



HORSE WHIPS TOOLS AND CROPS

A Free Guide to Horse Training
Tools, Whips, and Crops





Introduction

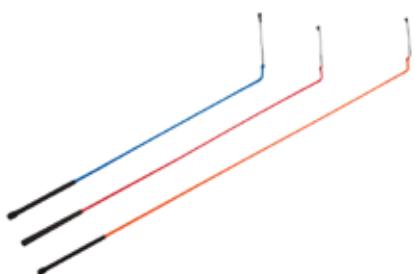
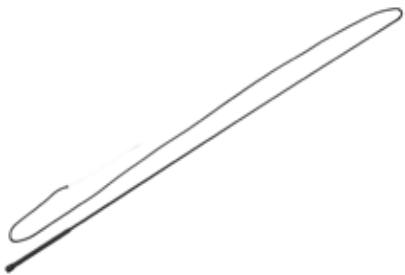
There is such a wide variety of horse training tools available that the choices can become overwhelming. The equipment required to properly train a horse and the methods used can vary depending on the person, the horse, and your overall objective. Here is a closer look at some of the most common horse training tools, specifically the different types of whips, bats, and crops that you can buy.



Whips for Horse Training & Riding

Whips are used to encourage a horse's behavior as opposed to punishing or berating them. These unique horse training tools can help an owner or trainer correct a horse's behavior by helping them to better understand commands or re-adjust posture.

A whip is commonly used while riding the horse, often employed with a tap behind the rider's leg. While this sounds like a simple move, the truth is that there are several types of whips for horse training and riding that can have different uses or promise to deliver a different result for the user.



Lunge Whips

A [lunge whip](#) is a training tool when doing liberty work with a horse. The whip rarely touches the horse. Rather, it signals the horse to control its speed and hindquarters. When the whip is pointed to the front of the horse, it's asking for the horse to slow down. When pointed towards the back, it's asking for it to speed up. This whip might have a long lash, and the length will vary depending on the horse and the area available for training. One unique feature of this whip is its ability to make a loud "pop" noise, which can quickly get the animal's attention without touch.

Training Whips

A [training whip](#) is similar to a lunge whip in many respects. The whip can be used to ask a horse to control its speed as well as teach other maneuvers. Training whips are generally 36"-60" in length with a handle. It also has a lash that includes a popper on the end.

Riding Whips

A [riding whip](#) can vary in style and shape depending on the needs of the rider. Hand placement is of the utmost importance, so these whips are generally offered in a variety of lengths, with or without wrist loops. These whips aid in effectively cueing the horse while riding.



Gaited Whips

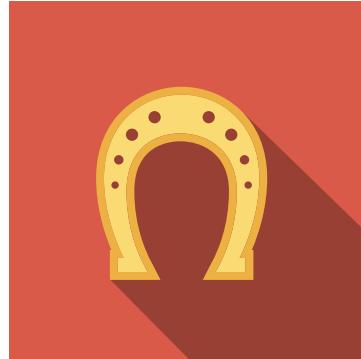
The aristocrat of whips, a [gaited whip](#) is used in horse training, competition, and showing in hand. Gaited horses are known for being easy to ride due to their particular gait, or movement. This type of training tool may be the best choice for a horse in that class such as an American Saddlebred, Paso Fino, or Missouri Fox Trotter. These whips are generally available between 30" and 42" in length with a small popper on the end.



Dressage Whips

Another aristocratic whip, the [dressage whip](#) is made so that the rider can tap the horse behind their leg without having to take their hands off of the horse's reins. A dressage whip is used for training exercises in which the horse's front and hind quarters move independently. The whip isn't meant to correct the horse, but rather to clarify signals when teaching. This type of whip is also often used by sidesaddle riders where it is carried on the right side.





Sulky Whips

A [sulky whip](#) is a horse training whip that is about 45" long. The whip has a comfortable handle and comes with a popper on the end. These sorts of whips are often used for buggy racing, which is the oldest kind of horse race. The two-wheeled cart on a buggy race is called a "sulky," and the driver directs the horse with the reins and a long whip.

Jog Whips

A [jog whip](#) is a type of dressage whip that is used for harness racing, typically around 52" in length with a comfortable handle. The whip also has a popper on the end to gain the ear of the horse. This tool is used to bring on the horse during a critical point in a race.

Buggy Whips

[Buggy whips](#) are similar to sulky whips in both design and function. These are long whips made for harness driving and horse training from a buggy. Buggy whips are typically between 56" and 66" in length with a popper on the end. Some buggy whips are show quality with lacquer finish and come in a variety of color choices.

Driving Whips

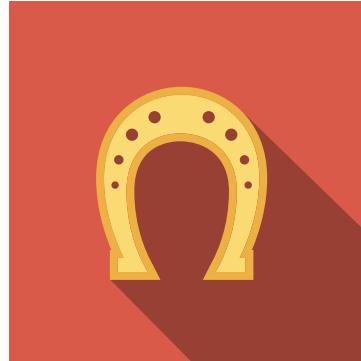
A [driving whip](#) is used by someone who is "driving" a carriage. As the horse is in front of the driver and could be a fair distance in front, these are longer whips, generally 60"-70" in length. Shorter driving whips are available, and the length will depend on the type of carriage as well as the size and number of horses. When the whip is employed, it is used lightly to signal the horse to move forward in accordance with the driver's voice.



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Bats and Crops

The most common type of whip found when riding today is called a crop. It's a short, flexible tool used for cueing the horse while riding. Here are the different types of crops and bats that you'll find.

Riding Crops



A [riding crop](#) is a shortened horse whip that is used while the rider is in the saddle. A crop will vary in length but is probably between 20" and 24" with a handle on one end. The other end has a pommel, which is usually either made of leather or fabric. Many crops have a wrist strap although most riders prefer not to use these for both comfort and safety's sake. The crop is used as an encouragement or reinforcement tool for the horse and is held inside the hand when not in use.

Riding Bats



[Riding bats](#) are similar to crops, with one main difference: the shape of the top. Although riding bats and crops can vary in length, you will also find that bats are often on the shorter end of the spectrum for horse training tools. These are also typically available with or without a wrist loop, depending on the preferences of the rider.



Jockey Bats

A [jockey bat](#) is a short riding whip that is often made of fiberglass. This type of bat ranges between 27" and 31" in length and is available in a variety of flexes. Unique to this bat is the inclusion of feathers on the shaft just under the top. The feathers produce a "swishing" sound that further aids in gaining the ear of the animal. Jockey bats are used by jockeys in horse races and also as a training tool.



Barrel Race Bats

In [barrel racing](#), this particular type of bat is used to both signal the horse to pick up their speed as well as to let them know that it's time to get their shoulder down for a turn. These bats are very similar in design to the riding bat, are generally available in lengths of 20"-24", and often includes a wrist loop.



Doggin Bats

Also used for [barrel racing](#), doggin bats are very small -- approximately 15" long and under 2" at their widest point. The end of the bat has a long slapper top that can "pop."





Racing Bats



Many [racing bats](#) are governed by established racing associations, which varies by country and type of racing. This type of bat is typically 25" in length, and available in a variety of different tops, depending on the use.

Arab Training Bats

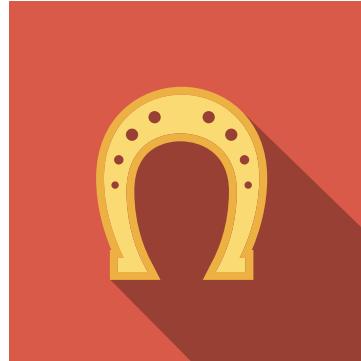


An [Arab training bat](#) is an especially long training bat -- sometimes more than double the length of a typical training bat -- that has a handle on one end and a flapper on the other. These bats can be anywhere from 39" to 51" in length, and the bat itself is lightweight, water-resistant, and usually made from fiberglass.

International Jump Bat



A [jumping bat](#) is an extremely short riding crop, often just 15" in length. A jumping bat is used to either train jumpers, or is used as a signal to the horse in the ring that it's time to jump so that the animal knows to tuck its front end. Instead of being used behind the rider's leg, a jumping bat is employed on the horse's shoulder.



Whips, crops, and bats are essential horse training and handling tools that can be used to signal and encourage the animal as the relationship is being built. When these tools are used properly, they won't cause harm to the animal and will instead help them become more skilled and comfortable in their role. This unique selection of quality horse training tools should provide you with the right whip, crop, or bat that exactly fits each rider's needs and effectively improve the relationship between user and animal.



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