

AEROBIC BASE BUILDING

The first step to reaching progress in your fitness level is to create a base of aerobic fitness, known as **Aerobic Base Building**. Aerobic refers to the energy created using the oxygen system, and base building refers to building a base from which one can later advance from. To build an aerobic base, you must exercise in the aerobic range, gradually adding more duration to absorb the training effectively. A strong aerobic base will enable your body to better adapt and benefit from anaerobic training when that type of exercise is introduced.



You should commit to an aerobic base building period for 6-12 weeks when you are just beginning an exercise program, returning after a break from training, or recovering from an injury or overtraining. The longer the lapse in exercise, the longer the base building period should be. During this time your workouts should be completely aerobic, without any anaerobic exercise.

Aerobic base building workouts should be at a heart rate range of approximately 65% - 80% of maximum heart rate so that the intensity does not cross over into the anaerobic range. Using a heart rate monitor is critical because it

provides immediate, continuous, accurate feedback. You can shop for heart rate monitors at spinning.com.

To calculate your aerobic heart rate range, you can use the age-predicted formula to estimate your maximum heart rate: $220 - \text{age}$.

Example: If you are 30 years old, your estimated max heart rate is 190 BPM. From there, multiply 190 x 65% and 80% to get a range of 123 to 152 BPM. For more information on heart rates see the Target Heart Rate student handout available at spinning.com.

Benefits of Aerobic Exercise

- Increased resistance to fatigue.
- Toned muscles and increased lean body mass.
- Decreased tension and aid in sleeping.
- Increased general stamina.
- Improves mood and reduces depression and anxiety.
- Increases the number and size of blood capillaries.
- Increased cardiac output.

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