

NEWS FOR FARRIERS

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Kerckhaert Steel Comfort Sport

The Steel Comfort Sport gives the sport horse optimal hoof comfort. The Comfort Sport focuses on good movement coordination and optimal balance with less pressure on the tendons. The Comfort Sport is lighter than the original Steel Comfort and features radius clips between the 2nd and 3rd nail holes. Built-in support on the toe, wider heel sections for added support and marked drill points for applying additional traction all contribute to the ease of use for the farrier, and optimal performance and comfort for the horse.

Available in sizes 000 – 4.



Liberty Secure HardTop Nails

The new Secure HardTop line from Liberty offers a horseshoe nail with an innovative nail head that ensures long-lasting, close-fitting shoeing.

The nail has more material in the head and locks itself better in the crease. The nail crown is hardened to allow the nail to wear evenly with the shoe. This unique combination of shape and material improves and maintains the firm connection of the shoe to the hoof. The rest of the nail retains the original steel hardness to drive the nail into the white line without issue, and clinch in the same manner as other Liberty nails.

Available in sizes 3 – 6.



Try Save Edge Original Drive-On Rasp Handles



The Save Edge Original Drive-On Rasp Handle is a great replacement option for the discontinued Chameleon Red Rasp Handle. Designed for comfortable use of standard hoof rasps such as the Save Edge Original and Photo Finish.

The Save Edge Original Drive-On Rasp Handle is available in Blue and Pink.



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JUST A REMINDER



FootPro CS+ Hoof Treatment

A clay based hoof treatment with copper sulfate, iodine, venice turpentine and tea tree oil. The product is used to treat hoof separations or surface pockets in the sole and frog where bacteria may be present. The material is easily spread and leaves no stain on your fingers.



Allen's Blue Powder

Allen's Blue Powder is a medicated thrush preventative, developed by farrier Todd Allen. The active ingredient is copper sulfate and the powder is sprinkled on the frog and sole area of the foot as a preventative measure. Also used as a treatment for thrush.



Plexus CS Gel

Plexus CS Gel has been developed by Austin Edens to help treat white line and other bacterial/fungal issues in the horse's foot. The gel formula contains copper sulfate and vinegar in a ratio that makes it an effective treatment and preventative product.

PRO TIPS

Rock or Roll Shoe Modifications

by Dave Farley APF CF

There are times when improving breakover is helpful, beneficial or necessary. The three main reasons or factors I personally choose for one of the two modifications are conformation, footing and rider skills.

A conformational reason to choose either of these modifications would be a longer than normal pastern and/or negative palmar hoof angle (low heels).

Another reason is environmental issues. With the introduction of synthetic footings to the equine industry, traction of the horse's feet have increased tremendously. Some horses adjust quickly to synthetics while others have symptoms of stumbling and knuckling of the pasterns and or knees. In some instances, horses also experience these problems in the hind limbs. This stumbling or knuckling would be improved with the modifications.

AS SEEN IN
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Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

Negative conformation and abrasive footings are enough reason for safety concerns. However, I occasionally choose these modifications for riders, especially amateurs who have a tendency to ride in a more forward position using the reins to balance and not sitting correctly. This too can cause a horse to stumble or trip, especially when the footing is abrasive.

These three reasons are important and after several applications (shoeing cycles) some weak, crushed or low heels may improve. If you find improvement in the heel quality or increased angle and improved hoof pastern alignment, you may be able to eliminate the modification and return to a normal shoe application.

When I'm asked to give a horse a little extra break over, I always start with a slight rolled toe, like the roll on the first pictures. If the rider then says that movement has improved, but didn't help or eliminate the stumbling, I roll the toe back further, as far as necessary. Sometimes back to the second nail hole.

There are times when you will need to consider a rocker toe first instead of a rolled toe.

- (1) When there is extreme negative palmar angle and a long toe.
- (2) A horse is bilaterally (both feet) stumbling.
- (3) Lameness is diagnosed and you are included in the decision to rocker first instead of roll.

For all three of these instances to rocker, the horse's caretakers and riders should be advised to allow the horse ample time to adjust to the changes before returning to work.

A rocker toe is a way to increase break over as much as possible without squaring the toe. Although it is possible to square the toe and rocker it at the same time, I personally believe that "if" there is enough sole depth, one can rocker the toe back as far back as you can roll it. I do this modification in the extreme low negative angle conformation feet.

One other note - many times a rolled toe or rocker toe is applied to a hoof that has contracted or under-run heels. I always scotch the heels to encourage the heels to widen and/or correct the heel angle. ■



Rolled Toe before clean up.



Lateral view of rolled toe.



Left: Slight roll/bevel put in with grinder.



Below: Rocker Toe.



Above: Enhanced breakover of Rocker Toe.



Right: Rocker Toe on foot.