

Getting Ready to Go into the Ring

by Carolyn Aarup, Dakota Winds Farm

I have divided my presentation into 3 main parts:

“Sparkling Shampooed Mini” (Bathing)

“Colossally Clipped Mini” (Clipping)

“Sensational Show Day Mini” (Show Day Prep)

Each section is set up like a recipe card. Each “recipe” has the “Ingredients” needed for each part and then the instructions on how to “cook up” the “recipe”. Each part’s name is supposed to sound like a recipe. I have given you detailed instructions for each part and then also given you smaller “recipe” cards that can act as quick reference cards to use (perhaps keep them in your tack room, barn, wash stall, clipper box, tack box, etc).

I have based my presentation on my own personal experience gained in showing for a number of years. Please note the information I have provided is meant as a guide and hopefully gives you some tips that may be useful to you. It is meant by no means to be the only methods by which to bath, clip and show prep your Mini. Please take the information you like or what you feel would work for you and leave the rest. There are many different ways to bath, clip and show prep a Mini and I have presented methods that work well for me.

I encourage everyone to share their ideas, tips and “tricks of the trade”. I feel it is important to remain open to new ideas and to learn new methods and ways as the show ring expectations are ever changing and continue to have higher standards. I also encourage everyone to ask questions and consult other competitors for their ideas which can help you get ready to go into the show ring.

If you have any questions that you wish to ask me after the presentation, please feel free to approach me in person or email/phone me anytime (contact information proved below).

Thank you for listening and I hope you enjoy the presentation.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Aarup

SPARKLING SHAMPOOED MINI by Carolyn Aarup

“Ingredients” needed to create a Sparkling Shampooed Mini:

- Dirty Horse ☺
- Mane Comb
- Hoof pick
- Hose with spray nozzle attachment (or Bucket with warm water)
- Warm water
- Shampoo
- Grooming Jelly or Curry Comb
- Small sponge
- Clean Halter (optional)
- Small scrub brush
- Conditioner
- Sweat scraper
- Show Sheen
- Hair styling gel
- Braiding Elastics
- Neck slinky (optional)
- Body brush
- Wool or Polar Fleece Blanket (optional)
- Sun block (optional)

If razoring eyebrow and muzzle areas before a show:

- Bucket with warm water
 - Wash cloth
 - Shaving Gel
 - Disposable Twin Blade Razors (not cheap brands)
- If applying Hoof black or Clear coat on hooves the night before a show:
- Hoof Black or Clear Coat
 - Cold water in spray bottle – to set hoof black or clear coat on hooves

How to “cook” up a Sparkling Shampooed Mini:

Preparation

1. Tie your horse safely and securely using a quick release knot.
2. Comb out mane & tail to remove knots, burrs etc. (Start combing from bottom and work upwards to reduce breakage of hair). Pick out hooves.
3. Razoring (balding) – If this is your pre-show bath and you wish to razor (bald) your horse’s eyebrow and muzzle areas, do it at the beginning of your horse’s bath. For best results, razoring should be done the day before the show. Eyebrow: wet area above horse’s eye, apply warm washcloth to open pores to make razoring easier. Remove washcloth and apply a few drops of shaving gel above the eye and work into a lather (avoid getting it in the horse’s eyes). With razor, carefully shave against the hair using short strokes until all hair is removed and skin is smooth. The area razored should be from corner to corner in a slight arch over the eye. Start closest to edge of eyelid, working outward, rinsing razor and eye area frequently to view your work (reapply shaving gel and razor more if necessary). When the desired look is achieved, rinse eye area thoroughly and go on to do muzzle.

Muzzle: use same method as eyebrow with regard to wetting and lathering. Again, going against the hair, shave all visible hair from muzzle (including the inside of nostrils where excess hair shows). Shave up as far as the show halter noseband would sit, blending into the already clipped area of the face. Making a slight downward “V”, above the nose, shave higher on the sides of the face. This will avoid making a “ring” around the horses face and will look more blended.

Alternative to Razoring: As stated in the “Colossally Clipped Mini” section, an alternative to razoring the muzzle and eyebrow area is clipping with a #50 blade or the small personal Moustache/beard trimmers. If using this method, clip these areas before wetting the horse (after Step 2. above).

Lather, Rinse, Repeat (if necessary ☺)

1. To start the actual bath, begin by wetting the horse thoroughly. An excellent tool to bath with is a hose with an adjustable trigger nozzle. Depending on the horse's tolerance level, using the strongest spray setting removes the most amount of dirt & shampoo most efficiently and thus gives you the best results. Using a fairly strong spray setting, start spraying the top of the body, neck, along spine, working excess dirt downwards towards hooves. Finish by wetting head and face with a gentler spray setting or even with a wet sponge if the horse will not tolerate you spraying their face with the water directly from the hose.
2. Face and Head: put some shampoo into the forelock; work into a lather with your fingers. Using jelly curry comb, work shampoo into forehead, face and head, scrubbing gently to remove dirt. Using a sponge, wash sensitive areas (ears, eyes, muzzle). Rinse forelock, face and head well with hose on gentle spray setting (try not to let soap get into eyes). Use sponge with clear rinse water on areas that the horse is not tolerant of the hose. Remove excess water from face using hands like a squeegee (do not use sweat scraper as this is too hard on their face). Apply Show Sheen to forelock and entire head (be careful not to get spray into eyes), work in well with hands. Put on clean halter.

Body: apply shampoo to mane & tail. Using fingers, work in well to create a good lather. Leave on to soak to remove excess dirt. Using jelly curry comb, shampoo entire body working from top to bottom, working down legs. Rinse mane & tail; apply conditioner and leave to soak. Using scrub brush with a bit of shampoo, scrub outside of hooves (this will help hoof polish to adhere better later). With hose on strong spray setting, rinse off shampoo thoroughly starting with mane, along spine; again working from top to bottom to move dirt down. Using sweat scraper (again working from top to bottom), remove excess water from horse's body. On sensitive areas (legs) use hands to squeegee water down legs.

Finishing Touches

1. Spray on Show Sheen lightly over entire body and legs, mane & tail (be careful not to spray in eyes). Work into coat with hands for even distribution.
2. Comb out mane & tail. If your horse has a wild and unruly mane or tail, put a small dab of hair styling gel on it and braid it. Braid the mane to the side that you want the mane to lay. Keep in mind, braiding will result in a curly (kinked) mane; making large braids and combing them out when dry or early on show morning, will help reduce the "kinkiness". Alternately, you can put on a neck slinky but just make sure the mane is lying flat the way you want it under the slinky.
3. Using Body brush, brush face and body to ensure hair lays flat (freshly clipped horses do not need this).
4. Allow the horse to dry in a warm place. Putting on a wool or polar fleece blanket will absorb moisture and the horse will dry faster. If the horse is clipped, ensure it is not left in the sun for too long or it can burn. If necessary, apply Sun block especially to sensitive areas (nose) or razored/closely clipped areas (muzzle, over eyes, ears, fetlocks), while drying in the sun to avoid sunburn to these areas, especially if horse is light skinned.
5. After horse is completely dry and if it is the evening prior to a show, you may wish to apply Hoof Black or Clear coat to the hooves. After applying it, spray with cold water to help "set" the Hoof black or Clear coat.

Ta Da! You should have one nice Sparkling Shampooed Mini !!! ☺

COLOSSALLY CLIPPED MINI by Carolyn Aarup

“Ingredients” to create a Colossally Clipped Mini:

- Clean Horse (see “Sparkling Shampooed Mini” section) ☺
- Clothes for you that you don’t mind getting dirty and hairy
- Smock – ones the hairdressers use work great to reduce the amount of hair on your regular clothes
- Clippers – regular sized horse body clippers
- Extension cord – if outlet is far away from clipping station
- Optional: Clippers – small sized (moustache/beard trimmer type)
- Blades (#10, #15, #30, # 40, #50) – Note: the higher the blade # = the closer the clip/shorter the hair is cut
- Clipper Cooling Spray – keep blades cool
- Clipper Blade Wash – keep blades clean
- Small shallow container - for Blade wash (e.g. small margarine container)
- Clipper Oil – keep blades lubricated
- Paper towels or rags - to wipe excess oil off hands/clippers
- Toothbrush – to dislodge particles in blades if necessary
- Cotton – for horse’s ears to help reduce noise of clippers if needed
- Scissors – to attack unruly manes, fetlock feathers etc. for first clip of season
- Mane Comb – to comb out mane to check bridle path length and overall look
- Soft Body Brush – to brush off excess hair after clipping to help see any missed spots
- Hair Clip – to hold mane or tail back from clipping area
- Piece of string – if necessary to act as a guide to create the inverted “V” over tail
- Foam pad (like gardeners use) – to kneel on and save your knees when clipping lower parts (under belly, legs)
- Small Stool – to sit on and save your back when doing clipping lower parts (under belly, legs) on a QUIET horse ☺
- Twitch – just in case ☺

How to “Cook” up a Colossally Clipped Mini:

Legend: QC = Quick Clip / SC = Show Clip

HEAD: QC - #15 Entire face, Ears, Bridle path
SC - #50 (or use small clippers) Zone to be razored later (muzzle, over eyes), Bridle path
#40 (or use small clippers) Under chin, inside/outside ears
#15 or #30 rest of face and head

LEGS: QC - #10 Entire legs
SC - #40 Coronet band to fetlocks
#15 or #30 rest of legs

BODY: QC - #10 Entire neck and body
SC - #15 or #30 Entire neck and body (don’t forget the inverted “V” over tail)
#40 or #50 Under belly

1. Tie horse safely using a quick release knot.
2. Although you can start clipping whatever part of the horse you choose, starting on the “tricky” areas (head and legs) is a good idea when the horse is fresh and most patient at the beginning of the clipping session. These areas are more complex to clip and some horses, if they are going to act up, will do so while these areas are being clipped. Always clip against the angle of the hair growth and be sure to blend between different lengths of clipped hair (when different # blades are used). Check blades frequently while clipping

to ensure they are not getting hot otherwise they can burn the horse's skin. (See "Quick Clip Tips" section for more helpful tips to help make clipping easier).

3. **HEAD:** Please refer to above chart for which clipper blade to use. Start with muzzle and clip upwards to where the show halter noseband would rest. Blending from the muzzle area, work your way up front of face to forehead, cheeks and under chin. When clipping under the chin and the throatlatch area, be sure to hold the horse's head up and outwards to allow the skin underneath to become taut and thus making it easier to clip, giving you a cleaner, neater clip. The face is a bit tricky to do as it has so many grooves and bones to work over and around; just remember to clip against the hair at all times. When clipping around the eye area, be careful not to clip off the top eyelashes closest to eye as they serve to protect the eye. When doing ears, gently put some cotton down into the inside to restrict clipped hair from falling into the ear canal. The cotton can also help to muffle the sound of the clippers which can calm some nervous horses. Start at tips of ears and work towards ear base; leaving a little bit at the very tip can compliment ears by giving them the illusion they are more "tippy" and longer. For tight spots like the inside of ears, use the corner edge of the blade when clipping rather than the full blade or use the small moustache/beard trimmers. The forelock can be made to look thinner by clipping off a section underneath. It is quite normal for a horse to not like its ears and possibly parts of its face clipped, in which case you may need to utilize a nose twitch or even sedation (please consult your Veterinarian for sedation methods).
4. **BRIDLE PATH & MANE:** Please refer to above chart for which clipper blade to use. Feel free to cut this area with scissors first to figure out what length you want it to be. Generally the safest length to start would be approx 2-3 inches in length down from the poll (bony bone between ears). Start by clipping off a short section and clipping off more if necessary. If you want to lengthen the bridle path, hold back some of the hair you are planning to clip with a hair clip first. This will allow you to stand back and look at your horse and decide how much to take off. (Remember, you can always clip more off but you can't put it back on once it's clipped off ☺). A thick mane can be made to look much finer by clipping off a strip of mane along the underneath which gives it a more sleek refined appearance. Be sure to comb out mane and forelock periodically while clipping them to see what it looks like with less hair.
5. **LEGS:** Please refer to above chart for which clipper blade to use. If you are lucky enough to have an experienced or quiet horse, save your back and sit on a stool for this part. ☺ Starting at the coronet band, clip upwards to fetlock. Use the edge of the clipper blade to get into the tight spots such as the heel area. The legs are a bit tricky as they are so bony and also have tendons to work around. On the lower legs, pushing the skin gently to one side often helps to clip in the grooves where the tendons and bones are. If a horse is fussing and won't hold its leg still, there are a few tricks to help get the legs clipped: hold up one leg and clip the other leg or clip the leg while you are holding up. If a horse is really creating a fuss, you may have to put a twitch on its nose as a last resort. Some horses made even need mild sedation which requires you to consult your Veterinarian. When doing tight spots like armpits and groin areas, pick up leg and gently stretch their legs away from their body to allow you to get into those areas safely with your clippers. Make sure the skin is flat when clipping it to ensure the skin does not get nicked as well as for a neat clipping job. Be careful as these areas have thin, sensitive skin and can be cut easily if clipped over a folded part of skin or can be burned by a hot clipper blade.
6. **BODY:** Please refer to above chart for which clipper blade to use. Using long, smooth strokes, clip upwards from legs and under belly. For the area above the tail, leave an inverted "V" (a few inches long) to soften the transition between the tail and the croup area. Using a piece of string under tail and crossed over itself over haunches can help act as a template for the inverted "V". Again, it's best to make it bigger at first and then clip off more if necessary to make it narrower. Be sure to blend the "V" by running your clippers lightly down from the top with the direction of the hair growth to smooth out the transition between the clipped area around the tail and the actual tail itself.
7. Stand back and check your work. Using a soft body brush clean off loose hair to help see any missed areas. Go back over any lines or missed areas to smooth out the clip. Once done, give yourself a pat on the back

and give your horse a treat. If possible, let your horse out in the field to roll and get the “itchies” off. Now you go and have along hot shower to get the “itchies” off of YOU!

QUICK CLIP TIPS:

- Clipping is a dirty job ... and someone has to do it. ☺ If it is you, be sure to wear old clothes that you don't mind getting dirty. It is also advisable to invest in a smock to wear over your clothes. Often you can order one from a hairdressing salon (sometimes they might even give you one of their old ones they don't use anymore). Wearing rubber mucker shoes (“duckies”) or boots are better at repelling hair than running shoes. Wind pants can also be worn as the hair does not stick to this type of material. Be sure to leave time for a shower afterwards so you can get rid of the “itchies”.
- The higher the # on the blade = shorter the blade clips the hair (e.g. #50 clips shorter than a #40)
- A clean horse makes clipping easier. If possible, bath and dry the horse before clipping. If bathing is not possible, brush horse very well to remove excess dirt and hair
- **BLEND BLEND BLEND !!!** The secret to a good clip is not leaving any trace of clipping which means no lines and no obvious areas that one can tell that two different blades were used. You want the horse to look like he is in his natural coat when you are finished. Every area should blend into the other with no visible lines or ridges.
- Keep clippers clean and cool during clipping by using Clipper Coolant Spray, Clipper Blade Wash and Clipper Blade Oil
- Sharp blades will be easier to use and clip faster than dull blades
- Do not leave freshly clipped horse in sun or they will burn. Blanket or keep inside during day and turn out at night.
- To keep dark horses from fading, turn out at night and keep out of sun and in barn during day
- Use sun block on shaved horses
- Experiment with clipping BEFORE a show when lots of time for hair to grow in NOT right before a show.
- Get blades sharpened in plenty of time before show season (send away in fall after shows are finished then you don't forget and before the rush in the spring)
- Different lengths of coat look better on different colours of horses. For instance, clipping a white horse in a #30 would give it a pink appearance as its skin will show through whereas some dark horses when clipped closely like this, shows off their dapples in their coat. Clip your horse a few times before a show in different blade lengths and see what suits them best.
- Keep in mind that most horses lose their natural shine when first clipped (dark horses sometimes look washed out when first clipped). Sometimes giving them some time to grow a bit of their coat back will help bring some colour back into their coat.
- Keep blades flat against the horse and clip against the hair growth
- Use the corner edge of blade to get into tricky tight spots like joint areas, ears.
- Enjoy the experience; leave plenty of time to clip (1.5-4hrs). This can be a good time to bond with your horse so enjoy the one-on-one time. ☺
- Length of time of clip can be affected by many factors:

Cleanliness of horse and condition of clippers: dirty horse, dirty/dull/hot blades will make clipping harder and take longer. These types of blades will also leave “tracking” marks over the coat and it will be hard to get a smooth clip

Size of horse – smaller horses usually take less time as there is less to clip (obviously)

Coat type – spring coats are thicker and dirtier, take longer to shed out than summer coats. All horses have individual coat types, some thicker than others. Finer coats are easier to clip.

Skill level – after you get better and more confident, your clipping will improve and get faster ... believe it or not!

☺

SENSATIONAL SHOW DAY MINI by Carolyn Aarup

“Ingredients” needed to create a Sensational Show Day Mini:

- Clipped and clean Horse (see “Sparkling Shampooed Mini” & “Colossally Clipped Mini” sections) ☺
- Hoof Pick
- Blanket (optional)
- Clean Soft Body Brush
- Hoof Black or Clear coat
- Cold water in spray bottle – to set hoof polish
- Small clippers – for touch ups, missed spots
- Wet wipes (unscented) – for eyes, nostril, and muzzle, inside of ears, manure stains and even hoof polish “oopsies”
- Mane comb – first mane & tail comb out of the day
- Stain remover – such as Cowboy Magic
- Corn starch - for horse with white markings
- Pepi Spray – for that finishing touch
- Lots of Rags – come in handy for anything
- Car wash mitts - stored in large Ziploc bag to keep clean for Pepi application
- Hair brush – for mane & tail
- Baby Oil gel or face shine – for eyebrows, muzzle
- Thick black marker or Human eye liner (optional) - for black skinned horses
- Hoof Polish Shine Enhancer
- Hair styling Gel – for unruly manes & tails
- Hair Spray – for unruly manes & tails
- Sun Block (spray on clear type)

How to “Cook” up a Sensational Show Day Mini:

1. Get up early on show day ... who knows what your “Sparkling Shampooed Mini” has done to itself over night. ☺ Prior to leaving for the show, remove any braids from the night before and wet down if necessary to help the hair to relax and get the “kinks” out. Use a mane comb to remove any excess shavings/bedding from mane & tail. Use a Body brush to remove sawdust or bedding from horse’s coat. You may want to remove any stains that your horse has acquired over night with warm water and/or Stain remover or simply Wet wipes. This also can be/might have to be done after arriving at the show.
2. Put on clean halter and blanket for trailering to show.
3. At show, remove blanket, pick out hooves, and quickly brush entire horse with clean soft Body brush.
4. If not already done previously or the night before, apply hoof black or clear coat. If applied previously, touch up if necessary. Spray cold water over hoof polish to help polish to “set” quicker. Allow to dry completely.
5. Apply Corn Starch to make white areas (stars, snips, and stockings) really “pop” and be bright.
6. Use Wet wipes to wipe out eyes, ears, nostrils, muzzle. These wipes can also be used to remove most stains and also hoof polish “oopsies”.
7. Use small clippers if any stray hairs are found that were missed being clipped or razored.
8. Apply Hoof Polish enhancer to hooves once hoof polish is dry.

9. Lightly apply Pepi spray to car mitt and wipe over entire horse going in the direction of hair growth; starting with head and including mane & tail. Pepi can also be sprayed directly on the horse and wiped into hair with car mitt or rag. Spray Pepi onto hair brush and brush mane and tail.
10. If there are any stray hairs sticking up on mane or tail, they can usually be “tamed” with a little hair Styling gel or Hair spray.
11. Just prior to class, put on show halter. If horse needs to be tied, put regular halter over top and secure ... do not tie up horse using show halter due to a number of problems (show halters are not very strong, chin chain can injure horse, show halters can come off easily, etc).
12. Optional: On dark skinned horses only, draw a thick line of black marker or human eyeliner along the top of eyelid, smudge upward, blending into razored area above eye.
13. Apply baby oil gel or coloured face gloss over eyes and on muzzle. Any last minute stray hairs on mane & tail can usually be “tamed” with a bit of baby oil gel.
14. If showing outdoors, apply Sun Block on any sensitive areas (nose) or razored/closely clipped areas (muzzle, eyebrows, ears, fetlocks) to avoid sunburn to these areas, especially if the horse is light skinned. Horses with a lot of white on them and clipped closely may need Sun Block applied in larger areas or all over. Be sure to cover these horses with blankets when not showing to reduce the amount of sun exposure.

Smile, your hard work is worth it ... you now have a Sensational Show Day Mini! Off you go to the show ring ... Good luck!!! ☺

SPARKLING SHAMPOOED MINI by Carolyn Aarup

“Ingredients” needed to create a Sparkling Shampooed Mini:

- Dirty Horse ☺
 - Mane Comb
 - Hoof pick
 - Hose with spray nozzle attachment (or Bucket with warm water)
 - Warm water
 - Shampoo
 - Grooming Jelly or Curry Comb
 - Small sponge
 - Clean Halter (optional)
 - Small scrub brush
 - Conditioner
 - Sweat scraper
 - Show Sheen
 - Hair styling gel
 - Braiding Elastics
 - Neck slinky (optional)
 - Body brush
 - Wool or Polar Fleece Blanket (optional)
 - Sun block (optional)
- If razoring (balding) eyebrow and muzzle areas before a show:
- Bucket with warm water
 - Wash cloth
 - Shaving Gel
 - Disposable Twin Blade Razors (not cheap brands)
- If applying Hoof black or Clear coat on hooves the night before a show:
- Hoof Black or Clear Coat
 - Cold water in spray bottle – to set hoof black or clear coat on hooves

How to “cook” up a Sparkling Shampooed Mini:

1. Comb out any tangles/burrs in mane & tail. Pick out hooves
2. If razoring (balding), apply warm wet washcloth to each area before razoring
3. Apply shaving gel and then razor over eyes and muzzle area, rinse well
4. Wet horse with hose getting initial dirt off and thoroughly wetting horse
5. Shampoo head and face using Jelly curry comb – use sponge on delicate parts (eyes, ears, nostrils, muzzle)
6. Rinse head and face well. Squeegee off using hands.
7. Apply Show Sheen. Put on clean halter if available
8. Shampoo mane & tail using fingers to lather, let soak
9. Shampoo body, top to bottom, using Jelly curry comb to create lather
10. Rinse mane & tail well
11. Condition mane & tail; leave in until final rinse
12. Scrub outside and bottom of hooves with scrub brush
13. Rinse body well, rinsing mane & tail last
14. Remove excess water from all areas of body using sweat scraper (“squeegee” sensitive parts using hands)
15. Spray on Show Sheen to all parts including mane & tail (be careful of eyes), rub in with hands to distribute
16. Comb out mane & tail using mane comb
17. Brush body to ensure hair lays flat using Body brush
18. Put on neck slinky or braid mane if necessary, put on blanket
19. Apply Sun Block to any sensitive or closely clipped areas if horse will be standing in sun to dry
20. If applying Hoof Black or Clear coat to the hooves, do so when horse is dry. Set hoof black/clear coat with cold water spray.

COLOSSALLY CLIPPED MINI by Carolyn Aarup

“Ingredients” to create a Colossally Clipped Mini:

- Clean Horse (see “Sparkling Shampooed Mini” section) ☺
- Clippers – regular sized horse body clippers
- Optional: Clippers – small sized (moustache/beard trimmer type)
- Blades (#10, #15, #30, #40, #50) – Note: the higher the blade # = the closer the clip/shorter the hair is cut
- Clipper Cooling Spray – keep blades cool
- Clipper Blade Wash – keep blades clean
- Small shallow container - for Blade wash (e.g. small margarine container)
- Clipper Oil – keep blades lubricated
- Paper towels or rags - to wipe excess oil off hands/clippers
- Toothbrush – to dislodge particles in blades if necessary
- Cotton – for horse’s ears to help reduce noise of clippers if needed
- Scissors – to attack unruly manes, fetlock feathers etc. for first clip of season
- Mane Comb – to comb out mane to check bridle path length and overall look
- Soft Body Brush – to brush off excess hair after clipping to help see any missed spots
- Hair Clip – to hold mane or tail back from clipping area
- Piece of string – if necessary to act as a guide to create the inverted “V” over tail
- Foam pad (like gardeners use) – to kneel on and save your knees when doing lower parts
- Small Stool – to sit on and save your back when doing lower parts (under belly, legs) on a QUIET horse ☺
- Twitch – just in case ☺

How to “Cook” up a Colossally Clipped Mini:

Legend: QC = Quick Clip / SC = Show Clip

1. HEAD: QC - #15 Entire face, Ears, Bridle path
SC - #50 (or use small clippers) Zone to be razored later (muzzle, over eyes), Bridle path
#40 (or use small clippers) Under chin, inside/outside ears
#15 or #30 rest of face and head
2. LEGS: QC - #10 Entire legs
SC - #40 Coronet band to fetlocks
#15 or #30 rest of legs
3. BODY: QC - #10 Entire neck and body
SC - #15 or #30 Entire neck and body (don’t forget the inverted “V” over tail)
#40 or #50 Under belly

Remember: BLEND BLEND BLEND !!!!! ☺

SENSATIONAL SHOW DAY MINI by Carolyn Aarup

“Ingredients” needed to create a Sensational Show Day Mini:

- Clipped and clean Horse (see “Sparkling Shampooed Mini” & “Colossally Clipped Mini” sections) ☺
- Hoof Pick
- Blanket (optional)
- Clean Soft Body Brush
- Hoof Black or Clear coat
- Cold water in spray bottle – to set hoof polish
- Small clippers – for touch ups, missed spots
- Wet wipes (unscented) – for eyes, nostril, and muzzle, inside of ears, manure stains and even hoof polish “oopsies”
- Mane comb – first mane & tail comb out of the day
- Corn starch - for horse with white markings
- Pepi Spray – for that finishing touch
- Lots of Rags
- Car wash mitts - stored in large Ziploc bag to keep clean for Pepi application
- Hair brush – for mane & tail
- Baby Oil gel or face shine – for eyebrows, muzzle
- Thick black marker or Human eye liner (optional) - for black skinned horses
- Hoof Polish Shine Enhancer
- Hair styling Gel – for unruly manes & tails
- Hair Spray – for unruly manes & tails
- Sun Block (spray on clear type)

How to “Cook” up a Sensational Show Day Mini:

1. Brush body, legs, mane & tail, pick out hooves
2. With small clippers, clip any missed spots or unwanted hair
3. Apply hoof black or clear coat to hooves (if applied the night before touch up if necessary) and set
4. with cold water spray, allow to dry completely
5. Apply Hoof Polish Shine enhancer to hooves over dry hoof black or hoof clear polish
6. Clean out eyes, ears, nostrils and entire muzzle with Wet wipes
7. Apply corn starch to white areas that may need a little “boost” to whiten (legs)
8. Pepi wipe entire body, mane & tail using Car wash mitt or clean rags
9. Brush out mane and tail with hair brush
10. Put on Show halter
11. Optional: put “eye liner” on top lid of eye with Black marker or human eyeliner, smudge into razored area
12. Apply Baby oil gel or face gloss to eyes and muzzle
13. Gel or Hair spray down any unruly hairs on mane & tail
14. Apply Sun block to sensitive areas if showing outside

Smile and head towards the show ring. Good luck in your show!!!! ☺