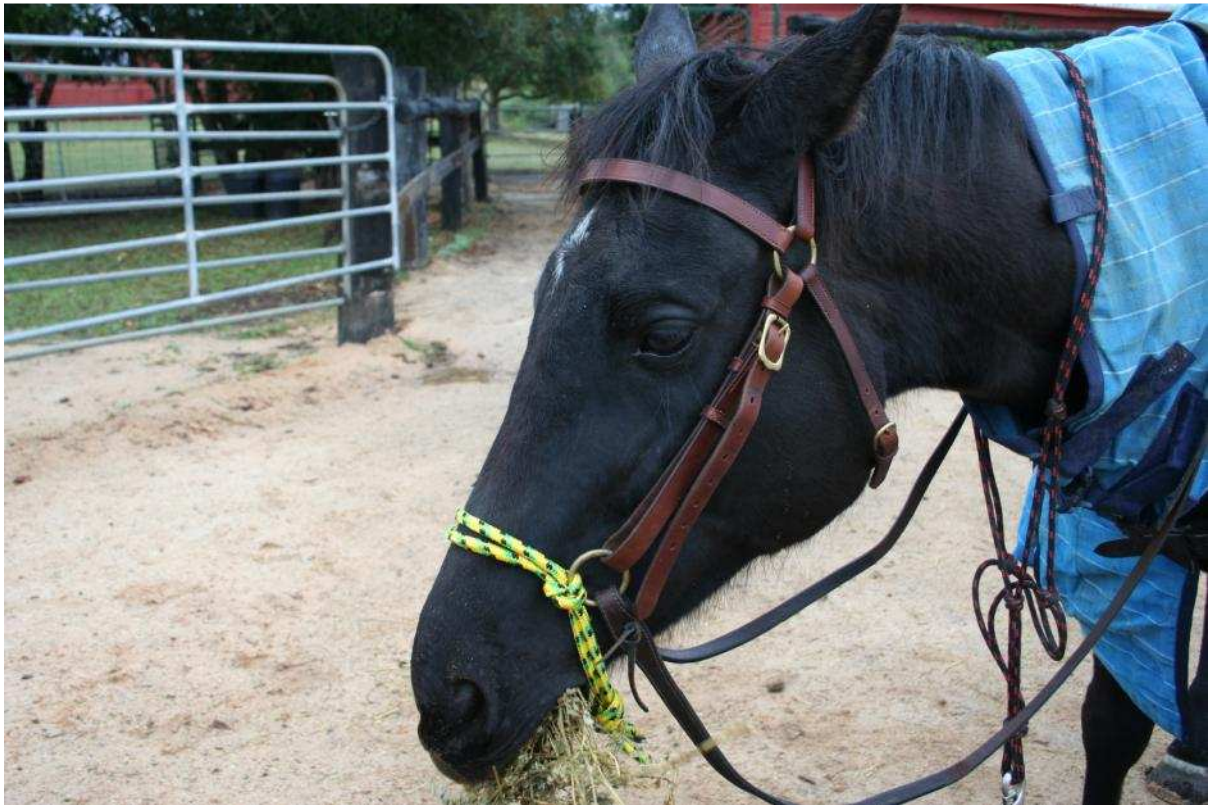


## Converting a bridle into a bitless side-pull

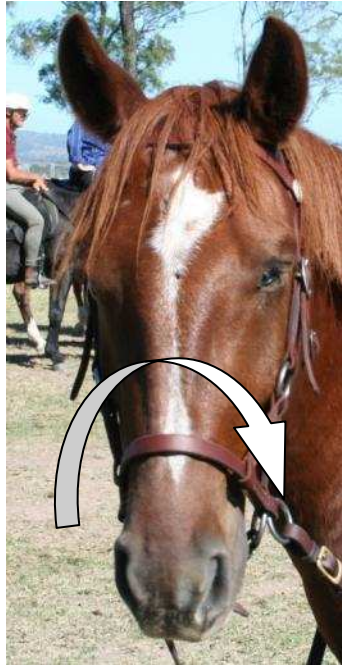
### Materials required

- Your favourite bridle
- 2 brass or stainless steel rings
- Approximately 2 metres of halter cord (about 8mm)



## Method

1. First measure across the top of your horses nose from one corner of the mouth to the other (see diagram). This is the length from one ring, across the top of the nose to the other ring. We will call this "x".



2. Fold the 2m cord in half. In one half, tie an overhand knot through one of the rings about 30cm from the end of the cord. This ring will attach one rein and one side of the bridle. The second picture below shows how the ring will look when we have finished tying the knots.



3. Tie a second overhand knot through the other ring "x" cm further along the cord.



4. Fold the cord about 10cm from this second ring and bring it back through to tie a double overhand knot with the ring between the knots. The tricky bit here is getting the ring oriented in the correct direction. (see below).

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5. Fit the cord and the rings to the bridle and try it for size on your horse. The noseband ties under the horses chin using the same knot you use to tie on a rope halter.



6. Trim the free ends, seal them with a match and Join them together with electrical tape or by sewing.





## The double overhand knot

This knot is the basis of most rope halters and is very simple to tie once you get the hang of it. The basic idea is to tie an overhand knot in one cord, then tie a second overhand knot through the first one and pull the two knots tight. They will then lock each other solidly together. As shown in the picture below, when loose, this is really just two overhand knots tied at right angles to each other.



The double overhand knot is tied by threading the end of the rope through an existing overhand knot and back around to form a “double” knot. This is an attractive and durable knot which is extremely difficult to take apart once it has been used on a horse. It’s also difficult to learn to tie because you come at it from different directions on a rope halter. This knot takes some time to perfect, but is ideal for the rope halter because there is no flat portion of the knot.



## Tying the Double Overhand Knot



Step 1: Loosen the existing overhand knot and feed the loose end of the rope through the middle of the existing knot. Make sure that the rope goes into the center loop of the existing knot on the same side of the loop as the rope on the first overhand knot.

Step 2: Take the end of crossing directly in the two strands of rope. I overhand knot to the it easier for the next



the rope over the top of the overhand knot, groove or V of the knot and back behind the find it easier to turn the existing double side at about a 45 degree angle – this makes step.



Step 3: Bring the end of the rope around and through the middle of the overhand knot. Take the rope through the “new” overhand, tighten the rope and take up the slack. Turn the knot over and you’ll have a wonderful double overhand knot!