

TYPES OF HACKAMORES & BIT FREE BRIDLES

The following are representatives of the most commonly available hackamores and bit free bridles. A hackamore replaces the nose band and bit of the bridle. It rests on the bridge of the horse's nose. You should work with a professional to determine the device that is best for you based on the discipline you ride, your experience, your horse, and your budget. Hackamores & bitless bridles can be harsh on the sensitive nose of the horse when used improperly & are illegal in some shows.



English Hackamore: The English hackamore replaces the nose band and bit on an English bridle. It can be used in show jumping competition and for trail riding. The long shanks on the hackamore create leverage when the reins are pulled much like a curb bit.



Mechanical Hackamore: The mechanical hackamore works in much the same way as the English hackamore. This style is more often used on western bridles and has a longer shank giving it more leverage.



Bosal: The bosal is a type of hackamore that is only used in the western discipline. One rein is attached with two knots at the knot end of the bosal making a continuous rein (similar to English). The bosal is often used to train horses and may be used for showing young horses in some competitions.



Bitless Bridle: The bitless bridle is a relatively new invention. The bitless bridle is not allowed in most competitions. This bridle is used with two reins and applies pressure to the nose without the use of a shank. As with all bit free devices the bitless bridle can be harsh when used by a heavy handed rider.