

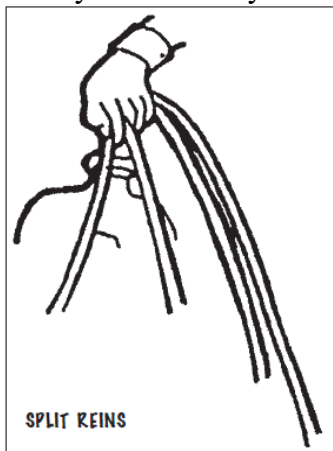
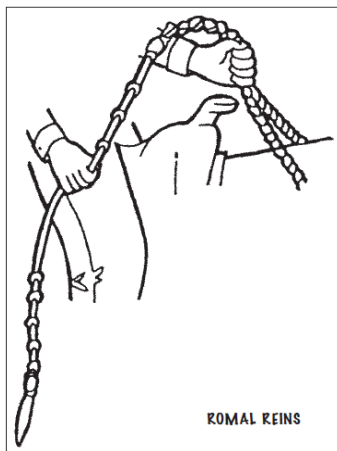
CLARIFICATION ON WESTERN BITS for performance shows

Any western shanked bit is allowed in 4-H western performance classes.

With the exception of gag bits, these are not allowed.

-This means it has shanks and a curb strap or chain that is engaged when the reins are pulled back. Regardless of the mouthpiece.

-If you use a shanked bit, and use split reins you can hold your reins either 1 of these 2 ways:



-If you use Romel reins you can only hold your reins as they do in the Romel Reins picture above.

If you ride western in a snaffle bit: that looks like these →

-A snaffle is a bit with rings on the sides, no shanks. Regardless of the mouthpiece.

-You can ride any aged horse in a snaffle, but if there are 2 riders that gave the same performance in a class and one is using a snaffle and the other a shanked bit, the rider with the shanked bit will place higher than the one using the snaffle.

-You must have a curb strap connecting both side rings of the snaffle, below the reins, to prevent the bit from being pulled through the horses mouth.

-Also if you are using a snaffle for western you can not qualify for state teams.

-Here is an example of the only way to hold your reins if you are riding with a snaffle bit.

1. Crossed-Over Reins

