

HOW TO: DO A FISHTAIL SKID



Swiss flicks or Scandinavian flicks are so much fun – they’re taken from the rally car move and are a quick way to get through two tight trees or a tight corner. Essentially you are coming in with the back wheel sliding from side to side, then at the right moment, you let go of the brakes so that the rear wheel tracks again and you accelerate through the turn.

Sounds easy? This issue we’ll have a go at doing a fishtail, then next issue we’ll apply it to a track.

Choose a smooth gravel road with a slight downhill slope to practice on.

Start by rolling along at a good coasting speed and leaning

on the handlebars (check out the pics) and then putting the back brake on. Obviously the rear wheel will lock up and skid. You may be surprised how safe and easy it feels, this is because you have UNWEIGHTED your rear wheel. Note: I see people trying to do skids in car parks all the time by throwing their weight backwards trying to make the rear wheel slide. Unfortunately that is only making the rear wheel stick to the ground even more. To allow a wheel to SLIDE it must be UNWEIGHTED.

Have a few practice runs getting used to the back wheel locking up, maybe try it faster and faster.

Now, to get the wheel to fishtail...

Start the manoeuvre in the same fashion as you have been but this time, once you feel the wheel lock up allow your weight to tip in one direction. For example, to the left, just slightly. When you feel the wheel start to slide to the right, THEN, you can start encouraging it further with your hips. Note: if you can’t get the wheel to move to the side you need to be patient. Don’t force it, focus on leaning/tipping to the side and WAIT for the wheel to move.

After you get the knack you’ll be able to sprint up to speed and fishtail maybe four or five times down the road until you run out of momentum.

Next issue we’ll follow up with the Scandy Flick – oh yeah!



UNWEIGHT THE REAR WHEEL.