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MARATHON TRAINING PLAN EXPERIENCED

Created by Tom Craggs England Athletics Running Coach



RUNDERWEAR[™] Marathon Experienced

TRAINING PLAN



THE PLAN

This plan is aimed at experienced marathon runners likely looking for a time of 3 hours – 3:30 or faster and who can train 5-6 times a week. You'll likely have experience completing interval training before, and have raced regularly over 10km-half marathon, or indeed a full marathon.

COMPLETING THE PLAN

The majority of the sessions are runs, but you can replace with cardiovascular cross training using a bike, rowing machine, swimming etc. You might see cross training included in the plan to – these are labelled as 'XT'. If you need to swap days, don't run two runs harder than 6/10 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.

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).

RPE SCALE	WHAT IT MIGHT FEEL LIKE			
ο	You're still in bed			
1	Brisk walking for some, very easy jogging for others. Able to fully chat away with no effort.			
2-3	Easy running, able to hold 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.			

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
WEEK 1	Run or XT Session: 30-45 mins easy at 2-3/10 effort	Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort Main Session: 5 sets of 5 minutes at 6-7/10 effort with 75-90s jog recovery Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort	Run or XT Session: 40-55 mins easy at 2-3/10 effort	Rest	Run Session: 45-60 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort	Run Session: 45 min run as: 15 mins easy at 2-3/10, 15 mins steady at 4-5/10, 15 mins at controlled discomfort 6-7/10 effort	1:30 – 1:50 hrs at 3-5/10 effort.
WEEK 2	Run or XT Session: 30-45 mins easy at 2-3/10 effort	Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort Main Session: 8-10 x 2 mins at 8-9/10 with 90 secs rest Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort	Run or XT Session: 40-55 mins easy at 2-3/10 effort	Run Session: 45 min run as: 15 mins easy at 2-3/10, 15 mins steady at 4-5/10, 15 mins at controlled discomfort 6-7/10 effort	Rest	Run session: 30-40 min easy at 2-3/10 effort	1:40 – 2:00 hrs at 3-5/10 effort building to run fina 30 at marathon pace if yo feel good
WEEK 3	Run or XT Session: 30-45 mins easy at 2-3/10 effort	Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort Main Session: 3 sets of 8 minutes at 7/10 effort with 90 jog recovery Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort	Run or XT Session: 40-55 mins easy at 2-3/10 effort	Rest	Run Session: 45-60 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort with the final 10-15 at 6-7/10 if you feel good	Run session: 40-50 min easy at 2-3/10 effort	1:45 – 2:00 hrs at 3-5/10 effort.
WEEK 4	Run or XT Session: 30 mins easy at 2-3/10 effort	Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort Main Session: 4 sets of 6 minutes at 6-7/10 effort with 60-75s jog recovery Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort	Run or XT Session: 30-45 mins easy at 2-3/10 effort	Run Session: 30 min run as: 10 mins easy at 2-3/10, 10 mins steady at 4-5/10, 10 mins at controlled discomfort 6-7/10 effort.	Rest	Run session: 5km-10km race or time trial	1:15 – 1:30 hrs at 3-5/10 effort.
WEEK 5	Run or XT Session: 30-45 mins easy at 2-3/10 effort	Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort Main Session: 5 minutes at 6-7/10 effort, then 5 x 4 minutes at 8/10 with 120s rest Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort	Run or XT Session: 45-60 mins easy at 2-3/10 effort	Run Session: 60 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort.	Rest	Run session: 30-40-50 min easy at 2-3/10 effort	2:00 – 2:15 hrs at 2-4/10 to include 3 x 15 mins at g marathon pace in the fir hour with a 5 min easy recovery
WEEK 6	Run or XT Session: 30-45 mins easy at 2-3/10 effort	Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort Main Session: 8 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 mins easy at 2-3/10 effort	Rest	Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort Main Session: 3 sets of 8 minutes at 7/10 effort with 90-120s jog recovery Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort	Run Session: 40-50 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort	2:00hrs – 2:15 hrs at 3-5/10 effort.
WEEK 7	Run or XT Session: 30-45 mins easy at 2-3/10 effort	Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort Main Session: 6 sets of 5 minutes at 7/10 effort with 75-90s jog recovery Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort	Run or XT Session: 45-60 mins easy at 2-3/10 effort	Rest	50-70 minutes easy to steady at 3-4/10 effort	Run session: 40-50 min easy at 2-3/10 effort	2:10 – 2:25 hrs at 3-4/10 e but the final 65 mins run x 30 mins goal marathon with 5 mins easy recover
WEEK 8	Run or XT Session: 30-45 mins easy at 2-3/10 effort	Run session: 40-50 min easy at 2-3/10 effort	60-75 minutes with 45 minutes run as 15 x 3 minutes alternating 7-8/10 with 5-6/10 with no rest	Run or XT Session: 45-60 mins easy at 2-3/10 effort	Rest	Run Session: 60 min run as: 20 mins easy at 2-3/10, 20 mins steady at 4-5/10, 20 mins at controlled discomfort 6-7/10 effort.	2:20hrs – 2:35 hrs at 3-5/10 effort.
WEEK 9	Run or XT Session: 30 mins easy at 2-3/10 effort	Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort Main Session: 10 x 3 mins running numbers 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 at 6-7/10, numbers 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 at 8-9/10 with 90 secs rest Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort	Run or XT Session: 30-45 mins easy at 2-3/10 effort	40-50 minutes easy to steady at 3-4/10 effort	Rest	Run session: 30-40 min easy at 2-3/10 effort	Half Marathon race or consider running at go marathon pace or hard if fresh
WEEK 10	Run or XT Session: 30-45 mins easy at 2-3/10 effort	Run session: 40-50 min easy at 2-3/10 effort	75-90 mins to include 3 x 15 minutes starting at marathon pace and getting a little faster on block 2 and 3. 3 minutes jog between sets	Rest	Run or XT Session: 45-60 mins easy at 2-3/10 effort	Run Session: 45 min run as: 15 mins easy at 2-3/10, 15 mins steady at 4-5/10, 15 mins at controlled discomfort 6-7/10 effort.	2:20hrs – 2:35 hrs at 3-5/10 effort.
WEEK 11	Run or XT Session: 30-45 mins easy at 2-3/10 effort	Warm up: 10 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: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort	Run or XT Session: 45-60 mins at 2-3/10 effort	Rest	Warm up: 10-15 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort 10-14 x 60s at 8-9/10 with 60s easy to steady running between each. Cool down: 10-15 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort	Run session: 40-50 min easy at 2-3/10 effort	2:45hrs – 3:00hrs at 3-4 effort building to run tl final 60-75 mins at go marathon pace
WEEK 12	Run or XT Session: 30-45 mins easy at 2-3/10 effort	Run session: 40-60 min steady at 3-5/10 effort	75-90 mins to include 20 mins, 15 mins, 10 mins, 5 mins with the 20 min effort at marathon pace and getting faster each following block with 2-3 mins easy between each.	Rest	45-60 minutes easy to steady at 3-5/10 effort	Run or XT Session: 40-50 mins at 2-3/10 effort	2:45hrs – 3:00hrs at 3-5/10 effort.
WEEK 13	Run or XT Session: 30-45 mins easy at 2-3/10 effort	Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort Main Session: 12 minutes, 10 minutes, 8 minutes at 7-8/10 effort with 90s jog recovery Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort	Run or XT Session: 45-60 mins at 2-3/10 effort	60-75 minutes easy to steady at 3-5/10 effort	Rest	Run session: 40-50 min easy at 2-3/10 effort	Long run, 2hrs 20-45 m at 3-4/10 but run the la 45-60 mins at marathon
WEEK 14	Run or XT Session: 30-45 mins easy at 2-3/10 effort	Run or XT Session: 45-60 mins easy at 2-3/10 effort	75-90 minutes with 45-60 minutes run as 15-20 x 3 minutes alternating 7-8/10 with 5-6/10 with no rest	Rest	45-60 minutes easy to steady at 3-5/10 effort	Run session: 40-50 min easy at 2-3/10 effort	1:45-2 hours at 3-4/10 if feel good pick up the pa the final 30-45 minutes to marathon pace
WEEK 15	Run or XT Session: 30 mins easy at 2-3/10 effort	Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort 10-12 x 75s at 8-9/10 with 60s rest, jog for 2-3 minutes then run 20-30 mins at marathon pace Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort	Run or XT Session: 40 mins easy at 2-3/10 effort	Rest	60-75 minutes start easy build to run the final 20-30 minutes at marathon pace	Run session: 30-45 min easy at 2-3/10 effort	Run Session: 70 min: at 3-4/10 effort
WEEK 16	Run or XT Session: 30 mins easy at 2-3/10 effort	Warm up: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort Main Session: 3 sets of 6 minutes at marathon pace with 90s jogged recovery Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort	Run or XT Session: 20-30 mins easy at 2-3/10 effort	Run Session: 20-30 mins at 2-3/10	Rest	Run session: 15 mins easy jog at 2-3/10	MARATHON, HAVI GREAT RACE!