

DR111 Work on Two Tracks and The Lateral Movements

- 1. A distinction must be made between the following movements: Leg yielding, Shoulder in, Travers, Renvers, Half pass.
- 2. Work on two tracks.
 - a. The aim of movements on two tracks is:
 - 1. To improve the obedience of the horse to the cooperative aids of the rider;
 - 2. To supple all parts of the horse thereby increasing the freedom of its shoulders and the suppleness of its quarters as well as the elasticity of the bond connecting the mouth, the poll, the neck, the back, and the haunches;
 - 3. To improve the cadence and bring the balance and gaits into harmony;
 - b. Leg-yielding. The horse is almost straight, except for a slight flexion at the poll away from the direction in which the horse moves, so that the rider is just able to see the eyebrow and nostril on the inside. The inside legs pass and cross in front of the outside legs. Leg-yielding should be included in the training of the horse before it is ready for collected work. Later on, together with the more advanced movement shoulder-in, it is the best means of making a horse supple, loose, and unconstrained for the benefit of the

freedom, elasticity, and regularity of its gaits and the harmony, lightness, and ease of its movements. Leg-yielding can be performed on the diagonal in which case the horse should be as close as possible parallel to the long sides of the arena although the forehand should be slightly in advance of the quarters. It can also be performed along the wall in which case the horse should be at an angle of about 35 degrees to the direction in which the horse is moving (see Fig. 5).

c. Turn on the Forehand. The purpose of this exercise is to supple the horse and teach it obedience to the aids. In this exercise, the inside of the horse is the side from which the horse yields, i.e. the horse is flexed at the poll to the right, which is the inside, when the haunches move to the left. The horse moves around the inside front leg. The outside front foot steps forward and around the inside forefoot, which remains active in the sequence of footfalls. The hind feet move on a curved line, with the inside hind foot striking the ground in front of the outside hind foot.



3. The lateral movements.

- a. The additional aim of lateral movements is to develop and increase the engagement of the quarters and thereby also the collection.
- b. In all lateral movements shoulder-in, travers, renvers, half-pass—the horse is slightly bent and moves with the forehand and the quarters on two different tracks (see Fig 1-4).
- c. The bend or flexion must never be exaggerated so that it impairs the balance and fluency of the movement concerned.
- d. At the lateral movements the gait should remain free and regular, maintained by a constant impulsion, yet it must be supple, cadenced, and balanced. The impulsion is often lost, because of the rider's preoccupation mainly in bending the horse and pushing it sideways.
- e. At all lateral movements the side to which the horse should be bent is the inside. The opposite side is the outside.
- f. Shoulder-in. This exercise is performed in collected trot. The horse is ridden with a slight but uniform bend around the inside leg of the rider maintaining cadence at a constant angle of approx. 30 degrees. The horse's inside foreleg passes and crosses in front of the outside foreleg; the inside hind leg steps forward under the horse's body weight following the same track of the outside foreleg, with the lowering of the inside hip. The horse is bent away from the direction in which it is moving. (see Fig. 1). If the shoulder-

in is performed on the long side or on the center line, the horse should be straightened after the shoulderin, before going into the corner. If the movement that follows the shoulder-in is a circle at any point, or a turn left or right at any point other than the four corners, the horse should not be straightened.

- g. Travers. This exercise is performed in collected trot. The forehand remains on the track with the head looking straight along the track. The haunches are moved to the inside, with the horse slightly bent toward the direction of movement, so that from the front or behind one sees four tracks. The degree of bend is greater than that of shoulder-in and a constant angle of approximately 35 degrees should be shown. The horse's outside hind leg passes and crosses in front of the inside hind leg. The outside foreleg is placed in front of the inside foreleg. To start the travers, the haunches must leave the track or, after a corner or circle, are not brought back onto the track. At the end of the travers, the quarters are brought back onto the track as in finishing a circle. (see Fig. 2).
- h. Renvers. This exercise is performed in collected trot and is the inverse movement in relation to travers. The haunches remain on the track and the forehand is moved to the inside with the head facing toward the short side. The horse is slightly bent toward the direction of movement with a greater degree of bend than that of shoulder-in, so one sees four tracks from the front or behind. A constant angle of approximately 35 degrees should be shown. The horse's outside hind leg passes and crosses in front of the inside hind leg. The outside foreleg is placed ahead of the inside foreleg. To start the renvers, the forehand must leave the track and, at the end of the renvers, the forehand is brought back onto the track.
- i. Half-pass. This movement is a variation of travers, executed on a diagonal line instead of along the wall. It can be performed in collected trot (and in passage in a freestyle) or collected canter. The horse should be slightly bent around the inside leg of the rider and in the direction in which it is moving. The horse should maintain the same cadence and balance throughout the whole movement. In order to give more freedom and mobility to the shoulders, it is of great importance that the impulsion be maintained, especially the engagement of the inside hind leg. The horse's body is nearly parallel to the long side of the arena with the forehand slightly in advance of the hindquarters. The bend in the half-pass should increase with the steepness of the diagonal. In the trot, the outside legs pass and cross in front of the inside legs. In the canter, the movement is performed in a series of forward/sideways strides. Aims of half-pass in trot: To show a fluent collected trot movement on a diagonal line with a greater degree of bend than in shoulder-in. Fore and hind legs cross, balance and cadence are maintained. Aims of the half-pass in canter: To both demonstrate and develop the collection and suppleness of the canter by moving fluently forwards and sideways without any loss of rhythm, balance or softness and submission to the bend.

DR112 The Pirouette, The Half-pirouette, The Quarter-pirouette, The Working Pirouette, The Working Half-pirouette, The Turn on the Haunches

- 1. The pirouette (half-pirouette) is a circle (half-circle) executed on two tracks with a radius equal to the length of the horse, the forehand moving round the haunches.
- 2. Pirouettes (half-pirouettes) are usually carried out at collected walk or canter but can also be executed at piaffe.
- 3. At the pirouette (half-pirouette) the forefeet and the outside hind foot move round the inside hind foot which forms the pivot and should return to the same spot, or slightly in front of it, each time it leaves the ground.
- 4. At whatever gait the pirouette (half-pirouette) is executed the horse, slightly bent in the direction in which the horse is turning should remain on the bit with light contact, turn smoothly and maintain the appropriate sequence and timing of footfalls of that gait. The poll stays the highest point during the entire movement.
- 5. During the pirouettes (half-pirouettes) the horse should not move backwards or deviate sideways. In the pirouette or half-pirouette in canter, the judges should be able to recognize a real canter stride although the footfalls of the diagonal inside hind leg, outside front leg do not occur simultaneously.
- 6. In executing the pirouette or the half-pirouette in canter the rider should maintain perfect lightness of the horse while accentuating the collection. The quarters are well-engaged and lowered and show a good flexion of the joints. An integral part of the movement is the canter strides before and after the pirouette. These