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I. What is Dressage?
- At the most basic level, dressage is a test of how well trained a horse is.
- It exists as an independent sport and is also one of the three phases of eventing and combined driving.
- Dressage competitors perform a 'test' - a series of movements within an arena of a set size.

II. Why is it Called Dressage?
- Dressage actually comes from a French verb 'dresser', which is usually translated as 'to train'.

III. What are Dressage Shows Like?
- Dressage shows are built around tests.
- The rider selects which test to ride.
- At the show the test is performed with just one rider in the ring at a time.
- The tests may be memorized, but readers may be used to call out the movements, until the higher levels (FEI levels) are reached.
- As the rider performs the test, the judge evaluates each movement, giving it a score from 0 to 10, plus comments, written down by a scribe next to the judge.
- After the test is complete, the results are tabulated by a scorer, and expressed as a percentage.
- Awards are given on the basis of the highest percentage.

IV. What are Dressage Tests?
- The tests are a series of movements at a designed level of difficulty used to evaluate the training of the horse (not the skill of the rider).
- Tests change every few years.
- The lowest level tests, as well as some specialty tests, are created by the U.S. Dressage Federation.
- Most of the tests are created by the American Horse Shows Association (AHSA).
- The upper level tests are created by an international organization, the FEI (Federation Equestrian Internationale).
- As the difficulty increases, circles become smaller, movements more difficult, and the flow from movement to movement more challenging.

V. What are the Levels of Dressage?
- **Intro Level**: The most basic level, seldom offered at large competitions, is Introductory Level. The two introductory tests call for only walking and trotting movements.
- **Training Level**: medium & free walk, working trot, & working canter
- **First Level**: all above plus lengthenings & leg yields
- **Second Level**: all above plus collections, rein backs, countercanter, medium gaits, shoulder-ins, travers (haunches-in) turns on the haunches, & simple changes of lead
- **Third Level**: all above plus half-passes, extensions & flying lead changes
- **Fourth Level**: all above plus half-pirouettes at walk & canter and 3 flying changes of lead every 3rd & 4th strides
- **Prix Saint Georges**: all above plus 5 changes of lead every 3rd & 4th strides
- **Intermediate I**: all above plus trotting half-pass "zig-zags," full canter pirouettes, and 7 flying changes of lead every 2nd stride
- **Intermediate II**: all above plus passage, piaffe, cantering zig-zags, 9 flying changes of lead every 2nd stride, and 9 flying changes of lead every stride
- **Grand Prix**: all above plus 15 flying changes of lead every stride
VI. How is dressage judged?

- The dressage score consists of a score out of ten for each movement and then four collective scores.
- To make the overall percentage, the scores are weighted so that some movements are worth more than others.
- Each score is given using the following scale:
  - 0 - Not executed
  - 1 - Very bad
  - 2 - Bad
  - 3 - Fairly Bad
  - 4 - Insufficient
  - 5 - Sufficient
  - 6 - Satisfactory
  - 7 - Fairly good
  - 8 - Good
  - 9 - Very good
  - 10 – Excellent.

- Collective Scores: There are four collective scores, three are assessments of the horse and one is the only direct score given to the rider.
- A horse should not move up to the next class level until it can get a 6 in all areas.

VII. What Kind of Horse will I Need?

- Almost any horse should be able to get to second level.
- Beyond that, conformation becomes more important.
- At the higher levels, the majority of the horses are specially bred sport horses and warmbloods.
- Youth in dressage may use sport ponies. In England it is common to cross ponies with Thoroughbreds to make small sport horses and some of these work well as dressage horses.

VIII. Dressage Tack

- Most dressage riders ride in a dressage saddle, although you can go through about first level without really needing one.
- A dressage saddle is longer and straighter than a normal English saddle and has unusually long girth straps.
- This puts the girth buckles below the rider's leg rather than between the leg and the horse, which many believe allows for more precise aids.
- The saddle places the rider's leg in a straighter, deeper position than is normal in mainstream English riding.
- Up to second level, the horse must wear some kind of snaffle bit.
- At third and fourth, the double bridle may be introduced and a double bridle is required above fourth level.
- The horses are not allowed to wear boots or wraps.
- Martingales and other training devices are not allowed.

IX. Grooming

- In most cases, the mane is braided
- The tail is usually braided, pulled or banged (trimmed level a few inches below the hock).

X. The Rider

- Riders wear white or cream breeches and a light shirt and tie.
- Jackets are black or navy blue, and must be worn unless the show grants a jacket waiver.
- White or black gloves and black boots up to the knee finish the look for the lower levels.
- Youth wear short boots.
- Long hair is placed in a net or a bun.
- Traditionally, Grand Prix riders wear white breeches, a tail coat and a top hat.
- Safety helmets may be worn without penalty at any level.
- Dressage riders generally avoid bling - the most you might see is some color at the edge of a white saddle blanket or possibly a colored browband.
- Plain is the order of the day - you want the judge looking at your horse, not your tack.
XI. Resources

- United States Dressage Federation – usdf.org
- United States Equestrian Federation – usef.org
- Federation Equestre Internationale – fei.org
Part 2 The Dressage Arena

I. The Basics

- The arena is the playing field, if you will, for the sport of Dressage.
- There are two common sizes for ridden Dressage arenas:
  - Short, 20 x 40 meters (66’ x 132’), used only for Intro or Training level
  - Standard, 20 x 60 meters (66’ x 198’), can be used for any level
- Driven dressage arenas also come in two sizes:
  - 40 x 80 meters, which is used for single hitches
  - 40 x 100 meters, which is used for multiple hitches
- Arenas use a variety of footing materials ranging from grass to sand or shredded rubber.
- The perimeter of the arena is generally outlined by small white chain or fence.
- Letters are placed in various locations to indicate where specific movements are to be performed during the dressage test.
  - While dressage arenas differ in size, they have many similarities:
    - All arenas have a centerline,
    - The very center of the arena is “X”
    - The judge is placed at C,
    - The entrance is at A

II. Dressage Letters

A. Why are there Letters?

- The letters are used to instruct the rider where to perform different movements such as changing the rein from K, across the diagonal to M.

III. How do I Remember the Letters?

- The easiest way to remember the letters in the short arena is to memorize a simple rhyme.
  - A – All, K – King, E – Edwards, H – Horses, C – Can, M – Manage, B – Big, F - Fences
- A is situated at the bottom of an arena, and C is at the top.
- "X" is one of the invisible markers and marks the exact center of the arena.
- D and G are also invisible & are on either side of the X marker.
- By the time you are ready to ride in a standard arena, you should be comfortable with the letters. When this happens your arena letters become AKVESHCMBRF.

IV. Where do the Letters Come From?

- It is believed that the letters chosen started with the German cavalry.
- Markings found on the walls of the Royal stables of the Imperial German Court in Berlin suggest that the letters indicated where each rider’s horse was to stand and wait for their riders.
- The markings found on the walls were:
  - A - Ausgang (Exit).
  - K- Kaiser (Emperor).
  - F – Fürst (Prince).
  - P – Pferknecht (Ostler or groom).
  - V – Vassal (Servant/Squire).
  - E - Edeling/ Ehrengast (Chief/ Honored Guest)
  - B – Bannertrager (Standard Bearer).
  - S – Schzkanzler (Chancellor of the Exchequer).
  - R – Ritter (Knight).
  - M – Meier (Steward).
  - H – Hofsmarshall (Lord Chancellor).
Part 3 Dressage Terminology

I. Gaits
- Walk - A clear "four-beat" gait with footfalls following one another.
- Trot - A "two-beat" gait where diagonal leg pairs move simultaneously followed by a moment of suspension.
- Canter - A "three-time" gait where the hind leg strikes off followed by the opposite and diagonal fore leg and then the opposite foreleg (a.k.a. - the lead leg) followed by a moment of suspension.

II. The Paces (in order of speed)
- Collected
  - The horse is "on the bit" with the neck raised and arched with the poll at the highest point.
  - The horse's strides are shorter but he maintains his rhythm.
- Working
  - This pace falls between the collected and medium gait.
  - Shows proper balance, the horse remains on the bit and moves forward with even elastic steps.
- Medium
  - The pace between working and extended at the trot and canter or between the collected and extended at the walk.
  - Shows a moderately lengthened stride with impulsion from the hindquarter.
- Extended
  - The horse covers as much ground as possible within a given gait, thus demonstrating greater impulsion of the hind quarter.
- Free Walk
  - This walk demonstrates long strides, a relaxed back and a lowering and stretching of the head and neck illustrating complete relaxation.
  - It can be ridden with little or no contact.
  - The horse is encouraged to carry his head and neck as low as he chooses.

III. Transitions
- A transition is a change of gait, for example from a walk to a trot.
- An upward transition is a change from a slower gait to a faster one (walk to trot)
- A downward transition is a change from a faster gait to a slower one (trot to walk)

IV. Variations on the Gaits
- Passage - A very collected, cadenced trot that is characterized by elevated movement of the knees and hocks, as well as a defined engagement of the quarters.
- Piaffe - A passage done "in place." The piaffe should always remain lively and animated with the horse's body moving up and down in a relaxed, supple and cadenced manner.
- Counter Canter - Cantering deliberately on the lead opposing the circle direction (i.e. - right lead canter while riding a circle to the left or vice versa).
- Change of Lead - Horse is brought from a canter to a few strides of trot and then asked to canter again on the opposite leading leg.
- Simple Change of Lead - The horse is brought back to a walk immediately asked to show a few clearly defined walks strides and then asked to depart in canter using the opposite leading leg.
- Flying Change of Lead - The horse changes leading legs without transitioning to a walk or trot.

V. The Movements
- 20-Meter Circle - A circle that is 20 meters in diameter and that ends in exactly the same place it started.
- **Change of Rein** - A change of rein is a change of direction. It’s called change of rein because your inside rein becomes your outside rein as you complete the movement.
- **Rein Back** - The horse moves backward in a straight line.
- **Half Halt** - A nearly invisible simultaneously action of the hand, seat and legs used to capture the horse's attention and regain balance.
- **Halt** - The horse stops all movement with all 4 feet equally balanced underneath the horse. The horse should remain relaxed, attentive, straight and on the bit.
- **Shoulder-In** - The horse should be slightly away from the direction of movement - approximately 30 degrees.
  - The inside front leg crosses over in front of the outside front leg. The inside hind leg should remain on the same track as the outside foreleg.
- **Shoulder Fore** - Similar to the Shoulder In but with a lesser degree of angle (by approximately ½)
- **Travers** - The horse is bent around the rider's inside leg, and looking in the direction of travel with the outside legs passing in front of the inside legs. The quarters leave the track at the beginning of the travers and are not returned to the track until the end of the travers.
- **Renvers** - This is the opposite of the travers with the tail remaining closest to the outside of the arena or wall.
- **Leg Yield** - The horse exhibits a slight flexion of the poll away from the direction he is traveling.
  - The inside legs should cross in front of the outside legs with the rider being able to see just the inside eyebrow and nostril.
- **Half Pass** - Half-pass is a variation of travers, executed on a diagonal line instead of along the wall
- **Turn on the Haunches** - This movement is similar to the pirouette in that the horse's forelegs move around the horse's hind legs.
- **Pirouette** - A turn of 360 degrees, with a radius equal to the length of the horse and the forehand moving around the haunches.
- **Serpentine** - The horse performs half circles followed by straight lines. The horse should be parallel to the short side of the arena as he crosses the center line.
- **Figure of eight** - Two voltes or circles of equal size joined at the center of the eight.
  - The horse should be straight an instant before changing direction at the center of the figure.
- **Volte** - A 6, 8 or 10m circle. The term circle is used if the diameter is greater than 10m.
Part 4 Your First Dressage Test

I. Get Ready!

- Make sure your horse is ready.
  - Properly trained
  - Properly groomed
  - Proper tack
- Make sure you are ready:
  - Test studied & practice
  - Proper clothing
  - Entries completed properly

II. Get Set!

A. Dressage Etiquette

- You may ride around the outside of the ring when the rider before you has completed his/her test.
- When the judge rings the bell, you have 45 seconds to enter the ring.
- After your salute, wait for the judge to acknowledge you.
- Voice commands are not allowed.
- If you go off pattern, you are not disqualified.
- If the judge rings the bell, stop & follow his directions.
- After your test, leave the ring at a medium walk & clear the area.

Using a Reader

- Make sure your reader knows the rules:
  - Stand at E or B
  - Read exactly as written
  - Read only once
  - Stay one letter or movement ahead of the rider
  - No coaching
  - There is no penalty for having a reader

III. Go! Practice Tips

- Shapes are important. Make lines straight & circles round.
- Check yourself by checking your tracks in the dirt.
- Practice transitions until you can get & maintain the gait you request as soon as you request it.
- Practice halts until your horse stops smoothly & squarely and remains still until you ask it to move.
- Work on circles.
  - They should be round & balanced.
  - The horse should bend from poll to tail along the track of the circle.
- Work on your gaits until you get the rhythm & tempo you desire.
  - Counting aloud or riding with a metronome can help.
- Every movement is done in both directions, so practice until both feel the same.
Part 5 Taking the Mystery Out of Dressage

- We’ll answer these questions...
  - What is the judge looking for, anyway?
  - How can I score better on my test?
  - How can I communicate better with my horse?

I. Understanding the Dressage Training Scale

- Judges use the Training Scale...
  - To evaluate your horse’s training.
  - To score your test according to the requirements at each level
- You can use the training scale...
  - To form a better partnership between you & your horse, whether you compete or you just enjoy a drive down the trail.
  - Each step builds on the one below
  - Each step lays a correct base for the pyramid, & each step is confirmed before focusing on the next one.

II. The Dressage Training Scale - Rhythm and Relaxation

- The first & most important step in the training scale. It affects all steps on the scale
- Mental & physical relaxation allow the horse to step in the natural rhythm of each gait:
  - Walk – Four beat
  - Trot – Two beat
  - Canter – Three beat
  - Rein Back – Two beat
- The horse is working with his back.
- Steps & strides are regular in all gaits & transitions.
- Tempo is a key part of this step. Tempo is the rate of repetition of footfalls in a gait, fast or slow
- Each horse has a tempo in which it can relax, balance & swing, depending upon its conformation, level of training & strength.

III. The Dressage Training Scale - Suppleness & Looseness

- Builds on rhythm & relaxation and cannot exist without them

A. Types of Suppleness

- Lateral Bend
  - Lateral Bend is the degree to which a horse can bend his body & neck sideways, on a circle or sideways.
  - A correct bend is consistent from head to tail, horse slightly bent to the inside of circles & figures.
- Longitudinal Bend
  - Looseness of the poll, neck, back, & haunches allowing horse to stretch onto the bit.
- The horse’s frame/outline:
  - Should be able to shortened or lengthened at will.
  - Should match the work he is being asked to do.
  - Should not be a static thing – a headset is not what we are looking for.
B. Suppleness
- Suppleness goes along with the horse’s level of strength & balance.
- The range he can show will increase as his training progresses.

C. Clues to identifying Suppleness & Looseness:
- Mouth closed & mouthing bit quietly
- Tail swinging softly
- The horse allows itself to be driven forward, pushed toward the hand.

IV. The Dressage Training Scale - Contact/Acceptance of the Bit
- Desired outcome:
  o Acceptance & response to the rein aids while in a round outline with a mouth that is relaxed.
  o A light, soft but constant contact, horse obedient & submissive
  o Aids passing through a supple poll
- Good contact can be seen when:
  o The horse’s back is raised
  o His quarters are engaged
  o His poll is the highest point
  o His jaw is relaxed
  o His nose is a bit in front of the vertical

V. The Dressage Training Scale - Impulsion
- Impulsion is:
  o Energy, not speed
  o Free flowing energy
  o Lively, active steps
- Good impulsion is shown when a horse steps under his barrel & engages his hocks.
- The horse shows a desire to go forward.

VI. The Dressage Training Scale - Straightness
- Horses are crooked by nature
- Good training focuses on developing both sides & both hind legs of the horse so he steps through equally.
- A horse is straight when the hind foot steps into the line of the front foot, on straight lines or on curved lines.

VII. The Dressage Training Scale - Collection
- When all elements are present, true collection can occur
- Requires strength built through correct daily work
- When identifying Collection look for:
  o Lowering of the haunches
  o Lightness of the shoulders & forehand
  o Shorter & higher steps
  o More bend in the joints of the hind legs
  o Withers look higher
  o The horse seems to move uphill
  o Neck more raised
  o Head closer to the vertical

VIII. Know Your Test
- Read and understand the purpose of the test and what is being looked for at that level.
- Read, follow and understand the instructions.
- Understand the directive ideas.
• Be clear about where to start and end each movement.
• Know the number of seconds to halt and the number of steps to rein back.
• Read the rulebook and understand what is required in each gait and movement.
• Understand what the collective marks mean.

IX. The Collective Marks
A. Gaits
• Walk, trot & canter if called for.
• Good paces must be exhibited.
• If one pace is incorrect, the score will be affected.

B. Impulsion
• A desire to move forward
• Elasticity of the steps
• Suppleness of the back & engagement of the hindquarters

C. Submission
• Fulfillment of the criteria of the test
• Attention & confidence
• Calmness, lightness & ease of movement.
• Acceptance of the bit

D. Driver (Rider)
• Does the driver seesaw reins?
• Is soft contact sustained throughout test?
• Balanced?
• Good posture?
• Quiet, organized & workmanlike?
• Does the driver help or hinder their horse?
• Is the horse prepared properly before each movement?

X. Know the Rules
• Know the American Driving Society Rulebook! You will find:
  o Descriptions of what is expected at each level,
  o Explanations of each gait & how they are judged,
• The ADS rulebook is available free online, study it!
  o ADS website: AmericanDrivingSociety.org

XI. Things to Know & do...
• You have 90 seconds after the bell rings to enter the ring.
• You can use your voice & whip appropriately during your test.
• Accuracy is important, it shows off your horse’s training & shows focus & concentration.
• Leave the ring as called for on your test sheet, usually a working trot.
• Leave the ring at A.
Part 6 Western Dressage

I. Why Western Dressage?
- Western Dressage provides western riders and horses with an educational program which incorporates the principles of lightness into a whole new way of thinking about riding western.
- Western Dressage helps a rider to improve the horse’s balance, cadence and carriage.

II. What Breed of Horse?
- Any breed of horse can participate in Western Dressage.
- The horse should be able to walk, jog and lope, or in the case of gaited horses, walk, gait or jog and lope.

III. How is Western Dressage different from Traditional Dressage?
- The Western horse is encouraged to work and school on lighter contact than the typical dressage horses.
- The Western horse will be evaluated with the conformation and movement of today’s western horses in mind.
- The Western horse will have a shorter stride & will walk, jog & lope as opposed to walk, trot & canter.
- In keeping with the tradition of the Western horse and rider they will be shown in Western tack and clothing.
- It is not the goal of Western Dressage to create western horses that compete in open dressage but to create better western horses and riders through the use and principles of dressage.

IV. What are the Rules?
- You can find the Western Dressage rules written by the Western Dressage Association of America at their website: www.westerndressageassociation.org

V. What are the Tests?
- Western Dressage tests are very similar to the traditional dressage USEF authorized tests.
- The names of the gaits are different.

VI. Who can Judge Western Dressage?
- Any licensed dressage judge can judge Western Dressage.

VII. The Gaits
A. General
- The horse must move naturally & happily in a manner consistent with its breed.
- Excessive speed or slowness is penalized.
- The slow jog & lope of the Western Pleasure class is not to be favored.

B. The Walk
- Working Walk
  - Ground covering,
  - Nose in front of or on the vertical.
  - Hind feet track to or reach beyond front prints.
- Free Walk
  - Hind feet reach beyond front tracks.
- Horse is allowed complete freedom to lower his head & neck.

- **Collected Walk**
  - Shows upward balance & self-carriage.
  - Covers slightly less ground than working walk.

**C. The Jog**

- **Working Jog**
  - Even, ground covering, elastic with light contact.
  - May be ridden sitting or posting at Intro & Basic levels, sitting from level 1 up.

- **Lengthening of Stride**
  - Same tempo as working jog, but covers more ground.
  - Can be ridden sitting or posting.

- **Free Jog**
  - Ridden on a loose rein.
  - Nose must be in front of the vertical.
  - Moderate lengthening of stride.
  - May be ridden posting or sitting.

- **Collected Jog**
  - Neck is raised & arched.
  - Haunches are lowered & hocks engaged.
  - Steps are shorter.
  - Ridden seated.

**D. The Lope**

- **Working Lope**
  - Even, elastic with light contact.

- **Lengthening of Stride**
  - Same tempo as working lope, but covers more ground.

- **Collected Lope**
  - Neck is raised & arched.
  - Haunches are lowered & hocks engaged.
  - Steps are shorter.

- **Counter Lope**
  - Horse is asked to take the lead that is opposite to the direction of travel.

**E. Turn on the Haunches/Forehand**

- Two methods are allowed:
  - The horse may walk in a small circle, as is done in traditional dressage.
  - The horse may pivot on the inside leg, as is done in Western Stock Horse classes.

- Both methods are judged equally, but the horse may not switch from one method to the other.
VIII. The 5 Levels

A. Introductory Level
- Walk/trot only.
- Purpose: to provide an introduction to Western Dressage.

B. Basic Level
- Purpose: to show that the horse is supple & moves freely forward in a clear, steady rhythm, accepting light contact with the bit.

C. Level 1
- Purpose: to show the development of impulsion and improved balance.
- Collection, engagement, & lateral movements are introduced.

D. Level 2
- Purpose: to show that the horse has developed impulsion; accepts more weight on the hindquarters; is reliable on the aids & light on the bit.

E. Level 3
- Purpose: Same as level 2, but to a greater degree.
- Collected gaits are emphasized.

IX. Tack

A. Bridles
- A western headstall is required.
- A western cavesson is allowed.
- Bitless bridles are allowed.
- Western two rein bridles are allowed.

B. Snaffle Bits
- A snaffle bit may be used on any horse of any age at any level.
- If a snaffle bit is used the rider must hold one rein in each hand.

C. Hackamores
- A hackamore (bosal) is permitted on any horse of any age at any level.
- The bosal must be rounded in shape, made of braided rawhide or leather, & must have a flexible non-metallic core.
- It must be attached to a western headstall.

D. Curb Bits
- There is no discrimination against any standard western bit on a horse of any age at any level.
- The rider may use either one hand or two hands, but must be consistent throughout the entire test.

E. Reins
- If the rider is using a curb bit, he/she may use split or romal reins.
- Romal Reins
If romal reins are used the ride must hold the rein in one hand with no fingers between the reins.
- The free hand must hold the tail and popper and must be at least 16” from the rein hand.

- **Split Reins**
  - If the rider uses split reins they must hold the rein with one hand, held palm down.
  - The tails of the reins must fall on the same side as the hand holding the rein.

- **Mecate Reins**
  - Horsehair or rope reins and mecate are allowed for bosals and snaffles.
  - The mecate can be tied to the saddle horn or held by the rider.

**F. Saddles**
- A stock, national, working, Aussie, native, or western side saddle may be used.
- A horn is not required but western style fenders are required.

**G. Other Tack**
- One whip no longer than 47.2”, including lash, is permitted in all levels.
- Breastplates and/or cruppers may be used.

**X. Attire**

**A. Required Attire**
- Suitable western hat
- Long-sleeved shirt with some type of collar.
- Trousers or pants.
- Boots.
- Native or National attire can be worn when riding in Native or National tack.

**B. Optional Attire**
- Necktie, kerchief, bolo tie or pin
- Vest, jacket, coat and/or sweater
- Western or English style spurs
- Chaps
- Protective headgear is acceptable in place of the western hat.
## USDF Introductory Level — Test A

**2011**

(Walk—Trot)

### REQUIREMENTS:
- Free walk
- Medium walk
- Working trot rising
- 20 meter circle
- Halt through walk

**PURPOSE:** To introduce the rider and/or horse to the sport of dressage. To show understanding of riding the horse forward with a steady tempo into an elastic contact with independent, steady hands and a correctly balanced seat. To show proper geometry of figures in the arena with correct bend (corners and circles).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEST</th>
<th>DIRECTIVE IDEAS</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
<th>COEFFICIENT</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>REMARKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6. Between C &amp; H</td>
<td>Medium walk.</td>
<td>Willing and balanced transition; clear walk rhythm.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. F-A</td>
<td>Medium walk.</td>
<td>Willing and balanced transition; clear walk rhythm, bending in corner and turn.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Down centerline.</td>
<td>Straightness on centerline.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. X</td>
<td>Halt and salute.</td>
<td>Straightness in halt, willing and balanced transition and halt.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Leave arena in free walk. Exit at A.

### Collective Marks:

- Gaits (freedom and regularity).
- Impulsion (desire to move forward with suppleness of the back and steady tempo).
- Submission (acceptance of steady contact, attention and confidence). 2
- Rider’s position (keeping in balance with horse).
- Rider’s effectiveness of aids (correct bend and preparation of transitions).
- Geometry and accuracy (correct size and shape of circles and turns).

### Further Remarks:
2011
INTRODUCTORY LEVEL — TEST A
Walk—Trot

This unique series of tests provides an opportunity for the horse and/or rider new to dressage to
demonstrate elementary skills. The tests have been designed to encourage correct performance and
to prepare the horse for the transition to the USEF tests.

**Instruction:**
- All trot work to be ridden rising.
  Transitions from walk to trot and trot to walk may be performed through
  sitting trot with the objective of performing a smooth transition.
- Turns from center line to long side and long side to center line should be
  ridden as a half circle, touching the track at a point midway between the
  center line and the corner, and vice versa.

**Comment:**
Horses should be ridden on a light but steady contact, with the exception of the
free walk in which the horse is allowed complete freedom to stretch neck
forward and downward.

**Suggested Scheduling Time**
5:00 Standard Arena
4:00 Small Arena
(Possibly longer for schooling shows)

---

**Name of Competition**

---

**Date of Competition**

---

**Number and Name of Horse**

---

**Name of Rider**

---

**Maximum Possible Points:** 160

---

**Final Score**

---

**Points**

**Percent**

---

**Name of Judge**

---

**Signature of Judge**

---
## Western Dressage Association

**2013 Western Dressage Test ~ Introductory Level, Test 1**

### Purpose
Tests provide an introduction to the discipline of Western Dressage; the horse performs only at the gait of walk and jog. The rider should demonstrate correct basic position, use of basic aids, and understanding of figures. The horse should show relaxation; harmony of horse and rider is important. The jog should be a natural gait within the horse's scope and should demonstrate a swinging back.

### New Requirements
- Half circle 20 meters
- Free walk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry Number</th>
<th>Arena Size: Small 40m x 20m or Large 60m x 20m</th>
<th>Average Ride Time: Small Arena 4:00 min or Large Arena 4:30 min</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Max Points Possible</td>
<td><strong>280</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Test Directives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Directives</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Coefficient</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1 A  | Enter working jog  
Proceed down the center line without halting | Straightness; quality of the jog. | | | |
| 2 C  | Track left, working jog | Balance and correct bend through the turn; quality of the jog. | | | |
| 3 E-B| Half circle left 20 meters  
working jog | Roundness, balance and correct bend on the half circle; quality of the jog. | 2 | | |
| 4 Between M & C | Develop working walk | Willingness and smoothness of transition; quality of the walk. | | | |
| 5 H-B | Free walk | Walk with horse willing and able to stretch the neck down and forward; relaxation; rhythm, swing through the back. | 2 | | |
| 6 B  | Working walk | Willingness and smoothness of transition; quality of the walk. | | | |
| 7 F  | Halt 4 seconds, proceed working walk | Balance in downward transition; square, straight halt; immobility; willingness when asked; smoothness of transition; quality of the walk. | | | |
| 8 Between A & K | Develop working jog | Willingness and smoothness of transition; quality of the jog. | | | |
| 9 E-B | Half circle right 20 meters  
working jog | Roundness, balance and correct bend on the half circle; quality of the jog. | 2 | | |
| 10 B | Proceed straight ahead, working jog | Balance and correct bend through the turn; quality of the jog. | | | |
| 11 Between A & K | Develop working walk | Willingness and smoothness of transition; quality of the walk. | | | |
| 12 K-B | Free walk | Walk with horse willing and able to stretch the neck down and forward; relaxation; rhythm, swing through the back. | 2 | | |
| 13 B  | Working walk | Willingness and smoothness of transition; quality of the walk. | | | |
| 14 M  | Halt 4 seconds, proceed working walk | Balance in downward transition; square, straight halt; immobility; willingness when asked; smoothness of transition; quality of the walk. | | | |
| 15 Between C & H | Develop working jog | Willingness and smoothness of transition; quality of the jog. | | | |
| 16 A  | Down the centerline | Balance and correct bend through the turn; quality of the jog. | | | |
| 17 X-G | Working walk  
Halt through working walk, Salute | Willingness and smoothness of transition; quality of the walk; balance in downward transition; square, straight halt; immobility. | | | |

*Leave arena at A in a walk with looped or long reins.*

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COLLECTIVE MARKS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MARKS</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Coefficient</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GAITs - (freedom and regularity of the horse’s movement)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUBMISSION - (attention, willingness, confidence, harmony with rider, lightness and acceptance of the bit)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RIDER’s position, seat and hand(s) - (well balanced and elastic seat, demonstrating vertical alignment, with light and independent contact from hands)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RIDER’s correct and effective use of the aids</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCURACY - (precision of placements of the figures and execution of the transitions)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HARMONY - (willing partnership of horse and rider, resulting in a free flowing performance)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FURTHER REMARKS:

Subtotal: total of points and coefficients above

Errors: subtract from subtotal

Total: subtotal minus any errors

(form points: 280)

WESTERN DRESSAGE ASSOCIATION®
OF AMERICA

2013 WESTERN DRESSAGE TEST ~ INTRODUCTORY LEVEL, TEST 1

Instructions: The horse should show carriage appropriate to this Introductory Level. The nose should be carried out and level with the hip. The horse should be able to stretch its neck so the poll is as far forward (not down) as possible. The line of the cannon of the hind leg should match the line of the foreleg of the front leg. The rider is allowed to post at the jog. The contact should be light, but mindful of the fact that light contact with the rein has no relationship to the welfare of the horse if the back is compromised and the hindquarters are not properly engaged.

COMPETITION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF COMPETITION</th>
<th>DATE</th>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME AND NUMBER OF HORSE</th>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF RIDER</th>
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FINAL SCORE

Maximum Possible Points: 280

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POINTS</th>
<th>PERCENT</th>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF JUDGE</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIGNATURE OF JUDGE</th>
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Western Dressage Association® of America

Email: info@westerndressageassociation.org | Internet: www.westerndressageassociation.org

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