



# USA WORKING EQUITATION



## Movements Required in WE

### **Change of Lead through Trot:**

A movement in which, after a direct transition out of the canter into a trot, with up to five balanced and unhurried trot strides, an immediate transition is made into the other canter lead.

### **Change of Lead through Walk (aka Simple Change of Lead):**

A movement in which, after a direct transition out of the canter into a walk, with up to five clearly defined steps, an immediate transition is made to the other canter lead. The essentials of this movement are the quality of the canter before and after the change, the regularity and relaxation of the walk steps, and the accuracy of the execution without any trot steps in between.

### **Flying Change of Lead:**

Performed in one stride with the front and hind legs changing at the same moment. The change of the leading front and hind legs takes place during the moment of suspension. The essentials of a flying change are:

- The quality of the canter before, during, and after the flying change.
- The fluency of the movement and the uphill tendency.
- The forward tendency and ground cover.
- The calmness, straightness, and balance.
- The maintenance of rhythm and tempo throughout.

### **Half Pass:**

A lateral movement in which the horse moves forward and sideways at the same time. The horse should remain forward, balanced, and bent in the direction of travel while moving with cadence. The inside leg remains forward throughout the movement and should not lose rhythm. In order to gain more freedom and mobility to the shoulders, it is important that impulsion be maintained. In the trot, the outside legs pass and cross in front of the inside legs. In the canter, the movement is performed in a series of forward/sideways strides.

### **Halt:**

Horse stands attentive, engaged, motionless, straight, and square with the weight evenly distributed over all four legs. The neck should be raised with the poll at the highest point and the head slightly in front of the vertical. The horse should remain on the bit and ready to move off at the slightest aid of the rider.

### **Leg Yield:**

The horse is almost straight, except for a slight flexion at the poll away from the direction of movement so that the rider is just able to see the eyebrow and nostril on the inside. The inside legs pass and cross in front of the outside legs.



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#### **Pirouette, Half:**

A half circle executed on two tracks with a radius equal to the length of the horse, the forehand moving around the haunches. The forefeet and the outside hind foot move around the inside hind foot, which remains active in the sequence of footfalls, and should return to the same spot or slightly in front of it each time it leaves the ground.

#### **Pirouette, Full:**

A turn of 360 degrees executed on two tracks, with a radius equal to the length of the horse and the forehand moving around the haunches. The forefeet and outside hind foot move around the inside hind foot, which remains active in the sequence of footfalls. The inside hind leg describes a circle as small as possible. The horse is slightly bent in the direction of travel while remaining on the bit with a light contact, turning smoothly around.

#### **Reinback:**

A rearward diagonal movement with a two-beat rhythm but without a moment of suspension. Each diagonal pair of legs is raised and returned to the ground alternatively, with the forelegs aligned on the same track as the hind legs. The horse should remain on the bit, maintaining its desire to move forward.

The steps are counted as each foreleg moves back. After completing the required number of steps backward, the horse should show a square halt or move forward at the required pace immediately.

#### **Serpentine:**

Three to four loops touching the long side of the arena. Consists of half circles connected by straight lines. When crossing the centerline, the horse should be parallel to the short side.

#### **Transitions:**

Changes of pace and variations within or between the gaits. Transitions should be smooth and not abrupt. The cadence of the gait should be maintained up to the moment when the gait is changed or the horse halts. The horse should remain light in the hand, calm, and maintain a correct position.



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#### **Turn on the Forehand:**

The horse's hindquarters make a circle around the horse's front end. The inside hind leg must cross in front of the outside hind leg, while the front feet march up and down as close to in place as possible.

In turn on the forehand right, the horse is slightly flexed at the poll to the right, which is the inside, when the haunches move to the left yielding to the rider's right leg. In turn on the forehand left, the horse is flexed slightly to the left when the horse yields to the rider's left leg moving the haunches right. The flexion should be slight.

The horse must maintain the same rhythm, tempo, contact and activity and show willingness to be on the outside rein.

The TOF is executed out of a medium walk prepared by half halts to shorten the steps.

The movement should have a forward tendency. Stepping back is a serious fault.

#### **Turn on the Haunches:**

Executed out of the walk, the horse's forehand moves in even, quiet, and regular steps around the horse's inner hind leg while maintaining the rhythm of the walk. The horse's inside hind leg may move slightly forward and remains active in the sequence of footfalls. The horse is slightly bent in the direction of travel while remaining on the bit with a light contact turning smoothly around.