

Beginner Thursday Clinic

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Week 1: Build

Monday: **Cycle** 90min Zone 2

Tuesday: Cross-Train

Wed: Rest Day

Thursday: Clinic Night - Intro, Etiquette, Skills/ABC's, **Cycle** 45min Zone 1-2

Friday: Cross-Train

Saturday: **Cycle Long** 2hrs (40-45km) Zone 2

Sunday: Rest Day

Cycle Totals: 4.5hrs

Coaching Notes: This week's training is mostly conversation pace and not strained. Your focus should be on feeling comfortable and building confidence on the bike. Riding at a pace where you can still maintain a conversation will build your aerobic base and add to your stamina in the weeks ahead. Explore different cycling routes, focus on this week's skills training, NOT riding fast! Stay in Zone 2.

Week 2: Build

Monday: **Cycle** 90min as: 30min Zone 2, 30min Zone 3-4, 30min Zone 2

Tuesday: Cross-Train

Wed: Rest Day

Thursday: Clinic Night - Practice Skills, **Cycle** 60min Zone 1-2

Friday: Cross-Train

Saturday: **Cycle Long** 2.5hrs (50-60km) Zone 2

Sunday: Rest Day

Cycle Totals: 5hrs

Coaching Notes: These first few weeks are about building capacity and introducing the body to different zones or intensities. The sessions are not long, but they're critical to laying the foundation for the next round of training weeks. Ensure you stay consistent by doing all of the training rides and keep your focus on skill building rather than speed. Set your intention at the start of each week to make the distance and put in the effort.

Week 3: Build

Monday: Cycle 90min > w/u 15min
> 4x 10min Zone 4 with 5min Recovery Zone 1-2
> w/d 15min

Tuesday: Cross-Train

Wed: Rest Day

Thursday: Clinic Night - Practice Skills, Cycle 75min Zone 1-2

Friday: Cross-Train

Saturday: Cycle Long 3hrs (60-70km) Zone 2

Sunday: Rest Day

Cycle Totals: 5hrs 45min

Coach Notes: Include pedaling out of the saddle more this week. Periodically pedaling out of the saddle on steeper pitches will help your body get used to using muscles differently while riding. It is important to train with this since there are times when standing out of the saddle will give you that extra power boost to get over the top of a hill or through a steep/tough section. Over the course of the long ride, mixing up the position on the bike will reduce stress on your main muscle groups, including your lower spine.

Week 4: Active Recovery

Monday: Cycle 80min as: 20min Zone 1, 20min Zone 2, 15min Zone 3
10min Zone 4, 15min Zone 2

Tuesday: Cross-Train

Wed: Rest Day

Thursday: Clinic Night - Practice Skills, Cycle 75min Zone 1-2

Friday: Cross-Train

Saturday: Cycle Long 2.5hrs (50-60km) Zone 2

Sunday: Rest Day

Cycle Totals: 5hrs 5min

Coaching Notes: Revive and recover this week. There s still riding, but the length and intensity of the rides are somewhat reduced, particularly the long ride. These will feel like easy rides now, whereas four weeks ago they were the target goals. Recovery is paramount in order to move to the next 3 weeks of training build.

Week 5: Build

Monday: Cycle 1hr 45min Zone 2

Tuesday: Cross-Train

Wed: Rest Day

Thursday: Clinic Night - **Cycle HIIT** 80min

> w/u 20min

> 6x [2min Zone 4 HARD, 3min Zone 1-2]

> w/d 40min in groups of 3

* Best done on flat terrain

Friday: Cross-Train

Saturday: **Cycle Long** 3hrs (60-70km) Zone 2

Sunday: Rest Day

Cycle Totals: 6hrs 5min

Coaching Notes: Commence Clinic intervals! These short and vigorous efforts will help your body get used to the higher output needed for short climbs or to get onto the back of a group to draft. Push through these and feel the benefits of the longer rides in coming weeks. Each week now should be a new step along the path to a better level of fitness. All the skills sessions should be merging together into a new sense of confidence and strength on the bike.

Week 6: Build

Monday: **Cycle** 2hr Zone 2

Tuesday: Cross-Train

Wed: Rest Day

Thursday: Clinic Night - **Cycle HIIT Hill Repeats** 80min

> w/u 15min ending at base of hill.

> 5x [5min up Zone 4-5, 3min down Zone 1-2]

> w/d 35min in groups of 3

* Optimal incline 6-7%

Friday: Cross-Train

Saturday: **Cycle Long** 3.5hrs (70-80km) Zone 2

Sunday: Rest Day

Cycle Totals: 6hrs 50min

Coaching Notes: This week's focus is on climbing whether in or out of the saddle. Try to experience both! Also, this session will give you a mini prep for next week's Cypress Hill Climb :)

Week 7: Build

Monday: **Cycle** 2hr Zone 2

Tuesday: Cross-Train

Wed: Rest Day

Thursday: Clinic Night - **Cycle Cypress Mountain!!**

> w/u 10min

> Climb Cypress Mtn 60-75min (Zone 4 average)

> w/d back down Mtn

Friday: Cross-Train

Saturday: **Cycle Long** 4 to 4.5hrs (80-90km) Zone 2

Sunday: Rest Day

Cycle Totals: 7hrs 10min

Coaching Notes: Your biggest week thus far including a BIG Hill Climb + breaking through past the 4-hour mark for a single ride! Pay attention to nutrition and rest after these big workouts to make sure your body has the best possible opportunity to recover and adapt.

Week 8: Active Recovery

Monday: **Cycle** 2hr Zone 2

Tuesday: Cross-Train

Wed: Rest Day

Thursday: Clinic Night - **Cycle Sprints** 90min

> w/u 30min

> 6x [5min as: 30sec Sprint! on 4:30 Zone 1-2]

* Alternate sprints sitting vs standing out of saddle!

* Best done on flat terrain

> w/d 30min in groups of 3

Friday: Cross-Train

Saturday: **Cycle Long** 2hrs 45min (55-65km) Zone 2

Sunday: Rest Day

Cycle Totals: 5hrs

Coaching Notes: This week is the time to let the body recover from another period of building. It is time to let go of training hard and trust the recovery process to take place for this week. Soon enough you will be back on the longer parts of the 12-week program.

Resist the temptation of doing more even if you feel strong - it is important to let the mind and body recover and adapt to the training loads it has been exposed to. You will need energy and drive to complete the next building phase in the program. If you are still feeling tired this week, use this recovery time and do even less!

Week 9: Build

Monday: **Cycle** 2hr Zone 2

Tuesday: Cross-Train

Wed: Rest Day

Thursday: Clinic Night - **Cycle HIIT Hill Repeats** 90min

> w/u 15min ending at base of hill.

> 10x [3min up Zone 4-5, 2min down Zone 1-2]

> w/d 25min

* Optimal incline 6-7%

Friday: Cross-Train

Saturday: **Cycle Long** 4.5hrs (90-100km) Zone 2

Sunday: Rest Day

Cycle Totals: 8hrs

Coaching Notes: These next 2 weeks will be tough both physically and mentally, so be ready! Be sure to keep up healthy habits with nutrition, hydration, and sleep to recover between workouts and absorb the increased training load.

Week 10: Build

Monday: **Cycle** 2hr Zone 2

Tuesday: Cross-Train

Wed: Rest Day

Thursday: Clinic Night - **Cycle HIIT Repeats** 90min.

> w/u 15min

> 4x [10min Tempo Zone 4 on 3min Recover Zone 1-2]

> w/d 25min

* Best done on flat terrain

Friday: Cross-Train

Saturday: **Cycle Long** 5hrs (100-110km) Zone 2

Sunday: Rest Day

Cycle Totals: 8hrs 30min

Coaching Notes: Your last and final build week done! At this point you have completed almost 3 months of solid consistent training. Well done! Soon the taper begins :)

Week 11: Recover/Taper

Monday: **Cycle** 90min Zone 2

Tuesday: Cross-Train

Wed: Rest Day

Thursday: Clinic Night - **Cycle HIIT Repeats** 80min.

> w/u 30min

> 6x [5min as: 30sec Sprint! on 4:30 Zone 1-2]

* Alternate sprints sitting vs standing out of saddle!

* Best done on flat terrain

> w/d 30min in groups of 3

Friday: Cross-Train

Saturday: **Cycle Long** 2hrs (~50km) Zone 2

Sunday: Rest Day

Cycle Totals: 4hrs 50min

Coaching Notes: If you followed this program, all benchmarks have been reached and the majority of your training is done. Trust that you are ready to take on the GranFondo challenge. Trying to fit in more training the week prior to the event will not help. As the saying goes, the hay is already in the barn! The taper is critical for you to have the best GranFondo experience!

Week 12: Taper/Gran Fondo!!

Monday: **Cycle** 75min Zone 2

Tuesday: Cross-Train

Wed: Rest Day

Thursday: Clinic Night - **Cycle Group Paceline** 75min

> w/u 30min

> 10x [2min as: 30sec leading, 1:30 drafting]

* Best done on flat terrain

* In groups of 4 practicing what will likely happen in Fondo

> w/d 10min

Friday: Cross-Train

Saturday: **RBC Gran Fondo...Woot Woot!!**

Sunday: Rest Day...of course!!

Coaching Notes: Congratulations...You made it through!!! Super low volume this week, but still doing a few sprints with your group to keep you sharp come event day. Get lots of rest this week to feel strong for your event. Strategize and plan the Fondo route in your head. You will have an awesome adventure!