
how to go from english to western?

Posted by hondagirl - 2007/08/25 18:02

Hi everyone, I've been looking into western riding for a few months and have got as far as a lovely saddle fitted to my mare. I have just been to my first show, the wes championships, and have come back in awe! I've a lovely little mare whose only weakness is not being well schooled, she is 11 but pretty green and unbalanced. Canter in particular is quite bad! I've been doing quite a bit of lunging and she listens very well. How on earth do you progress from a normal english trot to a jog and also from a canter to a lope? Is it a question of establishing trot and canter then working on collection and slowing things down? Is there anyone out there who has a non-american bred horse who has converted to western and can give me tips? I've got David Gray's DVD but any further help is much appreciated. Thankx!)

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Re:how to go from english to western?

Posted by Gem - 2007/08/26 17:35

My mare, I'm selling her now, but she was originally an English horse, she is Appaloosa, but not the American kind so doesn't have the natural jog like some do.

With her it was a case of lots and lots of circling in the gait, it's hard for them to be slow at first because of the muscles they are using, and also because it requires a lot of balance, you need to get them on their haunches to be able to go slow, lots of backing and circles and changing direction helped me and eventually she just got it.

But now I am finding the lope isn't really a lope anymore it's got far too collected and it's not because I am using my rein or anything. There is one good thing about that though English riders that are trying her think she's amazing because of how collected she is with so little contact.

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