MADRIX EQUESTRIAN

Bitless Bridle Fitting Guide

ONLY MADRIX-APPROVED BITLESS BRIDLES

NO MECHANICAL BITLESS BRIDLES

No bits. No whips. No spurs.

1. Confirm approval before use

Only bitless bridles approved by Madrix Equestrian may be used in Madrix sessions and events. Mechanical hackamores and other shanked or leverage-action designs are not permitted. A product labelled "bitless" is not automatically approved. If unsure, send Madrix clear photos of the complete bridle and rein attachments before use.

2. Fit the individual horse

Use the approved design's fitting instructions and seek a qualified bridle fitter's help if needed. Check leather, rope, stitching, buckles and rein attachments for wear. All surfaces against the horse must be smooth and comfortable.

3. Position the noseband correctly

Keep the noseband on the firm, supported part of the nasal bone, clear of the projecting cheekbones and soft lower nose and nostrils. Exact placement depends on the horse and design; do not rely on a fixed distance alone. Straps and fittings must not rub or pinch.

4. Check noseband space

Allow at least two adult fingers, or an appropriate noseband gauge, beneath the noseband at the front of the nasal bone. Do not tighten it to hold the mouth closed or compensate for poor stability. The bridle must remain secure without restricting normal jaw movement or breathing.

Comfort & Final Checks

5. Check the headpiece and straps

The headpiece should sit comfortably behind the ears without pinching. If present, the browband must not pull the headpiece into the ears. Cheekpieces, chin straps and the throatlatch must lie correctly without twisting, trapping skin or restricting the throat.

6. Check stability and pressure release

Attach reins only to the intended points on the approved design. With gentle contact, check that the bridle does not rotate into an eye or slide onto the soft lower nose. Any moving straps must release freely as soon as contact is softened. Do not ride if straps bind or remain tight.

7. Start quietly and reassess

Check responses from the ground in a secure area before mounting, especially when changing equipment. Use light, clear cues. Stop and reassess if you notice rubbing, head tossing, avoidance, tension or breathing difficulty. Seek professional advice for persistent discomfort.

8. Check before and after every session

Recheck fit and condition each time the bridle is used, including after cleaning or adjustment. After work, inspect for tenderness, swelling, rubbed hair or skin marks. Approval does not replace an individual fit and welfare check.

General fitting references: British Horse Society - Bridle fit; World Bitless Association - Bitless Bridles Guidance.
Equipment approval and the prohibition on mechanical designs are Madrix Equestrian rules.