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3 SOUND SOLUTIONS

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CONTENT PAGE

Sound Solutions

Thin hoof walls	5
Thin soles	10
Collapsed heels	12

3 SOUND SOLUTIONS

It is well known that thoroughbred racehorses often suffer from sore feet and horses with sore feet simple won't run as fast as they can.

If the horse has one sore foot, it will trot up lame, but with two slightly sore feet they trot up a level, but perhaps not with the best action.

Most racehorses that are sore in front, which will lead to loss of performance, can be put into three categories.

- 1. Sore feet**
- 2. Sore joints**
- 3. Sore shins**

When we say sore feet, that can then be split down into three general problems. Although many horses suffer from all three at the same time.

- 1. Thin hoof walls**
- 2. Thin soles**
- 3. Collapsed heels**

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Farriers now have solutions available to address these three problems. The solutions are inexpensive to apply, it will just take the farrier a little extra time to apply and of course, develop the skills to do so. But if you have the skill to shoe a racehorse, these techniques are easier to learn.

① Thin hoof walls



Hoofcast

② Thin soles



Pro-Glu Sole Fill

③ Collapsed heels



3D Hoofcare Pads

The following procedures are not the only options available to the farrier, your farrier may prefer different solutions to the problem, one they are more comfortable applying but every one of these three problems can know to be addressed.

Quarter Crack Repair Don't Despair

Quarter Cracks occur from time to time in racing yards. For those farriers with experience in repairing quarter cracks, they can get the racehorse back into full work immediately after a successful patch has been applied.

This type of quarter crack repair requires a lot of skill and experience. A less complicated repair can be achieved just by using composite cloth. This horse was also fitted with an aluminium bar shoe.

Never glue directly on or cover over sensitive tissue. A track was left behind this repair so it could be flushed out with 6% hydrogen peroxide. There is always a risk of infection, but if that happens you will know, the horse will not be weight-bearing on that leg.

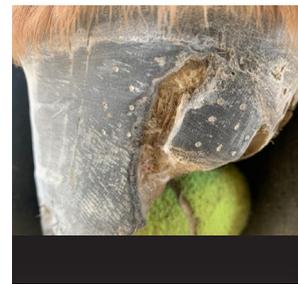
The horse in the pictures had an easy day following the patch being applied, the day after he was back cantering on the gallops.



23rd March 2021



19th April 2021



23rd March 2021



23rd March 2021



18th August 2021

Pictures courtesy of Ed and Will O'Shaughnessy, Newmarket.

Thin Hoof Walls 1

Symptoms

Cracks in the hoof wall, brittle hoof walls, difficult to nail onto, risk of pricking the horse, lost shoes, loose clenches, loose shoes, spread plates.

Solution

Hoof Cast. Simple to apply, you glue the cast to the hoof wall, simply strengthening the hoof capsule. The shoe is then nailed into the cast, not the hoof wall. One cast will remain on the hoof for two shoeing cycles.

Hoofcast Orthopedic Casting Tape



AVAILABLE SIZES

2, 3 & 4



Hoof Casting – Step by step guide



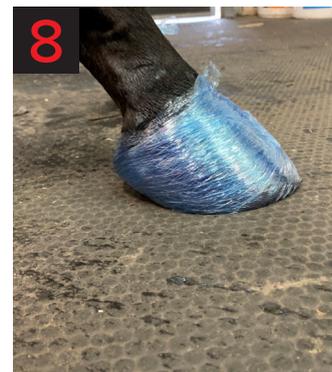
Preparation and Glue Application

Dress the hoof lightly and apply glue around the hoof with a liberal amount at the heels as these are the anchor points.



Apply Water

Use a sponge and lightly wet the entire cast you have applied. The water and exposure to air are what is needed for casting material to set hard.



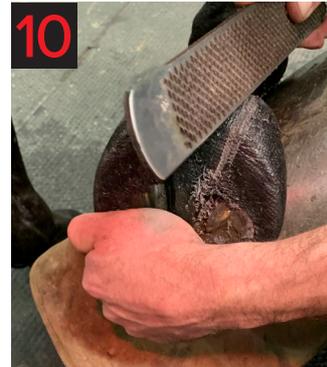
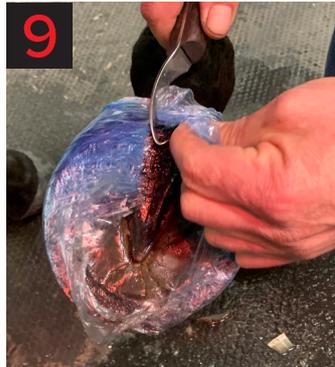


Applying the Cast

Once your glue is applied start wrapping your cast around the hoof. In order to have wider quarters for nailing and not create a longer toe, I normally double back on my casting at the quarter. Do a full wrap every 2-3 turns to hold the cast in place.

Plastic Wrap

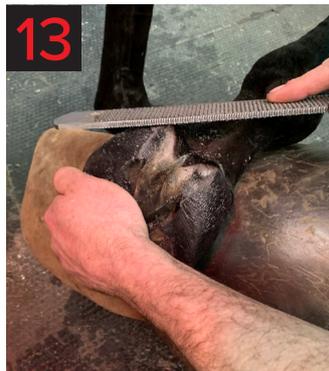
Plastic wrap the hoof extensively to hold the cast in position until the glue and cast have cured. The cast will start curing after 5 minutes & fully set after 20 minutes & the warmer the weather the faster it will set. Should the cast be dry and not fully set then sponge with water again & wrap until it cures.



Remove Heel Section

It is important to remove this heel section as it will constrict normal hoof movement. If you have to leave it in, please ensure it is less than 3 layers thick and does not stay full for more than 10 days. If your horse is confined than the full shoeing period is fine.

Hoof Casting – *Step by step guide*



Nailing

Nail to the cast as if you have a thick walled horse. You do not need to block your nails or undercut your clinches as the material accepts the bedded clinch very nicely

The Answers You Need - Derek Poupard

Why should I cast my horse?

After 35 years of shoeing and gluing horses I have found this to be the most efficient way of protecting and aiding a compromised foot. A shoe can be nailed to a cast very easily as in effect you are creating a thicker wall that absorbs and distributes force. This thicker wall can be nailed to without the risk of close nails.

Is it suitable for stabilising a hoof wall crack?

I have found this to be the most effective crack repair to date. The video on this site will give you an insight into stabling the crack. The other alternatives of screws, wires and braces can be risky if there is no wall thickness to work with. As long as an interface is placed over the crack itself then there is very little risk involved.

What size should I use, 2" 3" or 4"?

I generally use a 2" cast for wall rebuild on a racehorse with a size 4 - 7 race plate.

If it's a larger foot or I also want to cover the sole, I would opt for the 3". The 4" is used for very large feet or to apply a clog.

Do I need to prepare the hoof for gluing the cast?

I do not recommend stripping the dorsal wall or roughening it to apply a cast as this removes all the natural hoof varnish and will weaken and soften the wall. A light sanding is all it needs, especially at the anchor points at the heels. This way when the cast is ready to be replaced or removed it will come off easier with little damage to the wall. The shape of the cast when applied will hold it in place as well as the small amount of glue needed.

When do you use a full pad cast versus a wall only cast?

If I am presented with a bruised foot or suspected corn then I will use a full pad with a medicated osmotic gel. This will protect the foot from further injury and basically float the sole of the hoof within the cast giving it time to heal while still exercising or racing. I use a wall only cast on the hoof wall that in the past I would have applied a glue on shoe. By casting, I am creating a new thick wall that accepts nails with little risk and gives me a good few cycles of shoeing to nail to.

Thin Soles

2

Symptoms

Sore when using hoof testers, bruised soles, flat feet. Often the sole is thinned due to frequent shoeing and the sole being worn away by sand and all-weather surfaces.

Solution

Rubber chop, mix rubber granules with glue and spread around the sole. Thickness, depending on the horse, is normally about 2mm. This turns a thin-soled horse into a thick concave sole.

Pro-Glu Sole Fill

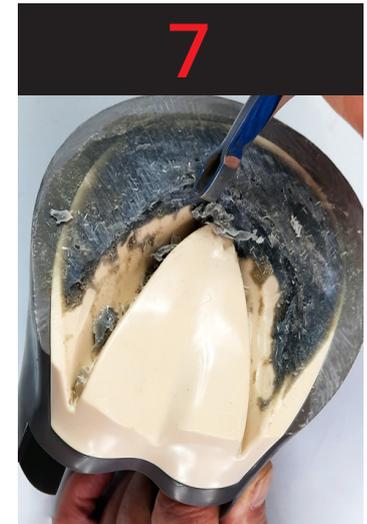
Step by step guide



To perform a sole glue you will need a dispensing gun, adhesive, optional substrate additives, a tongue depressor and a mixing palate/cup.



Ensure both parts are being dispensed. Keep the 2-parts of the adhesive separate. Dispense the same amount of additive as the activator (black) and mix in with the white part using a tongue depressor. When thoroughly mixed add in the activator (black part). Continue mixing until all components are thoroughly mixed together.



Spread the adhesive and additional substrate mix over the part(s) to be protected. Once cured, remove unwanted material with a rasp and knife. In this demonstration we have only covered the sole area but this technique can be used over the whole (or part) of the sole/ frog and wall.

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Collapsed Heels 3

Symptoms

The frog prolapses and is in contact with the ground before the heels. The heels compress and the hoof capsule deforms. Very foot-sore without shoes.

Solution

3D Hoof Pads, designed especially for this problem. Supports the frog, spreads the load across the heels and the frog. Helps reduce concussions and is very light and flexible.

These techniques work, they are not expensive, they are not difficult to apply, just adds extra time to the shoeing procedure. If you have a horse that doesn't run well, especially on the hard ground, try these solutions.

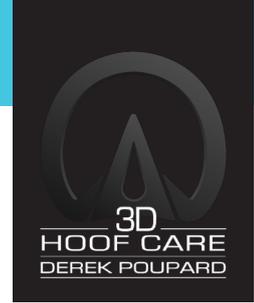


As racehorses are built for speed they have finer legs and hooves than other breeds, also as they are ridden for two years olds the hoof capsule is still developing. Just compare the hooves of a 2 year old filly to a 5-year-old broodmare.



A healthy hoof, with the Frog and the Heels correctly sharing the load.

3D Hoofcare Pads



Ed Eclipse Pad



This Pad was designed in collaboration with Ed O'Shaughnessy from Newmarket in the United Kingdom. This basic model does not have the hybrid shoe branch printed. This is designed as a lightweight pad for racing and speed where weight may be a concern. This pad is designed to stop the frog from descending to the ground through peripheral loading of the hoof wall that results in sore heels & possible corns. **Made from antimicrobial and recyclable materials.**

AVAILABLE SIZES

2, 3, 4 & 5

3, 4 & 5 - 2° degree

Half Mesh Pad



This pad is designed to stop the frog from descending to the ground through peripheral loading of the hoof wall that results in sore heels and possible corns. It is used in conjunction with a digital impression material. It is designed to be used in a controlled pasture and riding environment that has no stones to puncture the exposed sole area. **Made from antimicrobial and recyclable materials.**

AVAILABLE SIZES

2, 3, 4, 5 & 6

3, 4, 5 & 6 - 3° degree

Full Mesh Pad



This pad is designed to stop the frog from descending to the ground through peripheral loading of the hoof wall that results in sore heels and possible corns. It is used in conjunction with a digital impression material. **Made from antimicrobial and recyclable materials.**

AVAILABLE SIZES

4, 5, 6 & 7