



Half Marathon Training Plan Experienced

Created by Tom Craggs
England Athletics Running Coach



| | MON | TUES | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | SUN |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| WEEK 1 | Run Session: 40 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort Main Session: 2 sets of 4 mins, 3 mins, 2 mins, 1 min with 90 secs easy recovery or rest. Work between around 8/10 aim to get faster as you go through Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Run or XT Session: 45-60 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Rest | Warm up: 10-20 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort Main Session: 6 sets of 5 minutes at 7/10 effort with 90-120s jog recovery Cool down: 10-15 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Run Session: 40-55 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Run Session: 90-100 min easy run – 2-3/10 build to steady 4-5/10 if you feel good |
| WEEK 2 | Run Session: 40 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort Main Session: 15 x 1 minute strong at 7-8/10, 1 minute steady at 4-5/10 Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Run or XT Session: 45-60 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Rest | Run Session: 45-60 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | 90-100 minutes to include 4 x 8 mins at half marathon pace with 3 mins steady at 4/10 between each. Everything else 3/10 | Run Session: 40-50 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort |
| WEEK 3 | Run Session: 45-60 min easy run at 3-4/10 effort | Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort Main Session: 8-10 x 3 mins running numbers 1, 3, 5, 7 at 6-7/10, numbers 2, 4, 6, 8 at 8-9/10 with 90 secs rest Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Run or XT Session: 45-60 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Rest | Warm up: 10-20 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort Main Session: 3 sets of 10 minutes at 7/10 effort with 90-120s jog recovery Cool down: 10-15 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Run Session: 40-55 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Run Session: 90-110 min easy run – 2-3/10 build to steady 4-5/10 if you feel good |
| WEEK 4 | Rest or Run Session: 30 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort Main Session: 18-20 x 1 minute strong at 7-8/10, 1 minute steady at 4-5/10 Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Run or XT Session: 30-40 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Rest | Run Session: 30-40 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | 8km time trial or a 30-45 min easy run at 2-3/10 if tired | Run Session: 70-80 mins at 2-3/10 effort |



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| WEEK 5 | Run Session: 40-50 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort Main Session: 7-8 x 4 mins at 8/10 with 2 mins rest Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Run or XT Session: 45-60 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Rest | 75 mins with 45-60 minutes run as 3 mins at 7-8/10, 3 mins at 5/10 with no rest | Run Session: 40-55 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Run Session: 90-120 min easy run – 2-3/10 build to steady 4-5/10 if you feel good |
| WEEK 6 | Run Session: 40-50 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort Main Session: 12 mins, 10 mins, 8 mins, 4 mins working between 6-8/10 with 2 min jogged recovery Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Run or XT Session: 45-60 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Rest | Run Session: 45-60 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | 90-120 minutes with 2 x 20-25 minutes at half marathon pace with 5 minutes steady between. Everything else 3/10. | Run Session: 40-50 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort |
| WEEK 7 | Run Session: 30-40 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort Main Session: 12 x 75s at 5km effort with 60s rest, 2-3 min recovery then 15 mins at half marathon pace Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Run or XT Session: 45-60 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Rest | 60-75 mins with 45 minutes run as 3 mins at 7-8/10, 3 mins at 5/10 with no rest | Run Session: 40-50 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Run Session: 50-60 mins at 3-4/10 effort |
| WEEK 8 | Run Session: 30 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort Main Session: 5 sets of 2 minutes at 7/10 effort with 90 sec jog recovery Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Run Session or XT: 40-50 mins easy at 2-3/10 | Rest | Run Session: 20-30 mins at 2-3/10 | HALF MARATHON RACE!! GOOD LUCK! | Rest |

| RPE SCALE | WHAT IT MIGHT FEEL LIKE |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0 | Sat at home in your armchair |
| 1 | Brisk walking for some, very easy jogging for others. Able to fully converse with no effort. |
| 2-3 | Easy running, able to hold a full conversation, you might have consciously work to slow down. Gentle, relaxed, feeling like you could run forever. |
| 4-5 | Steady running. Able to speak but in shorter sentences. You might hear yourself breathing but could still keep going for between 75 minutes – 2 hours. |
| 6-7 | Controlled discomfort. A pace you could hold for around 60 mins in a race. You should be able to speak 2-3 words at a time. Cruising at speed. |
| 8-9 | Working hard at 3km-10km effort. You have to focus and work to maintain pace. You'll be breathing strongly and will feel like you need the recovery between efforts. |
| 10 | Working very hard. A effort you can sustain for only short periods before you effort feels unsustainable. |

THE PLAN

This plan is aimed at experienced half marathon runners who already feel confident to run 80-90 minutes + in a long and who have experience of both interval training and of regular racing. The plan is testing and assumes you already have good base of training in place over the previous 6-10 weeks.

COMPLETING THE PLAN

The majority of the sessions are runs, but you can replace with cardiovascular cross training using a bike, rowing machine, swimming or elliptical trainer. You might see cross training included in the plan to – these are labelled as 'XT'. Take ownership of the plan and adapt it to suit your situation, background and needs. If you need to swap days run not to do two runs harder than 7/10 effort on back to back days. It's fine to add more running but always remember you need to recover well to progress and you are better to do a little less than too much. If you are tired, sore, have a cold or are worried about a niggle stop, rest and if necessary speak to a physio or medical expert. Only start on this training plan if you feel confident in your health and we always recommend undergoing a medical check up with a professional before undertaking any running training plan.

GUIDING YOUR EFFORT

The plan is written to time and perceived effort to make it flexible for runners at different levels, running over different terrain and in different weather conditions. As you build confidence you will learn what the right pace is for you on the 0-10 scale of rate of perceived exertion (RPE).