

# TRAINING GUIDE

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 **concept 2**

OARS | INDOOR ROWER | SKIERG

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concept 2 MODEL 2

## Getting Started

This guide will help you to:

1. **Set your goals.**
2. **Understand the types of workouts you can do to achieve your goals.**
3. **Determine the number of workouts of each type that you should do per week.**
4. **Get started and track your progress.**
5. **Evaluate your progress and adjust your plan as needed.**

Consult a physician before performing any exercise program, including the programs at [concept2.com](http://concept2.com) or in this Training Guide. It is your responsibility to evaluate your own medical and physical condition, or that of your clients, and to independently determine whether to perform, use or adapt any of the information or content at [concept2.com](http://concept2.com). Any exercise program may result in injury. By voluntarily undertaking any exercise displayed at [concept2.com](http://concept2.com), you assume the risk of any resulting injury.

## Setting Goals and Choosing Workouts

What do you want to achieve with your rowing and/or skiing? And what are the types of workouts that will help you achieve those goals?

### 1. Achieve and maintain general fitness:

- Use a variety of workout types, including intervals.
- Gradually increase your total workout time and/or intensity to keep improving.
- Aim for a workout frequency of at least every other day and preferably 5-6 days per week (this can include other types of exercise).

### 2. Lose weight and keep it off:

- Aim for at least one workout per day, with a rest day each week as needed.
- Consider completing two short workouts in one day instead of one long one, since each workout raises your metabolic rate for a period of time after the exercise.
- Burn more calories in two ways: go longer or go harder. We recommend some of each.
- Use a variety of workouts to keep it interesting.

### 3. Train or condition for another sport:

- Build general aerobic fitness to support your more sport-specific training.
- Design your workouts based on the work you do in your primary sport, such as short, hard sprints for tennis, steady 10k pieces for running, etc.

### 4. Train for competitive rowing or skiing:

- Take advantage of the fact that the indoor rower and SkiErg are both powerful training tools for their respective sports because they provide a means for accurately monitoring training progress, while offering a high quality workout at the same time.
- Test yourself at race distances to determine your athletic potential or to rank members of a crew.
- Supplement other training modalities such as roller-skiing and running with the SkiErg. Workouts can also be incorporated into strength training to maintain specific strength. When the weather is bad or the days get short, it's a great indoor option.
- Use your coach's training plan, if available. Without formal coaching, we suggest a combination of workout types for a total of 8-11 workouts per week, depending on your goals, current level of fitness, and available time. At least three of these workouts should be strength or cross-training sessions.

## 5. Rehab from injury:

- Please don't undertake a rehab program without input and approval from your medical advisors.
- Take advantage of the fact that both the indoor rower and the SkiErg offer an impact free, user-controlled motion.
- The SkiErg can be adapted for use with minimal or no leg involvement, making it a great training tool for those with lower body injuries or issues. You can use a stool or other seat, or pull a wheelchair up to the SkiErg.
- Review the adaptations available for using the indoor rower (available at: <http://www.concept2.com/indoor-rowers/adaptive-rowing>). The indoor rower allows rowing with full or partial leg compression—or even arms only if desired.
- Be sure to start easily and build slowly.

## Types of Workouts

A wide variety of workouts can be done on the indoor rower and SkiErg, from long steady pieces to any kind of interval. The Performance Monitor offers extensive flexibility for setting up these workouts, displaying performance data during the workout, and saving your results for later review and analysis.

**Interval workouts** are composed of alternating periods of work and rest (or very easy effort). Both work time and rest time may be varied as desired. Here are some common types of intervals, along with a collection of workouts to choose from.

**Long intervals** – 4 minutes in length and longer:

- 4 x 4 minutes, with 2-4 minutes rest
- 4 x 5 minutes, with 3 minutes rest
- 3 x 1500 meters, with 3-5 minutes rest
- 2 x 2000 meters, with 4-6 minutes rest

**Short intervals** – less than 4 minutes in length:

- 1 minute hard/1 minute easy
- 6 x 500 meters, with 2 minutes rest
- 5 x 3 minutes, with 2-3 minutes rest
- 30 seconds hard/1:30 easy

**Short rest intervals** – rest interval is very short, in the range of 10-30 seconds. This allows the body to clear some of the lactate, but the heart rate stays pretty high:

- (1:40 hard/:20 easy) x 10
- 1 minute hard/30 seconds easy
- 20 strokes hard, 5 strokes easy
- 8 x (:20 hard/:10 easy). Also known as Tabata intervals.

**Variable length intervals** – pyramids, step-ups, step-downs. There are any number of creative possibilities!

- 1-2-3-4-3-2-1 minutes hard, with rest equal to the work time
- 5 minutes, 4 minutes, 3 minutes, 2 minutes, 1 minute hard, with 2 minutes rest in between
- 500 meters, 1000 meters, 1500 meters, 1000 meters, 500 meters, with 2-4 minutes rest in between work intervals
- 3x500m; 3x250m, with 2 minutes rest in between

**Long, steady workouts** emphasize continuous work with minimal rest. The level of intensity may vary from an easy conversational pace to an intensity where you really don't feel like talking but can just maintain the effort for the planned distance or time. Your pace for long, steady work will be lower than what you can do in an interval workout.

**Steady state** – long, steady exercise, with no (or short) breaks:

- 30 minutes steady
- 5000 meters
- 20 minutes, 1 minute break, 20 minutes
- 10,000 meters

**Variable/alternating:**

- 5000 meters, taking 20 harder strokes at the beginning of each 1000 meters
- (3 minutes @ 22-24 spm, moderate steady pace, 2 minutes @ 25-27 spm increasing your effort, 1 minute @ 28-30 spm and higher intensity) and repeat 5-8 times. Note: for SkiErg, spm should be 35-38, 39-42, 43-46.
- 6000 meters, taking 10 harder strokes at the beginning of each 500 meters
- Alternate 3 minutes conversational pace with 1 minute harder pace for a total of 32-40 minutes

**Workouts combining the indoor rower and SkiErg:** if you have access to both the indoor rower and the SkiErg, there are some great workouts that combine the two of them. The motions of rowing and skiing are nicely complementary—rowing involves prying open at the hips, while skiing involves crunching forward to close the hips. And both use many muscle groups, from upper body, through the back and core, to the lower body.

- 10 minutes ski, 9 minutes row, 8 minutes ski, 7 minutes row... 2 minutes ski, 1 minute row. Rest only as long as it takes you to switch machines
- 2000 meter row, 2000 meter ski, 1500 meter row, 1500 meter ski, 1000 meter row, 1000 meter ski, 500 meter row, 500 meter ski. (For a shorter workout, start with the 1500s.)
- 1000 meter row, 100 meter ski, 900 meter row, 200 meter ski, 800 meter row, 300 meter ski... 100 meter row, 1000 meter ski
- You can also do any of the above intervals, switching between the machines as you go

## Designing Your Training Plan

The following steps will lead you through the process of designing your own training plan.

1. From the list of personal goals on pages 2-3 choose the one that best matches your personal fitness goals.
2. See chart on page 6 for suggested types and frequencies of workouts for your goal. Note that in some cases you can choose from Level 1, which targets those who are newer to training in general, or Level 2, which is for those with more experience.
  - Create a weekly planning calendar to assign which workout types you will do on each day of the week, as shown in the following example.
  - Example: Goal = Weight loss

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Short Interval	Longer Steady	Long Interval	Longer Varied	Variable Interval	Longer Steady	Longer Varied

3. Choose your workouts from the list of suggestions for each workout type (page 3-4) and fill in your calendar for the next four weeks. You can also find daily suggestions at Concept2's Workout of the Day ([concept2.com/wod](http://concept2.com/wod)) to add variety. For example:

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Week 1	1 minute hard/1 minute easy	5000 meters	4 x 4 minutes with 2-4 minutes rest in between	5000 meters, taking 20 harder strokes at the beginning of each 1000 meters	1-2-3-4-3-2-1 minutes hard, with rest equal to work time	30 minutes steady	6000 meters, taking 10 harder strokes at the beginning of each 500 meters

See page 7 for a complete example.

4. Start at an intensity and volume that matches your current level of experience and fitness, and then gradually build up from there. So, if this is your first training program, start easily!
5. Keep a training log that includes comments about how you feel, what you thought about the workout, what was hard, and what was easy. Concept2 offers a free online logbook at [concept2/logbook](http://concept2/logbook).
6. Establish a plan for monitoring progress with a set of periodic test pieces.
  - Choose several workouts to use as your benchmarks. For example, you might choose:
    - a 500m time trial: short and intense
    - the rowing standard of 2000m: a good measure of aerobic fitness
    - 30 min steady row for time
  - Pick a week to do these benchmark efforts, spread out throughout the week. Record your times or distances for all of these. You can also use the Concept2 Online Ranking to compare yourself with others of your age around the world.
  - Train for 3-5 weeks and then test yourself again with the same workouts, and see how you're doing.
7. If you're not making the progress you hoped to see, make changes in the program.
  - If you feel tired a lot of the time, try going easier on your longer workouts and cut out one of the interval sessions. Make sure you feel fresh for the short harder workouts.
  - If you feel like you can do more without getting exhausted, then gradually build the distance and intensity of your workouts, or add another workout or two to the week.
  - You can also adjust the ratio of intervals to longer work. Different people need different amounts of each type of workout. It will be important for you to experiment, keep track of what you do, see what works and what doesn't. Have fun with it!

### Using the Online World Ranking as a Gauge

The Online World Ranking is a data bank for performances at 14 different distances/times. By doing these pieces, you can compare your performance with the records and medians for each. This is another great way to monitor your progress—and, in addition, it can help identify your relative strengths and weaknesses along the spectrum of ranked distances.

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### Number of Workouts Per Week

Workout Type:	Long Intervals	Short Intervals	Short Rest Intervals	Variable Intervals	Longer Steady Work	Longer Varied Work	Total Sessions	Notes
<b>Your Goals:</b> General fitness—Level 1	1	1	1		1	1	<b>5</b>	Good variety in workout types; gradually build volume and intensity.
General fitness—Level 2	1	1	1		2	1	<b>6</b>	Variety of workout types with more workouts per week.
Weight loss	1	1		1	2	2	<b>7</b>	Both volume and intensity of exercise help to burn calories. Two sessions per day can help even more.
Training for another sport—L1	1		1		1	1	<b>4</b>	Assumes that you are doing 2-3 additional workouts related to your primary sport.
Training for another sport—L2	1	1	1		1	1	<b>5</b>	Number of erg workouts may depend on what other workout types are in your program.
Training for Rowing or Skiing—L1	1	1	1	1	4	2	<b>10</b>	Total volume and intensity of work depends on your current fitness level, training history, and individualized fitness needs.
Training for Rowing or Skiing—L2	2	1	1	1	4	3	<b>12</b>	

Note: Level 1 (L1) targets those who are newer to training. Level 2 (L2) is for those with more experience.

## Sample Plan

Sample two week training plan for a goal of weight loss:

	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
Week 1	1 minute hard/1 minute easy	5000 meters	4 x 4 minutes with 2-4 minutes rest in between	5000 meters, taking 20 harder strokes at the beginning of each 1000 meters	1-2-3-4-3-2-1 minutes hard, with rest equal to work time	30 minutes steady	6000 meters, taking 10 harder strokes at the beginning of each 500 meters
Week 2	6 x 500 meters, with 2 minutes rest	30 minutes steady	4 x 5 minutes, with 3 minutes rest	(3 minutes @ 22-24 spm, moderate steady pace, 2 minutes @ 25-27 spm increasing your effort, 1 minute @ 28-30 spm and higher intensity) and repeat 5-8 times	5, 4, 3, 2, 1 minute hard, with 2 minutes rest	20 minutes, 1 minute break, 20 minutes	Alternate 3 minutes conversational pace with 1 minute harder pace for a total of 32-40 minutes

## Appendix: Training Plan Resources

### 1. Concept2 provides additional free online resources for training and advice.

#### Stretching:

<http://www.concept2.com/indoor-rowers/training/tips-and-general-info/stretching>

#### How to Row Harder:

<http://www.concept2.com/indoor-rowers/training/tips-and-general-info/how-to-row-harder>

#### Using the Force Curve:

<http://www.concept2.com/indoor-rowers/training/tips-and-general-info/using-the-force-curve>

#### Training Heart Rate Range

<http://www.concept2.com/indoor-rowers/training/tips-and-general-info/training-heart-rate-range>

#### The Anaerobic Threshold

<http://www.concept2.com/indoor-rowers/training/tips-and-general-info/anaerobic-threshold>

## **Interval Training**

<http://www.concept2.com/indoor-rowers/training/tips-and-general-info/interval-training>

## **Rowing for Specific Goals**

<http://www.concept2.com/indoor-rowers/training/rowing-for-specific-goals/general-fitness>

## **Rowing for Other Sports and Disciplines**

<http://www.concept2.com/indoor-rowers/training/rowing-for-other-sports/developing-an-annual-training-calendar>

## **Calculators (Pace, Calorie, VO2 Max, Weight Adjustment, Watts)**

<http://www.concept2.com/indoor-rowers/training/calculators/vo2max-calculator>

We also continue to add training content to our blog (<http://www.concept2.com/news/tags/training>). Some example topics:

- 10-20-30 Training
- Concept2 Employee Training: 7 Tips to Improve Your Rowing
- Glutes: We All Have 'em, But Do You Use 'em?

## **2. Online resources**

There are additional online resources worth checking out, including services where you can pay a fee for individual coaching. Concept2 does not officially endorse specific coaches. We recommend reviewing the credentials and experience of online coaches to find the best fit for your goals and budget.

Additional free resources exist on sites such as [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com), [row2k.com](http://row2k.com), and [USRowing.org](http://USRowing.org). Look around!

UCanRow2 offers certification on the Concept2 Indoor Rower. Find a certified indoor rower instructor near you:

<http://ucanrow2.com/findaninstructor/>

Or find out more on how to become certified:

<http://ucanrow2.com/category/classes/>

UCanRow2 also offers tips and technique:

<http://ucanrow2.com/category/latest-news/rowing-tips-and-technique/>

## **3. Other resources**

Available on Amazon.com:

The Erg Book: 375+ of the Greatest Indoor Rowing Workouts of All Time by The Short and Snarky Coxswains and Peter Cannia.

Row Daily, Breathe Deeper, Live Better: A Guide to Moderate Exercise by Dustin Ordway.

Feel free to email Concept2 at [rowing@concept2.com](mailto:rowing@concept2.com) with additional training questions or if we can help you find a resource for your training.