TRAININGZONE

The plan

12 WEEKS TO IRONMAN

TEST YOUR METTLE IN THIS INFAMOUS ENDURANCE RACE WITH OUR EXPERT PLANS



Phil Mosley

Coaching editor of *Triathlon Plus* Mosley has coached dozens of triathletes to Ironman success

IRONMAN IS the ultimate test of triathlon endurance, and with 12 weeks left there's no room for messing about. It's time to knuckle down, or it'll be a very long day out. Thankfully these plans are designed to get you fit and race ready without taking over your life. They follow on from the Ironman Foundation plan we published in *Triathlon Plus* Issue 23. Don't worry if you didn't see it, because as long as you've trained consistently over the last 12 weeks, there's no reason why you can't start now.

There are two plans to choose from here, one for the 'time poor' which takes up to 13 hours per week, and one for 'time rich' which takes anything up to 16 hours. They're by no means easy – after all you'll be racing a 3.8km swim, 112-mile bike ride and 26.2-mile run, but the sessions do progress over time, so it doesn't all come at once. You'll need to spend a big chunk of your weekends training, so it's a good idea to run it past your

family and friends first. Then stick a copy of your training plan onto the fridge so everyone can see it.

The longest run I've set is two hours. I know you'll be out for longer on race day, but keeping it lower enables you to train consistently, rather than breaking down with injury and fatigue. After all, it's what you do regularly in training that counts, not what you do once or twice. I've read that multiple Ironman World Champ Dave Scott never ran further than 13 miles in training either, and it didn't do him any harm. Finally, regardless of what the plan says, if you start losing your appetite, struggle to sleep or become abnormally grumpy take at least a couple of days rest.

Coach's Tips

- Train in your race kit when possible
- Train using the same nutrition you plan to use on race day
- Train on your race-day bike when possible

Are these plans for you?

To start these Ironman training plans you should already be able to:

- Swim 2,500m front crawl, non-stop
- Ride your bike for at least 3 hours
- Run non-stop for 90 minutes

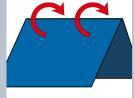
How it works

Get your guide ready to go



Photos Corbis Illustrations Phil Nicodemi

Cut out the guide following the dotted outline

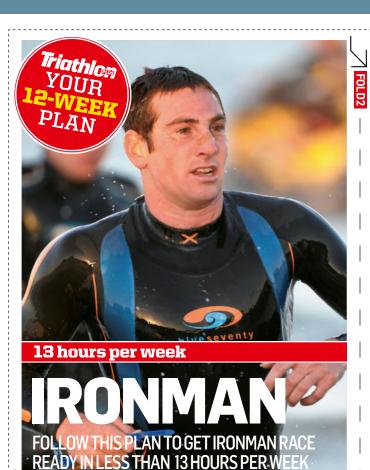


Fold the guide in quarters using the fold guides



Now carry it with you for reference while training

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TRAINING ZONES

USING THESE Training Zones will help you train at the right intensity for each session. This helps develop specific aspects of your fitness, as well as making sure you don't overdo it. You can either estimate your intensity using the Training Zone descriptions, or use a heartrate monitor for a more precise measure. If you use a heart-rate monitor, use the percentages provided and subtract them from your maximum heart rate to calculate your zones. Tools like cycle power meters and GPS watches will also help track your training progress, but they're not essential for these plans.

These training zones are only a guide, so don't worry about being overly precise with heart rates because they'll fluctuate anyway. It's good to be mindful of your intensity but it's even more important that you get out there and enjoy your training.

ZONE 1: Recovery 60 to 65% of max. Easy pace, feels nice and light.

ZONE 2: Steady

65 to 75% of max. Fairly easy pace. Easy enough so that you could breathe just through your nose if you wanted to.

ZONE 3: Tempo

75% to 80% of max. Fairly hard but sustainable pace.

WELL US

ZONE 4: Race Tempo

80 to 90% of max. Hard pace. Sustainable, but requires real focus.

WU Warm up WD Warm down MAIN Main set FC Front crawl PULL Front crawl using a pull float RI Rest interval BUILD Swim each 25m slightly faster than the previous **K** Kick **NS** Negative split (swim the second half of a rep faster than the first) REC Recovery DESC Descending (swim each rep faster than the one before) BI Bilateral (breathe every third stroke) BREAST Breaststroke **BACK** Backstroke

STAY IN THE TRAINING ZONE WITH TRIATHLON PLUS

WEEK 02 WEEK 01 Swim 2,600m WU 72: 6x75m (20secs RI) MAIN Z2: 2x200m (20secs RI), 100min 73, (20secs RI), 2x200m (25secs RI), 100min 73 (25secs RI), 2x300m (30 RI), 100min 73 WD Z1: 6x75m (50mFC, 25m BACK) (20secs RI) Swim 2,550m WUZ2: 200m FC, 2x200m [50m FC, 100m K, 50m FC (20secs RI)] MAIN Z2: 300m, 200m, 100m (20sec RI) 200m, 100m, 50m NS (25sec RI), 200m in 24 (30sec RI), 100m in Z4 (30sec RI), 6x100m PULL (25sec RI) WD Z1: 100m FC Run 40mins in Z2 Run 40mins in Z2 Swim2,550m WUZ2:2xl50mFC,100mK,50mFCMAINZ3: 4x[50mPULL(I5secsRI),50mREC(I5secsRI), 100mBUILD(I5secsRI),2x600mNS(30secs RI)WDZ1:100mFCorBACK Swim 2.500m WUZ2: 400mFC MAIN Z2: 8x50mBUILD (20secs RI). 400min Z3 (15secs RI). 2x200min Z4 (15secs RI). 400min Z3 (15secs RI). 4x100m in Z4 (15secs RI). WD Z1: 100mFC Run 90mins in Z2 on hard ground Run 1hour 45mins in Z2 on hard ground **Rest day** Brick3hours45mins Brick 4hours 15mins Ride 3hours 30 mins in Z2. straight into Run 15 Ride 4hours in Z2, straight into Run mins in Z2 15 mins in 72 **Bike 2 hours** recovery ride in Z2, with optional café stop Bike 2hours recovery ride in Z2, with optional café stop

WEEKUS	WEEK U4
Swim 2,500m WUZ2:300mFC,200mKMAINZ2:4x200mas 150mFC,50mK(30secsRI).600mPULL (60secsRI).8x50mDESC(20secsRI).WD ZI: 200mFC	RECOVERY WEEK Swim1500m WUZ1:500mFC MAIN Z2:500m mixed strokes WD Z1: 500m FC
Run 40mins in Z2	Run 30mins in Z2
Swim2,700m WU22:300mFC,200mK,100mFC,200mK MAIN 72:3x [200mPULL (30secs RI),3x100m FC DESC1-3 (15sec RI)].300mFC WD Z1:100m FC	Swim1500m WU500mMAIN800matapproxlronman racepace WD 200m
Run 90 mins in Z2 on hard ground	Run 30mins WU 13mins in Z2 MAIN 2x3mins at top of Z3+60secs RI WD 10mins in Z2
E Rest	day
Brick 4hours Ride 3hours 45mins in Z2, straight into Run 15 mins in Z2	Brick2hours Ride lhours 40 mins in Z2, straight into Run 20 mins in Z2
Bike 2 hours recovery ride in Z2, with optional café stop	Bike 90mins recoveryride in Z2

TRAININGZONE

	WEEK 05	WEEK 06			WEEK 07	WEEK 08
Mon	Swim 2,800m WUZ2:2x200mFC, 4x50mK (15secs RI) MAIN Z2:2x300m (20sec RI). 4x25mBACK (15secs RI). 2x250mK (20secs RI). 4x25mBREAST (15secs RI) 2x200mfast (15secs RI). 200mK WD ZI: 200mFC	Swim 3,000m WU 22:6x75mFC (20 secs RI) MAIN 22: 2x200m (20 secs RI), 100m in 23.2x300m (30 secs RI), 1x100m in 23.2x400m (40 secs RI). 1x100m in 23.WD 21:6x75m (50m FC, 25m BACK) (20 secs RI)	FOLD2	Mon	Swim 3,100m WU 22:300mFC,300mK (20secs RI) MAIN Z2: 4xl50m (10secs RI), 200mKin Z4.4xl50m (15secs RI), 200mKin Z3.4xl50m (30secs RI), 200mKin Z2 WD Z1:100mFC	RECOVERY WEEK Swim1500m WUZI:500mFCMAINZ2:500mmixed strokes WD ZI:500mFC
Tue	Run 40mins in Z2	Run 40mins in 22		Tue	Run 40mins in Z2	Run 30mins in Z2
Wed	Swim 2,700m WU Z2:4x300m as(100m FC,100m K,100m B) MAIN 22:8x50BUILD.3x(150m,100m,50m FC) with the following rests: 1st round (15sec, 10sec, 5sec),2nd round (20sec, 15sec, 10sec),3rd round (25sec, 20sec, 15sec)] WD Z1: 200 FC	Swim 2,500m WU 22:300m FC,300m K MAIN Z2:6x150m PULL (DESC1-6) (20sec RI).6x100m PULL (DESC1-6) (10sec RI).6x50m PULL (DESC1-6) (10secs RI). WD Z1:100m FC	 	Wed	Swim1500m WUZ1:500mFC MAIN Z2:500mmixed strokes WDZ1:500mFC	Swim1,600m MAINDESC500s1to3 WDZI:100mFC
Thur	Run 2hours in Z2 on hard ground	Run 2hours in 22 on hard ground	1	Thur	Run 2hours in 22 on hard ground	Run 30mins WU 13 mins in Z2 MAIN 2x3 min at top of Z3+60 secs rest WD 10 mins in Z2
Fri	Rest	day	1	Fri	Rest	day
Sat	Brick 4hours 30mins Ride 4hours 15mins in 22, straight into Run 15mins in 22	Brick Shours Ride 4hours 45mins in Z2, straight into Run 15 mins in Z2		Sat	Brick 4hours 45mins Ride 4hours 30mins in 22, straight into Run 15 mins in Z2	Run 20 mins Recovery run in Z2, including 4x30 secs accelerating to 10 km race pace
Sun	Bike 2 hours recovery ride in Z2, with optional caféstop	Bike 2 hours recovery ride in Z2, with optional cafés top	 	Sun	Bike 2 hours recovery ride in Z2, with optional café stop	AMBike Ihour 30mins recovery ride in Z2 PMSwim open water 30mins in Z2
I E	DLD1 — — —			_		
	WEEK 09	WEEK 10			WEEK 11	WEEK 12
Mon	WUZ2:300mFC, 200mK, 100mFC, 200mK MAIN 4x250mas [100mZ3, 50mZ4, 100mZ3 (30secs RI)]. 4x150mas [50mZ3, 50mZ4, 50m Z3 [20secs RI)]. 4x100mas [25mZ3, 50mZ4, 25mZ3 (15secs RI)]. WD Z1:100 FC	Swim 3,000m WU 22:400mFC,300mPULL,200mK MAIN Z2:1x400m(20secsRI).2x200m(15secs RI).1x400m(20secsRI).2x200m(15secsRI). WD Z1:100mFC	Ì	Mon	Swim 2,300m WI 27:68/75m (20secs RI) MAIN 22:1x500m (20secs RI). 1x400m (20secs RI).1x300m (20secs RI). 1x200m (15secs RI). WD 21:6x75m (50m FC, 25m BACK)	Swim1500m WU 72:500m FC MAIN Z3:500m FC WD Z1: 500m mixed strokes (FC, BREAST, BACK)
Tue	Run40minsinZ2	Run 40mins in Z2		Tue	Run 40mins in 22	Rest day
Wed	Swim 3,800m steady state at approxironman race pace	Swim2,100m MAINDESC500s1to4 WDZ1:100mFC	1	Wed	Swim1.6km MAIN DESC500s1 to 3 WD Z1:100mFC	Ride 1hour in Z2
Thur	Run 2hours in Z2 on hard ground	Run 1hour in Z2 on hard ground	İ	Thur	Run 40mins in Z2	Run 30mins in Z2
Fri	Rest	day		Fri	Rest day	Bike 15mins in Z2, to check your bike is working ok
Sat	Brick 4hours Ride 3hours 45mins in Z2, straight into Run 15mins in Z2	Brick 2hours 45mins Ride 2hours 30mins in Z2, straight into Run 15mins in Z2		Sat	Brick 2hours Ride 1 hour 45mins in Z2, straight into Run 15mins in Z2	Swim 15 to 20mins open water in Z2
Sun	AMBike 2hours recoveryride in Z2, with optional caféstop PMSwimopenwater 30mins in Z2	AMBike 2 hours recovery ridein 27, with optional café stop PM Swim oppen water 30 mins in 22		Sun	AMBike 90mins recovery ride in 72, with optional café stop PMSwim open water 30mins in 72	RACE DAY



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WU Warm up WD Warm down MAIN Main set FC Front crawl PULL Frontcrawl using a pull float RI Rest interval BUILD Swim each 25m slightly faster than the previous K Kick NS Negative split (swim the second half of a rep faster than the first) REC Recovery DESC Descending (swim each rep faster than the one before) BI Bilateral (breathe every third stroke) BREAST Breaststroke **BACK** Backstroke

STAY IN THE TRAINING ZONE WITH TRIATHLON PLUS

FOLD1

WEEK 02 WEEK 01 AM Swim 2.550m. WU Z2: 200m FC. 2x200m Am Swim 2,550m. W0 ZZ: 200m Ft, ZX200m F50m F5,100m K,50m F6 (20secs RI) MAIN Z2:300m, 200m, 100m (20secs RI). 200m, 100m,50m NS (25secs RI). 300m in Z4 (30secs RI). 6x100m PULL (25secs RI) WD Z1:100m FC PM Run 40mins in Z2 AM Swim 2,600m WU 22:6x75m (20secs RI)] MAIN Z2: 2x200m (20secs RI), 100min Z3 (20secs RI), 400m. 100min Z3 (25secs RI), 2x300m (30secs RI), 100min Z3 WD Z1:6x75m (50m FC,25m BACK) (20secs RI) PM Run 40mins in Z2 Swim2,000m Swim2,000m steady state at approx Iron man race pace steady state at approx Iron man pace AMSwim2,500mWUZ2:400mFCMAINZ2: 8x50mBUILD(20secs RI), 400min Z3 (15secs RI), 2x200min Z4 (15secs RI), 400min Z3 (15secs RI), 4x100min Z4 (15secs RI) WD Z1: 100mFC PMRun Thour30 mins in Z2, including 3x5mins efforts at top of Z3 AM Swim 2,550m WUZ: 2x150m FC, 100m K,50m FC MAIN Z3:4 x[50m PULL (I5secs RI),50m REC (I5secs RI), 100m BUILD (I5secs RI),2x600m Ns (30secs RI) WDZ1: 100m FC/BACK PM Run 1hour 45mins in Z2including 4x5mins at top of Z3 AMRun 30mins 30mins recovery run in Z2 PM Bike 1hour 30mins Bike 1hour 30mins in Z2 E **Rest day**

Brick 4hours 15mins

Bike 2hours

Ride 4hours in Z2 (including 4x15min efforts at

top of Z3), straight into Run 15 mins in Z2

recovery ride in Z2, with optional café stop

PLAN, WHICH TAKES UP TO 16 HOURS PER WEEK

		WEEK 03	WEEK 04
	Mon	AM Swim 2,500m WU Z2:300m FC, 200m K MAIN Z2:4x200m as (150m FC,50m K) (30 secs RI),600 m PULL (60 secs RI),8x50 m DESC (20 secs RI) WD Z1: 200m FC PM Run 40 mins in Z2	RECOVERY WEEK Swim1500m WUZI:500mFCMAIN Z2:500mmixed strokes WD ZI:500mFC
 	Tue	Swim 2,000m steady state at approxiron man race pace	Run 30mins in Z2
 	Wed	AMSwim2,700m WUZ2:300mFC,200mK,100mFC,200mK MAINZ2:3x(200mPULL (30secsRI),3x100m FCDESC1-3 (15secsRI)),300mFCWDZ1:100m FCPMRun1hour30mins in Z2,including 4x5minseffortsattopofZ3	Swim 1500m steady state at approxiron man race pace
 	Thur	Bike Ihour 45mins in Z2	Run 30mins WU 13mins in Z2 MAIN 2x3min at top of Z3+60 secs rest WD 10mins in Z2
 	Fri	Rest	day
 	Sat	Brick 4hours Ride 3hours 45mins in Z2 (including 5x10min efforts attop of Z3), straightinto Run 15mins in Z2	Brick 2 hours Ride I hour 40 mins in Z2, straight into Run 20 mins in Z2
	Sun	Bike 2hours recovery ride in Z2, with optional café stop	Bike1hour30mins recoveryrideinZ2

Brick3hours45mins

Ride 3 hours 30 mins in Z2 (including 2x20 min

Bike 2 hours recovery ride in Z2, with optional café stop

efforts at top of Z3), straight into Run 15 mins in

TRAININGZONE

	WEEK 05	WEEK 06			WEEK 07	WEEK 08
Mon	AMSwim2,800m WU Z2: 2x200mFC, 4x50mK(15secsRI) MAIN Z2: 2x300min Z2 (20secsRI), 4x25m BACK (15secsRI), 2x250m Kin Z3 (20secsRI), 4x25m BREAST (15sec RI), 2x200min Z4 (15secsRI), 200mK. WD Z1: 200mFC PMRun 40mins in Z2	AMSwim 3,000m WU Z2:6x75m FC (20secs RI) MAIN Z2: 2x200m (20secs RI).k100m in Z3.2x300m (30secs RI).k100m in Z3.2x400m (40secs RI). k100m in Z3. WD Z1:6x75m (50m FC, 25m BACK) (20sec RI) PM Run 40mins in Z2	FOLD2	Mon	AMSwim3,100m WU 22:300mFc,300mK (20secs RI) MAIN 22: 4x150m (10secs RI),200 Kin 24,4x150m (15secs RI),200m Kin 23,4x150m (30secs RI), 200m Kin 22. WD 21:100mFC PMRun 40mins in Z2	RECOVERY WEEK Swim I500m WU.ZI:500mFC.MAIN.Z2:500mmixed strokes WD.ZI:500mFC
Tue	Swim 2,500m steady state at approxironman race pace	Swim 2,500m steady state at approxironman race pace		Tue	Swim 2,500m steady state at approxiron man race pace	Run 30mins in Z2
Wed	AMSwim2,700mWUZ2:4x300mas(100mFC, 100mK,100mBI)MAINZ2:8x50mBUILD.3x (150m,100m,50mFC)withthefollowing rests: [1stset (15secs, 10secs,5secs),2ndset (20secs, 15secs, 10secs), 3rdset (25secs, 50secs, 15secs)]WDZ1:200mFC PMRun2hoursinZ2	AMSwim2,500mWUZ2:300mFC,300mK MAINZ2:6xl50mPULL(DESC1-6)(20sec RI),6xl00mPULL(DESC1-6)(15secsRI),6x50m PULL (DESC1-6)(10secsRI),WDZ1:100mFC PMRunZhours in Z2, including 4x5mins efforts attopof Z3		Wed	AMSwim2,700m WU 22:300mFC, 200K(20secsRI) MAIN Z2: 4x150m (10secsRI).200K in Z4, 4x150m (15secsRI).200m Kin Z3. 4x150m (30secsRI). 200m Kin Z2. WD Z1:100m FC PM Run 2hours in Z2, including 4x5mins efforts at top of Z3	Swim1,600m DESC500s1to3 WDZ1:100mFC
Thur	Bike Ihour 30mins in Z2	Bike Ihour 30 mins in Z2		Thur	Bike Ihour 30 mins in Z2	Run 30mins WU 13mins in Z2 MAIN 2x3min at top of Z3+60 secs rest WD 10mins in Z2
Fri	Rest	day		Fri	Rest day	
Sat	Brick 4hours 30mins Ride 4hours 15mins in Z2 (including 2x20min efforts at top of Z3), straight into Run 15mins in Z2	Brick 5hours Ride 4hours 45mins in Z2 (including 2x20min efforts at top of Z3), straight into Run 15mins in Z2		Sat	Brick 4hours 45mins Ride 4hours 30mins in Z2 (including 5x10min efforts attopof Z3), straight into Run 15mins in Z2	Brick 2 hours Ride Ihours 40 mins in Z2, straight into Run 20 mins in Z2
Sun	Bike 2 hours recovery ride in Z2, with optional café stop	Bike 2 hours recovery ride in Z2, with optional café stop		Sun	Bike 2 hours recovery ride in Z2, with optional café stop	Bike 2 hours recovery ride in Z2, with optional café stop
FO	DLD1 — — — —			_		
Mon	WEEK OS AMSwim2,900m.WUZ2:300mFC,200mK, 100mFC,200mKMAINZ2:4x250mas[100m in23,50min24,100min23(30secs RI)] 4x150m as[50m23,50m24,50m23/20secs RI)] 4x100mas[52m23,50m24,25m23/30fsecs RI)] WD 21:100mFC PM Run 40mins in Z2	WEEK 10 Swim 3,000m WU 22:400m FC,300m PULL,200m KMAIN Z2:1x400m (20secs RI).2x200 (15secs RI).1x400m (15secs RI) WD Z1:100 m FC		Mon	WEEK 11 Swim 2,300m WUZ2,6x75m;(20secs RI) MAIN 72,1x500m (20secs RI) 1x400m (20secs RI),1x300m (20secs RI) 1x200m (15secs RI) WD 21,6x75m (50m FC,25BACK)	WEEK 12 RACE WEEK Swim 1500m WUZ2,500m FC MAIN Z3,500m FC WU Z1 500m mixed strokes (FC, BREAST, BACK)
Tue	Swim 3,800m steady state at approxironman pace	Run 40mins in Z2	 	Tue	Run 40 mins in Z2	Rest day
Wed	Run Ihour 45mins in Z2, including 4x5mins efforts attop of Z3	Swim2,100m DESC500s1to4 WD Z1:100mFC		Wed	Swim1500m DESC500s1to3	Ride Ihour in Z2
Thur	Bike 1 hour 30 mins in Z2	Run 1hour in Z2, including 4x3minsefforts at top of Z3		Thur	Run 40mins in 22 including 3x3mins efforts attop of Z3	Run 30mins in Z2
Fri	Rest	day		Fri	Rest day	Ride 20mins in Z2 to check your bike over
Sat	Brick 4hours Ride 3hours 45mins in Z2 (including 3x10min efforts at top of Z3), straight into Run 15mins in Z2	Brick 2 hours 45 mins. Ride 2 hours 30 mins in Z2 (including a 10 min effort at top of Z3), straight into Run 15 mins in Z2		Sat	Brick Ihour 45mins Ride Ihour 30 in Z2 (including a 10min effort at top of Z3), straight into Run 15mins in Z2	Swim15 to 20mins openwater in Z2
Sun	AM Bike 2hours recovery ride in 22, with optional caféstop PM Swim open water 30 mins in 22	AM Bike 2hours recovery ride in 22, with optional café stop PM Swimopen water 30 mins in 22	l	Sun	AMBike Ihour 30mins recovery ride in Z2 PMSwim open water 30mins in Z2	RACE DAY