

## FACTORY CLIPS: *focus on the details*

CLIPS ON FACTORY SHOES HAVE EVOLVED AND IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE PAST 25 YEARS. This evolution has created one of the more noticeable changes in the trade and increased work efficiency significantly for those jobs that require clips.

We recently heard a presentation regarding proper clip fit. The presenter recommended, when using pre-clipped shoes, you should look for a clip that will seat well in order to maximize the effectiveness of the clip. The discussion that followed pointed out not all clipped shoes are equal. The consensus was the outside of the clip should follow the radius of the outer edge of the shoe as closely as possible so the inner portion of the clip would seat into or at least snugly against the wall. It was also pointed out that this type of clip does not lose strength in the finishing process because it already has a smooth flow following the outer edge of the shoe. Some factory clips sit to the outside edge of the shoe and require rasping or grinding to get a smooth flow - thus reducing the thickness of the clip and the strength. The inner edges of the clip that sits outside the radius of the shoe will also be very difficult to seat in the hoof wall.

The Kerckhaert Radius clip system was recognized in the conversation as meeting the optimum fit and finish standard. They developed and patented this system in



└ Kerckhaert Radius Clips ┘



└ Competing Brand Clips ┘

the 1990's and are widely recognized for this improvement, as well as other design details. The shoes produced with this Radius system have clips that are no longer drawn out of the web of the shoe, thus maintaining full strength in the clip area. They also don't sit outside the radius of the shoe, eliminating the time and energy required to get a continuous flow in the finish. The next time you visit your supplier compare brands and you will see the difference. Consider the value added benefit of a properly designed clip - there are time savings as well as important differences in how your shoes will fit and seat.





## TOOL TIPS

# Maintaining your Hammer and Struck Tools

*By Roy Bloom, APF CJF*

THERE ARE A LOT OF FORGING HAMMERS IN THE MARKET AND JUST AS MANY IDEAS AS TO HOW HARD THEY SHOULD BE. I have always held that the hammer hardness should not be more than the struck tool. The first reason is related to safety. A hammer that has an extremely hard heat treat level is more likely to chip or cause a problem with the struck tool or anvil if there is any kind of miss or errant blow. Secondly, because of the mass of the hammer in relation to the struck tool, damage to the tool is more likely. You will spend more

money and time maintaining your struck tools if the hammer is extremely hard. In the end, this will cost you more than the occasional maintenance of your hammer if it is approximately the same hardness as the struck tools.

A hammer requires regular maintenance. If you don't dress the face and edges regularly, you can end up with "dings" to the face that will mark the material you are working. Any deformation of the edges of the hammer can develop into a mushrooming area that is at risk of chipping or fracturing- creating

a safety issue and also making it more difficult to maintain.

Pay close attention to your hammer faces and edges as well as the struck end of your top tools. If you see any indication of marking, mushrooming or other blemishes developing you can dress these using a grinder with a fine grit belt- something in the neighborhood of 100-120 grit will work well. When dressing the hammer or tools be careful not to create enough heat to bring color to the tool. This can destroy the heat treat of the tool and is very difficult to repair.



## KERCKHAERT STANDARD SERIES Designed for Versatility

**The Kerckhaert Standard Series meet the needs of a wide variety of general purpose riding activities.**

These versatile shoes are easily shaped to fit the front or hind foot, without the pointed toe shape of other brands that makes fitting difficult.



Unclipped  
Sizes 00 - 3

STANDARD



STANDARD  
RIM

Unclipped  
Sizes 0 - 2



Unclipped  
Sizes 00 - 3

STANDARD  
EXTRA

Kerckhaert Standard series are punched for Liberty 5 City or 5 Slim.



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Dedicated to excellence

## News Flash

Farriers have argued for years that toe and heel shoes do not provide the best traction for horses working in rocky, rough terrain and can often contribute to limb problems.

Now it seems that a large outfitter in a mountainous region has taken note and is changing his shoe style to the Kerckhaert Dura Plain shoe.

The Dura Plain shoes provide dirt to dirt traction with the V-crease design and the 9mm stock provides good strength and wear for difficult environments. They also have enough material to work some modifications in without weakening the shoe.



The Kerckhaert Triumph Steel shoe is another good option for horses working in conditions where additional traction is required.

# Liberty Nail Line Continues to Expand

The Liberty line was developed by the Kerckhaert Horseshoe Company using state of the art equipment and materials. It is already recognized by top professionals throughout the world as a consistently high quality nail with clean features, sharp points and excellent driving and clinching performance. The line has grown from an E-head range to include race, city, slim and regular head styles. Nails for every type of shoe and horse are now a part of this program and they continue to meet the demands for quality and performance.



NAILS NOT SHOWN ACTUAL SIZE

## BELLOTA - A Rasp for Any Size Job



### Top Sharp

- Maximum cut rasp side
- Aggressive cut file side



### Classic

- Maximum cut rasp side
- Smooth cut file side



### Raptor

- Wider cutting surface
- Maximum cut rasp side
- Coarse cut file side



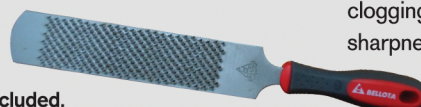
### Razor

- Extreme cut rasp side
- Coarser cut file side
- Tooth design reduces clogging and retains its sharpness



### Mini Sharp Rasp

13" length makes this rasp very handy for working on foals, ponies and miniature horses. Handle is included.







**Bobby Menker, CJP**  
Findaly, Ohio

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

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# Support Your Dealer

You have a primary dealer that you like to purchase your farrier supplies from, but you see a great deal offered on horseshoe nails from another store and it's hard to resist. We have all been guilty of getting drawn in to special deals; maybe the quality of the product isn't as good, maybe it's a store you don't buy from regularly, but that low price was just too good to pass up. Be careful. This buying strategy could be bad for your business. Here are a few things to consider before you decide to bypass your primary dealer and go for that special deal.

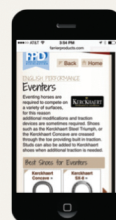
## YOUR DEALER:

- Understands your buying preferences
- Is willing to special order products when needed
- Carries quality products you can depend on
- Stands by the products they carry
- Is interested in the success of your business, and in you personally

All of these attributes add value to the purchases you make from your dealer. When you are tempted to purchase elsewhere for a few cents difference, you risk hurting your dealer's business; making it difficult for them to sustain their level of service to you. No one wins in this scenario, so think about extending the same level of loyalty to your dealer that they are giving to you.



FPD's Field Guide for Farriers gives you a useful on-the-go guide to the best horseshoes, nails and tools for various disciplines with tips and videos on how best to use them.



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