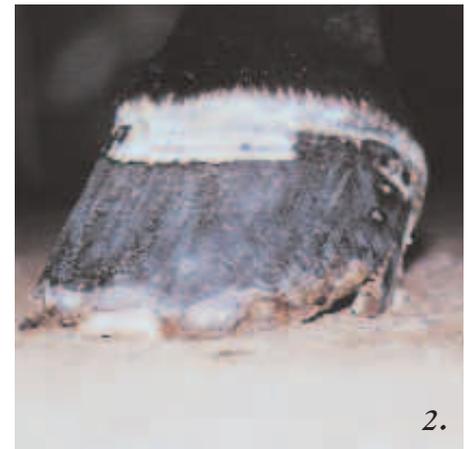


Rebuilding the Long Foot

Maintaining length of foot can be extremely important in the world of the American Saddlebred show horse. The following repair job was done late in the summer - often a time when the stress of showing is the greatest and hoof problems are common. The horse, Blacklisted, is a three-year old, three-gaited mare and was just two days from a major show. Bud Willimon of Simpsonville, Kentucky was called for his help with this job. Bud could have done this job without the Equi-Thane materials but he had been using the Super Fast product with good success and believed this process would give him a much better result.

The first step was to remove all of the shelly, weak areas and get to solid foot. Once this was done Bud's crew used a wire brush attachment on a drill to buff the area. After a wiping of the area with denatured alcohol Bud applied a bead of material around the perimeter of the foot. He came back over this with a second heavy bead, making sure he put some extra material in the toe area. This established some length to the toe area and provided a very solid base. The quick setting nature of this material allowed him to



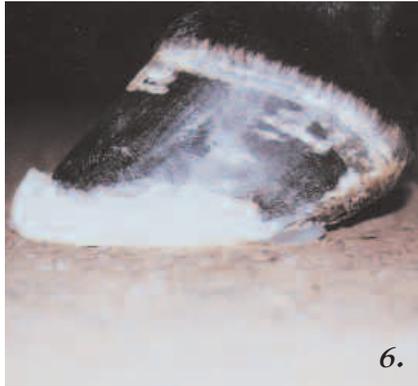
1. A lot of the hoof came off when this shoe was stepped on. **2 & 3.** Before trimming. **4.** When rasped you can see there is some foot to work with.

set the foot down after only 60-90 seconds.

He then went back to the foot and rasped the ground surface level. The material was already very firm and did

not "gum up" the rasp. Because this horse needed the length of foot to perform well, a double nail pad was applied. As you can see from the photos most of the nails came out above the material on the sides of the

Rebuilding the Long Foot



hoof but they were nailed through the material on the ground surface.

After completing the double nailing and applying a wedge pad and shoe, a second process was underway. The area was cleaned again to remove any dust or oils that might have come from the nailing process. Instead of using Super Fast, Bud chose to do the rest of the fill with Equi-Thane Restorative. The Restora-

tive is not as quick setting but is less expensive and is also available in a black material. At this stage the foot can be on the ground for the application. The reason for this application was to give more strength to the area and also allow for a nice blending of the hoof with the pad and shoe.

The horse was shown two days later and won its class. Three weeks later, with no changes, Blacklisted was

Reserve World Champion. The owner, Chris Price, (who was also in the process of selling the horse) was very happy with the results. This application could be the answer for you whenever the wall doesn't seem to have the integrity or strength that you feel is adequate - even on the short footed horse. ■

PHOTOS CONTINUE ON PAGE 3



5. A heavy run of Equi-Thane Super Fast - before rasping.
6 & 7. Bottom was rasped but wall was not touched yet.
8. Double nail pad applied.
9. Cleaning area before applying more material.

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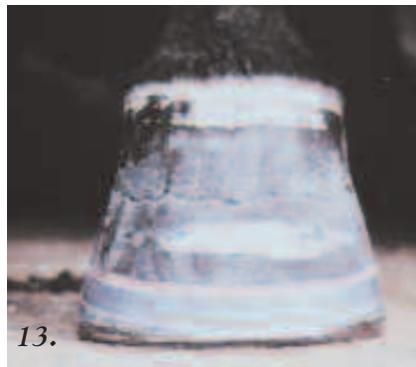


Rebuilding the Long Foot



10, 11 & 12. Application of Equi-Thane Restorative. 13 & 14. Dressed Job.

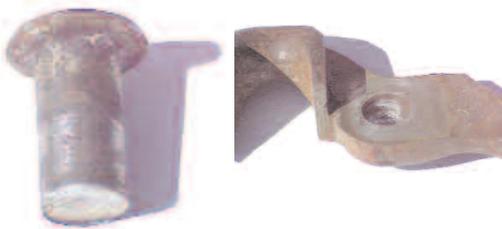
Bud Willimon is a farrier in the Simpsonville, Kentucky area. He has been shoeing show horses most of his career, which spans 4 decades.



THE TOOL CORNER

Common Sense and Lubrication Extend Tool Life

BY DAN BRADLEY



KEEPING YOUR TOOLS CLEAN AND WELL OILED WILL EXTEND LIFE AND MINIMIZE RIVET WEAR.

PROPER TOOL CARE is essential for professional farriers to do their best work. Just two things shorten the life span of a tool: lack of proper lubrication and misuse of the tool. Just stop and think how many times you open and close a nipper on each hoof. On the average if you worked on 5 horses a day, 5 days a week, 50 weeks a year, over a 4 year period you will have opened and closed a nipper 1.5 million times. That is just one tool, now include pulloffs, clinchers, nail pullers, nail cutters and you can see how hard your tools work for you.

Get in the habit of thoroughly cleaning your tools every few days. Take each tool and slosh it around

in a water bucket. Wipe it completely dry and spray with WD-40 or a similar product. Wipe again and then add a few drops of light lubricating oil (4-In-One, gun oil, etc.) around the rivet area. This will keep the rivet and rivet hole lubricated, because a dry rivet will shorten the life of your tool. On a dry tool, either the rivet will wear first, or the rivet hole will become too large. This will lead to the tool becoming loose and sloppy, causing misalignment of the blades on nippers, unnecessary wear and loss of efficiency.

Filing hoof nipper stops reduces their efficiency by causing the blade edges to angle downward instead of being flat. If you hold up a closed nipper to the light you will see the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

THE NATURAL ANGLE

slightest gap. Now, squeeze the reins together and there should be no gap. If you see one then your nippers are not going to cut cleanly, and will start to tear through a hoof instead of cutting through it. It is time for a rebuild. Also, make absolutely sure the stops are clean. If there is dirt or hoof material on the stops, the blades will not close properly.

It is extremely important to recognize when you need to send a tool in to be rebuilt. Since you use your tools as an extension of your arm, often excessive wear is not noticed until it is beyond the time when the tool should have been rebuilt. Pay close attention to the condition of your tools. When it becomes apparent that a rebuild is needed, get it done promptly.

Putting off a rebuild causes irreparable damage; thereby reducing the number of times a tool can be rebuilt.

Remember: A rebuild will cost half, or less, than the price of a new tool.

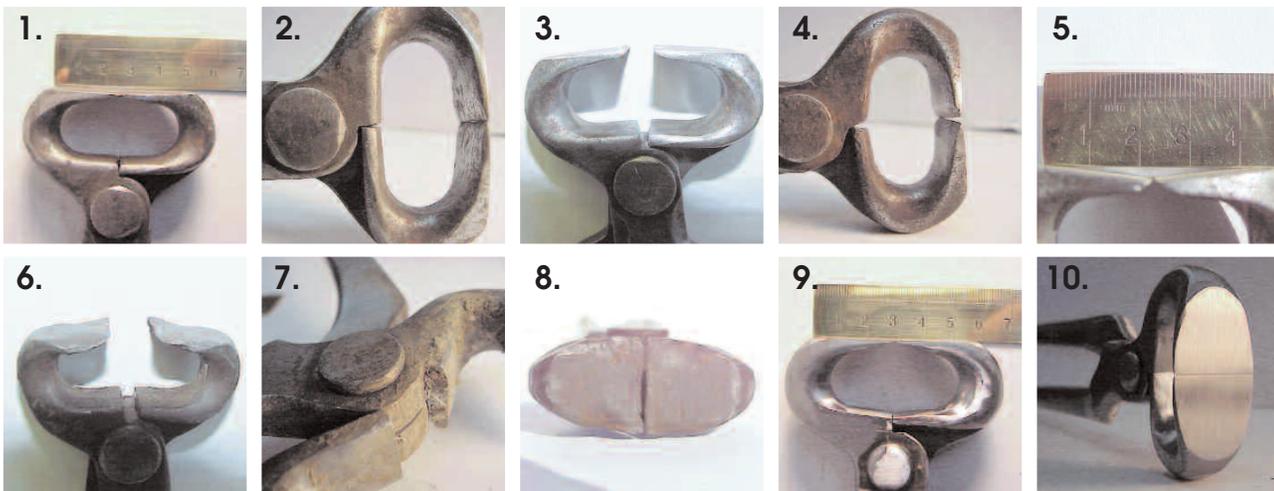
A hoof nipper is for cutting hooves not barbed wire, boulders, or for pruning trees. If you happen to contact a nail in a hoof, either cut around it, or cut straight through it. Avoid "rocking" or twisting your nipper as you may chip the blade. Your driving hammer is not a "spare" to use on roofing or fencing projects: use each tool for what it was designed for.

You need to find the tool that works right for you. A 15" nipper might seem better because it is bigger, but that does not mean that

it is the most efficient tool for you. Try different sizes of nippers until you find one that feels right. Tools are very individual and personal things. Your tools are yours and yours alone, and what works for you may not work for someone else.

One way to keep from damaging your tools is to remember that no matter how bad your day has been, don't throw your tools at the horse, the client, or your shoeing box. There is no better way to harm good tools and make your day worse. ■

Dan Bradley is a farrier from Lockwood, California. He has been working with GE Forge & Tool for a number of years and has also been on the clinic circuit for a few years. If you have any questions you can call Dan at (805) 489-1111, (805) 472-9520 or email him at dan@geforge.com



1, 2 & 3. Moderate wear, good time to rebuild. **4.** The blades make contact but stop doesn't, notice uneven cut. **5 & 6.** Severe wear, may not be salvaged. **7.** Stop area

should be cleaned regularly. **8.** Tool is chipped, probably from cutting nails.

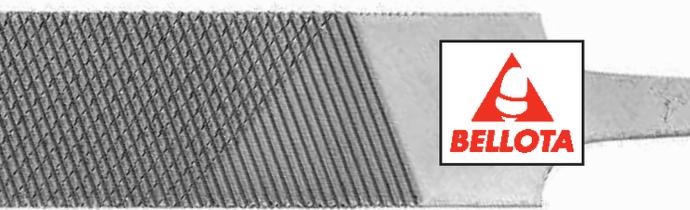
9&10. Rebuilt nipper will perform like new.

11. Nippers in three stages, good, bad and ugly.



11.

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The 9" **Bellota** nail cutter that was mentioned in Volume 5, Issue 4.

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