

## BIO: Nick Palandrani

2008 marks ten years and some 1500 surfboards since I jumped into the game. My journey started while watching master shaper and father of the Twinzer, Wil Jobson, mow foam at the Pearson Arrow Factory. I was working as a shop grunt, doing all the lovely newbie jobs just trying to pick up any tips or secrets I could. I ended up approaching Wil and offered him \$40 per board to watch and critique my shaping. Who's going to turn that down? After a day of laminating and sanding boards, I would pick up some beer, swing by Jobson's place and drive him over to Doug Haut's Factory for after-hours shaping sessions. Not only did I glean advanced shaping techniques, I also got a crash course in hydrodynamics which is Jobson's first language.

The late, great Santa Cruz laminator also influenced me during those early stages. Mike was very generous and let me use his personal shaping tools. It was with Mike, I shaped my first longboard, a 10.0 single fin. Wasch's wisdom was in keeping shapes "neutral", passing on the late 70's and early 80's mindset of "roundness".

Matt Haut (nephew of Doug Haut) was my next influence in my board-building quest. Matt exposed me to refining techniques that improved the quality of my finished shapes. After about six months, Doug Haut ushered me into his shaping room and opened the knowledge vault to his vast experience as a legendary California shaper. Haut's door was always open and remains so today.

In 1999, with the advice and encouragement of Ward Coffee, another talented Santa Cruz shaper, the Source Surfboards label was born. At the same time, I started contracting with Fiberglass Santa Cruz as their in-house production shaper. The two labels kept me pretty busy along with the mileage I was looking for.

In 2002, I took on another production shaping role under another world-class Santa Cruz shaper. William "Stretch" Riedel, Surfing Magazines 2005 Shaper of the Year, introduced me to modern finishing work, design theory and tooling. "Stretch doesn't say much, but he'll say 3 words, powerful words which go right over your head. Then later while you're driving away, those words will sink in and you'll be like A-Ha!!!"

That same year, while working part-time at O'neill Surf Shop, I met master wood worker Bruce Gordon. We hit it off and ended up working together on shapes for our own use. Our relationship soon led to a collaboration of my love for foam and Bruce's 40 year love for woodwork. In late 2005, Bruce and I started GP Surfboards.

I met Marc Andreini in 1998 but it was not until 2007, I started to shape under his label. I still work with Andreini building countless displacement hull shapes and anything the man throws my way.

Another great influence on my work is Rich Sanders. The impassioned disciple of fin design and hydrodynamics has impressed upon me his concepts of concaves, templates and placement. His knowledge has had a direct influence on my performance shortboard designs.

I love the challenge and diversity hand shaping can provide. I typically never shape the same board style in a row. I'll shape a 6.2 Thruster, then a traditional 9.8 GP V-Bottom, then a 7.0 Andreini Hull then a Source Keel Fin Fish.