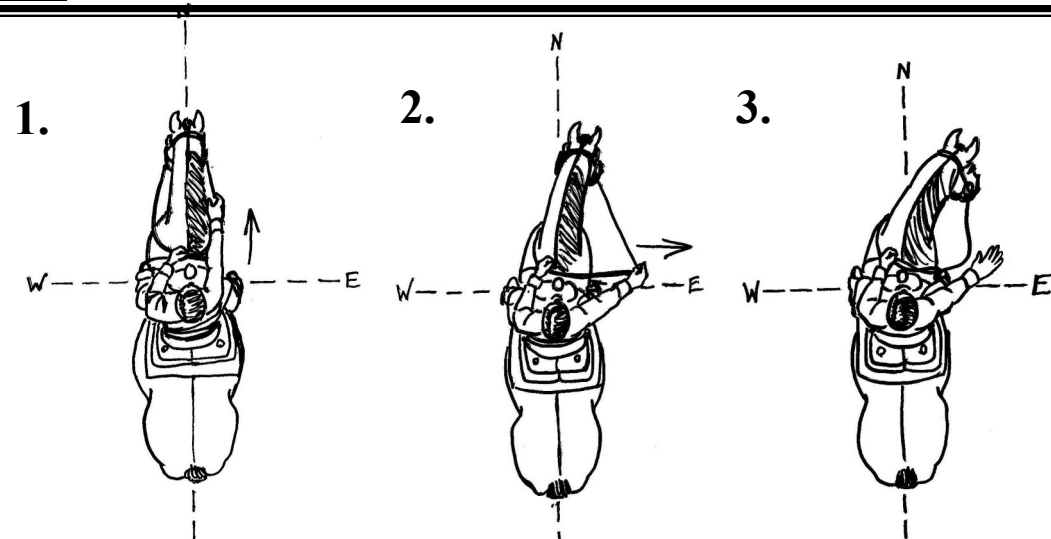
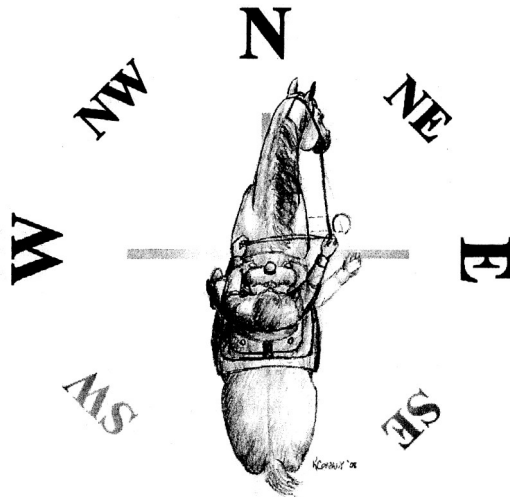


How to get the most out of your Compass Bit.

For our frame of reference, we will refer to the points of the compass with straight in front of the horse being North, left being West, and right being East.



Slide and Guide

Begin by crossing your reins across the horses neck so that the tail of each rein hangs on the opposite side of the horse from the side on which the rein is attached to the bridle.

1. While holding the left rein and the tail end of the right rein with your left hand, **slide** your right hand down the rein toward the bit, leaning forward. Take a hold of the rein with your right hand.

Hint: Slide and Guide is very effective when done while the horse's feet are in motion.

2. While still holding firmly onto the rein, **guide** your horse's head and neck to the right by taking your hand **directly** to the right, or straight out to the **East**.

Hold with steady pressure at this point, only releasing the direct pressure on the rein when the horse turns it's head and neck, giving to pressure.

Hint: Keep your hand ahead of the line leading directly East from your knee, and at about the height of your knee.

3. When the horse turns it's head and neck, giving to the pressure of the steadily held rein, give an **immediate release** by opening your hand and dropping the rein. By dropping the rein, you can give a much more immediate and total release to the pressure on the horse's mouth than what is possible by moving the arm and hand toward the horses mouth. The tail end of the rein is held by your other hand, so the rein is not dropped to the ground or out of the rider's control.

4. Each time the horse returns it's head and neck to a straight line to the **North**, repeat steps 1 through 3 until the horse keeps it's head and neck turned without being held there. When this is accomplished, repeat the same steps with the left side. When you have accomplished the bend in the horse's neck from the withers to the poll on both sides, use steady pressure from both reins to ask the horse to flex at the poll. When the horse willingly flexes to each side and at the poll, your horse's mouth and neck muscles are relaxed and your horse is ready to ride in whatever discipline you wish.