



## New Diamond® Nail Cutters Now Available at an FPD Dealer Near You

All new Diamond® Nail Cutters are precision manufactured in Germany and feature induction hardened cutting edges. Ask your FPD Dealer about these new nippers and all the improvements being made to the Diamond® tool line.

## Kerckhaert Legendary XT Blue Bond Size 6 Now Available

The material of the Blue Bond withstands the punishment of the track. The nail holes are already punched through the material and sole relief is built-in, saving time. Shoes are symmetrical. Punched for 3-1/2 Race, 3-1/2 Race XL, 4-1/2 Race or 4-1/2 Slim.



## Diamond® Tracker Growing in Popularity

One shoe, countless shapes. The first shoe in this style that can be easily converted for both front and hind. Features a V-Style Crease and Sole Relief, and has ideal nail hole position and good heel support.

Recommended nail choices include Liberty and Liberty Cu with Copper Shield Technology in sizes 5 City, 5 Slim or 5 Combo. Available in sizes 00, 0, 1 and 2.



## JUST A REMINDER



## Kerckhaert Ranger Lite Rim

The Kerckhaert Ranger Lite Rim is an excellent shoe for activities that require more traction than a flat shoe. A very popular style for rodeo event horses and general trail use. With a higher grade of steel for better wear and v-crease for better fit, this shoe provides the perfect solution for farriers who want the best results at a competitive price. The Kerckhaert Ranger Lite Rim features sole relief, excellent nail hole placement (including the heel nail) and a crisp rim for better traction.

Available in sizes 000, 00, 0, 1, 2 and 3.

Watch a video of the Ranger Lite Rim by Kerckhaert in Action on FPD's YouTube page @farrierproducts or visit this direct link: <https://youtu.be/juZ4emDuayA>.

# 12 Points of Reference for Evaluating Limb Balance

By Dave Farley and Roy Bloom

We have developed a list of reference points that have helped us in evaluating limb balance and developing a plan for trimming the hoof to maintain or enhance the balance. The following list and images give a good overview of those points and will hopefully give you food for thought in your daily work.



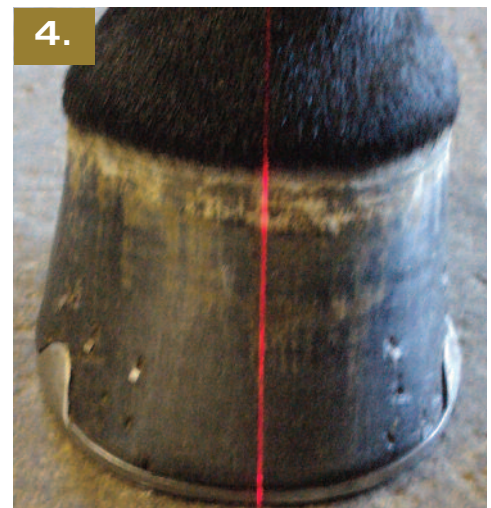
1. The knee. While standing to the side of the horse notice the plane of the knee. This is important as the direction of the plane of the knee affects break over. Also, from the same position, look at the cannon bone and its relationship to the knee. Is it normal, or is it offset medial or lateral to the knee?



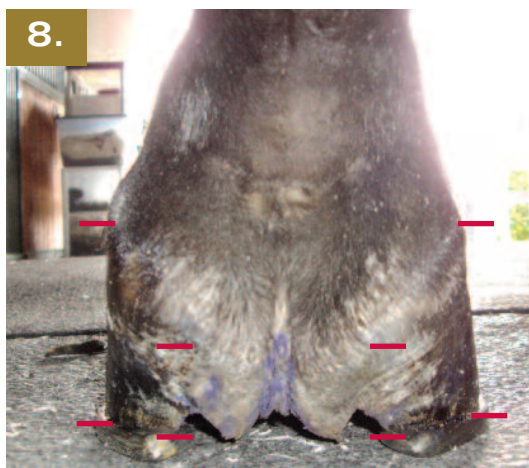
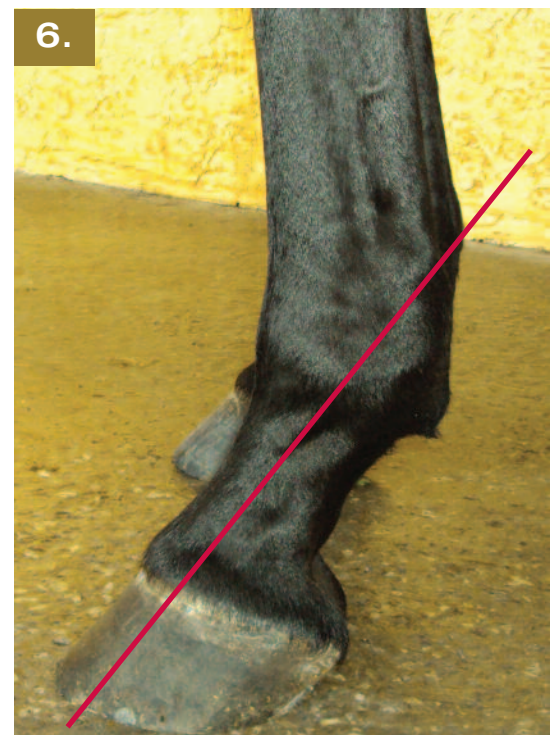
2. While in front of the limb, draw a perpendicular line down through the center of the cannon bone through the pastern and exiting the center of the hoof.

3. Look at the coronary band (frontal view) and its relationship to the ground. Compare the medial and lateral lengths of hoof wall from this view.

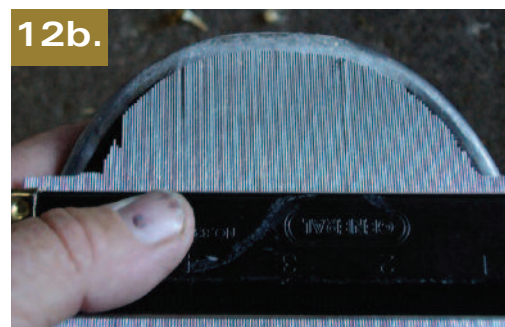
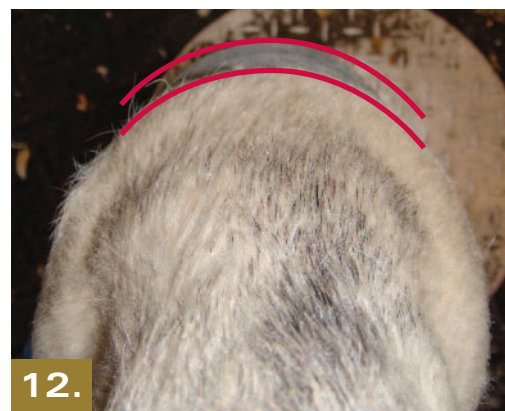
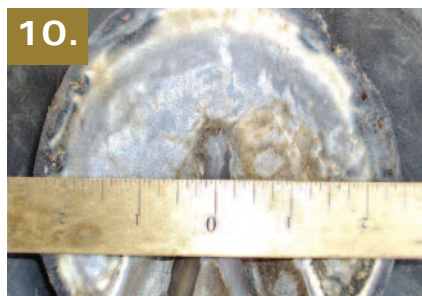
4. Now check the hoof edge or shape in relationship to the coronary shape.



5. From the side (lateral view) of the horse, draw a perpendicular line down through the cannon bone to the highest, widest part of the frog. Position the heels to that point.
6. From same viewpoint, compare the hoof and pastern alignment. Toe length, heel height and length of pastern should be used to determine normal alignment.
7. From behind the limb (posterior) draw a perpendicular line down the center of the cannon bone through the pastern and through the center of the frog.
8. Also from the posterior view, compare heel heights and both medial and lateral wall heights.
- 9 & 9a. In the farrier's position (FP) of holding the foot, look at heel positioning in relationship to highest, widest part of frog.



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- 10. From the same farrier's position (FP) find the medial/lateral center of the frog (approximately 3/8" back from the point of the frog). Measure from that point to the widest part of the quarters, both medial and lateral and compare measurements.
- 11. From the farrier's position (FP) sight the foot to measure heel length and the level of bottom of foot.
- 12, 12a & 12b. With hoof on the foot stand, sight over the coronary band to compare the shape of the hoof edge to the coronary band's shape. A contour gauge can be very helpful in comparing coronary band shape to the toe.

The challenge you face in establishing good hoof and limb balance is lessened when you develop your overall perspective of the limb. These reference points are a good guide to help with that effort. It's nearly impossible to accomplish your goal of achieving good balance when looking only at the hoof when in working position. We've found these points of reference to be invaluable in our everyday work. We look forward to going into more detail on the variations we see in these reference points in the video series and future articles.

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