



Preparing your ZERO or “HAIRY” Classic Skis

Many of our new racers have purchased the new style *Zero* classic ski. This type of ski is perfect for our environment at Mt Washington but requires some special treatment to perform at their best. The Zero or “Hairy” ski works best in +2 to -2 Celsius with new or freshly falling new snow. Outside of these conditions, the quality of performance is diminished.

Here are some tips for you to improve the performance of your Zero skis:

1. **Hot wax the glide zone** as you normally would prior to prepping the grip zone. Scrape, and brush your glide zone as normal, being sure to keep any glide wax out of the textured grip zone.
2. **Clean the grip zone with some wax remover** (following the hot wax) to get all dirt and wax out of this area. The textured middle or grip zone works best when it is clean and void of grip/glide wax. Please **avoid use of citrus solvent** as this product leaves a residue in the area.
3. **Evenly sand the grip zone of the ski** using either mechanical (orbital) or hand sander. Use sanding grit 120 – 100 – 80 – 60 – 50 depending on the wetness of the snow. [For example, -3 C and new snow use 120 or 100 grit; +2 freshly falling snow may require 60 or 50 grit] * This process may be performed on regular classic skis as well creating a “Hairy” ski. The use of 50 grit sandpaper will also produce a mechanical structure as well as texture in the grip zone.
4. **Again clean the grip zone using wax remover** following sanding. Get all the dirt and fibres out of this area. Allow to dry. If you have created too much structure, or texture, you can metal scrape the zone to reduce drag. *Sanding and scrapping can be repeated many times over the course of the skis’ life; this is what they are designed for. (I have had my Zero skis for 6 years, sanding and prepping them many times each season, 15 or more each year).
5. The final step is the application of an anti-ice agent (SWIX S70) or a high fluoro polymer, which will keep the grip zone clean and reduce icing. **Spray on and massage into the entire grip area**, including the groove. *You may have to do this a couple of times during your training session.

Zero or “Hairy” skis are very sensitive to the +2 to -2 temperature range. Keep this in mind if you are changing altitude or if the conditions are changing. Your Zero ski can be grip waxed, or even klistered, if needed with no harm to the area. Bear in mind that a Zero ski is generally softer than a normal ski and will not require as much grip wax or klister.

Please feel free to ask me any questions about your new skis or any questions on the prep and care of any of your race gear,



Coach Dave