FARRIER’S GUIDE

Instructions, Information and Helpful Tools for the Farrier.

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Farriers find that applying a Happy HoofWear™ front pattern horseshoe is very straightforward. **No special tools are required.**

- **Most Farriers apply our shoes using nails, like the #5 or #6 city head or E head #55 or #60. Farriers can also use glue, screws, pads, casting and studs. In this guide we will provide information on all of these options.**

- **Proper trimming and balancing is important. For our shoes, just be sure to leave a flat spot in the sole the width of the horseshoe.**

- **Our Sizing Guide provides a horseshoe pattern in the four sizes we offer and includes the measurements for each.**

- **Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes have a recessed continuous nail crease. Farriers have the power to decide the best place for the nail. They can drill a pilot hole, or simply drive the nail through the shoe without predrilling.**

- **To ensure a proper finish, any excess can be easily nipped, and rasped off.**

This Farrier’s Guide is intended to provide additional information, illustrations, instructions and answer some of the most frequently asked questions.

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Sizing Guide

Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes are a front pattern shoe and they are offered in four sizes: 1; 0; 00; 000.

Our Farrier Consultants and the Happy HoofWear™ team want you to have a successful shoeing experience with our shoes.

If you have any questions on finding the right size, please visit our website at www.happyHoofWear.com or contact us directly. To make it as farrier friendly as we could, we have included on the following pages an illustration of each shoe size with the specific measurements for each. Below is a summary chart of the sizes and measurements. On the following pages you will find an outline of an actual shoe in the different sizes.

HAPPY HOOFWEAR™ SIZING

SIZE 1
5 1/2” or 139.7mm wide
5 5/8” or 144.2mm length
5.7 ounces or 161.6 grams
5/8” or 15.9mm thick
7/8” or 22mm web

SIZE 00
4 3/4” or 120.7mm wide
5 1/8” or 130.2mm length
4.5 ounces or 127.6 grams
5/8” or 15.9mm thick
7/8” or 22mm web

SIZE 0
5” or 126mm wide
5 3/8” or 136.5mm length
5.5 ounces or 156 grams
5/8” or 15.9mm thick
7/8” or 22mm web

SIZE 000
4 1/2” or 114.3mm wide
4 5/8” or 119mm length
4.2 ounces or 119 grams
5/8” or 15.9mm thick
3/4” or 18mm web
SIZE I

WEB
.875 (7/8) in. or 22 mm

DEPTH
.625 (5/8) in. or 15.9 mm

LENGTH
5.887 (5 5/8) in. or 148.22 mm

WIDTH
5.5 (5 1/2) in. or 139.7 mm

WEIGHT - 5.7 OZ OR 162 GRAMS
SIZE 0

WEB
.875 (7/8) in.
or 22 mm

DEPTH
.625 (5/8) in. or 15.9 mm

LENGTH
5.75 (3 3/8) in. or 145.5 mm

WIDTH
5.0 in. or 127 mm

WEIGHT - 5.5 OZ OR 156 GRAMS
SIZE 00

WEB
.875 (7/8) in. or 22 mm

DEPTH
.625 (5/8) in. or 15.9 mm

LENGTH
5.25 (5 1/8) in. or 132.2 mm

WIDTH
4.75 (4 3/4) in. or 120.7 mm

WEIGHT - 4.5 OZ OR 127.75 GRAMS
SIZE 000

WEB
.750 (3/4) in. or 19 mm

DEPTH
.625 (5/8) in. or 15.9 mm

LENGTH
4.687 (4 5/8) in. or 119 mm

WIDTH
4.5 (4 1/2) in. or 114.3 mm

WEIGHT - 4.2 OZ OR 119 GRAMS
Getting the Correct Fit—Picking the right size

The following series of photographs are designed to share with you what our Farrier consultants suggest you do to ensure you get the best fit for the horse you are shoeing.

Happy HoofWear™ shoes are a front pattern shoe and are offered in four sizes. These pictures provide a visual reference for fitting the Extended shoe. At the end of this Guideline, you’ll find information regarding the weight, dimensions (length/wide) and thickness of our shoes for your easy reference.

This foot has already been trimmed, just as you normally would trim when using a steel shoe. (For purposes of these photographs, this shoe has been attached to the foot by two nails. In the field, simply hold the shoe in place to determine fit.) This is a Happy HoofWear™ Extended style shoe in size 00. This shoe fits well for width of heel, but as shown in the next photograph, it is too short for good support.

These are different views of the same shoe showing a good fit in the quarters and width of the heel, but it is too short for good support.
Below is the same foot and the same shoe. If you needed to back up this foot, you could dress the foot up and then check for shoe fit again. Alternately, you could nip off the toe clip, set the shoe where desired and if there was adequate heel coverage, and nail it in place before dressing the foot up. This allows you to use the shoe as a template. As you can see by this photograph, we have no toe to remove. Therefore, we need to use a larger shoe. This shoe is too short.

Below is the same trimmed foot with a Happy HoofWear™ Extended style shoe in size 0.

This shoe fits well for width in the quarters, but is too wide at the heels. This excess can be nipped and/or rasped off.
Nip off the excess width at the heels. If the shoe is slightly long, nip off the excess length. Dress up the shoe with a rasp, but be sure to leave enough width through the quarters and heels to allow for hoof expansion and for growth. For a different method of removal of the nipper marks left by trimming the shoe to shape refer to these photos below.

The shoe fits correctly; the nail holes have been filled with wood putty, and a hoof dressing applied.
Alternate Trim Method

These pictures show an alternate way to remove the excess width and/or length of shoe. Hold the shoe in place on the trimmed foot and trace around the hoof.

Now simply nip off the excess following the line. As shown earlier, dress up the nipper marks with a rasp before or after nailing. (Or, if you prefer, you can dress up the sides of the shoe as shown in the following photos.) The “R” you see in the center of the bar of the shoes we marked on this shoe as our way of indicating this shoe is for the right foot. One of our Farrier consultants said he does this and marks both hoof and ground surfaces of the right and left shoes. This simple step can help make it easier not to mix up which shoe goes on which foot. The “0” on the right heel is also our Farrier Consultant’s mark. It indicates the shoe size. While Happy Hoof-Wear™ shoes are marked as to size in the middle of the bar; it never hurts to have your own internal check system for added insurance that you have the correct size.
Using a grinder to finish shaping the shoe and to neaten up the edges of the shoe is another option. Remember that Happy HoofWear™ shoes are made of polyurethane and so this process requires a light touch or you could inadvertently melt or burn the shoe. To avoid doing either, simply keep the shoe in continuous motion as you buff, and use a light pressure against the grinding wheel. It does not take long to dress up a shoe using this method.

Look at the inside heel and quarter. (The left side of the shoe in this photograph where the arrow is pointing.) This shoe has been dressed very close to the edge of the crease. For structural support you must leave a minimum of 1/8 inch of shoe to the outside of the crease. If you cut all the way into the crease, the quarter will be weakened sufficiently to allow distortion of the shoe through that area. The type and degree of distortion depends on the conformation and motion of the horse. For a solution look at the following photographs.
Applying with Screws

Happy HoofWear™ shoes are just as easy to apply with screws as they are with nails. A 1 5/8” coated drywall screw works best. The ideal times to screw on a Happy HoofWear™ shoe is when there is too little or too poor a quality of hoof wall to accept nails, or when the foot is too sore for hammering nails in.

The hoof in this photograph meets both of these criteria. The other foot had recently been shod with a steel shoe and was normal. On the sore foot the sole was very thin already, so our Farrier Consultant could not trim it enough to remove sole pressure if a steel shoe was used. A Happy HoofWear™ shoe can and did rest directly on the sole without creating painful sole pressure. What really helps here is that the Happy HoofWear™ shoe is so flexible, because it is made of polyurethane. As you can see by the photographs, we did not touch that foot with either a hoof knife or rasp, and the foot was definitely not level. As each screw was put in, the shoe was able to flex and follow the uneven contour of the hoof, thus giving complete support. A steel shoe would simply have touched the high spots, most of which were sole rather than hoof wall, and created areas of pressure. We could have used a leather pad or a soft plastic pad under the shoe to achieve a similar effect, but this foot was too sore to nail. Another alternative would have been the use of an adhesive product (such as Equilox or Vettec) to build up and level the foot, but this would have been at a much greater cost to the owner.

In this photograph, our Farrier Consultant had an old shoe in his truck that fit well, but the foot was so tender that each stroke of the hammer caused the horse to react violently. By using a screwdriver and screws, all resistance quickly evaporated. By the second screw, the horse was completely relaxed.

This photograph shows the second screw going into the shoe. The procedure used for applying a shoe with a screw is essentially the same as nailing. Our Farrier Consultant started on one side, and alternated back and forth. Because Happy HoofWear™ is a polyurethane shoe and has a continuous nail bed, the farrier can place each screw where the hoof wall is best, rather than where there is a predetermined hole. As such,
in this case the Farrier was able to get 3 solid screws in each side of the foot.

Our Certified Journeyman Farrier recommends using a 1 5/8” coated drywall screw as he found this is the best choice. Aim your screw just as you would a horseshoe nail. The screw should come out of the wall just as a nail does and in approximately the same location as a nail would exit the wall. The same way that you influence nailing depth by how you strike with your driving hammer, the depth or exit point of the screw is influenced by how you use your power screwdriver.

HELPFUL HINT: *If you are very slow and cautious, then you will send the screw very deep up the wall. We suggest using short, fast bursts of the screwdriver trigger, which will cause the screw to exit the hoof wall much sooner.*

When the screw head is seated, use your pull offs to snap off the protruding section of screw. Rather than clinching, use a metal file to smooth the broken end of the screw. Drywall screws are brittle, and so tend to break off cleanly, often just below the surface of the wall. Typically, there is very little that needs to be filed. To remove a screw, or to remove the shoe prior to trimming and resetting, simply reverse your screwdriver and back each screw out. Occasionally, after 5 or 6 weeks, our Farrier Consultant will need to use the tip of a nail or screw to scratch the dirt out of the X slots of the Phillips head in order to back the screw out.

Our Farrier Consultant found an additional benefit to using screws rather than nails. The foot in these photographs has three deep wall separations. With radiographs, a veterinarian had determined that these separations were a significant factor in the lameness exhibited. By driving a nail thru the wall, it tears apart the separated laminae even further, causing great pain with each hammer stroke. The screw goes thru the wall easily, and actually pulls the separated wall tighter together, just as a screw will draw two pieces of wood tight. The wall separations are thus stabilized by the screws, and with less motion there is less pain. Within minutes of finishing this shoeing job, our Farrier Consultant estimated an 80% decrease in lameness. When the owner called two days later, she told the Farrier who did this case study that her horse was trotting in the pasture for the first time in over a year!

HELPFUL HINT: Between visits to this horse, our Farrier Consultant asked the owner to apply ISP ointment to the hoof wall, sole and frog every couple of days. Our Farrier Consultant says that the iodine and sulphur contained in ISP are absorbed through the hoof wall and are immediately available to bind the amino acids cistine and methionine, thus promoting keratinization within the hoof wall. This is the only product that he knows of that will strengthen the hoof wall from the outside in, rather than from the top down as feed supplements do. And this foot needed all of the help it could get! For more information on ISP, contact Steve Garvin at 304-624-4730 or www.garvinsISP.com.

*We at Happy HoofWear™ like to share with farriers and owners alike what other farriers have shared with us over the last few years when we took our time testing our shoes and working with others in the industry. The information regarding the products mentioned is simply informational in nature and personal observations by
others and are not an endorsement of any product referred to in our Guidelines. Happy HoofWear™ is not affiliated with any of the companies referenced. We always recommend you follow the manufacturer’s instructions.)

These photos show the completed shoeing job with both medial and lateral views. Is this horse healed? Definitely not, but by screwing on a Happy HoofWear™ shoe our Certified Journey Farrier consultant was able to stabilize the damaged wall, thereby removing pain without surgery or drugs. Reduction of pain resulted in increased movement, and as farriers you are well aware, increased movement causes greater blood circulation and a healthier foot.

While this may not be the prettiest shoeing job, the horse was very sore and the Farrier’s immediate focus was on function, support, and pain reduction. Our Consultant anticipates that by stopping additional tearing of the wall separations, and by increasing the blood flow, it will simply be a matter of time for the damaged hoof to grow out and be trimmed off the bottom. Because the horse of his own volition is now trotting in the pasture, we consider this to be a successful shoeing job!

Some farriers might claim that our Farrier Consultant could have accomplished the same end by making a shoe using an appropriate size nail, and customizing the nail placement for this particular hoof. He agrees that was an option and he possessed the necessary skills and equipment to do so. However, he believes that option would have required a second trip to the barn and coordinating with a vet visit to administer a nerve block facilitating nailing into this very sore foot. Additionally, costs to the owner would have been much higher, and the horse would have continued to be three-legged lame for several more days. On the other hand, screwing on a Happy HoofWear™ shoe allowed the Farrier to cut costs and give immediate relief to the horse. The owner was happy, her horse was happy, and now she brags to everyone she knows about what a wonderful farrier she has!
Applying Studs with Happy HoofWear™

The studs shown here are “Quick Studs” made by Easy Care Inc., [http://www.easycareinc.com](http://www.easycareinc.com). They can be added or removed at any time, whether the shoe is on the horse’s foot or not. Our photos show the shoe already applied to the foot.

Shown here are all of the tools needed to apply Quick studs to a HT shoe, whether it is on the horse’s foot or in the farrier’s hand.

Here the shoe is already nailed to the horse’s foot. Determine where you want a stud to be located and, using a 3/16” or 5 mm drill bit, drill a starter hole in the shoe about 1/8” or 3 mm deep. IMPORTANT: Do not drill entirely through the shoe when drilling the starter hole.

Exchange the drill bit with the quick Change Application Tool, also sold by Easy Care, and slide the Quick Stud onto the end of the tool. Holding the stud in place on the end of the starter tool, insert the end of the Quick Stud thread into the starter hole in the shoe and slowly start the drill turning clockwise, screwing the stud slowly into the shoe. Screw the stud carefully into the starter hole so that the head of the stud is resting firmly against the ground surface of the shoe, but is not embedded into the shoe.
The studs shown in the following series of photos are “Ice Studs”, made by Easy Care Inc., [http://www.easycareinc.com](http://www.easycareinc.com). They must be applied to, or removed from, the shoe, only when the shoe is not attached to the horse’s foot. NOTE: Application or removal cannot safely be done while the shoe is nailed to the horse’s foot.

The following series of photographs are designed to share with you what our Farrier consultant suggested. As the farrier, you know as the professional what works best for you and the horse you are shoeing.

EasyCare, [www.easycareinc.com](http://www.easycareinc.com), makes a one inch screw-in stud that works well with Happy HoofWear™ shoes. Using a 5/16 or 5mm drill bit simply drill a hole in the shoe where you want the stud to be. We recommend using a drill press so that the hole is exactly perpendicular to the shoe. This insures that the studs will be straight after you have installed them. From the hoof side push the carbon tipped “bolt” through the shoe and then tightly screw the nut on from the ground side of the shoe.

As many studs as the owner or farrier chooses can be used. In this photo 5 studs were used as is typical of driving horses. The toe of the shoe has also been rolled. This same process was done to the other front shoe as well.

As seen in the next photos, studs can be used in just the two heel positions, or they can be placed on either side of the toe as well. When using studs at the toe, it is best to drill from the hoof side of the shoe so that the crease does not grab the drill bit when starting the hole. Once the studs have been tightly screwed into place, the shoes can be nailed to the hoof in the normal manner.
Using Adhesives or Glue with Happy HoofWear™ Horseshoes

One question we are often asked is “Can Happy HoofWear™ shoes be glued on?” The answer is “yes”. The primary reasons for shoes to be glued on is because the foot is too sore to allow nailing; a foot has such poor quality of hoof that nails will not hold; or there is so much hoof missing that there is no place for nailing.

This guideline was written by one of our Farrier Consultants, a Certified Journeyman Farrier. He wanted to remind owners and farriers alike that there are options when you are considering whether to glue on shoes. They do not need to be glued in pairs. If the left foot is normal and the right foot has large portions of hoof missing, the left foot can be nailed as usual and the right foot glued. This helps keep costs down. Also, if there is enough hoof wall to get just 2 or 3 good nails or screws in, these can be added after the glue has set up.

Our Farrier Consultant found that the most critical factor in the gluing procedure is the farrier. In general, we find that the faster the glue sets up, the less chance there is for things to go wrong, which usually involves the horse moving and/or taking its foot away, thus compromising cleanliness of the hoof. As farriers are all aware, sore horses do not want to stand still for long. As such, the farrier needs to be very organized, because once the process has begun, you need to be smooth and efficient and must be fully prepared to work immediately.

We have tested two adhesive products currently on the market: Equilox and Vettec. Our Farrier Consultant had no preference. (*Please note: these products are not affiliated in any way with Happy HoofWear™ and you should follow each manufacturer’s specific instructions for use.) In this case, we used Equilox. Both companies have product descriptions and videos and application directions on their web sites: http://www.equilox.com and http://www.vettec.com.

The glue is temperature sensitive and is easiest to work within a range of 65 – 85 degrees F. This first photograph is a bucket of water with an electric heater in it, because on this day the temperature was about 40 degrees F and cold glue takes forever to set up. When the water is hot to your hand, simply drop the glue cartridge into the water.

Clean feet are of paramount importance, so be sure your work area is clean and dry. Trim the feet just as you normally would and lightly rasp the heel area and the bottom inch of hoof wall. This removes all surface dirt and oils.
Fit the shoe as usual. Notice the “R” written on the bar of the shoe. Because the farrier must be ready to work immediately and be efficient, we recommend you label the left and right shoes on both the hoof side and the ground side. This will ensure there are no accidents in gluing the right shoe on the left foot and visa versa. While the shoe is marked as to size, we also noted the size (*in this case “0”) on the right heel of the shoe. This is just another way of making it easier for you to track your inventory.

To ensure good adhesion of the glue to the shoe, lightly buff the hoof side of the shoe, roughing up the surface.

This photograph shows the right branch of the shoe scuffed up while the left side is still smooth. You can see that the shoe is not thinned out, but the surface is simply scuffed up.
Just prior to gluing the shoe, flush the surface of the hoof wall with denatured alcohol to be sure all oils and finger prints are removed. Do **NOT** use acetone for this purpose. Because of the cold temperatures, we used a heat gun to dry and warm the hoof.

As shown here, the left foot has the bottom edges lightly rasped to enhance cleanliness and adhesion, while the right one is untouched. Prepare one foot and then apply the shoe. This minimizes the chance of dirt and moisture contaminating the second foot accidentally.

Use the same flushing technique on the bottom of the foot. You will notice that at this point, rubber gloves are being worn. Latex gloves tear easily leaving your finger or palm exposed. Once the foot is clean, **do not touch it with a bare hand**. The hoof will become contaminated with skin oils and sweat, resulting in the glue/hoof bond being seriously compromised.
Now that the foot is clean, **DO NOT PUT IT DOWN**. Get into the driving position and squirt some of the glue onto a paper towel to be sure that Part A and Part B are being ejected correctly.

Have the shoe handy and twist on the mixing tip.

Apply glue liberally to both the foot and the shoe.

Position the shoe and apply gentle pressure to squeeze out any air pockets between hoof and shoe. Hold the foot until the glue sets up. In this case it took approximately 4 minutes.
Medial and lateral views after the glue has set up and the foot put down.

Attach a new mixing tip, (because the glue in the first mixing tip has set up by now), and apply glue to the quarters and heels. Spread this around using a Popsicle stick or similar item. (In this case we used a piece of the shoe that was nipped off while fitting the shoe to the foot.) Usually this step is done to both feet after the second shoe has been applied and the glue set up. Due to the cold temperatures on this day, we chose to do the first foot immediately while the glue and foot were still warm. After the glue sets up, this area can be rasped smooth.

*We are sharing with you what happened when we were doing this segment, because we hope to give you a heads up to avoid the same mistake. After the first foot was done, the plan was to put the glue back into the hot water while the second foot was being prepared. We realized belatedly that the glue cartridge was now open and water would get inside if we did that. In hindsight, we should have had a zip lock bag on hand to seal up the glue cartridge, so that it could safely be submerged into the hot water again for the 2nd shoe. At this point, our Farrier Consultant determined the best option was to kick into high gear, and the foot was prepped and glued in record time. The second shoe was held in place for 8 ½ minutes (*much longer than the first shoe required due to our error) until the glue appeared to have set up. By this time the horse, normally very good to shoe, was agitated about having to stand for so long on one leg so he finally tired and slapped down his foot hard and fast. Even though the glue had set up hard to the touch, it was not hard enough for HIS touch, and the shoe slipped and twisted.*
We tried again. Our Farrier Consultant picked up the foot, repositioned the shoe, and applied additional glue. This time the heat gun was used to warm the glue, shoe, and hoof, and the glue set up in 4 ½ minutes. Again, with hindsight, knowing that both cleanliness and glue temperature had been compromised, a couple of nails or screws could have been added for security.

Now dress up the feet and make things look pretty. You may notice that the rubber mat looks different in these photos. After the cold glue debacle, this poor, patient horse just had to stretch out and do “his business”. So the mat was lifted up and turned over. Fortunately, at this point it did not matter, but this is one reason why the first foot should be completed before starting on foot number 2. Cleanliness is critical!
Here is the finished job. Now for the down side. Because of poor planning, the right front shoe did not stay on very long. Four days later the shoe was found out in the pasture. Again, another reason why it is so important when gluing to have everything ready to work immediately. If not, you’ll just be doing the work over again days later.

![Image of a shoe]

Owners might ask you: “What happens to the foot if the shoe gets pulled off?” As this photograph shows, the shoe and glue pull clean. As we noted, the glue did not fail, the farrier did. A mistake was made, and with glue you only have one time to do it right! Upon returning to the barn we expected to chip the glue off of the shoe and reapply it. This glue would not come off even using pull offs. Rather than using a grinder, we kept the shoe for demonstration and used a new shoe. We hope you folks learn from our mistake!
More on Trimming

Shoeing with Happy HoofWear™ horse shoes is very similar to shoeing with steel shoes. As with any shoeing job, the most important thing is to trim the foot in balance for that particular horse’s conformation, occupation, and/or movement or lameness issues. No shoe can overcome the problems created by trimming the foot incorrectly. The American Farrier’s Association produces a booklet titled “Farrier Certification Program”. It is a written guideline for trimming feet, fitting shoes, nailing, and clinching. We recommend that farriers follow the American Farrier’s Association guidelines for trimming feet, fitting shoes, nailing, and clinching. When using Happy HoofWear™ shoes, the following How-To Guideline is a supplement to that information. The application of Happy HoofWear™ shoes is very easy and simple. Any competent farrier should have no problems.

Remove the old shoe, just as you normally would.

Trim and balance the foot just as you would for a steel shoe, with one exception. Do not completely dish, or concave, the sole as we are conventionally trained to do. Leave a flat spot in the sole the width of the HT shoe, as shown in the two accompanying photos. This increases the surface area of weight bearing, thus decreasing the pounds per square inch, and duplicates the way that a natural bare foot is loaded.

This photo shows the freshly trimmed foot with the flat spot left in the sole.
Nailing the Shoes

This picture shows a Happy HoofWear™ a size 00 front pattern horseshoe in Powerful Pink, which fits this horse’s foot very well. Nail the shoes just as you would a steel shoe. A #5 or #6 city head works well, as does an E head #55 or #60. Do not use a #5 combo nail as the shank of the nail tends to shear, causing the shoe to loosen and/or come off.

Happy HoofWear shoes are flexible which allows them to absorb a great deal of concussion before it ever reaches the foot and leg. That same flexibility factor allows the nail head to pivot within the body of the shoe as the foot compresses and expands under load. This pivoting action now has a shod foot mimicking the bare foot for expansion of the heels and quarters. While this flex factor is very beneficial to the health of the foot, the thinner shank of the combo nail cannot withstand the motion of the foot, and eventually the shank of the nail shears off. This shearing action does not happen with the #5 city or #55 E nails.

Some farriers prefer to drill a pilot hole for each nail using a 1/8” drill bit, while other farriers simply drive the nail through. Either method works very well. However, if you choose to drive the nail through the shoe without pre-drilling, remember to hold the nail a little straighter than normal. The nail does not know if it is in hoof wall or a polyurethane shoe, so the steeper pitch is necessary for the nail to exit the hoof wall at the normal depth.

It is faster if you just drive the nails, but it will take a little practice to change an old nailing habit. Here at Happy HoofWear™ we have chosen not to pre-drill the nail holes. One of the advantages of our shoe is that you, the farrier, can make the call on where to place each nail, as well as how many nails you wish to use. With no forge work and no extra time required, nails can be custom placed, even at the center of the toe, for each individual foot. Nails can be driven fine, normal, or coarse, depending on the hoof wall you are dealing with for the horse you are shoeing. For subsequent resets, the same nail holes can be reused, or nails can be driven in new positions.
Pre-drilling the shoes

Some farriers prefer to pre-drill a pilot hole for each nail. A 1/8” inch drill bit works well for this. It is large enough so that the nail tip has easy access to the hoof wall, and yet it keeps the nail shank snug within the body of the shoe allowing for solid clinching. In this photograph a drill press is being used.

Here is another method of pre-drilling the nail holes. Again, a 1/8” bit is being used.

The shoe can be rested on a piece of wood or rubber matting for support, or simply held by hand as you drill. Please note that the drill is being held at an angle to the shoe. See the next photographs as to why we did it this way.

When using a Happy HoofWear™ front pattern horseshoes, not only can the farrier chose nail placement appropriate to the individual foot being worked on, but if you pre-drill using a hand held drill, the nail holes can be pitched to match the slope of the hoof wall, just as is done when making a shoe by hand. This is a great advantage for horses with thin, shelly walls or with a wide, flat, flaring hoof. In this manner, using a Happy HoofWear™ front pattern horseshoe offers the advantages of handmade, but with no forge work and only two minutes of time.
Nip and Rasp

As you can see in this picture, the toe clip must be cut in using either hoof nippers and/or a hoof knife. Do not attempt to burn the clips in by heating the shoes as the material is not designed for heating. Although visually it may look a bit rough initially, as you can see in later photos, everything blends in once the foot has been finished. Nails are wrung off or folded over and blocked, just as you would with a steel shoe.

If the shoe is too wide, simply nip the excess shoe off, leaving room for heel expansion and growth.

Dress up the nipper marks with a light rasping.
Clinch just as you would with a steel shoe.

These photographs below show the correct fit of the shoe at the heels, as well as both medial and lateral quarters. These feet have been finished, nails clinched, hoof wall dressed, nail holes filled with putty, and a hoof dressing applied.

Ready to ride!
Important Notes

BEFORE YOU LEAVE... Our farrier consultants thought it would be helpful to share a couple of things that are special about Happy HoofWear™ shoes, because they are made of polyurethane.

1. Some farriers want to cut out or remove the bar of a Happy HoofWear™ front pattern horseshoe. Do not do this!

   § When using steel shoes and rim pads it is standard procedure to rivet the heels of the rim pad to the heels of the shoe. If this is not done, then as the heels of the foot expand and contract, the rim pad from the heel nails back is gradually pushed out from underneath the hoof wall. A week after shoeing, both medial and lateral heels will have the rim pads sticking out and no longer supporting the foot. If you cut out the bar on a polyurethane Happy HoofWear™ shoe, the same thing will happen.

   § One of the advantages of a Happy HoofWear™ shoe is that it is both strong and flexible. This allows it to absorb much of the impact of striking the ground rather than passing the concussion on to the bones, joints, tendons, and ligaments of the foot and leg, while at the same time being resistant to wear. It also means that if you cut out the supportive structure of the bar, then from the heel nails back, the shoe will gradually flex outward, migrating out from underneath the heels of the foot. As you can well imagine, the overall balance of the hoof and leg will be severely compromised if you make this mistake.

2. Be aware of leaving a Happy HoofWear™ shoe on too long.

   § For a Happy HoofWear shoe a typical interval between resets is 4 to 6 weeks. When a steel shoe is left on too long clinches lift up, nails loosen up, and the hoof wall overgrows the shoe. This typically results in compromising the hoof wall at the heels and the development of corns; often weeping corns. Left on too long A Happy HoofWear™ front pattern horseshoe does not cause bruising or corns nor does it damage the hoof wall at the heels. However, as the wall grows longer and away from the sole, the inside web of the shoe will gradually flex upward towards the now recessed sole. Eventually enough torque will be placed upon the nails to break out one or both quarters of the foot. If this happens, simply trim the foot and reset the shoe. Typically, by the time this happens, the foot is so long that simply pulling the shoe and doing a routine trim and reset will cut out the damaged hoof wall and balance will be restored.

   § With Happy HoofWear™ shoes expect to initially reduce your normal reset interval by several days to a couple of weeks. These shoes allow for increased blood flow and greater expansion through the quarters and heels of the foot, very similar to pulling shoes and allowing a horse to go barefoot. These two factors result in a faster rate of growth. It is quite common when a horse first begins to wear Happy HoofWear™ shoes that by the end of the first or second shoeing, the quarters and heels have opened up so much that new, larger shoes are required, even though the first pair is not worn out. This is a very good “problem” to have!
**Frequently Asked Questions**

The answers were supplied by a panel of farrier consultants from Ohio, Florida and Tennessee, one who is a Certified Journeyman Farrier, another teaches at a farrier school and a working farrier who tried our shoes early on in different terrain conditions. We are providing what we consider the “best practices” for our Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes. You may find the information and suggestions helpful, but your personal inspection and knowledge of the horse you are shoeing and the riding conditions are obviously the most important factors in using our shoes. If you have a question that we haven’t answered, we want to make sure your issues are addressed. Use our QUESTIONS form at www.happyhoofwear.com/content/42-question-form.

**Application Issues**

How to find the best size for the horse wearing Happy HoofWear™ shoes?
What are the dimensions of the shoes?
What size nails do you use?
Will the nails pull through the Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes?
Do you need to predrill the shoes?
Can the shoes be glued on?
What type of glue/adhesive works best?
Can the bars in the back of the shoe be cut out?

**Wear, Durability and Traction Issues**

Will a horse ever pull a Happy HoofWear™ horseshoe?
How long do these shoes last? Do you get any resets?
What do you do with the toe clip?

**Horse Health and Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes**

Can the shoes be worn with pads?
Any opportunity to use studs for additional traction?
How do the shoes wear in grass, sand and concrete? How slippery are Happy HoofWear™ shoes in the mud, wet grass, or asphalt?
Can the shoes be used in winter?
Can Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes be used on Driving Horses?
Can Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes be used on Gaited Horses and does it alter their gait?
Can Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes be used on flat feet and/or bruised soles?
Can Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes simulate a Natural Balance Shoe?

**Hind Feet and Additional Sizes**

Can shoes be worn on the hind feet or just on the front?
With the recent addition of 000 shoes, are there plans for any additional sizes or for hind feet shoes?
If you put Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes only on the front, is there a difference in height if you use a steel, aluminum or go barefoot in the back, and more importantly - will that be a problem?