

Star Wheel Hackamore Bitless - Fitting Instructions

The Star Wheel Hackamore is highly adjustable, and allows many variations in attachment, for complete customizing to your horse. Here are some general guidelines to get you started – use your own horse’s input to help fine tune the right settings for you!



Standard Fitting: Attach the rein and headstall attachments directly opposite each other; attach the noseband and chin strap directly opposite each other, per example.

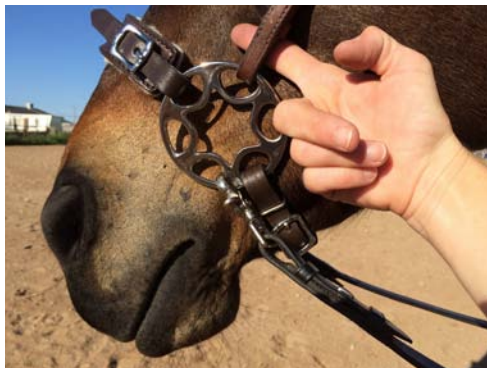
A: For the **standard rein attachment**, attach the reins to wheel slot A (photo below). This creates a very gentle leverage effect by turning the wheel slightly with rein pressure.

B: For the **sidepull rein attachment**, attach the reins to wheel slot B. Rein pressure then creates a simple direct sidepull action—but be careful the metal ring does not get pulled up the face, or rub the cheek bone!

For strong, heavy, or naughty horses, try the **Chain Curb Strap** (below right) instead of the leather chin strap. Make sure to keep the chain **centered** on the bones under the chin (adjust from both sides), and keep it snug—which prevents rubbing or twisting.



Your headstall sidepieces will need to be shorter than with a standard bit (since the Star Wheel sits higher). The “Star” should be nicely positioned in that open spot on the horse’s face right in front of the cheek bones. Adjust the nose strap and the chin strap to be **very snug**, but not too tight; the horse should be able to chew. To fit, simply remember “1-1-2”: The metal should be no higher than **1 finger** from the cheek bone. You should be able to fit **1 finger** under the Nose Strap, and **2 fingers** under the chin strap.



The Star Wheel Hackamore can be greatly adjusted for size and position by shortening or lengthening both the noseband and the chin strap. By punching holes and trimming excess leather ends, this generous design can quite successfully fit nearly any size. Keep the noseband fairly **high** on the nose and not too low down (there are fragile nasal bones just above the muzzle area). You can also experiment with placing the various straps around the Star Wheel (see photo left); there are no rules, only suggestions! Choose whatever positions fit your horse best. Just remember, a snug fit keeps it stable on the head.

NOTE: It is VERY important to keep the Star straps **snug**, and NOT loose. It might seem like loose is “kinder,” but you risk rubbing – or worse, the entire metal piece can flip over with rein pressure. Ow!

