

# Forty Below, Ltd

Comparing Forty Below® Purple Haze™ and Forty Below® K2 Superlight™ overboot:  
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All five models of the Forty Below® mountaineering overboots are similar in insulating capabilities. They all differ in what part of the foot and leg area that they insulate, and for what types of boots they fit with. The Forty Below® Purple Haze™ and Forty Below® K2™ are patterned for mountaineering boots, and have been trusted and used for many years for extreme cold and high altitude mountaineering around the world.

## **Forty Below® Purple Haze™:**

The Forty Below® Purple Haze™ overboots are patterned primarily to fit with double plastic mountaineering boots, and also “combi” boots such as from Millet, La Sportiva, etc. They are completely stretchy and easy to put on in the cold. This model can also fit larger volume single mountaineering boots such as the La Sportiva Nepal. The insulation goes completely around and under the foot and extends to the top of the overboot, which is just below the knee. They are compact for packing, and fit with a wide range of boot and crampon combinations.

## **Forty Below® K2 Superlight™:**

The Forty Below® K2 Superlight™ overboots are patterned to fit with both double plastic mountaineering boots and also can be used over single leather mountaineering boots. They have a breathable Cordura nylon gaiter that helps moisture escape from around the foot, and is a little lighter in weight and take up a little less space in the pack than the Purple Haze™. They do not have insulation in the upper/leg part, so you can also wear this overboot also in “less cold” temperatures, such as for a single day trip ice climbing, where you might be in a cold situation and want them along just in case, or when belaying, etc. They are lightweight and compact for packing and fit with a wide range of boot and crampon combinations.

In addition to being used for high altitude and extreme cold climbing with double plastic mountaineering boots, the Forty Below® K2 Superlight™ can also be used with single leather mountaineering boots to help extend their range. This can be for applications such as for lower altitude Himalayan peaks, South American, European Alps, North American, and many general mountaineering applications. This enables a climber to use one pair of boots for the approach and warmer sections of a trip or climb, and then add the insulation layer of the overboots for the colder and higher reaches of the climb/summit day. The K2 Superlight™ has also been used for a wide range of different applications, such as for putting over boots for snowshoeing, bike races, dog sledding, etc.

## **Patterned differently:**

Each of the two overboots models are patterned differently so that they can offer different types of boots they fit with. The Purple Haze™ is a completely stretchy overboot that fits on double shelled plastic mountaineering

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boots, combi boots such as Millet Everest/La Sportiva Oly Mons., and also some older low profile Alpine Touring ski boots, snowboard boots, low profile telemark boots, and also “pack style” boots such as Sorels, Bunny Boots, etc. It is easy to put on in the cold. It can also fit over larger volume single leather mountaineering boots such as the La Sportiva Nepal. The K2 Superlight™ is patterned to fit both double shelled boots such as the La Sportiva Baruntse/Scarpa Vega; and single style mountaineering boots such as the La Sportiva Nepal, and other single mountaineering and larger volume leather hiking boots.

### **Insulate different areas of leg:**

The K2 Superlight™ is insulated around and under the foot, up approximately to the top area of the plastic mountaineering boot. The Purple Haze™ is completely insulated all the way to the top of the overboot, just below the knee.

### **Different weight and bulk:**

The K2 Superlight™ weighs about 3-4 ounces lighter, and slightly smaller in packing space than a comparable sized Purple Haze. The Purple Haze™ is a little more bulky because of the additional amount of the additional insulation material. These are small differences, but for some situations it may be a factor.

### **Same Insulation material, both easy to repair:**

Both overboots use the same stretchy nylon covered closed cell neoprene foam insulation ( like wetsuit material). This enables the overboots to be stretchy and easy to put on in the cold, fit neat and trim to the boot so they are not bulky and cumbersome, and are easy to repair as crampons poke holes in everything, you simply can glue any of the typical poke holes, etc with glue for repairing neoprene wetsuits and fishing waders. We also include a repair patch with each pair (also sold separately) for fast field repairs.

### **Same toe, sole, and heel design and materials:**

Both overboots use the same design and materials in the toe, heel, and sole area. The toe and heel each have a small triangular shaped insert of slightly thinner insulation that allows for the wire toe bail and flip lever heel of crampon bindings to compress the material and rest on the groove or welt area platform of the boot.

Forty Below® overboots fit with a very wide range of boot and crampon combinations. However, it is important to always check for proper fit with the crampons to a boot, and also for a proper fit with boots, overboot, and crampons together. Some crampons will not fit with overboots, or with some combinations of boot-overboot-crampon, so it may be necessary to select a different crampon to fit your boot or boot-overboot combination.

## **SUMMARY**

**Purple Haze™:** A favorite for Denali, 8000 Meter Himalaya, Antarctica, etc trips. Easy to put on, completely stretchy, full length insulated. Patterned to fit double shelled mountaineering boots, and will also fit most large volume single mountaineering boots such as the La Sportiva Nepal model.

**K2 Superlight™:** Fits two types of boots:

**Double shelled Mountaineering:** A favorite for Denali, 8000 Meter Himalaya, Antarctica, Aconcagua, etc trips. Easy to put on, no insulation in the upper gaiter portion, works in a wide temperature range.

**Single Mountaineering:** A favorite for Alps, South America, North America, 5-7,000 meter Himalayan peaks. A perfect way to help extend the low temperature range of a single boot (boots without a removable insulative liner). Enables you to use the boot for your approach, and less cold situations, and then add the overboot for the coldest parts of a climb when needed.

**Please contact us for further information and assistance in determining which model may be for you!**  
**Happy Climbing! FORTY BELOW Ltd Graham, WA USA [www.40below.com](http://www.40below.com) Tel: 253-846-2081**