

best marathon training plan reddit

best marathon training plan reddit is a highly sought-after topic among runners aiming to optimize their marathon preparation through community-validated methods. Reddit, known for its active and diverse running communities, offers a wealth of shared experiences, advice, and training schedules that cater to various skill levels. This article explores the most recommended marathon training plans discussed on Reddit, highlighting their structure, benefits, and how they accommodate different runner goals. Additionally, it covers essential components such as mileage progression, cross-training, and recovery strategies emphasized by Reddit users. Whether a beginner or an experienced marathoner, understanding these plans can lead to improved performance and injury prevention. The following sections will provide a detailed breakdown of the best marathon training plans recommended on Reddit, along with tips for customization and successful implementation.

- Popular Marathon Training Plans on Reddit
- Key Components of Effective Marathon Training
- How to Choose the Best Plan for Your Goals
- Common Challenges and How Reddit Suggests Overcoming Them
- Additional Resources and Community Support

Popular Marathon Training Plans on Reddit

Reddit users frequently discuss and endorse several marathon training plans that have proven effective for a wide range of runners. These plans often emphasize balanced mileage, gradual progression, and incorporate rest and recovery days to prevent injury. Among the most popular are the Hal Higdon plans, the Hanson Marathon Method, and the Pfitzinger programs, each offering different approaches tailored to varied fitness levels and race goals.

Hal Higdon Marathon Training Plans

Hal Higdon's training plans are widely appreciated on Reddit for their simplicity and accessibility. Available in novice, intermediate, and advanced levels, these plans typically span 18 weeks and combine easy runs, long runs, and cross-training. Redditors highlight the novice plan as an excellent starting point for beginners, while intermediate and advanced plans suit runners aiming for faster finish times.

Hanson Marathon Method

The Hanson Marathon Method emphasizes cumulative fatigue by increasing the intensity and frequency of runs rather than extending the longest weekly run excessively. This approach is favored

by Reddit users who seek to balance training intensity with injury prevention. The plan usually involves six days of running per week with a cap on the longest run to 16 miles, promoting consistent pacing and endurance.

Pfitzinger Marathon Training Programs

Pfitzinger's plans are designed for experienced marathoners targeting competitive times. These programs focus on higher mileage weeks, speed workouts, and threshold runs. Reddit discussions often praise these plans for their scientific approach and effectiveness in improving race performance, although they require a solid fitness base and commitment.

Key Components of Effective Marathon Training

An effective marathon training plan, as highlighted by Reddit users, integrates several critical elements that collectively enhance endurance, speed, and recovery. Understanding these components helps runners select or customize plans that align with their physical capabilities and race objectives.

Mileage Progression

Gradual mileage increase is essential to build endurance while minimizing injury risk. Redditors often recommend the 10% rule, which limits weekly mileage increases to no more than 10% from the previous week. This approach allows the body to adapt to higher training loads safely.

Long Runs

Long runs are a cornerstone of marathon training, designed to improve aerobic capacity and mental stamina. Most plans on Reddit suggest progressively lengthening long runs up to 18-20 miles, depending on the plan and runner experience. These runs are usually performed at a comfortable, conversational pace.

Speed Work and Tempo Runs

Incorporating speed workouts and tempo runs helps develop race pace familiarity and improve lactate threshold. Reddit users emphasize varying workout intensity throughout the week to stimulate different physiological adaptations, enhancing overall performance.

Cross-Training and Recovery

Cross-training activities such as cycling, swimming, or strength training are encouraged to enhance overall fitness and reduce overuse injuries. Recovery days, including complete rest or light activity, are vital components frequently stressed in Reddit discussions to maintain long-term training consistency.

How to Choose the Best Plan for Your Goals

Selecting the best marathon training plan from Reddit suggestions depends on factors such as current fitness level, time availability, race goals, and injury history. Reddit communities often advise evaluating these criteria carefully before committing to a structured plan.

Assessing Your Fitness Level

Understanding your baseline fitness helps determine whether a beginner, intermediate, or advanced plan is appropriate. Redditors recommend performing recent race results or timed runs to gauge endurance and speed, ensuring the chosen plan aligns with your abilities.

Setting Realistic Goals

Goals can range from simply finishing the marathon to achieving a personal best time. Reddit discussions highlight the importance of setting achievable milestones to maintain motivation and reduce burnout, tailoring training intensity accordingly.

Time Commitment and Lifestyle Considerations

Marathon training requires significant time investment, typically several hours per week. Users on Reddit stress selecting a plan that fits realistically within personal and professional schedules to ensure adherence and reduce stress.

Common Challenges and How Reddit Suggests Overcoming Them

Marathon training often comes with obstacles such as injury, motivation dips, and scheduling conflicts. Reddit forums provide practical solutions and peer support to navigate these challenges effectively.

Injury Prevention and Management

To avoid common running injuries, Reddit users advise incorporating proper warm-ups, strength training, and listening to the body's signals. When injuries occur, they recommend adjusting training intensity and seeking professional advice to prevent exacerbation.

Maintaining Motivation

Staying motivated throughout the training cycle is crucial for success. Reddit communities suggest setting incremental goals, joining running groups, and sharing progress within online forums to foster accountability and encouragement.

Balancing Training with Life Commitments

Time management strategies shared on Reddit include prioritizing key workouts, combining cross-training with other fitness activities, and being flexible with the training schedule when necessary to accommodate work and family obligations.

Additional Resources and Community Support

Beyond training plans, Reddit offers a rich environment for advice, race reports, gear recommendations, and nutritional tips. Leveraging this collective knowledge can enhance the training experience and race-day performance.

Running Subreddits and Forums

Subreddits like r/running and r/Marathon provide extensive user-generated content, including weekly training threads, Q&A sessions, and motivational stories. These forums are valuable for real-time support and diverse perspectives on marathon preparation.

Nutrition and Hydration Strategies

Reddit discussions emphasize the importance of nutrition and hydration before, during, and after runs. Users share practical tips on fueling strategies, electrolyte balance, and recovery meals tailored to marathon training demands.

Gear and Technology Recommendations

Choosing appropriate running shoes, apparel, and gadgets can influence training quality and comfort. Reddit threads often review the latest gear and apps that track progress, helping runners make informed decisions based on collective experiences.

- Hal Higdon Plans
- Hanson Marathon Method
- Pfitzinger Programs
- Mileage Progression Techniques
- Long Run Strategies
- Speed and Tempo Workouts
- Cross-Training Benefits

- Choosing Plans by Fitness Level
- Injury Prevention Tips
- Online Community Support

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the most recommended marathon training plan on Reddit for beginners?

Many Reddit users recommend the Hal Higdon Novice 1 plan as the best marathon training plan for beginners due to its gradual mileage increase and balanced rest days.

Are there any Reddit threads that compare different marathon training plans?

Yes, several Reddit threads compare popular marathon training plans like Hal Higdon, Hanson's, and Jack Daniels, discussing their pros and cons based on user experiences and goals.

How do Reddit users suggest adjusting marathon training plans for injury prevention?

Reddit users often suggest incorporating more rest days, cross-training, and listening to your body by reducing mileage or intensity to prevent injuries during marathon training.

What are some tips from Reddit for sticking to a marathon training plan?

Tips include setting realistic goals, joining a running group or subreddit for accountability, tracking progress with apps, and allowing flexibility for unexpected life events.

Which marathon training plan do Reddit users find best for improving race time?

Many Reddit users favor the Hansons Marathon Method for those looking to improve race time, as it focuses on cumulative fatigue and tempo runs to build endurance and speed.

Additional Resources

1. Advanced Marathoning

This comprehensive guide by Pete Pfitzinger and Scott Douglas is well-regarded among marathon

runners seeking to improve their performance. It offers detailed training plans, including mileage schedules, pacing strategies, and nutrition advice. The book is often recommended on Reddit for its practical approach to advanced marathon training.

2. Hansons Marathon Method

Written by Luke Humphrey, this book introduces a unique training philosophy that balances volume and intensity without excessive long runs. It provides a structured 18-week plan designed to build endurance and speed simultaneously. Reddit users appreciate its straightforward style and effectiveness for runners of various levels.

3. Run Faster from the 5K to the Marathon

Brad Hudson and Matt Fitzgerald combine science and practical coaching in this book, offering customizable training plans based on individual fitness levels. The book covers everything from pacing to recovery, making it a popular recommendation for marathoners on Reddit. Its adaptable approach appeals to those looking for personalized training guidance.

4. Marathon: The Ultimate Training Guide

Hal Higdon's classic marathon book remains a favorite among beginner and intermediate runners. It includes multiple training plans, motivational tips, and race-day strategies. Reddit communities often cite Higdon's plans as a reliable starting point for marathon preparation.

5. The New Rules of Marathon and Half-Marathon Nutrition

Matt Fitzgerald focuses on the critical aspect of nutrition in endurance running, providing science-backed advice to optimize performance and recovery. The book complements training plans by addressing fueling strategies before, during, and after runs. Many marathon training discussions on Reddit highlight the importance of this resource.

6. 80/20 Running: Run Stronger and Race Faster By Training Slower

Matt Fitzgerald presents a training philosophy emphasizing that 80% of running should be at low intensity, with 20% at higher intensity. This approach helps reduce injury risk while improving endurance and speed. Reddit users frequently discuss and recommend this method for sustainable marathon training.

7. Training for the Marathon

Joe Henderson's classic offers flexible training plans suitable for various experience levels. The book covers goal setting, pacing, and injury prevention, making it a solid resource for marathoners. It is often mentioned in Reddit threads focused on building effective marathon training routines.

8. The Marathon Training Plan Handbook

This practical guide provides a variety of customizable marathon training plans tailored to different goals and schedules. It emphasizes balanced workouts and gradual progression to avoid burnout. Runners on Reddit appreciate its clear structure and adaptability to individual needs.

9. Run Less, Run Faster

Bill Pierce, Scott Murr, and Ray Moss introduce a time-efficient training plan that combines three key runs per week with cross-training. The book is ideal for busy runners seeking effective marathon preparation without high mileage. Reddit communities often endorse this plan for its balance of intensity and recovery.

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best marathon training plan reddit: Hansons Marathon Method Humphrey Luke, 2012-11-27 In Hansons Marathon Method, the coaches of the Hansons-Brooks Distance Project reveal the methods they've used to turn their runners into race winners, national champions, and Olympians. Hansons Marathon Method offers a radical overhaul of marathon training that promises to turn any runner into a true marathoner and help experienced marathoners set new personal bests. Hansons Marathon Method does away with mega-long runs and high-mileage weekends--two outdated traditions that make most runners miserable. Instead, runners using the Hansons method will gradually build up to the moderate-high mileage required for marathon success, spreading those miles more sensibly throughout the week. Running easy days mixed with precisely paced speed, strength, and tempo workouts, runners will steel their bodies and minds to run the hardest miles of the marathon. Both Beginner and Advanced training programs feature the unique Hansons 16-mile long run which, as part of the Hansons program, is ideal for preparing the body for the marathon. Humphrey explains how runners should set their goal race pace and shows how to customize the

Hansons method to their own needs, like adding extra racing, running more miles, and handling training interruptions. Detailed nutrition and hydration chapters help runners pinpoint their personal energy and hydration needs so they know precisely how much to eat and drink during workouts, race week, race day, and for recovery. The Hansons approach to pacing and nutrition means marathoners will never hit the wall. Hansons Marathon Method lays out the smartest marathon training program available from one of the most accomplished running groups in the nation. Using this innovative approach, runners will mold real marathon muscles, train their body to never hit the wall, and prepare to run their fastest marathon.

best marathon training plan reddit: Hal Higdon's How to Train Hal Higdon, 1997

Describes twenty-four training programs designed for different sports, types of people, and goals

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(Running, Training, Fitness) Jasmine Evans, 2012-02-24 ABOUT THE BOOK So, you want to run a marathon? Everyone who makes the decision to run a marathon has their own reasons. Maybe you want to train for a particular race. Or maybe you want to lose weight. Or perhaps you just want to try a new form of exercise. Or, or, or...the list goes on and on. If you are a beginner and you have made the lofty decision to train to run a marathon, then this is the guide for you. Are you a beginner? For this guide, if you cannot yet run for 30 minutes straight, you are a beginner. If you cannot run 30 minutes or cannot run for just 10 minutes, don't worry, you will get there soon. This guide will also be helpful for people who are in shape but do not run. For instance, if you have been doing martial arts for years, consider yourself physically fit, and do not run, you can still benefit from this guide. Running can have all sorts of benefits. One of the most common benefits is the possibility of weight loss. Combined with healthy eating, running is a great way to lose excess body fat. MEET THE AUTHOR Jasmine Evans is a graduate of Princeton University who has been writing fiction and nonfiction on and off since the 8th grade. At Princeton, she majored in Sociology and minored in African-American Studies. She currently writes for two blogs--one about education and the other about job hunting. For fun, Jasmine likes to read, exercise, and play with her bunny Penelope. EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK There are all kinds of fancy gadgets out there for runners. From devices that go in your shoe to track your movements to running pants with reflectors on them for those who run at night, there are so many things you could buy that it can be a little overwhelming. The most important piece of running equipment you buy are the shoes. Beat up shoes you pull from the back of your closet will not work. Tennis shoes or shoes made for fashion will not work either. You need a good pair of running shoes that will support your feet and ankles. (Active.com, Basic Gear for a Beginning Runner) It is also not as simple as going to your nearest shoe store and picking out the prettiest running shoe. There are three different kinds of running shoes... Buy a copy to keep reading!

best marathon training plan reddit: Smart Marathon Training Jeff Horowitz, 2011-10-01

Old-school marathon training plans ask runners to crank out 70 to 100 miles a week. It's no wonder those who make it to the start line are running ragged. Smart Marathon Training maps out a healthier, more economical approach to training that emphasizes quality over quantity. With more than 75 detailed exercises plus six easy-to-follow training plans for half and full marathons, Smart Marathon Training will get you to the starting line feeling refreshed and ready to run your best race yet. This innovative program eliminates junk miles, paring down training to three essential runs per week and adding a dynamic strength and cross-training program to build overall fitness. Runners will train for their best performance in less time and avoid the injuries, overtraining, and burnout that come from running too much. Smart Marathon Training builds up a runner's body to resist

injury. Runners gain the strength they need to run long using functional exercises that target the hips, glutes, and quads. Running is a full-body sport, so this training program also builds a strong core and upper body to avoid injuries that begin above the waist. No one fakes a marathon or half-marathon--everyone has to do the work. But Smart Marathon Training replaces long, grinding miles with low-impact cross-training. Horowitz outlines a cycling plan to complement run workouts, boosting base fitness while saving runners' bodies for their best runs.

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best marathon training plan reddit: Elite Marathon Training Mariana Correa, 2018-09-15 ELITE MARATHON TRAINING is the perfect book for true marathoners looking to run a marathon under 4 hours. By using a unique approach you will gradually improve each week until your marathon success. You will spread those miles throughout the week, so you have easy days, combined with precise paced runs, hill training, speed training and much more. Runners will prepare their body and mind to run past the wall and straight to personal records with an amazing and simple schedule of easier running and lower mileage. The secret is in the details, this book will tell you how to become a healthier, faster and fitter runner. - 13 Week Running Training Program with day by day schedule - Daily Recuperation Smoothie - Nutrition and Hydration to prepare you for Success - The Best and New Recovery to keep your body in top shape and injury free - Improve your Pace - Enhance your Endurance - Gain Confidence - Road Safety - Mental Fitness - And so much more... Every aspect of your life has the potential to affect your mental and physical performance which is why this book addresses everything from sleeping, nutrition, hydration, recuperation, training, and much more. Use this program and advice from start to finish so you can feel confident and proud with your running.

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must-have for any woman targeting the distance.” —*Runner’s World* A no-nonsense, interactive guide that empowers all women at all levels to run their strongest, best marathon ever As recently as 1966, women were forbidden to run in the marathon. Professionals—including doctors—believed it was physically impossible and dangerous for women to run more than a mile and a half. But as with many other barriers women have faced over time, we fought our way in. Today, women make up almost half of the marathoning population. Yet most marathon training manuals are written by men. And while these men are experts when it comes to how men can and should train, women need training programs tailored to our bodies—to our unique strengths and weaknesses—so that we can avoid injuries and run at our peak. The programming in this book was created by a woman, specifically for women. *Master the Marathon* is a comprehensive guide to marathon training for women at all levels of running—beginner, intermediate, and advanced. The book takes you through everything you need to know to be prepared for the 26.2 miles of the marathon, including detailed training plans, strength training programs, building your mental awareness of your physical body, nutrition, guidance on finding the best marathon for you, identifying and avoiding potential injuries, inspirational advice, and other unexpected pieces of wisdom. Both incredibly practical and deeply motivating, *Master the Marathon* will help you unlock the strength and determination inside you to embark on the spectacular journey that is the marathon.

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running a bucket-list event like the Boston Marathon, or competing in beautiful and challenging locales such as Rome or Death Valley. Whatever race you choose, there is no one better to guide you on your journey than Bart Yasso, chief running officer at Runner's World magazine. Over the past 40 years, Yasso has run more than 1,000 races, across all seven continents, at every conceivable distance, from local 5Ks to grueling ultramarathons and Ironman triathlons. He's truly done it all, and in *Race Everything*, he shares the secrets of how he trained, the particularities of each course, and the specific insights he has gleaned to help you run your best no matter the distance. This book offers tried-and-true advice on how to train and what to do on race day to make the best use of your training. It provides everything you need to know to succeed at the most popular race distances, including general training principles, targeted training plans for beginners and experienced runners alike, and insider tips based on Yasso's own experiences and those of other top runners he has known and run with. The goal is to inform and inspire runners eager to challenge themselves by tackling the world's signature races. You will also learn Yasso's methods for winning the greatest race of all, longevity, so that you can remain healthy, fit, and able to race for decades to come. Whether your goal is to complete a 5K or 10K race in your hometown or conquer the Antarctica Marathon, *Runner's World Race Everything* will be your guide.

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same thing, however I like you best. I like chocolate best, better than anything else can be used when what one is choosing from is not

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