

Source

Hódgumi rubber company of Hódmezővásárhely and **NajadeFins.org** (<https://www.najadefins.org/>) respectively manufacture and market **Najade Standard** fins in Hungary.

Sizes

Size	EU	USA Men	USA-Women	UK
0	32-34	1-3		1-2
1	34-36	3-5	2-3½	2-4
2	37-39	5-7	4½-6	4½-6
3	40-42	7-9	6½-8	6½-8
4	43-45	10-12	9-10½	9-10½

Dimensions

Size	Fin length	Fin width	Shoe inner length	Shoe inner width
0	320 mm	145 mm	200 mm	60 mm
1	340 mm	157 mm	215 mm	70 mm
2	410 mm	205 mm	240 mm	80 mm
3	440 mm	225 mm	245 mm	83 mm
4	490 mm	245 mm	270 mm	90 mm

Instructions

Najade.org recommends:

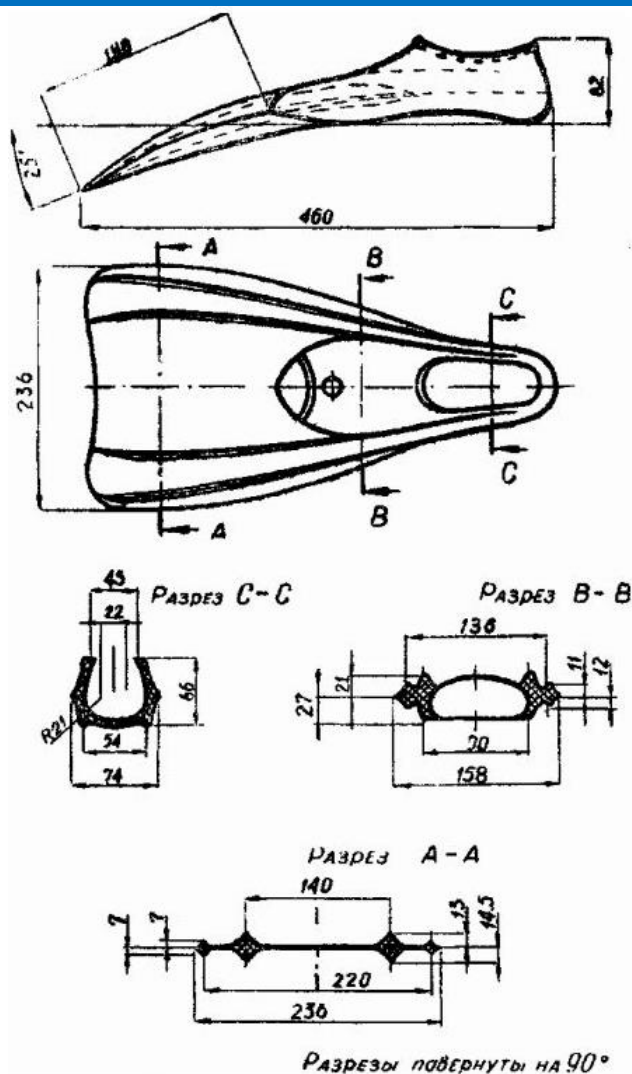
- Wet the fins, wet and soap the feet before putting on the fins.
- Never expose fins to sunlight for a long time because UV radiation shortens their life.

Description

Najade Standard fins are:

- Recommended for teaching purposes to all clubs dealing with any kind of water sports (swimming, finswimming, triathlon, pentathlon etc.), as well as for classic diving from the age of six.
- Considered suitable for use in teaching swimming and improving technique. Competitive swimmers may use them to strengthen kicking when practising freestyle, back and butterfly strokes.
- Designed to be light, while offering flexibility and speed. Because they are made exclusively of rubber without plastic elements, they are more flexible and durable than plastic fins.
- Approved for competition at all rounds of the CMAS World Cup and all International Finswimming competitions, including Junior World Championships and Senior European Championships, Asian Championships and Pan-American Games.

Antecedents



In 1962, the German Democratic Republic's national sports diving magazine *Poseidon* published an article entitled "Der Entwicklungsweg einer Schwimmflosse 'Najade'" [The path of development of a "Najade" fin]. In 1964, the sixth issue of the Soviet sports diving series *Библиотечка спортсмена-подводника* [Underwater Sportsman's Library] reprinted the article in a Russian translation, which can be accessed at http://www.scubadiving.ru/biblioteka/Knigi/sportsmen_po_dvodnik_006.pdf.

According to this piece, the fin was named after the "Naiads", female spirits in Greek mythology who presided over bodies of fresh water. The blueprint on the left documents the final geometry of the fin, which began as one of three competing plaster-model prototypes incorporating the then state of the art in fin design, sports physiology and hydrodynamics. Each prototype was tested and evaluated by swimmers.

The winning design featured the following:

- Deeper heel cup for a more secure fit even when a sock is worn;
- Wider blade reinforced with tall curved ribs spanning the length of the blade for better power transfer;
- Larger fin-bending angle (25°) to reduce drag and muscle strain.

The Guwelin rubber company of East Berlin manufactured a black version of the Najade fin in five sizes, numbered 0 to 4, for recreational and military divers in the German Democratic Republic. Production eventually shifted to Hungary, where a lighter rubber version was made in black, blue and green.

The Guwelin Najade and the Barakuda Bonito became the flagship fins of the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany respectively. Like the Najade, the Bonito Super featured a soft detachable toecap for a comfortable fit when it first appeared in the Barakuda catalogue in 1959.

In response to the popularity of the Najade, the Mosrezina rubber factory in Moscow introduced a lookalike fin named "Русалка" [Mermaid] during the late 1960s. Meanwhile, the Sangigiena plant in the same city launched the longer-bladed "Дельфин" [Dolphin] fin, which shared many attributes with the Najade and became in its turn the flagship fin of the Soviet Union and the Russian Federation.

Debrecen Diving Club markets Najade Standard fins via their NajadeFins.com website, while the Hódgumi rubber company of Hódmezővásárhely manufactures them. GDR-made Najade fins are often auctioned on eBay.