

SIZING AND MEASURING A BIT

Myler Bits can appear slightly generous in width compared to other traditional bits because they are very forward-curved for the benefit of the horse's tongue room and comfort, but this curve is not taken into account in the official width measurement.

Measuring a Bit

The width of any bit is measured straight across between the inside of the bit cheeks, **not** by following the shape of the mouthpiece.



This bit is 5 1/2" wide



This bit is 5" wide

The measurement is best taken by lying the bit flat on a table and using a rigid or semi-rigid rule.

Measuring the Horse's Mouth

To measure your horse for a Myler Bit, measure the width of his mouth using a biting stick or dowel (a smooth sturdy wooden spoon handle is ideal).

It is much easier to do this with help!

Gently place the stick in the horse's mouth in the position a bit would go. Mark the stick with a pen exactly where the outside of his lips meet the stick. If the horse has very flubby lips, make sure they are not folded inwards or spread out more than normal (the stick will not be as smooth and slippery as a metal bit.)



Carefully remove the stick and measure the distance between your marks. Then add the $\frac{1}{8}$ " - $\frac{1}{4}$ ". The total is the bit width your horse requires.

So, for example, if your horse's mouth is $4\frac{5}{8}$ " across, then he needs a 5" Myler Bit. If he is $5\frac{1}{4}$ " across then he needs a $5\frac{1}{2}$ " Myler Bit. This allows for enough of the mouthpiece to be outside the lips.

Checking the Width of a Bit in the Mouth

Ensure the bit is both level and central in the horse's mouth.

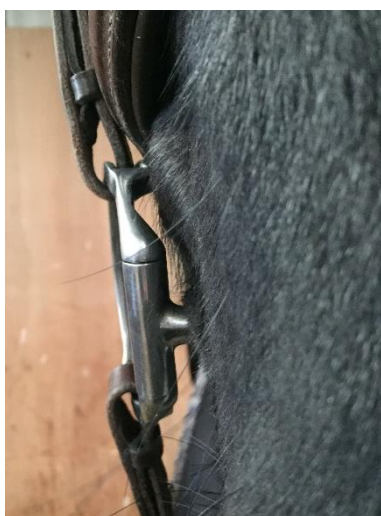
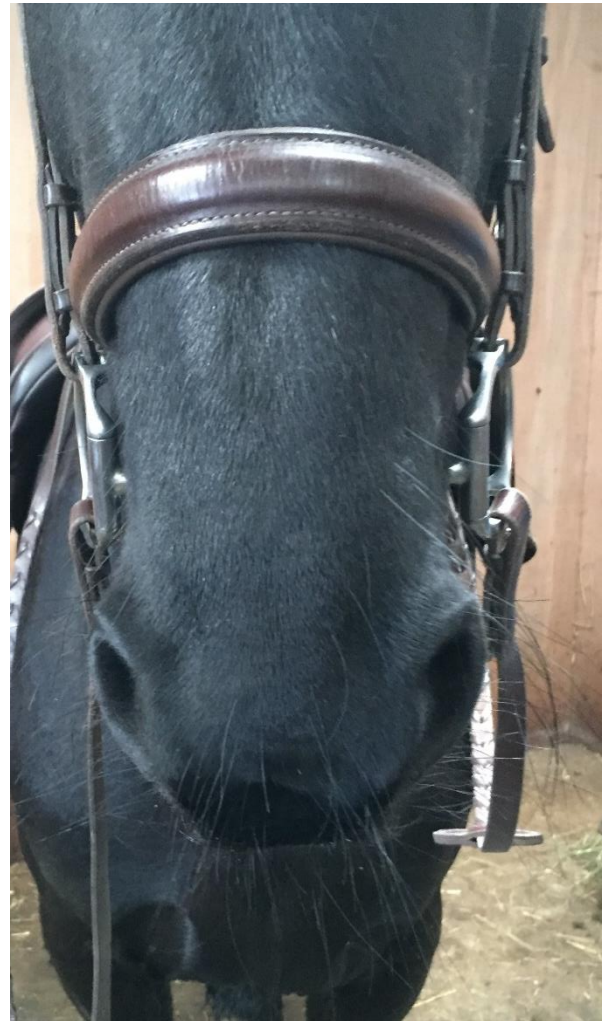
We recommend that there is always at least $\frac{1}{8}$ " of the mouthpiece protruding outside the lips on each side before it joins the cheek, and at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " with a jointed, collapsing bit.

If the bit is too wide, it will slide from side to side in the mouth and give uneven pressure when engaged by the rider. If it has a port this could sit on top of the bars. An over-wide jointed bit could hang too low in the mouth and interfere with the horse's incisors.

If the bit is too narrow, the lips could get pinched, or the bit cheeks could squash against the sides of the horse's face and lips, causing rubbing or soreness.

If the bit has a jointed mouthpiece, it will not lie straight across the horse's mouth and some of the width will be taken up making the bend. Care must be taken to ensure that a jointed bit is wide enough for the horse, because the bit will "collapse" inwards as the rider engages the rein. If the bit is not wide enough, the lips could get pinched, or the bit cheeks could rub the face or squeeze the gums up against the molars.

To check a jointed bit is the right width, you may have to straighten the mouthpiece slightly by pulling the cheeks gently outwards.



Ensure the cheek sits clear of protruding molars.

Care must also be taken that the shape of the horse's head can accommodate the chosen bit cheek: If a horse has a particularly 'wedge-shaped' head, (where the head widens very quickly above the mouth), bit cheeks with a high purchase, (the part of the cheek above the mouthpiece), may cause pressure against the molars even if the mouthpiece is the correct size. If this is a problem, go for as small a cheek as possible, or try to select a mullen, non-collapsing mouthpiece which will maintain the same width all the time.