

The Showing REGISTER

What type of tack for the show ring?

What tack should my horse/ pony wear to compete in a showing class?

Whether you are competing in a class at your local show or looking to aim at the next level, you need to ensure your turnout is correct for the class to make that all important first impression to the judge(s)

General rules:

- Tack (saddle, bridle, girth and numnah) can be black or brown (havana)
- It should be clean and supple
- Pay attention to detail – make sure your tack fits correctly

Let's look at Ridden classes first:

Bridles -

A plain and workmanlike bridle is suitable for all classes.

A simple snaffle bridle should be worn in Novice classes.



Cobs and Hunters- the Show Hunter in the picture on the left is a good example of a plain double bridle in Havana. This type of bridle would also be suitable for Show Cobs and Coloured horses which are 'Hunter' type. The top rein which attaches to the bridoon (snaffle) bit should be plaited and the bottom rein which attaches to the Weymouth bit plain.

Browbands -

Plain browbands =

- Show Hunter Ponies
- Hunters
- Cobs
- Coloured Horses/Ponies of Hunter type
- Mountain & Moorland ponies

Coloured browbands =

- Show Ponies
- Show Hacks
- Riding Horses
- Part Bred Horses/Ponies

WHAT TYPE OF TACK

EXTRA TIP

A horse/ pony that goes well in a snaffle bridle, is a nicer impression than one that goes badly in a double/ Pelham bridle.

Bits -

Snaffle bits are preferable for Novice classes.

Double or Pelham bits should be worn for Open classes, BUT only if you and your horse/pony are happy. If you are not sure ask the advice of a professional or call the TSR office.

Examples of some bits used in the show ring are –



Loose ring jointed snaffle



Eggbutt snaffle



Loose ring lozenge snaffle



Pelham Jointed Bit



Pelham French Link Rugby Bit



Weymouth Bradoon Bit

Nosebands -

As with browbands the style of noseband most suitable depends on your horse/pony type.

- A flat, plain cavesson (often called Hunt) noseband will suit all types and is correct for Hunters, Cobs, Working Hunters, Show Hunter ponies and M&M (Native) ponies
- Finer head animals, such as a Hack, Riding Horse or Show Pony may suit a slimmer thickness or raised noseband

Saddles -

General purpose saddles can be used. Other types of saddles are:

- Dressage
- Straight cut showing saddles
- Jumping saddles (for Working Hunter classes)

Numnahs -

- A neat fitting numnah which matches the colour of your tack is smart and professional
- Try not to use a saddlecloth as they take up too much space and stop the Judge from seeing the best view of your horse/pony



A lovely picture of a well turned out Show Pony and rider. The pony is wearing a coloured browband and simple Pelham bit with a raised noseband

Working Hunter classes -

Running martingales are allowed in Working Hunter classes.

All other tack should be the same as a flat ridden showing class.

Brushing/ protective boots in the ring can only be worn for the Jumping phase of a Working Hunter class.

They should be taken off after jumping ready for you to re-enter the ring for the 'Show' phase.

Novice classes -

Snaffle bridles should be worn for Novice classes with a simple bridle and appropriate noseband as previously described.

Below is a well turned out Mountain & Moorland Novice in a simple snaffle bridle at one of the TSR Final shows.

See the TSR website www.theshowingregister.co.uk for more information on qualifying shows.

Mountain and Moorland classes -

All Novice ridden animals must be shown in a suitable plain, snaffle bridle as seen on the picture to the left.

Coloured browbands are not worn in M&M classes.

If riding in an Open class, you may use either

- A suitable Pelham or
- Double (Weymouth) bridle



Lead Rein & First Ridden ponies -

Ponies should be shown in a snaffle bridle.

LEAD REIN PONIES ONLY –

The lead rein must be attached to the noseband only as shown in the picture.



Open classes -

At some show's rules may state for a class 'any suitable bridle'. This means just that – the bridle and bit which is suits your horse. In Open classes you can wear the following bridles:

- Snaffle
- Pelham
- Double

Unless specifically stated Bitless Bridles are not allowed in a showing class.

In Hand classes -

General In Hand for Horses and Ponies –

- Choose a bridle which suits your type of horse/ pony, i.e. flat plain browband and noseband for a Hunter, or coloured browband for a Show Pony
- Novice animals should wear a snaffle bridle
- Open animals should wear a Pelham or double bridle
- If using the same bridle as you use for riding the rein(s) must be taken over the head
- CONTROL is very important when showing in hand. Always think of safety and whether you can control your horse/pony



Mountain & Moorland (Native) classes are more specific -

- White halter, rope halter, leather head collar or show bridle is correct for youngstock in the following breeds:
 - New Forest, Highland (rope not webbing), Fell, Dales, Welsh A, C & D
- Leather foal slips, followed by in-hand bridles are correct for:
 - Shetlands, Connemaras
 - Exmoors, Dartmoors, Welsh Bs
- In-hand bridles can also be used for youngstock and broodmares
- Stallions and colts, 2 years old and over should wear bridles with a suitable bit
- Mares or geldings four years old or over may be shown in a white webbing or rope show halter, leather head collar/slip, show bridle or riding bridle
- For more advice contact the specific breed society of your horse/pony



If you have any questions, please contact us on
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