## TRAININGZONE

## The plan

# MY FIRST IRONMAN 

# PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THISINFAMOUS ENDURANCE RACEWITHOUREXPERTPLANS 

## Meet the expert

## PhilMosley

Coaching editor of Triathlon Plus Mosley has coached dozens of triathletes to Ironmansuccess

## TRAINING FOR your first ever

 Ironman-distance race can be a daunting prospect. It's a race that involves a 3.8 km open water swim, 180km bike ride and a 42 km run, so it's vital that you prepare properly. It's also important not to launch yourself into doing five-hour bike rides or 20-mile runs straight away. Unless you're experienced, hitting the big miles straight away will leave you exhausted and injured. So the key is to train long but build up to it gradually while incorporating the relevant skills and elements of fitness. With these 12 -week plans the thinking has already been done for you, so all you need to do is get out and start training.Before you start using them, it's important to understand a few important points. Firstly, there are two plans to choose from: one will take between six and 11 hours per week, while the other will take anything up to 15 hours per week. Pick the plan that you feel is most realistic for you.

The plans are designed to be started 12 weeks before your Ironman event. Alternatively, you could begin 13 or 14 weeks beforehand to build in some leeway. The plans may seem rather prescriptive at first, but you're always free to move the sessions around to suit your work/life schedule. Just try to avoid arranging it so you have too many tough back-to-back sessions.
Importantly, don't be afraid to listen to your body as well and take a rest day when you need it, regardless of what the plan says. There's no benefit to training if you're already overtired before you start.
You should also try to stick to the training zones we've prescribed. Stay with them because you'll be grateful when the training volume starts ramping up over the weeks and months. Make sure you are familiar with them, and check the key beneath them-this explains any abbreviations we've used and helps you make sense of the plan so you can focus your efforts on the training.

## Are these plans for you?

To start these Ironman training plans you should already be able to:
$\square$ Ride your bike for at least two hours 30 minutes
$\square$ Run for at least 60 minutes
-Swim 400m non-stop


## How it works

Getyour guide readytogo


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



6 to 11 hours training per week


FOLLOW THISPLANTOGETRONMAN-RACEREADYINLESS THANITHOURSPER WEEK

## TRAINING ZONES

USING THESE training tones 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 heart-rate 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.
ZONE 4: Race Tempo
80 to $90 \%$ of max. Hard pace. Sustainable, but requires real focus.
KEY: WU Warm up, WD Warm down, MAIN Main set, FC Front crawl, KICK Kick with a float held out in front of you, PULL Front crawl with a pull float between thighs, RI Rest interval, BACK Backstroke, BREAST Breaststroke, 1-ARM Front crawl using one arm only N/S Negative split - swim the 2nd halffaster than the first, FDRAG Dragyour fingers along the surface during the FC arm-recovery, FISTS Swim FC with clenched fists, DOG doggy paddle, SCULL Kick with arms in front, sculling your hands sideways BAND Front crawl with a rubber band or inner-tube tied around ankles, ANKLES FC with pull float between ankles

STAY IN THE TRAINING ZONE WITH TRIATHLON PLUS

## WEEK 01

## WEEK OP

## Swim 2,000m <br> Technique session WU $300 \mathrm{mFC}, 200 \mathrm{mKICK}, 100 \mathrm{~m}$ PULL +20 secsRIMAIN $4 \times 50 \mathrm{ml}$ 1-ARM, $200 \mathrm{mN} / \mathrm{S}$,

 WD200m easyFC or BACKRun 40 mins
Muscularendurancesession WU10mins
WD7minsinZ2

## 苋



Runihour
Run hour
EnduranceruninZone2
Rest day

## Swim 2,000m

Endurance session WU $300 \mathrm{mFC}, 200 \mathrm{~m}$ KICK, 100 m
PULL +20 secsRIMAIN 100 mFC in $22+10 \mathrm{secsRI}$, PULL + 20secs RIMAIN 100 mFCin Z2 +10 secsRI, RI, 400 mPULL inZ2WD 400 measy FC or BACK

## Bike 90 mins

Muscular enduranceWU30mins inZ2 MAIN30mins in Z3WD 30mins in Z2.
Stay seated onclimbs
Run 1 hour 15mins EnduranceruninZone2

## Swim 2,100m

Endurancesession WU $200 \mathrm{mFC}, 200 \mathrm{~m} \mathrm{KICK}, 200 \mathrm{~m}$ drill of choice MAIN $6 \times 75 \mathrm{mFC}$ in $Z 3+10$ secsR1, 400 m PULL in Z2 2 +30secs RII, $6 \times 50 \mathrm{mFC}$ in $23+10$ secs RI 200mPULLinZ2WD 150 mFC inZl

## Bike 90 mins

Muscularendurance WU 30 mins in Z2MAIN 30 mins inZ3WD 30 mins in Z2. Stayseated onclimbs

## Bike 3 hours

Bike 2 hours 30
Enduranceride inZ2

## Swim 2,000m

Technique session WU $200 \mathrm{mFC}, 200 \mathrm{mPULL}, 100 \mathrm{~m}$ KICK +20 secs RI MAIN $8 \times 50 \mathrm{mas}$ ( $25 \mathrm{mFDRAG}, 25 \mathrm{~m}$ $\mathrm{FC})+60 \mathrm{secs} \mathrm{RII} .1 \times 400 \mathrm{~min}$ Z3 $3(+15 \mathrm{secs} \mathrm{RII}), 2 \times 200 \mathrm{~min}$ Z3(+15secsRI), $2 \times 100 \mathrm{~min} Z 3$ WD 100 measy FC or
BACK

Run 40 mins
Muscularendurancesession WU1Omins in Z2 MAIN 20 minsinZ3WD 10 minsinZ2

## 

## WEEK 14



```
Swim 2,400mTechnique session
WU2x(1500mFC, 100mKICK,50mPULL)
MAIN4x(25mDOG, 25mFC,25mFISTS,25mFC
2530secsRIWD 400measyFC or BACK
```

Run 30mins
Muscular endurance WU10minsin Z2
MAIN1Ominsin 23 WD 10 mins 72
MALCuI 10mins in Z3WD 10 mins in Z2

```
Bike 35mins
(turbo traineroroutdoor)Muscularendurance WU
(turbotraineroroutdoor)Muscularendurance W 
4minsinZ2
```

Swim 2,000m
Strengthsession WU $300 \mathrm{mFC}, 100 \mathrm{~m} \mathrm{KICK}, 4 \times 50 \mathrm{~m}$ Strength session WU $300 \mathrm{mFC}, 100 \mathrm{mkICK}, 4 \times 50 \mathrm{~m}$
BUILD( +15 secs RII MAIN 200 m BAND +20 secsRI, $300 \mathrm{mANKLES}+30$ secs RI, $400 \mathrm{mPULL}+40$ secs RI , $200 \mathrm{mFCWD} 200 \mathrm{mFC}, 100 \mathrm{mKICK}$


## Swim $2,900 \mathrm{~m}$

Technique session wU $300 \mathrm{mFC}, 200 \mathrm{mKICK}, 200 \mathrm{~m}$ Z2 +20secsRI 100 m FC in $73+20$ secs R11 100 mFCC in Z4+20secsRI) WD 400 measy FC or BACK

## Run50mins

Muscularendurancesession WU1Omins in Z2MAIN $2 \times 15$ mins in $23(+3$ mins RII) WD 7 mins in 22

Swim 2,500mStrengthsession WU2x250mFC, $100 \mathrm{mKICK}, 200 \mathrm{mPULL}$ MAIN $8 \times(25 \mathrm{mSCULL}, 25 \mathrm{~m}$ FC) +10 secs RI, 100 m PULL LinZ4 +10 secs RI, 200 mFC in $Z 3+10$ secs R1, 300 mPULL in $Z 2+3$ 3secs R1, 200 m FC in Z3 +20 secs $\mathrm{Rl}, 100 \mathrm{mFC}$ in Z 4 WD 400 mFC in Z 1

Run1hour 30mins
EnduranceruninZone

Swim 2,500m Endurance session WU 400 mas ( 25 m KICK, 50 mFC$) .40 \mathrm{~m}$ as 25 m drill of choice, 25 mFC
MAIN $400 \mathrm{mFCN} / \mathrm{S}+60$ secsRI, 50 m BACK, 300 m PULLinZ3+40secsR1, 50 m BREAST, 200 mFC in 23 +20secsR1, $50 \mathrm{mBACK}, 200 \mathrm{mPULL}$ LinZ3,50m BREASTWD $400 \mathrm{mFC} /$ PULL inZ1

## Bike 90 mins

Muscularendurance WU30minsinZ2MAIN40mins in Z3WD 20 mins in Z2. Stay seated onclimbs

Bike 3 hours 30 mins
Bike 3 hours 30min
Enduranceride inZ2

## TRAININGZONE




7 to 15 hours training per week
fonevas
TRAINFORANIRONMAN WITH THIS TRAINNG PLAN, WHICH TAKESUP TO 15HOURS PER WEEK

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STAY IN THE TRAINING ZONE WITH TRIATHION PLUS

## 


AMSwim $2,400 \mathrm{~m}$ Technique session WU $2 \times(150 \mathrm{~m}$
FC, $100 \mathrm{mKICK}, 50 \mathrm{mPULL}$ )MAIN $4 \times(25 \mathrm{mDOG}, 25 \mathrm{~m}$
$\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{FC}, 25 \mathrm{mFISTS}, 25 \mathrm{mFC}, 25 \mathrm{mSCULL}, 25 \mathrm{mFC}) \\ & +20 \text { secsRI. } 2 \times 400 \mathrm{mN} / \mathrm{S}+30 \text { secsRI } \mathbf{W D} 400 \mathrm{~m}\end{aligned}$
$\begin{aligned} & +20 \text { secs RI. } 2 \times 400 \mathrm{mN} / \mathrm{S}+30 \operatorname{secs} \text { RIWD } 400 \mathrm{measy} \\ & \text { FCor BACK PMWeights } 30 \mathrm{mins} \text { WU } 5 \mathrm{mins}\end{aligned}$
$\begin{aligned} & \text { FCor BACK PMWeights } 30 \mathrm{mins} \text { WU } 5 \text { mins } \\ & \text { rowing machine orindoorcycleMAIN } 2 \times 2 \text { reps, }\end{aligned}$
$\begin{aligned} & \text { rowing machine or indoorcycleMAIN } 2 \times 2 \text { 20reps, } \\ & \text { lightornoresistance:Squats, hamstring curls, }\end{aligned}$
tricepdips, chinups, pressups, latpulldowns

Run 40 min
Muscular endurancesession WU1OminsinZ2MAIN 20 minsinZ3WD10minsin Z2

## AMSwim 2000 m Strength session

 WU300mFC, $100 \mathrm{mKICK}, 4 \times 50 \mathrm{mBUILD}+15 \mathrm{secs}$ RI MAIN $4 \times 50 \mathrm{mFC}$ inZ4 +15 secs RI, 200 mPULL inZ2 +20 secsR1, $2 \times 50 \mathrm{mFCin}$ Z4 +15 Secs R1, 200 mPULL in KICK, 200 mPULL PMBike 45 mins (turbotrainer or outdoor)Muscular endurance WU1Omins in Z2MAIN $3 \times 9$ mins in $Z 3(+2$ mins R1) WD4minsZ2Run1 hour 15mins EnduranceruninZone2 AMSwim 2000 m Endurance sessionWU200mFC,
$200 \mathrm{mKICK}, 200 \mathrm{~m}$ drill of choice MAIN $6 \times 75 \mathrm{mFC}$ in 33 +10 secs RI, 400 mPULL in $22+30 \mathrm{secs} \mathrm{RI}, 6 \times 50 \mathrm{mFC}$ in Z3 +10 secsRII, 200 mPULL in 22 WD 150 mFCin Z1 PM Run 40 mins in Z2.Choosearoutewith as man
hillsas possible -

Bike 90mins
Muscularendurance WU3Omins inZ2MAIN3Omins inZ3WD30mins inZ2. Stay seated onclimbs

## Bike 3hours

Enduranceride in Z2
AMSWim 2,000m Technique session WU 200 mFC , $200 \mathrm{mPULL}, 100 \mathrm{mKICK}+20$ secsRIMAIN $8 \times 50 \mathrm{~m}$ as
$(25 \mathrm{mFDRAG}, 25 \mathrm{mFC})+60 \operatorname{secs} \mathrm{RI} .1 \times 400 \mathrm{~min} 73$ $(+15$ secsRI), $2 \times 200 \mathrm{~min} Z 3(+15 \mathrm{secs} \mathrm{RII}), 2 \times 100 \mathrm{~min} Z 3$ WD 100 measy FC or BACK PM Weights 30mins WU 5 mins rowing machine or indoor cycle MAIN $2 \times 2$ Oreps, light or no resistance: Squats, hamstring curls, tricep dips, chin-ups, press-ups, lat -downs

2Imisin 2 Wince sessionWU10mins in Z2 MAIN
Run 30 mins
Muscularendurance WU1Omins in Z2 MAIN 10 mins
inZ3WD10minsin72 inZ3WD10minsinZ2

Bike 45mins (turbo traineror outdoor)Muscular
endurance WU10mins in Z2MAIN $2 \times 9$ mins in $Z 3$ ( +2 mins Rl ) WD 4 mins $\operatorname{in}$ Z2

Swim 2,000mStrengthsession WU300m FC,
100mKICK, $4 \times 50 \mathrm{mBULLD}(+15 s e c s R 1)$ MAIN200m BAND +20 secs RI, 300 m ANKLES +30 secs RI, 400 m PULL + 4 OsecsRI, 200 mFC WD $200 \mathrm{mFC}, 100 \mathrm{mKICK}$


## WEEK 04

AMSwim $2,500 \mathrm{~m}$ Technique WU $300 \mathrm{mFC}, 200 \mathrm{~m}$
 RI, 100 mFC in $\mathrm{Z} 4+20$ secssRI) WD 400 measy FC or BACK PMWeights 30 mins WU5mins rowing machine/indoor cycle MAIN $2 \times 25$ chin-ups, press-ups,tricepdips. $2 \times 8$-16reps oflatpull-downs,
squats, hamstringcurlswithheayyweights.Increase squats, hamstring curls with $h e a v y$ weights. Increas
resistancenextweekifyougettol6reps

Run50mins Muscular endurance session WU 10 mins in Z2 MAIN $2 \times 15$ mins in $Z 3(+3$ mins RII) WD 7 minsinZ2

## AMSwim $2,500 \mathrm{mStrength}$ session WU $2 \times 250 \mathrm{mFC}$,

 $100 \mathrm{mKICK}, 200 \mathrm{mPULL}$ MAIN $8 \times(25 \mathrm{mSCULL}, 25 \mathrm{~m}$ FC) +10 secs R1, 100 mPULL in $Z 4+10$ secs R1, 200 mFCin Z3+20secsR1, 100 mFC in Z4WD 400 mFC in Z1 PM Bike 1hour (turbotrainer or outdoor) Muscular endurance WU $10 \mathrm{mins} \sin Z 2$ MAIN $2 \times 20 \mathrm{mins} \operatorname{in} Z 3$ $(+3$ minsRI) WD7minsinZ2Run 1hour 30 mins EnduranceruninZone

AMSwim 2,500m Endurance WU 400 mas ( 25 m KICK, 50 mFC ). 400 m as 25 m drillof choice, 25 mFC MAIN $400 \mathrm{mFCN} / \mathrm{S}+60$ secs R1, 50 m BACK, 300 m +20secs l , 50 m BACK, $, 200 \mathrm{mPULL} \mathrm{in} 23,50 \mathrm{~m}$ BREASTWD400mFC/PULLinZIPM Run 40 min HillyruninZ2

Bike 90 mins Muscular and
WU 30 mins in Z2MAIN 40 mins in Z3WD 20 mins in Z2 Stay seated onclimbs

Bike 3hours 30mins EndurancerideinZ2

AMSwim 2,000m Technique WU $300 \mathrm{mFC}, 200 \mathrm{~m}$ KICK, $100 \mathrm{mPULL}+20$ secs RIMAIN $4 \times 50 \mathrm{ml}$-ARM, $200 \mathrm{mN} / \mathrm{S}, 4 \times 50 \mathrm{mFDRAG}, 200 \mathrm{mN} / \mathrm{S}, 4 \times 50 \mathrm{mFISTS}$, 30 mins WU 5 mins rowing machine or indoorcycle MAIN2 2 2Oreps, lightornoresistance:Squats, hamstring curls, tricepdips, chin-ups, press-ups, latpulldowns

## Run 40 mins Muscularendurancesession WU 10 mins in 22 MAIN $2 \times 10$ mins $\operatorname{in} Z 3(+3$ mins RII$)$ WD $10 \operatorname{mins} \operatorname{in} Z 2$ MAIN2x10minsinZ3(+3minsR1)WD 7 minsin 72

AMSwim 2,300mStrength session WU200mF $100 \mathrm{mKICK}, 200 \mathrm{mPULL}, 100 \mathrm{mFCMAIN} 400 \mathrm{~m}$ (alternating $50 \mathrm{mFC}, 25 \mathrm{mKICK}) .3 \times(200 \mathrm{~m}$ PCLL BREAST PM Bike 50 mins (turbotrainer or
Bich outdoor) Muscular endurance WU 10 mins in Z2
MAIN $2 \times 15$ mins $Z 33(+3$ mins RI) WD 7 mins in Z2

Run 1hour 15 mins EnduranceruninZone2

AM Swim 2,000m Endurancesession WU300m FC, $200 \mathrm{mKICK}, 100 \mathrm{mPULL}+20 \operatorname{secs}$ RIMAIN 100 FCinZ2 +10 secs R1, 200 m PULL in $22+2$ 20secs 400 measyFC or BACK PMRun 40 mins in Z2 Choosearoutewithas manyhills as possible

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## TRAININGZONE



