

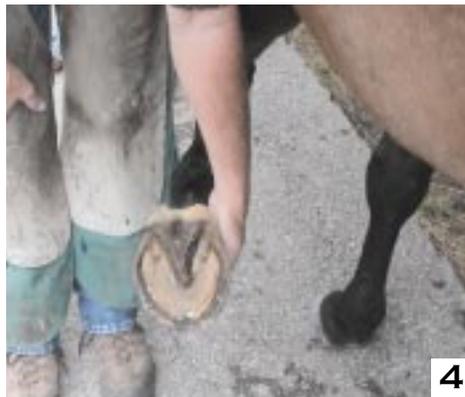
WHAT KIND OF VIEW DO YOU HAVE?

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.



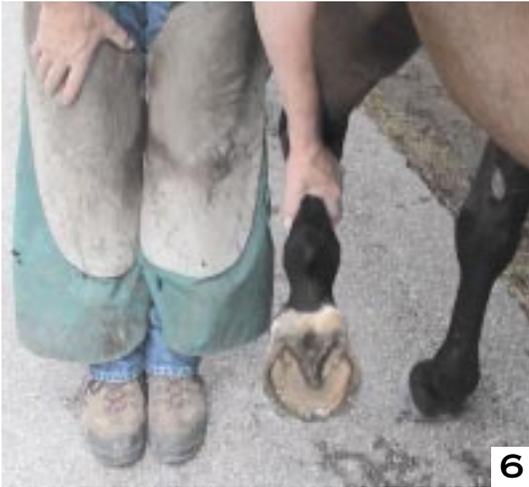
If you hold the front foot similar to **photos 1 and 2** you are very likely getting a distorted view. Your hand, especially the thumb pressure, will push the hoof capsule in one direction or another. Holding the leg out from the body, as in **photos 3, 4, and 5** will also create a distorted view.



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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**Kerckhaert Shoes -
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THE NATURAL ANGLE

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Bob Pethick of Califon, 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 factory 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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Dave Farley's photographs appear below.

