



Stage 8

The Guy in the Glass by Dale Wimbrow © 1934

*When you get what you want in your struggle for pelf,
And the world makes you King for a day,
Then go to the mirror and look at yourself,
And see what that guy has to say.*

*For it isn't your Father, or Mother, or Wife,
Who judgment upon you must pass.
The feller whose verdict counts most in your life
Is the guy staring back from the glass.*

*He's the feller to please, never mind all the rest,
For he's with you clear up to the end,*

*And you've passed your most dangerous, difficult test
If the guy in the glass is your friend.*

*You may be like Jack Horner and "chisel" a plum,
And think you're a wonderful guy,
But the man in the glass says you're only a bum
If you can't look him straight in the eye.*

*You can fool the whole world down the pathway of years,
And get pats on the back as you pass,
But your final reward will be heartaches and tears
If you've cheated the guy in the glass.*

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Pass/Resubmit: _____

Pass/Resubmit: _____

Pass/Resubmit: _____

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FINESSE

Tools: Snaffle Bridle, Saddle, 45' Line, Kite String

Using the snaffle bridle with contact and soft feel

F1. SHOW A SLOW, MEDIUM, AND FAST WALK.

STAGE 8:

- Must show a distinct difference in the three speeds of the gait.
- Vertical flexion is ideal, however a soft feel without a lot of flexion will pass at this level.

PRE STAGE 8:

- No contact on the reins, therefore no soft feel.
- Resistance such as open mouth, tossing head, pulling on the reins.
- Not showing enough difference between each of the speeds. The slow must be really slow, the fast must be as fast as possible.
- Rider position incorrect, that is elbows are relaxed and straight rather than bent and lifting, and back is slouched rather than very straight.

RESULT:

 STAGE 8 PASS PLEASE RESUBMIT

FINESSE

CONTINUED

F4. COME DOWN TO A GRACEFUL HALT AND BACKUP.

STAGE 8:

- Must be graceful, not abrupt.
- Horse maintains soft feel into and throughout the back up.
- Rider position maintained, seat deep in the saddle, hands not dropped nor pulling on the reins. Should be almost invisible.
- Straight.

PRE STAGE 8:

- Transition is abrupt, horse’s head flies up.
- Mouth opens in resistance.
- Soft feel not maintained due to too much pressure required through reins to stop horse.
- Horse “dives” forward onto forehand pulling rider forward out of seat.
- Crooked halt and back up.

RESULT:

__STAGE 8 PASS __PLEASE RESUBMIT

F5. DROP REINS AND STAND STILL.

STAGE 8:

- Proves impulsion, horse can stand still.
- Reins are completely dropped.

PRE STAGE 8:

- Horse cannot / does not stand still (impulsive).
- Reins are not completely dropped, still holding horse back a little. (Note: if reins are loose and horse obviously standing still of his own responsibility, could be just a technical error on rider’s part and therefore may still be passed.)

RESULT:

__STAGE 8 PASS __PLEASE RESUBMIT

FINESSE

CONTINUED

F6. OBTAIN A SOFT FEEL.

STAGE 8:

- Student goes through 7 steps to obtain the soft feel.
- Student grows tall in saddle, sits straight and to attention.
- Horse feels for student through the steps and gives vertically.
- Mouth is quiet, little or no movement.
- Horse stands still.
- Soft feel is evident, horse not pushing against bit.

PRE STAGE 8:

- Reins taken up too quickly. 7 steps not evident.
- Horse does not feel for student, pushes nose out or is non-responsive.
- Horse champs on the bit repeatedly, tosses head, takes more than three seconds to find comfortable position.
- Horse moves feet, does not stand still, backs up.
- No soft feel, horse leaning or pushing against bit.

RESULT:

 STAGE 8 PASS PLEASE RESUBMIT

FINESSE

CONTINUED

F9. RIDE FROM BACK UP INTO A CANTER AND BACK DOWN TO A BACK UP THREE TIMES: CANTER YO-YO.

STAGE 8:

- Horse goes from back up directly into a canter, no walk or trot steps.
- Reins are in concentrated position throughout exercise.
- Transition to back up is smooth, one or two trot or walk steps permissible.
- Straight lines.
- Vertical flexion an advantage but not essential for a pass.
- Demonstrate using both lead

PRE STAGE 8:

- Horse does not go straight into the canter, shows walk and trot steps first. Not responsive enough.
- Reins alternate between casual and concentrated.
- Resistance in downward transition; horse opens mouth more than once, pulls against bit, pulls student out of seat.
- Student leans forward when making transition to back up.
- Student looking down at horse instead of maintaining long focus.
- Crooked line, horse drifting to left or right.

RESULT:

 STAGE 8 PASS PLEASE RESUBMIT

FINESSE

CONTINUED

F10. RIDE A SERPENTINE AT THE CANTER SHOWING 3 SIMPLE CHANGES THROUGH THE WALK.

STAGE 8:

- Smooth shaped serpentine, equal curves.
- Horse transitions directly from canter to walk and to canter again.
- Correct leads are taken.
- Concentrated rein position.
- Vertical flexion an advantage but not essential for a pass.

PRE STAGE 8:

- Uneven serpentine, small and large curves rather than equal dimensions = accuracy problem.
- Horse trots into walk transition and/or into canter transition.
- Incorrect leads.
- Reins too long, too loose.
- Horse's head too high, tossing, resistant, open mouth.

RESULT:

 STAGE 8 PASS PLEASE RESUBMIT

FINESSE

CONTINUED

**F11. PICK UP A RIGHT LEAD.
DEMONSTRATE A COUNTER CANTER
TO THE LEFT (MAINTAIN RIGHT
LEAD) ON A FULL CIRCLE.**

STAGE 8:

- Right lead can be taken from the halt, walk, or trot.
- Counter canter maintained throughout a full circle. Circle may be fairly large (approx 60' / 20m diameter)
- Student's dynamics are correct, they are "riding" on the right lead position (right shoulder forward, etc), focus.

PRE STAGE 8:

- Cannot pick up right lead on first try.
- Canter gait not maintained during counter canter, breaks into a trot.
- Student dynamics are incorrect: left shoulder forward.
- Full circle not demonstrated.
- Reins too long, horse strung out and not "collected" enough (complete vertical flexion not essential).

RESULT:

 STAGE 8 PASS PLEASE RESUBMIT

FINESSE

CONTINUED

F12. HAUNCHES IN - AT THE CANTER, CAUSE YOUR HORSE'S HINDQUARTERS TO COME IN OFF THE TRACK WHILE THE FOREHAND TRAVELS STRAIGHT.

STAGE 8:

- Front end travels straight ahead and not at an angle.
- Hindquarters come in slightly, does not need to be exaggerated.
- Concentrated reins, slight to full vertical flexion.
- Student position is straight in the upper body and hand - rein position, legs controlling hindquarters.
- Straight ahead focus.
- Correct lead chosen for the bend: left lead for hindquarters coming in left, right for right.
- Show Haunches In – in both directions

PRE STAGE 8:

- Front end travels on a diagonal angle instead of straight (therefore no bend in the horse's body).
- Hindquarters do not come in off the track.
- Reins too long, no vertical flexion at all.
- Student twists body, uses indirect rein to control shoulder instead of riding straight.
- Student is looking at horse.

RESULT:

 STAGE 8 PASS PLEASE RESUBMIT

FINESSE

CONTINUED

F13. TROT YOUR HORSE IN A FIGURE OF EIGHT SHOWING TWO CHANGES OF DIAGONAL.

STAGE 8:

- Figure of 8 is even in shape.
- Correct diagonals displayed: left hind for going left, right for right.
- Diagonal change is smoothly executed, two bounces only.
- Student does not look down to check diagonal.
- Concentrated reins.

PRE STAGE 8:

- Figure of 8 is untidy, large and small loops instead of being even.
- Incorrect diagonals selected.
- Diagonal change is rough, needs more than two bounces.
- Incorrect diagonal change, diagonal not changed.
- Student looks down to check or select diagonal.
- Casual rein or loose concentrated rein position.

RESULT:

__STAGE 8 PASS __PLEASE RESUBMIT

FINESSE

CONTINUED

F14. TROT YOUR HORSE DIAGONALLY SIDeways ACROSS A SPACE OF AT LEAST 25 FEET.

STAGE 8:

- Horse moves diagonally, horse must be straight on the diagonal.
- Head and neck are straight or bent in the direction of travel.
- Student is focusing on a diagonal path.
- Slight or full vertical flexion; concentrated reins.
- Rhythm and soft feel maintained.
- Must be shown to the right and to the left.

PRE STAGE 8:

- Not enough diagonal movement shown, horses hip is behind.
- Horse's head and neck are bent away from direction of travel, more like counter arc.
- Student looking down.
- No flexion, reins too long.
- Horse takes short, tight steps rather than maintaining flow and rhythm of stride as before.
- Soft feel lost, resistance, open mouth, etc.

RESULT:

 STAGE 8 PASS PLEASE RESUBMIT

FINESSE

CONTINUED

F15. CANTER YOUR HORSE DIAGONALLY SIDeways, ON THE LEFT LEAD, ACROSS A DISTANCE OF AT LEAST 25 FEET.

STAGE 8:

- Horse moves diagonally, not less than 30 degree angle.
- Head and neck are straight or bent in the direction of travel.
- Student is focusing on a diagonal path.
- Slight or full vertical flexion; concentrated reins.
- Rhythm and soft feel maintained.
- Enough distance covered to show task proficiency.

PRE STAGE 8:

- Not enough diagonal movement shown, too straight.
- Horse’s head and neck are bent away from direction of travel, more like counter arc.
- Student looking down.
- No flexion, reins too long.
- Horse takes short, tight steps rather than maintaining flow and rhythm of stride as before.
- Soft feel lost, resistance, open mouth, etc.
- Not enough distance shown to judge task efficiency.

RESULT:

 STAGE 8 PASS PLEASE RESUBMIT

FINESSE

CONTINUED

F16. SHOW A FLYING CHANGE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, CANTER DIAGONALLY SIDEWAYS TO THE RIGHT AND THEN SHOW ANOTHER FLYING CHANGE FROM RIGHT TO LEFT.

STAGE 8:

- Flying change cleanly executed.
- Head and neck are steady, no resistance (mild tail swish will pass, but no more).
- Student uses correct dynamics, pushes the change.
- Dynamics are refined, not exaggerated. Concentrated rein position.
- Both changes are equally good, to left and right.

PRE STAGE 8:

- Flying changes not clean. Horse is late behind or disunites.
- Horse shows resistance through change; throws head, opens mouth, swishes tail.
- Incorrect riding dynamics, leans into change, direct rein lower than supporting rein.
- Changes are not equally good to left and right.

RESULT:

 STAGE 8 PASS PLEASE RESUBMIT

FINESSE

CONTINUED

F17. BRING YOUR HORSE GRACEFULLY DOWN TO A BACK UP.

STAGE 8:

- Graceful transition, soft feel maintained.
- Back up is willing, smooth flow to steps.
- No resistance.
- Student focusing ahead, using correct dynamics: sitting straight, elbows bent, slight lift to reins.
- Straightness maintained.
- One or two walk and trot steps will pass.

PRE STAGE 8:

- Difficult transition, horse impulsive.
- Resistance; open mouth, pulling against bit.
- Student looking down, incorrect dynamics: leaning forward, seat comes out of saddle, straight elbows.
- Crooked transition and back up.
- Too many forward steps between canter and back up (three steps or more in walk and trot).

RESULT:

STAGE 8 PASS PLEASE RESUBMIT

FINESSE

CONTINUED

F20. DISMOUNT YOUR HORSE AND ASK HIM TO BACK UP WITH YOUR PARTNERSHIP REINS, CAUSE HIM TO DRAG THE OBJECT A LITTLE BACKWARDS AND HOLD IT WHILE YOU GO AND PET THE OBJECT.

STAGE 8:

- Student backs horse up with lead rope part of Horseman's Reins.
- Horse "works" the rope, maintaining tension and pulling object as you ask.
- Confident.
- If no saddle horn, student asks horse to back up and walks slowly with horse dragging object by hand.

PRE STAGE 8:

- Horse will not maintain tension in the line.
- Horse gets scared.
- Student uses reins instead of lead rope to back horse up.

RESULT:

STAGE 8 PASS PLEASE RESUBMIT

F21. BRING HIM FORWARD A LITTLE WHILE YOU ARE AT THE OBJECT AND UNTIE THE 45' LINE.

STAGE 8:

- Horse comes forward willingly, without hesitation, when asked.
- Stands patiently while you untie the line.

PRE STAGE 8:

- Horse reluctant to come forward, resists.

RESULT:

STAGE 8 PASS PLEASE RESUBMIT

FINESSE

CONTINUED

USING A 9' LENGTH OF KITE STRING:

F23. TAKE YOUR BRIDLE OFF WHILE MOUNTED AND PLACE THE KITE STRING IN YOUR HORSE'S MOUTH. WALK, TROT, AND CANTER A CIRCLE, THEN COME DOWN TO A BACK UP.

STAGE 8:

- Horse releases bit and bridle calmly, student waits for horse to release bit when lowering bridle.
- Horse takes string without resistance.
- Student waits for horse to accept feel of string before proceeding.
- Smooth transitions up and down to back up.
- No resistance.
- Student uses correct dynamics, that is, direct and supporting reins as necessary.

PRE STAGE 8:

- Student does not wait for horse to release bit, pulls it out of the mouth.
- Horse resists string going into mouth.
- Transitions difficult or impulsive.
- Student does not wait for acceptance of the string before walking out.
- Resistance: chomping at the string, open mouth, horse bites at string and breaks it.
- Incorrect dynamics: direct rein is lower than outside (supporting) rein.

RESULT:

 STAGE 8 PASS PLEASE RESUBMIT

FINESSE

CONTINUED

F24. DISMOUNT, RUB YOUR HORSE ON THE HEAD, THEN TURN AND LEAVE WITH YOUR HORSE FOLLOWING YOU FREELY.

STAGE 8:

- Correct dismounting dynamics.
- Horse follows closely.

PRE STAGE 8:

- Incorrect dismounting dynamics: does not hold mane, stirrup dropped from foot, focus is not on horse's eye.
- Horse does not follow or is more than four feet away from student, reluctant, etc.

RESULT:

__STAGE 8 PASS __PLEASE RESUBMIT

OVERALL COMMENTS:

ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

- Please video the tasks in order and avoid editing.
- Enclose task sheet with your choice of either a DVD or Computer Stick and mail to the office. Please include a stamped self-addressed envelope for return of assessment sheet and video. You may also provide a YouTube submission via email, however, please make sure to include your task sheet as an attachment and email to info@thehorseranch.com.
- Assessment cost is \$3 per taped minute plus GST. Please make cheques payable to: The 2005 Horse Ranch Inc., contact The Horse Ranch directly for Credit Card payment, or E-transfer to: glenn@thehorseranch.com

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