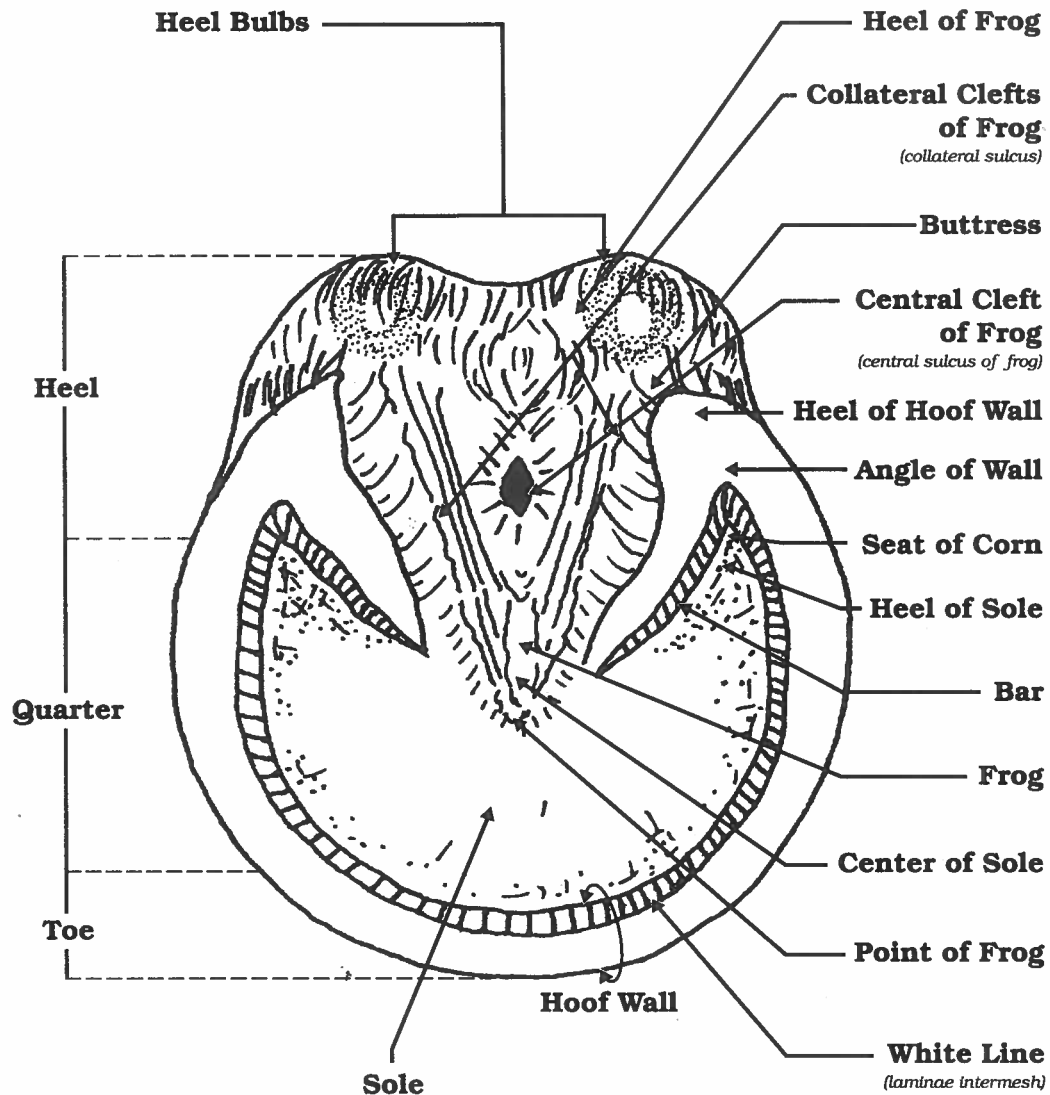


Use this chart in conjunction with Anatomy - Label the parts of the horse's hoof situation/task statement and/or Parts of the Hoof identification tags.

Parts of the Hoof



HORSE
LEARNING LABORATORY KIT

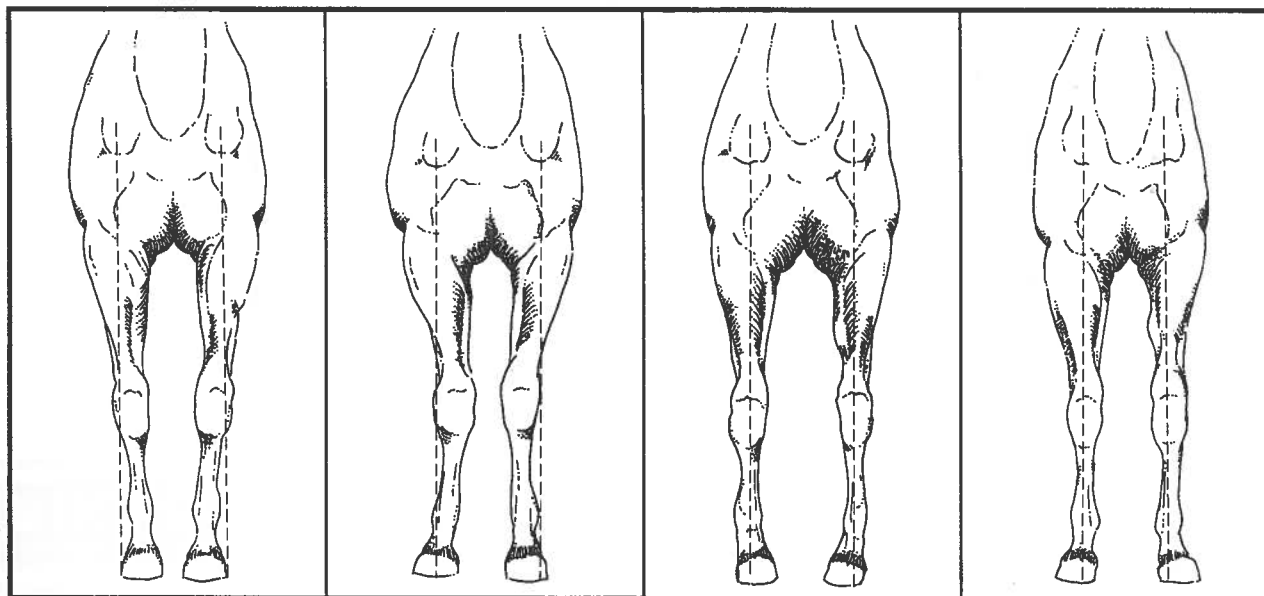
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Use this poster in conjunction with Conformation - Identify the structural variations of the front legs situation/task statement and/or Conformation (Front View) identification tags.

Conformation

(Front View)

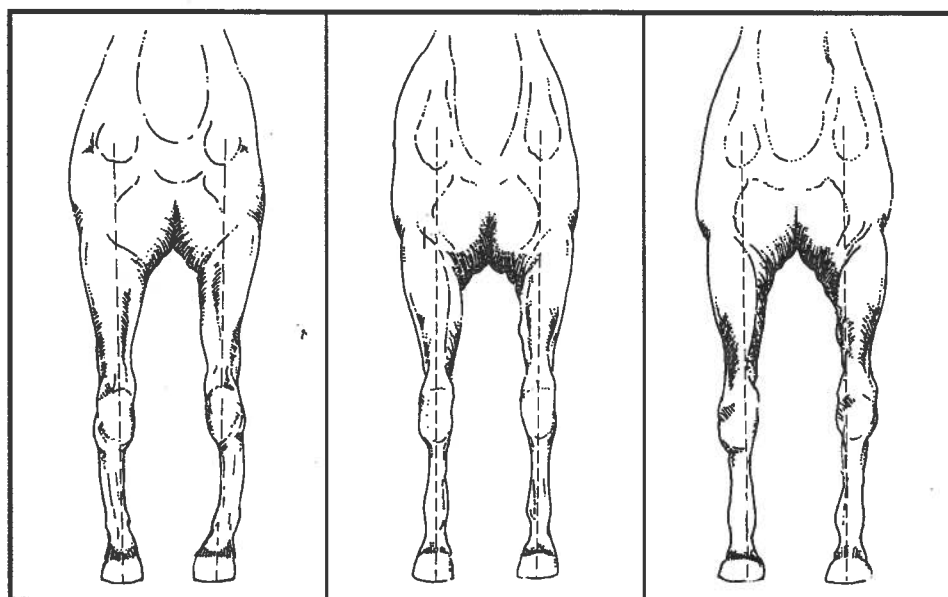


Base Narrow
(stands too close)

Knock Kneed
(knock kneed and splay footed,
forefeet toes out/heels in)

Pigeon Toed
(forefeet toes in/heels out)

Narrow Chested, Toes Out



Bench Kneed

Ideal Position
(correct conformation)

Bow Legged
(with offset canons)



HORSE
LEARNING LABORATORY KIT

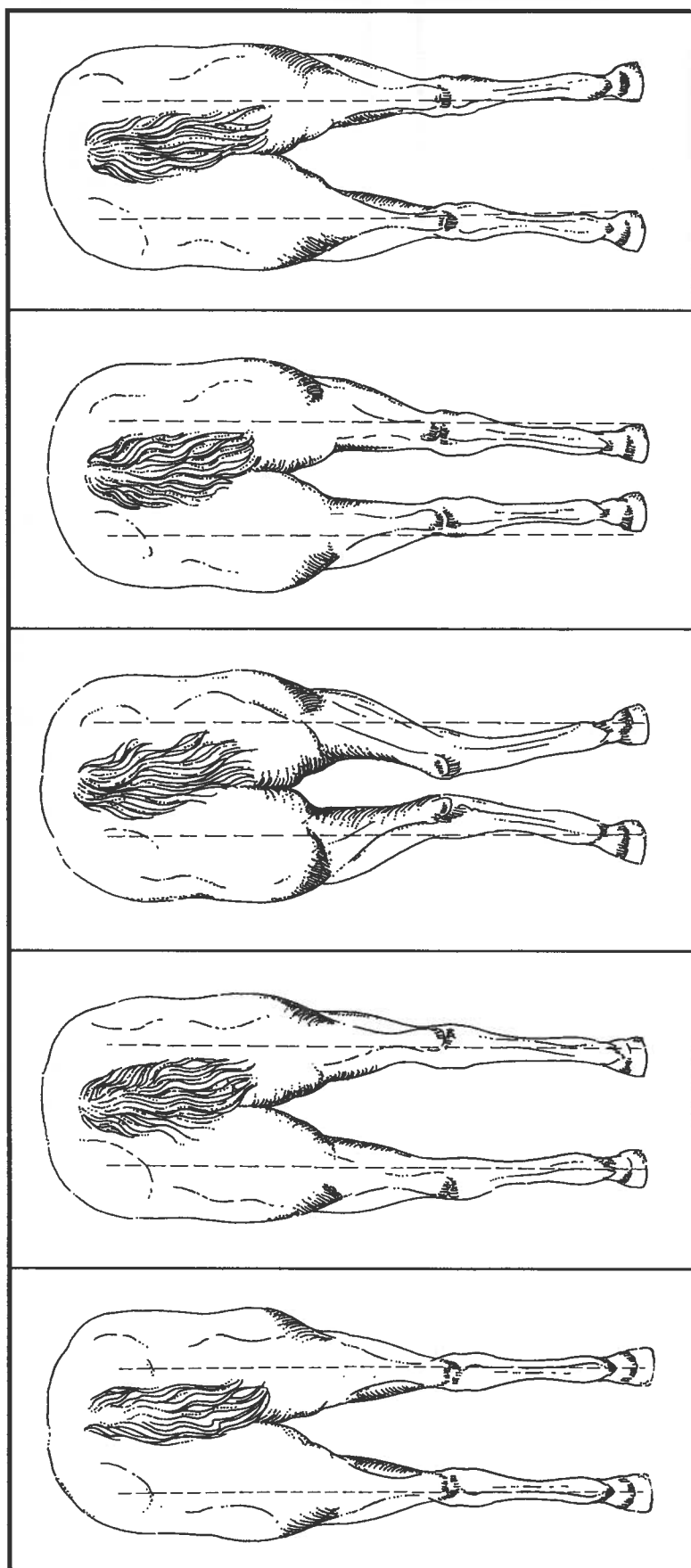
Exploratory Learning: Educational Program

This component adapted from materials found in *Light Horse Selection*, (Ohio State University Extension 4-H/Youth Development, 1998). Graphic used courtesy of Section of Communication and Technology, Ohio State University Extension.

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Use this poster in conjunction with Conformation - Identify the structural variations of the rear legs situation/task statement and/or Conformation (Rear View) identification tags.

Conformation (Rear View)



Ideal Position
(correct conformation)

Bow Legged
(bandy legged)

Cow Hocked
(badly cow hocked and toed out)

Stands Close
(base narrow or set too close)

Stands Wide
(base wide or set too wide)



Exploratory Learning: Educational Program

This component adapted from materials found in *Light Horse Selection*, (Ohio State University Extension 4-H/Youth Development, 1998).
Graphic used courtesy of Section of Communication and Technology, Ohio State University Extension.

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Shank Bit Study Guide



The Curb Bit: Horse Bits in Horse Training

The English & Western Curb Bit in Horse Riding and Training ...

A curb bit uses leverage and includes the pelham bit and the Weymouth curb along with the traditional curb bit used by Western riders.

A curb bit works on several parts of a horse's head and mouth.

The bit mouthpiece acts on the bars, tongue and roof of the mouth.

The shanks add leverage and place pressure on the poll, thru the crownpiece of the bridle, to the chin groove via the curb chain, and, especially with a loose jaw shank, may act on the sides of the mouth and jaw.

The Western Curb Bit ...



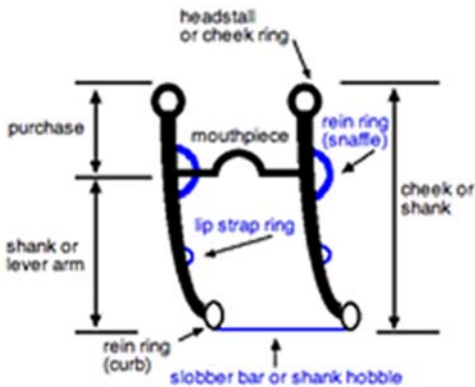
A basic Western Curb Bit has a gently ported mouthpiece and shanks to which the reins attach.

As the rider takes a feel of the reins, more leverage is exerted on the horse's mouth and also on the poll.

By increasing the amount of port on the mouthpiece, pressure is also applied to the roof of the mouth.

A curb bit is a leverage bit, meaning that it multiplies the pressure applied by the rider.

Unlike a snaffle bit, which applies direct rein pressure from the rider's hand to the horse's mouth, the curb can amplify rein pressure several times over, depending on the length of the curb bit shank.



Shank sizes vary from the Tom Thumb (2 inches long) to more than 5 inches.

Since Western horses are ridden on a loose rein, the longer shank allows the rider to utilise the leverage by giving extremely light rein aids and attaining the same result as a rider using a snaffle on a firmer contact.

The English Curb Bit

In the English Curb Bit the port can also vary in severity.

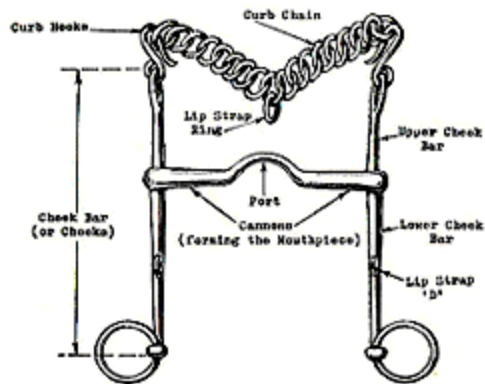
In general the shanks on English bits are shorter than on Western bits – four to five inches on an English bit as opposed to up to eight or nine inches on a Western one.



The English Curb bit is often used in a double bridle.

In the double bridle, two bits are actually used. One is the curb, called the Weymouth and one is the snaffle, called the Bridoon.

Both of these bits are used together to refine the aids in the higher levels of dressage competition and in the show ring.



Curbs are generally placed lower down in a horse's mouth than snaffle bits, touching the corners of the mouth, or creating a single slight wrinkle in the lips.

The lower the bit is placed, the more severe it is as the bars of the mouth get thinner and so pressure is more concentrated.

The curb chain should be adjusted correctly, lying flat against the chin groove and only coming into action against the jaw when the shank is rotated, but not so loose that the shank exceeds 45 degrees of rotation.



the American Tom Thumb bit. THIS IS **NOT** A SNAFFLE BIT AND IS **NOT** APPROPRIATE FOR STARTING A [GREEN HORSE](#) IN.

The Tom Thumb bit is often erroneously called a Tom Thumb snaffle. But the jointed mouth piece does not make a Tom Thumb bit, which works on leverage, a snaffle bit. The leverage caused by the shanks make it a curb bit.



Classic 7 1/2in Stainless Cheek Correction Bit / Copper Mouth Correction bit



Black Iron Grazing Bit.

Mild port that offers some tongue relief. The sweet taste of iron creates salivation. The key to a soft mouth.



Mullen:

A Mullen mouthpiece is designed to provide an even pressure through the horse's mouth and also give his tongue a little bit more room. The Mullen has a gentle curve to the mouthpiece and is considered to be more of a mild bit.

**Chain:**

A chain mouthpiece consists of a link chain instead of a solid metal piece for the mouth. Unlike a snaffle bit that puts pressure on the bars/side of the horse's mouth, a chained mouthpiece puts more pressure on the corners of the horse's mouth. Make sure that if you are using a chained mouthpiece that your chain is made with a high quality linked chain. Sometimes a chain mouthpiece can consist of something that resembles a bike chain and those can be very harsh on the horse's mouth.



Walking Horse Bits

Walking Horse Bit and interchangeable Mouthpieces and bit shanks

Walking Horse bits are not just for Tennessee Walking horses. This group of bits helps to improve headset. This collection of bits comes in a number of shank lengths and mouth styles, as well as interchangeable styles. Horse Tack Co. offers one of the largest collection of Walking Horse bits to be found.

Snaffle Bit Study Guide



Ball Links

Ball links also conform to the horse's mouth, but add a little more pressure on the tongue and palate than a French link.

Full Cheek – This design has a long arm attached to the mouthpiece that exerts significantly more control. This design is used on horses that don't respond well to the reins



French Link

I don't know if the French like peanuts or not, but in my mind they do, because they put one in the middle of a bit. That's how I remember the difference between a Doc Bristol and a French link. The peanut shaped link in the middle of this mouthpiece lays over the horse's tongue and lets the bit conform to the horse's mouth, without forming an inverted V when the reins are pulled. Many horses like this bit because it's comfortable to carry.



Twisted

The severity of a twisted mouth piece depends on the twist. A slow twist will not be as harsh as a hard twist. Nevertheless, any twist adds severity to whatever bit its used with.



Wire

Wire mouth bits come in many configurations, thick or thin, with two or more twisted wires. The thinner the bit, the more severe it is. Wire mouth bits can give quite a cut to the horse's mouth.

Chain

Linked round chains, chainsaw or bicycle type chains and other types of chains can be used and these can be very severe bits. Some people feel they are comfortable for the horse to carry. Some of these bits have a short length of chain in the middle, and are solid where the bit sits on the bars of the mouth.

D-Ring or English Dee – The defining feature of the D-Ring snaffle bit is that the rings can't move as they are in a fixed position. The result is that there is more lateral control, a key attribute for turning the horse easily while maintaining good control. This bit is great for racing and activities that require a lot of control but it is not as sensitive to the rider's commands as the O-ring design. The D-Ring design tends to be used most frequently when acclimating an inexperienced rider to a new horse.

Snaffle Horse Bits

From: [Horse Bits](#)

See also: [Horse Tack](#)



Snaffle

The snaffle bit is one of the most widely used bits due to the many different varieties that are available. A snaffle bit is one which contains a mouthpiece and bit rings.

Snaffle Action

Snaffle bits apply pressure upon the bars, corners, tongue and in some cases the sides of the face.

Snaffle Mouthpieces

There are a number of mouthpieces available that vary in both thickness and design:

- **Single Jointed Snaffle**
Single jointed bits have one central link going across the mouthpiece giving one point of pressure on the surface of the tongue, so that as the reins are used the bit begins to close causing a nutcracker action to take place upon the surface of the tongue.
- **Double Jointed Snaffle**
Double jointed bits are made up of two links going across the mouthpiece, when pressure

from the reins is applied the nutcracker action occurs upon the tongue over where the two links are positioned. The severity of the double joint will depend on the middle section of the mouthpiece:

- The French Link for example is a gently curved middle portion that when the rein is applied and the nutcracker action comes into play over the the central link and will apply mild pressure across the tongue.
- The Dr. Bristol on the other hand has a straight and more angled edge to it which when rein pressure is applied will cause a more severe point of pressure upon the tongue increasing the severity of the bits action.
- Multiple Links
A bit made up of multiple links will apply a variety of pressure points upon the tongue.
- Low Port or Mullen Mouth Snaffle
A snaffle bit that is ported will curve upwards allowing plenty of room for the horses tongue, when the rein is applied the pressure will be applied across the surface the tongue and on the bars of the mouth. This type of bit is particularly useful for horses who have very fleshy tongues.
- Straight Bar Snaffle
The mouthpiece of a straight bar is as it sounds a single bar that contains no links and attaches directly to the rings.
- Twisted
The mouthpiece contains either one or more twists and is considered to be a more severe bit due to the pressure that the twists will apply on the tongue when the rein is applied. The pressure of the twisted mouthpiece increases if there is a single joint in the middle and if the twists themselves are very thin.
- Roller Mouthpiece
Roller snaffles contain moveable sections that literarily roll across the horses tongue and help the horse to relax their mouths and play with the bit helping to prevent them form leaning or taking hold of the bit. Examples include the Cherry roller bit and the Magennis snaffle both of which have moveable rollers positioned within them.

Snaffle Rings And Cheeks

The mouthpiece attaches to rings at either side and it is from these rings that the bridle reins and cheek pieces are attached to. There are several types of rings available:

- Egg Butt Snaffle
The rings of an eggbutt are fixed directly to the mouthpiece and cause the mouthpiece to sit relatively still in the horses mouth, which often suits horses who are light in their contact or those with sensitive mouths.
- Loose Ring Snaffle
The rings are attached to the mouthpiece section through holes which allow the bit rings and mouthpiece to be able to move around in the horses mouth, loose rings are great for horses prone to leaning or taking hold of the bit.
- Snaffle Cheeks
Bit cheeks form a side bar that sit at the side of the horses mouth, assisting with steering and preventing the bit from being pulled through the horses mouth. There are several different cheek variations:

- Fulmer Cheek - The mouthpiece has both upper and lower side bars which are subsequently also attached to loose rings at either side, this allows the mouthpiece to remain mobile in the horses mouth as well as aiding turning control.
- Hanging Cheek - The hanging cheek comprises of an egg butt ring which is attached to the mouthpiece and forms the rein attachment and also a further ring that sits above it to which the cheek pieces of the bridle attach to. The hanging cheek remains fairly still in the horses mouth and the bits action applies more pressure to the bars of the mouth than other snaffles would as well as some poll pressure to help with lowering the head.
- Full Cheek - The mouthpiece attaches directly to both the upper and lower cheek bars and from here there is a ring for the reins and cheek pieces to be attached.
- Half Cheek - The half cheek has either an upper or lower section to the side cheek bar.

Snaffles Are Often Made Of

Snaffle Bits can be made of a number of different materials and in some cases a combination of two, such as:

- Copper - copper bits can help encourage salivation.
- Sweet Iron - sweet iron also encourages salivation due to its sweet taste.
- Rubber - Rubber bits although soft on the horses mouth, some bits especially vulcanite can be a little bit on the chunky side and so may not suit every horse. Rubber bits are often used on youngsters due to their softer nature
- Stainless Steel - stainless steel bits are very durable and the majority of horses go very well in.

Snaffle Sizing

Bits are measured from between the mouthpiece rings and are usually available in sizes ranging from 3, 3.5, 4, 4 1/4, 4.5, 4 3/4, 5, 5 1/4, 5.5, 5 3/4 and 6 inches.



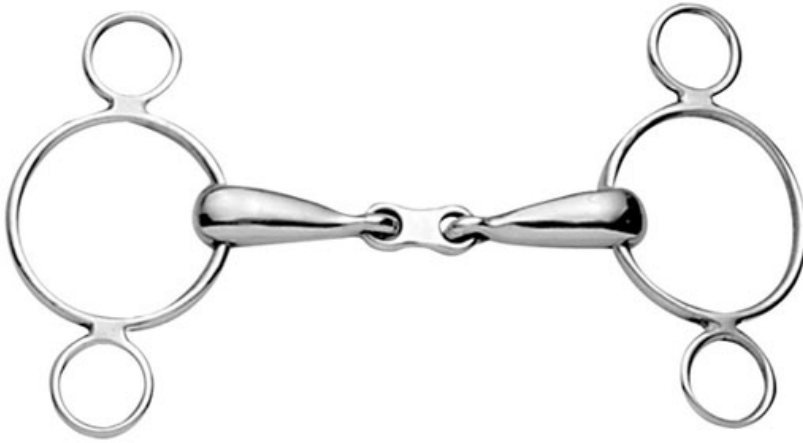
This Eggbutt Snaffle Bit comes in a variety of sizes. A popular bit across disciplines.

Eggbutt Snaffle – The eggbutt snaffle gets its moniker from the piece that connects the mouthpiece and cheek pieces. The flared ends of the eggbutt models go a long ways towards preventing pinched lips and are used in almost all types of riding, with the exception of western style. Besides the anti-pinching characteristics of the eggbutt, this design is very resistant to the common problem that other snaffles have of the rings getting pulled through the mouth of the horse. Additionally, the eggbutt tends to remain fixed within the horse's mouth better than with other types of snaffles.



Loose Ring or O-Ring Snaffle – With this bit, the rings are attached to the bit such that the horse can move the bit with their tongue or jaw independently of the rings. As you might expect, horses will tell you by their reactions that they prefer this bit for comfort while the riders favour this style of bit for the heightened sensitivity to the reins. A word of caution when purchasing these styles of bits – make sure the gap between the holes in the mouthpiece and the rings are not too large, as this creates the potential for pinching the lips of the horse.

French-Link Gag Snaffle Bit



French-Link Gag Snaffle Bit

The french-link gag snaffle bit applies pressure on the horses' mouth and its poll. You should attach double reins to the main snaffle ring and either of the lower rings. The more rings the french-link gag has the more severe its action.

The Kimberwick snaffle bit is a tongue grooved mouthpiece designed to put pressure on the roof but allows more room for the tongue.

