

## DF Grand Prix Lateral Extension Shoe

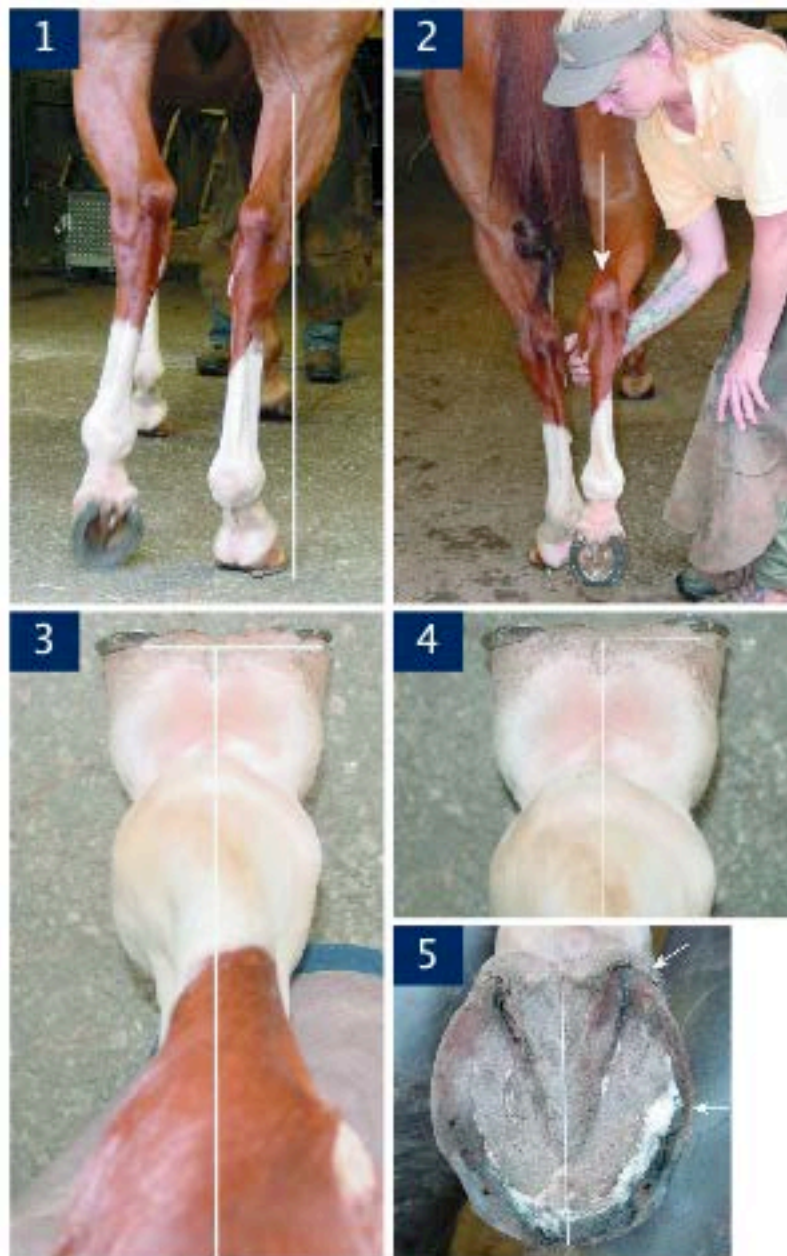
By Bob Pethick CJF

In the last issue of *The Natural Angle* you saw photos of the new DF Grand Prix shoes from Kerckhaert by Dave Farley and Bob Pethick. In this issue Bob would like to address the evaluation of conformation and the application of the lateral extension shoe. This is a shoe which can help horses perform better and reduce stress on the joints under load. The wide lateral branch can provide a base of support for the limb and most importantly flotation in soft footing.

The first step in the process is to watch the horse move (*Dynamic Balance*). Viewing the horse from behind (photo 1) we are looking to see where the hoof capsule loads in relationship to the center of weight bearing. As this horse walks forward you can see the hoof loads inside the center line or is considered to be base-narrow.

The second step would be to sight the limb for imbalance or excess growth (*Static Balance*). When sighting hind limbs, support under the hock (photo 2) and let the limb hang where the horse is comfortable. You will be looking down the hock and cannon bone (photo 3) to the hoof capsule.

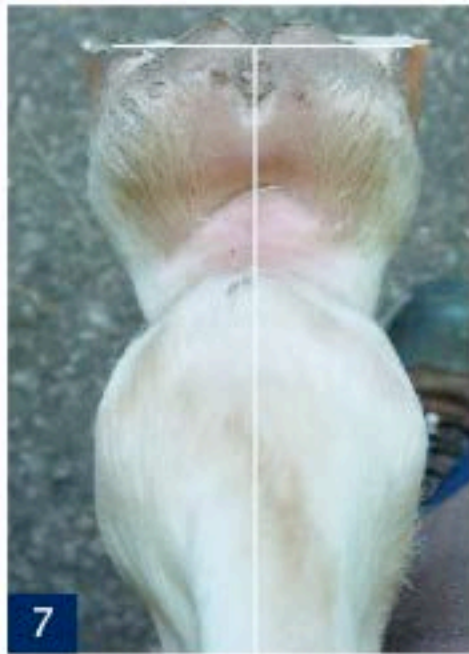
You can see the outside (lateral) heel quarter has less growth, has become more vertical and closer to the center line due to compression from excess weight bearing. The inside (medial) heel has more growth and has moved further away from the center line due to less weight bearing (photo 4). After pulling the shoe and looking at the ground surface (photo 5) it is easy to see the lateral heel quarter is closer to the center line of the hoof.



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The next step would be to trim the hoof. We would like to bring the hoof back to as close a symmetrical state as possible which would also help center the hoof under the limb. This would involve simply trimming the excess growth from the medial heel to the widest point of the lateral toe quarter. After trimming, the hoof has become more symmetrical (photo 6). When sighting the limb again we can see the hoof is perpendicular to the center line and level (photo 7). It is important to remember that weight bearing works against the balanced hoof. The hoof capsule will distort according to the stress it is subjected to during the shoeing cycle. You can minimize distortion by correct trimming and shoe fit, but uneven growth will still occur because you have not changed the conformation. In the case of a severe limb deviation the shoeing schedule should be shortened to minimize distortion.



The next step would be fitting our GP Lateral Extension Shoe. The outside perimeter of the shoe is not going to be symmetrical due to the extension. I have found it helpful to concentrate on keeping the inside symmetrical when shaping. The notch in the branch is from the edge of the anvil when forging the heel check to align with the frog (photo 8). I have used only the front two nail holes on the lateral branch as I would like to encourage the lateral

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# Prepping Your Buffing/ Sharpening Wheel For Knife Sharpening

*By Roy Bloom, CJF*

TOOL CORNER TOOL CORNER TOOL CORNER TOOL CORNER TOOL CORNER TOOL CORNER TOOL CORNER TOOL CORNER TOOL CORNER TOOL CORNER

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11



12

heel quarter to expand.

Sighting the hoof again with the shoe applied (photo 9) we have come even closer to centering the hoof on the limb.

Viewing the hoof from the back on the ground shows the amount of lateral support available with the new DF Grand Prix (photo 10).

The Lateral view (photo 11) shows the width from the second nail hole back and the boxing on the foot surface of the shoe to help eliminate shoe loss.

The view from the front (photo 12) shows how the lateral extension shoe has helped to center the hoof capsule. ■

The following information will be useful in setting up a wheel for sharpening your hoof knives, including the hook. These photos are of a wheel being set up to sharpen left hand knives. Since this type of wheel is directional, you will need to groove the opposite side of the wheel for right hand knives. Knives should always be sharpened or buffed with the blade facing down to avoid injury and to get the best results. Always make sure the wheel is rotating in the proper direction. An arrow is usually placed on these types of wheels to indicate rotational direction.

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## The Natural Angle

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You need to establish the position of the groove first. Take your knife and hold it to the wheel (wheel should not be running at this point). Mark the location of where the groove will be. This can vary depending on the size of your knife hook. Once you have the mark you can rotate the wheel by hand with the marker held against the wheel to mark where the groove will be.



Sharpen the tang end of an old rasp to use for cutting the groove. Since these wheels are fairly aggressive, the tang will probably have to be re-sharpened 4 or 5 times in order to cut the desired depth of the groove.

Establish a plate or something solid to brace your rasp. Turn the unit on and carefully apply enough pressure to begin cutting the groove. Be sure you are steady and have a firm grip on your tool. Once the groove is cut to the desired depth (usually around 1/4" will do unless you have a very large hook) the wheel is ready for use.



When using the wheel for sharpening your knife, be sure you have the blade edge pointed down. This type of wheel does not require the use of any kind of rouge. You don't need to apply a lot of pressure to get good performance. But you should be certain that you are holding the knife firmly at the angle that is on the cutting edge to get the best results. If you hold it too flat against the wheel you will not get the kind of edge that will give you the best performance.

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## NEW ITEMS FROM KERCKHAERT, BLOOM FORGE AND FARRIERPRODUCTS™

### KERCKHAERT

#### DF GRAND PRIX HIND SHOE

The new lateral extension hind shoe from Kerckhaert is featured in this month's article by Bob Pethick. Horses of many disciplines, including jumping and rope horses can benefit from the support this shoe provides. It is available in sizes 0 through 3, clipped only at this time.

### BLOOM FORGE

#### HOOF KNIVES

These are high quality knives made with a high carbon steel blade that comes with an excellent edge - and holds its edge. It is placed in the handle so that the twisting motion necessary to get to a good position on the hoof is minimized. Available now in the regular blade. In the future the line will also include a curved drop blade.

### BUFFING/SHARPENING WHEEL

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Left: Hoof Knives  
Below: fp™ Bar Shoes



for use in sharpening knives and polishing tools. The wheel has a 6" diameter with a 3/4" thickness that is ideal for hoof knife sharpening. The 3/4" width allows you to get a good edge on even the shortest blades. With a modification as shown in this issue you can also get to your hook edge.

### FARRIERPRODUCTS™

#### BAR SHOES

The broadest range of bar shoes in the market has a couple new choices. You can now buy the DF Toe Clipped Egg Bar in sizes 1 through 4. The DF also comes in quarter clipped fronts and side clipped hind egg bars. Another style added to the line is the Half Round Egg Bar. Made from 3/4" (18x9mm) material, the shoe is creased and punched.

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## Adhere

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**Vetec**

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Once you have established the type of edge you need you can do a very light touch to the back side of the blade just to remove any "burr" that may be present. Do not try to put an edge on from the back side as this works against the type of cut you need in trimming the sole. You can also get an even higher finish and better edge if you use a medium or hard felt wheel with rouge after the work you do on the buffing/sharpening wheel. You can put the same kind of groove in the felt wheels as we have demonstrated above for the buffing/sharpening wheel. ■

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