

Basic Steps as on Progresses thru the Bosals and Mecates when building a Hackamore Horse

Note: these are the basic steps - your progression may have more steps depending on your horse, the weight of the mecate in which you start and whether you also add bosals with more plaits into your transitions.

*** General rule:** - the weight of the mecate (based on a 22ft main hair mecate) thru the 3/4" & 5/8" should drop approximately 1/4 of a pound with each change - except when changing bosals - no weight change in mecate when changing bosals.

NEVER use a mecate on a bosal where the diameter of the mecate is larger than the diameter of the bars of the bosal, as the mecate will then overpower the bosal.

REMEMBER: Good bosals are 100% rawhide - they can become expensive chew bones for dogs and mice. Bosals and mecates are natural products so dampness and mold can damage them.

**DO NOT LEAVE A MECATE TIED ON A BOSAL WHEN NOT IN USE - IT WILL DISTORT THE SHAPE OF THE BOSAL.
ALWAYS UNTIE YOUR MECATE AND HANG THE BOSAL AND MECATE IN A SAFE PLACE**

With proper care quality bosals and mecates will last a lifetime.

Steps	Bosal	Mecate		Comments	Time Frame
		Diameter	Approximate Weight *		
1	3/4"	3/4"	2 ½ to 3 lbs		 about 3 years
2	3/4"	3/4"	2 ¼ to 2 ½ lbs		
3	3/4"	3/4" or 5/8"	1 7/8 to 2 ¼ lbs		
4	5/8"	5/8"	1 7/8 to 2 ¼ lbs		
5	5/8"	5/8"	1 5/8 to 1 7/8 lbs		about 1 ½ years
6	5/8"	5/8" or 1/2"	1 3/8 to 1 ½ lbs		
7	1/2"	1/2"	1 ¼ to 1 ½ lbs		the rest of your's & your horse's life
8	1/2"	1/2"	1 to 1 1/8 lb		
9	1/2"	1/2"	3/4 to 7/8 lb		

Summary by Terry Borton www.TerryBorton.com (2008/09) - Original Source Information from my riding experience in the hackamore on various horses, from riding with Mike Bridges for over 12 years and from Mike's DVD on Understanding the Hackamore.