

easywalker

sports shoes for horses



Easywalker Horse Shoes Installation Manual

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Introduction

The easywalker horse shoe is the most advanced synthetic horse shoe on the market today.

Unsurpassed shock absorption, superior traction and improved protection combined with the best wear resistance of any synthetic horse shoe makes easywalker the ultimate choice for every horse. The flexible polymer materials used in the 'Easywalker shoe closely resembles the hoof wall and will absorb impact and vibration with minimal interference to the complex bio-dynamics of the hoof capsule.

The Easywalker horse shoe also offers extra protection for the frog whilst at the same time helps improve the blood circulation, thus stimulating growth. This constant frog support can improve proprioception and thereby improve the horses gaits.



Easywalker Australia

www.easywalkerhorsehoes.com.au

Easywalker USA

www.easywalkerhorseshoes.com

Sizing Guide

Use a ruler or tape measure and record the following measurement: **Wall to wall at the widest part of the hoof.**



Select the EW size that corresponds to your measurements. If your measurement falls between two sizes always choose the larger size as the shoes are designed to be cut down to fit the hoof.

- EW 110:** 100 – 110 mm (4" – 4 1/4")
- EW 120:** 111 – 120 mm (4 3/8" – 4 3/4")
- EW 130:** 121 – 130 mm (4 7/8" - 5 1/8")
- EW 140:** 131 – 140 mm (5 1/4" – 5 1/2")
- EW 150:** 141 – 150 mm (5 5/8" – 5 7/8")

Tools Required



NOTE: Beveled head or city head nails should not be used as they will not countersink and the shoe will not hold.



- E3 nails for EW 130 and smaller.
- E4 nails for EW 140 OR MX 50 (mustard brand) nails as they also have an E-head with slender shank for thinner walls.
- E5 or MX 60 for EW 150.
- A Black or red permanent marker pen.
- The easyblocker tool for countersinking the nail heads.

Hoof Preparation



Prepare the hoof as you normally would with one important exception – don't knife off for sole pressure relief as you would for a metal shoe. Sole pressure will not be concern due to the shock absorbing qualities of the easy walker shoes.

Installation

a) Standard Installation & Resetting



1. Roll the toe of the hoof with your rasp to an angle relative to the shoe.



2. Put the toe clip into the shoe and place the shoe on the hoof for sizing. Use a permanent marker and draw the area to be recessed for the toe clip onto the hoof. Using your rasp or hoof knife recess the area for the toe clip.



3. Insert the side clips into the shoe and place on hoof. With the toe clip sitting snugly into the toe recess you can now mark the hoof where it will need recessing for the side clips.

NOTE: Side clips are mandatory as they relieve and pressure around the nailed areas that may be caused by the shoes flexibility.



4. Whilst still holding the shoe in place use the permanent marker to draw lines to show how much excess needs to be cut from the shoe around quarters and heel areas.



5. Knife out or rasp the recess for the side clips. If the clips are not a snug fit after recessing the hoof you may want to cut some off the end so they fit further into the clip slot.



6. Draw over the white line on the hoof with the marker so it will be clearly visible through the nail slots allowing a correct choice of nail slots.



7. Use sharp nippers or a power tool (see Shaping the Shoe page 13) cut off excess shoe as previously marked This can be done before or after shoe is nailed on.



8. Set the back nails only. Use E-head or MX nails only.



9. Place hoof back on the ground and gently tap the side clips fully in. The side nails will go through these clips.



10. Continue with the rest of the nails.

NOTE: Side nails go through the side clips. You will need to angle these nails slightly steeper as they will angle out as they go through the clip.



11. When all nails are set use the “easyblocker tool” to counter sink the nails. **This is a vital step for securing the shoes.** The blocker tip goes over the nail head the other end of the tool stretches over the hoof to the nail shank to do the job of a clinching block. Tap in with hammer until nail head is lower than the ground surface of the shoe (by at least 1 mm).

12. Clinch nails over and finish off. The shoe can be rasped to smooth edges that have been cut with nippers.

NOTE: Do not use the clinching side of the easyblock tool on horses that have thin or brittle walls.

THE FINAL RESULT



Resetting:

Wear will be dependant upon surface, amount of work and the individual horse. Expect similar wear to that of steel shoes. New clips are required for resetting.

IMPORTANT: Due to increased vascular flow hoof growth may be noticeably increased. This is a positive sign as it means hoof function is returning to normal (more representative of a unshod hoof). Because of this resetting the shoes may be required at a shorter duration than normal.

It is recommended that the hoof growth be closely monitored closely as resetting may in some cases be required between 2-4 weeks.

b) Changing Breakover

If you need to set the shoe back for changing the break over point then you will not need to use the toe clip.

c) Relieving Frog Pressure (Prolapsed Frogs)



For prolapsed frogs or where it is required to relieve excess frog pressure the mini heart bar can be ground back to half its thickness without compromising the structural integrity of the shoe.

d) Installation on Horses with Thin or Brittle Walls



If there is no obvious inflammation present in the hoof (as with acute Laminitis). Follow the standard Installation procedure but **do not use the shank end of the easyblocker tool to assist with clinching** as tearing of the already weakened hoof wall may occur.

After clinching “bond and Flex” or a similar filler may be used over the nail heads, over any cracks or weakened areas of the hoof.

e) Glueing

Glueing of the easywalkers can be used as an alternative to nailing in some situations (see page 15 item b).

Vetec make a glue called “Adhere” that works well with the easywalkers. Alternatively use a Mustard brand glue (both available from any farriers supplies stores).

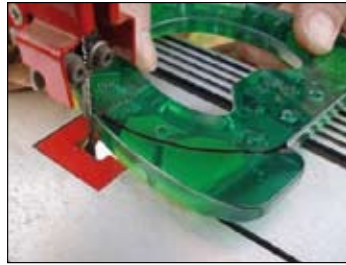
NOTE: Glueing is not recommended for any horse in work.

Shaping the Shoe

When the excess shoe area has been marked with a permanent marker it can be trimmed off by one of the following methods:



Cut with farriers nippers before or after nailing.



Cut with band saw or similar.



Ground down with a grinder.

Use of Studs

The shoes can be studded for show jumping or sporting. We stock a special drill bit for the hole, stud inserts and four different sizes of studs as well as screw in caps for the inserts.

The easywalker inserts are **NOT** suitable for Standard English style studs (3/8") as our studs require a support plate to be compatible with the synthetic material of the shoe.



NOTE: Drill holes for studs after excess has been cut off shoe or they may end up too close to shoe edge.

Veterinary Applications

a) Navicular Disease or Syndrome

Navicular syndrome is generally thought to occur via two processes:

- 1) Loss of synovial fluid (lubricant) from the bursa (Sac) that surrounds the small navicular bone;
- 2) "Ischemia" which is basically a reduction in capillary blood flow.

Both of these problems can be caused or prolonged by, incorrect hoof angle, enforced rigidity of the hoof capsule by metal shoes, and general concussion. This syndrome usually causes bone density changes to the navicular bone resulting in pathology and pain in the area and is generally termed "Navicular Disease".

How the easywalkers can help:

Easywalkers have shown excellent results in the therapeutic applications for horses with Navicular due to: (1) the bridge which supports the frog/heel region and promotes blood circulation (2) the shock absorption of the special polymer material (3) the shoe flexibility. In most cases improvement in soundness has been between 60% and 80%.

b) Laminitis

Laminitis is a very painful condition of the foot due to the inflammation of laminae.

We do not recommend attempting to install easywalker or any nail on horse shoes for horse suffering from acute laminitis. Veterinary advise is strongly recommended to determine the severity of each particular case and to determine if the horse suffering from laminitis should be shod or not.

For horses recovering from chronic laminitis the easywalkers can be greatly beneficial. The combined effectiveness of the wide rim - and the mini heart bar which supports the frog and heel region will help relieve any sole pressure, whilst simultaneously promoting improved vascular (blood) flow to the hoof capsule.

When it is not practical to attempt nailing, due to the pain experienced from inflammation, Glueing of the easywalkers can be used as an alternative.

Vetec make a glue called “Adhere” that works well with the easywalkers. Alternatively use a Mustard brand glue (both available from any farriers supplies stores). Glueing is not recommended for any horse in work.

Trouble Shooting

a) Horse appears sore after application – *possible reasons:*

- Incorrect nail size used – refer to page 6.
- Nails may have been set too close to the white line – refer to page 8 item 6.
- Too much frog pressure – refer to page 12 item c.

b) Shoes shifting or coming off – *possible reasons:*

- Nails not countersunk correctly – refer to page 10 item 11.

- Clips not recessed correctly – refer to page 8 item 5.
- Side nails not driven through the side clips – refer to page 10 item 10.
- Shoes left on too long – refer to page 11 – resetting.
- Shoes left too long (full) behind – refer to page 11 – final result.
- Walls too thin/brittle – refer to page 12 item d.

c) Unable to reset shoe due to shoe distortion – possible reasons:

- If the shoes are left on too long hoof growth may cause the plastic to convex towards the sole (see resetting page 11) The shoes will return to their normal shape after a few days due the cellular memory of the polyurethane. Alternatively place shoe in boiling water to regain the normal shape.

Disclaimer

Easywalker Horse shoes are a unique and innovative product. The success of this product on individual horses will vary and is dependant upon strict adherence to the installation procedures and methods outlined in this manual.

Negative results may appear if the shoes are installed incorrectly or with the use of incorrect tools, incorrect nail type or size or installation of the shoe without the with out side clips.

Easywalker Global Pty Ltd, incorporating Easywalker USA LLC accepts no responsibility or liability for any injury, accident or reduction in performance that may result directly or indirectly from the incorrect application of the easywalker Horse Shoe.

This indemnity includes any situation where the cautions and warnings in this manual have not been adhered to by the farrier or horse owner or where the incorrect tools have been used to install the shoes.

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