

## HOOKS ON MYLER SNAFFLE CHEEKS



*The original design of Myler's Eggbutt with Hooks. This has a hole for attaching a curb chain*

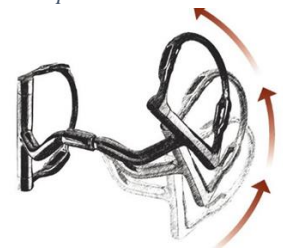
Most Myler Snaffle Bit Cheeks are available with hooks, (like slots), to fix the position of the bridle and the reins onto the cheek ring of the bit and to optimise the Independent Side Movement



*The 2016 Eggbutt with Hooks. The rein hook has been lengthened to prevent the rein kinking and the hole has been replaced by a loop*

### Independent Side Movement

Is one of the key advantages of Myler Bits. The bushing system within the centre barrel allows each side of the bit to move independently, allowing the rider to give much more precise lateral aids.



### The Top Hooks

are situated just in front of the small curb strap holes or loops at the top of the cheek rings. These top hooks are for the cheek pieces and do **precisely** what the fulmer, or full cheek does, when used, (as it was designed to be), with leather keepers:

- they stabilise the bit inside the horse's mouth and rotate it back and up off the tongue when the rider relaxes the contact, allowing for a much clearer signal and reward.
- the hooks also enable some Independent Side Movement, for a clearer signal.
- they also a little pressure to be applied to the poll (which is known to release endorphins which are a natural pain relief and relaxant).

### The Rein Hooks

at the bottom of the cheeks are for the reins, and give the bit more leverage: It will still exert backwards and downwards pressure on the tongue as it was designed to do, - but more efficiently, - so less pressure is necessary.

- use of the rein hook optimises Independent Side Movement.
- the rein hook allows a little more of the rein pressure to be shared onto the poll, reducing the pressure on the tongue and, again, helping to release beneficial endorphins.

***The hooks, therefore, allow the bit to be used as it was designed to be, but more effectively, more gently, and with instant release & reward for the horse as soon as it does what has been asked of it (provided, of course, the rider relaxes the contact).***

Effective communication and a more responsive horse should = a rider with quieter hands!



*This image demonstrates the difference made by the Hooks to the way the mouthpiece will sit in the horse's mouth: These two bits have the same mouthpiece, but the left one is on a plain eggbutt cheek, the right one is on an eggbutt with Hooks. The horse's tongue goes vertically down his head, so even before the rider picks up the reins, the snaffle on the plain cheek will lie on the horse's tongue, the snaffle on the cheek with hooks hangs almost at right angles to the tongue.*

*When the rider applies even rein pressure, both bits will act on the tongue in the same way. However, if one rein is activated more than the other, that side of the bit will move more, making the signal clearer.*

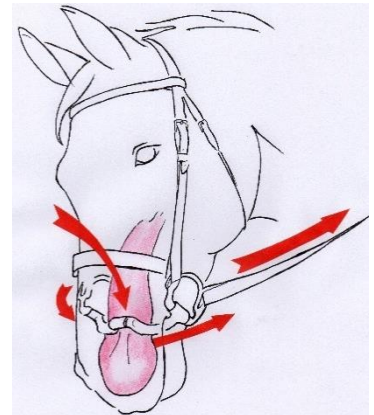
*When the rider releases the rein pressure, the bit on the right will be pulled back off the tongue, giving a clearer reward.*

## Leverage

has acquired a bad reputation in British bitting, but all it means is "the exertion of force by means of a lever". The longer the lever, the less force is required to move the object, so leverage allows more movement with less force.

More leverage in the bit allows the rider to communicate with the horse with a lighter hand. If the rider doesn't adjust his aids as the horse responds it is not the fault of the bit!

When the rider applies rein pressure, he is pulling the bit back towards his hands. This pulls the horse's tongue back into the bottom jaw. However, the rider's hands are above the level of the mouth, and so, depending on how "fixed" the mouthpiece and reins are on the bit cheek, there is also a degree of downward roll or rotation of the mouthpiece.



The more fixed the mouthpiece and reins on the cheek, the more leverage is available to the rider.

## How to Attach the Bridle to the Hooks



In order to balance the bit correctly, the cheek pieces must be fastened around the outside branch of the upper hook, leaving the metal on the inside branch against the horse's face and giving the bit a "normal" appearance from the side.

To make the Independent Side Movement as effective as possible, the reins should be attached to the bottom hook, again around the outer branch.

## Using a Curb Chain

The hole or loop behind the top (cheek piece) hook gives the option of attaching a jaw strap or high-positioned curb chain. This shares the pressure onto another area, and encourages flexion from the wither for a good, rounded outline. (see the Information Sheet: [Curb Chains on Myler Snaffles.](#))