

HOME SKI TUNING KIT...by Sporting Life Service Manager, Bill Ford

1. A clean, well ventilated and lit work space. A good sturdy Holmenkol table or workbench. "Workmate" style table and little sawhorses are not suitable. Band Aids because you WILL cut yourself periodically. Especially if you use little sawhorses and WorkMates.
2. Good vises. Spend the extra few \$\$'s and get the ones with the wide centre jaws. They hold the ski more secure. Therefore, less cuts and Band-Aid use.
3. Brushes. A copper/brass brush is the first one to get. It will be used 75% of the time you need a brush. Use it to clean the ski before tuning and it is good for most waxes from -2C to -12C. After that get a spring brush. Usually with white plastic bristles. Good for soft waxes used in the spring. Add in a horsehair (cold) brush after that.
4. Files and file guides for both base and side edges. Know your angles and buy the guides you need. Do not lend your tools. They will most likely get scratched or nicked and then you will scratch your base and upset at whomever you lent them to for the extra work you have to do. A sidewall plane if you really must have it. These are expensive and can ruin a ski in 3 swipes. Learn how to use it or save the hassle and get your ski shop to do it.
5. "Diamond stones" or ceramic stones for polishing your edges and de-burring after filing. Also they can be used to check your skis after skiing for any nicks or rock damage. If the skiing is good usually you do not need to re-sharpen your skis with a file. Less wear on the skis and quicker for you to the Après ski action! Use these wet to triple their life.
6. Waxes. Start with basic Hydrocarbon wax (like Beta Red) and then build your collection from there. You can spend hundreds of \$ here, and some do. So read up on this stuff and know what you need. Nothing is more hyped up than wax. You will waste the aforementioned if you A/don't know how to apply B/, don't need that type or C/ use the wrong kind of iron. Get a proper ski wax iron. Yard sale, thrift shop or Mom's iron do not work. Anyone can make an iron. The heating elements are very simple. When you buy a ski iron you are paying for the thermostat (temp control). More money spent usually gets a more sensitive heat control. So your \$250 per gram super-duper ski wax does not go up in smoke because your iron cooked it. Also, you won't piss off your Mom/wife/partner by graphite waxing the tea towels or table cloth!
7. Extras to throw in the toolbox are; a paintbrush for cleaning the skis and workbench. A toothbrush for cleaning diamond stones. A few rags for wiping off wet skis and tools. Save your old wax packages for storing your edge and base guides. Or wrap them in the rags (remember the scratches) A Parmesan cheese grater for hard wax application. Some base cleaner for, guess. Also good for cleaning diamond stones. Add other stuff as you see fit or can find a need for. Like little clamps, fresh scrapers etc.
8. Lastly, and THE most important thing. Have your new skis "prepped". A base grind with the correct structure etc. is the "new wax" and IS the make or break difference on race day. I will guarantee it!! Nothing worse than going on the \$5,000 ski trip and your skis are "right out of the bag" and useless to ski on because you saved a hundred bucks on ski tuning and you get nothing out of your trip but sore feet from new boots and skidding around on unprepared skis. Trust me on this one! Make sure the skis get the proper prep. Know what to look for.

Thanks for reading and Happy Tuning!!