

## TACK TALK

# Function Before Fashion



**BREAST COLLAR** can dress up a rig, and many of them have a lot of silver or tooling on them. But really, that's not what's important. It's the function that makes this "work horse" a vital piece of tack.

A breast collar keeps your saddle from sliding back, and it stabilizes your saddle on the horse. Usually, you don't have to ride with your cinch quite as tight if you're using a breast collar.

There are several different kinds, geared toward different types of cowboys.

1. This is a heavy three-piece breast collar that's typically used by ropers. It has 1-inch-wide tugs (the straps that fasten to the sides of the saddle), and it's a stout piece of tack.

2. This is a narrower three-piece leather breast collar, and it fits a lot of horses. When you're putting on three-piece breast collars for the first time, fasten the right-hand tug to the D-ring on your saddle. Hold the breast collar up to the horse's chest, and make sure the center of the breast collar hits the center of the chest. Then you'll fasten the left-hand tug to the D-ring. If you have to wrap your tugs around the D-ring a time or two, your breast collar is too large for your horse. Finally, snap the center piece to the D-ring on the center of

your cinch. It's important to have your cinch centered on the horse, so that the D-ring is exactly between his legs. If it's off to one side or the other, the breast collar's center strap could rub on the inside of a leg and cause a sore. Make sure the center strap isn't so tight that you can't get your hand underneath it.

3a. and 3b. This "tripper" breast collar is used by steer ropers (also called steer trippers). It has two sets of tugs, one that goes through the D-ring on the saddle, and the other that goes through the ring of your cinch. Those keep the breast collar straight when it's being pulled on.

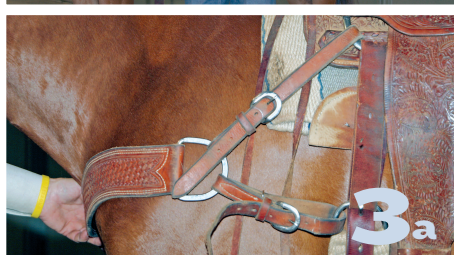
4. Ranch cowboys call this a "pulling" breast collar. It fits a horse along his shoulder, just like the collar of a work harness. The tugs attach to the swells of a saddle, rather than the D-rings. The center piece attaches to the center ring on the cinch. ■

*AQHA member Dennis Moreland has been making quality working tack since 1976. Visit [www.dm-tack.com](http://www.dm-tack.com) to learn more about his Dennis Moreland Second Edition line. For more Tack Talk, check out Dennis' DVD made especially for AQHA members. Visit [www.quarterhorseoutfitters.net](http://www.quarterhorseoutfitters.net) and click on "CD/DVD" to learn more.*

**By Dennis**

**Moreland**

*Breast collars do an important job.*



HOLLY CLAMMAN