

TYPES OF SNAFFLE BITS

A snaffle bit is any direct pressure bit. Snaffle bits come in a variety of shapes and materials and can feature a mullen mouth, broken mouth, or linked mouth. Snaffle bits may also be twisted wire or have a more mild slow twist or a corkscrew twist. Generally snaffle bits are can be used in English and Western disciplines depending upon the type of mouthpiece. A snaffle bit with a broken mouthpiece causes a nutcracker action when the reins are pulled. Notice that all snaffle bits have only one ring to attach both the cheek piece and the rein. Below are some common styles of snaffle bits all shown with broken mouthpieces.



Loose Ring Snaffle: The loose ring snaffle is commonly used for training and riding soft mouthed horses. The loose rings may turn while in the horse's mouth creating pinches at the corners of the horse's mouth and sometimes this bit is used with bit guards.



Eggbutt Snaffle: This bit is very similar to the loose ring snaffle, however, the rings are fixed in place. Any style snaffle but with these egg shaped rings is called an eggbutt snaffle.



D-Bit: The D-bit (note the D shape of the rings) is sometimes called a racing D bit as it is used in many Thoroughbred race horses.



Full Cheek Snaffle: A bit keeper holds the top cheek of the full cheek snaffle bit in place against the cheek piece of the bridle. Although the bit can be used with or without keepers; the use of the bit keeper effects the way the bit works. The full cheeks keep the bit from pulling through the horse's mouth and for that reason this bit is also often used for training young horses and riders.

