

TYPES OF WESTERN BRIDLES

The following are representatives of the most commonly available Western bridles. You should work with a professional to determine the bridle that is best for you based on the discipline you ride, your horse, and your budget.



Working Bridle: The working bridle is used for trail riding, stock work and some competitions. All working bridles have a throatlatch to hold the bridle securely in place and on the horse's head. Most western bridles do not have a noseband or cavesson. Curb bits are often used in western or stock seat riding and thus some bridles can be purchased with a matching curb strap or curb chain.

A variety of connecting elements are used on western bridles, particularly where the bit attaches to the headstall and reins, including screws, rawhide, buckles, and knots.



One Ear Bridle: The one ear bridle can be either a slot in the crownpiece or a separate shaped piece attached to the crownpiece. The one ear replaces the brow band to hold the bridle in position on the horse's head. Some one ear bridles are used as working bridles and will have a throatlatch. One ear bridles lacking a throatlatch are generally only used for show as they are less securely attached to the horse's head.



Two Ear Bridle: The two ear bridle is similar to the shaped one ear expect that it has separate pieces for each of the horse's ears. Many two ear bridles are designed exclusively for shows and competitions as they lack a throatlatch as does the pictured bridle.

