

Russian Wooden Skis

In the USSR, skis were produced at > 40 enterprises, the largest being the Нововятский лыжный комбинат (Novovyatsk Ski Complex) (НМК) where about 2 million pairs / year were made for various purposes: - multi-level, Россия и Олимпия (Russia and Olympia), simple skiing Быстрица (Bystritsa), tourist Турист (Tourist), children Малыш, Снеговик (Kid), teenagers Юность (Youth) etc.

The photographs show the two most common ski logos produced by the Novovyatsk Ski Factory. The elongated one on blue-green skis was used until about 1977, then it was replaced by the one on the red ski. In the post-Soviet era, the plant continued to produce wooden and plastic skis, and the logo changed again



НМК - Нововятский мебельный комбинат. = Novovyatsky furniture plant.
The photographs below show the skis "Russia" (Россия), of the Novovyatsk ski factory in the city of Kirov: 1978 (blue) and 1982 (red), are years of production.

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History

May 1932, on the left bank of Vyatka, ten kilometers from the city of Kirov, the laying of a woodworking plant began. The builders had not a single car, only 17 horses. Construction was carried out by hand: a shovel, a wheelbarrow, an ax. There was not enough cement, glass, nails, high-quality iron. There was no housing, the arrived workers were accommodated in the villages, but the enthusiasm for creation in the country did not disappear.

On September 1, 1933, the woodworking plant was built. Two years later, the plant consisted of three main shops: sawmill, carpentry and peeling. In 1936, the enterprise mastered the mass production of bookcases, door and window frames, and stools.

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In August 1941, the plant was transferred to Glavlesexport to organize the production of skis for the needs of the army. To assist in this matter, the Petrozavodsk ski factory was evacuated to Novovyatsk together with workers and most of the equipment. During the war years, the plant produced 350,000 pairs of skis, more than 100,000 cubic meters of timber and other products, in addition, repairs were organized for skis and poles broken at the war front.

After the end of World War II, the plant increased its production capacity and increased its output every year.

Since 1954, the plant began to produce glued, laminated skis. In 1971, automatic and semi-automatic lines were mastered, which made it possible to double the labor productivity for processing ski blanks. The production of new designs of high-quality multilayer skis of the type "Russia" (Россия), "Tourist" (Турист), "Kirovskie" (Кировский), "Lesnye" (Лесные) were established.

The introduction of the new equipment provided the combine with the lowest cost of skis in the country and the highest productivity.

The employees of the plant took on increased obligations and coped with them. The five-year plan was completed ahead of schedule, the production of skis was almost twice as much and the money earned more by 100 thousand rubles in excess of the plan.

More History

The Telekhany branch of the State Enterprise Belarustorg is located in the town of Telekhany in the northern part of the Brest region on the territory of the Ivatsevichi and Lyakhovich districts at a distance of 250 km from Minsk and 170 km from Brest.

Telekhana branch

The history of the enterprise begins in 1944. This year, a sawmill was built, which produced lumber needed in the post-war period to restore the country's economy.

Furniture production began to develop in 1947, and at the end of 1948 attempts were made to make skis. In the same year, 500 pairs of cross-country skis were produced. At first, skis were made in a primitive way, because the enterprise had 4 pieces of equipment. The skis were heavy because made of solid wood. Every year the quality and design of the skis improved. They began to produce 2-layer skis, and then multi-layer skis.

In 1958, 112,000 pairs of skis were produced. In addition to skis, the company produced ski poles, tables and chairs, thermal containers, built-in furniture, hangers, and student pencil cases.

On August 22, 1959 the sawmill was reorganized into Telekhany DOK.

In 1963, the production of skis at the enterprise became predominant in the volume of woodworking and this made it possible to transform the DOK into a ski factory with its transfer to the Ministry of Lesbumdrevprom SNKh BSSR.

In connection with the improvement of working conditions, labor productivity increased from year to year, the volume of products increased, and the quality of the goods produced accordingly improved.

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In 1980, two types of skis were awarded the State Quality Mark. In the same year, the production of wood-plastic skis was mastered. At the same time, in 1983, the production of sports and cross-country wood-plastic skis for adults was mastered, on which the national ski team of Belarus performed at all-Union competitions. During its participation in the All-Union exhibitions, the factory had the following awards:

- 1979 in Pärnu (Пярну)- two bronze medals;
- 1982 Pärnu (Пярну)- five medals (3 bronze + 2 silver);
- 1984 Novovyatsk (Нововятск) - 3 medals;
- 1988 Mukachevo (Мукачево) - (gold, silver, bronze medals), 1st degree diploma for "Tourist" skis.



Mukachevo (Мукачево)



Novovyatsk (Нововятск)

At the end of the 80s, the production of skis reached more than 400,000 pairs a year.

The main raw material for the production of skis was birch, which was imported from the Russian regions. In 1992, after the collapse of economic ties with Russia, ski production was reduced to a minimum. In order not to reduce the volume of products, the factory mastered the production of furniture from natural wood (hallways, kitchen sets, beds).

Having concluded several mutually beneficial contracts, the enterprise began to supply products for export: bar parts to Germany, kitchen furniture from solid coniferous wood to France.

Since July 1998, the Telekhan Ski Factory was reorganized into the Telekhan Forestry Enterprise under the jurisdiction of the Office of the President of the Republic of Belarus. From February 5, 2001, the

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Telekhany forestry enterprise was renamed into the Republican unitary enterprise "Telekhany". In 2010, the enterprise became part of the State Enterprise Belarustorg as a branch.

The skis of the Россия (Russia) brand were the most expensive, they used balsa and hickory edging, on such skis the USSR national skiing team trained. But at the same time, many dreamed of Järvinen. Compared to Järvinen, the Россия skis are stiffer with a more pronounced kick zone.

1972 film about the Novovyatsky ski plant: <https://youtu.be/IXOC16L-1SI>

All of the information above provided by Max Medovikov on November 20, 2020

"Tisza (or Tisa)" (Mukachevo, Ukraine, Soviet Union) TISA factory founded in 1949 -> TISA brand skis made before Fischer co-ownership in 1992

"NLK" (Novovyatskiy, Soviet Union) <-> "NOVOVYATSKY LYZHNY KOMBINAT" ("NLK"), JSC - Kirov, Russia

"Karelia" (Sortavala, Soviet Union) -> now SORSU, since 1992

"Telekhany" (Belarus, Soviet Union) -> ski production since 1948, is still manufacturing skis

"Desurek" (Tallinn, Estonia, Soviet Union) -> ex. Dynamo Ski Factory. 1992 -> Desurek co-operative, bankrupt in 1997

"Sputnik" (Lviv, Ukraine, Soviet Union) [obscure - unresolved]

"Kaunas" (Lithuania, Soviet Union) [obscure - unresolved]

http://www.nlk.ru/uploads/images/Lyzi/katalog_lyzh_2013-2014.pdf

Above information provided by Ilkka Yrjölä, Email received 5/18/2015

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Karelskiye



These skis manufactured by the Sortavala Furniture and Ski Factory (<http://museum-sortavala.ru/istoriya-xelyulskoj-mebelnoj-fabriki.html>), probably made in the 70s of the 20th century. "Карельские" means - from Karelia (a republic within the Russian Federation). Later, in the 80s, skis from these factories were produced under the "Karjala" brand, were inexpensive and widely available, supplied to children's ski schools, sanatoriums, and so on.....information provided by Max Medovikov

