



## Stage 8

### The Guy in the Glass by Dale Wimbrow © 1934

*When you get what you want in your struggle for self,  
And the world makes you King for a day,  
Then go to the mirror and look at yourself,  
And see what that guy has to say.*

*For it isn't your Father, or Mother, or Wife,  
Who judgment upon you must pass.  
The feller whose verdict counts most in your life  
Is the guy staring back from the glass.*

*He's the feller to please, never mind all the rest,  
For he's with you clear up to the end,*

*And you've passed your most dangerous, difficult test  
If the guy in the glass is your friend.*

*You may be like Jack Horner and "chisel" a plum,  
And think you're a wonderful guy,  
But the man in the glass says you're only a bum  
If you can't look him straight in the eye.*

*You can fool the whole world down the pathway of years,  
And get pats on the back as you pass,  
But your final reward will be heartaches and tears  
If you've cheated the guy in the glass.*

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Pass/Resubmit:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# FINESSE

## Tools: Snaffle Bridle, Saddle, 45' Line, Kite String

## Using the snaffle bridle with contact and soft feel

## F1. SHOW A SLOW, MEDIUM, AND FAST WALK.

## STAGE 8:

- Must show a distinct difference in the three speeds of the gait.
- Vertical flexion is ideal, however a soft feel without a lot of flexion will pass at this level.

## PRE STAGE 8:

- No contact on the reins, therefore no soft feel.
- Resistance such as open mouth, tossing head, pulling on the reins.
- Not showing enough difference between each of the speeds. The slow must be really slow, the fast must be as fast as possible.
- Rider position incorrect, that is elbows are relaxed and straight rather than bent and lifting, and back is slouched rather than very straight.

## RESULT:

STAGE 8 PASS PLEASE RESUBMIT

# FINESSE

*CONTINUED*

## F2. SHOW A SLOW, MEDIUM AND FAST TROT.

## STAGE 8:

- Must show a distinct difference in the three speeds of gait.
- Vertical flexion is ideal, however a soft feel without a lot of flexion will pass at this level.

## PRE STAGE 8:

- No contact on the reins, therefore no soft feel.
- Resistance such as open mouth, tossing head, pulling on the reins.
- Not showing enough difference between each of the speeds. The slow must be really slow, the fast must be as fast as possible.
- Horse breaks gait more than once (a minor one time break may still constitute a pass).
- Rider position incorrect, that is elbows are relaxed and straight rather than bent and lifting, and back is slouched rather than very straight.

## RESULT:

STAGE 8 PASS        PLEASE RESUBMIT

# FINESSE

*CONTINUED*

### **F3. SHOW A SLOW, MEDIUM, AND FAST CANTER.**

## STAGE 8:

- Must show a distinct difference in the three speeds of the gait.
- Vertical flexion is ideal, however a soft feel without a lot of flexion will pass at this level.

## PRE STAGE 8:

- No contact on the reins, therefore no soft feel.
- Resistance such as open mouth, tossing head, pulling on the reins.
- Not showing enough difference between each of the speeds. The slow must be really slow, the fast must be as fast as possible.
- Rider position incorrect, that is elbows are relaxed and straight rather than bent and lifting, and back is slouched rather than very straight.

## RESULT:

STAGE 8 PASS        PLEASE RESUBMIT

# FINESSE

*CONTINUED*

#### **F4. COME DOWN TO A GRACEFUL HALT AND BACKUP.**

## STAGE 8:

- Must be graceful, not abrupt.
- Horse maintains soft feel into and throughout the back up.
- Rider position maintained, seat deep in the saddle, hands not dropped nor pulling on the reins. Should be almost invisible.
- Straight.

## PRE STAGE 8:

- Transition is abrupt, horse's head flies up.
- Mouth opens in resistance.
- Soft feel not maintained due to too much pressure required through reins to stop horse.
- Horse “dives” forward onto forehand pulling rider forward out of seat.
- Crooked halt and back up.

## RESULT:

STAGE 8 PASS         PLEASE RESUBMIT

## F5. DROP REINS AND STAND STILL.

## STAGE 8:

- Proves impulsion, horse can stand still.
- Reins are completely dropped.

## PRE STAGE 8:

- Horse cannot / does not stand still (impulsive).
- Reins are not completely dropped, still holding horse back a little. (Note: if reins are loose and horse obviously standing still of his own responsibility, could be just a technical error on rider's part and therefore may still be passed.)

## RESULT:

STAGE 8 PASS      PLEASE RESUBMIT

# FINESSE

*CONTINUED*

## F6. OBTAIN A SOFT FEEL.

## STAGE 8:

- Student goes through 7 steps to obtain the soft feel.
- Student grows tall in saddle, sits straight and to attention.
- Horse feels for student through the steps and gives vertically.
- Mouth is quiet, little or no movement.
- Horse stands still.
- Soft feel is evident, horse not pushing against bit.

## PRE STAGE 8:

- Reins taken up too quickly. 7 steps not evident.
- Horse does not feel for student, pushes nose out or is non-responsive.
- Horse champs on the bit repeatedly, tosses head, takes more than three seconds to find comfortable position.
- Horse moves feet, does not stand still, backs up.
- No soft feel, horse leaning or pushing against bit.

## RESULT:

**STAGE 8 PASS**      **PLEASE RESUBMIT**

# FINESSE

*CONTINUED*

## **F7. MOVE YOUR HORSE'S RIGHT FRONT LEG AND THEN LEFT HIND LEG.**

## STAGE 8:

- Each leg is isolated in turn, for one step.
- Rider's reins are very short.
- Direct rein used for front foot.
- Indirect rein used for hind foot.
- Student focuses ahead, does not look at horse.

## PRE STAGE 8:

- Horse moves more than one foot at a time, shuffles around.
- Rider's reins are too long, loses contact with horse's mouth.
- Incorrect rein positions.
- Student looking down.

## RESULT:

STAGE 8 PASS        PLEASE RESUBMIT

## **F8. ROCK HIM BACKWARDS AND FORWARDS AND SIDE TO SIDE.**

## STAGE 8:

- Horse rocks body weight but does not take any steps.
- Short reins, concentrated position. Rider sitting upright.

## PRE STAGE 8:

- Horse takes steps while rocking.
- Reins too long, contact becomes intermittent.

## RESULT:

STAGE 8 PASS        PLEASE RESUBMIT

# FINESSE

*CONTINUED*

## **F9. RIDE FROM BACK UP INTO A CANTER AND BACK DOWN TO A BACK UP THREE TIMES: CANTER YO-YO.**

## STAGE 8:

- Horse goes from back up directly into a canter, no walk or trot steps.
- Reins are in concentrated position throughout exercise.
- Transition to back up is smooth, one or two trot or walk steps permissible.
- Straight lines.
- Vertical flexion an advantage but not essential for a pass.
- Demonstrate using both lead

## PRE STAGE 8:

- Horse does not go straight into the canter, shows walk and trot steps first. Not responsive enough.
- Reins alternate between casual and concentrated.
- Resistance in downward transition; horse opens mouth more than once, pulls against bit, pulls student out of seat.
- Student leans forward when making transition to back up.
- Student looking down at horse instead of maintaining long focus.
- Crooked line, horse drifting to left or right.

## RESULT:

STAGE 8 PASS        PLEASE RESUBMIT

# FINESSE

*CONTINUED*

**F10. RIDE A SERPENTINE AT THE  
CANTER SHOWING 3 SIMPLE  
CHANGES THROUGH THE WALK.**

## STAGE 8:

- Smooth shaped serpentine, equal curves.
- Horse transitions directly from canter to walk and to canter again.
- Correct leads are taken.
- Concentrated rein position.
- Vertical flexion an advantage but not essential for a pass.

## PRE STAGE 8:

- Uneven serpentine, small and large curves rather than equal dimensions = accuracy problem.
- Horse trots into walk transition and/or into canter transition.
- Incorrect leads.
- Reins too long, too loose.
- Horse's head too high, tossing, resistant, open mouth.

## RESULT:

STAGE 8 PASS       PLEASE RESUBMIT

# FINESSE

## CONTINUED

**F11. PICK UP A RIGHT LEAD.  
DEMONSTRATE A COUNTER CANTER  
TO THE LEFT (MAINTAIN RIGHT  
LEAD) ON A FULL CIRCLE.**

## STAGE 8:

- Right lead can be taken from the halt, walk, or trot.
- Counter canter maintained throughout a full circle. Circle may be fairly large (approx 60' / 20m diameter)
- Student's dynamics are correct, they are “riding” on the right lead position (right shoulder forward, etc), focus.

## PRE STAGE 8:

- Cannot pick up right lead on first try.
- Canter gait not maintained during counter canter, breaks into a trot.
- Student dynamics are incorrect: left shoulder forward.
- Full circle not demonstrated.
- Reins too long, horse strung out and not “collected” enough (complete vertical flexion not essential).

## RESULT:

STAGE 8 PASS       PLEASE RESUBMIT

# FINESSE

*CONTINUED*

**F12. HAUNCHES IN - AT THE CANTER, CAUSE YOUR HORSE'S HINDQUARTERS TO COME IN OFF THE TRACK WHILE THE FOREHAND TRAVELS STRAIGHT.**

## STAGE 8:

- Front end travels straight ahead and not at an angle.
- Hindquarters come in slightly, does not need to be exaggerated.
- Concentrated reins, slight to full vertical flexion.
- Student position is straight in the upper body and hand - rein position, legs controlling hindquarters.
- Straight ahead focus.
- Correct lead chosen for the bend: left lead for hindquarters coming in left, right for right.
- Show Haunches In – in both directions

## PRE STAGE 8:

- Front end travels on a diagonal angle instead of straight (therefore no bend in the horse's body).
- Hindquarters do not come in off the track.
- Reins too long, no vertical flexion at all.
- Student twists body, uses indirect rein to control shoulder instead of riding straight.
- Student is looking at horse.

## RESULT:

STAGE 8 PASS         PLEASE RESUBMIT

# FINESSE

*CONTINUED*

**F13. TROT YOUR HORSE IN A FIGURE OF EIGHT SHOWING TWO CHANGES OF DIAGONAL.**

## STAGE 8:

- Figure of 8 is even in shape.
- Correct diagonals displayed: left hind for going left, right for right.
- Diagonal change is smoothly executed, two bounces only.
- Student does not look down to check diagonal.
- Concentrated reins.

## PRE STAGE 8:

- Figure of 8 is untidy, large and small loops instead of being even.
- Incorrect diagonals selected.
- Diagonal change is rough, needs more than two bounces.
- Incorrect diagonal change, diagonal not changed.
- Student looks down to check or select diagonal.
- Casual rein or loose concentrated rein position.

## RESULT:

STAGE 8 PASS      PLEASE RESUBMIT

# FINESSE

*CONTINUED*

**F14. TROT YOUR HORSE  
DIAGONALLY SIDEWAYS ACROSS A  
SPACE OF AT LEAST 25 FEET.**

## STAGE 8:

- Horse moves diagonally, horse must be straight on the diagonal.
- Head and neck are straight or bent in the direction of travel.
- Student is focusing on a diagonal path.
- Slight or full vertical flexion; concentrated reins.
- Rhythm and soft feel maintained.
- Must be shown to the right and to the left.

## PRE STAGE 8:

- Not enough diagonal movement shown, horses hip is behind.
- Horse's head and neck are bent away from direction of travel, more like counter arc.
- Student looking down.
- No flexion, reins too long.
- Horse takes short, tight steps rather than maintaining flow and rhythm of stride as before.
- Soft feel lost, resistance, open mouth, etc.

## RESULT:

STAGE 8 PASS      PLEASE RESUBMIT

# FINESSE

*CONTINUED*

**F15. CANTER YOUR HORSE  
DIAGONALLY SIDEWAYS, ON THE  
LEFT LEAD, ACROSS A DISTANCE OF  
AT LEAST 25 FEET.**

## STAGE 8:

- Horse moves diagonally, not less than 30 degree angle.
- Head and neck are straight or bent in the direction of travel.
- Student is focusing on a diagonal path.
- Slight or full vertical flexion; concentrated reins.
- Rhythm and soft feel maintained.
- Enough distance covered to show task proficiency.

## PRE STAGE 8:

- Not enough diagonal movement shown, too straight.
- Horse's head and neck are bent away from direction of travel, more like counter arc.
- Student looking down.
- No flexion, reins too long.
- Horse takes short, tight steps rather than maintaining flow and rhythm of stride as before.
- Soft feel lost, resistance, open mouth, etc.
- Not enough distance shown to judge task efficiency.

## RESULT:

STAGE 8 PASS PLEASE RESUBMIT

# FINESSE

*CONTINUED*

**F16. SHOW A FLYING CHANGE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, CANTER DIAGONALLY SIDEWAYS TO THE RIGHT AND THEN SHOW ANOTHER FLYING CHANGE FROM RIGHT TO LEFT.**

## STAGE 8:

- Flying change cleanly executed.
- Head and neck are steady, no resistance (mild tail swish will pass, but no more).
- Student uses correct dynamics, pushes the change.
- Dynamics are refined, not exaggerated. Concentrated rein position.
- Both changes are equally good, to left and right.

## PRE STAGE 8:

- Flying changes not clean. Horse is late behind or disunites.
- Horse shows resistance through change; throws head, opens mouth, swishes tail.
- Incorrect riding dynamics, leans into change, direct rein lower than supporting rein.
- Changes are not equally good to left and right.

## RESULT:

STAGE 8 PASS      PLEASE RESUBMIT

# FINESSE

*CONTINUED*

## **F17. BRING YOUR HORSE GRACEFULLY DOWN TO A BACK UP.**

## STAGE 8:

- Graceful transition, soft feel maintained.
- Back up is willing, smooth flow to steps.
- No resistance.
- Student focusing ahead, using correct dynamics: sitting straight, elbows bent, slight lift to reins.
- Straightness maintained.
- One or two walk and trot steps will pass.

## PRE STAGE 8:

- Difficult transition, horse impulsive.
- Resistance; open mouth, pulling against bit.
- Student looking down, incorrect dynamics: leaning forward, seat comes out of saddle, straight elbows.
- Crooked transition and back up.
- Too many forward steps between canter and back up (three steps or more in walk and trot).

## RESULT:

STAGE 8 PASS        PLEASE RESUBMIT

# FINESSE

*CONTINUED*

## USING THE 45' LINE

**F18. DRAG A LOG OR TIRE, ETC.  
WHILE RIDING YOUR HORSE. DRAG IT  
FORWARDS FOR 30 FEET THEN TURN  
AND FACE IT.**

## STAGE 8:

- Horse is confident.
- Student uses saddle horn correctly, min two wraps around horn (if no horn, student uses “power position” with bent elbow to pull rope).
- Student focuses ahead while dragging.

## PRE STAGE 8:

- Horse spooks, is scared, not confident.
- Student looks behind as they drag.
- No power position used, elbow is straight putting shoulder at risk.
- Rope tied onto horn, rest of rope crossed or tangled into dallies.

## RESULT:

STAGE 8 PASS PLEASE RESUBMIT

## **F19. DRAG IT WHILE BACKING YOUR HORSE FOR ANOTHER 15 FEET.**

## STAGE 8:

- Horse backs confidently and without resistance.
- Straight line.

## PRE STAGE 8:

- Horse scared of object while backing.
- Resistance: open mouth, trying to escape sideways.
- Crooked back up.

## RESULT:

STAGE 8 PASS        PLEASE RESUBMIT

# FINESSE

*CONTINUED*

**F20. DISMOUNT YOUR HORSE AND ASK HIM TO BACK UP WITH YOUR PARTNERSHIP REINS, CAUSE HIM TO DRAG THE OBJECT A LITTLE BACKWARDS AND HOLD IT WHILE YOU GO AND PET THE OBJECT.**

## STAGE 8:

- Student backs horse up with lead rope part of Horseman's Reins.
- Horse "works" the rope, maintaining tension and pulling object as you ask.
- Confident.
- If no saddle horn, student asks horse to back up and walks slowly with horse dragging object by hand.

## PRE STAGE 8:

- Horse will not maintain tension in the line.
- Horse gets scared.
- Student uses reins instead of lead rope to back horse up.

## RESULT:

STAGE 8 PASS         PLEASE RESUBMIT

**F21. BRING HIM FORWARD A LITTLE WHILE YOU ARE AT THE OBJECT AND UNTIE THE 45' LINE.**

## STAGE 8:

- Horse comes forward willingly, without hesitation, when asked.
- Stands patiently while you untie the line.

## PRE STAGE 8:

- Horse reluctant to come forward, resists.

## RESULT:

STAGE 8 PASS        PLEASE RESUBMIT

# FINESSE

*CONTINUED*

## **F22. MOUNT YOUR HORSE AND GATHER UP YOUR ROPE.**

## STAGE 8:

- Horse stands still.
- Correct mounting dynamics shown.
- Coils rope smoothly.

## PRE STAGE 8:

- Horse does not stand still, afraid or disturbed by rope, etc.
- Incorrect mounting dynamics, especially holding pommel/horn and cantle while mounting; roughness, etc.
- Coils rope incorrectly, does not flip rope as they coil to prevent twists and figure eights.

## RESULT:

STAGE 8 PASS       PLEASE RESUBMIT

# FINESSE

*CONTINUED*

## USING A 9' LENGTH OF KITE STRING:

F23. TAKE YOUR BRIDLE OFF WHILE MOUNTED AND PLACE THE KITE STRING IN YOUR HORSE'S MOUTH. WALK, TROT, AND CANTER A CIRCLE, THEN COME DOWN TO A BACK UP.

## STAGE 8:

- Horse releases bit and bridle calmly, student waits for horse to release bit when lowering bridle.
- Horse takes string without resistance.
- Student waits for horse to accept feel of string before proceeding.
- Smooth transitions up and down to back up.
- No resistance.
- Student uses correct dynamics, that is, direct and supporting reins as necessary.

## PRE STAGE 8:

- Student does not wait for horse to release bit, pulls it out of the mouth.
- Horse resists string going into mouth.
- Transitions difficult or impulsive.
- Student does not wait for acceptance of the string before walking out.
- Resistance: chomping at the string, open mouth, horse bites at string and breaks it.
- Incorrect dynamics: direct rein is lower than outside (supporting) rein.

## RESULT:

STAGE 8 PASS       PLEASE RESUBMIT

# FINESSE

*CONTINUED*

**F24. DISMOUNT, RUB YOUR HORSE ON THE HEAD, THEN TURN AND LEAVE WITH YOUR HORSE FOLLOWING YOU FREELY.**

## STAGE 8:

- Correct dismounting dynamics.
- Horse follows closely.

## PRE STAGE 8:

- Incorrect dismounting dynamics: does not hold mane, stirrup dropped from foot, focus is not on horse's eye.
- Horse does not follow or is more than four feet away from student, reluctant, etc.

## RESULT:

STAGE 8 PASS        PLEASE RESUBMIT

#### OVERALL COMMENTS:

## ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

- Please video the tasks in order and avoid editing.
- Enclose task sheet with your choice of either a DVD or Computer Stick and mail to the office. Please include a stamped self-addressed envelope for return of assessment sheet and video. You may also provide a YouTube submission via email, however, please make sure to include your task sheet as an attachment and email to [info@thehorseranch.com](mailto:info@thehorseranch.com).
- Assessment cost is \$3 per taped minute plus GST. Please make cheques payable to: The 2005 Horse Ranch Inc., contact The Horse Ranch directly for Credit Card payment, or E-transfer to: [glenn@thehorseranch.com](mailto:glenn@thehorseranch.com)

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