

TIPS FOR TEACHING THE ROLLBACK AND SPIN

1. Turn your horse, then 'immediately' accelerate forward and leave the turn. This "turning and leaving" is key for teaching the horse to plant his pivot foot. If you let the horse hesitate between the turn and leaving, he won't get the idea.
2. Your horse 'must' move his front end away from rein pressure. If he doesn't, use your leg as a reprimand.
3. Use your hands with 'rein and release' action. Do not use steady pressure. Using the reins with steady pressure will cause a horse to lock his front end and swing his butt out of gear. Using the reins with the "pull and release" method, keeps the front end free and moving off the rein. Also, use the correct angle when applying the reins, towards the horse's hip.
4. Remember to sit in the middle of your horse. Do not lean into the turn. Leaning will cause your horse to kick his butt out instead of using his pivot foot. Turn your head and look towards the direction you want to spin but keep your body centered over the horse.
5. When spinning, make sure to correctly "time the reins". When the horse's outside front leg is just starting forward, apply rein pressure and then release. Repeat this timing with every step of the outside front foot. Applying the reins at the correct time is what allows the horse to do a smooth cross-over with his front legs.
6. To add more speed to the spin, cluck to the horse. If he doesn't respond to the cluck, use the "outside hip" with the end of the rein. Remember to cluck before you do this. You want to teach him to speed up in response to your voice command.
7. When doing a rollback, it's critical to slack the reins between the "stop" and the "turn". Be sure to jump-out into a lope after the turn. This "jump out" is what makes the turn clean, fluid and correct. Make sure the horse starts the turn "nose first".
8. In the "stop" part of the rollback, the reins are handled the same as if you were asking for a good stop on the hindquarters or a sliding stop. You must ask for the stop when the horse's hind feet are in the air and on the way forward. This timing of the horse's stride is "critical" for a stop on the hindquarter. Miss it and you'll force the horse to stop on his front end - ruining the rollback. Its also important to "sit" the rollback just like you would a sliding stop.