



1 Set the ski on edge by sitting with your hips to the wake.



2 As the load becomes greater, be strong with your toe leg to resist. Begin pushing with your ski leg.



3 Keep your momentum headed in an outward direction and push off the edge away from the boat.



4 Keep chest and upper body moving outward over the ski. Begin to spot the landing.



5 Land away from the boat on the tip to keep a tight line and set you up for the next trick.

# Learning The Toe Wake Back to Back

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Photography by Monica Minnick

There are various ways to approach learning the toe wake back to back (TWBB). In this article, we will look at traveling from inside to outside the wake, so the TWBB can be used in more positions in your run.

Many people learn it from outside the wake and place it after their toe wake 360 (TWO). I encourage people to learn it from inside going out first, because it teaches you to hold the reverse toe hold better, edge better and learn more control. By starting outside the wake, it's easy to get lazy and let the reverse toe wrap throw you into the trick before you are really ready.

Before you attempt the TWBB, you need to be comfortable and stable with

your reverse toe back (RTB), reverse toe front (RTF) and toe back to back (TBB). You will start the TWBB by doing the RTB. It is not necessary that you are able to hold the RTB. In fact, you will find that it's possible to do the TWBB relatively easily *without* being able to hold the RTB, but being able to hold it does help. The RTB is hard to hold if you are trying to ride straight behind the boat. Turning and setting your edge to the wake will help you maintain your position.

Start in the center of the wakes and do the RTB. I prefer to look at the boat as I do the RTB. As a left-foot forward skier, I also try to point my left hand toward the boat. As you turn to the back, be sure that your weight transfers to your toes and the tip of the ski. As you

set the position, you should try to put the ski on edge by sitting with your hips to the left wake. As you move to the back position, sit your right hip to the left wake and point your right hand to the right wake. Keep your rear shoulder away from the boat as you edge. Cut on your toes and be strong with your toe leg to resist the pull of the boat. As you cut to the left wake, extend your ski leg while keeping your upper body still. Push off the top of the wake away from the boat and land in the full toe back position outside the left wake. Land on your toes so that the weight is on the tip of the ski and your rope is tight. Think of landing behind the point where you took off. This will tighten the rope.

This trick is relatively easy to learn if you are comfortable with reverse toe turns. Both the TWO and TWBB are generally easier to learn if a skier is comfortable with the basic toes. Don't be afraid to attempt the TWBB immediately after learning the toe wake tricks.

Many people struggle for weeks with the RTB and then find that the TWBB takes only a few days to learn. Be aggressive and don't be afraid to try new things. Just remember to ski away from the boat off the top of the wake so that you can land on your toes with a tight line. This will set you up for the toe wake front (TWF) or the reverse toe wake back to back (RTWBB).

And no matter what happens, have fun. ♦

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