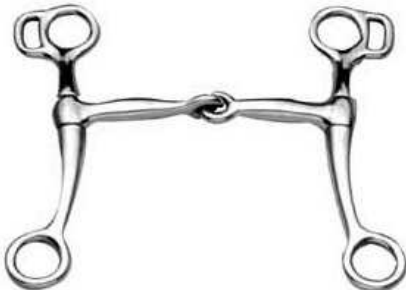


# TYPES OF CURB MOUTHPIECES

A curb bit is any indirect pressure bit. Curb bits come in a variety of shapes and materials and can feature a mullen mouth, broken mouth, linked mouth, or port. Curb bits may also be twisted wire or have a more mild slow twist or a corkscrew twist. Some curb bits are designed for English disciplines and others for Western disciplines. Notice that all curb bits have one location to attach the cheek piece and another location for the rein thus creating leverage. Curb bits should be worn with a curb chain or curb strap under the chin. Bit severity depends upon the mouthpiece, port height (if present), and shank length.



**Mullen Mouth:** A mullen mouth has a straight bar with no break. Most curb bits are available with a mullen mouth. This particular curb bit is a Pelham bit used in English riding with two reins.



**Broken or Jointed Mouth:** Broken or jointed mouth curb bits are often mistakenly called snaffle bits. Any bit that operates using indirect pressure is a curb bit regardless of the mouthpiece. This particular curb bit is a Tom Thumb used for Western riding. Broken curb bits are also available in twisted wire.



**Low Port:** The bump in the middle of the mouthpiece of this bit is called a port. This bit has a low port. The port of the bit pushes against the palate of the horse's mouth when the reins are pulled. This particular curb bit is a Kimberwick used for English riding.



**Medium Port:** The port on this bit is considered medium to high. Lighter rein contact is suggested with a port of this height. This particular curb bit is a standard Western Curb bit.



**Spade:** The spoon-like shape of the high port on this bit classify it as a spade bit. Notice this particular bit has a roller in the spade. This is a very severe bit and should only be used by very experienced riders with limited rein contact. The spade bit is only used for Western riding.

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