

D-Level Tack Worksheet

Directions: Fill in the blanks as you read or discuss tack (see the USPC D Manual, pgs. 247 – 282).

A. Names and Parts of Tack

1. Parts of a Saddle
2. Parts of a Bridle
3. Halter, Lead Rope and Lead Shank
 - a. Halters do not have a _____, so they can be used to tie a pony safely.
 - b. A lead rope can be made of cotton, hemp, or braided synthetic material. You should not use lead ropes made of slippery plastic or _____.
 - c. Chain lead shanks are used for extra control. Never use it to _____.
4. The Bit and How it Works
 - a. Bits are made of _____, _____, or _____.
 - b. Bits work by _____, not pain.

B. Three Kinds of Bits

- i. Snaffle – works by _____ pressure.
- ii. Kimberwicke – works by _____ (which multiplies the pressure).
- iii. Pelham – is a _____ - _____ bit. The top rein acts as a _____ and the bottom rein acts as a curb bit.

C. Carrying and Handling Tack

1. Unless you're riding, your stirrups should be _____.

D. Taking Care of Your Tack

1. Four Steps in Tack Care

- a. Clean
 - i. This keeps your leather from becoming _____ and _____ and _____ on your pony's skin and your hands.
 - ii. It prevents the leather from _____ and _____.
- b. Condition
 - i. Replaces the lost _____ in the leather.
 - ii. Apply _____ to seal the pores after oiling your tack.
- c. Place
 - i. Tack should be kept where it is _____.
 - ii. It should not be dropped, scratched, knocked over, or _____ by animals.
 - iii. Saddle pads should be hung up to dry.
- d. Repair
 - i. Check for _____ and wear every time you use or clean your tack.
 - ii. Your tack can become _____ if you don't keep your tack in good repair.

2. How to Clean Tack

- a. Preparing
- b. Cleaning
 - i. Remove dirt and _____.
 - ii. Make sure the soap doesn't _____.
- c. Conditioning
 - i. Only if your leather is not _____ and _____.
 - ii. Paint the conditioner on the _____ of the leather.
 - iii. Don't get oil on _____ or on cloth. It stains!

- d. Protecting the Leather
 - i. Done _____ cleaning and any oiling.
 - ii. Glycerin saddle soap _____ the pores of the leather.
- E. Tack Safety Check: Condition and Repair
 1. Parts to check include:
 - a. Saddle Tree
 - i. If it is _____ or _____, it can hurt your pony's back.
 - ii. Check to see if the tree is broken by _____.
 - b. Leather
 - i. Should be strong, _____, free from cracks, and not _____.
 - ii. Cracks with brown powder in them are called _____.
 - c. Stitching – should not be _____ or missing.
 - d. Billets – should not be _____, worn out or cracked.
 - e. Stirrup Leathers – must be strong, without _____ or too many _____.
 - f. Stirrup Bars – should always be in the _____ position, and not _____.
 - g. Girth
 - h. Keepers and Runners
 - i. Synthetic (Non-Leather) Tack
 - i. You must always use a leather “_____” crownpiece on your halter.
- F. Adjusting and Fitting Tack
 1. Saddle Fitting
 - a. How to Check the Fit of Saddle to Pony
 - i. There should be a clear channel over your pony's _____.
 - ii. _____ fingers should fit between saddle and withers.
 - iii. No pinching along shoulder blade.
 - b. Saddle Too Wide
 - i. Presses down on _____.
 - ii. Can be fixed by _____ or (temporarily) using a _____.
 - c. Saddle Too Narrow
 - i. Will dig into back _____ and pinch _____.
 - ii. The only solution is to use a _____ saddle.
 - d. Balance of Saddle
 - i. The “_____” of a saddle should be in the _____.
 - e. Girth Fitting
 - i. A girth should have _____ spare holes above the buckles and at least _____ spare hole below the buckles (when tightened).
 - ii. Types of Girths
 - f. Stirrup Leathers
 - i. They should have several spare holes.
 - ii. Don't punch too many “_____”, because it weakens the leather.
 - iii. Changing from side to side will help them _____ out evenly.
- G. Fitting Bits and Bridles
 1. Bits should be about ¼ inch wider than your pony's mouth.
 2. Snaffles
 - a. Should make one or two gentle _____ at the corners of his lips (like a _____).
 - b. Full-cheek snaffles should have _____ so the upper cheeks don't catch on something.
 3. Pelhams, Kimberwickes, and Curb Chains

- a. Should not make more than _____ small wrinkle(s).
 - b. Curb chain should lie flat (about two fingers width) so the bit can rotate _____ degrees.
4. Fitting Other Parts of the Bridle
- a. Browband – must be long enough so it doesn't _____ or _____ the base of the ears.
 - b. Throatlash – must be able to fit a _____ between it and pony's cheek.
 - c. Crownpiece – should have _____ extra holes above the cheek piece buckles.
 - d. Cavesson headstall – adjust the _____ of the _____.
 - e. Cavesson noseband – should be _____ finger's width below cheekbones.

H. How Other Items Should Fit

- 1. Saddle Pads
 - a. The British term is “_____”.
 - b. Should have a _____-inch border around (unless it's a square pad).
- 2. Breastplate (Hunt Style)
 - a. Keeps the saddle from _____.
- 3. Breast Collar (Event or Polo Type)
- 4. Standing Martingale
 - a. Never attach to a _____ noseband.
 - b. Adjusted so it can be pushed up to _____ a pony's throat when head is in normal position.
 - c. Only allowed for _____ Pony Club riders.
- 5. Running Martingale
 - a. Adjusted with an _____ of slack when pony's head is in a normal position.
 - b. They are _____ and not for beginners!
- 6. Dropped Noseband
- 7. Flash Noseband
- 8. Figure 8 Noseband

I. Selecting the Right Tack

- 1. Saddle
 - a. An _____-_____ balanced seat saddle is best for PC riding.
 - b. Some saddles are not acceptable: _____.
 - c. Fitting Saddle to Rider
 - i. Rider can sit balanced, with _____ width of cantle behind him.
- 2. Bridles and Other Tack
 - a. Comes in several sizes: _____, _____, and _____.
 - b. Caution! Bridles for ponies should not have _____ reins.
 - c. Bits
 - i. Must not be _____, rough or worn thin.
 - ii. Avoid _____ bits – they bend and develop thin spots and _____.
 - d. Fittings
 - i. Stirrup irons should be _____ wider than the rider's foot.
 - ii. _____ stirrup irons are the safest for small children (and clubbers).

J. Learning More About Tack

- 1. See how quickly you put together a bridle.
- 2. Invite local saddler to come and talk to your Pony Club.
- 3. Make a “wish list” of tack you'd like to own.
- 4. Play tack parts tag with other clubbers.
- 5. Have a tack cleaning party.
- 6. Read the USPC C and A Manuals or other books (check your club library!!).