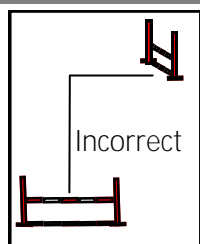


The Dog Leg - A Related Distance built on a Curved Line

Fences built on a curved line are more difficult to walk and ride accurately than fences on a straight line because the distance will vary according to the route chosen. Riding the inside of a curve will shorten a distance while the outside curve will make a distance longer. Course builders often set related fences at an angle to each other, so it is important to practise walking and riding a curved line accurately.



Measure by laying the tape along what looks to be a good line. This also gives a visual guide

2 Build either square or slightly angled

Longer route - more strides

Shorter route - less strides

See overleaf for distances

1 → 2 → 3a - 3 strides between each will be maximum in 20m x 40m arena.

This is also an option - walk the distance, decide how many strides, then ride it e.g. it may walk a short 5 strides.



1

Ride a smooth curved line - not a sudden change of direction. Jump each fence straight - not on an angle. Rhythm should be consistent. Ride from both directions.



3b



3a

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Exercise 1: Depending on your horse's experience use either:

- ◆ Just wings - Poles on the ground - Small jumps.
- ◆ Choose a distance from overleaf depending on the room available. Position fence 2 on the B/E line and measure from here. The exercise can be 1, 2, 3a ('S' route), 1, 2, 3b (circle) or both. If using the 'S' route, building fence 2 slightly angled makes the exercise easier. If angling fence 2 and also including a fence 3b, use 4 strides or more between 2 and 3b.

Progression: Add extra fences around the arena to make a course.

Info: Walking a related distance on a curved line: (Refer to Pages 9 & 10)

- ◆ Start striding from the centre of the first fence. Pace out 2 human steps. This gives the approximate spot where your horse will land (½ horse stride). Reminder: 4 human steps = 1 horse stride.
- ◆ Look to the next fence – start to walk the curve as you think it should be ridden, counting the strides. The second fence should be met straight.
- ◆ The final 2 human steps indicate the approximate take off point for fence 2. Look back to the line walked. Did the striding fit the distance well. If not, walk it again making a wider (longer) or shallower (shorter) curve. Does this fit the stride pattern better? If so this will be the line to ride.

IMPORTANT: A horse's normal stride length will shorten on a curved line, so this should be taken into account. If the distance walks 'short' it may then ride well. If it walks 'standard' it may be better to aim for an extra stride.

Riding the Exercises: Count the Strides out Loud

- ◆ Shortened stirrups, weight into heels, soft ankles and relaxed knees, legs closed on your horse.
- ◆ Ride the central route to start to see how your horse copes with the distances. Sit up, ride positively, maintain contact, keep your legs closed maintaining impulsion and an even rhythm.
- ◆ Allow the fences to come to you – not anticipating a jump by throwing your body forward.
- ◆ Look to the centre of the next fence along the curve. Concentrate on riding the selected route.
- ◆ Use your signals to ask your horse to land on the correct leading leg - see below.
- ◆ Experiment riding the longer and shorter routes. The longer route may ride better but may add in an extra stride - or two! The shorter route may suit your horse's stride pattern better. *Experiment.*
- ◆ The aim should always be to cover the distance between 2 fences on a nice even stride pattern i.e. a suitable stride length between fences so the second fence is met at a good take-off point (not on a long sprawling stride or too close so the horse has to make an awkward jump). It is also better to add in 1 or 2 extra strides than resort to long flat jumping in an effort to achieve a certain number of strides.

Asking your horse to land on the correct leading leg:

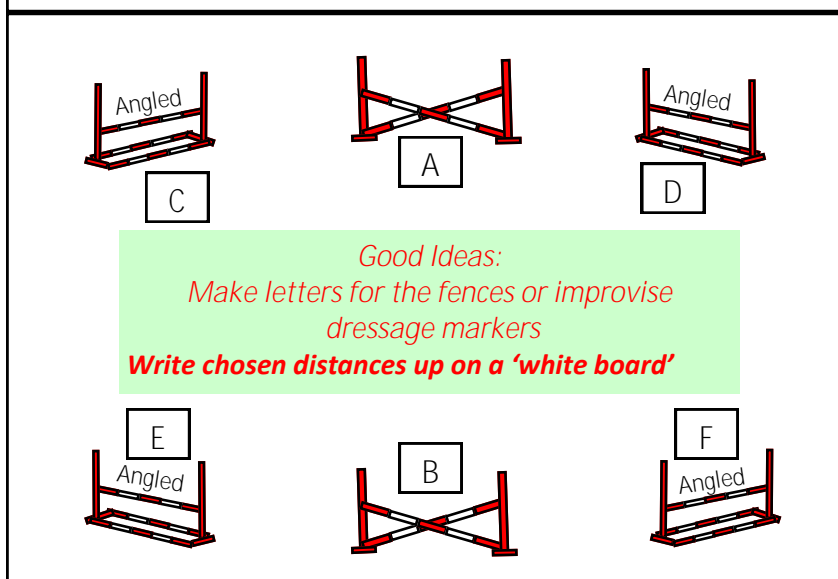
Approach each fence in a balanced, active canter - as horse takes off - turn your head and look to the centre of the next fence - slightly open the inside rein - on landing, shoulders back and regain the same controlled balanced canter - ride the curved line to the next fence exactly as you decided when walking the distance.

THE MORE STRIDES BETWEEN FENCES - THE EASIER THE EXERCISE	NON-JUMPING STRIDES (RELATED DISTANCES) SHORTEST SCHOOLING DISTANCES TAKEN FROM PAGE 3		
	3 STRIDES	4 STRIDES	5 STRIDES
HORSE	45'0" 13.70m	56'3" 17.10m	67'6" 20.55m
148 PONY	42'0" 12.80m	52'6" 16.00m	63'0" 19.20m
138 PONY	40'0" 12.20m	50'0" 15.25m	60'0" 18.30m
128 PONY	36'0" 11.00m	45'0" 13.70m	54'0" 16.45m

Important: As a horse's stride tends to shorten on a curve/turn, these distances may still ride a little long i.e. the correct number of strides are not enough for the distance. If this happens, try to maintain a more forward rhythm around a turn. However, if your horse comfortably fits in, say 6 strides instead of 5, it is best to allow this. *It is better to ride a comfortable, even line on a shorter stride than to push onto a longer, flatter stride and make a long, flat jump.*

Exercise 2 - A further exercise to practise riding curved lines:

Use distances from the above table according to the room available. Measure from the centre of one fence to the centre of the next. To measure curved distances, lay the tape along the ground onto the curved line. **Keep the jumps small (or even as poles on the ground) so it is safe to alter your horse's stride and experiment with distances.** *Fences are jumped straight and not angled, apart from 10* & 11**



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Reminder: In the air, open inside rein, look to the centre of the next fence. Count the strides out loud. The number of strides may vary depending on the route taken. Maintain balance and an even stride length at all times. It is preferable to ride - say 6 strides even though the distance may have measured 5 strides - rather than resorting to long, flat jumping.

Suggestion for building Exercise 2

- ◆ First measure and build A to B - 5 strides
- ◆ A to F - 5 strides - A to E - 5 strides - B to C - 5 strides - B to D - 5 strides
- ◆ Step out the distances - E to C and F to D. They should ride 4/5 strides depending on the line. Place a cone 2' (60cm) away from the outside of the curve to help judge the route.
- ◆ Step out the diagonal lines E to D and F to C. These should ride 5/6 strides.

- 1) Ride the straight line A to B/then reverse B to A.
- 2) Ride the diagonal line E to D/reverse.
- 3) Ride the diagonal line F to C/reverse.
- 4) Ride the curved lines B to C then B to D/reverse.
- 5) Ride the curved lines A to F then A to E/reverse.
- 6) Ride B, C, right turn to D, B / reverse.
- 7) Ride A, F, right turn to E, A / reverse.
- 8) Ride the curved line E to C. Remember - the inside line will ride shorter, the outside longer.
- 9) Ride the curved line F to D.
- 10)* Finally, jump E, C on a straight line. The 2 fences are jumped on an angle, centre to centre.
- 11)* Repeat with fences D, F.

THESE EXERCISES ARE EXCELLENT FOR:
Measuring distances, walking them, riding them.
Experimenting riding different lines.
Encouraging your horse to listen to you.

