

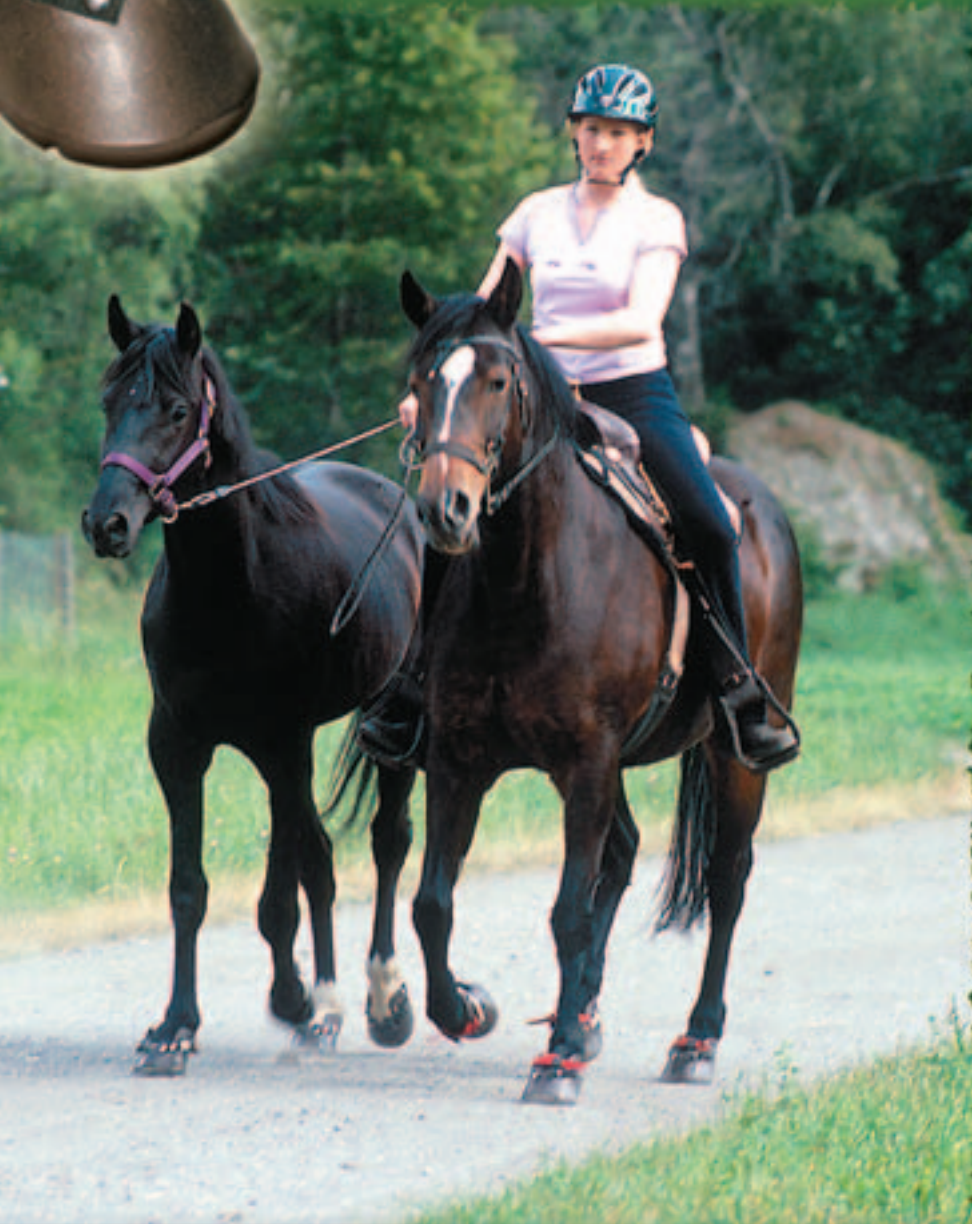


ORIGINAL ROHNER



**Swiss Horse
Boots™**

back to nature



H. Rohner-Schlegel
Ritterstutz 4
CH-7012 Felsberg
Switzerland

Phone +41 (0)81 252 27 73
Fax +41 (0)81 250 57 41
info@swisshorseboots.com
www.swisshorseboots.com

Genuine alternative to iron horse shoes

- Your horse can go barefoot when not being ridden
- Increased blood circulation
- Useable as a protective medical shoe
- Accelerates healing of injured hoofs
- No screws, no nails, only straps

Advantages compared to iron horse shoes

- Ten times greater shock absorption on hard surfaces
- Lasts on average 6 times longer than iron horse shoes
- No more snow-balls in the hoof
- Reduced slipping
- Available with spikes for extreme conditions
- Prevents hoof cracks, bulb injuries, clinches and coronary bends
- Helps to heal nail steps, thrushes and abscesses
- Only a few minutes to put on all 4 shoes

Maximum safety + minimum costs = best hoof health



* Size 01 is narrower by 6 millimetres at the back edges of the hoof and height of the straps is lower.

Inches to centimetres:
multiply by 2.54, Centimetres to
inches: multiply by 0.3937

Available sizes

SIZE	WIDTH (min.–max.) in inches	LENGTH (ideally) in inches	Metric width	Metric length
00	3 ¹ / ₄ "–4"	4"	8.5 cm–10.0 cm	10.0 cm
0	4"–4 ¹ / ₂ "	4 ³ / ₈ "	10.0 cm–11.3 cm	11.0 cm
* 01/1	4 ¹ / ₂ "–5"	4 ³ / ₄ "	11.3 cm–12.5 cm	12.0 cm
2	5"–5 ³ / ₈ "	5 ¹ / ₂ "	12.5 cm–13.5 cm	13.0 cm
3	5 ³ / ₈ "–5 ³ / ₄ "	5 ¹ / ₂ "	13.5 cm–14.5 cm	14.0 cm
4	5 ¹ / ₂ "–6 ¹ / ₄ "	5 ⁷ / ₈ "	14.5 cm–15.5 cm	15.0 cm

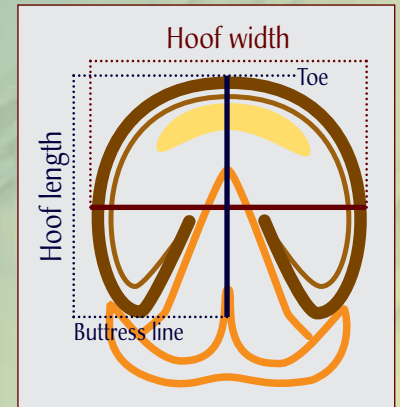


diagram 1

Choosing a size

No two horses have exactly the same size of hoof but you can select a size and easily adjust it to fit your horse.

1. Measure each hoof following the trimming at its widest part [see diagram 1 + figure 1]. From this measurement decide which size from 00 to 4 is closest to the size you have measured.
2. Now measure the length [see diagram 1 + figure 2]. If the hoof is longer than the length given, correct the hoof with a rasp back as far as the white line, but no further [see diagram 1]. Aim to get the length as close as possible to the boot length. The boot should allow between 3–7 mm / 1/16"–1/4" "play" between hoof wall and shoe interior. Please note – the hoof walls and sole should make one, smooth area.

Should the hoof remain too long even after rasping back then order the next size up. Make sure that the maximum length given in the chart will not be exceeded as abrasions may hurt the bulbs.

If an ideal fit still cannot be achieved, here are some corrections that can be made to compensate:

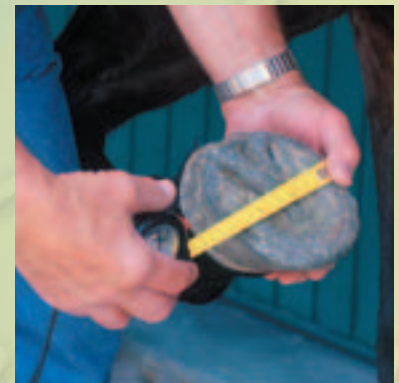


figure 1



figure 2

Boot alteration

1. By ordering the next longer size up the boot will probably be too wide at the sides. Here one or two side inserts will be required. These are made of either leather or Teflon and fixed with rivets, all of which may be ordered separately.
[For details about fixing inserts see "Teflon inserts" and figure 6]
2. If you decide to order a wider but shorter boot then the front of the boot must be opened to allow extra space thus making a 'sandal'. The boot should be slit at the front for a length of approx. 7 cm / 2³/₄" to 9.5 cm / 3³/₄" and about 1 cm / 3/8" high. This is easily done by drilling 2 holes at the level of the base of the boot, one at either end of the piece to be cut out and then slitting between the holes with a sharp knife [See figure 7].

Hoof adaptation

When switching from iron horse shoes to Swiss Horse Boots allow your horse some time for the adjustment from being shod to

barefoot. Leave him/her at pasture for 3 to 4 weeks and just go for short walks in hand. Your horse needs time to adapt. During this time, the hoof will begin to take on its natural form and structure which will finally end after about 12 months of barefoot growth.

Putting on and removing Swiss Horse Boots

A Swiss Horse Boot must have a snug fit and clamp onto the hoof. If you have chosen the correct size and fitted it accordingly, it will do that. Here is a list of tools to help:

- Rubber hammer/mallet
- Tape measure
- Hoof pick
- Strong gloves
- An industrial heating-gun (for first time fitting only)
- Hard-bristled brush

Clean the hoof thoroughly with the hoof pick and finish by brushing off any dirt still clinging to the sole. Place the hoof inside the boot, from front to back [see figure 3], as you would put on any footwear, with the clasp on the outside, and pull it on as far as you can without forcing it. Use the rubber mallet to hammer the boot onto the hoof. Use the mallet at the toe of the boot to ensure that the boot has gone as far back as possible [see figure 4].

If, during the first fitting, you see that the fit is not optimal, remove the shoe and soften the plastic inside evenly with an industrial heating-gun. [see figure 5]. Caution: the plastic will get very hot; when the plastic is cool enough to handle with the gloves you can bend the plastic to re-form the shoe and re-mount it so that the hoof can imprint its own form. This way, you can achieve a custom-made boot.

Should the boot rotate easily around the hoof it does not fit and you should consider inserts, maybe all round [see figure 6]. Remember, you are aiming for a snug fit.

To make boot removal easier, drill a 8–9 mm / 1/3" hole at the rear of the boot at sole height and slightly on the upwards diagonal, where a hoofpick can be inserted from outside as leverage [see figure 8].

Rear straps **IMPORTANT: THE HORSE MUST STAND STRAIGHT!**

The boot is fitted with a nylon strap enclosed in plastic tubing which runs from the inner side of the boot. This is threaded through the lower hole [see figure 9] round the back of the leg and through the lower hole on the opposite (out) side. The rest of the nylon strap is then pushed through the clasp and clamped shut. Any remaining length of strap can be secured in the last retainer.

The strap, enclosed in tubing, should be one thick finger, or about the width of a wine cork, away from the fetlock for comfort [see figure 9]. When the correct length has been decided and the tubing with its strap passed through both inner and outer side holes, trim the tubing carefully as far as the outside clasp so that every time you put on the boots you only need to pull the tubed strap as far as the clasp and you know that the fit is exact.

Front safety straps **IMPORTANT: THE HORSE MUST STAND STRAIGHT!**

There is also an optional front strap (available in red, yellow, black, mauve and turquoise) which is useful when going fast. This strap has no tubing and fits across the front of the shoe between two pre-prepared holes. Here again, the strap must not be too tight or restrict leg movement. We recommend the width of a middlefinger between fixed strap and leg. A simple clasp also holds this strap firmly in place [see figure 10].

Optional extras

Spikes

Spikes are available in two sizes—short (soft), for normal usage, and long (hard), for extreme conditions. A boot may have from 2 to 4 spikes depending on the wear and tear that may be



figure 3



figure 4



figure 5



figure 6



figure 7

expected. Remember, the more spikes you use, the less shock absorption you will get. We recommend two. Spikes may only be mounted on brand-new boots due to the effects of abrasion. Drill two, 10 mm / $\frac{3}{8}$ " holes in the back of the boot, screw the spikes in and tighten them extremely hard, flush with the inside sole, to ensure that they function properly. The boots' soles are marked where the spikes should be mounted [see figure 11]. We recommend spikes for slippery surfaces, e.g. ice, snow, mud and wet grass.

Straps

Front and back [see above information].

Teflon inserts

Only after fitting will it be apparent if a boot needs inserts. Various lengths but only one height are available [see figure 6]. The thicker side is always the bottom; the side with the angle is the back. The inserts are riveted into the boots. Drill 2 holes of 4 mm / $\frac{1}{6}$ " in the rivets in the upper part [see figure 6], and through the boot. Take the "male" rivet and push it through the hole in the insert and the boot from inside to out. Then attach the "female" part to the rivet on the outside of the boot. Place the inside of the boot on a hard surface and hammer the rivet on the outside onto the protruding inner rivet until one, even surface is achieved.

Step by step list

Here is a quick run through of the procedures for putting on and removing the boots and hoof care:

- Always have clean boots. Clean the boots with water and a brush after every use.
- Clean the hoofs with pick and brush; allow no dirt or gravel to remain on the hoof.
- Make sure your hammer is ready to pick up and use.
- Slip the boots on (clasp facing out) and hammer them into place, not forgetting to hammer at the toes [see figures 3 and 4]
- Fasten all the rear straps on the outside of the boots and also the front stop straps allowing the finger space for freedom of movement. [see figure 9].
- When riding, check that all the boots are still on from time to time. Now and again a horse can throw a boot, as it can an iron horse shoe.
- After riding, remove the boots by maneuvering the hoof pick in the hole at the back [see figure 8] and finally pushing it off with your hand.
- Clean the hoofs and check that nothing is sticking to the horse's soles. Clean the boots.
- Never oil the hoofs. The boots will slip and with natural barefoot hoofs, oil is unnecessary.
- Keep the hoof size in check with very regular rasping and cutting back of the frog. Otherwise find a farrier to do the work for you.

Please note:

Swiss Horse Boots cannot be held responsible or liable for any damage to the boots or injuries to the horse, caused when wearing Swiss Horse Boots. Neither can Swiss Horse Boots be held responsible for damage caused by misuse or unprofessional adjustments to boots or hoofs.

We also accept no liability for boots which are have been re-soled; the shoe then becomes anatomically too high and too heavy.



figure 8



figure 9



figure 10



figure 11



figure 12



Hubert Rohner, inventor of Swiss Horse Boots