

There are five recognized rein aids whose very names seem to cause confusion in the minds of many riders. Since rein aids are of no use without simultaneous leg and seat aids, these are also illustrated for each situation in which a given rein aid might be used, there are of course many other applications and combinations, and this illustrates only the rein aids in their simplest form.

The darkest lines indicate the stronger rein, the active leg and the greater disposition of the weight of the seat aid regardless of whether the latter is obtained by the shift of the legs or upper body.

1. OPEN REIN -- Leading Rein -- (to the right) Use - Young horse being trained to turn to the right.



Right hand moved to the right, wrist turned to make finger nails just visible, left hand yields slightly.

At the same time right leg active at the girth, knee and heel depressed which causes right buttock to support more weight than the left. Left leg drawn slightly back behind the girth, this leg passive, unless horse tries to send his quarters to the left in which case rider's left leg is there to contain and correct. Horse's forehand should move toward the right with hind quarters exactly following.

2. INDIRECT REIN -- Counter Rein -- (to the right) Use - 'Neck Reining' a trained horse, turning to the right when riding with the reins in one hand.



Rein hand moves to the right, hand tending to be more in the knuckles up position, left rein pressing against the base of the horse's neck, right rein is of course, at this point somewhat slack. Since the horse can easily evade this rein by taking his muzzle to the left or worse still by rubbernecking to the left while turning to the right. The horse must be taught this rein and the legs and seat must play an active part to maintain the bend and direction.

Right leg active by the girth, right knee and heel depressed. Left leg passive behind the girth ready to contain and control the hindquarters.

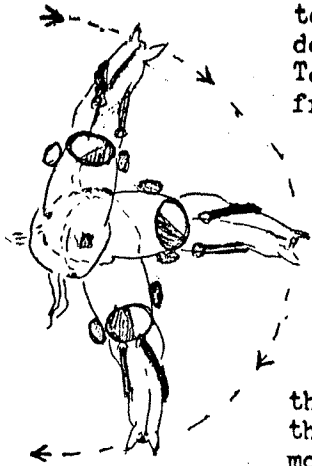
NOTE: This rein does not restrict forward movement nor however does it assist in balancing or containing impulsion.

3. DIRECT REIN OF OPPOSITION -- (to the right) Use - normal turning to the right of a trained horse, reins in both hands.



Right rein drawn back with finger pressure toward the rider's right hip. The left rein yielding only fractionally as the horse turns from a straight track to commence the turn, there after the left rein increases in pressure to support the right rein. This right rein then has, in addition to asking the forehand to move to the right, the effect of opposing the right shoulder to the left hip of the horse which may in turn cause the quarters, if unopposed, to swing out to the left. Increasing pressure on the supporting left rein and left leg will prevent this, but the tendency of the horse to slow due to the containing action of the reins must then be overcome with more active seat and right leg than would be the case with the use of a single open rein, however, the use of this direct rein of opposition will ensure better control of and greater balance in the trained horse.

4. INDIRECT REIN OF OPPOSITION IN FRONT OF THE WITHERS -- (to the right)

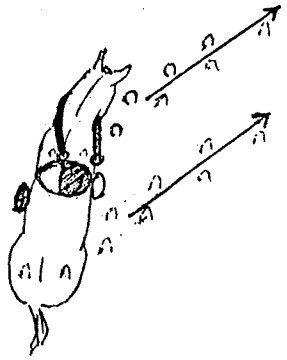


Use as when performing a tight turn or a pirouette to the right, how far in front of the withers will depend on the stage of training of the horse. To start the pirouette the left rein is applied in front of the withers with the right leg active and with a deep knee and heel the weight should be somewhat to the rear on the riders right buttock, as the turn progresses the left rein comes back to the withers and even behind them to counter the usual evasion of the horse, which is, to swing his quarters to the left during the last part of

the turn, similarly the riders left leg which starts the turn passively behind the girth, must become more active to prevent this step by the hind legs to the left. It is important that the riders leg be drawn back from the hip and not the knee, or weight may be displaced onto the left buttock, which at this stage would of course be encouraging the horse to step to the left with his hind legs. During this whole movement the riders right hand should be producing a slight opening rein.

NOTE: In the diagram the slight change of weight aid and increased activity of the riders left leg as the turn progresses, with the exception of teaching the green horse, the riders hand should not cross the line of the mane.

5. INDIRECT REIN OF OPPOSITION BEHIND THE WITHERS -- (to the right) Use



as in performing lateral movements. This rein, while still influencing the forehead as in #4. above, has an almost equal influence on the hindquarters to move them, also to the right, if correctly backed up by the seat and legs. Left hand should be drawn lightly back in the direction of the riders hip. Right hand should produce a slightly opening rein supporting the left. At the same time the right leg is passive but with a deep knee and heel produces weight on the right buttock. The left leg is drawn back from the hip to a position slightly behind the girth and is active and in time to the movement of the horses hind legs. The riders left leg pushes as the horses left leg leaves the ground to step forward and thus causes the left hind to swing in under the horse.

It must be emphasized that all aids whether given with the hands, seat or legs must be pulsating in character and in rhythm to the movement of the horses legs under the rider; there is only one moment when influence can be applied to any of the horses legs and that is when that particular leg is in flight.