



Patterns

Why Patterns?

- It allows the judge to see how well you can maneuver your horse while keeping your seat and body position correct.
- This class is judged 70% on the rider and 30% on the horse.

Terminology

- Jog and Trot are both a 2-beat gait. Jog is for Western riders and Trot for English riders.
- Lope and Canter are both a 3-beat gait. Lope for Western riders and Canter for English.
- Turn on the forehand is when the horses front two feet are stationary and the back two move around them.
- A Pivot is when one back leg stays stationary and the other three move around it.



Terminology Continued

- A Side Pass is when the horses feet cross in both the front and back legs to move it ether left or right while only going forward a little to not at all.
- Backing up is simply to have your horse step backwards instead of forwards.

Basic Pattern Information

- Be ready at the cone before you complete the pattern. This means your horse is squared and rider to listen and you are looking at the judge.
- Each step is to be completed when your horse's shoulder is at the cone.
- When steps are completed they are expected to be done by the time you reach the cone. This means you have to prepare for the next move. Example: If you have to go from a canter to a walk you should let your horse trot a few steps before the cone so that he can be at a walk without rushing.
- Look at the judge after you have completed the pattern.

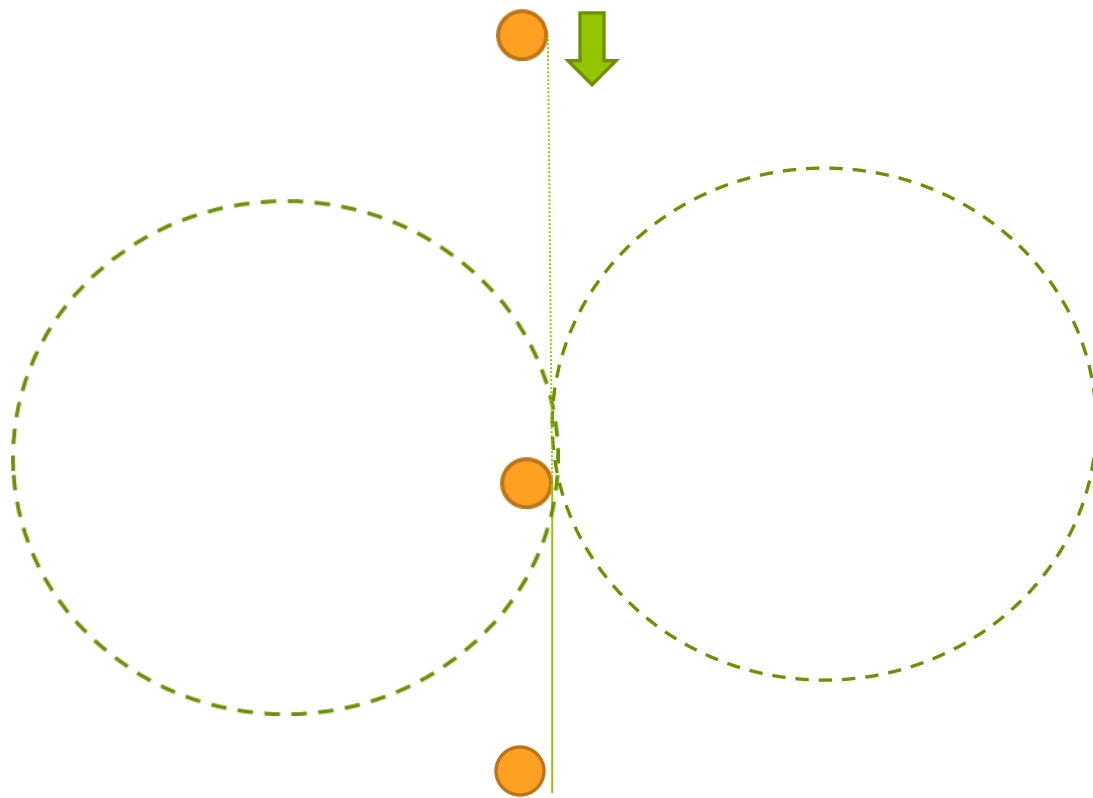
How to Plan/Prepare for a Pattern

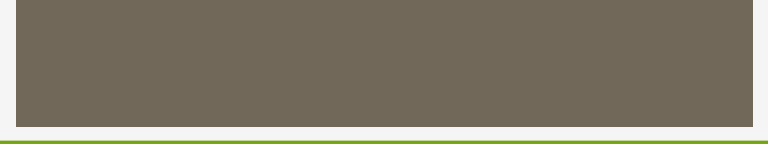
- Look at the size of the area where you will be completing the pattern. Give you and your horse enough room to complete each move.
- Make the pattern symmetric. Example:
Good:  Bad: 
- Make sure you know the pattern before you enter the arena. A good way to remember the pattern is in pieces.

How to Plan/Prepare Continued

- Write down a copy of the pattern for yourself so you do not need to keep referring to the original copy (found usually on rails or in the office).
- If your horse anticipates then only do the complete pattern once or twice.
- Do not copy other exhibitors, they might be doing it wrong.
- If you mess up just keep going.
- Do not rush, take a breath before each step and take your time.

Simple Pattern





More Complex Pattern

