



HOW TO BE A TRAINER (PART 14)

DRESSAGE FOR JUMPING (PART 4)

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IT IS MANDATORY FOR A SHOW JUMPING RIDER, TO KNOW HOW TO USE THE HALF-HALT TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF HIS HORSE'S PERFORMANCE IN JUMPING.

THE HALF-HALT:

The half halt aid is a preparatory one applied to attract the horse's attention before he is given any new instruction. When prepared by a correct half halt, the horse will never be taken by surprise when the aids for a new exercise are applied. This will ensure smooth performance. During the half-halt the extra weight is transferred from the shoulders of the horse backwards while impulsion and balance are animated.

USES OF THE HALF-HALT IN JUMPING:

- 1- To alert the horse prior to a new exercise or movement.
- 2- To improve or maintain the horse's collection and carriage within a movement.
- 3- Before making a turn.
- 4- To rebalance the horse if he is going too much on the forehand.

5- To make the horse ready when approaching a difficult fence.


6- To shorten or adjust the strides in a related distance in a course with more than one option.

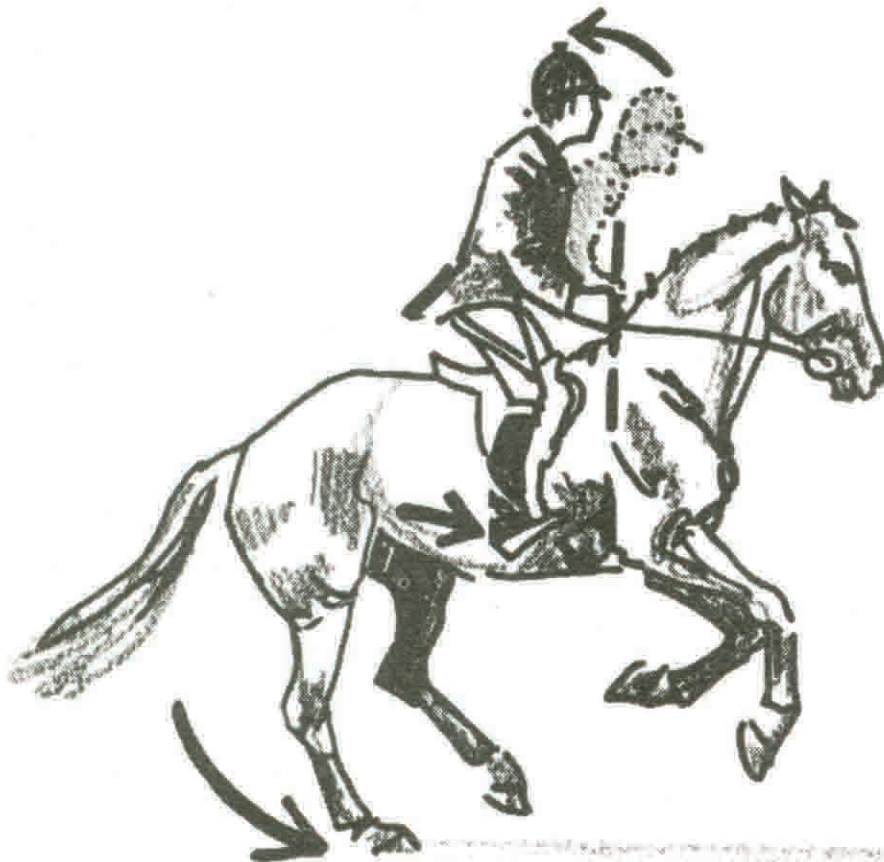
PERFORMING THE HALF-HALT:

The half-halt is achieved by enclosing the horse a little more between the weight, leg and rein aids, followed by yielding the reins again. The half-halt could be performed in the dressage or jumping seats. In the forward seat, without sitting down into the saddle or taking a strong hold on the reins, the rider straightens up and holds firmly with knees and legs. Thus, the rider's centre of gravity is transferred backwards. The rein aid is a carefully measured non-yielding one followed by a yielding one. The horse's hind-legs will come further underneath the horse, and so will become lighter in the hand, and his

canter stride (if in canter) will be more bouncy.

PRECAUTIONS DURING PERFORMANCE:

- 1- The aids for the half-halt should work in harmony with the minimal use of hands.
- 2- The restraining rein aid should be followed by a yielding rein again to encourage forwardness.
- 3- The half halt could be repeated till the purpose is fulfilled.
- 4- The rider should keep the horse in front of the leg (in front of his driving aids) during half-halt.
- 5- The aims of the half-halt can only be reached if the hind-legs are made to step forward so that the horse comes for a moment more positively onto the bit, or, on a curved track, more positively onto the outside rein. 



◀ *Half-halt in the forward seat*

Reference:
TRAINING SHOW JUMPERS
By Anthony Paalman