



## Shore Riders Pony Club

### The Bridle; Parts Purpose and Fit



(USPC D Manual 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., p286, Created by SRPC, Delmarva, 2012)

#### General Information:

- 1) Purpose of the bridle: used to \_\_\_\_\_ with your horse and it is the main source of \_\_\_\_\_ of your horse.
- 2) Come in 4 sizes: pony, cob, horse, large horse.
- 3) Two primary types of English bridles: Single and Double. Beginning riders use a Single bridle.
  - a. A Single has how many bits, and how many sets of reins? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. A Double bridle has how many bits, and how many sets of reins? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. A bridle without a bit is called a Hackamore or \_\_\_\_\_ Bridle.
- 4) The main difference in bridles is the type of Noseband:
  - a. Cavesson Noseband – this is the common English noseband and pictured in most handouts.
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ Noseband – same as a Cavesson, but sits lower on the horses head, at the end of the nose, BELOW the bit. Used to keep horse from opening mouth to evade the bit.



Dropped noseband:  
rests on end of nose  
bone with chin-strap  
below bit in chin groove.

- c. \_\_\_\_\_ Noseband - 2 pieces, a cavesson noseband adjusted high, with a bottom chin-strap BELOW the bit. Used to keep the horse's mouth closed and hold the bit in position.



Flash noseband:  
cavesson noseband  
adjusted high (just  
below cheekbone)  
and snugly; chin-strap  
below bit in chin groove.

- d. \_\_\_\_\_ Noseband - 2 pieces in an X pattern, one piece higher, and one piece below the bit. Also used to keep the mouth closed, but sits higher on the nose to allow more expansion in his nostrils for fast work.









Figure 8 noseband:  
upper jaw strap adjusted  
snugly above bit, just in  
front of cheekbone. Chin-  
strap below bit in chin  
groove.

## Parts Purpose and Fit

General:

- All parts should be snug, not loose and sloppy. (if it was on your head would it hurt? Yes?, then it is too \_\_\_\_\_. If it will slip right off the horse – it is too \_\_\_\_\_)
- Need to be able to slip \_\_\_\_\_ finger under every part of the bridle.
- All straps should have keepers and runners fastened.
- There should be \_\_\_\_ holes above every buckle. (*do you know why?* \_\_\_\_\_)

Part	Purpose	Fit	
_____	Hold the bridle onto the horse's head	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 finger fits under.</li> <li>• Needs to have 2 extra hole above the cheekpiece buckle</li> <li>• Fit without rubbing or pinching the ears</li> </ul>	
_____	Keep the bridle from slipping off over the horse's head	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fit fist or 4 fingers between this and the horse's neck</li> <li>• Loose enough so horse can flex his neck without binding the throat.</li> </ul>	
_____	Connects the headpiece to the bit and runs along the cheeks of the head.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be sure to have 2 extra holes above the buckle.</li> <li>• Don't pull too tight – it will put too much pressure on the bit.</li> </ul>	
_____	It is often used to keep the animal's mouth closed, or to attach other pieces or equipment, such as martingales.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It should sit 1 or 2 fingers below the horse's cheekbones.</li> <li>• Snug, but allow for 1 or 2 fingers to slip underneath.</li> </ul>	
_____	Connects the rider to the bit and the bridle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have keepers for all buckled ends</li> </ul>	
_____	Primary source of control through the horse's mouth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It should not hang too low in the horse's mouth.</li> <li>• The Cheek piece should be tight enough to cause two small wrinkles in the lips.</li> </ul>	
_____	It prevents the bridle from sliding behind the poll onto the upper neck	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be long enough so the bridle doesn't rub and pinch the base of the ears.</li> </ul>	