American Driving Society
Harness, Bits & More

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- Materials
- Fitting

The Parts of the Harness

The Parts of the Harness
Materials: Synthetic vs. Leather

- Synthetic Oval holes
- Synthetic Round worn holes
- Leather Round worn holes

Colors: Black vs. Russet

Hardware: Brass vs. Chrome/Stainless
Condition: Used vs. New

Harness: Styles
Style must match the job
- Recreation
- Pleasure Competition
- Combined Driving
  - Presentation & Marathon
- Distance Driving
- Training
- Draft

Style: Competition
Harness: Bridles

Parts
- Brow Band
- Crown Piece
- Blinders
- Cavesson
- Throat latch
- Bit height

A Custom made Bride

Shaped Crown

Gullet Strap

Noseband Fit

With Rubber Curb Guard
Harness: Collars

- Breast Collar
- Full Collar
- Combo Collars

Breast Collar vs. Full Collar

Breast Collars

Drop Front or Shaped Collar
Harness: Saddles

Parts
- Treeless vs. Tree
- Girth
- Tugs
  - Open or English
  - French or Tilbury
  - Placement

Treeless Saddle

Tree Saddle

Tugs Styles
Harness: Backstrap/Breeching
- Back strap
- Crupper
- Breeching

Harness: Kick Strap
The best $25 Insurance you can buy!
Temporary alterations
Permanent changes
Pads

Harness: Tweaking

Questions?

Bits
- Styles
- Snaffles
- Leverage Bits
- Mouthpieces
- Cheek pieces
- Materials
- Fitting
**Bits**

“What does it feel like to be this animal of flight, who must submit to being strapped to a carriage and controlled through a piece of metal in his mouth, doing things and going places he would never dream of doing on his own?” ~ Heike Bean ~

Carriage Driving

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**Bits: Styles**

**Driving Bits vs. Riding Bits**

- **Non-leverage Bits**
  - Snaffles
  - Bitless

- **Leverage Bits**
  - Liverpools
  - Butterfly
  - Kimberwicks

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**Bitless Bridles**

*ADS Article 19*

A bridle with a bit is required for each horse.
Examples of Snaffles

- Roller Loose Ring
- Hollow Loose Ring
- Waterford
- Wilson

Examples of Leverage Bits

- Glory Liverpool & Butterfly
- 'Broken'
- French
- Dr. Bristol
- Waterford
- Roller mouth
- Segunda

Bits: Mouthpieces

**Single bars**
- Mullen
- Arch
- Glory
- Straight
- Ported
- Barrel

**Multi Piece**
- 'Broken'
- French
- Dr. Bristol
- Waterford
- Roller mouth
- Segunda
Mouth Pieces

- Mouth Pieces
- Butterfly
- Half Cheek
- Man’s 1st Bit
- Egg Butt
- Loose Ring
- Dee Ring
- Kimberwick
- Berry Bit

Bit Cheeks

- Bit Cheeks
- Full Cheek
- Half Cheek
- Butterfly
- Liverpool
- Loose Ring
- Dee Ring
- Egg Butt
- Uxter Kimberwick
- Berry Bit

Not allowed in ADS Competitions

- Not allowed in ADS Competitions
- Twisted Wire, Burr
- Gag Bits
Bits: Materials
• Stainless
• Brass
• Nickel
• Bronze
• Copper
• Sweet Iron
• Never-rust
• German Silver
• Cyprium
• Aurigan
• Rubber
• Happy mouth
  • (Now in pastels!)
• Aluminum
• Chrome Plated
• Latex

Bits: Fitting
• Thickness
• Width
• Placement

Bits: Selection
• K.I.S.S
• Use what works
• Give it time
• Experiment
• Evolving with Training & Experience