

shoulder until he straightens up [Photo 1]. If your horse starts getting wiggly with the bow, practice doing it along the fence just as you did with the One-Legged Bow. This will help straighten him up, especially if he has a habit of leaning away from you. It will also act as a gauge to show you how straight the horse is. Sometimes you don't even realize that the horse is crooked until you line him up with something.



VI. TROUBLESHOOTING

The horse gets confused when you ask for the Two-Legged Bow.

If you start with the One-Legged Bow position and then ask the horse to go into the Two-Legged Bow and he keeps jumping up and getting confused, make sure you're using the hobble rope. That way if you start tapping him and he tries to jump up, you'll be able to hold that leg up and get him back down into position a lot quicker. Remember, every time you teach a new trick or add a different element to the trick, you need to find a new starting point. Once he has the initial concept, you won't need the hobble rope anymore, but don't take it off too soon. You are better off leaving the hobble on longer than you

have to, rather than taking it off too soon and having the horse lose confidence and get confused.

VII. SUCCESS TIPS

Don't drill on each trick too much.

You don't want to drill on each trick to the point that the horse hates it. Work on the Two-Legged Bow three or four times per session. If you want to work on it more, do a second session later in the day. Remember that you're not trying to achieve perfection in one session. Make a little bit of progress, and then give it a break and come back the next day to get it a little better.

Don't get greedy.

Remember to find a starting point, and gradually build on it every day. Don't ask for too much too soon and ruin the horse's confidence. The first lesson is the concept lesson. The first day, you won't ask the horse to stay in the trick for any amount of time. As soon as his second knee hits the ground, you'll cue him out. Every day, add an additional second that he can hold the position. This is especially true for the Two-Legged Bow because it's a more difficult position for the horse to hold. You also aren't going to be very picky about the horse having perfect form during the trick at first. You won't worry if his knees are uneven, he's not perfectly straight or his head is up. Initially, you're just working on getting the concept solid. From there, you'll get a little pickier every day.