



Stapelbäddsparken Malmo. Sweden

Concussion has two Swedish subscribers; if they are anything like the two UK subscribers, they're used to reading all about the rad Northwest parks in the mag before heading out to skate spots that make even the crappiest Bay Area mini-bowl look sick. Not anymore. PTR (Placed to Ride) have turned the tables for Sweden and left some 'crete that should have you cursing the fact you don't live in or near Malmo. The park is about a 1/3 smaller than Newberg, but manages to fit in the most complete range of terrain Europe. The street area is the kind of spot you dream of finding in the city, lots of flat and fun things to play on from low manual pads to a proper ball-racker of a handrail.

In the main tranny section, Stefan Hauser (ex-Dreamland, who designed the park) was looking to make a unique feature. In the end the whole section is one huge unique feature—something like a cross between a snake run and a maze (with an extra couple of bowls, a Burnside wall, and massive vert pillars). It's like getting lost in a plate of spaghetti—every run is a different adventure—more so than any other park out there. The trannies vary all over; there's a couple of big walls with hand-poured concrete coping, walls that go to vert in 5 feet, tight pockets, giant rollers, over vert pockets and more. All the metal coping is chunky stainless steel—such good stuff that local gypsies pulled a 30 foot section out and made off with it one day while the crew were at lunch.

And, last but not least, like quite a few newer European skateparks the park has a kidney bowl. Most of these bowls are pretty good but the kidney in Malmo has it all: perfect elliptical trannies with vert all round, well-placed chunky shallow end stairs, custom hand-made coping blocks made from and set in secret formula epoxy concrete and two death boxes. One box is well placed behind the hip in the deep and the other, in a touch of genius, is set by the waterfall so when your rocking the deep to shallow line you have to do it over the box. It's easily the best skatepark kidney in Europe, if not the world, all built from special pee-yellow concrete. And with this being in Sweden, you can drink beer by the bowl, it's never too hot, and your summer days are 20 hours long. The Swedes seem to like PTR (placed-to-ride.com) and they have another project on the way, which should be built well before you've saved up for your airfare. —Jeremy Donaldson (UK Subscriber #2)