

The Natural Angle

A PUBLICATION OF PRACTICAL IDEAS AND SOLUTIONS FOR FARRIERS

Volume 3: Issue 1

Clipping Shoes using the Edge of the Anvil

BY ROY BLOOM

LET'S START WITH A FEW BASIC IDEAS ON CLIPS.

1. In order for a clip to be effective it must have a stout base and taper to the tip.
2. A rule of thumb; the clip should be proportionate to the stock. The width and height of the clip should be approximately the same as the width of the stock. This is not always true or necessary but it is a good target.
3. The indentation made when producing the material for the clip should not go past the foot surface edge of the shoe.

The first step in drawing any clip is the production of the material for the clip, or making the bubble. There are a lot of different tools and methods to make the bubble, all a matter of personal preference. Ball peins, cross peins, custom ball peins or bobpunches are the most common. I've chosen a custom ball pein (clipping hammer) to use for this article.

The area chosen for the clip should be held over the edge of the anvil. There should be a small radius on the edge you choose, 1/8" or less, but be sure it is not a sharp edge.

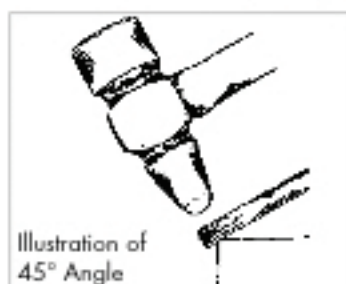
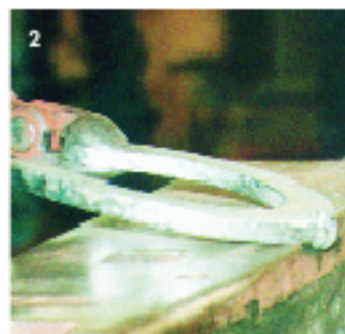
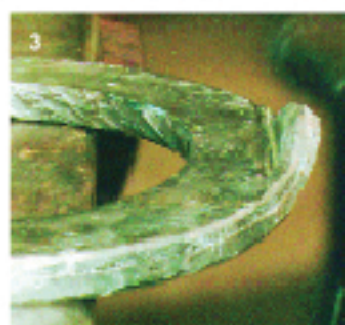


Illustration of 45° Angle



These photos were taken during a demonstration using a lead shoe. The lead is a good teaching device and acts very similar to hot steel.

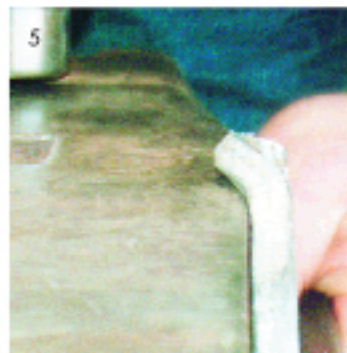
1. Beginning bubble over edge, shoe slightly tilted.
2. Strike into the material, aiming at edge (about 45 degree angle).
3. Looking at foot surface, you can see the bubble and shelf created by edge.
4. Flatten area around bubble.
5. Position of shoe to set clip.



Hold the shoe at an angle over this edge with about 3/16" hanging over. If you hang less, you will not get enough material to draw the clip. If you hang more you will be getting too far into the branch and a lot of distortion to the branch or nail holes will result.

Aim your hammer at the edge of the anvil and strike the shoe. Don't glance the blow down the side of the anvil. This pulls the indentation too far down. Try to continue striking into the edge. Hammer control is necessary to achieve a clean indentation. If you hammer like lightning and never strike the same place twice, your shoe and indentation will look like

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Clipping Shoes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

some sort of storm took place. Continue the blows until the desired bubble is created. Your practice will indicate to you how much bubble you need for the clip you're trying to draw.

Once you have your bubble, place the shoe on the anvil with the foot surface up and put the clip towards you. Hammer around the bubble to flatten the shoe. Having the bubble towards you allows you more control because you are using the area of the hammer face nearest you.

You are now ready to draw the clip, using the edge of the anvil. Position yourself at the heel of the anvil looking towards the horn. Position the shoe parallel with the edge and flat against the side of the anvil. The bubble area should be struck once or twice with the hammer parallel with the anvil face to set the clip. Then hold your hammer at a 45 de-



6. Once you've set the clip, tilt shoe away from anvil to begin drawing. 7, 8, 9. As you draw the clip, gradually move shoe away from anvil face. 10. Finished clip, notice ridges from using edge are on the foot side of clip.



gree angle so that the face is aiming at the edge. As the clip area is struck, the shoe is rotated away. This method leaves the face of the clip smooth and eliminates time cleaning up the outside surface of the clip.

Place the shoe on the anvil face and flatten. Flip the shoe and place the clip in the hardy hole. Pull the clip into the corner of the hardy hole and strike the shoe flat. Push the clip across to the opposite corner and strike a flat blow again. This sets your clip base.

Moving to the horn for your next step, place the shoe so that the area under the clip is solid against the horn and work the edge of the shoe.

Make sure that the area you are working is always solid against the horn so that you don't change the shape of the shoe. The final step would be to set the clip at the approximate angle of the hoof wall. This will make fitting much easier. You can dress the clip with a file or belt sander if you feel it necessary but your practice and hammer control will eventually minimize the need for any extra dressing of the clip. ■

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Shoes for Traction

BY DAVE FARLEY

Most equine breeds and disciplines require some degree of traction in order to perform. A horse's ability to perform would be extremely limited if you took away all traction. The natural concavity of the sole and the hoof wall provide a certain degree of traction when barefoot. Under domesticated conditions we normally apply horseshoes so we have to be prepared to provide adequate traction with the shoes. In the past, most traction devices had

to be hand forged into a shoe. Advances in manufacturing technology have led to a number of ready made traction shoes and other simple methods to modify the factory shoe.

The majority of horse-shoes manufactured today are flat shoes. These shoes often have a crease from just in front of the toe nail to just behind the heel nail. For our purposes we'll refer to these as plain shoes. Your challenge is to decide if you need more traction than this shoe provides. I'll work through a selection of choices you might make to get



the job done if you decide you need more.

The simplest device might be the selection of a factory shoe that already has a crease through the toe area or around the entire surface of the shoe. These shoes are often referred to as rim shoes. A shoe creased through the toe or from heel to heel can be used on the front or hind to add traction. The photos show a factory shoe creased through the toe and a plain factory shoe being creased on the job. The determination you can make is whether you require the extra traction provided by the crease often enough to warrant carrying the ready made rim shoes in your inventory. If there is only an occasional need a quick one heat modification with the creaser to your plain shoes is probably more cost effective for you.

I have a modification that I use for horses that need medial-lateral traction. The inline jar calk helps with quick turns but doesn't hinder the forward motion like a block heel or heeled shoe might. I use this most often with the jumper that needs to have speed and traction in turns as well as the straight to perform best. Other disciplines that can be helped



with this modification are the hunter, polo and cutting horses. This is a one heat modification that only requires the hammer and anvil.

A traction device that has been popular for years in Canada and Europe is the drive-in stud (calk). There are various brands and styles but generally the drive-in studs have a carbide center that give additional grip even on the hardest surfaces. They can be almost flat with the ground surface or you can select studs that are elevated above the ground surface. The photos show a typical application for my work. I have used these on general purpose riding horses, hunters, jumpers and trail horses. I find they are a fairly easy device to apply (drill and drive) and are often reusable. Be sure to have an annealed face on your hammer to avoid chipping. The carbide will be harder than any hammer face you might have.

The screw-in calks are most often seen on the hunter/jumper circuit, particularly for the three day event

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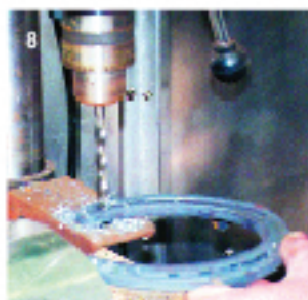


1. Factory rim style shoe, creased through toe. 2. Plain factory shoe being creased through toe. 3. Making in-line jar calk by turning inside of heel at edge of anvil.



4. In-line jar calk. 5. In-line jar calk positioned on foot. 6. Center punch your drive-in or screw-in calk positions. 7. Two common sizes of drive-in studs. 8. Drilling is all that's necessary for the drive-in calks. Most have tapered shanks. 9. When driving in studs with head, be sure not to bottom out, leave a slight gap between shoe and shoulder of stud.

10. Use a steel hammer with an annealed face to avoid injury from chipping



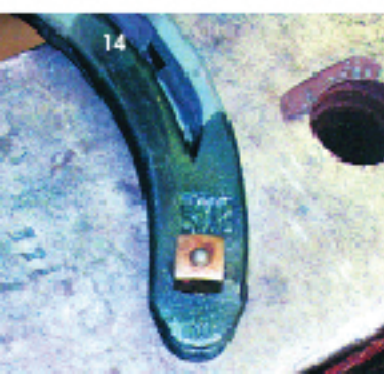
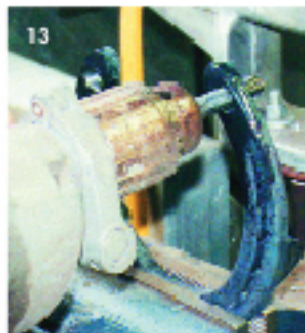
horse and dressage. There are many different drive-in studs providing a wide range of traction possibilities. They should be used carefully as there are some very severe calks available. The taller calks might be used for very wet, muddy grass surfaces but on hard surfaces can create undesirable impact in the calk area. The photos show two common sizes of calks that I see used

by my customers. I generally only drill and tap the shoes for the customer and let them decide when and what to use. One big advantage of the screw-in calk is that it is easy to put in and take out and therefore can be applied only for the length of time it is determined to be useful.

These are some ideas for you to consider when evaluating the needs of the horse for the job he has to

do. I am always cautious about applying traction devices that may not be necessary. Over the years I have seen a number of problems that are a result of too much traction- causing lameness that could have

been avoided. Start with the least severe option and work your way up until you have reached the level that gets the job done for you but keeps your horses sound as well. ■



11. Smaller studs driven flush used in toe with slightly taller studs in heels. 12. When drilling for screw-in calks be sure to countersink. This makes application much easier. 13. Use appropriate tap for the screw-in calks you will be using. 14. Screw-in calks should normally not be placed at end of heel. Slightly more forward than the studs in this photo would probably be preferable in most cases.

15. Two different size calks. Choice will usually be made based on surface conditions.

Emergency Support for the Hoof

Treatment for many injuries to the hoof can be aided by the immediate application of a frog support device. Veterinarians and farriers for years have found this first stage treatment to be complimentary to the more extensive treatment that may follow. Farriers can train horse owners to apply a simple device such as the Lily Pad that is described in this article. Remember that in many cases time is critical to the success of the overall treatment and immediate attention can often aid in recovery.

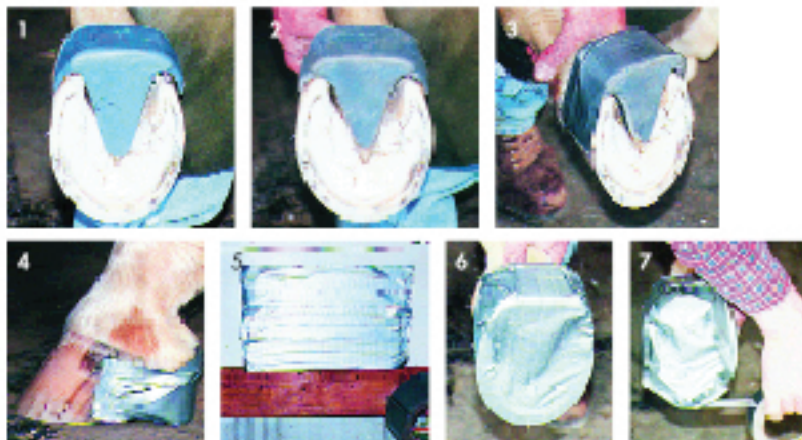
We'll mention a few more common injuries that have been helped by immediate use of a frog support device. Any emergency support device should be designed to take the load off the hoof wall or sole and put it on the frog. Remember that this device is only an aid and not a treatment. Consult with your veterinarian if possible before you apply support but certainly as quickly as possible afterwards.

Common Injuries and Problems:

Sole Bruises, Punctures or Abscesses, Quarter Cracks, Corns, Broken Bars, Sheared Heels, Acute Laminitis.

The application of a device like the Lily Pad is simple but requires attention to a few details. Begin by trimming the pad so that the frog piece stops 3/8" back from

1. Untrimmed pad on foot, pads almost always need trimmed to fit frog. 2. Trimmed pad, behind point of frog and not extending out sides of frog. 3. First strip of duct tape to hold pad in position. 4. You can see the support given by pad. 5. Build your set of strips to hold pad on before going to foot. 6. Tape applied to foot. 7. Last step, wrapping tape around circumference of wall.



the point of the freshly trimmed frog. It should also be trimmed on the sides so the sulcus is clear, not covered by the pad. A belt sander is very useful in this fit. However, it can be trimmed to size with a knife, nippers or shears.

The positioning of the pad is the most critical step in the process. As the pictures illustrate, you can hold the pad in place after trimming to size by placing one strip of duct tape around the pad at the heel area (below the bulbs) and forward along the wall on

both sides. To make the job easier, don't place the duct tape strips on one at a time after this positioning. You can put your strips on a flat, clean surface overlapping each until you feel you have enough to cover the bottom of the hoof and overlap so that you can bring the tape up the wall. After placing this on the hoof you can wrap around the circumference of the hoof as a final step.

This easy frog support application is cost effective. As a farrier you can keep a few pairs of these pads in your inventory at a low cost. You can also encourage your owners to keep at least a pair of pads and a roll of duct tape in their tackroom so that they can apply the device if necessary. ■

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