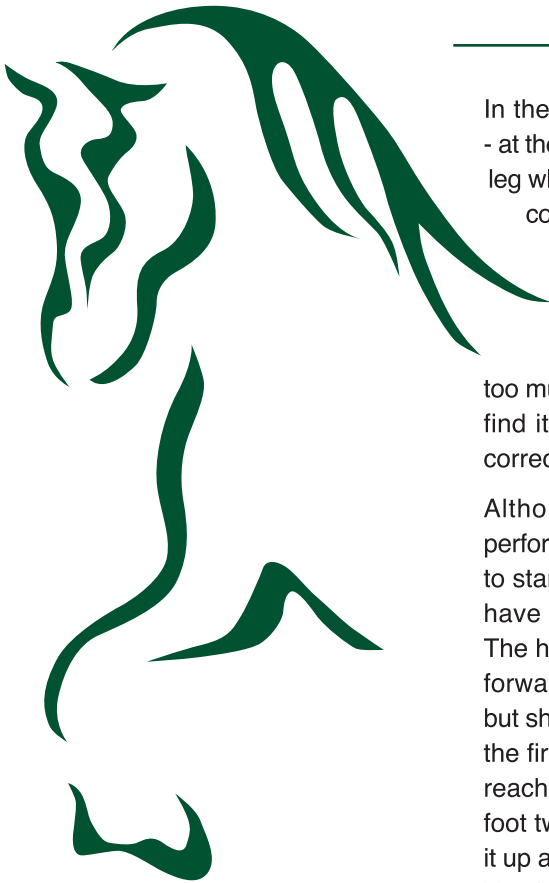


DRESSAGE



TURN ON THE HAUNCHES

By Emmad Eldin Zaghloul



In the turn on the haunches, the horse - at the walk, pivots around his inner hind leg while his other legs describe a larger concentric circle. It demands not only an accurate and sensitive combination of the aids by the rider but also a high standard of training from the horse. If he has too much weight on his forehead, he will find it very difficult to perform the turn correctly and require further schooling.

Although the exercise is eventually performed from the halt, it is often easier to start the turn from a walk so that you have the benefit of natural impulsion. The horse's pivoting hind leg can move forward a little - making a small circle, but should never move backwards. After the first few steps of the turn, the horse reaches the point where his inside hind foot twists awkwardly and he must pick it up and replace it in its natural position. You have to anticipate by feel whether he will put his foot down again in the same spot or whether you must prevent him from wandering. It is this element that makes the turn a difficult exercise for less experienced riders.

If you use your leg aids too strongly, or

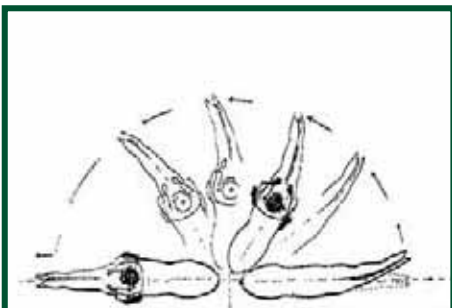
fail to contain the horse with your hands, he will move forwards instead of sideways, while the reverse of this is a worst fault, as he will move backwards. As with the turn on the forehand, do not repeat the exercise too often, and get satisfied, while learning, with a few well executed steps rather than a full 180 turn.

You will find it easier at first to use a wall or fence to guide you. Later you can practice from the halt and, finally, you can try the same exercise in the open, without guiding fence or wall. You will then have laid a sound foundation for future lateral work at more advanced level.

AIDS FOR THE TURN ON THE HAUNCHES:

Halt the horse straight and then apply a warning half-halt, while maintaining light contact with your hands. Flex your horse slightly in the direction you wish him to turn. To pivot right, on the offside hind foot, remain upright in the saddle, with your shoulders square to the horse. Your outside leg will be behind the girth, to control the hindquarters, maintain impulsion, and ask for the turn around the inside leg. Your inside leg should stay against the horse's side to keep the horse up to the bit and in position, and to prevent him from stepping backwards, as well as to limit sideways movement. Your inside rein leads the forehead into the turn, while keeping light contact, and your outside rein prevents your horse from moving forwards when you apply the leg aids and controls the amount of bend in his neck, as well as preventing his shoulder from falling outwards. HT

▼ *Half-pirouette to the left*



▼ *Turn on the haunches*

