

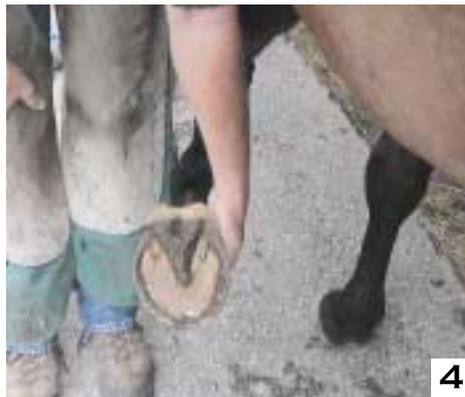
WHAT KIND OF VIEW DO YOU HAVE?

BY DAVID FARLEY



One of the steps to getting a good trim is often overlooked. If you don't have a good view of the balance of the bottom of the foot it is difficult to get the best trim. How you hold the leg affects the view of the foot, sometimes dramatically changing the perception you end up with.

Many farriers have found that holding the leg in its most natural position is the best way to get a true picture of the balance. This applies to front or hind. Take a look at the pictures. Try holding the leg in the various positions. You may be surprised at the differences in what you might have done with the foot trim based on how you see the hoof in these positions.



If you hold the front foot similar to **photos 1 and 2** you are very likely getting a distorted view. Your hand, especially the thumb pressure, will push the hoof capsule in one direction or another. Holding the leg out from the body, as in **photos 3, 4, and 5** will also create a distorted view.

Try holding the leg by the cannon bone and staying in line with the body. The hoof may be under the horse and you will have to crouch to get the view but it gives you the most accurate view of how the hoof aligns with the cannon bone and gives you a much better starting

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point for your trim. See **photos 6, 7 and 8.**

The hind view is similarly affected by not allowing the limb to hang as freely and near its natural position as possible. Pushing the leg out of position with your inside knee will make it difficult to see the true alignment of the hoof capsule to the leg. This is evident in **photo 9.**

Hold the leg under the hock joint and keep the cannon bone perpendicular to the ground as it is shown in **photos 10 & 11.** If the cannon bone is pulled forward or pushed back as it is in **photos 12 & 13** it will distort your view - particularly of the toe and heel length.

Your trim should always be done with the alignment of the hoof capsule to

the leg in mind. Hopefully these tips will help you to improve the view and the trim. ■

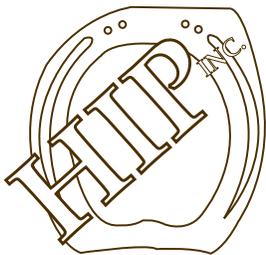


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Hind Limb Support

You may have seen past issues of The Natural Angle where lateral support has been discussed. One of the primary goals in application of any shoe is to give the limb adequate support. It's not always easy to determine how much support you want to give or how much you can safely apply. In a future article we will get into more detail as to what is going on with the hoof capsule and how it is affected by conformation, trim of the hoof and application of shoes.

This is a brief overview of a new shoe that is coming to the market that is designed to help with support issues. We had a number of farriers that asked if Kerckhaert could make a "lateral support" shoe. Many of these farriers were already forging the support but indicated a shoe that had more material in the heel area of the branch would make it possible to either reduce the forging time or give them enough material to give even more support than they could get with the existing branch width. Kerckhaert decided it was possible and they have started production of the DF Grand Prix. The DF series is a clipped front and hind shoe that is punched for E-head nails. The DF Grand prix will be available in a hind pattern only in sizes 0 through 4. Production should be completed and shoes available by July of 2004.

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THE NATURAL ANGLE

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Bob Pethick of Bedminster, NJ and Dave Farley of Loveland, OH have both used some of the test samples and sent us the following photos to give some idea of the application. The first group of images and comments are from Bob Pethick. Dave Farley took the images that appear on page 5. ■



Finally, a machine made shoe made for balancing up the hind limb. The extra width of the lateral branch gives a base of support for the limb and provides flotation under load to reduce the stress on the hock and supporting structures. The introduction of the DF Grand Prix has just made our jobs easier and our horses happier!



The extra width of the lateral heel simplifies the task of giving coverage and support.



This picture shows how the GP gives the width needed to balance the hoof from the second nail hole back.



The hoof centered on the limb, thanks to the help of the new DF Grand Prix.

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SUPPORTING EDUCATION IN THE FARRIER INDUSTRY

This is the first issue of the ninth year of The Natural Angle. Many of you have received the publication since the beginning and have provided the encouragement we need to keep pushing on. This project has been rewarding and fits into our overall effort to support the farrier trade. This support comes not only by providing good quality products but also by providing as much support as possible to educational publications, clinic venues and association events.

FPD, Inc. is a wholesale only distributor to farrier suppliers throughout North America. Over the years many farriers have wondered just where we fit into the industry. We don't manufacture, we don't sell directly to the public. But we do play a vital role in bringing products

to the market that have everyday application. We put a lot of effort in the educational side of the industry, doing clinics throughout the year and in many locations. We believe strongly in the value of the educational efforts that we are directly involved in, as well as those efforts of various associations and other groups.

The support for The Natural Angle is not coming from a single company. FPD is responsible for putting together the information but the effort and costs are shared by a number of farrier suppliers and manufacturers. If you are receiving the publication via one of the suppliers be sure to let them know you appreciate it. The manufacturers supporting the effort are those that we refer to as "the farrierproducts™ group." These manufacturers work closely with us to develop and produce products to meet the challenges your business faces. The support we receive from Kerckhaert Horseshoes, Bloom Forge, Vettec, Australian Nails, Bellota and Hot Iron Productions is vital to the programs we sponsor.

Last, but not least, we owe a great debt to farriers all over the country that have helped us with clinics, articles, feedback

and just general support. The list of individuals who have contributed is too long to run here. But whenever you have a chance to thank those farriers who have contributed articles and photos for the Natural Angle and the great list of clinicians that have given their time over the years please do. They all contribute generously and unselfishly and we couldn't do what we do without them.

Thanks for your feedback and please don't hesitate to contact your dealer or FPD with your comments or suggestions.

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If you have questions, comments or ideas concerning the articles published in the Natural Angle, please contact your distributor. We welcome your input. The Natural Angle is designed and edited by Graphic Response, Inc. ■

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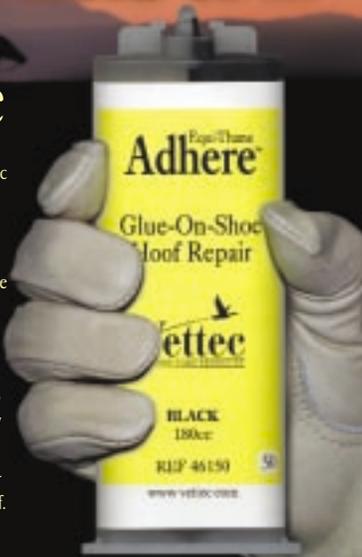
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Dave Farley's photographs appear below.

