



## *Quick Trim Guide* for the horse owner

### You Will Need:

- Hoof Rasp – I recommend the Heller Black Master for dry conditions (hard/dry feet) and the Heller Legend for wet conditions (soft feet). Heller rasps are available at The Produce Store, Mt Gambier or from [www.mustad.com.au](http://www.mustad.com.au)
- Gloves – I recommend the Ansell Hyflex brand available at Coles and Woolworths, they have a grip palm and are made from stretchy material.
- Hoof pick
- Steel brush can be useful to remove dirt from the bottom of the hoof before trimming (dirt will blunt and rust your rasp)



### Steps to a Basic Maintenance Trim (every 7-14 days):

- Locate the laminae which runs around the outside of the hoof (as per image 1). This marks the point where you will start to round off the hoof wall with your rasp, working from this point and going outwards to the edge of the hoof.
- Use your rasp in an outward sweeping motion from the centre of the hoof (as per image 2, 3 & 4). Begin with the finer side of the rasp as it will be easier to file and will remove less hoof than the courser side. Swap to the courser side once you're feeling more confident.
- Rasp the wall at an angle to make it smooth and rounded, this relieves pressure from the outer hoof wall and reduces the chances of cracks, chips and laminae separation (see image 5). Depending on the thickness of the hoof wall it will probably be around 1cm wide, this is where you are rasping (so it shouldn't take too long to do).
- Try to rasp evenly around the hoof, be conservative to start and stop to check your work. Put the foot down, take a 30 sec break, then pick it up to check again if you're unsure.
- Keeping a "barefoot" hoof at a consistent size and shape with small changes using the rasp encourages the horse to remain comfortable and move correctly.

**REMEMBER** you can do 1 or 2 feet per day, don't push yourself to do them all on the same day. Perhaps try to do 2 feet on a weekend, then the other 2 feet the next weekend. Continue this rotation indefinitely to maintain balanced feet. Take hoof photos as a trimming reference.



**Image 1 (left):** The laminae (marked in green) runs around the outer hoof and connects the inner hoof and hoof wall. The laminae looks similar to a closed zipper



**Image 2 (left):** Rasp in an outward motion from the centre of the hoof. Rasp from the laminae line (image 1) to the edge of the hoof on an angle to create a rounded edge on the hoof, depending on the thickness of the hoof wall it will probably be around 1cm.

**Image 3 & 4 (below):** The rasp can be held at the handle to push away, or at the opposite end to pull towards you. This is more important on the aggressive side of the rasp to remove hoof, and it will catch on the hoof wall. Using the fine side will move more easily over the hoof in either direction but removes less hoof with each swipe. Use the fine side of the rasp while you gain confidence with handling it.





**Image 5 (left):** Rasping at an angle is designed to round off the wall and reduce weight bearing on the outer hoof wall, minimising the risk of cracks, chips and provide ease of movement for your horse over the toe area.

**Please note that this very basic guide designed for the horse owner, please use a qualified hoof care professional to set up and check your horses' feet routinely.**

**Hoof maintenance gives the best results for the horse if it is done little and often, big changes or corrections can be uncomfortable for your horse.**

**Let me know if you have any questions or need clarification**



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