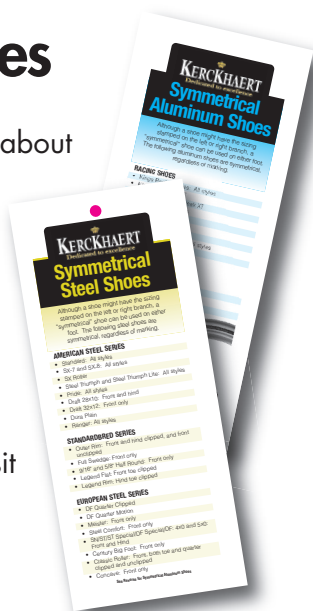


## Kerckhaert Symmetrical Shoes

We regularly encounter questions about which Kerckhaert European shoes are symmetrical versus left/right. This is especially the case with the European styles that are symmetrical but marked left and right. We have developed a chart that lists Kerckhaert's symmetrical shoes. Visit [farrierproducts.com/symmetrical](http://farrierproducts.com/symmetrical) to download the lists.



## Liberty 5 City and 5 Slim Now with Notched Head Smart Guide Design

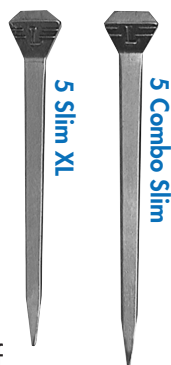
The Liberty 5 City and 5 Slim are now being manufactured with a notched head, "Smart Guide" design. This new feature will help with the location of the front of the nail while shoeing.

## JUST A REMINDER

### Liberty 5 Slim XL and 5 Combo Slim

#### Longer Length for Better Nailing

These nails are especially helpful when using a pad or a thicker shoe punched for a Slim or Combo head. You will find the length of these nails longer than the Capewell 5 slim and Mustad 5 Combo. If you are currently a Delta user you will be impressed with the specs and performance of these nails.



5 Slim XL (52.5mm) and 5 Combo Slim (52.5mm)

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# Shaping for Symmetry

by Dave Farley

One of the constant struggles in shoeing horses is the effort to establish and maintain good hoof shape. It is not unusual to have a horse come to you that has been fit to the perimeter, a method many of us used to think was good horseshoeing. But as time goes on we often find that we have problems when we shoe using this principle. You will often see a long toe as well as

excessive flares. A hoof that has flares and dishes will often have flatter soles and uneven growth patterns. You can see this in the rings on the outside of the hoof. A well-balanced hoof has a good blood flow and will grow more evenly. If you don't change this shape problem you will also have more difficulty shaping shoes and getting a good strong nail pattern.

There are a few ideas that I use when determining how to trim and fit, especially when faced with first time jobs. Volume 1, Issue 1 of The Natural Angle (available at [www.farrierproducts.com/farriery/volliss1](http://www.farrierproducts.com/farriery/volliss1)) contained some of these basic ideas. In this article I will be repeating many of the same ideas found there. I start with a couple thoughts in mind.

- a. front feet should be more symmetrical than hind feet
- b. hind feet have straighter toe quarters
- c. hoof wall thickness should be consistent from one side to the other
- d. flares are not supposed to be there

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



**1.** Looking at right hind to see if foot is centered to leg. Notice lateral toe. **2.** Right hind again. **3.** Partially trimmed, you can see the thickness of wall at toe quarters, particularly lateral toe. **4.** Medial toe is blended now you can see the contrast even more on outside toe. **5.** With both toe quarters blended the foot now has a more symmetrical shape and consistent wall thickness. **6.** With foot on ground, you can see that the flares are greatly reduced.





## Feature

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

The photos in this article show feet that have been perimeter fit, resulting in an imbalance from my perspective. I try to trim and shape the foot so that the freshly trimmed frog is in the center of the hoof capsule. This is a goal but remember that you can't always do everything in the first shoeing. This often means there are flares that need to be removed. I generally start this with the foot up on the stand and rough it in when I remove the shoes. This gives me a good view of the shape of the coronary, which is also a very good guide for what the hoof shape should be.

With the foot in trimming position, I can now gauge the thickness of the wall and the balance from inside to outside- again using the frog as my center. I will even up the wall thickness as much as possible now. This

provides a guide for me when I take the foot forward again and work to remove more flare. You have to use some discretion in taking flares off. You don't want to take so much that the wall will be weak and you will have difficulty getting strong nails in place. Even in the toe area you should use caution. It's better to set the shoe back than to take all the horn away.

If you work to achieve more symmetry in the trim you will find your horses come back to you in much better shape. You are encouraging good hoof growth as you develop your eye for trimming this way. You will find your work getting easier each shoeing. Shoe fit becomes much less of a struggle. In my work I have found that using front and hind pattern Kerckhaert shoes has fit with these shaping



**7.** This front foot has a considerable flare to the inside. **8.** As we did with the hind foot, we are taking wall from the areas that have excess thickness and are out of symmetry. We do this before dressing the outside wall. **9.** We've done all we want to in this first effort to establish better balance.

principles very nicely. It is apparent that Kerckhaert has put a lot of effort in developing the shapes of their shoes to match what the shape of a well-balanced foot should be. ■