

INSTRUCTION

Making The Correct Turn



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Over the past couple of years I have run into both professionals and amateurs alike that continue to be confused about what makes a good turn to the ramp. To answer that question, I think you first have to look at what you are trying to accomplish with your turn and then break down the steps leading up to and through your turn.

When I ask most people about what they are looking to accomplish in their turn, I tend to get a range of answers ranging from “creating angle across the lake” to “carrying speed through the turn.” But the question of why these things are good often goes unanswered. If you asked me what I am trying to accomplish, I would simply say that I am trying to create good angle and yet come on the boat smooth and fluid and actually “sneak” up on the boat. The further I can get through my turn and get closer to the wakes before the boat really feels me working, the shorter

the amount of time I have to fight the boat. It also results in a feeling of making the first side of the wakes seem longer so that I get from the second wake to the ramp very quickly resulting in great acceleration through the ramp.

If I was to walk you through my turn, it would start in my release off the counter cut. On my counter cut I want to work hard behind the boat landing off the second wake on a good aggressive edge and then try to get out of the cut quickly after leaving the white wash off the second wake. For most jumpers, this will seem like a really short counter cut, but remember that working efficiently at the right time always outweighs working hard. You can also think about it like slalom. If I lean through both wakes and well out past the white wash, I will carry too much speed into my turn and won't be able to control it.

The same is true in jumping. Getting

To The Ramp



Freddy Krueger

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out at this time is also important because it ensures that when I release my cut I'm still traveling out away from the boat, which will keep me on the pendulum; if I cut too long I will release late and be running with the boat as I approach the ramp feeling like I'm running on in the course out of control.

Next, as I start coming up on the side of the boat I am patient to put my second ski down on the water until I feel myself approaching my maximum width. I can feel my speed starting to slow and I slowly start moving out away from the boat. Now the important thing here is that I don't move out by leaning away from the boat, but rather I point my toes and tips out

away from the boat so I can stay centered over my skis.

Finally, I will start my turn into the ramp a little bit earlier than I think it's time to go. This will allow me to keep myself balanced and at the same time allow me to keep turning longer. If I wait and try to turn and go all at the same time, I will set a heavy edge on my right jumper and engage the boat very early. Then I will be in a battle with the boat, and as I go through the wakes, I will start to lose that battle and feel like I'm getting pulled to the bottom right corner. Instead, I want to stay light on my skis and keep that right ski under me longer by continuing to turn. And then as the boat starts to come on me, I have the

ability to only edge as hard as I have to to keep my position. The effect is that the boat feels me come on smoother and later, thus delaying my pendulum swing into the bottom, and I will actually feel like I get pulled up the ramp rather than into it.

Hopefully you will get a feel for what I am trying to accomplish with my turn and the steps I take to achieve it. Remember, just because you pound nails into wood with a hammer doesn't mean you are building a house. You have to have a plan, goals and steps to get there. Whether the steps above work for you or just the process of breaking it down, I hope you'll enjoy your time on the ramp. 💧

Freddy Krueger, who lives and trains in Winter Garden, Fla., is the current world record holder in Men's jumping with a 240-foot leap. He is sponsored by MasterCraft Boats, D3 Skis, Body Glove Wetsuits, OJ Props, Masterline Ropes and DSO Sunglasses.

