

An Introduction to Baseball Bats

Whether you enjoy the crack of wood or the ping of aluminum, baseball bats are designed for players ranging from Little Leaguers to professionals. Baseball bats are crafted out of specialized woods, composites or alloys, and aluminum, depending on the league. Bats can be forged out of various woods, ash and maple being the most popular.

Baseball bats are available in different barrel sizes and lengths. Little League, Senior League, and college level baseball bats vary and have to be within certain measurement parameters, depending on the league. Since the introduction of aluminum bats, a controversy has raged over whether metal or wood is superior; the current view seems to be that metal bats outperform wooden bats. Some research reveals that aluminum bats smack the ball faster because they are hollow, therefore lighter to swing.

Softball, Little League, Senior League, and college baseball bats are primarily aluminum, but as the level advances to professional, wood bats are mandatory. Many believe that aluminum and composite bats pose a danger to advanced players due to the fierceness of the rebound off the bat, which gives players (especially pitchers) less reaction time.

Many players prefer the classic feel of a wood bat. They assert that wood bats are equal to their metallic counterparts, if not better. Others prefer the quickness of an aluminum bat. Regardless of a bat's composition, all bats have a "sweet spot." This special spot is located on the upper-mid section of a bat and punches the ball with the most power. Many players select a bat based solely on the size of the sweet spot.

To find the right bat, consider which league it is designed for; the length, weight, and circumference of the barrel; and your price range. Remember that wood bats usually weigh more because they are solid and designed to withstand snapping. Aluminum bats are hollow, do not break, and are quicker than wood bats.

About the Author

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