

Ski Tuning Guidelines

Daily Routine (ski days)

Edge work - Clean edges with gummy stone, removing rust and tarnish

Brush base to clean grit off ~ 2 passes (ideally brass brush)

Wipe base to clean off particles

Side edger with diamond stone, ~ 6 passes per side edge

Wipe base to clean off edge dust before waxing

Wax -

Brush base clean, ~ 6-10 passes (ideally brass brush)

Wipe base to clean off particles

Universal or performance wax, iron on

Let cool (ideally 4 hours, minimally 20 minutes)

Brush and Buff - Scrape wax off edges ~ 2 passes

Scrape base smooth ~ 2-3 passes

Brush base (ideally brass brush) ~ 3-6 passes

Brush base (ideally nylon brush) ~ 6-30 passes

Brush base (ideally horsehair brush) ~ 6-100 passes, brush for speed

Cork base ~ 6-12 passes

Buff with very fine scotch brite pad ~ 6-12 passes

Overlay - Add a rub on wax over a waxed, brushed, and buffed base

Apply overlay powder and iron along edges, if available then brush

Apply paste wax, or crayon hard or push up wax, or liquid wax

Let sit 5 minutes or time specified by manufacturer

Cork or buff as specified

Weekly Routine

During edge work, after base brush cleaning, diamond/ceramic stone the base edge before doing side edges.

Monthly Routine (Also needed frequently during Spring)

After edge work, do cleaning hot wax scrape:

Brush base clean, ~ 6 passes (ideally brass brush)

Universal wax, iron on

Removing scrape immediately while wax is hot ~ 6 passes

Repeat if wax scraped up is dirty or gray. Once clean wax is scraped up, move on

Brush base structure, ~ 6 passes (ideally brass brush)

Performance wax, iron on

Let cool (ideally 4 hours, minimally 20 minutes) continue with buff, brush cork and overlay

Seasonal Routine

File base edge to desired bevel, use bevel device for consistency ~ 2-3 passes

File side edge to desired bevel, use side edge for consistency ~2-3 passes

Use same side edge tool and bevel with diamond stone to maintain edge daily

Use same base edge tool and bevel with diamond stone to maintain base edge weekly

Anytime a base grind is done, wrap course scotch brite around wax scraper. Scrape ground base at least 3 times, then wax and hot scrape base 3 times. Now ground base is ready to wax.

Tips and Pointers

Hold your side edger firmly against the base, an edger that slips, scuffs the base pretty badly.

Clean your side edger sliding surface, WD-40 works well for removing wax buildup, wipe clean, keep WD-40 off bases.

Lube your diamond stone, water is good, again WD-40 works, though diamond lube is sold. Lube the stone not the slide surface, keep WD-40 off bases.

Find a good universal or all purpose wax. Most brands are good, I like Hertel Super Hot Sauce, long lasting, broad temperature range, and very cheap.

When time is short, still wax, it protects the ski, skip brushing and buffing, it will ski smooth in a few runs. If time is really short, rub on wax along the sides of the base.

If after a full tune a rub on is applied, ski off the rub on, then a second rub on application can get another half day or sometimes a day out of the wax.

Edge work and waxing can be done the night before, brushing and buffing the next morning.

If edge work and waxing is done on one ski, let it cool while edging and waxing the next. Once the 2nd ski is waxed, let it cool while scraping and buffing the first. Both skis can be done in around 20-30 minutes.

Base should be consistent color, usually rich black. Once sides of base are grey, needs waxing. If entire base under binding is grayish white, time to hot scrape, wax and brush, try to avoid waiting that long. If base remains grey after brushing and waxing, needs base grind to restore rich black surface.

If base structure is no longer visible (<<<<< or ///// pattern of short linear lines on SL or GS), time for restructuring grind and possibly base grind. This structure breaks suction and directs water movement under ski, without it, skis can get slow and sticky feeling.

If simplified waxing is needed, wax, scrape and buff bases well. Then apply Teflon rub on wax to waxed ski. Ski the teflon then reapply rub on Teflon every evening after skiing. Ski base should remain rich black. If a day is missed and/or dull black or gray base occurs, must wax and hot scrape to remove teflon rub on from base. Build up full wax in base, scrape and buff. Now apply Teflon to waxed bases. Wax goes into the base, teflon goes onto the waxed base. Teflon into the base will resist wax inside the base, don't apply teflon directly to a base that needs wax, apply to waxed base.