

Start Thinking Snow

It may seem odd to be thinking about Snow Pads but it won't be long before the heat of the summer is behind us and the cold season ahead.



Visit www.farrierproducts.com for more information on snow pads, as well as other traction aids that are easy to apply and effective for winter conditions as well as any hard surface conditions.

Bloom Forge Knives

Interest in Bloom Forge knives has been steadily growing in the last couple of years. The loop knife has really caught on, as well as the Special, which features a narrower handle with a curved blade. These knives, and the original regular blade and offset or curved blade offer exceptional craftsmanship. Visit FPD's website for more information on Bloom Forge knives.



5 Combo Slim Nails

With a longer length and slightly slimmer shank than the Liberty 5 Combo, the Liberty 5 Combo Slim is ideal for any shoe requiring a bit more length and head mass. The Liberty 5 Combo Slim is available in both the regular Liberty nail and copper coated Cu nail. For more information, visit

www.farrierproducts.com/liberty.html.



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FPD Field Guide

A useful on-the-go guide to the best horseshoes, nails and tools for various disciplines with tips and videos on how best to use them.

farrierproducts.com/fieldguide

HoofWall™ Blog

FPD explores the world of the professional farrier as they travel through North America.

farrierproducts.com/blog



Helpful Facts: Kerckhaert Nail Hole Solution

A result of six months of laboratory and field testing, the formula for the Kerckhaert Nail Hole Solution is engineered to accomplish three major functions: keep out external contaminants; clean and disinfect nail holes and cracks; and, promote cell damage repair. The ingredients contained in the solution are designed to separate after they are applied into the nail holes, cracks and voids, in order for them to perform their functions.

How It Works

1. After applying the Nail Hole Solution, the ingredients will slowly separate. The collagen protein (for openings) is a natural sealant that hardens on the top surface of the nail holes and cracks, after exposure to the air. This helps to keep out external contaminants.
2. Other ingredients in the solution include penetrating agents containing copper molecules and drying agents that clean and disinfect the areas where deeply rooted bacteria and fungi reside and do damage. This part of the solution deeply cleans and disinfects the nail holes and cracks.
3. The copper-peptides in the solution (molecules of copper and amino acids) signal receptor cells to begin promoting cell damage repair; helping close up the nail holes and cracks from the inside – out. This helps keep out environmental factors without sealing anything in.

Important Product Note

Although the gel formula is mixed thoroughly during manufacturing, it is recommended the bottle be shaken vigorously for 25 seconds before each use to alleviate any settling – or separation of ingredients – that may occur during prolonged storage or cold temperatures.

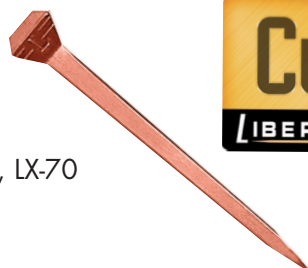


New Liberty Cu Nail Sizes Available

The Liberty Cu horseshoe nails are copper coated, offering more protection than traditional horseshoe nails. These nails are designed to reduce rust and wear inside the hoof, helping hooves remain strong and healthy throughout the shoeing cycle.

New releases include:

E-2 Slim and E-7 Slim
5 Combo Slim
5 Slim
LX-50, LX-55, LX-60, LX-65, LX-70



Also available:

E-3 Slim through E-6 Slim

Shoes for Traction

ARTICLE FROM THE NATURAL ANGLE VOL 3 ISSUE 1

BY DAVE FARLEY

Most equine breeds and disciplines require some degree of traction in order to perform. A horse's ability to perform would be extremely limited if you took away all traction. The natural concavity of the sole and the hoof wall provide a certain degree of traction when barefoot. Under domesticated conditions we normally apply horseshoes so we have to be prepared to provide adequate traction with the shoes. In the past, most traction devices had to be hand forged into a shoe. Advances in manufacturing technology have led to a number of ready made traction shoes and other simple methods to modify the factory shoe.

The majority of horseshoes manufactured today are flat shoes. These shoes often have a crease from just in front of the toe nail to just behind the heel nail. For our purposes we'll refer to these as plain shoes. Your challenge is to decide if you need more traction than this shoe provides. I'll work through a selection of choices you might make to get the job done if you decide you need more.

The simplest device might be the selection of a factory shoe that already has a crease through the toe area or around the entire surface of the shoe. These shoes are often referred to as rim shoes. A shoe creased through the toe or from heel to heel can be used on the front or hind to add traction. The photos show a factory shoe creased through the toe and a plain factory shoe being creased on the job. The determination you can make is whether you require the extra traction provided by the crease often enough to warrant carrying the ready made rim shoes in your inventory. If there is only an occasional need a quick one heat modification with the creaser to your plain shoes is probably more cost effective for you.

I have a modification that I use for horses that need medial-lateral traction. The in-line jar calk helps with quick turns but doesn't hinder the forward motion like a block heel or heeled shoe might. I use this most often with the jumper that needs to have speed and traction in turns as well as the straight to perform best. Other disciplines that can be helped with this modification are the hunter, polo and cutting horses. This is a one heat modification that only requires the hammer and anvil.

A traction device that has been popular for years in Canada and Europe is the drive-in stud (calk). There are various brands and styles but generally the drive-in studs have a carbide center that give additional grip even on the hardest surfaces. They can be almost flat with the ground surface or you can select studs that are elevated above the ground surface. The photos show a typical application for my work. I have used these on general purpose riding horses, hunters, jumpers and trail horses. I find they are a fairly easy device to apply (drill and drive) and are often reusable. Be sure to have an annealed face on your hammer to avoid chipping. The carbide will be harder than any hammer face you might have.

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The screw-in calks are most often seen on the hunter/jumper circuit, particularly for the three day event horse and dressage. There are many different drive-in studs providing a wide range of traction possibilities. They should be used carefully as there are some very severe calks available. The taller calks might be used for very wet, muddy grass surfaces but on hard surfaces can create undesirable impact in the calk area. The photos show two common sizes of calks that I see used by my customers. I generally only drill and tap the shoes for the customer and let them decide when and what to use. One big advantage of the screw-in calk is that it is easy to put in and take out and therefore can be applied only for the length of time it is determined to be useful.

These are some ideas for you to consider when evaluating the needs of the horse for the job he has to do. I am always cautious about applying traction devices that may not be necessary. Over the years I have seen a number of problems that are a result of too much traction- causing lameness that could have been avoided. Start with the least severe option and work your way up until you have reached the level that gets the job done for you but keeps your horses sound as well.



1. Factory rim style shoe, creased through toe. **2.** Plain factory shoe being creased through toe. **3.** Making in-line jar calk by turning inside of heel at edge of anvil. **4.** In-line jar calk. **5.** In-line jar calk positioned on foot. **6.** Center punch your drive-in or screw-in calk positions. **7.** Two common sizes of drive-in studs. **8.** Drilling is all that's necessary for the drive-in calks. Most have tapered shanks. **9.** When driving in studs with head, be sure not to bottom out, leave a slight gap between shoe and shoulder of stud. **10.** Use a steel hammer with an annealed face to avoid injury from chipping. **11.** Smaller studs driven flush used in toe with slightly taller studs in heels. **12.** When drilling for screw-in calks be sure to countersink. This makes application much easier. **13.** Use appropriate tap for the screw-in calks you will be using. **14.** Screw-in calks should normally not be placed at end of heel. Slightly more forward than the studs in this photo would probably be preferable in most cases. **15.** Two different size calks. Choice will usually be made based on surface conditions.