# half-circle test

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1. Step out of your uphill binding, and turn yourself towards the slope.


2. Dig a pit, an arm length wide and deep (~ 2-2.5 feet).


3. A forearm print indicates the width of the half-circle test sample.


4. Cut a half-circle hand deep (~8in) or less if an evident transition between 2 layers is found.

5. Surround the half circle with your arms and pull parallel to the surface until there is a rupture.

6. Analyze the rupture surface. Here the upper layer has broken into many little fragments.

7. Cut again hand deep or less if an evident transition between 2 layers is found before.

8. Pull again parallel to the surface until there is a rupture.

9. Determinate shear failure quality, grain types and difference in hardness of involved layers.

10. Repeat steps 7 to 9 until the pit reaches an arm length depth (~ 2-2.5 feet). In border aeras less digging is required. The snow cover here is often thinner an more fragile. As the main danger comes from new or wind-blown snow, stop testing at the surface of the old snow cover.