

The Cannon Bone as a Reference

By Dave Farley

THIS ARTICLE WILL FOCUS ON THE CANNON BONE AND HOW IT RELATES TO THE LIMB. WE SELECTED LIMBS WITH AND WITHOUT FAULTS TO SHOW AND EXPLAIN WHAT WE SEE.

Understanding the basics of these reference points will help develop your eye so you can help your horses achieve better health through better balance. Seldom will you find a horse that has perfect conformation and we do not imply that you should strive to "correct" a mature horse with faulty conformation. We do feel a farrier can help any conformation, good or bad, by trimming and shoeing to complement the conformation.

The left front leg of this horse is fairly normal. This picture shows a centered cannon bone and a properly trimmed foot. The cannon bone is centered below the knee and the laser line bisects it perfectly as well as the ankle, pastern and hoof. Notice we are not standing directly in front of the horse. We are looking at the limb and cannon bone from the direction it is pointing. This is very important to determine the true center of the cannon bone and limb. There is a slight flare on the lateral side of the foot that is reflected with a separation in the white line area on the lateral wall. A regular shoeing schedule and proper fit shoe will take care of this foot.

Continued on page 2



Front left limb looks normal.

Continued from Cover

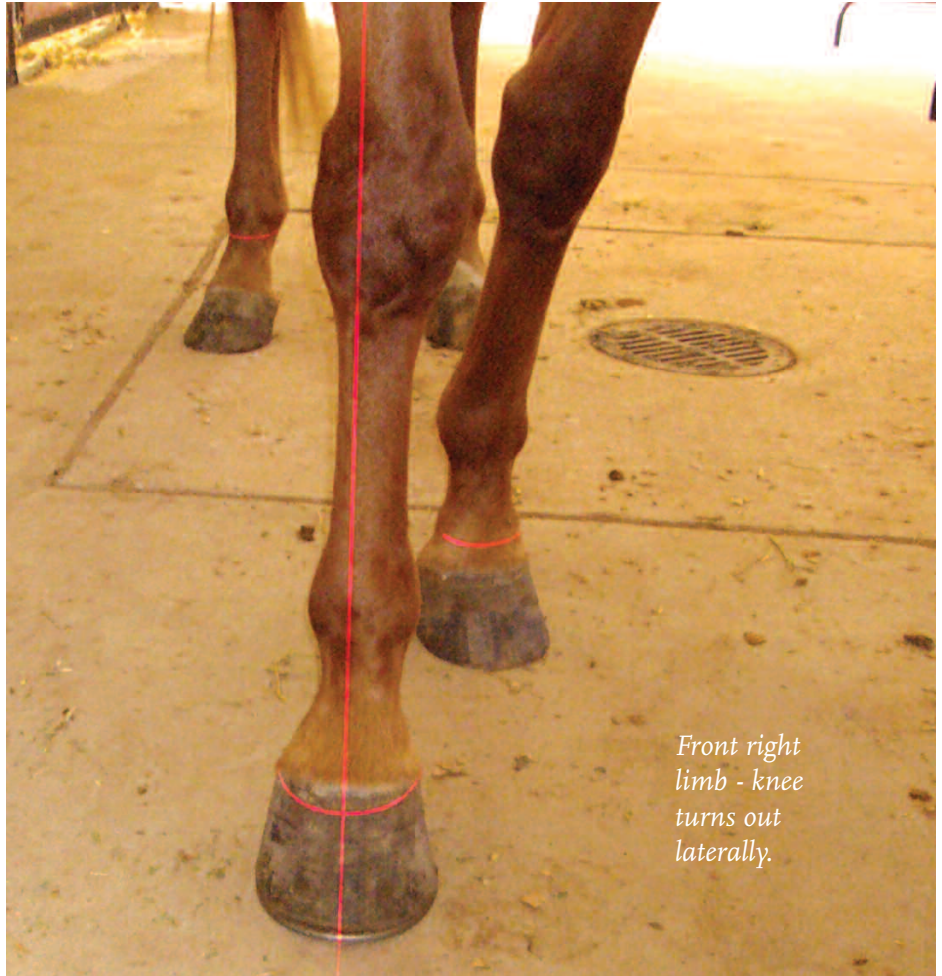
The right limb of the same horse tells a different story. This picture shows a knee that turns out laterally and a twisted or rotated pastern that places the entire limb inside of center. This is a conformation fault. This horse is conformationally challenged and many times this type of conformation is improperly trimmed. Again, we are not standing directly in front of the horse. We are viewing the limb from the direction it is pointed.

The cannon bone on this limb is offset to the lateral side. This type of conformation will cause the medial side of the foot to rotate medial and/or flare to the medial side. Trimming the outside of the foot would cause a higher medial heel and eventually shear the medial side of the foot.

A limb with this conformation will wing out when in motion and appear to hit the ground medial toe first. It is impossible to center the cannon bone more medial under the knee. What you see is what you have. Bone is fixed on a mature horse and it cannot be straightened by manipulating the foot. This limb is better trimmed by observing these three things:

- (1) ground surface shoe wear, particularly at the toe area
- (2) hoof surface heel cupping on the shoe
- (3) balance of the foot from the frog to medial and lateral sides at widest part of the foot

The information you get with these observations will be critical in determining how to approach the trim. ■



Front right limb - knee turns out laterally.



Ground surface shoe wear.



Heel cupping on hoof surface of shoe.

Measuring balance from frog to medial and lateral sides.



TOOL MAINTENANCE

Sharpening Wheel

Buffing-sharpening wheels, also known as deburring wheels, are becoming ever more popular for sharpening and preparing to hone hoof knives. The FPD brand, or certain grit Scotch-Brite™ (a 3M product) wheels, provide an excellent method for sharpening or preparing a blade for final honing. The wheels are also useful for polishing and cleaning tools like hoof nippers.

In order to get the maximum efficiency and best results, plus extend the useful life of your wheels, the following good operation practices should be followed.

1. Mount your wheel in the correct direction as indicated by the arrow.
2. Never exceed the recommended operation speed of the wheel. 1800 rpm is ideal for working with knives.
3. Dress your wheel as soon as you see an irregular surface, damaged or flat spots or notice poor cutting performance.

Whenever you are using sharpening wheels or other grinding equipment it is important to wear a face shield or safety glasses and gloves to protect yourself.

DRESSING TOOL METHOD

With the wheel rotating at operating speed, use a hand held dressing tool. A used rasp works well. Slowly work back and forth across the wheel using flat, short strokes. It is important to keep the dressing tool in motion. Don't allow it to stay in one place on the wheel for an extended length of time.

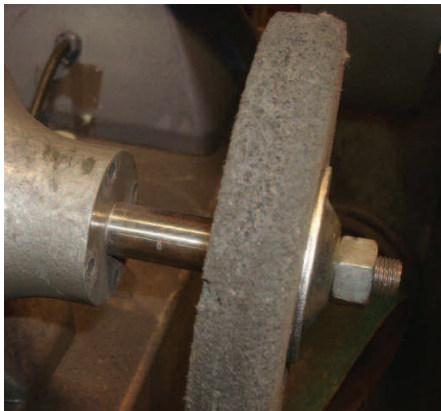
If you are using a rasp, you can start with the rasp side if the wheel is severely damaged or has excessively uneven wear. Apply light pressure only. Once you have come close to where you want the finish, you should switch to the file side.

When the wheel appears round again, go across the face with long sweeping strokes to ensure the level is correct.

Once you have restored a level, round finish, you can bevel the edge or edges if this works for your use of the wheel. ■



ABOVE: 1/4HP BUFFER WITH SHARPENING WHEEL ON RIGHT AND FELT WHEEL ON LEFT.



LEFT: SHARPENING WHEEL HAS DAMAGE AND UNEVEN WEAR.



ABOVE: COMPARE DAMAGE AND WEAR TO NEWER WHEEL.



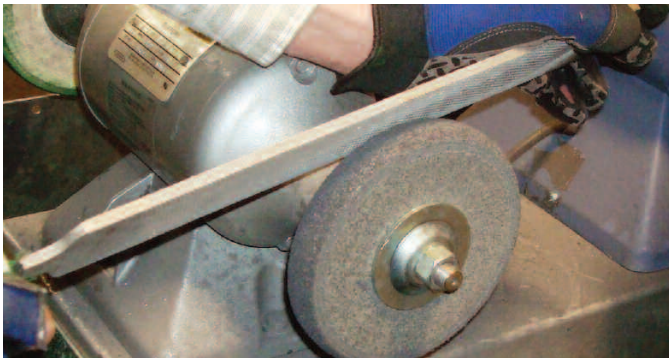
ABOVE: AN OLD RASP IS THE ONLY TOOL NEEDED.



ABOVE: BEGIN MOTION ACROSS WHEEL.



ABOVE: CONTINUE WITH PROCESS UNTIL WHEEL IS EVEN AND DAMAGED AREA IS TAKEN OUT.



ABOVE: YOU CAN BEVEL EDGES IF DESIRED.



LEFT:
WHEEL
RESTORED TO
GOOD WORKING
CONDITION.

NO COMPROMISE HERE

Quality, reliability and availability –
no compromise needed with
Vector and **Liberty** horseshoe nails.



Vector Horseshoe Nails

Vector Nails are made using the rolled process – creating a finished product with high tensile strength.

New Vector sizes

- 3-1/2 Race XS - has a slightly larger head than the current 3-1/2 Race and the shank has been redesigned to provide extra strength
- 4-1/2 Regular - a shorter slim blade nail with a regular head to fit smaller shoes such as 000 and 00
- 4-1/2 Slim - similar to our 4-1/2 Race, but with a longer blade
- 5 Regular - ideal for resets
- 6 Regular - ideal for resets and thicker shoes

All Vector nails available in 250 piece boxes



Liberty Horseshoe Nails

Forged Liberty nails, designed by Kerckhaert, to meet the demand for a higher quality nail.



Key design features

- Precise and consistent specifications
- Optimum clinching
- Accurate bevels and points provide consistent driving
- Outstanding finish

Sizes E-2 Slim through E-7 Slim (5 Combo in early 2011), packed in 250 piece plastic boxes

New Products for 2011

Steel Comfort

Sizes 00, 0, 1, 2, 3

A high quality shoe that aids in breakover.

Key design features

- Rolled toe and branches
- Better breakover improves coordination of movement, optimizes balance, with less pressure on tendons
- Built-in sole relief
- Punched for Liberty E-4 Slim and 5 Combo nails
- Front only - Side Clipped



Pride Sliding Plate 1/4"x7/8"

Sizes 10, 11, 12

Excellent option for reining and roping horses, especially younger horses.

Key design features

- High quality steel provides durability and strength
- Excellent heel finish
- Ideal hind pattern for ease of fitting
- Punched for 4-1/2 Race, 4-1/2 Race XS and 4-1/2 Slim

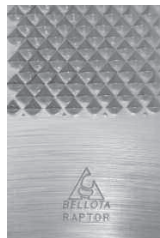


Bellota Raptor Rasp

An addition to the Bellota rasp family.

Key design features

- 14" Raptor is 1/2" wider than other Bellota Rasps – provides a greater cutting surface
- Extensive quality control by the manufacturer produces a sharp rasp – consistently
- Features a maximum cut on the rasp side; with a coarse cut on the file side



FootPro™ Tools

A brand developed by FPD based on years of feedback from professional farriers.

Key design features

- Engineering focus is on quality tool steel and heat treatment
- Detailed finish by highly skilled craftsmen

Product Line

- Polished Nippers - 12", 14", 15", 12" Half Round and 14" Race Track
- Polished Clincher - angled, ergonomic design
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- Light Weight Aprons - 26" and 31"



FootPro™
12" Half
Round Nipper

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New Farrier Education Videos

Two new educational videos, “**FPD – Knife Sharpening Wheel Maintenance**” and “**FPD – Hoof Knife Sharpening**” have been uploaded to our web site. These clips are for information only and not available for purchase.

Visit farrierproducts.com/farriery/video.html or subscribe to our YouTube channel at youtube.com/user/farrierproducts to view these and other videos from FPD.

If you have suggestions for how-to topics that you would like us to post, please call FPD toll free at 1-800-468-2879.

Visit farrierproducts.com for useful tool tips, trimming and forging video clips.



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BY ROYAL WARRANT
KERCKHAERT
Handmade Quality

Key design features

- Narrower overall shape than Triumph series
- Excellent heel support
- No bevel or roll in toe
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- Front only - Unclipped
- Adequate thickness to provide strength and durability
- Punched for 5 Race or 5 Slim nails

Sizes 000, 00, 0, 1