

## To Order

Please email Lynn for a bridle measuring chart.

Once we have your details and you have decided on the type of bridle that you would like, you will be advised on how much your bridle will cost. You then need to send a 25% deposit of the final cost. This is non-refundable, as the bridle will be made to fit YOUR horse!

Full range of leather work is also available; please contact Lynn for more details.

All bridles and accessories are hand made to order in top quality English leather, havana with brown stitching. Please allow at least 28 days for delivery.

### CONTACT DETAILS

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# ***Lynn Russell***

## *Bridles*

### *Made to measure*



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## The Right Look

A well-fitting bridle should have all the side buckles roughly in line with the horse's eye when fitted to the middle adjustment holes, with plenty of extra holes so that it can be made larger or smaller.

- The browband should be comfortable, not pulling the headpiece into the ears or sagging with a gap at the front.
- The noseband should be snug but with space to put your thumb underneath it, and the head and cheek straps should sit just in front of the bit cheeks otherwise the noseband may eventually tip down at the front. There should not be too much extra strap on the back of the noseband as this will flap around and look untidy.
- You should be able to put four fingers sideways under the throatlash.
- The split in the headpiece should not be visible above the browband or start too far below it.
- The bit should sit comfortably in the horse's mouth when the cheek pieces are buckled on the middle holes, with one or two creases at the corners of the mouth. (This varies according to the type of horse, but basically if the horse looks comfortable it probably is.)
- The length of rein is very much a personal thing, but as a rule of thumb when the horse is being ridden there should be enough rein for the horse to have a good stretch but not so much that your feet could become tangled in them, particularly for children.
- The mouthpiece of the bit should be about 1/2"(1 cm) wider than the horse's mouth, so that the sides don't pinch, but too wide and it will move about too much and not function properly, as well as looking unsightly.

## How to Measure

To measure a bridle properly you will need to put your everyday bridle on your horse and look at it critically. You need to assess where it is too long or short, too wide or too thin.

To get accurate measurements, you will need a bridle measurement chart. Take your current bridle apart and lay the pieces flat on the floor or table. Please email Lynn to request a chart. It shows clearly where the measurements have to be taken. Please remember when measuring your bridle.....

- Keep the measurements the same, if you start in inches for example make sure all the other measurements are in inches.
- Measure the cheekpieces with the bit that you are going to use, if you use a bit with long shanks then the cheek- pieces will need to be shorter and vice versa. The buckles of the cheekpieces need to be level with your horse's eye once done up.
- The browband should not be too tight or sagging over the horse's eyes. The split on the headpiece should not be seen above or below the browband.
- Nosebands should lie flat across the nose just below where the cheekbone finishes. You shouldn't be able to see daylight between the nose and noseband.
- Reins will come in a standard length unless otherwise stated. For Side saddle, they will need to be a bit longer.
- Straps that are too long are not held-properly by their keepers and so they look untidy.



## The Right Bit

Before you choose a bit, you should make sure that your horse's teeth have been checked recently.

You also have to choose the type of bridle in which your horse goes best. Whether it is a pelham or a double bridle, make up a 'work bridle', for everyday use, but use the same bits that you would use in the ring, so it's not a shock to your horse when you get to a show.

- Different horses go better in different mouthpieces. Remember a bit is as only as kind as your hands. Any bit can be severe when used incorrectly or with generally 'rough hands'.
- The bit must fit correctly. You should be able to just get only the tip of your little finger in between the bit ring and your horse's mouth. It should hang high enough to wrinkle the corners of the mouth, if too low, it could pinch.
- A single link curb chain looks more elegant than a double linked one, but they are harder to find.
- If you are using a Rugby pelham, you can achieve a more finished appearance by attaching a slip-head to the top bit ring.

Please email Lynn for more information or advice on the range of bits available

