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Beginner Training Routine 1

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**Getting Started** 

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**Bodypart Training** one an h 1-3 e

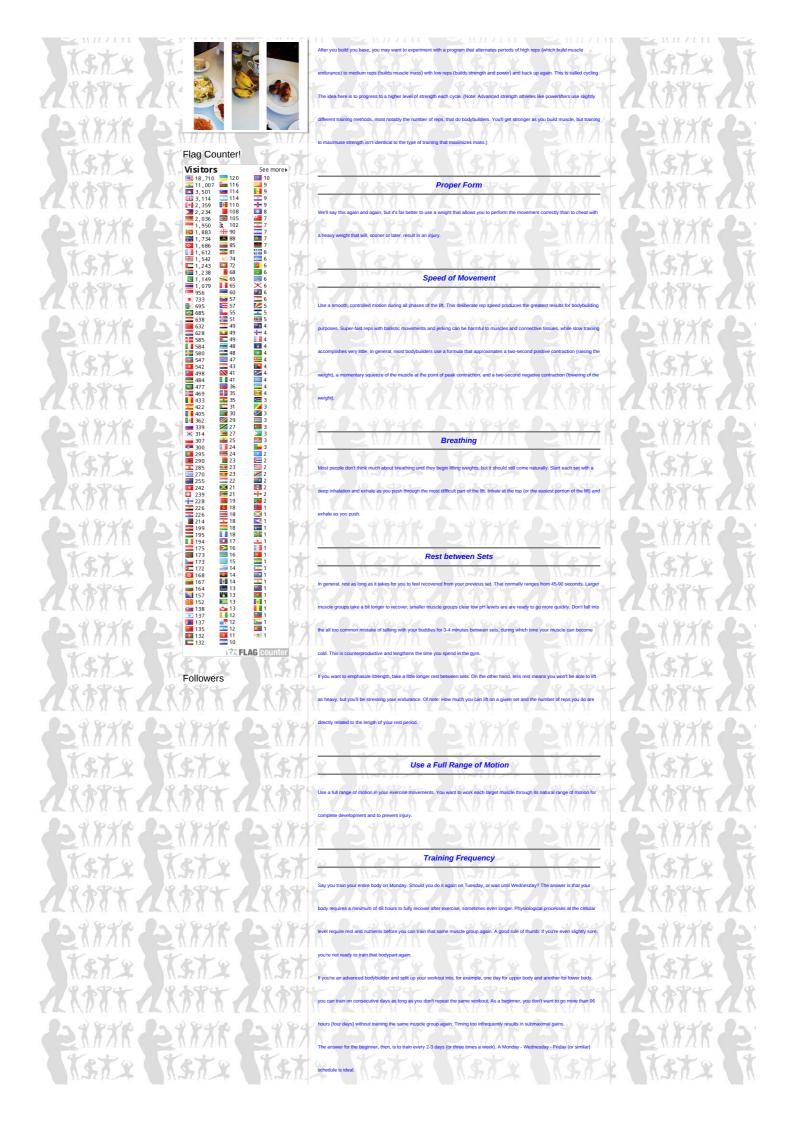
Exercises

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If you follow the exercises, sets, reps and rest prescription, you should complete your resistance training in about an hour. Never mind those two hour plus sessions; who could possibly maintain the high level of intensity and mental fortitude of a marathon training

Training Duration

 $S_{o, you}$  want to pack on some serious mass and carve out those abs? Here's a step-by-step introduction to the iron game that will get you started on the right foot.

Don't expect overnight miracles - building a body takes time, focus and consistency. The good news is that the first 6-12 months is the time when you will probably make the most dramatic

However, it is important to learn proper form and basic safety rules now to make sure you

don't injure yourself down the road when you're pushing heavier weights around.



#### Building A Body Takes Time, Focus And Consistency

#### Training

gains

As a beginner, you can train more frequently than intermediates and advanced trainers. The reason is simple: as you get more experienced, you learn to push your muscles harder and inflict more damage that takes longer to recover from. Beginners, on the other hand, get sore but bounce back quicker since the muscular damage isn't as severe.

If the word "damage" makes you flinch, don't worry. It's a good thing for a bodybuilder to incur limited muscle damage, because it nudges the body to recover and overcompensate (grow) slightly to prepare for future workouts. This is what bodybuilding is all about - a continuous cycle of one-step-back, two-steps-forward, repeated over and over on a weekly basis. With this in mind it is also easy to see why rest and sleep is extremely important, since this is

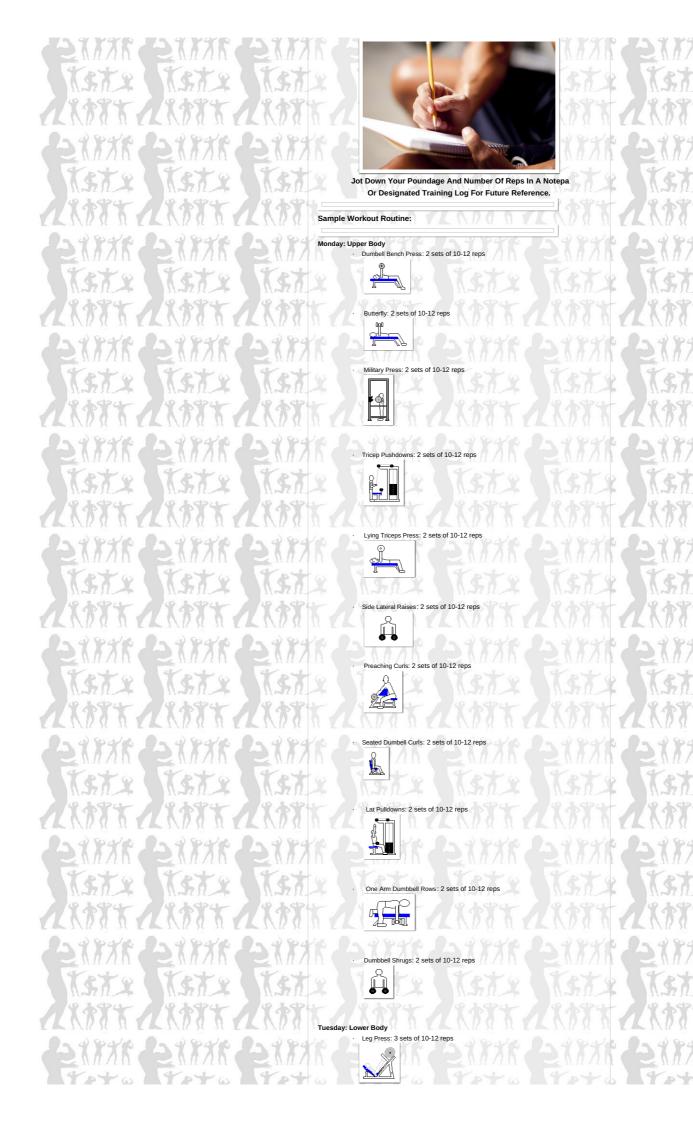
the time when the body does the two-steps-forward phase.

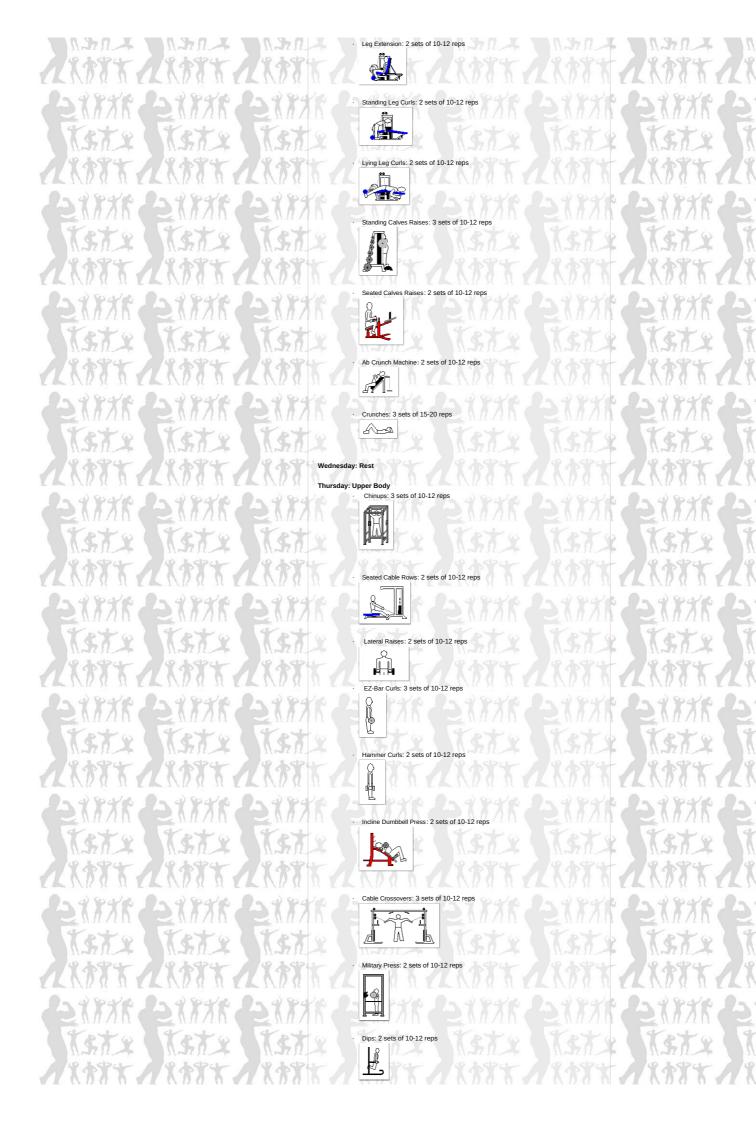
So, instead of training each muscle group once a week, you can start with a twice a weekschedule and play it by ear from there. Furthermore, we're going to split the body into two separate days: Upper body except abs on day 1, lower body plus abs on day 2. Since we're aiming to train each muscle twice a week, this means we can do day 1 and 2 on Monday and Tuesday, for example.

Then we do day 1 and 2 again on Thursday and Friday, leaving Wednesday and the weekend open for rest and relaxation. The following week you start over on the Monday-version of day 1 and so on.

We want to learn the basics, so I'll focus primarily on classic exercises. Once we've mastered these simpler exercises we'll move up to Intermediate territory with a new focus on more complex compound exercises. At this point, it is more important to learn the form and get the right 'feef for each exercise rather than lifting as heavy as possible.

Some exercises, like lat pulls and most shoulder raises, are particularly hard to target the right muscle do the work if you use too much weight. Start easy; pick a weight you can do 10-12 strict reps with and work your way up when you've got the technique down pat. Keep track of your workouts - jot down your poundage and number of reps in a notepad or designated training log for future reference.









Friday: Lower Body
Donkey Calf Raises: 2 sets of 10-12 reps



Standing Leg Curls: 2 sets of 10-12 reps



Leg Press: 2 sets of 10-12 reps



· Hack Squats: 2 sets of 10-12 reps

Ab Crunch Machine: 2 sets of 10-12 reps
 Orunches: 3 sets of 15-20 reps

# turday: Rest

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### Diet

To support your new, more active lifestyle, you need to review your daily nutritional intake. There is no one-size-fits-all answer to the "perfect diet", but there are some common

guidelines you can use whether you're a skinny teenager or an overweight 40 something. Cut out the junk. Really, this is your single most important step. Fast food, candy, sugary sodas and other cr@p will not only pack enough calories to turn you into the Michelin Man, it also fills you up with empty calories preventing you from getting the nutrition you really need!

you up with empty calories preventing you from getting the nutrition you really need! Increase your protein intake. Muscle is protein, and in order to repair muscles effectively your body needs the building blocks to do so. Try to get more lean, protein-rich foods like chicken, tuna, lean beef, no-fat milk and tofu into your daily eating habits.

If you're like most people, you don't eat enough fruits and vegetables each day. Unless you're big on rough bread or eat bran flakes for breakfast, chances are good you're not getting enough fiber.

This is a big mistake, as fiber is a necessity for keeping your digestive system in shape. You need a stomach that can keep up with your new, more intense nutritional needs without acting up, so make it a habit to get some type of fiber with each meal you have (except immediately after workouts). The importance of water cannot be overstated. If you get dehydrated, your ability to function

The importance of water cannot be overstated. If you get dehydrated, your ability to function properly drops like a rock. The negative effects range from sluggishness and fatigue to headache and mental meltdown. Make sure to drink water, not coffee or soda, through the day even on non-workout days.



To Support Your New, More Active Lifestyle, You Need To Review Your Daily Nutritional Intake.

Many bodybuilders make a gallon of water a day a good goal, but you probably want to adjust that number to your body size, climate and level of activity.

Try to divide your meals into several smaller meals rather than a few big ones. This will help stabilize your blood sugar levels and ensure a continuous flow of nutrients for your body. Avoid carbohydrates late at night. Carbs are your primary source of fuel for workouts, much like gasoline works for your car.

However, unlike a car you can't fill up the tank and have it stay nicely filled until morning. Instead, a big load of carbs before bedtime is more likely to be processed and stored away as body fat since there is no immediate need for the surplus energy.

To continue the car-analogy, this leaves you with a mostly empty tank by morning - but you'll have gained an extra pinch of fat. If you want a late-night snack, go for something entirely or mostly protein, since protein is unlikely to be stored as body fat and has the added advantage of providing extra "building blocks" for the time when your body goes into repair-mode, i.e. sleeps.

### **The Mental Game**

Work, family commitments and plain ol' laziness are parts of life that will tug you away from your scheduled gym session. Don't get me wrong, your kids' school play is important, but there's a big difference between making a rare exception and routinely letting your workouts slip down the priority list.

As stated many times before, focus and persistency are crucial to bodybuilding success, so here are a few tips on how to get your mindset right.

Your first step is to define a long-term goal in as specific terms as possible. "Getting in shape" is not good enough. What exactly are you looking for? Gain weight in the form of quality muscle? Lose fat? How many pounds up or down are we talking about, specifically? Increase your strength? In that case, by how much?

The goal is to establish exactly where you want to go and how you will measure your success. Make a realistic assessment of how long this should take and write down to the target date. Being a beginner this may be hard to estimate, but make your best guess and allow for some wiggle-room if your guess was off target.

Once you have your goal and your timeline defined, establish a number of milestones, say a month apart, that you can use as checkpoints to make sure you're on track. This helps make the end goal less daunting, since adding 10 lbs to your bench press by next month is within your reach while adding 80 lbs by April can feel far-fetched and discouraging. As an extra incentive, you can give yourself a little reward when you hit your target.



Focus And Persistency Are Crucial To Bodybuilding Success. Another important part of the mental game is positive thinking. It's a cliche for sure, but that doesn't make it any less valid. If you go into a diet thinking you won't lose a pound, guess what? You'll probably find yourself gobbling down pizza and beer within a week. Fortunately, it works the other way around too.

Arnold was a hugely successful competitor, not only because of his legendary grueling, daily workouts, but because he willed himself to victory. In his mind he had already won before he set foot on stage, and as history show that is exactly what happened, time and time again. You can use this technique to make sure your daily life falls in line with your bodybuilding plans. Close your eyes at the start of each day and think through how you want it to play out. Walk through your healthy meals one by one (visualize how you will pass on the donuts at the meeting), when you'll go to the gym, what you'll do during the workout and how it will feel, and finish by how you'll get in bed at a reasonable hour for your full night's sleep.

The more detail you can get in there, the better. Repeat whenever you are faced with temptation, delays or anything else that could make you deviate from your plan. You will find that the more you run through the ideal day in your mind, the more like it your day-to-day life will become

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