

TYPES OF SNAFFLE MOUTHPIECES

A snaffle bit is any direct pressure bit. Snaffle bits come in a variety of shapes and materials and can feature a mullen mouth, broken mouth, or linked mouth. Snaffle bits may also be twisted wire or have a more mild slow twist or a corkscrew twist. Generally snaffle bits can be used in English and Western disciplines depending upon the type of mouthpiece. A snaffle bit with a broken mouthpiece causes a nutcracker action when the reins are pulled. Notice that all snaffle bits have only one ring to attach both the cheek piece and the rein. Below are some common styles of snaffle bits shown in a variety of mouthpieces.



Mullen Mouth: A mullen mouth has a straight bar with no break. Most snaffle bits are available with a mullen mouth.



Rubber: Rubber is often used to coat snaffle bits (both broken and mullen mouth) and some curb bits. It makes a bit less severe by fattening the mouthpiece.



French Link & Dr. Bristol: The double joint & round centerpiece make the top image a French Link mouthpiece. The lower image is a similar mouthpiece but the double joint & flat center bar make it a Dr. Bristol. Most snaffle bits are available in either style. Both are designed for horses with low palates & a sensitivity to broken snaffle bits.



Slow Twist: A slow twist can be helpful with a less sensitive horse. Most snaffle bits are available with a slow twist broken mouth piece.



Corkscrew: This “twist” is more severe than a slow twist and sometimes necessary for a strong horse.



Twisted Wire: Twisted wire (copper or steel) is one of the most severe mouthpieces and should only be used by an experienced rider.