

Keep the Horse Going

By Dave Farley

Too often we are asked as farriers to shoe a horse that has an obvious problem but the trainer or owner insists that we don't change much because the horse is doing well. That was the case with this horse. The crack was unloaded a couple of shoeings before by simply rasping (grooving) the wall about a half inch below the coronary. A groove like this should never be deep enough to reach sensitive tissue. I would have preferred to apply a heartbar shoe that was a size larger and also unload the wall behind the crack but was asked not to change the shoe. You can see that the crack is well below the coronary band now.

This is how I handled the foot in this shoeing. After the first cut, I measured the bottom of the foot using a handy brass "hoof balance" ruler made by farrierproducts'. Notice the foot is wider on the right side as you look at this picture. Also notice that the heels are still too high. They are folding forward, collapsing the bars and compromising the foot.

You can also see a flare on the medial side of the foot, (left side when looking at the foot from the front). This is the source of the extra width you see from the bottom. This flare is secondary to a conformation fault, in this case is an offset cannon bone (offset to the outside).

After the trim is finished notice the heels are back to the highest and widest area of the frog. You can also



1

1. Lateral view of left front before shoeing.



2

2. Medial flare a result of conformation problem.

3. Bottom of foot before trim.



3

Continued from cover

see the bruising and stretching of the white line in the toe area. This is always a sign to me that the toe length is creating undue stress in this area.

I widened the shoe and put a new leather rim pad on, with rivets in the heel area. The shoe and leather is soaked in water for a couple of minutes. The wet leather pad will allow the hoof wall to sink into the pad and secure it when clinched. The area of the pad just behind the clip is ground lower to allow the crack itself to be non-weight bearing.

Notice that the shoe and leather have been slightly backed up from the toe to address the stretched, bruised white line. I think the combination of the shoe fit and position and relief of the crack area will help keep this horse sound enough to continue through the show season.

This horse is a sound Show Hunter. He showed the entire winter season without missing a day. The trainer, rider and owners are happy with the results – meeting one of the goals I have in my everyday work. Keep in mind that you won't always get to do exactly what you want with every shoeing job, but by working through it you can still improve the situation. □

Photos continue on page 3



Checking medial/lateral balance.



Lateral view after trim.



Completed trim with heels back to widest part of frog.

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KERCKHAERT Triumph Aluminum Egg Bar



A PERFECT FIT

These clipped shoes have the same great features of the Triumph flat and degree shoes. The bold toe saves a lot of shaping work and the punching allows you plenty of good options.



One more look before nailing.



Checking fit.



Note shoe is set back from toe.



Relief built into pad.



On to the next foot.

WORKING FOR SUCCESS

BY DAVE FARLEY

I had been shoeing for more than twelve years when I realized I needed to make some changes in my business. For a long time I thought that I was making money if I had money in my checking account and some cash in my pocket. I was working hard, but couldn't seem to make it to the next level where I had enough money to buy a better vehicle, buy a home and put some money into savings.

I started looking around at some people who I thought were successful. These are some of the things they had in common.

- A vision and or a business plan.
- Worked toward perfection.
- Hired good employees.
- Good at delegating.
- Continued their education.
- Good communicators.
- Good organization.

They also had another thing in common – they all had a good

accountant. A good accountant can be invaluable in helping you develop a business plan and figure

insurance, taxes, phone and all the other components of my business. In 1980 it was costing me \$55 dollars to shoe a horse!

The cost of shoeing a horse will obviously vary but you will be surprised when you work through all the costs you should consider. There is a very good CD available that is a "fill in the blank" program that calculates your actual cost – and can show you what happens if you make changes to any of the costs. If you are interested in this program contact Robert Whitworth of Elberton, Georgia. You can email him at rlwdpw@hotmail.com or phone him at 770-843-4809.

Now that we worked through some costs

and the accountant knew more about the variables we all have as farriers, we worked on a business plan. I found a plan has three purposes: communication, management and planning. The development of a plan forced me to precisely define my business and identify my goals.

out exactly what you need to reach your financial goals.

My accountant first helped me to understand what it cost me to shoe a horse. You will have to do this before you can do any serious planning. He factored in all the elements: vehicle and equipment expense, cost of supplies, cost of



ABOVE: WORKING THROUGH COST PROGRAM AT RECENT CLINIC; BELOW: CANADIAN FISHING, BISCOTASING LAKE, ONTARIO



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New Items for 2006

Kerckhaert Steel Triumph

The introduction of the unclipped steel Triumph shoe by Kerckhaert may be the most significant new product in recent years. The front and hind pattern shoe has many of the details that Kerckhaert is famous for.

Start with the shape. The broad toe of the front shoe allows a fit that can



enhance the movement of your horses. The hind pattern is typical Kerckhaert,

usually requiring only minor adjustment for a good fit.

The bevel allows a quicker breakover than shoes with a longer bevel. This also gives the shoe more bearing surface, giving the foot more support. The bevel on the hind shoe is even more upright than the front, helping to avoid the slipping that can occur when the toe bevel is too long.

The crease of the shoes is designed to give better nail head fit. This feature, combined with the clean nail holes, makes for easier and more secure nailing. Even as the shoe wears the V shape keeps the nail head locked in place. This also allows you to get the crease nail puller under the nail with less difficulty.

The shoe also has a good sole relief built in, saving you even more time. You will be pleasantly surprised at how much easier these shoes are to work with than similar shoes already on the market.

Your farrierproducts' dealer may already have these shoes in stock. They are available in sizes 00 through 3. All sizes are packed in 15 pair boxes, front or hind.

Hoof Balance Ruler

An article in this issue also pictured a handy new tool from farrierproducts'. The Brass Hoof Balance Ruler will be very useful in working toward symmetry in your trim and better shoe positioning. The tool will also be useful in measuring feet for shoe fit.



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Your goals will have a significant impact on your plan so think carefully about them. They will probably extend beyond a simple, "I want to shoe so many horses a day." They will include how you want to live your life and what priorities you have – family, leisure time, and retirement (it's never too early to start saving for retirement) and things that give you a sense of accomplishment. You can find a lot of information on business plans on the Internet or bookstores. A couple websites I found interesting and could be real helpful in getting started with your plan are www.myownbusiness.org and www.allbusiness.com.

It's my belief that this business planning was a real turning point in my shoeing business. With a solid plan in hand and a good understanding of my costs, I was able to organize myself and my business to reach my personal and financial goals. This was a big step forward. We can talk in the future about other aspects of developing a successful farrier business, including working with your banker, structuring your business to work with other farriers and many other topics. □

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