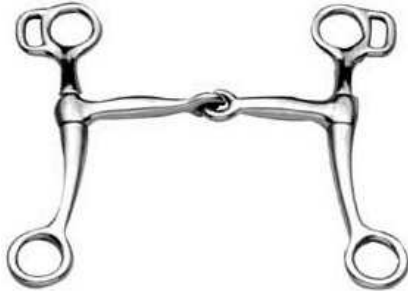


COMMON WESTERN CURB BITS

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. The following curb bits are designed 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.



Tom Thumb: Often considered one of the more mild western curb bits this bit is used on several Western Disciplines. Tom Thumb bits generally have short shanks and a broken or jointed mouth. Notice that the bars of this bit are firmly connected to the cheek.



Traditional Western Curb: This style bit is often considered to be a standard western bit. Often western bridles that are sold in a package or with a bit include this style bit. This particular bit has a copper mouth which increases the saliva production. Increasing the shank length or port height would increase the severity of this 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.