

July 2017

# THE COLLECTION

The Monthly Newsletter of the Iowa Dressage and Combined Training Association

## Happy Independence Day!!

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### Special Points of Interest

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If you want to  
get involved in  
a committee,  
please contact  
one of the  
members listed!

## PUBLISHING RATES for Clinics, Show Bills, & other ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** include clinics and shows. Member rates apply to clinics and shows sponsored by an individual IaDCTA member. Nonmember rates apply to clinics and shows sponsored by groups other than the IaDCTA.

**CHANGE OF HAND** is our classified advertising section. Each item is limited to a maximum of 20 words per month and each member is limited to 2 items per month.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS** is our listing of local and regional events. It includes only the event name, date and contact information.

**MARKETPLACE** is our advertising for professionals and facilities. Submit any size listing for inclusion for the same rates as above. Ad placement will depend on size. A discount of \$10.00 per month applies to full page ads running for 6 consecutive months. Send all materials and announcements to:

**Email:** collectioneditor@hotmail.com

**Mail:** Katie Barrowcliff, 1330 44th St. Unit A, Marion, IA 52302

Please send payment for any submissions to Katie at the above address.

**Materials are due by the 25th of each month and will not be printed until payment is received.**

	Members	Nonmembers
<b>Full Page</b>	\$30.00	\$45.00
<b>Half Page</b>	\$25.00	\$35.00
<b>Quarter Page</b>	\$10.00	\$25.00
<b>Business Card</b>	\$7.00	\$15.00
<b>Change of Hand</b>	Free	\$5.00
<b>Calendar of Events</b>	Free	\$5.00
<b>Marketplace</b>	\$30.00	\$30.00
<b>E-mail Blast</b>	\$10.00	\$10.00



The following forms can be found  
on the IaDCTA website  
([www.iadcta.org](http://www.iadcta.org)):

- \* Show Recognition Contract
  - \* Membership Form
- \* Betsy Coester Guidelines and Application
  - \* Year-End Award Guidelines
    - \* Sponsorship Form

*IaDCTA is a USDF  
Group Member  
Organization (GMO),  
and all members are  
automatically USDF  
Group Members  
(GMs). For USDF  
Participating  
Membership,  
members must apply  
directly to USDF.*

**We're Online:**

**[www.iadcta.org](http://www.iadcta.org) or  
visit our Facebook  
page**



# July 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <i>Dressage at Tamarack; Tamarack Stables, Anamosa, IA</i> <i>Part B of USDF L Education Program; Lincoln, NE</i>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <i>Fantasy III; MLEC, Cummings, IA</i>
<b>23</b> <i>Fantasy III; MLEC, Cummings, IA</i>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <i>LR Eventing Cross Country Clinic; Leighton, IA</i>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <i>Two Rivers Dressage Classic I &amp; II; MLEC, Cummings, IA</i>
<b>30</b> <i>Two Rivers Dressage Classic I &amp; II; MLEC, Cummings, IA</i>	<b>31</b>					

# August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Dressage at Tamarack; Tamarack Stables, Anamosa, IA  MRR/Dressage Basics Schooling Show; Middle River Ranch, Winterset, IA
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

Did you  
know  
that as a  
member...

...you will receive  
complimentary  
issues of the award  
winning *USDF  
Connection*?





## **Iowa Dressage and Combined Training Association's 2017 Road to the Championships**

April 22-23, 2017- Laura Rietveld Eventing Spring Show; Leighton, IA

May 6-7, 2017- Fantasy I; MLEC, Cummings, IA

May 27-28, 2017- Iowa Arabian Mayflower Dressage & Sport Horse Show; IA State Fairgrounds, Des Moines, IA

May 28, 2017- Catalpa Corner Spring Show; North Liberty, IA

June 10, 2017- - Dressage at Tamarack; Tamarack Stables; Anamosa, IA

June 10-11, 2017- Maffitt Lake Dressage Classic I & II; MLEC, Cummings, IA

June 17, 2017- MRR/Dressage Basics; Middle River Ranch; Winterset, IA

June 24-25, 2017- Fantasy II; MLEC, Cummings, IA

July 8, 2017- - Dressage at Tamarack; Tamarack Stables; Anamosa, IA

July 22-23, 2017- Fantasy III; MLEC, Cummings, IA

July 29-30, 2017- Two Rivers Dressage Classic I & II; MLEC, Cummings, IA

August 12, 2017- Dressage at Tamarack; Tamarack Stables; Anamosa, IA

August 12, 2017- MRR/Dressage Basics; Middle River Ranch; Winterset, IA

September 9, 2017- MRR/Dressage Basics; Middle River Ranch; Winterset, IA

September 23-24, 2017-Fantasy Finale; MLEC, Cummings, IA

### Championship Shows

September 23, 2017- COMBINED TRAINING AND EVENTING CHAMPIONSHIPS; Middle River Ranch; Winterset, IA

October 21-22, 2017- DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS; Ellsworth Community College; Iowa Falls, IA

# Nominating Your Horse

If you have not nominated the horse that you want to show this year, you can do so by going to [www.iadcta.org](http://www.iadcta.org) and clicking on the link on the homepage. The nomination fee is \$10.00, and along with 7 hours of volunteer time, you will be eligible for year end awards. You will not be able to use any scores from an IaDCTA recognized show received prior to nominating your horse. If you have already nominated your horse when you renewed your membership or signed up as a new member, you are good to go. Any questions, contact Richard Hildreth at 515-205-2249 or MiddleRiver-Ranch@aol.com.



# The Outside Rein

By Jane Savoie

By [Associate Editor](#) on June 18, 2014

The outside rein is a multi-tasking rein, and it's important to understand the various jobs it does. Those jobs include:

- Turning
- Speed control
- Connection
- Flexion
- Collection/Engagement

Depending on what you want to do, you'll use different actions of the outside rein. For example:

## **Turning:**

Bring the outside rein toward the neck in the direction you want to turn as if putting your fist into withers. Be sure not to cross over the withers when you move your hand. Also, while moving your outside hand, be sure to maintain inside flexion so your horse doesn't counter-flex or bend his neck to the outside. Maintain the flexion to the inside by turning your wrist as if locking and unlocking a door.

## **Speed Control:**

Close your hand in a fist quickly and then relax it again. You should have the feeling of snatching a fly out of the air.

## **Connection:**

To create connection (put your horse on the bit), close both legs and feel the beginning of the surge of a lengthening. As you feel the power of the lengthening, close your outside hand in a fist and keep it closed. If your horse starts to bend his neck to the outside, vibrate the inside rein to keep his neck straight. Maintain all of those aids for approximately 3 seconds.

## **Flexion:**

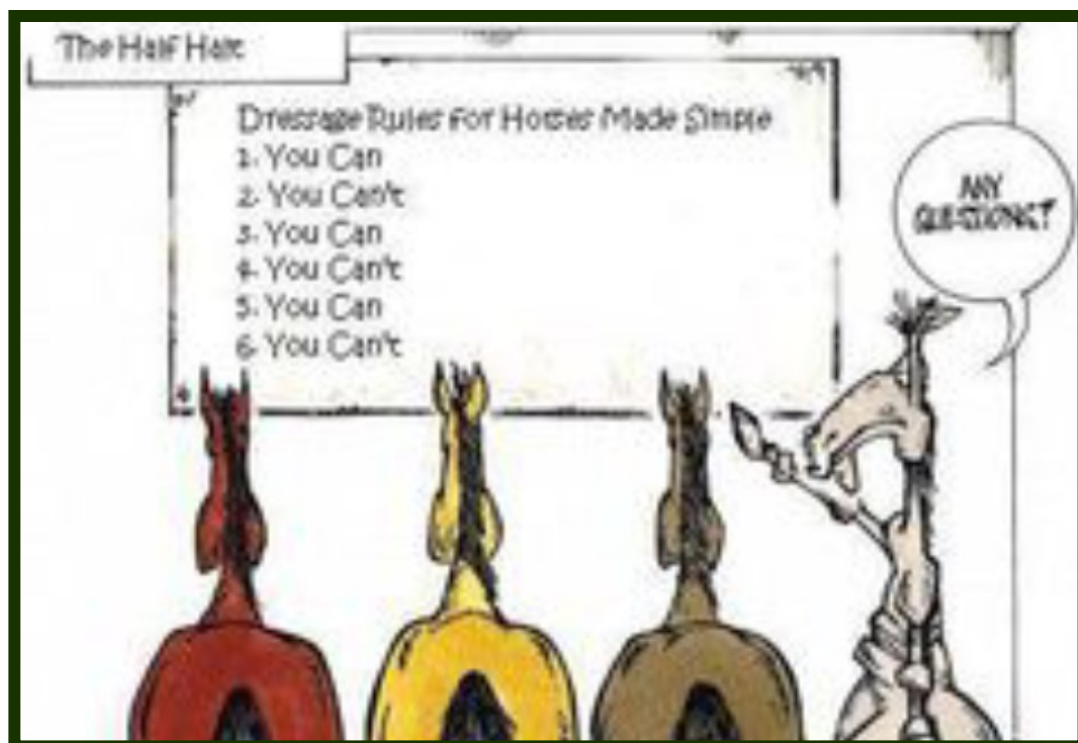
Horses can flex 3 ways — left, right, and "in". To get flexion left or right (also called "position"), give one quick turn of your inside wrist so that your thumb points toward the center of the ring, and your fingernails point up toward your face. Once you've turned the wrist, return it to "home position" with the thumb as the highest point of the hand. While turning your inside wrist, support with your outside rein. Pretend that your outside rein is a siderein, and mimic that steady feeling through your arm. Supporting with your outside rein insures that your horse just flexes at his poll rather than bending his whole neck.

When you ask for flexion “in” at his throatlatch, you’re asking your horse to flex at the jaw. For flexion “in”, vibrate or squeeze and release on ONE rein. The other rein is steady and supporting like a siderein.

**Collection/Engagement:**

To ask your horse to collect, give “collecting half halts” which are a momentary closure of seat, legs, and hands. The action is to quickly “take and give”. To create engagement within the walk or trot, give the half halt when the inside hind leg is on the ground. (Your inside hip will feel higher or pushed forward.)

To engage the outside hind leg in preparation for a canter depart, push with your seat, close both legs, and give a quick squeeze/release with the outside hand. Give the half halts when the outside hind leg is on the ground.



## Members and Horse Nominations 2017

Updated 6/26/2017

\*Rookie- First year of IaDCTA/USDF GMO membership

# Junior Member

Numbers are supplied to the best of current knowledge

Member	IaDCTA	USDF	Horse Nomination
05/02/17 Amanda Ahrens*	10502	216224	
05/07/17 Rhea Allen	10411	201898	05/07/17 Faith Bar Dee 05/07/17 Super Scotch Mollee
12/16/16 Linda Anderson	10476	153204	
12/01/16 Melinda Antisdell	10189	43022	
04/27/17 Natasha Arritt*	10500	215857	
04/23/17 Mandy Aschoff*	10415	215855	04/23/17 Friendly Glide/TB
04/25/17 Connie Avis	10236	179292	04/25/17 Nys Fane Hoogheland
12/01/16 Nicole Ayers	10469	211669	05/31/17 Never Rule Me Out
01/08/17 Danielle Baker	10334	190130	01/08/17 Mystique
01/06/17 Katie Barrowcliff	10338	179287	
02/11/17 Samantha Bell	10455	210198	02/11/17 Tex
05/29/17 Cate Brown*#	10507	216698	05/29/17 Babe
12/01/16 Kathryn Butterfield#	10435	209722	12/14/16 Buck
12/03/16 Amy Cone*	10475	209722	
05/01/17 Diana Coughlin	10501	164182	
02/20/17 Debi Crews*	10482	214558	
02/20/17 Gary Crews*	10503	family	
12/01/16 Mary Curran	10108	17057	
12/01/16 Nena Denman	10111	7624	
03/12/17 Kelly Derry*	10493	215229	03/12/17 Oklahoma
12/01/16 Deb De Vries	10110	39149	
03/30/17 Lauren Doty#*	10496	215746	03/30/17 Boy Blue
05/29/17 Julia Dudgeon	10508	216699	
12/01/16 Rhiannon Dudley-Lucas	10360	43389	12/01/16 Built to Win
12/01/16 Mala Erickson	10413	167003	
04/18/17 Amanda Fales-Williams	10497	193849	04/18/17 Huckleberry Finn
12/01/16 Carmela Feldman	10325	177741	
12/01/16 Leonard Foley	10167	family	
12/01/16 Molly Foley	10168	family	12/01/16 Athaena*M*/ATA
12/01/16 Patricia Foley	10169	12072	12/01/16 Aragonn/ATA
12/31/16 Pamela Gillam	10436	209724	
01/23/17 Sharon Greif	10480	190138	
05/15/17 Kate (Katherine) Halstrum#*	10505	216483	05/15/17 Bob 05/27/17 George
02/20/17 Judy Hand*	10483	214559	
02/20/17 Mary Hanson	10484	161944	02/20/17 Cat 02/20/17 Mouse
12/01/16 Jane Heck	10258	164175	
02/02/17 Sharon Scandrett Hibdon	10440	176846	

12/01/16 Richard Hildreth	10468	family	
04/26/17 Libby Hott	10343	family	
04/26/17 Timmy Hott	10342	191269	
01/08/17 Deborah K. Johnson	10329	177713	01/08/17 H. Eros
01/02/17 Loline Johnson	10160	42920	01/02/17 Vienna
04/26/17 Alyson Kalsem#	10499	183079	04/26/17 Cufflinks
02/27/17 Daniele Kalsem	10488	183080	04/25/17 Luvabull Heiress/TB TIPP
02/27/17 Michele Kalsem	10487	42849	04/25/17 Mr. Pappagiorgio/TBTIPP
01/08/17 Kelly Kaut	10478	192567	01/08/17 Magic Victory
12/01/16 Pamela Koehler	10176	5260	01/08/17 This Magic Moment 01/08/17 Taking Chances
12/01/16 Tom Koehler	10177	family	01/08/17 Rowdy Yates 01/08/17 ThreezaCharm
03/30/17 Elizabeth Kraayenbrink*	10471	215854	04/30/17 Nothing Artificial/AQHA
06/16/17 Julie Kuhle	10130	43616	06/16/16 Orion
02/20/17 Carol Linnan	10131	59959	01/13/17 Forbes Gunner
06/13/17 Meaghan Marinovich*	10510	216704	
05/22/17 Noelle McClain	10504	216484	05/22/17 Blitz
05/29/17 Maleah McGrew*#	10509	216703	05/29/17 Dottie
03/08/17 Paula Meyer	10135	45060	03/08/17 Bravissimo
02/15/17 Elizabeth Miller*	10481	214560	
01/17/17 Jennifer Moore*	10479	213961	
02/10/17 Julie Moore	10211	174914	05/18/17 Sweet Chief
05/29/17 Katie Mulbrook#	10465	216702	05/28/17 Horizon
02/01/17 Camryn Norton#	10448	185025	02/01/17 Coyote's Royal Gal
02/01/17 Lyndon Norton#	10449	family	02/01/17 Hannah Montana
01/19/17 Tracy O'Dell	10437	73994	
02/02/17 Lindsay O'Regan*	10489	215228	
03/12/17 Connie Otto	10492	176238	03/12/17 Panoramic
12/01/16 Lois Pienkos	10430	26700	06/20/17 O'Shamu Moon
02/20/17 Carmen Pierce*	10485	214562	02/20/17 Addie's Edge
01/08/17 Katie Poling*	10477	214259	
01/01/17 Deb Pulver	10145	43687	
05/18/17 Autumn Rathjens#*	10464	216485	05/18/17 Stage Skips Encore
03/17/17 Laura Rietveld*	10495	132117	
12/04/16 Catherine Ross-Garron	10422	206061	
05/23/17 Sherrill Scott	10310	164176	05/23/17 Bonnie Lass
12/01/16 Robin Sprafka	10467	120147	04/26/17 Arthur
02/11/17 Carie Steinkamp*	10486	214564	02/11/17 Tempo Five
11/28/16 Camie Stockhausen	10154	30347	
01/08/17 Amy Stoneking	10459	210199	01/08/17 JP Shot of Whiskey
01/05/17 Heather Swarinski	10439	102379	04/26/17 WRA Maverick Ace 04/26/17 WRA Striken Gold
11/30/16 Tamara Swor*	10474	67335	
03/16/17 Trudy Tatum	10157	39202	
01/08/17 Britni Taylor	10457	210200	01/08/17 Italian Monarch
12/15/16 Amanda Towery	10451	204621	01/08/17 Lady Kee



			01/08/17 Loki's Got Tricks
01/08 17 Alyvia Tranquillo (Towery)	10452	family	01/08/17 Dakota
03/12/17 Sally Tracy*	10494	215226	03/12/17 WildwycheBannedinBoston
12/11/16 Derith Vogt	10309	114270	01/08/17 Carolyn's Courage/TBTIP
			04/26/17 Helen Poco Blackburn
12/01/16 Meredith Watters	10161	8879	
03/12/17 Tristen Wigg #	10377	195620	03/12/17 Aba Daba Go
			03/12/17 Qricket
04/18/17 Laurel Williams#	10498	193848	04/18/17 Huckleberry Finn
01/08/17 Heather Wilson-Roller	10472	105177	01/08/17 Moon
			01/08/17 Leah
			01/08/17 Bonnie
03/02/17 Sabrina Wright	10352	192566	03/02/17 Swedish Dala
			03/02/17 Mattie
02/11/17 Lou Ann Wulf	10380	42836	02/11/17 Busy Kitty
			02/11/17 Zoom Zoom
12/01/16 Barbara Zukowski	10166	16104	



## Dressage at Tamarack I Show Results

Judge at C: Rebecca O'Bea

11-Jun-17

<u>Class</u>	<u>Rider</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Place</u>
<b>In Hand</b>					
	Derith Vogt	Helen	VAA	74.0000%	1
	Hannah Jungling	Bella	Open	77.0000%	1
<b>First Level Test 3</b>					
	Tracy O'Dell	I'm Loving the Spotlight	AA	72.6470%	1
	Megan Ward	Autopilot	AA	66.0294%	2
<b>Introductory Level Test A</b>					
	Julia Dudgeon	Dottie	Under 14	67.1875%	1
	Nekoda Coleman	Hot Sauce	Under 14	65.9375%	2
	Autumn Rathjens	Stage Skips Encore	Under 14	65.3125%	3
	Maleah McGrew	Dottie	Under 14	64.6875%	4
	Cate Brown	Babe	Under 14	63.7500%	5
<b>Second Level Test 1</b>					
	Tracy O'Dell	I'm Loving the Spotlight	AA	69.2400%	1
	Megan Ward	Autopilot	AA	66.2100%	2
<b>Introductory Level Test B</b>					
	Katie Butterfield	Buck	JR/YR	67.5000%	1
	Katie Mulbrook	Horizon	JR/YR	62.8125%	2
	Autumn Rathjens	Stage Skips Encore	Under 14	67.1800%	1
	Maleah McGrew	Dottie	Under 14	66.8750%	2
	Cate Brown	Babe	Under 14	65.0000%	3
	Julia Dudgeon	Dottie	Under 14	64.3750%	4
<b>Introductory Level Test C</b>					
	Cate Brown	Babe	Under 14	63.0000%	1
<b>Training Level Test 1</b>					
	Alexandria Novotny Pasker	Born to Jump	AA	63.9100%	1
	Katie Butterfield	Buck	JR/YR	68.2608%	1
	Sydney Burlage	Tuck	JR/YR	67.6100%	2
	Katie Mulbrook	Horizon	JR/YR	64.1304%	3
	Cate Brown	Babe	Under 14	62.8300%	1
<b>Training Level Test 2</b>					
	Katie Mulbrook	Horizon	JR/YR	66.7307%	1
	Katie Butterfield	Buck	JR/YR	66.3500%	2
	Jane Heck	Darius	VAA	65.3800%	1
	Chantelle Karr	Sinatra	AA	scratch	scratch
<b>USEA Novice</b>					
	Alexandria Novotny Pasker	Born to Jump	AA	65.7500%	1

## Dressage at Tamarack I Show Results

Judge at C: Rebecca O'Bea

11-Jun-17

<u>Class</u>	<u>Rider</u>	<u>Horse</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Place</u>
<b>Training Level Test 3</b>					
	Derith Vogt	Carolyn's Courage	VAA	70.0000%	1
	Jane Heck	Darius	VAA	64.3181%	2
	Chantelle Karr	Sinatra	AA	scratch	scratch
<b>First Level Test 1</b>					
	Elizabeth Sauter	Giana	AA	60.0000%	1
	Maija Lisa Luttinger	Dread Pirate Roberts	JR/YR	63.3300%	1
<b>Introductory Level Test A</b>					
	Madison Givens	Pinch of Spice	AA	68.1250%	1
	Kaelin Schildmier	Baloo	AA	67.8100%	1
<b>First Level Test 2</b>					
	Derith Vogt	Carolyn's Courage	VAA	67.6562%	1
	Elizabeth Sauter	Giana	AA	69.0625%	1
<b>Introductory Level Test B</b>					
	Kaelin Schildmier	Baloo	AA	67.1875%	1
	Madison Givens	Pinch of Spice	AA	65.6250%	2
	Sandra Ross	Jake of Hearts	AA	61.5600%	3
<b>Pas Deux</b>					
	Katie Butterfield	Buck	JR/YR	75.7500%	1
	Katie Mulbrook	Horizon	JR/YR		1
<b>High Point</b>					
	Derith Vogt	Carolyn's Courage	VAA	T-3	70.0000%
	Tracy O'Dell	I'm Loving the Spotlight	AA	First 3	72.6470%
	Katie Butterfield	Buck	JR/YR	T-1	68.2608%
	Julia Dudgeon	Dottie	Under 14	Intro A	67.1875%
<b>TIP Award</b>					
	Derith Vogt	Carolyn's Courage	VAA	T-3	70.0000%



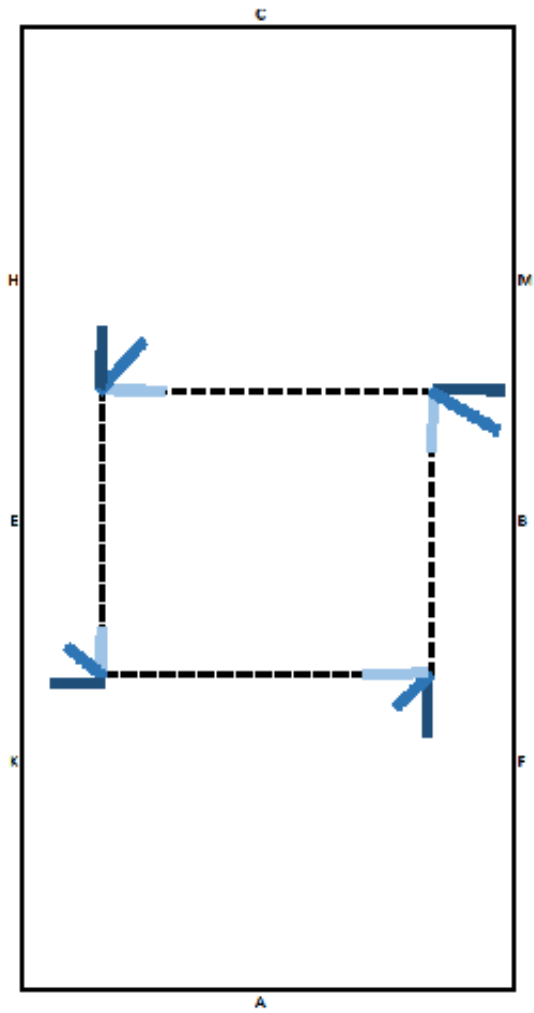
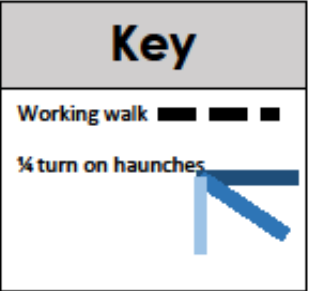
## Turns on the Square A

**Benefit:** Practicing submissive halts and lateral steps loosens your horse first in the walk and then in the trot.

### How do I ride this?

1. Begin by riding a 15-meter square at the walk.
2. At each corner of the square, come to a balanced halt.
3. To make the corner, ride a quarter turn on the haunches.
4. Ride along the line of the square to the next corner.
5. Repeat the quarter turn on the haunches at every corner.
6. Practice in both directions. When the exercise is confirmed at the walk, ride the same pattern in trot.

Have an exercise you like to do with your horse? Send it to [collectioneditor@hotmail.com](mailto:collectioneditor@hotmail.com) and be a part the Collection!



**Keep in mind:** Your horse must be able to perform a turn on the haunches reliably and responsively before starting this exercise.

In the turn on the haunches, your horse should respond to light isometric pressure from your outside leg. Do not move your leg back or squeeze with your calf, but apply pressure from your entire leg against the rib cage. During the turn, he must remain balanced around your inside leg so that he does not fall in to the middle of the square. After each turn, ask your horse to stride out with forward energy to the next corner.

Have an exercise you like to do with your horse? Send it to [collectioneditor@hotmail.com](mailto:collectioneditor@hotmail.com) and be a part the Collection!

## The Basics of Dressage with Christian Thiess: Riding the horse into the outside rein

Christian Thiess explains the 'how' of getting that essential straightness by riding the horse into the outside rein...

One of our tasks as riders is, when we encounter our horse's natural crookedness during the preparation, is to influence them to move straight. The first step in this progress is to make the horse accept the bit evenly on both sides.

Only a horse who accepts the bit correctly and evenly is capable of making further improvements. This is the only way the rider can gain control over the horse's hind legs and influence them, and therefore the horse, to move straight.



Charlotte Dujardin and Barolo – straight

To influence the horse to accept both sides of the bit evenly seems to be a big hurdle for most riders, especially those who find their horse leans on the bit on its stiff side, and feels hollow and reluctant to take a contact on the opposite side. But it doesn't need to be!

There is good news! There is a riding technique which can help you achieve your goal. The technique is called riding the horse into the outside rein. The German expression is *Das Pferd an den ausseren Zügel heran reiten*.

How can you learn this technique? Fortunately there are some simple exercises to help. The easiest way is to ride your horse on a circle at walk and engage the inside hind leg through a half parade (half halt), and at the same time push the inside hind leg under the horse's body in the direction of the outside rein.

To do this you will need to apply a lateral aid, which will be the half parade on the inside. At the same time you will have to apply a diagonal aid. This will be the pushing of the inside leg in the direction of the outside rein.

The aids need to be very similar to shoulder in. In fact, at walk they should be exaggerated and the result should be a shoulder in on the circle. If you are not familiar with riding shoulder in, begin with aids similar to leg yield. This will be the first step towards achieving the goal of riding the horse straight.

Try to offer the horse a firmer contact on the outside rein. Also, try if necessary to increase the pressure of your inside leg until the horse is really bending his inside hind leg under his body in the direction of his centre of gravity (body mass). The inside leg will step closer and in front of the outside one.

At the same time try to use your outside leg to prevent the horse's outside leg from falling out. Try to keep it stepping in the line of the outside foreleg. In the moment when the horse stops resisting, and engages and bends his inside hind leg, you will feel a wonderful difference. It is almost as if a magical change has occurred. The horse will suddenly flex at the poll and accept the contact with the outside rein. By accepting this contact he will take an even contact on the bit – in other words, he will take the inside rein too. This is essential and is the key value of the technique.

You will feel that you have full control over the hind legs of your horse and therefore you will be able to control and influence the whole horse. You will have him 100% on the aids.



**Charlotte and Barolo – 100% on the aids**

At the trot or canter you should not aim to actually ride a proper shoulder in (or leg yield) on the circle. Instead you should aim to apply the aids in a similar manner to when you ride shoulder in (or leg yield). Emphasize to the horse that he should engage his inside hind leg and push it in the direction of the outside rein. It is most beneficial if the horse comes to a shoulder-fore position.

As a rider it is important to realize that to be able to ride the straightening exercises correctly, it is necessary to be able to apply the aids correctly, especially the half parade inside at the right moment. It is through using the half parade at the correct time that we, as riders, are able to really influence the inside hind leg.

Now that we have looked at the first step in straightening the horse, let us look at some of the problems or resistances we may encounter with our horses. Let's begin with an example of riding a right footed horse.



### **Right Hind leg stepping under the body**

When you try to ride a right footed horse into the outside rein on the right rein (that is going to the right) you will have more difficulties influencing the horse to engage his right hind leg and step under his body. The right hind leg is the leg which generates all the problems related to the crookedness. But don't despair. You will find it easier to achieve a contact on the outside rein by using the horse's tendency to fall over his left shoulder. In this way the horse will look for support by trying to lean on the left rein.



The right handed horse will try other evasions to avoid engaging the right hind. One is to curl his neck at the shoulder to the right. In this way the horse will increase his tendency to fall over the left shoulder. The rider can correct or limit this evasion by limiting the horse's neck bend with the left rein contact, combined with a stronger influence of the right leg.

The horse may also push against your right leg with his right hind. Once again, this can be corrected through using stronger right leg aids. If this doesn't help, you will have to interrupt the exercise and ride the horse forward in an energetic working trot, and do some suppling exercises such as transitions to working canter and back to trot. Then go back to the previous exercises and gradually increase your demands.

Do not despair if the horse does not respond as you wish at the first time of asking. It is worth comparing the horse with a person who is participating in their first aerobics class. At first they are not supple or athletic enough to be able to execute every exercise well. However, over time they improve until not only have they mastered the original exercises, but they can graduate to more difficult ones.

On the left rein with a right handed horses you will have fewer difficulties engaging the left (inside) hind leg because this leg's joints, ligaments and muscles are already used to engaging and carrying the weight.

However, you may have serious difficulties influencing the horse to bend to the left because his left side is his stiff side. Often the horse leans on the left rein, and riders have problems correcting this. Also, the horse avoids accepting the contact with the right outside rein (because the right side is his hollow side). It helps to apply coordinated half parades inside every stride to engage the horse's inside hind leg and to try and supple him on the left side.



When your aids are successful (*come through*) you will influence the horse to stop leaning or pushing against the left rein. The horse will suddenly accept the outside rein and therefore the bit.



You also may have difficulties on the left rein with the outside hind leg, which is the leg which causes the problems by trying to avoid stepping in the tracks of the outside foreleg. By keeping your outside leg firmly behind the girth you should correct this evasion. However, sometimes this will not be enough and more engagement of this hind leg to keep it strictly in the track line of the foreleg will be beneficial.



If your horse ever loses the even contact with the bit through a variety of evasions it is now very simple to correct him. First of all you must understand that when the horse tilts his head, or comes above or behind the bit, or tosses his head, champs on the bit or leans on one side, he is trying to avoid engaging his hind legs and stepping into the contact. By increasing the demands on the inside hind leg to engage more, you will be able to influence the outside hind leg easier. Through controlling the hind legs you will be able to straighten the horse, and as a consequence he will accept the outside rein, and as soon as he accepts this, he will accept the contact with the entire bit. Therefore the evasion will disappear.



From my experience, riders in England or in countries which have been heavily influenced by English equitation, like Australia and New Zealand, find that riding the horse on the outside rein causes a lot of confusion. Some people believe that it is incorrect to try ride the

horse on the outside rein because the horse should accept the bit evenly on both sides, rather than on one side alone. However, it is necessary to understand that the horse cannot accept only one side of the bit. He can lean on one side, but he will not accept only one side in isolation. In other words, if the horse is accepting one side of the bit, he must be accepting the whole bit. Therefore, by riding the horse into the outside rein, we succeed in both straightening the horse and influencing him to accept the contact with the outside rein, and therefore with the entire bit.



To conclude, I would like to re-state the essence of riding the horse into the outside rein:

Through engaging and bending the horse's inside hind leg, the rider will be able to influence and engage the horse's outside hind easier and therefore push the horse from behind into the bit. This will cause the horse to accept the bit. Then the rider really will be able to ride the horse, influence him, exercise, bend and model him. The horse is said to be 'in front of the rider's legs'.

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