

Waxing Classic Skis

Resources:

- **How to:** This link provides step by step instructions of prepping new skis along with application of all types of glide and kick wax: <http://www.swixschool.com/>
- **Toko and Swix waxing booklets.**
- **Waxing clinics.** I suggest attending waxing clinics to get a feel for different types of waxes and little tricks they use. I especially liked the baby powder to remove klister. It works like a charm and I have never seen it in a book or clinic before.
- **Race day waxing suggestions:** go to <http://www.swixschool.com/web/wizard.html?langInput=lang2&menuInput=subM2>

Prepping classic skis for glide wax.

Apply a strip of painters tape at the inside edge of kick zone so brushes and scrapers do not come in contact with kick wax. After you have applied, scraped and brush your glide wax out, remove the tape then remove/apply your kick wax as described below.

Waxless skis

- **Application of Paste Wax or Liquid Wax.** Fish scales may ice up in temperatures near freezing. You will need to apply a paste or liquid wax (rub or spray on varieties) to stop icing from happening. Applying paste wax every few times you ski is recommended so that you do not find yourself out on the trail icing up and no paste wax. Keep some in your pack for emergencies. I have had to apply it to skate skies when students neglect waxing.
- **Zero Skis.** There is a special fluorinated spray for the kick zone that is recommended for Zero skis. Resanding zero skis can be found in the How to link above.

Waxable skis

Application of hard wax

- **Apply 4-10 thin layers of kick wax to the kick zone.** For the ski team apply at least 3 layers of hard wax before sending them out to test the wax. The warmer the wax, the thicker it applies so less layers may be needed. Apply the first layer along the entire wax pocket then shorten the layers so the thickest portion is in the middle, underneath you foot, creating a pyramid of kick wax in the wax zone.
Tip: tracks are usually glazed up at the gate. So you may need to get away from the start area to really see how the wax is working. If you are icing up try covering with a thin layer of a colder wax.
- **Apply thin coats.** Hold the wax tube like a crayon and use light smooth strokes to apply a thin coat. Cork in between each application, using pressure and long strokes along the entire length of the wax pocket. This heats up the wax so it smoothes out easily.
Tip: Apply kick wax from outside edge of the tube to center to stop wax globing up on the bottom of the ski or on the side of the tube.
- **Remember TLC: Thicker/Longer/Change.** If you apply a few layers and you are slipping, apply more layers. If you are still slipping your wax pocket may need to be lengthened. If you are still slipping, change to a different wax.

Removing hard wax. Cold hard wax may be left on until the next time you ski. Apply a couple layers of the recommended wax for the day before skiing. Warmer hard wax should be removed if the conditions are calling for cold hard wax.

To remove hard wax, use a putty knife to scrap away excess wax. Use a groove scraper to remove wax from groove. You may need to use liquid base cleaner to help remove wax from base and sidewalls. If you use a base cleaner you may need to reapply a base binder. If wax wears away you may need to sandpaper the kick zone (see race day preparation).

Prepping kick zone for race day.

- Remove all kick wax and clean base with base cleaner.
- Lightly sand the kick zone (lengthwise) with 100 grit sandpaper. Remove sanding residual with fibertex paper.
- Apply a base binder (sometimes I use swix green). Apply two thin layers of base binder, cork in between applications, then iron in. Cork in again then apply the days recommended wax.

Application of Klister. Remove cap off of klister. Hold tube level and begin warming up the klister tube (feathering the heat over the tube) with a heat gun until a bubble appears at the opening. Apply klister in a chevron pattern. Replace the cap tightly, and then smooth out klister with the palm of your hand. Smooth out klister further with the heat gun, if desired.

Tips:

- Lay skies on the cold snow to firm up the klister before setting out to ski.
- If there is a dusting of new snow mixed in you may need to cool the klister completely then cover with a hard wax to minimizing icing up.
- After skiing a bit, the klister should have an orange peel look to it. This is when you know you have applied it right.
- Icy conditions or longer skiing may require a klister base binder before application. Snowplowing and hockey stops will wear klister off fast. The more you step your turns the less will wear off.
- A butane torch may be used when you do not have access to electricity.

Warning: Heat guns are as hot as torches and will burn you and the base of the skis. Extreme caution is recommended. Do not let children use heat guns without your supervision. Children are not allowed to use open flame.

Removing Klister. Lightly sprinkle baby powder on klister then smooth over with finger. Scrap with putty knife, clean groove out, and clean residual with base cleaner. If you do not have time to remove klister cover the klister with a paper towel and scrap off when you get home. Saran wrap can also be used.