



AOL Mail Toolbar Make AOL My Home Page



horses2e Sign Out

Check Mail Compose



Search the Web Search enhanced by Shortcuts Settings Help

Search Mail

Reply Reply All Forward Mark Unread Actions Go Delete

Today on AIM

Inbox 25

Drafts

Sent

IMs

Spam

Trash

Contacts

Calendar

My Folders Manage Folders

America's Horse Daily: How to Properly Shape Your Hat

From: America's Horse Daily <aqha@aqha.net>
 To: Susan Elliott <horses2e@netscape.net>
 Date: Wed, Jun 2, 2010 5:46 am

AMERICA'S HORSE DAILY

HORSE SHOWING UPDATE

Brought to you by

June 2, 2010

Hat Help

Make your hat tops with the proper shape and care.

From [The American Quarter Horse Journal](#)

Lyle Lovett probably said it best: "You can have my girl, but don't touch my hat."

There aren't a lot of things men take too seriously about **fashion**, but their hats are definitely one of them. You can tell a lot about someone by his hat. No hat is shaped exactly the same, but there are a few basic starting points depending on what corner of the **show barn** you're in. Western retailer Sean Ryon of Fort

Worth, Texas, laid out some basic ground work for hat shapes and care. Find one that fits your interest, and then crease it to your own personal style.

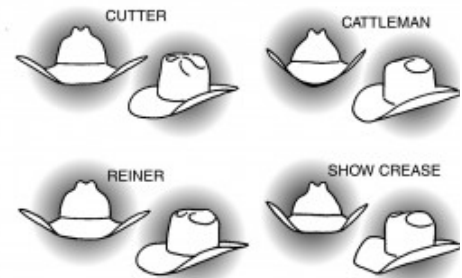
Hat Shapes

There are two basic principles to start with hat shapes. The event you compete in is first and the shape of your face is second.

There are certain basic standards judges look for in particular classes. For example in **halter**, **western pleasure** and **showmanship** classes, judges are looking for a crisper look. The front of the brim should be extremely straight and shouldn't have a dip in the front. The crown will be fairly narrow, and the vents on the sides are pulled out a little longer.

Do you want to be a success in the show ring? With AQHA's "Showmanship & Halter" DVD, you will get the tools you need to succeed in one of the most popular classes at AQHA shows.

Cutting and **reining** have a little more leeway. Cutters usually have a lower crown, and brim is laid out a little flatter. Generally, the reiner will fall somewhere between the cutte



Find shape that best fits your interest, and then crease it to your own personal style.

and the show crease. There's no definite trend in the [ranch horse versatility](#) classes, the general shape is probably closest to the reiner. It's just a little softer in the front, and sides are up a little higher.

The basic rule of thumb when it comes to the shape of a hat paired with the shape of your face is as follows:

- Narrow face – The hat should have a narrower crown and have the edges tipped a little more than average.
- Round face – The front should sit a little lower and the sides not quite as high.

Storage and Care

Felt

The best thing you can do for your felt hat in the summertime is let it dry out. Never store in a plastic bag, because it will hold moisture and lose shape.

Hat cans are great for keeping the dust off your hat in the stall, but after the show, take hat back to the hotel and let it sit open and dry out. Keep your hat out of the sun, but let it sit in a place where it can dry out. Always make sure your felt is completely dry before brushing it, or the brushing will actually rub the dirt in instead of off the hat. You can use either a soft-bristle brush or a felt hat-cleaning sponge. Don't store your felt in the hot [horse trailer](#). Remember to bring it into the house when you get home from the show.

Figure on getting your hat professionally creased about twice a year to maintain its shape.

[Read the rest of this story and learn more about straw and halter hat trends.](#)

While some believe showmanship is just an excuse to dress up in glitzy outfits, winning this class requires precision and attention to detail. AQHA's "[Showman: at Halter](#)" DVD will give you the knowledge and tools you need to be a competitor.

You have received this e-mail because you signed up for topic updates from *America's Horse Daily*. To unsubscribe or update your subscription profile, [click here](#). This is an unmonitored e-mail address. Please do not reply. If you have comments or questions, please [contact us](#).

American Quarter Horse Association
1600 Quarter Horse Drive
Amarillo, TX 79104

Reply	Reply All	Forward	Mark Unread	Actions 	Go	Delete
-------	-----------	---------	-------------	---	----	--------

[Standard Version](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Shortcuts](#)