Effective Ski Tuning

Step One

Before you start to tune the your, look at the sidewall and the top sheet. There should not be any nicks or deep marks on the sidewalls as during a turn they also drag in the snow. If these surfaces are rough, they will interfere with the ski and slow it down. Use a file, or sandpaper to smooth out these surfaces.

Step Two

Use an elastic to pull the brakes up and out of your way. Securely place the ski in the vice with bases facing up. Check the base for any big gouges.

Base Repair

If there are deep horizontal gouges in the base, use a P-tex candle to fill them. When dripping the P-tex into the grooves, do not drip the carbon (black deposit on the hot candle) onto the base. Keep the flame clean by constantly dripping the "dirty" p-tex onto an extra metal scraper. Let the P-tex cool.
Scrape using a sharp metal scraper. Level the repair with the base.

For brand new skis

Base Bevelling

To make the ski turn more easily, and to eliminate the "grabby" feeling that sometimes occurs, you will need to bevel the base edge.
To do this, take your role of 1/2 inch masking tape and wrap 1 layer around a file.
Place the file almost across the ski - 90 degrees. The file should be perpendicular to the edge. It is important that you do one edge at a time.
Mark the edge with a felt pen so that you can see how much edge you are taking off.
You only need to do 2-3 passes, you do not need to press hard as this will bend the file.
It is easier to flat file more after, then to have over bevelled skis re stone ground.

Side Bevelling

If the skis are new and the edges are at 90 degrees, use a file guide to change the angle to 88/92.
To do the first initial filing, replace the normal file with the body file.
Mark the edge with a felt pen so that you are sure to file the entire edge.
Once the edge is at 88 (you can tell because all the marker is off), finish with the regular file.

Step three

Sharpen your edges

Place the skis securely on their side in the vice with the base facing away from you.
To sharpen the side edge, use your file guide with the file tightly clamped on it.
It is best to pull the file towards you, rather than push the file away from you.

Step four

Diamond Stone

Once you have achieved the sharpness that you want, use the polishing stone to smooth the edge off, and also to take the burrs off the edge. Edges should be progressively sharper as you go from the tip towards the middle and same from the tail towards the middle of the ski. To de-tune the tips and tails, you can use a soft stone, or emery cloth.

Step five

Wax

Once you have cleaned off all the filings it is time to wax.
It is important to consider the snow temperature, the air temperature and finally the humidity of the air.
When waxing, ensure that the iron is not too hot.
Loosen off the vices to allow the skis to expand with the heating of the bases. The wax should puddle on the base just behind the iron, but should not smoke.
Allow skis to cool completely before scraping (approx 20 min).

Step six

Scrape and Brush

Scrape the skis using a plastic scraper.
Texture the base using the horsehair brush.
Ensure that all excess wax has been removed from the sidewall, edges, tip and tail of the ski to ensure smooth running.
Strap your skis.

Maintenance

Check the base with a true bar about once a month.
Convex or concave (railed) skis are hard to turn. If the base is not flat an uneven line of light will shine under the true bar. To make it flat, wrap #100 sandpaper around a flat block and sand with even strokes from tip to tail.
Recheck with a true bar to see how much sanding is really needed. Remember that while you are doing this process you also texture the base! Once the base is flat, use the brass brush to clean the base, this will also cut the extra fibers that are left from the sandpaper.
Use the Fibertex (wrapped around the flat block) and the brass brush again and again: The more you brush and Fibertex a ski the faster the ski will get!