

Making Therapeutic and Other Needed Shoes in the Field

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It can often be a frustrating situation for farriers when a therapeutic horseshoe is needed, but you do not have the correct one in your mobile shoeing vehicle. Instead of being able to provide the needed service, the farrier often has to reschedule the appointment. This can also be frustrating for the horse owner as well and may not be in the best interest of the horse.

With limited use or without a forge, a farrier can easily learn how to build several alternative shoes that they may not have in their inventory such as heart bar, straight bar, egg bar, glue-on, rail, roller motion and polo shoes. This is especially important for farriers who do not own a forge or may only cold fit shoes.

Learning how to make all types of bar shoes, therapeutic shoes and shoe alterations, may also be a cheaper alternative than purchasing them.

Tools Needed For Cutting of Metal Without a Forge:
band saw, jig saw, oxyfuel torch, truck shear, or cold cut hardie.



Tools Needed For Removing Metal:
electric hand grinder or electric belt grinder.



Tools Needed For Joining Metal:

any type of electric welding machine (SMAW or Stick, FCAW, GMAW or MIG, MAG or TIG, SAW) or oxyfuel (oxygen/propane, oxygen/acetylene, oxygen/hydrogen, oxygen/natural gas, MAPP)

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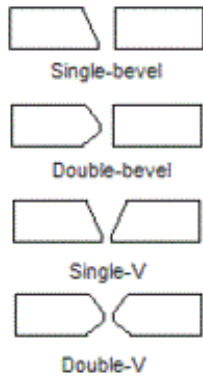


Miscellaneous tools Needed:

vice grips, 600 degree temperature stick...



Before joining any metals together, the metal should be clean and free of oxides. To help obtain a better adhesion, single or double beveling or v-ing is recommended due to the wearing factor on the joint. I prefer to use double-v joints.



Bar stock, old and used horseshoes are suitable metal items for making bar shoes inserts, as well as purchased pre-cut inserts. Steel and aluminum are rather easy metals to braze and weld together with some practice.



Choose and adjust the horseshoe that best fits the purpose that is desired.



Cut the insert to the desired length, grind and clean-up joints and check fit.



Then braze or weld together.



Making a needed front polo shoe which has a higher inside rim can be done by grinding away the outer rim of any rim shoe so the inner rim is higher than the outer rim.



Polo hind shoes (blunt calked heel shoe) can easily be made by brazing or welding the heels of old shoes or small pieces of bar stock onto the heels of a light shoe



Cuff and Continuous Cuff shoes can be made by brazing or welding a piece of 1/8" x 1/2" or larger piece of flat stock around the edge of any shoe.





Rock N' Roll Shoes can be made by welding two shoe together (usually two size difference) and attaching them onto an aluminum hospital plate that has hole drilled out in the sole area.

