

Zilco Flower Hackamore Bitless - Fitting Instructions

The Zilco Flower 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!

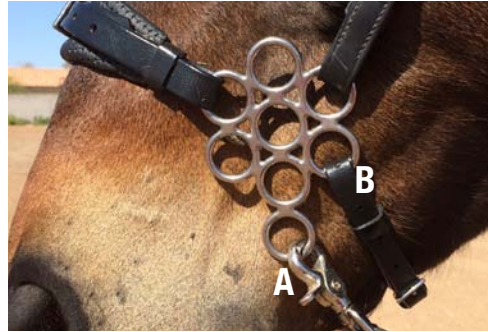


Standard Fitting: Leave **one circle open** between the nose strap, rein strap, and headstall attachment (photos left and below). Chin strap goes between the rein and headstall.

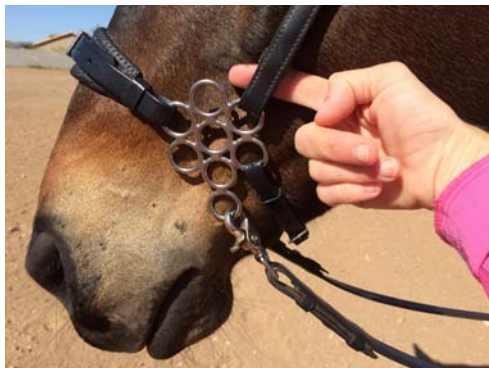
A: For the **standard rein attachment**, attach the reins to the longer circle rings (A). This creates a very gentle leverage effect by turning the wheel slightly with rein pressure.

B: For a **sidepull rein attachment**, attach the reins to circle B (move the chin strap forward, or clip rein behind chin strap). 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!

The Zilco synthetic chin strap will work great on most horses. For strong, heavy, or naughty horses, try the **Chain Curb Strap** (below right). Make sure to keep the chain **centered** on the bones under the chin (adjust from both sides), and keep it snug.



Your headstall sidepieces will need to be shorter than with a standard bit (since the Flower sits higher). The “Flower” 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.



A snap on nylon lunging strap works for lunging and in hand groundwork!!

The Zilco Flower Hackamore can be greatly adjusted for size and position by shortening or lengthening both the noseband and the chin strap. This design can quite successfully fit a small-headed horse to a large draft cross. 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 flower ring; there are no rules, only suggestions! Just remember, a snug fit keeps it stable on the head.

NOTE: It is VERY important to keep the Zilco 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!

