

# Starting Line Products

## MoHawk Ski

▶ **Starting Line Products (SLP)** – a company that has a long history making aftermarket snowmobile skis and other goods – has combined features from several of its other snowmobile skis to develop the MoHawk ski especially for crossover sleds. We tested a set of the new boards on our 2014 Polaris 800 Switchback Pro-R Adventure demo sled last winter.

The MoHawk's keel is wide at its leading edge, tapers in the middle and widens again at the trailing end. This hourglass shape breaks up grooves left by other skis and helps provide steady, true tracking on the trail. Winged edges along each side help the ski stay on top of deep snow when off trail.

With 4-inch, 75-degree carbide wear bars installed on our skis, the keels held their lines and predictably led the machine down the trails. The machine cornered flatter than it did with the stock skis, too. Steering effort was equivalent to the stock Polaris skis. We noted during a two-day ride that covered 365 miles, the MoHawk skis darted only a half-dozen times, so sure-footed handling came without any drawbacks. Flotation across snow-covered swamps and untracked lakes was so good that we could clearly see the top platform of the skis while messing around in deep snow.



A change in ride height caused by skis will affect how a rear suspension functions, and the front bumper on our Adventure ended up three-sixteenths of an inch closer to the ground with the SLP skis installed. Fortunately, that was not enough to cause a change in suspension and chassis performance or feel.

Mohawk skis include a quick-and-easy way to tune the handling and performance of a sled. The saddle has two sets of holes that are used to attach the ski bottom to the saddle. The front set of mount holes gives the sled a longer wheelbase and we found that the best tracking and flattest cornering happened with the skis mounted there. The most obvious effects of the skis set on the rear holes were increased steering effort and more inside ski lift, but it also made the sled turn slightly quicker. The gain of quicker steering did not outweigh the cost of heavier steering,

### NOTES

**MoHawk skis** – \$548.14 as tested  
**Starting Line Products**  
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208/529-0244

**INSTALL:** Thanks to saddles that are separate from the ski, installation was a breeze.

**BUMPS:** The texture on top of the ski provides foot traction when stumbling around while trying to dig out.

**COLORS:** White loops and red saddles coordinated perfectly with our machine.

so we pulled over and returned the skis to their forward mount position by simply removing and reinstalling two wear bar nuts on each ski. Even though the rear position wasn't the setting we preferred for our snowmobile, it could be better for other chassis or riders.

— Andy Swanson

