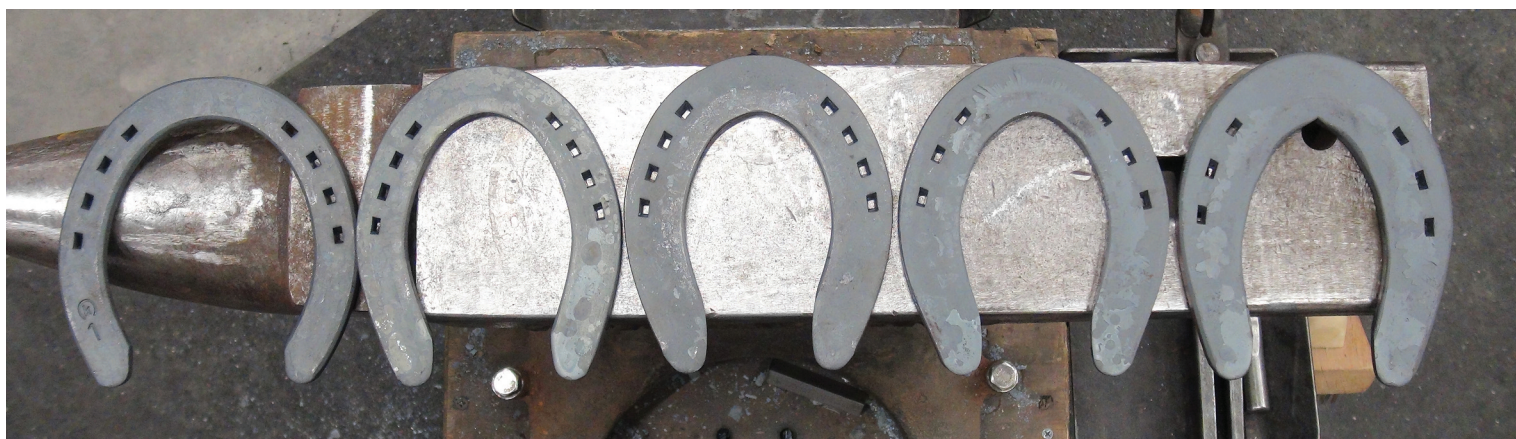


The Natural Angle

VOLUME 17: ISSUE 3

Pride Series Plates for Western Horses

By Bobby Menker, C/JF APF-I



The Pride series plain stamped shoes from Kerckhaert give me all the hind shoe options I need for shoeing a variety of western performance horses. I'll walk through the key points of each shoe that help me make my choices. The most common disciplines for these shoes in my business are:

- *Reiners*
- *Cutting Horses*
- *Working Cow Horses*
- *Ranch Performance Horses*
- *Rope Horses (primarily calf and heel horses)*

PRIDE 1/4"X3/4" - ALSO KNOWN AS "BABY SLIDERS."

This shoe is what I go to when starting my young horses. It is a generic shape that is easily shaped to a hind pattern. The 3/4" width allows a young horse to learn how to control its hind end without scaring it. It will build confidence and still allow some slide that is needed in these disciplines. The punching allows me to use race nails which I find to be a plus, especially for young horses.

Continued on page 2



Fit to AFA Pattern



Pride 1/4"x3/4" Shaped

Continued from page 1

PRIDE 1/4"x7/8"

This is the next size in the progression of the series. It is probably the most versatile shoe of the Pride series, especially for the working horses. It has a natural hind shape and takes very little adjustment for most horses. The heel check is also a nice feature and is very easily modified if more is needed. This shoe generally will allow all the slide a working horse needs, but still give it what it needs for forward and lateral traction. It is a good step up for the younger reiners as it continues to allow improvement without causing uncertainty.

PRIDE 1" AND PRIDE FINE 1"

These are the most commonly used shoes for my reiners as they train up and get into competition. When you examine the shoes, you will see the subtle differences that may fit what you are looking for in your shoeing.

The original Pride 1" is punched slightly coarser than the Fine and has a six nail pattern. There is also slightly more taper in the heels on the original, allowing for better cleanout. I prefer the design and nail pattern of this shoe.

The Fine 1" is punched closer to the outer edge with an eight nail pattern. The Fine also has a more even heel width that may be desirable for some surfaces and horses. Both have a good hind shape that doesn't require much modification. When I go to 1" plates for the first time on a reiner, I don't like to roll the toe or rasp the nail heads so the horse can still maintain control as they progress.

Continued on page 3



Pride 1/4"x7/8"



Fitting Pride 1/4"x7/8"



*Nailing the Pride 1/4"x7/8"
with Liberty Carrera Nail*



Pride Fine 1"



Pride 1"



Adding a clip to the Pride 1"



Pride 1" Rolled Toe Modification

Continued from page 2



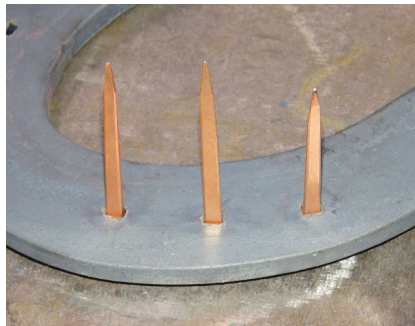
Pride 1-1/4"



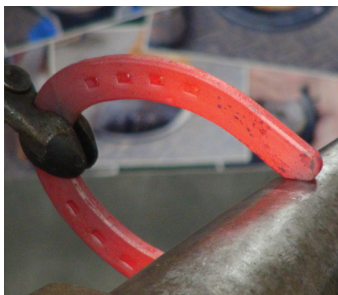
Rocker Toe



Pride 1-1/4" with Liberty Carrera Nails. The extra "neck" of the Carrera fits securely in the punching.



Finished modifications



Heel check



Final Pride clipped



PRIDE 1-1/4"

Once a horse reached the 3 or 4 year old stage, I usually feel comfortable with this steel size if the horse needs it. This is a shoe that used to be most common for reining horses with amateur riders. However, now they are being used for horses in the amateur and pro levels.

This is obviously the shoe that provides the most surface contact for the stop. The width of the toe allows for rolling or even rockering if desired. Even though it has significant width in the toe and the branches, the tapered heels and heel checks allow for a good clean slide.

The Pride series shoes are all punched for slim nails with smaller heads, something I prefer whenever possible. I've used Liberty 4.5 Race and 5 Race for a number of years in these shoes. My favorites now are the new Liberty Carrera nails, either the medium or long (equal to the length of the 4.5 and a 5 Race). They have a slight extra "neck" that fits more securely in the punching, a slim shank and only a minimal amount of head above the shoe surface.

I also appreciate the steel quality of the Pride line as it allows me to modify shoes by clipping, rolling toes, and doing any other modifications I think will enhance the performance of the horse I'm working on.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bobby Menker has been shoeing for over 30 years. He grew up in the western performance horse world, though today he shoes a lot of English performance horses as well. The ideas shared in this article are also in video format on the FPD YouTube channel and were posted this spring on Facebook as well.

SHOEING TIPS

Suspensory Shoe Modifications

By David Farley, CF APF-I

While there is no research to prove this modification is 100% effective, many veterinarians prescribe and want this modification on horses with suspensory ligament and superficial flexor sprains and or strains. This modification is believed to relieve the tension of these structures to facilitate healing, or at least keeps the horse in the ring competing.

Let me begin with a simple reminder that the suspensory is different than the deep flexor. We have all been taught to support deep flexor tendons with a bar shoe of extra heel length. I still do this today when necessary; however, I rarely have deep flexor issues with synthetic footing.

Today's rings or arenas with synthetic type footings are very sticky and provide more traction than most farriers can imagine. Horses working or showing in synthetic footing have little depth compared to dirt or sand. The foot lands and sticks with minimum slide or sinking like dirt or sand. Therefore, as you can imagine, without the heels sinking when the weight of the horse loads a limb, the pastern drops dramatically. The higher the heel the more exaggerated the pastern drop.

For this reason many veterinarians are prescribing Suspensory Shoes. The trainers that have horses with suspensory issues also have a desire to apply anything that can keep the horse going without time off.

These are the steps I take to modify the Kerckhaert DF Select hind or the SX-7 or SX-8 hind shoes for suspensory issues. I usually start with a shoe one size smaller than what fits the trimmed foot. The toe modification will add at least one size to the shoe.

Step 1: Take a good heat and, with the shoe ground side up, use the horn to draw the inside web to the desired width.

Step 2: Again, with the ground side of the shoe up, using the face of the anvil draw the toe out to the desired width.

Step 3: Fit the shoe to the foot, then grind the inside and outside branches of the shoe to allow the heels to sink in the footing.

Modifying the shoe by forging adds no weight to the toe. I personally don't like adding more weight to the toe by welding an insert to make a suspensory shoe unless the horse is not being exercised or in work.

Photos Continue on Page 5



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ANIMAL HEALTH

Continued from Page 4



*Kerckhaert DF
Select hind shoe
with ground surface
up. Start forging the
inside web toward
you.*



*Finish the forging on
the face of the anvil.*



*Check to see if
you forged to the
desired width.*



*Heels ground to
allow them to sink
in the surface.*

Photos Continue on Page 6

Continued from Page 5



Applied to foot. Note the medial heel is ground slightly narrower.



Using an SX-7, you can accomplish a similar result but with less metal you may not get the desired width.



Final forging of the SX-7 on face of anvil.



Medial heel ground to allow for sinking in the surface.

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TOOL TIPS

HOOF BUFFER MAINTENANCE

by Allen Horton, FPD Inc.

We sometimes receive Hoof Buffer attachments which have been reported as leaking. In most cases the fix for these units is quick and simple. Often these attachments need nothing more than a little tune up.

The most common problem encountered is a loose valve stem. These units turn quite fast and there is a possibility that the stem can become loose. If you encounter a leak this is the first place to look. The Hoof Buffer units are provided with a valve stem wrench. Sometimes the valve stem will get debris in it which prevents it from working properly. Use the provided valve stem wrench to remove the stem and check it for debris. If you encounter a leak this is the first place to check. The valve stem should be snug, not overtightened.

There are also eight screws that secure the bladder to the tool. These screws should be checked periodically. Tighten them on the diagonal so that one side doesn't become pinched. The bladders can become worn over time and need replacing. This is an inexpensive and simple maintenance procedure. Simply loosen the screws, remove the worn bladder and replace with a new bladder. Be sure the bladder is seated with the lip of the bladder completely over the end of the chamber. Tighten the screws on the diagonal to keep even pressure on the seal.

If you are experiencing a leak and can't identify where the leak is originating it may be helpful to spray the unit with soapy water or submerge in a bucket of water. This will show the source of the leak.

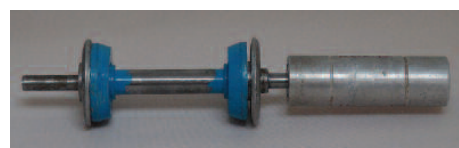
We see very few Hoof Buffers which can't be repaired. Most can be made good as new with minimal time and effort.



1. Hoof Buffer as it comes from the package. Buffer, valve stem, and valve stem wrench.



2. Hoof Buffer before maintenance work begins.



3. Hoof Buffer with bladder removed and ready for new bladder.



4. Hoof buffer handle.



5. Hoof buffer with new bladder properly covering end of buffer.



6. Putting screws back in place. Note diagonal tightening of screws.



THE NATURAL ANGLE is published to provide you with new and useful information about the industry. It is published through a cooperative effort of FPD, Kerckhaert Horseshoes, Liberty Horseshoe Nails, Bellota, Bloom Forge, Vettec and your supplier.

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