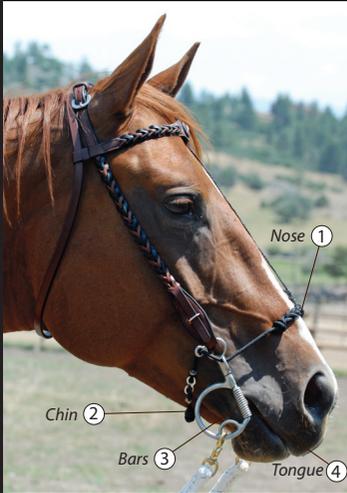


# Cradle fitting instructions

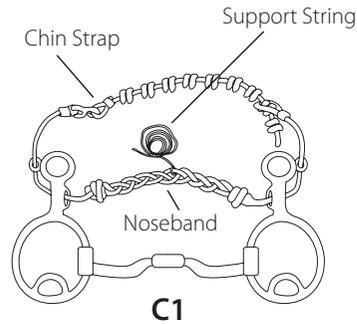


*More feel, more confidence*

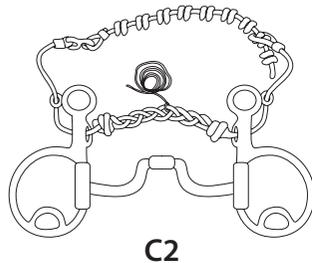


- Cradles your horse's head in your hands
- Promotes confidence, comfort and relaxation
- Communicates more kindly, steadily and accurately
- Promotes "Power steering," yet is more gentle than any other bit
- Distributes communication in five places vs. 100% pressure in the mouth
- Offers three different mouthpieces to cater to specific Horsenality™ needs
- Greatly improves contact and communication

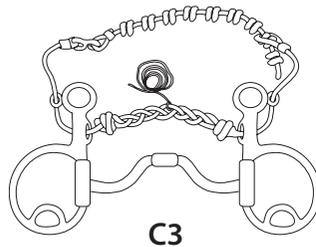
\* For more info on the Parelli Horsenality™ Profile visit [www.parelli.com](http://www.parelli.com)



**C1**  
Minimum Tongue Release  
for Right Brain EXtrovert\*  
plus young horse's first biting experience



**C2**  
Medium Tongue Release  
for Right Brain INtrovert\*



**C3**  
Maximum Tongue Release  
for Left Brain EXtrovert\*  
and Left Brain INtrovert\*



1



2



3



4

## STEP 1. Attach Headstall and Support String

Attach Cradle to headstall and wrap the Support String around the browband concho (if you do not own a Parelli Cradle Headstall, tie to headstall browband).  
*Cradle Headstall available at [www.parelli.com](http://www.parelli.com).*

## STEP 2. Choose & Attach Chin Strap

**(A) Elastic Chin Strap:** Choose this option for an easy introduction to the Cradle, and especially for fearful/sensitive horses.



**(B) Non-Elastic Chin Strap:** Choose this option for advanced horses and when a more steady feel is needed. *When the horse opens his mouth he will make contact with the noseband and may throw his head up in surprise. This is LESS likely to happen if he's been prepared via the Elastic Chin Strap.*

## STEP 3. Fit the Bridle to the Horse

Ask your horse to lower his head and place the bit in his mouth, carefully guiding the noseband so it doesn't catch on his muzzle. Adjust the bridle so the mouthpiece sits snugly in the corner of the mouth, no wrinkles but not loose either—the Cradle Bit is designed to promote a steadier contact, so it needs to fit snug.

## STEP 4. Adjust Support String

Before you hook up the Chin Strap, adjust the Support String to position the noseband just above the break of the nose, above the soft tissue of the nostrils. Wind the string completely around the concho so there is no overhang.

# Cradle fitting instructions continued



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## STEP 5. Hook Up the Chin Strap

Hook up the Chin Strap and wait until the mouth is quiet. Then tighten until there's only a ½-inch space when you lift it up—do not put your fingers under the noseband, if the horse were to open his mouth it could catch your finger—just lift the front of the noseband off the nose to check.

*The tighter the Chin Strap, the more it activates the noseband and the less the horse feels the bit. If the Chin Strap is too loose, you'll lose the effect of the Cradle. It needs to be comfortable for the horse and effective.*

## STEP 6. Choose Ring Attachment for Riding

**Big Rings:** Attach reins to Big Rings for your first ride in the Cradle or for whenever you need more lateral control, or for riding fast. The Big Rings give you more direct contact with the bit.

**Small Rings:** Attach reins to Small Rings for collected riding, lifting the shoulder, or for horses who are afraid of the bit, or riders with quick hands. The Small Rings reduce the direct contact of the bit and engage the noseband more.

**Your horse will tell you** which ring position he prefers (Big or Small Rings), and it's easy to switch from one ring to the other as you experiment or the situation changes.

*When it comes to higher levels of collection, a leather curb strap can also be fitted. This is also an ideal way to transition into curb bits, building confidence and helping the horse get ready for more elevation (for more information see Parelli Bridle Wisdom Chart at [www.parelli.com](http://www.parelli.com)).*



7-8



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## STEP 7. Test Lateral & Vertical Flexion on the Ground

**Attach reins & test Lateral Flexion:** Lift the rein across the wither until the horse flexes toward you. This will soften the horse laterally, allowing him to feel the Cradle working. This exercise should be done from both sides.

*With the Cradle you can keep the reins close to the neck to turn, which promotes flexion through the body and elevates the shoulder.*

**Vertical Flexion:** Lift the reins at the withers until they make contact. When the horse gives to the feel and tucks his nose, immediately release. This will soften the horse vertically and teach you to release pressure when he yields. Repeat from other side.

## STEP 8. Repeat Step 7 when mounted

## STEP 9. Unhook the Chin Strap before Removing Bridle

Always unhook the chin strap first when taking off the Cradle so the horse can open his mouth easily to drop the bit.

*Be sure to loosen the chin strap before allowing your horse to graze, and when leading, hook the rein into the chin strap so you don't pull on the bit.*