to ensure secure attachment and thus preventing the crampon from falling off.

### B0 Boots

These are flexible in the soles and uppers great for general hillwalking below the snow line. **They are not suitable for crampons.**

### B1 Boots

All-round four-season walking boots, robustly constructed for long mountain days and scrambles and with cross-over potential for those looking to do a small amount of winter hillwalking. **Combine only with C1 strap-on crampons** which offer the best flex. A B1/C1 combination will be adequate for many UK winter fell walks and gentle snow plods.

### B2 Boots

The best bet for regular winter hill walkers, as they are firmer than B1 boots and designed to take tackling long days in snowy conditions. **Combine only with C1 or C2 crampons.**

### B3 Boots

Designed for full-on mountaineering, mixed and ice climbing. B3 boots have the stiffest soles and uppers available, giving solid lateral and medial support for front pointing, step-kicking, and traversing on steep terrain. **Heel and toe ledges allow fitting of C3 crampons** to take advantage of the easy step-in attachment system of heel clip and toe bar.

### C1 Crampons

This style of crampon is referred to as 'Strap-on' features a pair of nylon webbing straps that pulls malleable cradles around the heel and toe. This binding system allows for a degree of flex and is suitable for B1, B2 and B3 boots. A traditional C1 crampon usually has 8-10 less aggressive points and are described as flexible. **These are recommended for winter walking and glacier traverses.**

### C2 Crampons

These feature the same malleable cradle and toe strap as a C1, however, they also host a heel lever. The binding system of C2 crampons is compatible with B2 and B3 boots as they require a stiff sole and heel groove to lock onto. A traditional C2 crampon usually has 10-12 points that include secondary spikes, that are semi sharp. **These are ideal for winter climbing on snow and nevé but not ice.**

### C3 Crampons

This style combine a metal toe bail with a plastic heel lever and as a result they are referred to as 'Step in'. The Step in system requires very stiff boots with a both a crampon heel and toe groove, because of this they are only compatible with B3 mountaineering boots. C3 crampons tend to have 12-14 points that offer the best performance on steep icy slopes and technical mixed routes. Additionally aggressive front points offer the best penetration on hard ice and on some models the front tips are replaceable. **These are ideal for ice climbing and high altitude ascents.**