

Building Working Equitation Obstacles

An Affiliate Organization Resource



Table of Contents

Building WE Obstacles - Things to Consider.....	2
Numbers and Markers.....	3
Upright Poles.....	4
The Obstacles.....	5
Bridge.....	5
Figure 8.....	10
Pen.....	11
Jug.....	14
Remove Pole.....	15
Spear Ring (Bull).....	16
Replace Pole.....	24
Switch Cup.....	25
Bell Corridor.....	26
Reinback “L”.....	28
Rounding Posts.....	30
Single Slalom.....	32
Double Slalom.....	33
Gate.....	34
Jump.....	39
Sidepass Rail.....	40
Water.....	41
Bank.....	42
Drums.....	44
A Few Sources to Purchase Obstacles.....	45

Building WE Obstacles - Things to Consider

When considering building WE obstacles, keep in mind the safety of both horse and rider, ease of movement and storage, and look for materials you already have on hand. Be creative!

You don't need permanent or professional/show-quality obstacles to practice. For example, instead of slalom poles, one could use cones; instead of an elaborate pen, one could use ground poles for the outer circle and milk jugs filled with water (or cones) for the middle circle. One could use gallon milk jugs instead of buckets for setting the poles in cement. The options are endless.

Be sure to review and use the most recent version of the [U.S. Rules for Working Equitation Rulebook and Appendix B - Obstacles](#), as this guide may not contain the latest updates to measurement details and rules.

Another consideration is building for the weather. If your course will be left outside, use treated lumber to prevent weather-induced warping and rotting. Be mindful that items are made wind-proof so they can't be easily blown over.

NOTE: *Links are provided for convenience, however links are often broken. We'll do our best to keep links updated*

Numbers and Markers

Having a set of numbers is useful for identifying the obstacle order on a course. Up to 15 numbers are useful. They can be 1D, like a paper plate or a sheet of plastic (like used for shower walls), or 3D, such as numbers added to trash cans or plant pots. Make your numbers large, roughly 12" x 12", so they are easily seen from horseback. Numbers can be painted, drawn, or stuck on. The #2 is a reversible red/blue fabric sleeve over a cone.



Several obstacles require markers to identify the obstacle's beginning and end. Markers must be RED on the right and WHITE on the left. Soccer field markers work well. It is hard to find them in red and white, so you may want to spray paint or cover them in duct tape. Cones could also be used.



Painted vs. Taped

Start/Finish Markers

Start/Finish markers are also necessary, especially if running shows or training new students. Anything may be used to indicate the start and finish line. Soccer field markers, buckets, cones, plant pots, barrels, etc. Be creative!

Upright Poles

You will need a lot of upright poles! They are used for:

- Rounding Posts (6) (see page 27)
- Switch Cup (2) (see page 23)
- Single Slalom (5-7) (see page 28)
- Double Slalom (5-7) (see page 29)

There are many ways to make upright poles. One easy way is to use three- or five-gallon buckets. If you use five-gallon buckets, don't fill them all the way, or they will be too heavy to move.

1. Spray the bucket with nonstick spray or line it with plastic so you can remove the cement after it is set. Or, if you have enough containers, leave the concrete in the bucket.
2. Fill buckets with concrete.
3. Place a 6.5 ft (2-meter) PVC pipe, roughly two inches in diameter, into the cement when it is still soft, but thick enough so the pole stays upright. You can make them all at once, or make a few at a time until you have enough.
4. Handy Tip - Place nylon ropes in a loop into the cement to create handles to move/carry the poles. Safety Tip: Regarding handles—remove wire handles and be mindful of rope loops that horses cannot slip a hoof through the handles.
5. If Desired - Once set, place PVC caps on the top of each pole



Please note - obstacles in photos are not set to competition distances

Here is another option for pole bases, then add PVC poles/caps

<https://highcountryplastics.com/products/pb-6-pole-bending-bases-set-of-6>



The Obstacles

Bridge

Description. *The bridge should be made of wood and be solidly constructed to ensure that it is not a danger for the horse or rider. The deck of the bridge must not be slippery. The bridge may be arched or angled in its rise. Recommended dimensions are minimum width: 1.5 m (5 ft); minimum length: 4 m (13 ft); minimum height: 20 cm (8 in.). The bridge may have side rails. If side rails are used, for safety considerations the rails must be constructed such that they can be quickly and easily removed without the use of tools. Side rails should be between 91 cm (3 ft) and 1.2 m (4 ft) in height. Entry/exit markers are required for this obstacle. The markers signify the transition points.*

There are multiple ways to make a Working Equitation bridge. Included here are numerous possibilities. Bridges need to have ramps-no step ups for competition. *Please refer to the description above if you are making a bridge for licensed competition.*

Licensed Competition Bridge Plans

Credit: Howard and Erica Peet of Peet Equestrian

[You can see the plans here.](#) Picture of the bridge shown below.





A competition bridge built in 6 pieces rather than 4.



Other Bridge Options

Pallet Bridge

- 1 sturdy pallet
- 1 sheet ½" 4 x 8 sheet of plywood - cut in half
- 2" screws

A simple first bridge can be made from a reinforced pallet. These bridges are small and easy to move.

Cut a 4'x8' sheet of plywood in half. ¾" to 1" thick plywood on top is needed to support the horse's weight. Other heavy wood could be used to cover the pallet. Screw both halves onto the pallet. If it is untreated lumber with no slip-resistant coating, it should not live outside.

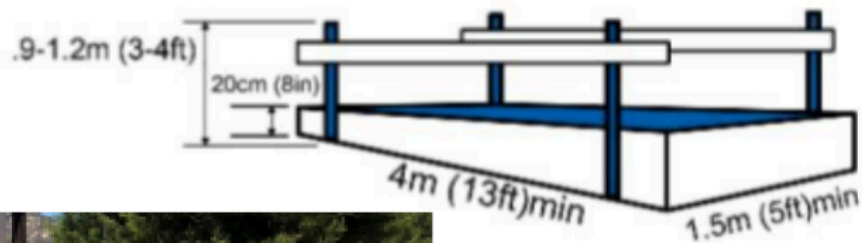


Because it is only 4 feet wide and has no ramp, it does not meet USAWE specifications for this obstacle, but it is a starting place to familiarize your horse to walking over obstacles. You can also practice with plywood flat on the ground, or even make 2 or 3 pallet bridges and connect them with hooks and eye bolts.

Flat Bridge

- 3 - 8" x 8" x 13' lumber
- 14 - 2" x 8" x 12'
- 2" screws

Here are plans for a single-piece flat bridge without a ramp. Use the 8" x 8" lumber as the base. Cut the 2' x 8' boards into 5' lengths and attach them over the base until the bridge is covered. The final deck piece may need to be cut in half (4' instead of 8'). Once built, a tractor with forklift attachments can easily move it. Detachable side rails may be added that slot into the sides of the bridge using two-by-fours. Insert in 4 places so the rails are sufficiently sturdy.



Building a DIY Horse Bridge Obstacle From Scratch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ggw7menMnQM>

Other Bridge Examples





Figure 8

Description. *Two drums (or similar upright items) are placed 3-m (10-ft) apart on center.*

The Figure 8 obstacle can be as creative as you can come up with. You can use barrels or any of the suggestions for the drums. I have also seen small wishing wells and crates weighted down, and have artificial trees or foliage of some sort.

Food Barrels can be used for the Figure 8 or the Drums. They are typically 3-4 ft tall and 2-3 ft in diameter. You can buy them (the 55-gallon size at Uline https://www.uline.com/BL_8154/Plastic-Drum). You can also ask Restaurants, School Cafeterias, Hospitals, or any large food service institutions if they have any available. The good thing is that you do not need them to be brand new. It is likely to get them from institutions for less than you can buy them new if you offer above the recycling price. Between the Figure 8 and Drum obstacles, you need 5 drums.



For schooling shows or practice, you can use soccer markers, buckets, traffic cones, etc. They work well and are easy to store and move.

Pen

Description. This obstacle consists of a round enclosure 6-m (20 ft) in diameter, with an entrance between 1.5 m (5 ft) and 2.5 m (8 ft) wide. Inside the round enclosure is a smaller round fenced enclosure 3 m (10 ft) in diameter meant to simulate a livestock pen. The inner pen may statuary placed inside of the enclosure. The corridor around the livestock pen should be 1.5 m (5 ft) wide. The construction of the pen must allow it to fall down if hit by the horse or competitor.

This obstacle can be as simple or as fancy as you'd like to make it. It can become expensive to make if you choose the fancy route. Simple versions can use hay bales, ground poles, or traffic cones. Always keep safety in mind, but use your imagination and have fun.

Purchased Pen

To make this example of a pen, you can use jump blocks or traffic cones as the inner pen. The outer construction stanchions (filled with water to make them stable) and bars can be found here:

<https://www.trafficsafetystore.com/traffic-barricades/cone-bar>

<https://www.trafficconesforless.com/traffic-control-medium-duty-plastic-40-stanchion-pack-of-6.html>



Simple Practice Pen



Other Pen Ideas



Made with 5-gallon buckets and PVC rails. Notice the bucket cutouts are not centered, allowing for better curvature of the obstacle and keeping more of the bucket outside of the corridor. The inside of the pen is made of plastic lattice fence.



This pen has an open outer pen with baseballs on top of the stanchions. The opening is marked on the opposite side with the conical bushes and the obstacle number. The inner pen is made of wooden fence panels connected with hooks and eyes. There is a large wooden peacock cutout in the inner pen.



Jug

Description. A jug sits on top of a small table or other platform that is at least 1.2 m (4 ft) high. A manufactured table is not required; a table-like platform may be constructed of common materials (e.g., hay bales, sacks of grain, etc.) The jug must have a handle. The jug must be placed in the same position for each competitor. Obstacle markers must be used to indicate direction of approach and exit. The entry and exit markers indicate the start and end of the obstacle, not the transition.

There are many options for a jug: use plastic or metal. Something solid and unbreakable. The thrift shop is a good place to look. You can use something as simple as a milk jug filled with water. Use your imagination to make a table. You can use any common material, such as a drum or barrel, provided the surface is flat and won't tip easily.

Jug Table on Jump Standard

This version uses a 4' jump standard. The top is a sleeve built to fit over the post with a flat board on top. It is easily removed for transport or storage.



Other Table Ideas



Remove Pole

Description. This obstacle consists of an open-topped drum and a garrocha pole 2.5 - 3.5 m (8 ft - 11.5 ft) in length. The pole is placed in the drum, butt end down. The tip of the pole should be easily identified as such by a pronounced taper or distinctive coloring. The ground crew, at the direction of the Judge, will place the pole in the same position for all riders. A rider may request permission of the Judge to adjust the position of the pole but may only do so if the Judge grants permission. Adjusting the position of the pole without permission is considered showing an obstacle to the horse in an overt manner and is thus grounds for disqualification from the trial.

- 2 barrels with open top (could be plastic or wooden keg barrels)
- 1 pole 8-to-11 ft
- Tape or paint

The ideal drums are wine barrels because they are the right weight and durability. Open-top food barrels can be used. You can buy them (the 55-gallon size at Uline https://www.uline.com/BL_8154/Plastic-Drum).

You can also ask Restaurants, School Cafeterias, Hospitals, or any large food service institutions if they have any available. The good thing is that you do not need them to be brand new. It is likely to get them from institutions for less than you can buy them new if you offer above the recycling price.

For the plastic barrels, add a cement block to the bottom for stability. You could use metal barrels, but be aware that they may be quite noisy when removing/replacing the pole.

Garrocha Pole Options

Bamboo poles are very lightweight for training purposes, as are PVC poles, but they can break or splinter. Wooden poles are heavy and take some getting used to. It is a good idea, if you are planning on showing, to have several varieties and lengths of poles to practice with.

One end of the pole should be tapered to a blunt point and be marked with tape or paint. This is the end that is used to spear the ring.



Spear Ring (Bull)

Description. The obstacle consists of a garrocha pole and a ring. The pole is taken from the Remove Pole obstacle (#5). It is traditional for the base to be in the shape of a bull with the ring placed on top, but the base can be any shape. There may be up to three rings; if using multiple rings, the rings should be set at varying heights. The rings can be made out of wood, metal, or plastic and should be approximately 15 cm (6 in.) in diameter. The obstacle is used in conjunction with Remove Pole (#5) and Replace Pole (#7) and may be placed between these obstacles in the course but may have additional obstacles in between. The Remove Pole, Spear Ring, and Replace Pole obstacles can be combined in a series and count as one obstacle. The series can consist of either the first two elements, the last two elements, or all three.

Building a Bull (Copyright material from Andalusian World)

<https://andalusianworld.com/site/the-working-equitation-bull/>

HOW do you create a bull for Working Equitation? Creating a pattern seems to be the biggest hurdle, so let's address that! There are several options when deciding what you would like your bull to look like.

The most common is a silhouette cutout of a bull, though you may also see printed or 3D versions. For this example, we will cover the traditional silhouette version.

Your first task will be to find a picture of the bull that you would like to create. This can be from the internet, a picture of someone else's bull.... the options are unlimited!

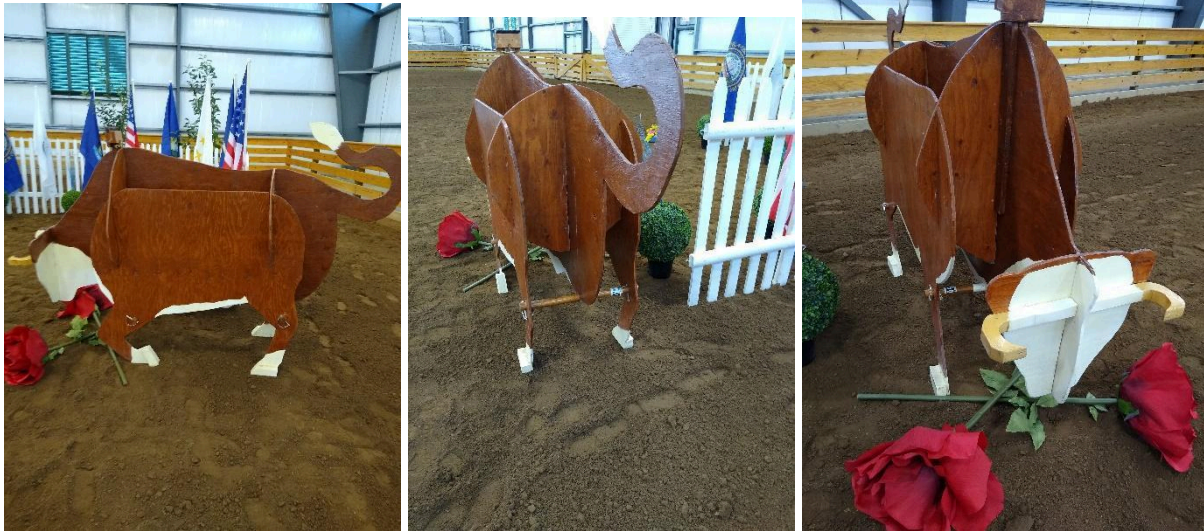
You will need:

- Plywood for the bull cut out.
(Consider treated lumber if your bull is going to brave the weather)
- Paint
- Method to make it stand.
- Metal or plastic 4 to 6" ring
- Magnets

Here is a simple version. One cut out painted on both sides, with removable "feet" on the bottom.



Here is a 3-D bull if you are feeling adventurous. This one is easy to store since it comes apart and can lay flat.

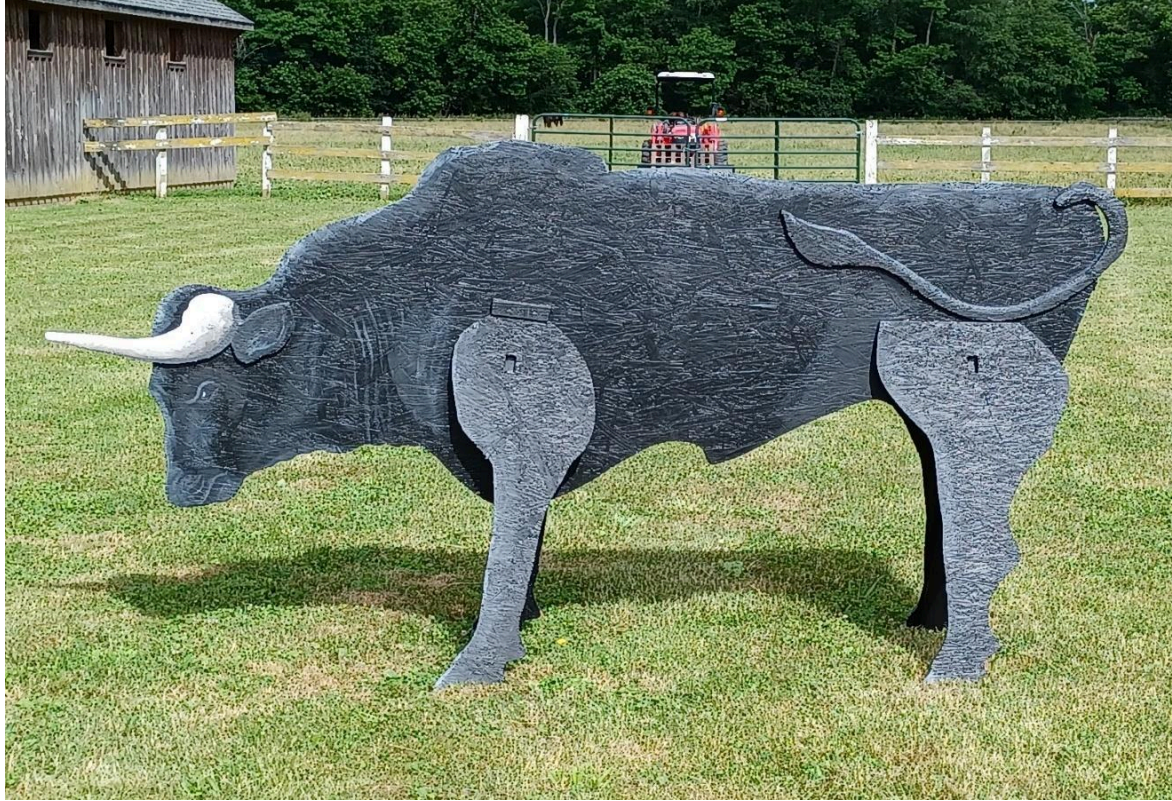


This shows the ring that goes on the bull. In this version, the ring sits in a channel cut out of the wood. The ring must come out easily when speared. A magnet may be used instead. You can then use a metal ring to attach to the magnet, or a ring with an attached magnet.



For practice, one can easily use a jump standard with a ring holder on the top. One affordable way to do this is to use a piece of pool noodle with a slit in the top taped or screwed to the top of the standard. Use a plastic dive ring for the ring. These can be purchased at a Dollar store.

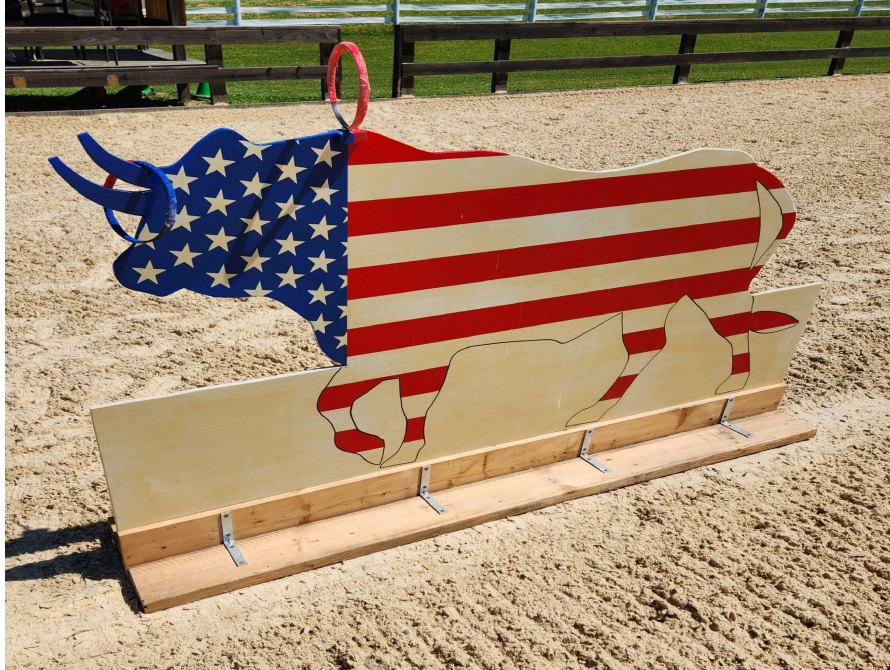
Here is another bull idea. This bull is not as easy to store, though the legs are removable. Note this one is made of chip or fiberboard, so it should not be left out in the elements. Consider using exterior-grade plywood instead. A 6" plastic embroidery ring was used with magnets glued on the ring and the bull.



Saw Horse Bull

A clever bull made from a sawhorse and a whip rack.





Another simple cut out Bull.

Making Your Own Pattern

Step 1

Print out your bull on a standard piece of paper as large as you can make it. Note: A high contrast between the bull and the background makes the following steps much easier!



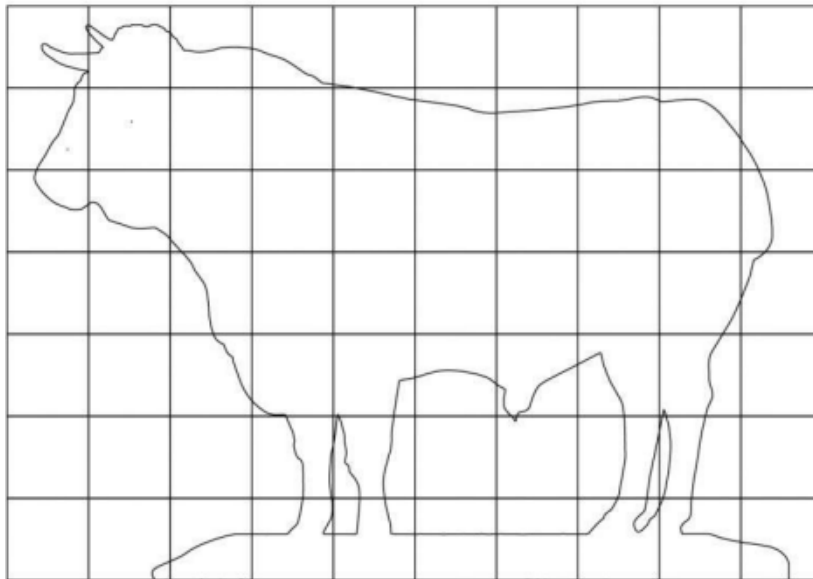
Step 2

Place another blank sheet of paper over your print and trace the outline of the bull.



Step 3

Using a ruler, create a grid on top of your new tracing. A 1-inch by 1-inch grid works well, but any uniform size will work.



Step 4

Now it is time to transfer your amazing artwork to your plywood.

Note: It is recommended to use at least 1/2 thick plywood for durability and stability. Thicker is better to prevent warping.

First, recreate your grid on the plywood as large as you can. In this example, the squares of the grid are approximately 6-1/2 inches.



Step 5

With your grid in place, recreate the bull square by square. Notice where lines start and stop in each “box” on your drawing, attempting to recreate this on your plywood. A pencil works well for this, should you need to erase and redraw. Don’t worry if it is not perfect (nobody will ever notice).



Step 6

Now that your bull has been traced to your plywood, it is time to cut it out. A jigsaw works wonderfully for this!

Step 7

Now that your bull is cut out, it is time to paint it. Make sure to paint/seal all cut edges as well to protect the wood from moisture and debris damage.

Step 8

The final steps. Build mounts / a base for the bull to stand in. Attach a ring holder of your choice.

Enjoy your new bull!

Replace Pole

Description. *The obstacle is an open-topped drum set some distance apart from the drum in Remove Pole obstacle (#5). The drum in obstacle #5 may be used for this obstacle provided there is another obstacle in-between.*

See Remove Pole.

Switch Cup

Description. *This obstacle consists of two posts that are approximately 1.5 m - 2 m (5 ft - 6.5 ft) in height, with an exterior base not secured in the ground. The posts are set 1.2 m (4 ft) apart. A drinking cup is placed upside down on the tip of one of the posts.*

You will need the following items to make the switch cup obstacle shown here:

- Two 10' long, $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter PVC pipes cut to 6.5 ft long
- 2.5 qt or 5 qt buckets
- Quick-set cement, water
- Once set, place $\frac{3}{4}$ " PVC caps on top of each pole
- One plastic cup
- Spray paint, painters' tape to make a spiral

NOTE: *Any decorative painting should be done before setting poles in cement.*

NOTE: *It is also advised NOT to use garland around the poles as seen below, as the horse may catch the garland with the tail and know down the obstacle.*

Set the bucket on a flat level surface. Fill the bucket $\frac{3}{4}$ full of mixed cement for 2.5-quarts or $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ full for 5-quarts. Insert the pole and stabilize with wood scraps. Ensure it is vertically level (straight). Let the concrete set overnight. Add a cap to the top.

Regarding bucket size, the 5-quart size is more stable, especially on uneven ground or on windy days. 2.5-quarts works well for indoor use. Eventually, the buckets may break off. You can then spray paint the cement bases.



Bell Corridor

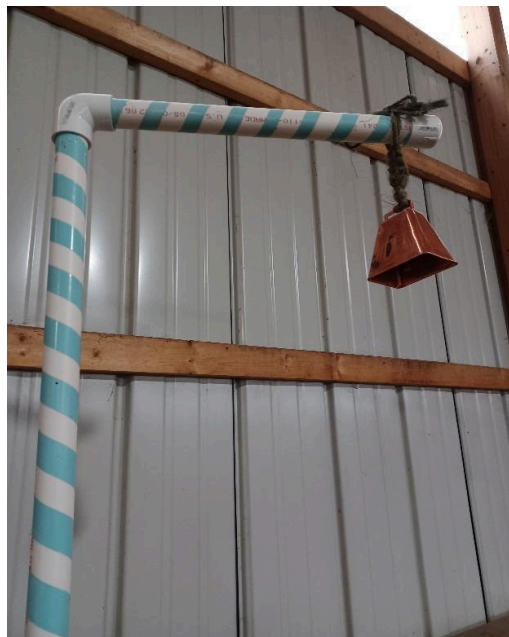
Description. A corridor is made from two parallel rails resting on supports, small fences, or walls at least 30 cm (12 in.) in height. The supports are not secured in the ground. The rails are approximately 3.7 m (12 ft) long and 1.5 m (5 ft) apart. There are two options for the bell corridor. 1. Two bells, at the end of the corridor one on each side, at a height of 1.5 m – 1.8 m (5 ft - 6 ft). or 2. One bell, 2 m (6.5 ft) high, placed at the end in the center of the corridor. The support holding the single bell is placed so that the bell hangs in the center of the corridor and is easy to reach with either hand. The support must not block the end of the corridor.

PVC Bell Corridor

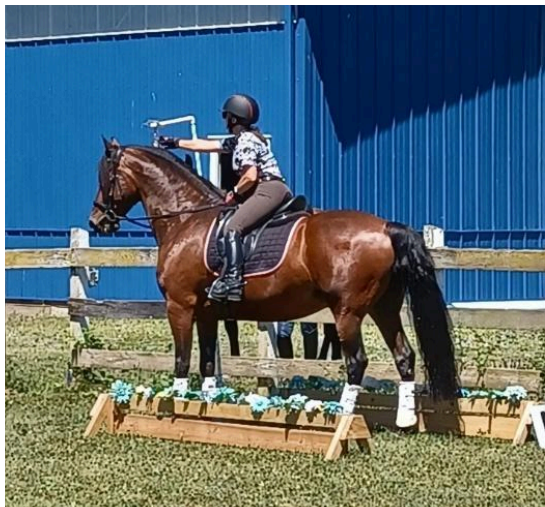
You will need the following items to make the switch cup obstacle shown here:

- One 10' x 1" PVC pipe cut to 7 ft long
- Cut the 3 ft scrap down to 2 1/2 ft. for the bell bar.)
- 1" elbow and cap
- Binders twine
- Bell that rings
- Painter's tape and spray paint
- 5 qt bucket ¾ full of cement

Braid the binder's twine and tie it around the 2-foot bar. The cap on the end keeps the tight loop from falling off. The bar can also be removed for storage. A larger size could be used for the PVC poles, but not less than 1", because it will bend over from the weight of the bell bar.



This obstacle also requires a 12-foot-long raised corridor. For schooling, poles may be shorter than 12 feet and can lie on the ground. Here are some options. **NOTE:** *The bell in the blue bucket is not in the correct place. It needs to be off to the side and not blocking the end of the corridor.*



Reinback “L”

Description. This obstacle consists of an L-shaped corridor made from parallel rails resting on supports, small fences, or walls at least 30 cm (12 in.) in height. The bend of the “L” may be in either direction. The supports are not secured in the ground. The outer rails are approximately 3.7 m (12 ft) long. The corridor is 1.5 m (5-ft) wide. There are two variations to this obstacle:

- (1) A bell is placed 2 m (6.5 ft) high at the end of the corridor (identical to #9, Bell Corridor).
- (2) Two posts are at the end of the corridor, one on each side. A cup is placed upside down on each of the posts. There is a second set of posts at the entrance to the obstacle.



Ideas from the Bell corridor can be used here. Practice can be poles on the ground or raised poles. Another option is wooden panels with hinges at the top. They are self-standing and fold closed for storage. They can be covered with outdoor carpet or painted. Flowers can be placed in the gap at the top where the hinges are.



This setup was used for a clinic where intro riders could exit straight back, or the small pole could be moved to create the L for more advanced riders.

Rounding Posts

Description. Two parallel lines of three posts each create a 1.5 m (5 ft) wide corridor. The posts in each line are separated a minimum of 2.5 m (8 ft) and a maximum of 3 m (10 ft) from each other and are aligned with the posts on the other line. A cup is placed upside-down on the tip of each of the end posts in the corridor.

There is no height requirement for rounding posts. For interchangeability and to save money, it may be advantageous to make them the same height as your slalom posts. This obstacle also requires two plastic or metal cups.

See Upright Poles.





Single Slalom

Description. This obstacle consists of an odd number of posts or similarly shaped objects in a straight line with bases not secured to the ground. There must be a minimum of five posts; seven are recommended for Advanced levels. The posts are approximately 2 m (6.5 ft) in height and set with a distance of 7 m (23 ft) for L1-L5 between each post. 6 m (20 ft) between posts for L6. Plants or other objects at least .61 m (2 ft) in height may be used instead of poles. Flags indicating side of entry are placed on the appropriate side of the first post or can be placed on the post itself. Entry/exit markers are recommended for this obstacle.

See Upright Poles-pg 4.



Double Slalom

Description. This obstacle consists of an odd number of upright posts: five for Intro (L1), Novice (L2/L3), and Intermediate (L4/L5) levels; seven for Advanced (L6) level. Each post is approximately 2-m (6.5-ft).in height, with a base not secured to the ground. Plants or other objects at least .61 m (2 ft) in height may be used instead of poles. The posts are arranged in two staggered parallel lines, with a distance of 7 m (23 ft) for L1-L5 and 6 m (20 ft) for L6 between the parallel lines and between each post on the line. The posts are staggered such that the midpoint between the first two posts of the first line is directly opposite the first post of the second line. Entry/exit markers are recommended for obstacle.

See Upright Poles-pg. 4.



Gate

Description. Recommended height of the gate is 1.5 m (5 ft) tall and 2.1 m (7 ft) wide. The gate must be at least 1.3 m (4 ft 3 in.) high, and 2 m (6.5 ft) wide, supported by two weighted posts (or jump standards) and two hinges. A latch easily operated from horseback should be used. The gate can be opened to the right or left depending on how the obstacle is set in the course. A rope between two posts can be used instead of a solid gate. A solid gate is preferred for Ease of Handling in licensed shows and is required in championship competitions. A rope gate should be used in Speed.

There are so many ways to build a gate! Keep in mind that a rope between two posts can be used instead of a solid gate. While a solid gate is generally used for Ease of Handling in licensed shows, it is required for championship competitions. A rope gate must be used for Speed.

Here are some basic materials needed for a simple gate:

Posts

- 2 or 3 - 4x4 square posts
- Scrap plywood for bases and sleeves
- 1 - 2x4
- Screws and a power screwdriver
- 1 - 6" long x 1" diameter dowel
- 3 to 6 - cement/cinder blocks (or other heavy counterweights)

OR

- 2 jump standards or wing standards, or an existing gate that will fully open in both directions

Gate

- 12' of rope or an old lunge line w/o a chain
- ¾" PVC cut to required lengths
- ¾" PVC elbows and T's
- 2 Sets of gate hinges
- glue
- OR use lightweight lumber

This example shows a gate built with scrap materials. Each post end has a plywood base. This enabled stability, allowing the horse to pass with no obstruction. The downside to single post jump standards is that the foot base extends into the area where the horse will be passing through the gate.

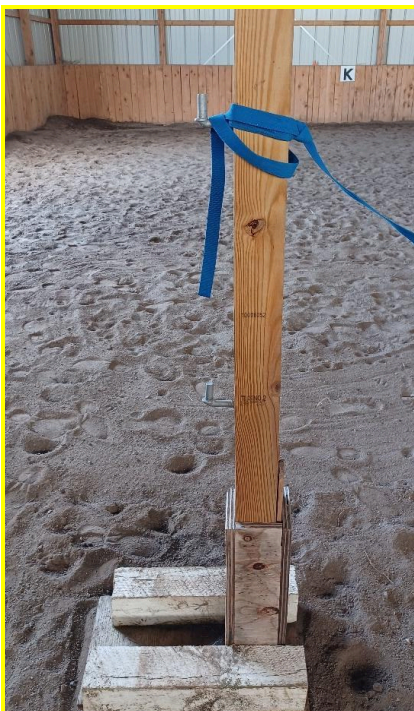
Shown here, the non-weight-bearing post has a dowel rod (a jump cup or other object could be used), used to catch the gate "latch".



The weight-bearing post that holds the solid gate up must have counterweights for stability. Here, two cement blocks have been added on the weight-bearing side and one block on the non-weight-bearing side.



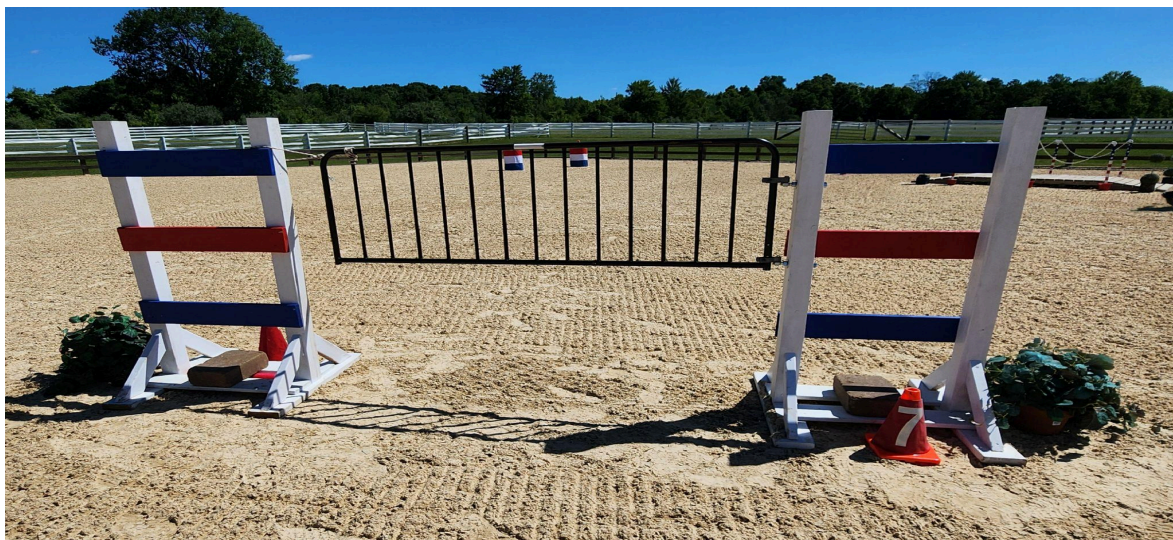
A sleeve was made for the base of the post so it could be turned around when not using the solid gate, moving the hinges out of the way. There are shims in the sleeve to keep the post from standing crooked.



Keeping the solid gate from twisting rather than swing open and shut required the extra vertical wood strips. You can use larger diameter PVC poles as the hinges are really made for metal pipe gates, but be creative! This gate has been made as lightweight as possible. The heavier the gate, the more counterweights you will need. The PVC pipes are glued together to prevent the gate from being “pulled” apart.



NOTE: Regarding safety when schooling the gate obstacle: 1. Be mindful of where the rope is. Do not let the rope get between your lower leg/foot and the horse. If you will be gathering your reins back in two hands, the rope should lay over the top of your thigh. 2. For the rope or solid gate, if your horse moves away from the gate post where you latch the gate, and despite your trying to correct the situation you reach the end of the rope, LET GO! Your horse is not understanding what needs to happen. Go back to working the steps/pattern needed to get through the obstacle without actually touching the rope or gate. Once that is mastered, try again actually holding the rope/gate.



Other Gate Examples



Jump

Description. *The obstacle consists of a single jump in a progression of heights for each level. Standard jump rails or a solid wood obstacle (like a flower box) can be used. Bales of straw placed end-to-end are acceptable. The jump must be at least 2.5 m - 3.5 m (8 ft-12 ft) wide. The jump must be positioned between two jump standards with appropriate jump cups.*

L1: Jump consists of a pair of crossed rails not to exceed 0.3 m (12 in.) at the center.

L2 and L3: Jump consists of a pair of crossed rails not to exceed 0.5 m (22 in.) at the standard and 0.4 m (15 in.) at the center.

L4 - L6: Jump consists of a solid-looking obstacle or rails set 0.5 m (22 in.) high with a ground pole placed under the jump.

Most barns have jump standards and jump poles. Keep in mind that you may also use hay bales and other fillers for the jump, but it must be 8 to 12 feet wide for competition.



Sidepass Rail

Description. This obstacle consists of one to three rails about 3 m (12 ft) in length with a diameter of not more than 10 cm (4 in.), supported 5-10 cm (2-4 in.) above the ground. The rails may be arranged in the following configurations:

- (1) Single rail
- (2) Two rails in a line separated by at least 3 m (10 ft)
- (3) Two parallel rails separated by at least 3 m (10 ft)
- (4) Two rails in an “L” configuration

Entry/exit markers are required for this obstacle. The markers indicate the start and end of the obstacle, not the transition.

This simple obstacle consists of two items:

- 1 or 2 Rails
- 2 Risers per pole

The rules state rails should be approximately 10-12 feet long. For practice, you can use 8-foot round fence posts. A pole on the ground is sufficient for initial training. If you show, be sure to practice with the rails raised 2-4 inches off the ground. Pole risers may be purchased, or you can make some from wood scraps. Both are shown here.



Water

Description. The ditch should be a minimum of 1.5 m (5 ft) in the direction of travel (long), and a minimum of 2.4 m (8 ft) wide. The ditch may be flat with a minimum depth of 10 cm (4 in.) or gently sloping to a maximum depth of 20 cm (8 in.). The bottom surface should be safe for horses to travel across. Course markers may be used to mark the entrance and exit. The obstacle may be framed with logs so horses have to step over and into/out of the water.

Not everyone has the luxury of having a water obstacle available on their property. If you plan to build one, consider footing and depth (should be no greater than 8 inches). Unfortunately, there is not a wealth of information online regarding building a water complex, but here are images of simple water jumps.



Bank

Description. *The obstacle consists of an embankment of natural construction with a vertical change not more than 30 cm to 60 cm (1 ft to 2 ft) above/below ground level. If the obstacle includes both the up and down elements there must be at least 12 ft (one stride or more) in the direction of travel between the up and down elements. The face of the embankment should be at least 8 ft wide.*

Not everyone has the luxury of having a bank obstacle available on their property. If you are planning to build one, ensure the sides are well secured, and the fill dirt is tightly tamped down before using it. Here are some examples from cross-country eventing sources.





Drums

Description. This obstacle consists of three drums positioned at the three points of an equilateral triangle with sides 3- to 4-m (10- to 13-ft) long, measured from the center of the drums. The drums are set 4-m (13-ft) apart for Introductory (L1), Novice (L2/L3), and Intermediate (L4/L5) levels, and 3-m (10-ft) apart for Advanced (L6) and Masters (L7) levels.

For practice, you may use anything as your drums - traffic cones, buckets, flower pots, jump standards, etc. You will need 3.



A Few Sources to Purchase Obstacles

ArenaDecorDesign

https://www.etsy.com/shop/ArenaDecorDesign?ref=shop-header-name&listing_id=1399534631&from_page=listing

Copper Pony

<https://www.copperpony.ca/collections/obstacles?srltid=AfmBOorag2XryX2OOkxS9IUqVOvWWB0vI0isX6ayQuKoasfXEROvvyS>

Countryside Equestrian

<https://www.countrysideshowjumps.co.uk/shop/trec-equipment>

TheUnicornMaker

Ring Holder

https://www.etsy.com/shop/ArenaDecorDesign?ref=shop-header-name&listing_id=1399534631&from_page=listing

Working Equitation Trail Obstacles DIY

Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1656567791224058/>

Working Equitation Equipment

Rings and Ring Stands

<https://www.facebook.com/Workingequitationequipment/>

MTNEARZ

Garrocha Rings, Mounts, and Accessories for Training & Competition

<https://www.mtnearz.com/shop/working-equitation/E3VOJEW2MZJ6CLAE7CWY4FTT>

Your Local Lowes or Home Depot Stores

Dollar Stores

Craft Stores

If you know of other sources, please contact the AO Committee (affiliateorganizations@USAWE.com). We'll add them to this manual.