

MYLER BITS

Of all the pressure-points a bit can act on, the tongue is the most critical to the horse's way of going:



Typical Angle of Pull, approx.. 30-40° above mouth



The Tongue is pulled back into the bottom jaw. Fixed cheek bits will also rotate downwards slightly due to the angle of pull



The Tongue fills the entire mouth cavity, there is no 'extra' space for the bit



X-Ray shows action of bit on tongue, pulling it away from palate and into bottom jaw

- The tongue is an extremely sensitive and highly specialised group of muscles. It fills the entire mouth cavity.
- Like humans, the horse must move his tongue to swallow. Restricting the tongue restricts this vital reflex, causing stress and tension. This leads to resistance and the horse being distracted. Humans produce an average of 1½ litres of saliva a day; horses produce around 38 litres. Besides eating, Salivation is at its greatest during physical work, which is when we are restricting the tongue with a bit.
- The tongue is directly connected to the horse's sternum and shoulders through the hyoid apparatus, so tension in the tongue has a direct impact on the horse's ability to move freely.
- The tongue is directly connected to the horse's TMJ, a crucial centre for proprioception. Constriction of the tongue therefore effects the horse's coordination, balance, and fluidity of movement.

ALL FORMS OF BIT RESISTANCE ARE DUE TO THE HORSE TRYING TO EVADE TONGUE PRESSURE

These graphics show what is happening when a horse resists his bit.

Use of a martingale, or a restrictive noseband, eg a Flash or Grackle, does not solve the problem, it merely prevents the horse from moving his tongue away from an uncomfortable bit, causing more tension.



Above the Bit

He is changing the angle of pull, so the pressure is less on his tongue and more into the corners of his lips



Leaning or Running Through the Bit

The horse has reduced the pressure on his tongue by changing the angle of pull, causing the bit to pull into the corners of his lips



Behind the Bit

No rider wants their horse in this position, so they give with their hands, and the horse has reduced the pressure on his tongue



Overactive mouth; Crossed Jaw; Tongue Over Bit or Outside Mouth

The horse is moving the tongue away from the pressure, so that more pressure goes onto his bars

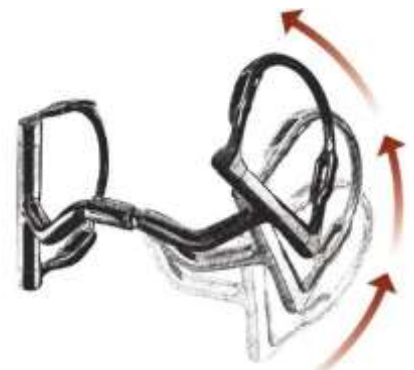
Pulling the Tongue Back into the Throat

To release the pressure on his tongue, the horse pulls it up inside his mouth towards the top of his throat. This pushes the epiglottis back, reducing airflow to the lungs

Your horse would rather you pulled onto his lips or bars, or even interfere with his breathing, rather than restrict his tongue and his ability to swallow.

Myler Bits offer some other key and unique benefits:

- **Independent Side Movement.** The bushing system within the centre barrel allows each side of the bit to move independently, allowing the rider to give much more precise lateral aids.
- **No Nutcracker Action.** The centre barrel restricts the degree of collapse so there is no nutcracker action on the outer lips and bars
- **No Pinching.** The barrel also protects the tongue from getting pinched in the joint.

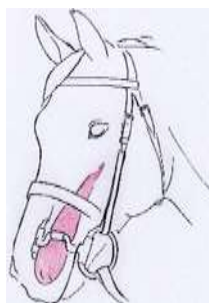


The tongue is the gateway to the neck, shoulders, and front of the horse

A TENSE HORSE CANNOT MOVE FREELY OR CONCENTRATE ON WHAT HIS RIDER IS ASKING HIM

Myler Ported Snaffles

The more comfortable we can make his mouth and tongue, the more relaxed and receptive the horse will become and the more freely he will be able to move.

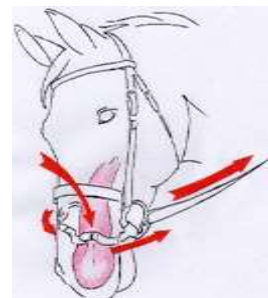


Port with no contact

How do Ports Help?

Now Myler Ported Snaffles are permitted by the FEI and British Dressage, we can give our horses more tongue space, allowing swallowing and freer and more coordinated movement.

All bits touch the palate because the tongue fills the entire mouth cavity. With a ported bit, the tongue fills the port, so there is still only the same single thickness of metal between the tongue and the palate.



activated port rotates to give tongue relief

- The tongue remains an important point of contact to allow the rider to control the horse, so the amount of tongue room we can give depends very largely on the horse's temperament.
- The mouthpiece of a bit is the most important thing for the horse. The cheek has more to do with rider preference or discipline. The cheek does affect the action of the bit a little, but the mouthpiece should be chosen first.

DRESSAGE-LEGAL PORTED SNAFFLES

04 Myler Low Port Comfort Snaffle



A bit for a young-minded horse who takes longer to bring back & refocus after a spook.

The port gives some tongue room, but will rotate onto the tongue if the rider needs a stronger signal. When activated, the 04 will first collapse to wrap the outer lips & bars, giving the horse some warning before it acts on top of the tongue.

06 Myler Low Port Mullen Barrel



A non-collapsing bit for a young-minded horse who takes longer to bring back and refocus after a spook.

The port gives some tongue room, but will rotate onto the tongue if the rider needs a stronger signal. As the 06 does not collapse, the port does not reduce in width, but it rotates onto the tongue slightly quicker than the 04.

36 Myler Forward Tilt Ported Barrel



Medium tongue room for a horse that is trying to be polite, but may still occasionally spook badly and need some tongue pressure to bring it back.

The forward-tilt of the port on this non-collapsing bit gives tongue room even when the horse is off contact.

33 Myler Ported Barrel



A bit for a really nice-minded horse that does not need tongue pressure to control or refocus.

The port allows complete freedom for the tongue, acting primarily on the top of the lips and bars.

The temperament is the most important issue when deciding how much tongue relief we can give the horse.

However, other issues are also relevant when selecting a bit for a horse, including:

- The condition of his teeth: ***regular care from a good equine dentist is crucial.***
- The horse's age and breeding.
- What discipline is the rider doing; are they working with a trainer; and how often do they ride the horse?
- The experience of the horse and of the rider.
- The biting history (esp. mouthpieces) of the horse: - which bits gave the best result and which bits the worst.