

Golden Horseshoe Tack Shop Summer Seminar Series
Trainings Aids with Jax

Before we get started:

- 1) Make sure horse's behavior is not a result of pain
- 2) Respect horse's physical, mental, and emotional limitations
- 3) These devices AID in training the horse but it is the human who trains the horse
- 4) Used improperly these training aids can hurt your horse and impede training goals. Consult a professional if you are unsure.

Whips, Crops, & Bats

What it does: carried by rider to reinforce aids to go forward or over

How they attach: open hand, insert handle of device, and close hand

Considerations:

- 1) Can be used behind the rider's leg or on the horse's shoulder
- 2) Some rules prohibit the use of this aid in front of the saddle
- 3) Riders who are not steady with their leg can still use this aid
- 4) Rider must manage an extra thing in their hand

Spurs:

What it does: reinforces rider's aids to go forward or over

How they attach: buckle onto rider's boot and the spur rests on the lip of a western boot or on the spur rest of an English boot.

Considerations:

- 1) Rider must have a steady lower leg to use spurs effectively
- 2) Rider's whose legs hang below their horse's belly should use longer necked spurs to reach their horse
- 3) Riders' who legs hang on their horse's side should use shorter neck spurs so they do not constantly touch the horse
- 4) Roweled spurs can be used to cue a horse in a rolling motion
- 5) Rowels should be kept clean of hair, dirt, and debris so they roll freely
- 6) Spurs without rowels should be used by pressing them into the horse

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Standing Martingale/Tie down

What it does:

- 1) Restricts upward and backward movement of the head
- 2) Can help a horse balance at speed

How it attaches:

- a) Standing Martingale has a strap that loops through the girth runs up under the neck through a neck strap and is buckled in to the cavesson
- b) Tie down has a strap that clips to the cinch runs up under the neck through a tie down keeper and snaps to the ring on a nose band
- c) When the horse's head is in a relaxed position the strap should be loose enough to touch his throatlatch.

Considerations:

- 1) A wider noseband will allow a horse to use a tie down for balance at speed
- 2) A thinner noseband is difficult for a horse to lean on and cannot be used for balance
- 3) A standing martingale should be connected only to a plain cavesson or the top strap of a flash cavesson.
- 4) Horse's use their head and neck for balance so adjusting this device too short is hazardous to horse and rider.

Running Martingale/Training fork

What it does: Restricts upward movement of the head by putting downward pressure on reins via rings when horse lifts its head.

How it attaches:

- a) Attaches to girth/cinch and splits into two pieces with rings that reins go through.
- b) Can come as an attachment to snap to breastplate or breastcollar

Considerations:

- a) Generally used with a snaffle
- b) **ALWAYS USE REIN STOPS**
- c) Suggested adjustments range from have the reins reach the height of the withers or having rings even with corner of mouth at desired head height.
- d) Still allows the rider to give the horse its freedom of head and neck

Surcingle

What it does: the many rings provide an anchoring point for training aids used during lunging or to run long lines through for ground driving

How they attach: sits on the horses' back behind the withers and the girth buckles underneath the belly

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Considerations:

- 1) Use a surcingle with fixed upright rings when ground driving.
- 2) A surcingle with a tree or blocks that rest on each side of the withers are less likely to shift

Draw reins

What it does: draw the horse's nose inward toward its body and restricts how high the head can go

How they attach: Run from rider's hand through the bit and snap:

- 1) Between front legs to girth or cinch (focuses with vertical flexion)
- 2) To sides of girth or cinch on buckles (focus on lateral/ side to side flexion)

Considerations:

- 1) Keep a normal rein on your bridle in case of spooking, bolting, bucking, etc.
- 2) The rider must constantly adjust draw reins while riding to achieve the desired result because the reins slide freely through the bit instead of being fixed in one position.

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Neck Extender

What it does: encourages horse to lower head

How they attach: Over the horses' poll through the bit rings and between front legs to the girth

Considerations:

- 1) Rider cannot adjust this device while riding.
- 2) Rider does not have to deal with an extra rein in their hand
- 3) The elastic does allow the horse to stretch downward to a degree

Side Reins

What it does: brings nose in and restricts range of motion of the head & neck upwards, downwards, and side to side

How they attach: from the bit to a surcingle or from bit to side of girth

Considerations:

- 1) Side Reins with elastic inserts or Rubber donuts are designed to have some give
- 2) Side reins without elastic or rubber donuts do not have any give
- 3) Common uses include:
 - a. Teaching horses to accept contact on the bit
 - b. Teaching a horse to bend side to side

- 4) Lunging a horse without side reins first gives them a change to warm up and get out any friskiness
- 5) Cannot adjust without pausing the training session

German Martingale

What it does:

- 1) applies backwards pressure to bit when horse tries to stick his nose out
- 2) applies downward pressure to bit when the horse raises its head
- 3) no pressure is applied when the horse is in the "desired" headset

How it attaches: The reins attach to the snaffle bit like a regular set of reins. The second part of the martingale goes over the neck. The two straps go through the bit ring from the inside out (one strap per bit ring).

Considerations:

- 1) Commonly used with a snaffle bridle
- 2) Functions similarly to draw reins but releases pressure automatically when properly adjusted
- 3) Rider cannot adjust while mounted

De Gogue

What it does:

- 1) Applies downward pressure to bit and poll when a horse raises its head
- 2) Applies backwards pressure to bit when horse tries to stick his nose out

How it attaches: straps run from the girth to the headpiece of the bridle through the bit and back to the girth again

Considerations:

- 1) Generally used with a snaffle bit
- 2) Generally used during lunging as opposed to riding
- 3) Helps to teach horse to move in a certain headset
- 4) If adjusted properly it will release pressure automatically

Chambon

What it does: encourages horse to lower its head but still allows it to nose to stretch outward

How it attaches: attaches to the girth and runs through headstall alongside the cheek pieces to the bit

Considerations:

- 1) Generally used with a snaffle bit
- 2) Generally used during lunging as opposed to riding
- 3) If adjusted properly it will release pressure automatically

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