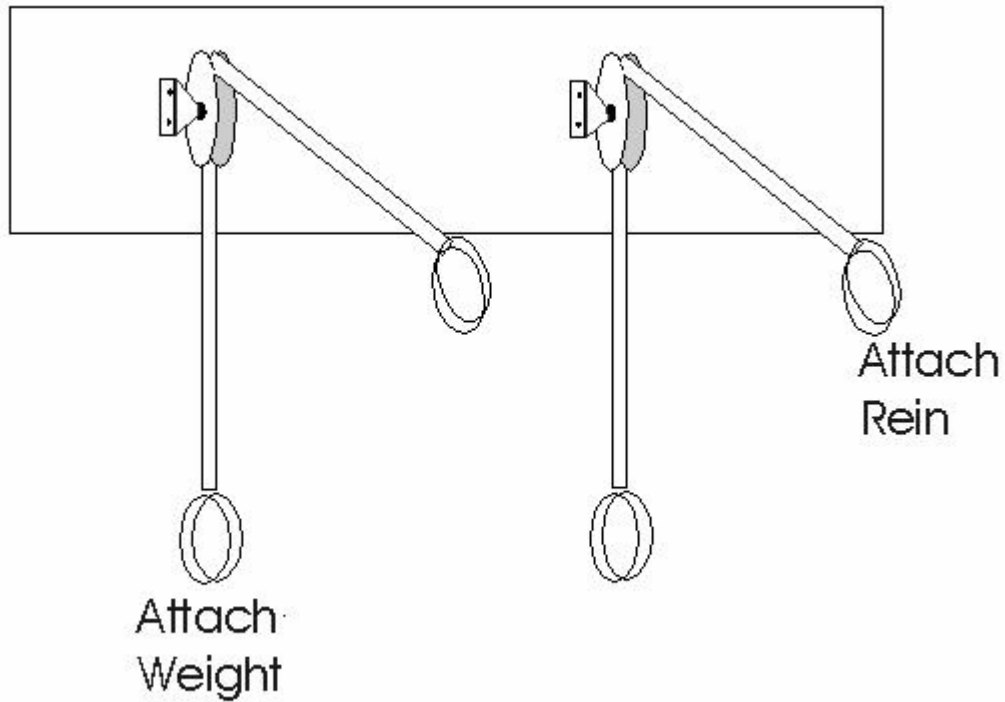


## The Rein Board



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A rein board is a useful tool for practice with the lines.

Attach approximately a 1 lb weight to each line below the pulley and attach your lines to the top end. Now you can sit in a chair and 'drive'.

Keep an eye on the level of the weights. You can see how use of the whip and your rein handling of turns and lengthening and shortening the lines affects the horse's mouth. Now you have a tool that can help you drive with accuracy and care for your animal.

## Spring Tune-Up for Harness

**by David Freedman**

STEP 1: Dismantle all harness parts. Make up a solution of 3 parts lukewarm water to 1 part baking soda or Mr. Clean. Wipe down all the harness and buckles using a damp sponge. Dirt under the buckles acts like sandpaper so be thorough. Do a complete safety check while removing soil. All stress points should be checked for excessive wear. The parts that wear the most are usually bridle billets and rein billets, both due to contact with the acid in the saliva. Also look for broken loops or keepers, cut straps, cracked leather, bent tongues, broken stitching, and worn buckles.

STEP 2: Leather dries out and you may have to feed it to restore its suppleness. Use a product both you and your harness maker trust. Stay away from heavy oils and linseed products. They do not let the leather breathe and will rot the stitches. If the leather does not need treating, saddle soap will make the harness more pliable and give you a fresh base to put on a nice shine with soft cream shoe polish. Black saddle soap is really the best for black harness.

STEP 3: Clean all the brass buckles meticulously. This will probably be the only time during the coming driving season that you won't be under pressure so try to do a really great job. Take a lot of time. The more elbow grease you put into it now the easier it will be to maintain later on. Do every nook and cranny with the brass polish you like the best and buff up with a soft cloth to a bright luster. Check out your polishing. -if the job's not great, do it again! End off with a light coating of polish on all the buckles and **LEAVE IT ON.**

STEP 4: Apply black or neutral creamy shoe polish sparingly on leather being careful not to pack it into the stitching. This is only a finishing coat. Penetration of the polish colour is minimal that the shine is strictly cosmetic and cannot harm or imbalance the PH level of the leather. Buff-buff-buff until you puff-puff-puff, and your harness will make you proud.

STEP 5: Use a little soap and water on a damp sponge on the patent leather. Wipe off all excess water. Use a non-silicone spray product like D.C.W., Endust, or Pledge to shine the patent leather. Do not use Armoral, Vaseline, or brass polish on patent leather.

STEP 6: Now you can wipe off the last layer of brass polish you put on the buckles and store your harness until ready for use. Hanging it up is really the best method of storage but you can wrap it up and keep it in a trunk as long as it is away from ammonia fumes.

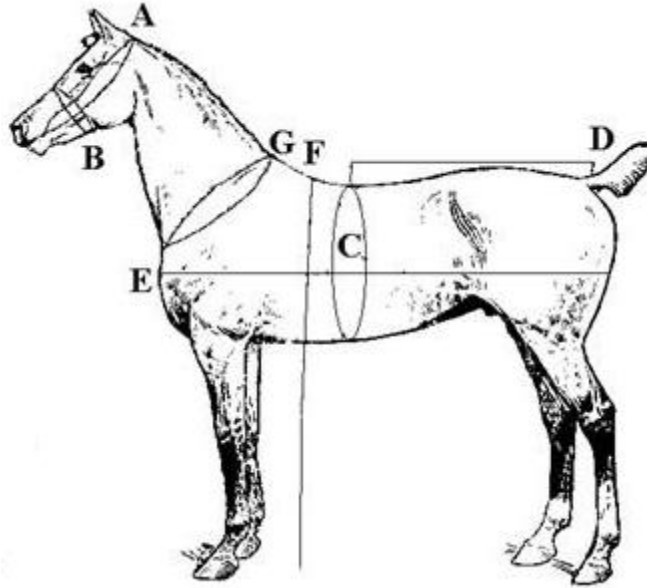
\* \* \*

I have listed the following items that will be of great help to you in preparation for this season's show or pleasure use. You may find your own little gadgets to work with other than the ones I have listed. Try to have these items around when you start:

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Brass Polish                                     | 11. Harness Hook                    |
| 2. Soft Cloths                                      | 12. Steel Wool (cleans rusty tongs) |
| 3. Saddle Soap (black if possible)                  | 11. Cotton Swabs                    |
| 4. Glycerin Saddle Soap great for reins)            | 14. Tooth Brushes                   |
| 5. Shoe Polish (I like cake style)                  | 15. Shoe Brushes                    |
| 6. Mr. Clean or Baking Soda                         | 16. Bucket or Pail                  |
| 7. Leather Dressing (Lexol, Williams, NO One Step!) | 17. Plastic Container               |
| 8. Patent Leather Polish                            | 18. Harness Blacking                |
| 9. Castile Soap                                     | 19. Tack Sponges                    |
| 10. Old White Bed Sheet great to work on)           | 20. Rubber Gloves                   |
|   | 21. Work Apron                      |

## Measuring For Your Harness

Whether you are measuring to make sure you order the right size or to custom make a harness to your horse's measurements, the chart below will help you to determine the proper fit!



**A. Head Length:** Measure from the corner of the mouth, up over poll, and down the other side to the other corner of the mouth.

**B. Nose Length:** Start at the point about 2 fingers width (1"-1 1/2") below the prominent part of the cheekbone, and measure all the way around the nose to give total length of noseband.

**C. Girth:** Measure the total length around your horse's girth area.

**D. Back Length:** Measure from the point just behind the withers (this is where the harness backpad will lay) to the base of the tail.

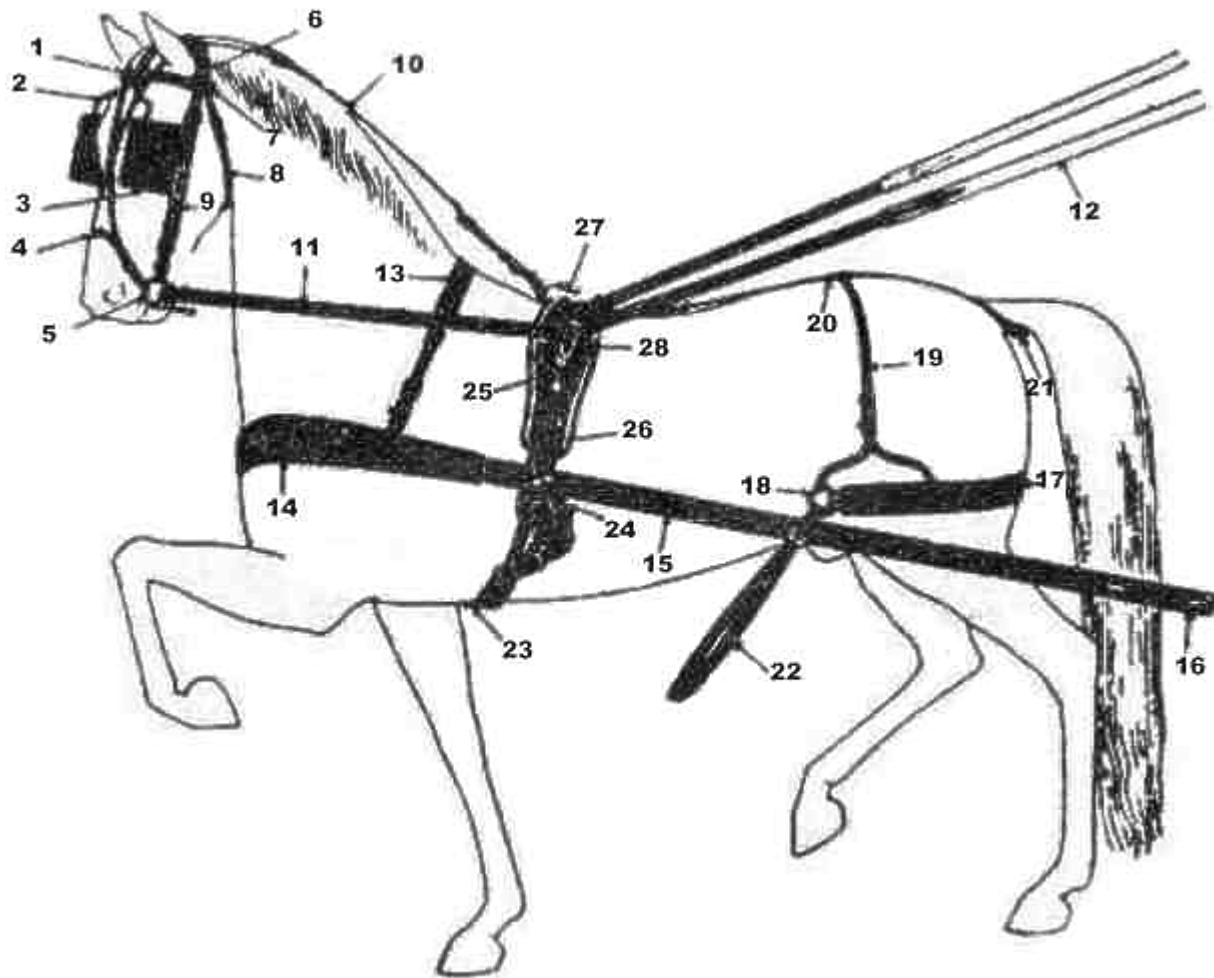
**E. Length of Horse:** Measure from the point of your horse's shoulder (not the center of his chest as you would with a blanket) to the rear. You only want his total side length measurement.

**F. Height:** Measure from the ground up to the point just behind the withers of your horse, in inches for minis or hands for ponies-drafts. We don't always need this measurement but sometimes it is helpful!

**G. Collar:** Measure from the base of your horse's neck to the top of his withers. This is the proper position of the collar. This line should be straight, not conforming to the horse's body.

\* With Minis, it is also helpful to measure the length of the browband. (This will actually be larger when made since it has to fit over the facedrop and winker stays.)

## Single Harness Parts



1. Front or Brow Band
2. Winker Brace or Stay
3. Blind or Winker
4. Nose Band on Overcheck
5. Bit
6. Crown Piece
7. Bridle Rosette
8. Throat Latch
9. Bridle Cheek
10. Overcheck

11. Lines, Front Part
12. Lines, Hand Part
13. Shoulder Strap
14. Breast Collar Body
15. Trace
16. Heel End of Traces
17. Breeching Body
18. Breeching Ring
19. Hip Strap
20. Turnback

21. Crupper
22. Holdback Strap
23. Belly Band
24. Shaft Carrier
25. Gig Saddle
26. Gig Saddle Bearer
27. Rein Hook
28. Gig Saddle Terret

## Attelage de Tradition Required Road Signals

1. Stop AND Go: The right arm is held up straight to the right of the head with the whip pointing up to signal the stop and also when going.
2. Left Turn: The right arm is raised with the elbow bent, the whip is pointing left horizontal and parallel to the ground over your head.
3. Right Turn: The right arm is held straight out to your side parallel to the ground with the whip pointing straight up and perpendicular to the ground OR the whip may be pointing right and parallel to the ground.

