## MARATHON TRAINING PLAN IMPROVER

Performance training, and developing your fitness can seem complicated at times with lots of information and conflicting advice. In truth it can be kept pretty simple. The key is the training triangle you see to overleaf. Most of us think about the training sessions we need to do to become stronger, fitter or faster. In reality you won't really make gains until the other two sides of the triangle - the nutrition, and the rest and recovery are also considered as much focus and attention. As you increase your training keep the triangle in balance by improving your nutrition by ensuring you listen to you body and respect its need to rest in order to improve.


## MARATHON TRAINING PLAN - IMPROVER

This plan.
This improver marathon plan is designed to get you ready to run run a marathon and improve on a recent marathon performance or step up from 10 km and half marathon races to your first full marathon. It can be used to cover a race of paces from 3 hours right through to 4.5 hours and assumes
you are ready to run for 75-90 minutes continuously before you start.

Rest. Recovery between sessions is as critical to success as the training itself. Your body improves and progresses during these rest phases, rest days and as you sleep.

| Week number | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | REST | 30 MINUTE <br> PROGRESSION RUN 10 MINS EASY 10 MINS STEADY 10MINS THRESHOLD | 30 MINUTES EASY RUN OR CROSS TRAIN PLUS CORE | 30 MINUTE EASY / STEADY RUN | REST | CONTINUOUS HILLS 5 MINS OF EFFORT WITH 2 MIN JOG REC X2 45 MINS TOTAL | LONG RUN 75-90 MINS CONVERSATIONAL PACE |
| 2 | REST | 30 MINUTE <br> PROGRESSION RUN 10 MINS EASY 10 MINS STEADY 10MINS THRESHOLD | 30 MINUTES EASY RUN OR CROSS TRAIN PLUS CORE | 30-40 MINUTE EASY / STEADY RUN | REST | CONTINUOUS HILLS 7 MINS OF EFFORT WITH 2 MIN JOG REC X3 45 MINS TOTAL | LONG RUN 90 MINS CONVERSATIONAL PACE |
| 3 | REST | 45 MINUTE PROGRESSION RUN 15 MINS EASY 15 MINS STEADY 15MINS THRESHOLD | 30 MINUTES EASY RUN OR CROSS TRAIN PLUS CORE | 40 MINUTE EASY / STEADY RUN | REST | CONTINUOUS HILLS 10 MINS OF EFFORT WITH 2 MIN JOG REC X2 45 MINS TOTAL | LONG RUN 90-100 MINS EASY PACE ON UNDULATING ROUTE |
| 4 | REST | 30-40 MINUTES EASY RUN | 30 MINUTES EASY RUN OR CROSS TRAIN PLUS CORE | 30 MINUTE EASY / STEADY RUN | REST | PARK RUN OR SELF TIMED 5K | LONG RUN 75-90 MINS EASY PACE |
| 5 | REST | THRESHOLD RUN 45 MINUTES TO <br> INCLUDE 5 MINS OF THRESHOLD WITH 2 MIN JOG REC X4 | 30-40 MINUTES EASY RUN OR CROSS TRAIN PLUS CORE | 40 MINUTE OUT AT BACK RUN - RUN OUT STEADY FOR 20 MINS AND AIM TO GET BACK 2-3 MINS FASTER | REST | CONTINUOUS HILLS 6 MINS OF EFFORT WITH 90 SEC JOG REC X4 45 MINS TOTAL | LONG RUN 1HR 45 MINS EASY PACE ON UNDULATING ROUTE |
| 6 | REST | THRESHOLD RUN 45 MINUTES TO INCLUDE 5 MINS OF THRESHOLD WITH 90 SEC JOG REC X5 | 40 MINUTES EASY RUN OR CROSS TRAIN PLUS CORE | 40 MINUTE OUT AT BACK RUN - RUN OUT STEADY FOR 20 MINS AND AIM TO GET BACK 2-3 MINS FASTER | REST | CONTINUOUS HILLS 8 MINS OF EFFORT WITH 90 SEC JOG REC X3 50 MINS TOTAL | LONG RUN 1HR 50 MINS - 2HRS EASY PACE ON UNDULATING ROUTE |

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| Week number | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 13 | REST | 10X3 MINUTES ALTERNATING ODD NUMBERS AT THRESHOLD AND EVEN NUMBERS AT 5KM PACE WITH 90 SEC JOG REC | 45-60 MINUTES EASY RUN OR CROSS TRAIN PLUS CORE | RUN 80-90 MINUTES TO INCLUDE 15 MINS OF MP WITH 2-3 MIN JOG REC X3 | REST | 45 MINUTE PROGRESSION RUN 15 MINS EASY 15 MINS STEADY 15 | LONG RUN 2 HR 45 MINS WITH LAST 45 MINS AT MP |
| 14 | REST | 5 MINS THRESHOLD + 2X5X90 SECONDS AT 5KM EFFORT (60 SECONDS BETWEEN EFFORTS AND 120 SECONDS BETWEEN SETS) | 45-60 MINUTES EASY RUN OR CROSS TRAIN PLUS CORE | 90 MINUTES WITH FINAL 30-40 MINUTES AT MP | REST | THRESHOLD RUN 45 MINUTES TO <br> INCLUDE 3 MINS AT THRESHOLD 3 MINS STEADY X6 | LONG RUN 1 HR 45 <br> MINS - 2 HRS WITH <br> FINAL 30 MINS AT MP |
| 15 | REST | 5 MINS THRESHOLD + 10X90 SECONDS AT 5KM EFFORT (60 SECONDS BETWEEN EFFORTS) | 30-45 MINUTES EASY RUN OR CROSS TRAIN PLUS CORE | 45 MINUTE PROGRESSION RUN 15 MINS EASY 15 MINS STEADY 15 MINS THRESHOLD | REST | PARK RUN OR 30 MIN STEADY RUN | 75 MINUTE EASY RUN |
| 16 | REST | 30 MINUTE EASY RUN INCLUDING 3X5 MINS THRESHOLD WITH 3 MIN JOG RECOVERY | 30 MINUTE EASY RUN | 25-30 MINUTE EASY RUN | REST | 25 MINUTE VERY EASY RUN | MARATHON RACE DAY! GOOD LUCK! |

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- Always substitute cross-training for running if you are injured, very sore or it's not safe to run.

Please add core conditioning, Pilates or yoga classes once or twice a week if you have time.

- Try to stretch every day for at least 10 minutes.

Always eat within 20-30 minutes of finishing a run.
Always train at the specified efforts; don't compromise or run too hard. Tiredness always catches up, so take extra rest if required.

