

A Heck of a Hackamore

A LOT OF PEOPLE USE HACKAMORES TO RIDE colts, and other people use them to just get out of their horse's mouth and let the horse relax. You'll see some people, especially cutting horse folks, use them to warm up their horses before a competition.

Here's a description of some of the basic types of hackamores:

1. This is a single rope hackamore, and it's just a good basic bread-and-butter hackamore. You can start a colt in it or ride an old horse in it. If someone wanted just one hackamore, I'd recommend this one.
2. This is a four-plait soft hackamore, and it's mainly used for loping horses to warm them up. It's sometimes called a "loping hackamore." Some horses ride great with it, but others don't because they hardly know it's there.
3. For those horses who are less sensitive, this four-plait hard hackamore has more "bite." It's also used for warming up horses, or just riding around in.
4. This is a double-rope hackamore with a rawhide braid on the nose. It's wider, so it pulls over a wider area across the nose. It's a good middle-of-the-road hackamore.
5. This is a single-rope hackamore with a

rawhide braid on the nose. It's a little bit harsher than the double-rope with rawhide, because it's thinner, but it's also a good versatile hackamore. This setup also has a mecate rein, which means that the reins themselves are a single piece (like roping reins) and there is a separate rope that serves as a lead when you're on the ground. When you're mounted, it can be tucked under your belt or looped around the saddle horn.

6. This is a round hackamore with a rawhide nose. It's designed to fit low on the horse's nose and, because it's round, it works more like a sidepull than a hackamore. When you pull on the left rein, it puts pressure on the right side of the horse's face.

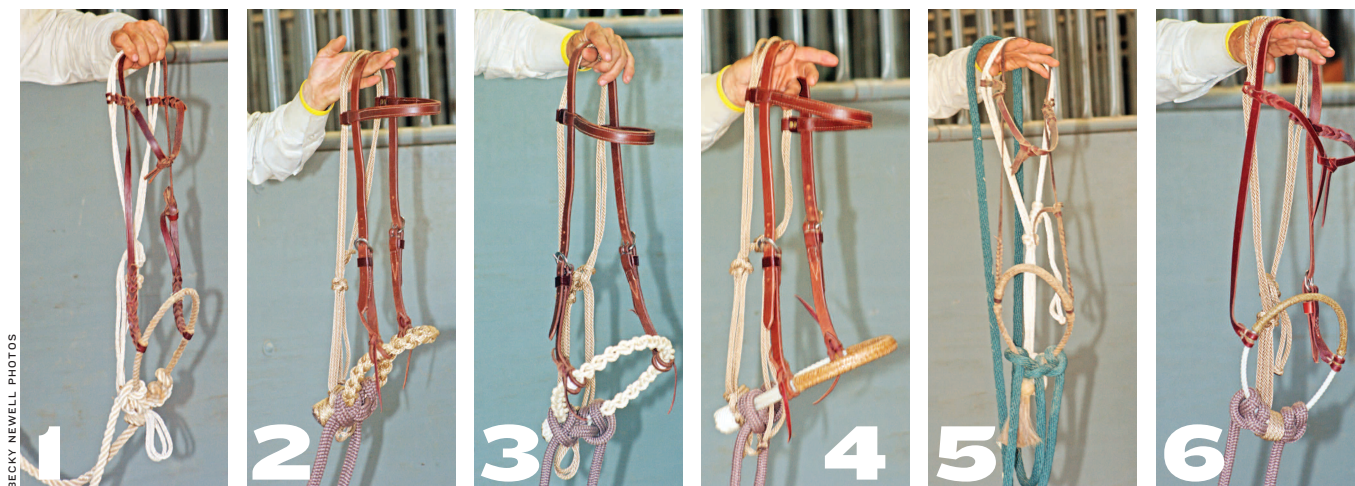
All of these hackamores are rigged with a fiador, which is similar to a throatlatch, but it also connects to the noseband. If you had a hackamore without a fiador on your horse and you went to lead him off, the noseband could pull off the nose. The fiador ties with a bowline knot, just like you use on a rope halter. 🐾

Visit www.dmtack.com to learn more about the Dennis Moreland Second Edition line of tack.

By Dennis

Moreland

This simple piece of gear lets you get out of your horse's mouth.



BECKY NEWELL PHOTOS

