

# Show Jumping

## Stumbling

Stumbling is a symptom observed in both young and old horses, they suffer from it when they commence schooling. Especially during the initial stage; as soon as the horse has to carry the additional weight of the rider, it disturbs the horse's natural balance. Therefore a decisive factor in his schooling will be to reinstate, his balance, otherwise this stumbling phase could develop into a permanent habit. Later on, when the horse commences his schooling in jumping when mounted, the same procedure of readjusting his natural balance may be continued. At this stage, while jumping mounted, it is important that the young horse bascules over the fences without any restrictions of the rein aids and without the slightest interference by the rider's weight. The horse must be completely free and independent, otherwise he may be spoiled and develop into a habitual and inveterate peck-on-landing horse.

### Habitual stumbling in older horses may be caused by various factors:

- Badly shod feet, with toes left too long
- Forefeet too hard and too dry
- Pastern joints which are too straight, particularly those of the forelegs
- Badly ridden- too much on the forehead
- Physical weakness or laziness
- Being overworked or just plain clumsy
- Nervousness, stumbling out of impatience when regularly

ridden by a tense, impetuous rider. If such a rider constantly pulls on the horse's mouth it will learn to lean on the bit, using it as a fifth leg. The horse's stride becomes hasty and irregular. As soon as the rider yields the reins the horse loses balance and stumbles. The horse will become so dependent on the support of the rider's strong hold on the bit that he is not able to move on his own four legs without stumbling.

## Curing stumbling

Firstly, consider the cause of the habit. Find out whether the rider or the horse is at fault. If the rider has defaulted the stumbling can indeed not be cured by taking a stronger hold on the bit in order to hold up the horse's head. Believing it can is a natural, but wrong, reaction in many riders. The chief concern of the rider should be the unloading and transference of the horse's excess weight from his forehead to his quarters. Once this is obtained, the horse can be ridden freely at all paces (jumping as well) on a long rein without further stumbling.

The horse should be lunged daily with the Chambon, as well as being exercised on foot, especially reining back. He should also do regular free jumping.

These suppling exercises are valuable in the development of the elasticity of the back and quarters muscles required for pure movement.

## A Principle in a Tip!

BY: Mr. Mohamed Zohairy

One of the many benefits of horse riding is that men and women can compete on equal terms, and that both the young and the more mature can ride successfully. Unlike so many other sports, you can continue riding and improving for life time. It is both a sport for all and a sport for life. It is important to be taught initially. If you establish the core skills early on, everything else falls into place automatically. Rather like a snowball rolling down a hill, which becomes bigger and bigger as it gathers more layers of snow, every ride will bring new knowledge and help you to develop your expertise.

With the right foundation stones, you may well be one of the tens of thousands of ordinary people who find that horses and horse riding allow them to do extraordinary things.

In horse back riding, there are many ways of doing things, for example, two riders may use different aids to ask a horse to canter. Although this will achieve what I required, it is important to recognize that simplicity and best practice are the keys to success. Some techniques or pieces of equip-

ment may have been accepted for many years, but it is important to be flexible enough to allow a good idea to give way to a better idea and make any necessary changes to your approach.

If you ride, you influence your horse, for good or for bad. The horse is very adaptable and willing to respond to any consistent stimuli, so, if your horse makes progress, it is easy to become deceived into believing that you must be training in the right way and, worse still, into assuming you are a good trainer.

The partnership between horse and rider can be inspiring and motivating. We can all benefit and achieve more as result of our work with horses. You will be invigorated by the moment of freedom, courage, and success. Horse back riding can bring you, and this can motivate you to give more in other aspects of your life, too. If you believe in yourself, it is possible to achieve extraordinary results.

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From the introduction of COMPLETE HORSE RIDING MANUAL,  
by William Micklem

# Dressage...

## The Pirouette and the Half-Pirouette

BY:Eng. Emad Zaghloul

1. The pirouette (half- pirouette) is a circle (half-circle) executed on two tracks, with a radius equal to the length of the horse, the forehead moving round the haunches.
2. Pirouettes (half-pirouette) are usually carried out at a collected work or canter, but can also be executed when attempting to make a piaffe.
3. When attempting to make a pirouette (half-pirouette) the forefeet and the outside hind foot moves round the inside hind foot, which forms the pivot and should return to the same spot, or slightly in front of it, each time it leaves the ground.
4. At whatever pace the pirouette (half- pirouette) is executed , the horse has to be slightly bent towards the direction in which it is turning, remaining "on the bit" with a light contact, turnaround smoothly, maintaining the exact cadence and sequence of footfalls of that pace. The poll stays the highest point through the entire movement.
5. When making a pirouette (half-pirouettes) the horse should maintain his impulsion and never, even in the slightest way move backwards or deviate sideways. If the inside hind foot is not raised and returned to the ground in the same rhythm as the outside hind foot, the pace is no longer regular.
6. In executing the pirouette or the half-pirouette in canter, the rider should maintain perfect lightness of the horse while accentuating the collection. The quarters are well engaged and lowered, show a good flexion of the joints.
7. The quality of the pirouettes (half-pirouettes) is judged according to the suppleness, lightness, cadence and regularity and to the precision and smoothness of the transitions; pirouettes (half-pirouettes) at canter, also according to the balance, the elevation and the number of strides (at pirouettes 6-8, at half-pirouettes 3-4 are desirable).

### How To...

### DETERMINE THE WEIGHT OF YOUR HORSE

W	P	W	P	W	P	W	P
555	194	470	180	360	163	91	102
565	196	475	181	364	164	137	116
570	197	480	182	380	165	182	128
580	198	486	184	385	166	240	140
591	199	495	185	387	167	250	143
594	201	500	187	400	169	273	148
595	203	510	188	412	171	300	152
600	204	515	189	435	174	305	155
610	206	520	190	440	175	318	156
615	207	532	191	450	176	320	157
625	209	545	192	465	178	346	159
630	210	550	193	468	179	350	160

P: Chest Diameter

W: Weight

ref. Dr. Mohamed Razzaz

# Shoeing...

# Step

# Step

by

“The easiest way in which to understand the shoeing is for us all to pay a supposed visit to a forge and see step by step what goes on there and the reason for each step”

The need to shoe a horse- that is to say to fit a band of iron or steel to the foot- is the direct consequence of domestication, in that the wear occasioned to the wall on a hard road surface is greater than the rate of new growth sent down from above.

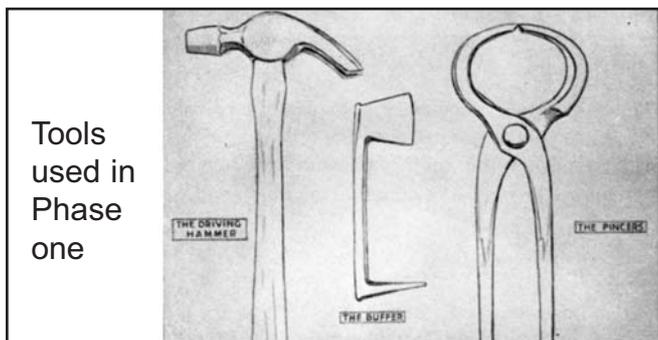
If we persist in working a Horse unshod on a hard road the day will eventually arrive when as a result of extensive wear to wall and sole the horse goes footsore or even lame. The answer to the problem lies in protecting the foot against such excessive wear by shoeing a horse.

The easiest way in which to understand the shoeing is for us all to pay a supposed visit to a forge and see step by step what goes on there and the reason for each step. The process of shoeing a horse falls into six definite phases each of which will be considered in turn.

so as to release the shoe. The clenches are cut off clean with the buffer after which the blacksmith levers off the shoe with his pincers.

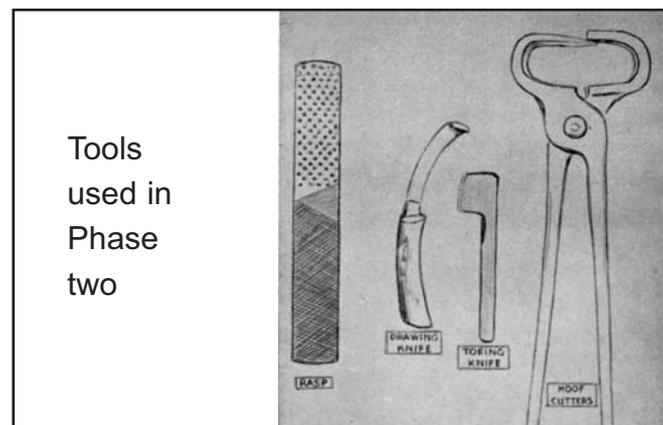
## Phase 2

### Phase 1



This is called **REMOVAL** and that is to say, the removal of the old shoe. For this task the blacksmith needs his buffer, shoeing hammer, and pincers. You will readily recognize them for you must have seen them in use many times.

The shoe as you know is held by the clenches and therefore the first thing to do is to lift the foot and cut the clenches



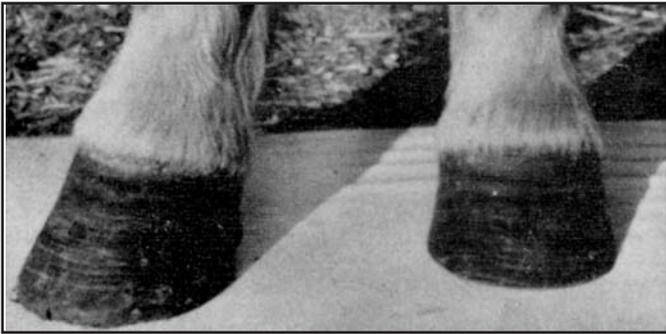
The next stage is called **PREPARATION** and in this stage we prepare the foot for the new shoe. For the most part this consists in the removal of the overgrowth of the horn of the wall and ragged pieces of the sole and frog. The wall has continued to grow since the pony last went to the forge but has been protected from any wear by the presence of the shoe. Hence it has become overlong, making things uncomfortable for the horse, interfering with his action and possibly causing him to stumble. Preparation means reducing the wall once again to its natural length.

The tools used by the blacksmith at this stage are the drawing knife, toeing knife, hoof cutters, and rasp. For the most part he employs his drawing knife both to cut away the overgrowth of wall and also to tidy up the sole and frog. The use of his knife on the sole or frog, calls for discretion since the less they are cut about the better.



Whatever the blacksmith does in the way of cutting and tidying up he always ends up by using his rasp. You will note that he is using it only on the ground surface of the foot.

The use of this tool depends upon the creation of an absolutely level surface to the foot on which the new shoe is to rest. The blacksmith then inspects his work to see that he has reduced the foot sufficiently, by shortening the length at the toe and by lowering the height at the heels, and that such has been affected equally on both inside and outside so that the horse stands squarely and evenly on his feet. Here is a picture of a foot before and after reduction so that you may properly appreciate all that has just been said.



### Phase 3

**FORGING**, this phase is mainly concerned with the making and forging of the new shoe. For this a fire and anvil are necessary. The iron from which shoes are made is sold to blacksmiths in long lengths of various weight and shape. The first thing to do therefore is to cut off lengths suitable for the making of the new set of shoes; for this the use of a sledge hammer is necessary.

The iron must now be made red hot so that the blacksmith can turn it and shape it into the form of a horse shoe. Then the nail holes are fashioned so carefully with the stamp, and the drawing of the clip, and then the shoe is ready to try on.

### Phase 4

This stage is called **FITTING**. The shoe while still slightly hot is carried on the pritchel to the horse's foot and tried on.

The shoe may prove to be too broad or too narrow and if so adjustments must be made. It will almost certainly be too long at the heels, but this is deliberate as the blacksmith likes to cut off the heels, using a tool called a heel cutter, so as to leave them at the exact length required. The part of the foot on



which the new shoe is to rest is called the bearing surface, and if this is not quite leveled, then the horn will be seared by the hot shoe more at one point than another. Here again the nec-

essary adjustments can now be made with the rasp.

The procedure just described to you is known as **HOT SHOEING** but you will of course appreciate that a fire and anvil are not always available. In such a case the blacksmith is under necessity to resort to the procedure known as **COLD SHOEING**, where a readymade shoe is taken into use, fitted cold and adjusted as far as may be possible in a cold state.

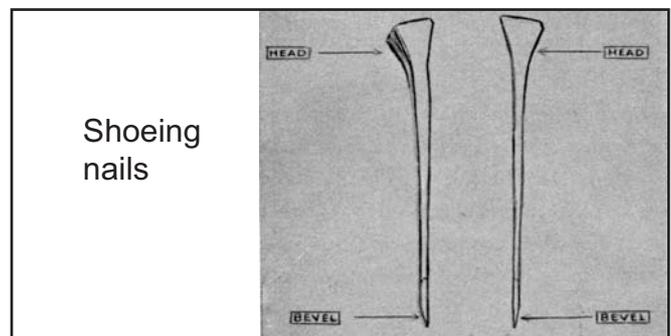
### Phase 5

The shoe is now ready to nail on, which brings us to the next step namely **NAILING**. The blacksmith drives one of the toe nails first of all. By doing so, he can then swing the shoe round slightly so that the heels come into their exact position. Note how carefully the nails are driven.

The blacksmith starts off by tapping lightly and only when he is quiet sure that the nail is so pitched that it will not go too deep and injure the horse, does he drive it hard home. The point of the nail should come out some distance up the wall - not too far up or it may press and hurt (coarse nailing)- not too low down or the grip on the wall will be insecure (Fine nailing). The point of each nail where it comes out of the wall is wrenched off with the claw of the hammer, leaving a small piece projecting which eventually forms the clenche.

How many nails should a blacksmith use? The answer generally given is seven -three on the inside and four on the outside. A better answer however is to say "the minimum necessary for security" and only the blacksmith knows just how many that maybe, though often it is seven. When an odd number of nails is used, why are more placed on the outside than the inside? The answer here is that the outer side of the hoof takes a slightly longer sweep at the quarters than the inside and also that it is slightly thicker.

Nails are made of various sizes to suit different sized horses and ponies but they are all of this peculiar shape which is quiet unlike any other kind of nail you know. Note that the bevel on one side of the point. Its purpose is to direct the point of the nail outwards instead of inwards when being driven, that is to say away from the sensitive parts of the foot. If you watch the blacksmith nailing on a shoe, you will see that he always glances at each nail before putting it into the shoe, so as to make sure that it goes in the right way round which means with the bevel to the inside.



### Phase 6

The last step: **FINISHING**. The blacksmith makes the clenches, tightens them up and beds them firmly. He then gives them a final rub with the rasp to smooth them off. The toe clip is tapped back lightly into its position. Lastly the rasp is run round the rim of the wall to blunt its sharp edge and to prevent splitting. So the job is complete, however you must remember that a visit to the forge is necessary every month