FARRIER’S GUIDE

Application Instructions and Helpful Information for the Farrier.

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Visit our website at: www.happyhoofwear.com
Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes were created in 2007, because we cared about our horses' comfort. After substantial research, we discovered that science and technology provide us with a material that is a win-win-win: for the horse, the owner and the farrier. Using this advanced, lightweight material and collaborating with top notch engineers, professional farriers and owners, we designed our Happy HoofWear™ front pattern horseshoes to be more durable and shock absorbing than metal shoes. We made them farrier friendly as no special tools are needed and you have many application options.

Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes were invented because as equine advocates we were not happy with the horseshoe options available on the market. We believe Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes provide real comfort and protection for horses, a colorful style option for owners and they offer true therapeutic benefits for equines with hoof health issues.

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HAPPY HOOFWEAR™

Find us on FACEBOOK at Happy HoofWear™
Visit our site: www.happyhoofwear.com
Look for our videos on YouTube

Revised Date: 3/3/14
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 with our shoes. In this guide we 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. (See page 15) The shoe can rest directly on the sole without painful pressure.

- 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. This gives Farriers the power to decide the best place to nail. You 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.

Our Farrier’s Guide provides additional information, illustrations, instructions and answers to some of the most frequently asked questions. If you have a question we have not answered, please contact us. You can also consult with our Certified Journeyman Farrier by email or phone.

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**Sizing Guide**

Our Farrier Consultants and the Happy HoofWear™ Team want you to have a successful shoeing experience with our shoes. **Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes are a front pattern shoe** and they are offered in the following four sizes: 1; 0; 00; 000.

Finding the right size is the first step to your success. Here are a few different ways you can determine which size is best. Of course, if you have any questions, we are always happy to help.

**Option 1—Convert your current shoe size to a Happy HoofWear™ horseshoe size.**

Happy HoofWear™ has set its sizes to match many of the most popular shoes. Below you will find a chart comparing two popular metal shoes with the sizing of the Happy HoofWear™ front pattern horseshoe. The sizing information on the Kerkhaert and St. Croix come from the manufacturers published information. You will notice that the Happy HoofWear™ shoes are similar in width but tend to be a bit longer. This allows the same width shoe to fit many lengths, as the Happy HoofWear™ shoes are easily trimmed to fit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Kerckhaert American Series - Aluminum Comfort</th>
<th>St. Croix Xtra EZ Regular</th>
<th>Happy HoofWear Front Pattern</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>Width</td>
<td>Length</td>
<td>Width</td>
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<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>&quot;000&quot;</td>
<td>4 1/2</td>
<td>4 1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC</td>
<td>&quot;000&quot;</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>HHW</td>
<td>&quot;000&quot;</td>
<td>4 1/4</td>
<td>4 5/8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Option 2—Print out a size pattern and trace the hoof or old shoe and compare.**

Another easy way to determine the right size, is to trace the current shoe or hoof and compare it to a print out of our size patterns which are included in this Guide.

1. Use the shoe the horse is currently wearing for a starting place. If the horse is still shod, put the printed pattern from the following pages under the hoof and trace the outside. If the old shoe is off of the horse – then hold it up against or place it on top of our printed patterns. Pick the one that closely matches the shoe or hoof.

2. **Make sure the shoe is wide enough.** If not, then go up a size. If the old shoe does not match up because it’s too narrow, then go down a size in Happy HoofWear™ front pattern shoes. (*The width is the most important measurement. Length is usually not an issue as it can be easily rasped and nipped to fit.)

3. Farriers may want to trim the horse’s hoof before applying new shoes. Depending upon when the last trim was done, this might change the measurement of the hoof, particularly the width.
Option 3—Using the actual measurements of Happy HoofWear™ shoes.

You may want to use the measurements we have provided for our shoes to determine the correct size. You need only concern yourself with the width and length dimensions.

1. Remember that some of the excess length can be nipped off at the heel area.

2. You don’t want to cut into the nail crease more than 1/8 inch, so the width measurement is the **most** important.

3. The farrier may want to trim the horse’s hoof before applying new shoes. Depending upon when the last trim was done, this might change the measurement of the hoof, particularly the width.

Below is a summary chart of the sizes and measurements.

**HAPPY HOOFWEAR™ SIZING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIZE 1</th>
<th>SIZE 0</th>
<th>SIZE 00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 3/8” or 136mm wide</td>
<td>4 3/4” or 121mm wide</td>
<td>5 3/4” or 136mm wide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 5/8” or 144mm length</td>
<td>5 1/8” or 130mm length</td>
<td>5 1/8” or 130mm length</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.7 ounces or 162 grams</td>
<td>4.5 ounces or 128 grams</td>
<td>5/8” or 16mm thick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/8” or 16mm thick</td>
<td>5/8” or 16mm thick</td>
<td>7/8” or 22mm web</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/8” or 22mm web</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIZE 0</th>
<th>SIZE 00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5” or 126mm wide</td>
<td>4 1/4” or 110mm wide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 3/8” or 136mm length</td>
<td>4 5/8” or 119mm length</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5 ounces or 156 grams</td>
<td>4.2 ounces or 119 grams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/8” or 16mm thick</td>
<td>5/8” or 16mm thick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/8” or 22mm web</td>
<td>3/4” or 18mm web</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Image 1](image1.jpg)  ![Image 2](image2.jpg)
Make sure before you print these images that your page and printer are scaled to 100%.

While these pictures are close to the measurements provided, different printers and computers may render the image slightly smaller or larger than the actual shoes.

The most accurate measurements are the numbers.
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The most accurate measurements are the numbers.

SIZE 00

WEIGHT - 4.5 OZ OR 127.75 GRAMS
Make sure before you print these images that your page and printer are scaled to 100%.

While these pictures are close to the measurements provided, different printers and computers may render the image slightly smaller or larger than the actual shoes.

The most accurate measurements are the numbers.

SIZE 000

WEB
3/4" or 19mm

DEPTH
5/8" or 15mm

LENGTH
4.58" or 119mm

WIDTH
4 1/4" or 110mm

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. These are only suggestions, however, as you are the Farrier and know the horse best.

Happy HoofWear™ shoes are a front pattern shoe and are offered in four sizes. These pictures provide a visual reference for fitting the front pattern horseshoe.

This foot has already been trimmed, just as you normally would trim when using a steel shoe, **except remember to leave the sole flat.** (So that we could take 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™ shoe in size 00. This shoe fits well for width of heel, but as shown in the final photograph on this page, it is too short for good support.

The photo to the left shows the same shoe with a good fit in the quarters and width of the heel.

This final photo shows that there is not enough support over the bulb and a larger size may be required.
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, nail it in place before dressing the foot up. This method 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™ horseshoe in size 0.

This shoe fits well for width in the quarters, but is too wide at the heels. This is **not** an issue as any excess can be nipped and/or rasped off. Nip off the excess width at the heel. 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. Refer to the photos below for removal of the nipper marks left by trimming the shoe to shape.

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

**Ready to ride!**
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 with a grinder, as shown below.)

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 HoofWear™ 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 so a light touch is required 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.
DO NOT TRIM TOO CLOSE TO THE NAIL CREASE

Look at the inside heel and quarter of this photo. (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.
More on Trimming

Shoeing with Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes 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 Happy HoofWear™ shoes, as shown in the accompanying photo. 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.
Applying with Screws

Screws can be used when the foot is too sore for the impact of hammering nails in the hoof. Screws are much less expensive than glue and are easier to use.

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.

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 from the photographs below, 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 an electric 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 crease, 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. Unlike using nails, the screws do not have to be applied at an angle.

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 the previous 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. Unlike a nail, 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 an ISP ointment to the hoof wall, sole and frog every couple of days. Our Farrier Consultant says that the iodine and sulfur 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 Wonder go to http://horseparkusa.com/page10.php*

*At Happy HoofWear™, we like to share with farriers and owners alike what other farriers have shared with us over the years, when we took our time testing our shoes and working with others in the industry. Reference to these products are being provided as informational in nature only. There may be other similar products you as the farrier use to serve this function. Reference to this product is not intended to serve as a guarantee or endorsement of the product, nor is Happy HoofWear™ affiliated with said product. Always 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 results in 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 began trotting in the pasture, we considered this a successful shoeing job!

Some farriers might think 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 was an appropriate economic choice to cut costs and gave immediate relief to the horse. The owner was happy and her horse was happy and comfortable.
Using Studs with Happy HoofWear™

Although Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes provide excellent traction for your horse, some riders still want to know if they can add studs. Studs can be used with Happy HoofWear™ shoes to further increase traction. We have found that EasyCare Quick Studs will work well with our shoes.

In this section we will show you how to apply studs with Happy HoofWear™ shoes. The studs shown here are the “Quick Studs” made by Easy Care Inc. 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 below are all of the tools needed to apply Quick Studs and Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes, whether it is on the horse’s foot or in the farrier’s hand.

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.

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. Depending on conditions and the amount of traction that you desire, 1 stud can be used in each heel, or, for additional traction, 4 studs per shoe can be used, placing 1 stud in each heel and 1 stud on either side of the toe.
Applying with Adhesives or Glue

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 (See page 15 for information on Applying with Screws), 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 Adhere™. Our Farrier Consultant had no preference. (*Please note: these products are not affiliated in any way with Happy HoofWear™, nor do we endorse or guarantee this product.) Whatever product you choose, please follow each manufacturer’s specific instructions for use. As an example of manufacturer instructions, Vettec recommends the use of adhesive spacers for effective application of Adhere™.

The example discussed on the following pages used adhesive from Equilox.

Both companies have product descriptions, videos and application instructions on their websites [http://www.equilox.com](http://www.equilox.com) and [http://vettec.com](http://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.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE
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.

These first two photos demonstrate techniques for lightly buffing the hoof side of the shoe.

This photograph shows the right branch of the shoe scuffed up.

And 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 accidently.

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 dispense 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.

Vettec also recommends 0 percent moisture content in the outer layers of the hoof wall. This can be achieved by using a heat gun (hair dryers are not adequate) drying the foot for a minimum of 1 ½ minutes. Moisture content can be accurately determined using a standard moisture meter. Review the specific application instructions on the manufacturer’s website for best results.
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.

The first foot should be completed before starting on the second foot. **Cleanliness is critical!**

Now dress up the feet and make things look pretty.
Here is the finished job.
**Nailing the Shoes (MOST COMMON METHOD)**

This picture shows a Happy HoofWear™ 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 or any slim shank nail as the shank of the nail tends to shear, causing the shoe to loosen and/or come off prematurely.

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 or #6 city head or #55 or #60 E head nails.

Most farriers prefer to drill a pilot hole for each nail using a 1/8” or 3mm 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. **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.**

In a steel or aluminum shoe the nail head is designed to lock in the crease. This makes the nail ridged. As the hoof walls spread or expand under load the ridged nails will limit how much the walls can move. Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes allow the nail head to pivot within the body of the shoe so as the foot expands outward the nail shank within the hoof wall moves also allowing full expansion of the heels very much like a bare foot does.

**How Many Nails on What Size Shoes**

When nailing with Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes you can place your nails at any location within the nail crease that you feel is best. As an example, our staff certified journeyman farrier tells us that he started out using the front three nails and soon changed to using the heel nails, as well. Typically he uses 3 nails in each side for 000. And depending on the foot, he uses either 3 or 4 nails each side for 00. For 0 and 1 he typically uses 4 nails on each side. And the flexibility provided in the nail crease of a Happy HoofWear™ horseshoe allows the farrier to by-pass sore, chipped or weak parts of the hoof and still provide for a secure application.
Pre-drilling the shoes—The Farrier’s Choice

Most farriers prefer to pre-drill a pilot hole for each nail. A 1/8” inch or 3mm 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 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.

*You can see the Toe Clip in the photo above.*

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

*Use a standard pair of nippers.*

Dress up the nipper marks with a light rasping.

*Use a standard farrier’s rasp*
Clinch just as you would with a steel shoe.

The photograph below shows 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 walls dressed, nail holes filled with putty, and a hoof dressing applied.

Ready to ride!
Applying Pads With Happy HoofWear™ Shoes

Happy HoofWear shoes can be used with any type of flat or wedge pad, whether leather or plastic. Combining the shoe and pad into a package is very simple to do. The two pads used in the following examples are both leather pads. Photographs numbered 1 - 9 depict and explain how to use a **full pad** with Happy HoofWear™ shoes. Photographs numbered 10 - 18 depict and explain how to use a **rim pad** with Happy HoofWear™ shoes. **You can follow the same procedure for plastic and/or wedge pads.**

**FULL PAD APPLICATION**

In this picture, the shoe has already been cut to fit the horse’s foot. (See Page 10, Getting the Correct Fit) Using a sharp knife, cut a notch into the top of the pad to fit the clip on the shoe.

Fit the pad and shoe together. Using two horseshoe nails, drive one on each side through the shoe and the pad so that the nails stick out the other side by ½ to 3/4ths of an inch. Bend the top of the nails over towards the center of the shoe. The exact placement of these nails in the shoe does not matter. They are used only to temporarily hold the shoe and pad together. These nails will be pulled in a few minutes, and bending them over makes it easy to do so.

Turn the shoe/pad package over and where the tips of the nails stick out, bend them to the inside.

Cut the pad as close to the shoe as possible. Any pad material left sticking out can be rasped off when you dress up the foot.

Trim the foot as you normally would, but be sure to leave a flat and level spot the width of the sole.
In this picture our Certified Journeyman Farrier consultant has used ISP ointment, ISP Wonder*, which has been applied to the sole and frog. Our farrier consultant personally uses this product. You can find this product at http://horseparkusa.com/page10.php. This helps prevent bacteria and fungus from growing between the pad and the foot.

*Reference to this product is being provided as informational in nature only. There may be other similar products you as the farrier use to serve this function. Reference to this product is not intended to serve as a guarantee or endorsement of the product nor is Happy HoofWear™ affiliated with this product. Always follow the manufacturer’s instructions.

When a foot is covered with a full pad, a warm, dark, moist pocket has been created. These are prime conditions for the growth of bacteria and fungus. This empty space left between sole and pad will soon fill up with sawdust, arena dirt, manure, and urine. To prevent this from happening, and to maintain a healthy foot, this pocket must be filled with some type of hoof packing. There are many types available on the market today. Most of them work well so long as they are properly applied. Here is one suggestion from our Farrier Consultant.

In this photograph, our Certified Journeyman Farrier consultant used a material called Sorbent as his personal choice for hoof packing material. He has shared with us that there are two (2) types of Sorbent – Universal and Oil Only. The Universal Sorbent is designed to absorb almost any liquid, including water and urine from the barn or horse. **You do not want to use this type of packing under a pad!**

Oil Only Sorbent is designed to repel water, absorbing only petroleum products. These two properties make it an excellent choice for hoof packing material. It can be purchased at any NAPA store, under the label “Oil Only Sorbent Pad L -100”. (*Its primary use is for cleaning up oil spills in both marine and industrial environments.*) **HELPFUL HINT:** **To be sure you have the correct type of Sorbent:** Pour a little water on to the packing. It should instantly bead up and run off. The Oil Only Sorbent absorbs and then holds the ISP Ointment in contact with the sole and frog. It is soft, providing cushioning and shock absorption, yet still transfers the weight of the horse to the sole and frog. It repels moisture and does not break down over a shoeing period, thereby keeping the “pocket” filled the entire time. (*Reference to this product is being provided as informational in nature only. There may be other similar products you as the farrier use to serve this function. Reference to this product is not intended to serve as a guarantee or endorsement of the product nor is Happy HoofWear™ affiliated with this product. Always follow the manufacturer’s instructions.)*

The shoe/pad package has been nailed to the foot with two nails, just as you would typically start nailing. If the shoe position is satisfactory, pull the two bent over nails that were used to temporarily hold the shoe and pad together. Finish nailing as you normally would, but remember to aim your nails a little deeper to compensate for going through the pad. Clinch and dress up the foot.

Revised Date: 3/3/14
RIM PAD APPLICATION

The shoe has already been shaped to fit the hoof. To make a rim pad, lay the shaped shoe on top of the pad and trace around both the outside and the inside of the shoe. The bump in the tracing at the toe of the shoe is where the clip has been traced around. When you cut the pad, cut straight across this clip area. The two nails laying on the pad are 7/8” galvanized roofing nails. They will be used to attach the shoe and rim pad together.

The pad has been cut to fit and the roofing nails have been driven FROM THE HOOF SIDE, through the pad, into the shoe. In this photograph the nails are still sticking out so that they can easily be seen. They must be driven down tight against the pad with the tips of the nails sticking out of the ground surface of the shoe. Location of these roofing nails is important. They must be at the ends of the heels of the pad/shoe. If they are located too far forward, then as the hoof expands and contracts, the ends of the pad will gradually be pushed from underneath the foot.

These photographs show how an unsecured rim pad gradually spreads out to the side of the foot and shoe. This heel, and therefore, the leg, is no longer being supported by the rim pad.

Look closely at the left heel. The tip of the roofing nail is sticking out of the shoe. Use a pair of wire cutters, and cut the nail flush with the ground surface of the shoe. The nail in the right heel has already been cut, and so it cannot be seen.
Trim the foot just as you normally would, but be sure to leave a flat and level spot the width of the sole.

Nail on the shoe and rim pad package just as you normally would. Remember to aim your nails a little deeper to compensate for going through the pad.

Clinch and dress the foot as usual.

A perfect fit!


**Resetting Happy HoofWear™ shoes (Nail, Glue)**

**Resets with Happy HoofWear™ Horseshoes when applied with Nails**

NAILING: One of the benefits Owners appreciate with Happy HoofWear™ shoes is that our shoe can be reset. Many farriers have reported that Happy HoofWear™ shoes last 2x as long as a metal shoe on the same horse in the same riding conditions. However, many resets you get with Happy HoofWear™ shoes, you will receive real value and you are getting a quality shoe made in the USA at a great price.

![Image of a hoof with a shoe being nailed on]

**Resets with Happy HoofWear™ Horseshoes when applied with Glue/Adhesive**

GLUING: If you are applying Happy HoofWear™ shoes with glue, then unfortunately you will not be able to reset the shoes, but it still may be the best application choice to take care of the horse's hoof health issue.

Owners might ask you: “What happens to the foot if the shoe gets pulled off when it has been applied with glue?” As the photograph below shows, the shoe and glue pull clean. This glue will not come off even using pull offs.

![Image of a hoof showing separation of shoe and glue]

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Frequently Asked Questions

The answers were supplied by a panel of farrier consultants from Ohio, Florida and Tennessee, Certified Journeyman Farriers, teachers at farrier schools and working farriers who have tried our shoes in different terrains and 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 subjects are addressed. Send us an email with your question to healthyshoe@happyhoofwear.com or call us at 941-343-7087.

On the following pages you will find answers related to five general areas;

Applying Happy HoofWear™ Horseshoes

Wear, Traction and Durability

Equine Health

Riding and Showing

Questions Regarding your Order
**Applying Happy HoofWear™ Horseshoes**

How do I know which size Happy HoofWear™ horseshoe to order to get the correct fit?

What are the dimensions of the Happy HoofWear™ shoes?

How do you apply Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes? Are there any special instructions I need to know?

How do you trim the hoof for Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes since it is a polyurethane shoe and not metal?

What size nails do you use?

Happy HoofWear™ shoes do not have pre-punched nail holes. Does that mean you must predrill the shoes?

When nailing on Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes how many nails do you need to use?

Will the nails pull through Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes because they are made of polyurethane?

When nailing on Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes are there any advantages over nailing on metal shoes?

Can the toe clip be removed?

Can Happy HoofWear™ shoes be glued on?

What type of glue/adhesive works best?

Can Happy HoofWear™ shoes be worn with pads?

Can Happy HoofWear™ shoes be worn with studs?

Can the bar in the back of the Happy HoofWear™ shoe be cut out or removed?

Can Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes be used as a weighted shoe?

Are there times when Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes may not be the best choice?

You have made such amazing shoes for horses! Is there a reason Happy HoofWear™ shoes do not come in a hind pattern? Are there any plans to offer hind patterns and more sizes?

Since Happy HoofWear™ shoes are a front pattern shoe, does it make a difference if the horse is wearing metal or going barefoot on the hind?

Can Happy HoofWear™ shoes be worn on the hind feet or just on the front?
**How do I know which size Happy HoofWear™ horseshoe to order to get the correct fit?**

The Happy HoofWear™ team wants you to have a successful shoeing experience with our shoes. Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes are a front pattern shoe and they are offered in four sizes: 1; 0; 00; 000. Finding the right size is the first step to your success. Here are a few different ways you can determine which size is best. Of course, if you have any questions, we are always happy to help.

**Option 1—Convert your current shoe size to a Happy HoofWear™ horseshoe size.**

Here are the measurements of Happy HoofWear™ shoes in each of the sizes we offer.

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**Option 2—Print out a size pattern and trace the hoof or old shoe and compare.**

CLICK HERE FOR OUR SIZING INFORMATION. From here you can print a pattern for each size shoe we offer. You can then put the pattern up to the horse’s hoof or you can trace the current shoe or hoof and then simply compare it (or overlay it) to the printout. Farriers may want to trim the horse’s hoof before applying new shoes. Depending upon when the last trim was done, this might change the measurement of the hoof, particularly the width.

REMEMBER: **WIDTH is really important** as you cannot cut into the crease more than 1/8th of an inch or the lateral support of the shoe will be compromised. The farrier knows the horse’s hooves best and is the best source to confirm the correct size.

**What are the dimensions of the Happy HoofWear™ shoes?**

Here is a quick reference of the width and length for each size. If you want more information you can CLICK HERE FOR OUR SIZING INFORMATION with all the measurements (to include the web and thickness) and images for each shoe size.

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**How do you apply Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes? Are there any special instructions I need to know?**

Most farriers nail on Happy HoofWear™ shoes. However, Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes can be glued on and can be used with casting material or even applied with screws. There really are only two “special instructions”:

- Trim the sole flat. (You do NOT want to trim concave like you would with a metal shoe.)
• If you choose the nailing application method, be sure to use a #5 or #6 city head which works well, as does an E head #55 or #60. **Do not use** a slim shank nail, as the shank of the nail tends to shear, causing the shoe to loosen and/or come off prematurely.

You can use adhesives too. We have tested our shoes with both Vettec and Equilox glues. For more information on these application methods, please refer to our **FARRIER'S GUIDE**.

**How do you trim for a horse to wear Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes since it is a polyurethane shoe and not metal?**

**Leave a flat spot in the sole and trim as little as possible. Why?** Trimming the sole in an attempt to get a concave shape (which a farrier must do to avoid sole pinch that occurs with metal shoes) may result in a foot being tender for several days. Happy HoofWear™ shoes **do not create sole pressure** so trim the soles flat and as little as possible. The width and thickness of our shoes will both lift the sole off of the ground and give good coverage to protect the sole. The bar will help transfer weight to the frog and bars of the foot, relieving both compressive and concussive forces on the heel area. Due to this weight transfer, Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes produce a “loading” effect that is very similar to a bare footed horse in the wild, which is a very good result for the horse.

**What size nails do you use?**

A #5 or #6 city head works well, as does an E head #55 or #60. **Do not use** a slim shank nail, as the shank of the nail tends to shear, causing the shoe to loosen and/or come off prematurely.

**Fascinating Fact:** Happy HoofWear™ shoes are flexible which allow them to absorb a great deal of concussion before it ever reaches the foot and leg. That same flexibility factor lets the nail head pivot within the body of the shoe as the foot compresses and expands under load. This pivoting action mimics a barefoot for expansion of the heels and quarters.

**Happy HoofWear™ shoes do not have pre-punched nail holes. Does that mean you must predrill the shoes?**

No, it’s simply an individual farrier’s choice. Most farriers prefer to drill a pilot hole for each nail using a 1/8” or 3mm drill bit, while other farriers simply drive the nail through. **Either method works very well.**

**PREDRILLING:** When pre-drilling using Happy HoofWear™ front pattern horseshoes, not only can the farrier choose 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.

**DIRECT NAILING:** 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.
When nailing on Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes how many nails do you need to use?

One of the benefits when nailing on Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes is that farriers can place the nails at any location within the nail crease that is best for the horse. As an example, our staff certified journeyman farrier tells us that he started out using the front three nails and soon changed to using the heel nails, as well. Typically, farriers will use 3 nails on each side for size 000. Depending on the foot, farriers may use either 3 or 4 nails on each side for size 00. For size 0 and size 1 farriers often use 4 nails on each side. Another great benefit farriers appreciate is that the flexibility provided in the nail crease of Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes allows farriers to by-pass sore, chipped or weak parts of the hoof and still provide for a secure application.

Will the nails pull through Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes because they are made of polyurethane?

No. Our polyurethane shoes were specially designed and formulated to be both durable and resistant to wear and even with a strong, healthy hoof, the nail clinch will let go of the hoof before the nail head pulls through the shoe.

When nailing on Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes are there any advantages over nailing on metal shoes?

Yes. There are two advantages when nailing on Happy HoofWear™ shoes that you will not get when nailing on a metal shoe. In a steel or aluminum shoe the nail head is designed to lock in the crease. This makes the nail ridged. As the hoof walls spread or expand under load the ridged nails will limit how much the walls can move. Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes allow the nail head to pivot within the body of the shoe so as the foot expands outward the nail shank within the hoof wall moves also allowing full expansion of the heels very much like a bare foot does.

Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes offer farriers more options where they can place the nails with our continuous crease doing what is best for the horse. As an example, our staff certified journeyman farrier tells us that he started out using the front three nails and soon changed to using the heel nails, as well. Typically, farriers will use 3 nails on each side for size 000. Depending on the foot, farriers may use either 3 or 4 nails on each side for size 00. For size 0 and size 1 farriers often use 4 nails on each side. Another great benefit farriers appreciate is that the flexibility provided in the nail crease of Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes allows farriers to by-pass sore, chipped or weak parts of the hoof and still provide for a secure application.

Can the toe clip be removed?

Yes. If you have a dished foot or you want to set the shoe back on a thick walled horse and rasp off a lot of foot, farriers will actually cut the toe clip off with nippers, position the shoe where they want it, nail it on, and then dress up the foot. Other farriers will dress the foot first, and then fit and nail on the shoes after they have done the rasping. Either method works well and is simply a matter of personal choice.

You might want to keep the toe clip, if you have a good hoof wall and if you like the slope of the hoof wall at
the front of the foot in the toe area. Simply set the clip up against the edge of that hoof wall and nail the shoe assuming that puts the whole shoe in the correct position.

**Can Happy HoofWear™ shoes be glued on?**

Yes. What makes Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes so popular with farriers and owners is their versatility. Our shoes can be glued on and there are a number of commercial adhesives on the market you can use. We have tested our shoes with both Vettec Adhere™ and Equilox. (*Note: Reference to these products is not intended to serve as a guarantee or endorsement of the product, nor is Happy HoofWear™ affiliated with said product. Please use your own judgment in deciding which product to use and follow the manufacturer’s instructions.)

To prep the shoe for gluing, lightly rough up the **hoof** surface of the shoe with a rasp before applying the glue. (See our Farrier’s Guide on Page 20 for more information on Using Adhesives and Glue With Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes.)

**What type of glue/adhesive works best?**

We have had farriers share with us their experiences with a number of glue products that are readily available on the market. Two very common adhesives, Equilox and Vettec Adhere™ both work well. These manufacturers have good instructions for using their products on their websites, http://www.equilox.com and http://www.vettec.com respectively. Both glues are temperature sensitive, and both react negatively to small amounts of moisture, oil, and dirt. Correctly dealing with temperature and cleanliness is far more critical than which glue is used. (*Note: Reference to these products is not intended to serve as a guarantee or endorsement of the product, nor is Happy HoofWear™ affiliated with said product. Please use your own judgment in deciding which product to use and follow the manufacturer’s instructions.) See our Farrier’s Guide on Page 20 for more information on Using Adhesives and Glue With Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes.

**Can Happy HoofWear™ shoes be worn with pads?**

Yes. Happy HoofWear™ shoes can be worn with pads whether they are made of leather or plastic. They can also be used with flat pads, wedge pads or rim pads. (*Be sure to read our How To Guideline: Using Pads with Happy HoofWear™ Shoes. You can find it in our Farrier’s Guide on Page 31. Both full and rim pads are discussed.)

With a rim pad, you will drill the shoe, drill the pad, and rivet them together, just as you do with a steel shoe. In terms of hoof packing, whatever hoof packing the farrier normally uses can still be used with your choice of pad and Happy HoofWear™ shoes. (*Nothing changes as far as applying the pad to the foot or to the shoe, it is the same as any other shoe.) Very rarely do you have to deal differently with the Happy HoofWear™ shoes than you do with any other steel or aluminum shoe. Other than leaving the sole flat, the trimming is the same; the nailing is the same; the fitting process is the same; and using pads are the same. Our farrier consultants have told us “it’s a very easy shoe for any competent farrier to use.”

**Can Happy HoofWear™ shoes be worn with studs?**

Yes. Even though we designed our shoes to provide superb traction, you might still want some extra grip when riding in certain conditions or terrains. Studs can be used with Happy HoofWear™ shoes to further increase traction. Depending on the terrain and the amount of traction that you desire, 1 stud can be used in
each heel, or, for additional traction, 4 studs per shoe can be used, placing 1 stud in each heel and 1 stud on either side of the toe. We have found that EasyCare Quick Studs will work well with our shoes. You may wish to find out more about EasyCare Quick Studs. (*Note: Reference to this product is not intended to serve as a guarantee or endorsement of the product, nor is Happy HoofWear™ affiliated with said product. Please use your own judgment in deciding which product to use and follow the manufacturer’s instructions.) Also please refer to our Farrier’s Guide on Page 19.

**Can the bar in the back of the Happy HoofWear™ shoe be cut out or removed?**

We do not recommend removing the bar. The bar needs to be unmodified to give the horse the support needed and for the shoe to work effectively.

If you cut the bar out in the back, the heel of the shoes gradually opens up and spreads out past the heel of the foot. This means they are no longer supporting the foot because the flexible material gives under pressure and eventually the shoe does not have enough memory to come back to its normal position. The bar across the back of the heel serves as a very important stabilizer and prevents this from happening. The bar also helps hold the heels of the shoes in place and it is an integral part of the shoe.

Another feature of the bar is that it helps transfer weight to the frog and bars of the foot, relieving both compressive and concussive forces on the heel area. Due to this weight transfer, Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes produce a “loading” effect that is very similar to a bare footed horse in the wild. This is a health benefit for the horse.

**Observation:** Remember too, some show regulations govern the type of shoe that can be used in certain disciplines and owners should check to make sure a bar shoe is permitted.

**Observation:** If the horse needs an eggbar shoe. If your particular horse needs support of the fetlock or pastern (i.e. an eggbar shoe), then Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes are not the shoe to use. Your farrier can extend a Happy HoofWear™ horseshoe behind the foot just like an eggbar fits, but when the horse’s weight is placed upon this extension it will simply bend upwards rather than brace and hold up the pastern and fetlock. Likewise, if a horse requires the support of a trailer for the hind foot, then Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes are not a good option.

**Can Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes be used as a weighted shoe?**

No. A Happy HoofWear™ horseshoe is an even weight shoe and is similar in weight to an aluminum shoe. If your horse requires a toe, heel, or side weight shoe, Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes are not the best option in these instances.

**Are there times when Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes may not be the best choice?**

Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes are a great choice for most horses and riding. However, there are a few times when Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes may not be in the horse’s best interest. Since that is what we really care about – we are always up front and transparent so we will be the first to tell you when our shoes are not the best choice. One of the reasons Happy HoofWear™ shoes promote the overall health of the hoof and leg is due to their flexibility and their capacity to absorb concussion. However, this benefit has a downside too in these few limited cases.
A. **The horse needs an eggbar shoe.** If your particular horse needs support of the fetlock or pastern (i.e. an eggbar shoe), then Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes are not the shoe to use. Your farrier can extend a Happy HoofWear™ horseshoe behind the foot just like an eggbar fits, but when the horse’s weight is placed upon this extension it will simply bend upwards rather that brace and hold up the pastern and fetlock. Likewise, if a horse requires the support of a trailer for the hind foot, then Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes are not a good option.

B. **The horse needs a weighted shoe.** Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes are an excellent shoe for most gaited horses used for trail riding or in flat shod classes. However, if your horse needs weighted shoes in order to be able to gait effectively, our shoes would not be a good option, because Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes are an even lightweight shoe similar to an aluminum shoe.

C. **Missouri Fox Trotters.** Some gaited horses *slide their feet* into the ground rather than placing the foot onto the ground heel first. This is particularly true of Missouri Fox Trotters (in front) and Tennessee Walkers (behind). Happy HoofWear™ shoes are a *front patterned shoe*, so Tennessee Walkers can still wear our shoes in the *front only*.

When trail riders use steel shoes and borium on these specific gaited horses, there is too much grab for the feet to slide into the ground, so their gait often becomes quite rough. Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes have very good traction, and because of this feature the traction could interfere with the motion for Missouri Fox Trotters.

D. **The horse is toed in.** Horses that are “toed in” will slide their feet into the ground sideways and are heavy on the forehand. Shoes and nails are weakest on the medial/lateral axis, so as a foot slides sideways into the ground surface, the shoe often gets jammed towards the outside wall. Over time the outside quarter becomes compromised and may even break out. **The use of a flat or wedge pad will stiffen the shoe against this effect and brace the nail shanks, and pads will slow the sideways jamming of the shoe, but will not stop it completely. Therefore, Happy HoofWear™ shoes, may not be the best choice.**

E. **You are competing in high level eventing.** For entry level event horses, Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes are a great choice due to their concussion absorbing properties and the traction that they consistently provide. However, for more advanced horses requiring the use of, and frequent changing of, screw-in studs, Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes would not be the best option. In this case, the flexibility of the shoes becomes a negative factor, because in higher level eventing, you will need to increase the size of the studs, and the torque on these studs becomes so great that they simply pull out of the shoe. **Small screw -in studs can be, and are, used effectively with Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes.** You can find more information on screw in studs in our Farrier’s Guide on Page 19.

*You have made such amazing shoes for horses! Is there a reason Happy HoofWear™ shoes do not come in a hind pattern? Are there any plans to offer hind patterns and more sizes?*

Sizes 000 through 1 are the most common sizes, although we know we have left out our larger equine friends who wear a size 2 and larger and our littlest equine buddies who wear a 0000 or smaller. We believe in manufacturing our shoes in the USA using the highest quality raw material and a top notch USA based manufacturer. It’s more expensive, but we look at the big picture in our business. Since 65-80% of the concussive force is on the front hooves, we decided to manufacture the front patterned shoes in more sizes versus making front and hind shoes in only a few sizes.
We do have in our engineering plans hind pattern shoes, which we will offer in two different widths for each size we offer (000, 00, 0, and 1). Unlike many of our competitors who try and give you a “one size fits all” pattern for front and hind shoes, we found that this very rarely works out well. It takes more effort, time, research and funding to do it right, but that is just how we believe our equine business should be run. We also have in our engineering plans release for size 2, although any larger sizes will not likely be manufactured until after the hind patterns are completed.

We do not have the product offering release dates at this time, but please check back in with us and rest assured we will proudly make our announcement when they are ready.

**Can Happy HoofWear™ shoes be worn on the hind feet or just on the front?**

Happy HoofWear™ shoes currently are offered as a *front patterned shoe* and are designed to fit most horses’ front hooves. A majority of horses have hind feet that are a *different* shape than front feet. So, our shoes are not likely to work well on most hind feet or with horses that have front feet shaped like hind feet. Some farriers have reported using our shoes on the hind feet of the horses they shoe with success, but this is atypical. *For more information on the future of hind pattern horseshoes from Happy HoofWear™ check our website for updates.*

**Observation:** When you put the front pattern onto the hind foot shape, whether it actually is a hind foot or is a front foot that is just narrow and long, you could dress up the quarters to fit the shoe. However, when you cut back the shoe, you are actually cutting all of the way into the crease, which then weakens the shoe enough that it begins to distort and does not give sufficient support to the foot. It will gradually work the nails loose and two or three weeks into the shoeing period the shoe becomes loose.

**Another observation:** If you drop a shoe size so that you fit the quarters on the hind foot, now you have a length issue. Since you are not supporting the heel and/or you are setting the shoes so far back you have to really dub the toe. *This means you may have compromised both the hoof length and the hoof angle, or you may have compromised the support of the heel of the foot.*

**Since Happy HoofWear™ shoes are a front pattern shoe, does it make a difference if the horse is wearing metal or going barefoot on the hind?**

Because horses have *independent suspension on the* front versus hind hooves (although some gaited horses are an exception), horses will wear Happy HoofWear™ shoes on the front and can wear steel, aluminum or no shoe on the hind without any negative affect.

As farriers know, making sure you match size, style, weight and thickness for the left and right hooves is critical, although again there are always exceptions. There are times when farriers deliberately shoe with different shoe lengths, thicknesses, sizes for a left foot versus a right foot, but those instances typically involve special and unusual cases. Normally you want the shoe to be the same size, the same style, the same weight, the same thickness right down to the same amount of wear pattern at the break over point when you are talking left and right. **Bottom line: Happy HoofWear™ shoes can be worn in the front and whatever the farrier decides is best for the hind (to include going barefoot) will work without any negative affect or issue for the horse.**
Wear, Traction and Durability

How long can you leave on Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes before you have to trim the horse’s hoof? Is there anything different about your shoes because they are made of a non-metal material?

Here is what is different (in a good way) about Happy HoofWear™ shoes?

Do you get any resets with Happy HoofWear™ shoes?

How do Happy HoofWear™ shoes wear in grass, sand, concrete, chip and seal, pasture, arena, and roadway?

How is the traction with Happy HoofWear™ shoes? Do they slip on roadways or pavement like steel shoes do?

I like to ride in the winter. Can Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes be used with snow and ice on the ground?

Do Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes snowball like a metal shoe?

Can you use studs for additional traction and grip with Happy HoofWear™ shoes?

Will a horse ever pull a Happy HoofWear™ horseshoe?

How long can you leave on Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes before you have to trim the horse’s hoof? Is there anything different about your shoes because they are made of a non-metal material?

For a horse wearing Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes the typical interval between resets is 4 to 6 weeks. Regardless what type of shoe your horse wears, it is very important to shoe the horse at the right time to maintain hoof health. Here’s why: 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.

Here is what is different (in a good way) about Happy HoofWear™ shoes.

Leaving a Happy HoofWear™ shoe on too long does not cause bruising or corns nor does it damage the hoof wall at the heels like a steel shoe, but 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. So while the result is not as bad as leaving on a steel shoe too long, it is still not optimal. If you do find this happening – here is the solution: simply trim the foot and reset the shoe. Typically, by the time you see this effect, 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.

Your reset time might be reduced in the first few initial shoeing periods. With Happy HoofWear™ shoes you are likely to find that you will need to reduce your normal reset interval by several days to a couple of weeks. Why? Because Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes 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!

**Do you get any resets with Happy HoofWear™ shoes?**

Yes, in most cases. Typically, our shoes outlast a steel shoe 2 to 1 on the same horse in the same riding conditions. Why? Because our shoes are made of a lightweight but very durable specific type of polyurethane. Our engineers, manufacturer and farrier team members designed and formulated Happy HoofWear™ shoes so they would be made to last. As horse owners we know owning and caring for a horse is expensive, but we know too how very important shoes are to the horse’s hoof health in the long run. You can find more information on resets for Happy HoofWear™ shoes see our Farrier's Guide on Page 35.

**How do Happy HoofWear™ shoes wear in grass, sand, concrete, chip and seal, pasture, arena, and roadway?**

As a general rule, Happy HoofWear™ shoes will outlast a steel shoe almost 2 to 1 on the same horse and same riding conditions. A good value for farriers and owners alike!

**How is the traction with Happy HoofWear™ shoes?**

No shoe is slip proof. We can share with you that Happy HoofWear™ shoes have been tested on many different terrains over several years by many riders and horses. Happy HoofWear™ shoes are constructed of a special polyurethane material to offer safer and more secure riding with our 3 point traction design.

Happy HoofWear™ shoes provide traction that is *better than* that provided by steel shoes on pavement, concrete or roadways. Our shoes perform similar to metal shoes on wet grass.

Besides superb traction, Happy HoofWear™ shoes provide superior cushioning in all environments, allowing a horse to move out with confidence, rather than short striding to lessen the impact on the heels and sole of the foot. This results in the horse relaxing the back, shoulder, and hip muscles, greatly reducing the risk of injury due to poor footing. If, however, you want to use studs for additional security and grip, either 2 or 4 studs per shoe can be added. Please refer to our Farrier's Guide on Page 19 for additional information about the application of studs with Happy HoofWear™ shoes.

**I like to ride in the winter. Can Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes be used with snow and ice on the ground?**

Yes. Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes can be worn during the winter and used on snow and ice. Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes *minimize* the snowballing effect so prevalent with steel and aluminum shoes. Please note that just as snow will build up in a bare foot under certain conditions, it occasionally will with our shoes, too. You can use snowball pads, both rim and full, with Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes, using
the same method of application as with any other shoe.

To combat icy conditions, you may be interested in using studs with Happy HoofWear™ shoes. For more information on which studs work, please refer to our Farrier's Guide on Page 19.

**Do Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes snowball like a metal shoe?**

Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes can be worn during the snowy season and we can share with you that Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes minimize the snowballing effect so prevalent with steel and aluminum shoes. Please note that just as snow will build up in a bare foot under certain conditions, it occasionally will with our shoes, too. You can use snowball pads, both rim and full, with Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes, using the same method of application as with any other shoe.

To combat icy conditions, you may be interested in using studs with Happy HoofWear™ shoes. For more information on which studs work, please refer to our Farrier's Guide on Page 19.

**Can you use studs for additional traction and grip with Happy HoofWear™ shoes?**

Yes. Even though we designed our shoes to provide superb traction, you might still want some extra grip when riding in certain conditions or terrains. Studs can be used with Happy HoofWear™ shoes to further increase traction. Depending on the terrain and the amount of traction that you desire, 1 stud can be used in each heel, or, for additional traction, 4 studs per shoe can be used, placing 1 stud in each heel and 1 stud on either side of the toe. We have found that EasyCare Quick Studs will work well with our shoes. You may wish to find out more about EasyCare Quick Studs. Also please refer to our Farrier's Guide on Page 19.

**Will a horse ever pull a Happy HoofWear™ horseshoe?**

As you know – no shoe is pull proof. So yes, it is possible for a horse to pull a Happy HoofWear™ shoe, but no more so than with any other shoe, metal or non-metal. If a horse explodes with joy at being turned out for the first time in a week, the likelihood of yanking a shoe off goes way up. Also, like with any shoe, deep mud, rough ground, an unbalanced rider, pawing at the fence, etc., all contribute to the loss of a shoe sooner than any of us would like. While we would all like to be the first, no horseshoe manufacturer yet has figured out how to guarantee an owner that a horse will never pull a shoe off. (Remember: We are dealing with lovely, but lively animals!)

**Observation:** Here are 2 more advantages that a Happy HoofWear™ shoe gives you that a metal shoe cannot offer if a horse pulls a shoe:

- **COLOR!** UNLIKE a steel shoe, a bright orange or hot pink Happy HoofWear™ shoe is MUCH easier to find!
- Another plus in using Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes is that our shoes don’t become distorted or twisted like a steel shoe when pulled. Simply pull out the old nails and tack it back on.
Can Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes be used on flat feet and/or bruised soles?

Absolutely. Bruised soles can occur with any horse, but most commonly with flat footed horses. Solving this problem starts with the trimming process. Flat soles typically are thin, sensitive soles. Trimming the sole makes this problem worse, and yet with steel and aluminum shoes, your farrier must trim the sole to avoid “sole pinch” (This is where the hard, inside edge of the metal shoe touches the sole of the foot, thus creating pressure.) To avoid this, the sole must be trimmed into a dished configuration.

Here is why Happy HoofWear™ shoes are a plus over metal shoes: Happy HoofWear™ shoes are flexible and do not cause this pinching or pressure, even if the sole is left flat and untrimmed. Happy HoofWear™ shoes have a wide web to protect the sole, plus they allow the sole to be left much thicker, giving natural protection to the foot, just as has been documented in the feet of wild horses. Another benefit is that sole contact with the shoe spreads the “load” over a much larger portion of the hoof. The bar across the heels of the shoe also transfers weight to the frog and bars of the hoof, again, distributing the load over a much larger area. In essence, we are simulating how the bare foot of a wild horse is loaded. Physics dictates that as we INCREASE the weight bearing surface area of the foot, we DECREASE the number of pounds per square inch. This makes for a much more comfortable horse!
Can Happy HoofWear™ shoes be used on horses with arthritis?

Yes. The cushioning effect of our polyurethane shoes is particularly beneficial for sore and aching joints. Our shoes come with a toe clip which can easily be rasped into a broad rolled toe, making for a much easier break over, which again reduces stress to sore joints.

Observation: Some horses with advanced arthritis in the pastern joints gradually become significantly toed in. These horses tend to land heavily on the inside or medial hoof wall. What is so great about a Happy HoofWear™ shoe is its flexibility, but in some cases this flexibility becomes a limiting factor. When a horse repetitively lands on one wall first, the shoe gradually migrates, or is pushed, to the opposite side of the hoof. Your farrier can resolve or mitigate this effect by using a flat or wedge pad as this will stiffen the medial/lateral aspect of the shoe and thereby lessening this jamming effect. Over time, however, this will likely occur again.

Can Happy HoofWear™ shoes be used on a horse with navicular?

Yes. For many horses, Happy HoofWear™ shoes have been proven to be an effective part of their therapy for navicular. Happy HoofWear™ shoes are designed so that as the foot expands, the nail head pivots in the shoe, allowing full expansion of the heels, just as is if the horse were barefoot. Most navicular horses have an elongated, extended toe. Another benefit with Happy HoofWear™ shoe is they are very easy to rasp a rolled toe into the shoe, which decreases the stress on the deep flexor tendon and the navicular area during the break over phase making the horse more comfortable.

Can Happy HoofWear™ shoes be used on a foundered or a laminitic horse?

Yes. Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes are a very good choice for these types of problem feet. Our shoe is designed to rest directly on the sole of the foot, giving both good support to and protection of the sole. The bar transfers weight to the frog, thus helping to support and stabilize the coffin bone. Another benefit of using a Happy HoofWear™ shoe is that it is very easy to rasp a rolled toe into the shoe, thereby reducing the tearing and shearing forces placed on the toe area of the hoof wall during break over. The concussion absorbing properties of Happy HoofWear™ horseshoe cushions and comforts a very tender foot.

Observation: If the impact of nailing causes the horse too much pain, Happy HoofWear™ shoes can be applied with glue or screws. You can download our complete Farrier's Guide or just the sections that reference Applying with Screws on Page 16 or Applying with Glue on Page 20.

How do Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes affect the horse’s hoof angle?

HAPPY HOOFWEAR™ HORSESHOES PROVIDE A BENEFIT THAT METAL SHOES DO NOT.

Metal shoes erode the hoof wall with an average 2 degree loss of hoof angle, which is pretty consistent and routine, although there are always exceptions. When a horse moves, the hoof wall expands and contracts through the heels and quarters and the posterior portions of the hoof wall are rubbing against the hoof side of the horseshoe. Just go look at an old used metal shoe where the heels set and you can actual see and feel the erosion and wear marks.
Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes do not erode the hoof wall and the foot will maintain the same angle for the duration of the shoeing period. Both our unique design and material allow the hoof wall to be protected and supported with no damage or degradation, in spite of heavy compression of the latter portions of the quarters and the heels while the horse is in motion.

Seeing is believing - measure the hoof using a hoof gauge. You will find that during a routine 4 or 6 week shoeing cycle, when using Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes, the foot will maintain the same angle for the duration of the shoeing period. You may be wondering “why this is so important?” Keeping the same angle allows a horse to consistently take the same length of stride and flight pattern throughout the shoeing period. The more athletic a horse is, and the higher the level of training that the horse has, the more consistency of motion comes into play. However, regardless of the level of horse or rider, Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes can play a vital role in improvement for both.

**Can Happy HoofWear™ be used in place of a bar shoe?**

Happy HoofWear™ is an excellent alternative to a straight bar shoe. It gives the same benefits as the traditional steel or aluminum straight bar shoe as well as providing increased shock absorption, increased heel expansion, and increased blood flow. Happy HoofWear™ shoes mimic the effects of a bare foot in spite of being a "bar shoe".

**Observation:** Happy HoofWear™ shoes would **not** be an appropriate choice if a horse requires an eggbar shoe. One of the great features of Happy HoofWear™ is the flexibility provided. However, if you extend a Happy HoofWear™ shoe behind the foot just as you would an eggbar shoe, that flexibility may become an issue. When weight is placed upon the extended heel of the shoe it simply bends, or flexes, upwards and does not support the pastern and fetlock joints as needed in an eggbar situation. Likewise, if the horse requires the support of a trailer for the hind foot, then our shoes are not the best option for the horse.

**Would Happy HoofWear™ shoes help a horse with ringbone?**

Yes. Happy HoofWear™ shoes will make horses with either high or low ringbone more comfortable. The cushioning effect of our shoes will reduce impact to an already stressed joint and the toe can be rolled to decrease articulation and the associated pain of an arthritic joint. Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes are also designed to increase blood flow within the foot and to increase expansion/contraction of the foot thereby opening up and then maintaining a healthy open heel.

**Do Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes provide any therapeutic benefit for horses with shelly walls?**

Yes. When a horse has weak, thin, and shelly walls, generally this is accompanied by flat feet and/or long toes with under run heels. A big contributing factor to this condition is poor blood circulation. Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes help in two ways:

1. By increasing blood flow to the foot through greater expansion/contraction and therefore, better nutrition to the hoof capsule, and

2. By protecting the heels and allowing them to grow out.

Revised Date: 3/3/14
Can Happy HoofWear™ shoes be used with a horse with club feet?

Yes. A club foot exists when, viewed in profile from the side, the hoof has a steeper angle than the pastern. Club feet typically have contracted heels and sometimes are tender in the toe area. Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes help both of these conditions plus you can significantly rocker the toe to reduce stress on the deep flexor tendon.

Can Happy HoofWear™ shoes benefit horses with sidebone?

Yes. Sidebone is partial or complete calcification of one or both lateral cartilages. Essentially, it is another form of arthritis, and is aggravated by concussion. Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes will reduce the concussion and increase the blood flow resulting in a much more comfortable horse.

Can Happy HoofWear™ shoes simulate a Natural Balance® Horseshoe?

Yes. A Happy HoofWear™ shoe can be nipped or rasped into whatever configuration the farrier chooses. As well as rocker toes, rolled toes, and squared toes, your farrier can nip off the outside of the toe of the shoe, and then rasp off the surface to get the desired break over point, thus duplicating the Natural Balance® horseshoe.
**Riding and Showing**

**TRAIL RIDERS**—We are often asked "how do Happy HoofWear™ shoes perform on the trails?"

**BARREL RACERS**—Do Happy HoofWear™ shoes perform well for barrel racers?

**Can Happy HoofWear™ shoes be used on Driving Horses?**

**Can Happy HoofWear™ shoes be used on Gaited Horses and does it alter their gait?**

**Is Happy HoofWear™ a good shoe for Three Day Eventing?**

**Can Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes be worn in the show ring?**

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**TRAIL RIDERS—We are often asked "how do Happy HoofWear™ shoes perform on the trails?"**

**TRACTION/SAFETY:** Trail Riders have some unique challenges as they must navigate different types of terrain. Some horses have to walk on trails with rocks and stones, and others have to deal with sand, mud, slate and even chip and seal roadways. Regardless of the terrain, Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes are an excellent choice. Our 3 point traction tread design on the bottom of our shoes assists riders and horses by giving them a more secure foundation between the horse's hoof and the ground. For those who want extra traction or grip, studs can be used as well. Please refer to our Farrier's Guide on Page 19 for more information on using studs.

**WEAR/DURABILITY:** Another challenge Trail Riders face is the wear and tear on the horses’ shoes. Happy HoofWear™ shoes deliver here too as our shoes will typically outlast a steel shoe 2 to 1 on any terrain. We have a competitive trail rider who has logged 350 miles on our shoes and our Amish customers report they get on average between 150 - 200 miles of wear on Happy HoofWear™ shoes riding on the roadways, pavement and chip and seal.

**BARREL RACERS—Do Happy HoofWear™ shoes perform well for barrel racers?**

Yes. Barrel racers are known for their love style, color and, of course, speed. Our Happy HoofWear™ colored horseshoes certainly fit the bill for vibrant hoof wear. Color is undeniably one of the 1st reasons our barrel racing customers notice our shoes. However, *once they discover the benefits* of our unique design and cushioning material, they appreciate the comfort they are providing to their horses during this athletic discipline. Ms. Florida Teen Rodeo Queen 2013, Jordan Boyd, is a Happy HoofWear™ believer and she competes successfully in both 1D Barrel Racing as well as Rodeo events. Other barrel racers of all levels have shared with us their accomplishments in barrel racing while stepping it up a notch in the bling department... a win for owner and equine both.

**Can Happy HoofWear™ shoes be used on Driving Horses?**

Yes. Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes are an excellent choice for buggy and carriage horses, because they are a long lasting and durable shoe without the need of borium for traction. By eliminating the use of borium, which grabs the road surface, much of the rotational torque exerted on joints is eliminated and damage to
the asphalt roads is also greatly reduced. Add to this the health benefit that the concussion of impact is absorbed by the shoe rather than being passed on to the joints, tendons, and ligaments of the leg, and the choice of using Happy HoofWear™ becomes a very wise decision.

**Can Happy HoofWear™ shoes be used on Gaited Horses and does it alter their gait?**

If your horse will gait barefooted or in regular keg shoes, then they will gait like they normally do when wearing Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes. If, however, your horse requires weighted shoes in order to gait properly, Happy HoofWear™ shoes will not be able to duplicate that effect as our shoes are an even weighted shoe similar in weight to an aluminum shoe.

**Observation: Missouri Fox Trotters** Some gaited horses slide their feet into the ground rather than placing the foot onto the ground heel first. This is particularly true of Missouri Fox Trotters (in front) and Tennessee Walkers (behind). Happy HoofWear™ shoes are a *front patterned shoe*, so Tennessee Walkers can still wear our shoes in the *front only*.

When trail riders use steel shoes and borium on these horses, there is too much grab for the feet to slide into the ground, so their gait often becomes quite rough. Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes have very good traction, and because of this feature you could find that the traction interferes with the motion for a Missouri Fox Trotter.

**Is Happy HoofWear™ a good shoe for Three Day Eventing?**

For entry level event horses, Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes are a great choice due to their concussion absorbing properties and the traction that they consistently provide. However, for more advanced horses requiring the use of, and frequent changing of, screw-in studs, Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes would not be the best option. In this case, the flexibility of the shoes becomes a negative factor, because in higher level eventing, you will need to increase the size of the studs, and the torque on these studs becomes so great that they simply pull out of the shoe. **Small screw-in studs can be, and are, used effectively with Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes.** Please refer to our Farrier's Guide on Page 19 for more information on using studs.

**Can Happy HoofWear™ horseshoes be worn in the show ring?**

Yes. Happy HoofWear™ shoes can be worn by horses in the show ring. You can choose a more classic and subdued look (while still providing the health benefits and comfort to the horse) if you choose our Basic Black or Classic Clear shoe. If you go with one of our eight vibrant colors, you can use a hoof black product and apply it to any of the Happy HoofWear™ shoes. (*If hoof black polish is used we are not aware of any successful method to remove it, so once it is on, it is on for the duration.)

**Observation:** Happy HoofWear™ shoes are considered a bar shoe. A few breed classes, such as Friesians and Saddlebreds, prohibit the use of all bar shoes of any kind. Happy HoofWear™ shoes are *a legal bar shoe* for Arabian and Morgan classes, because the bar does NOT extend down and into the ground surface. If you have any doubt, please check the current rule book for your particular class.
Questions Regarding your Order

How do you ship? Do you have in-store pick up options, too?

What method of payment do you accept for orders?

What if there is an issue with my order?

Can I exchange shoes or return them?

If you purchased Happy HoofWear™ shoes through one of our suppliers, the supplier's return policies are applicable.

How do you ship? Do you have in-store pick up options, too?

Shipping is calculated using standard USPS Priority Mail (2 to 3 days) or USPS Express Mail (1 or 2 days) Flat Rate envelopes and boxes. Each size flat rate box has a minimum and maximum number of horseshoes that will fit and you are charged according to the flat rate box or envelope that is appropriate for your order. Shipments to Canada or any other International destination is currently limited to USPS Priority Mail International (6-12 days).

Customers who wish to pick up their order in person may do so at our office located at 1670 Stickney Point, Sarasota, Florida. When checking out be sure to click the “pick up” option. There is no shipping charge when a customer picks up their order at our store.

When placing an order on line, please double check the address where you would like your order shipped to ensure we have the correct shipping address, especially if it is different than the billing address. PLEASE NOTE: If you refuse a shipment, you are still responsible for shipping costs.

In most cases, your product will ship the next business day after your order is received. We do not ship on holidays or on the weekends, however.

If you want to track your order, you are provided a tracking number for your Priority Shipping package. Go to the postal service tracking website and enter your tracking number: https://tools.usps.com/go/TrackConfirmAction!input.action and you will learn the status of your order.

What method of payment do you accept for orders?

We accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover. With prior approval, we will accept payment by check. However, your order will not be shipped to you until your check is received and the funds have cleared our bank. There will be a $20 service fee for any returned checks. Credit Card Payments are made in U.S. funds only and are processed by PayPal Pro. We do not store or record your card information on our servers. We take security seriously and have partnered with PayPal to provide automatic fraud screening and complete PCI compliance.

Revised Date: 3/3/14
What if there is an issue with my order?

Please contact us, upon receipt of your order, if there is any issue (shortage, wrong product, etc.). We ask that you review your invoice so that you can provide us with invoice/order number. This allows us to help you expeditiously. We hate mistakes, but if we made one, you have our promise that we will make it right as quickly as we possibly can. You can track your order online, but if for some reason you do not receive your order in a timely manner and want to contact us, we are here to help.

You can post your concern regarding your order on our website at: http://www.happyhoofwear.com/content/66-contact-us, or call 941-343-7087.

Can I exchange shoes or return them?

You may exchange or return any unused, original condition shoes for another size or color (return shipping and handling not included). Any exchange or return must be made within 60 days.

Any request for exchange or return must have a return merchandise number which is provided by Happy HoofWear™. Happy HoofWear™ will only accept returns of product purchased directly through our website. Your return will be credited in the same manner as the payment was originally made. You will be notified via email when your return is processed and credit issued.

To request a return authorization go to our website: www.happyhoofwear.com and sign in with your user name and password. (If you have forgotten your password, simply click "Forgot Your Password" at the sign in screen and a new one will be issued.)

- Access the "Orders History" section of your account.
- Select the order from which you want to exchange or return an item.
- Select the product(s) that you want to exchange or return by checking the box next to item(s).
- Once the form is complete, click on "Make an RMA slip", and Happy HoofWear™ will respond to your request.

If you have any questions you can email us at webinfo@happyhoofwear.com or call us at 941-343-7087.

If you purchased Happy HoofWear™ shoes through one of our suppliers, the supplier’s return policies are applicable. Please contact that supplier for your return. If you are not able to get a resolution with the original retailer, contact Happy HoofWear™ for assistance as we are always here and happy to assist you. The limit of liability is the price you paid for the shoes, and no consequential, special, indirect, direct or incidental damages are covered. Thanks for understanding.