

THE STOP TO SUCCESS

by Fred Hunter

Let's talk about three different horse disciplines: Reining, Cutting and Barrel Racing. Each of these events has one thing in common that leads to success which is the stop.

The Reiner is all about the slide which is moving forward through the stop. To accomplish this the horse's body must be straight with an extreme break in the poll allowing the back to soften thus creating the sliding stop. Note the picture of the reining horse with the tuck of the head, roundness of the back plus the forward motion.

(see photos on page 2)

The Cutter is the opposite; this stop has to happen now and is finished with a backup move or a rollover on the hocks. Again the horse has to be managed in the poll, but cutters prefer the nose out, not up and following the cow. They must be able to control the

shoulder; if not the horse drops in the turn creating issues. The picture of the cutting horse shows the direction of the nose, immediate stop and lifted shoulder.

The Barrel Racing horse stop in my opinion is the toughest train. You need the horse to move forward through the stop adding flex to the body-nose position as the lead point is out yet not elevated. As in the cutting horse the shoulder needs to stay up off the barrel yet allowing motion through the stop similar to the reining horse. Hips must stay engaged and push through the turn. 'Fuzz' is leading with his nose, shoulder up and moving forward through the stop in his picture.

Bits used by reiner's and cutters are similar. They include the grazing, sweetwaters, high and low ports with very few broken mouth

pieces. Cutters tend to use sure-stops and side-pulls. The purpose of these are to keep the horse's head in a correct position and target the stop.

The bits typically used by barrel racers are the o-ring snaffles, shank snaffles, 3-piece dog-bone and gag combinations. These bits target the bend or flex in the horse. But these bits lack the functionality to control the hips and lift the shoulder.

As a trainer that has ridden reiners, cutters and now barrel horses I have found that bit options were severely lacking for training and showing barrel horses. I needed bits that provided the stop, shoulder lift and flex in a horse. I designed, tested and produced a line of bits that I use in my barrel training program. These bits allow me to lift a shoulder, main-

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tain flex and keep a forward motion through the turn. These are tools of the trade and can complement anyone's training program.

In the coming months I will discuss in detail how I train my barrel horses. Topics will include the stop, forward motion through the turn all while keeping the shoulder lifted; along with the tools that are needed to accomplish these steps.

Fred



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Types of Horse Disciplines



See Video Example:
[Wee Boss Man](#)



All About Bits

The Show to Win from the Josey-Hunter Bit Line is just what the name implies; this bit has a combination effect on your horse. It lifts the shoulder, keeps the bend and provides the stop while allowing the horse to follow his nose through the barrel turn. Practical for everyday riding but recommended for competition use—neoprene bit guards and rope curb strap included.