

Riding Technical Lines

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Linda Allen is one of the top hunter jumper trainer in the US; Julie Winkel, likewise, is a top h/j trainer based in Nevada. She writes a conformation column for 'Practical Horseman' and was instrumental in some of the recent positive changes that are being seen in the hunter show rings.

How a Line Rides vs. How it Walks

- This is very different depending upon what sort of fence you're jumping into/out over
- A line will ride differently in an indoor/outdoor, off a corner/across diagonal/on a line, etc.
- *Most successful horses have EXCESS stride*
- Don't practice what you do well, practice what gives you a challenge
- A bending line gives the rider an opportunity to make it work for his/her horse
 - o When schooling, practice adding stride/leaving strides out
 - o Try a bending line to bending line (two bending lines in a row, on the same rein)
 - It's better to wait first, then go forward, then go back to waiting
 - Do 5 to 5, then 5 to 4, 4 to 5, etc.
 - It's easier to ride shorter to longer (if you have a bending line to bending line combination exercise); the second line changes the focus
 - o *When riding a bending line, don't look to the next jump in the bending line*
 - *Look to the mid-point of the bend; once you get there, look to the next fence*
- If a horse rushes to trot poles, ride the poles without stirrups
- Jump a fence on a circle:
 - o Don't let the horse drift out
 - o Keep the circle round, not square
 - o No drifting
- If a horse cross canters between fences – ignore it
 - o If you're doing hunters, you've already lost the class
 - o If you're doing jumpers, let the horse sort it out
 - o Tenseness is what makes a horse cross canter