**Basic TACT Whole Hoof Anatomical Mapping and Trimming Directions**.

**INTRODUCTION: WARNING:**

**These are "basic" directions**which do not take into account or fully explain how to deal with hoof distortion such as**HWCE (Hoof wall circumference expansion aka "flaring" and white line separation.)** The pictures used here are of feet that have already been corrected of that problem. There are a few more steps and some understanding that you have to gain in order to adapt this trim to that issue. (See Glossary of Terms for full explanation of HWCE)

**WHEN** you have HWCE flaring all the way around the foot, the sole is thin the white line is most often stretched. The examples used here all had a tight white line. Therefore you must refer to the part of the manual dealing with first getting  a tight white line and solidly connected wall all the way down the surface of the coffin bone to where the wall meets the sole.

**AGAIN** these are basic anatomical mapping instructions, they do not tell you WHY and give you the reasoning for the individual steps which are according to every anatomical part of the foot, that will be in the main book and in the TACT TEAM Training Course.

**THEREFORE,** if you take steps to do this trim BEFORE you understand it and you apply it wrongly or you do not UNDERSTAND the true condition of your horse's feet and your horse gets sore because you took away even the bad support of a distorted foot and did not offer him some form of artificial support such as boots or casts for a few days, then YES it was the trim and the way in which YOU applied it. This is why I do not just give these instructions to people, if they are not going to take the course. There is always the chance of making a horse tender or sore from a trim, no matter what horse, foot condition or person doing it. BUT for a horse to be slightly tender or off for  a few days is one thing, we NEVER, EVER tolerate or expect any horse to be sore for a week or longer or dead lame. If this happens wrong decisions were made somewhere and we are not understanding something and have done something wrong. Always assume it's YOU. Then if by the slim chance it is something in the horses feet or diet that is what we consider next.

**FYU (For Your Understanding) TACT** is meant to only be applied WITH AN UNDERSTANDING of what you are doing and WHY you do this according to the anatomy and structure of the hoof including if it has any distortions. Any other application is a misuse of the method. TACT is also not complete but with your participation in this research and study you will add valuable information and data that can lead us all to a better understanding of the horses foot. TACT is meant to change as we all learn more, to be made better for the horse, and help the horse come into his best sound and pain free state through the most painless state possible. This means your horse may need support due to the current condition of his feet which are not sound enough to carry him correctly  
  
**The purpose of TACT** is to trim in such a way as to facilitate the horse to grow a correct foot with up to an inch of anatomically correct sole and a healthy thick frog. Always remember we are not cutting and rasping a perfect foot we are endeavoring to help the horse grow an anatomically correct foot. You can do the right thing at the wrong time in these trims if you are not reading the foot correctly that is why this trim is based on your understanding what you are seeing, by first knowing what the correct structure and anatomy is to begin with.  
  
  
**TOOLS YOU WILL NEED FOR MAPPING**  
  
You will need a 6 inch protractor and a few sharpies. WARNING: DO NOT USE A RED SHARPIE. The reason is becasue you will be taking pictures and red looks like blood. Then you have to answer a million comments asking if that's blood. I also have a sewing gauge for measurements.  
  
**DO NOT** use a fat marker, use a thin line, not a fat line, this is anatomy and is precision work. Measure this twice to make sure you are doing it correctly. We must be at least as competent as a carpenter who's rule is "measure twice cut once". You must be careful that you do not measure on the wrong side of the line and cut your horses toe to short. AND **USE YOUR INTUITION,** If you have a very big horse with very big feet you can add 1/4" to start out to this line. As you learn the anatomy and do this trim you will learn to read where the toe is specifically. These measurements are just general anatomical measurements to get you in the general vicinity of the size of the capsule in relation to the inner foot.   
  
Make it a habit of trimming to the "outside" of your lines, in order to give yourself some room. It is good to map the feet again after you trim. Also "measure twice at least and cut once).  
  
  
**Step 1**  
Wash and scrub the feet. Use a scrub brush not a wire brush.  
  
**Step 2**  
Take a minimum of 5 profile shots of the foot.   
  
Outside, Inside, Front, picked up sighting down at the heels and looking down flat at the sole. There are six pictures all together but you do not have to take the one with the horse standing of the heels all the time. You should on occasion through.  
  
**Step 3**  
Find the true apex of the frog.   
  
Trim down the apex until you find where the frog and sole merge together. At this time you can also trim your whole frog. Make sure to trim the sides and the central sulcus and trim away any super hard petrified frog. This is so your frog will grow and renew itself.  
  
**Step 4**  
Take your sharpie and put a dot at the center of the apex of the frog on the sole directly in front of it, and put another mark in the center at the very base of the frog.  
  
**Step 5.**  
Take your protractor and line it up with those dots in the center of the frog and draw a line from the toe to the end of the frog down the center of the foot. MAKE SURE TO continue your line around and up over the hoof wall of the toe, to the outer wall. This is the line you will use later to map your dorsal wall, so you can center your mid line.  
  
You will use this line to line the protractor up so that you get correct and balanced (what they call Square in building) lines across the toe, so that your toe is centered and not off to one side.  
  
**Step 6.**  
Measure 1 1/2" from the apex of the frog towards the toe and make a mark.   
  
  
**Step 7**  
Draw a line across the foot at the location of the apex of the frog from the lateral to the medial side.  
  
**Step 8**  
Measure back from the apex of the frog towards the heel 1 1/2". Make a mark and then draw another line across the foot from side to side.  
  
You now have your center toe, the toe quarters or pillars, the quarters and the heel locations all marked. If during the trim you removed them, then replace them before you do your finish work on the wall (beveling).  
  
**STEP 9**  
  
Map the bars. Take the sharpie and put two good size dots on each side of the apex of the frog. Align the straight edge of the protractor to the dot at the apex and the inside of the heel and draw a line. This is where you will bring your bar over to.  
  
**Step 10**  
Map the heels 2 ways.   
  
Draw a line from the end of the heel buttress wall down across the bulb and periople skin to the hairline where the hairs are growing out. This will be slightly under the actual end of the hairs. Measure from the hairline down to the end of the heel to see how long your heels are. You want to aim at 2 inches. If the heels are longer make a mark at 2" and bring the heels down to 2". If the heels are not 2" leave the heel and let it grow.   
  
You should also measure the heel from the bottom of the collateral groove to see how long it is. Sometimes when the heel is trimmed out, you can have almost 2" of stretched periople skin and no real heal. This is why the first method will not work on some horses. You have to be able to tell if the skin you are seeing is periople skin covering a trimmed out heel, or if it's frog skin covering the actual heel buttress wall. One looks very much like the other and there are several things you have to be able to look at to determine how much heel you really have. You MUST be able to tell the difference between frog skin and periople bulb skin. And between a false heel and a true heel buttress.  
  
The heel from the exit of the collateral groove should be about 3/4 to 1"...IF you are at the end of periople skin and not frog skin.  
  
**Step 11**  
Map the Dorsal wall and Toe Quarters (Pillars)  
  
With the foot on the ground look and find the line you drew when you mapped the center of the foot in step 5. Follow the horn tubule up to the hairline with the marker. Now get back a bit and look to see if it looks centered to the leg. Sometimes, even with a protractor to try and get everything squared and centered we can draw the line off to the side of center. Get as centered as you can and draw a line down the center of the dorsal wall. Also the capsule can be crooked or tweeked this will affect how it looks. The main thing is you follow the horn tubule from the ground to the hairline.  
  
Now measure from the center at the hairline over 2" and make a mark on both the lateral and the medial sides. Then follow the horn tubules down with the marker from the hairline to the ground on both sides.  
  
Measure the center of the toe how long it is and make a note. Then measure each side and write this down. At this time you will not make any more marks until after you are done with your initial trim. Then these lines along with reading and looking at the growth rings will be used to determine if you need to adjust the length of the toe quarters.   
  
The inner foot is shorter on the sides of the toe than in the center. Many times we let the sides of the toe wall get longer than the center. The dorsal wall and Pillar mapping is used to help us better fit the capsule to the foot and correct these over growths.  
  
Ideally according to the form of the anatomy of the inner foot the sides of the toe should be up to 1/4" shorter than the center of the toe. After we trim we will check these measurements again to see where we came out and then if the sides of the toe are the same length or longer we then make the determination on how the toe pillars may need correction so they form fit the inner foot.

<http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/post/hoof-mapping-instructions-8571266?pid=1296314181>

**Forum**

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You should on occasion through.  **Step 3** Find the true apex of the frog.  [valor 070.JPG](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410608) [valor 071.JPG](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410609)   Trim down the apex until you find where the frog and sole merge together. At this time you can also trim your whole frog. Make sure to trim the sides and the central sulcus and trim away any super hard petrified frog. This is so your frog will grow and renew itself.   **Step 4** Take your sharpie and put a dot at the center of the apex of the frog on the sole directly in front of it, and put another mark in the center at the very base of the frog. [valor 072.JPG](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410610)   **Step 5.** Take your protractor and line it up with those dots in the center of the frog and draw a line from the toe to the end of the frog down the center of the foot. MAKE SURE TO continue your line around and up over the hoof wall of the toe, to the outer wall. This is the line you will use later to map your dorsal wall, so you can center your mid line. [valor 073.JPG](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410611) [valor 074.JPG](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410612)  You will use this line to line the protractor up so that you get correct and balanced (what they call Square in building) lines across the toe, so that your toe is centered and not off to one side.   **Step 6.** Measure 1 1/2" from the apex of the frog towards the toe and make a mark.  [valor 075.JPG](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410613) [valor 076.JPG](https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.websitetoolbox.com/162030/thumb/3410614)  **Step 7.** Line up the protractor across the toe at the 1 1/2" mark and draw a line straight across the toe from side to side.  [valor 077.JPG](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410615)   **Step 8** Draw a line across the foot at the location of the apex of the frog from the lateral to the medial side.    [valor 079.JPG](https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.websitetoolbox.com/162030/thumb/3410617)[valor 080.JPG](https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.websitetoolbox.com/162030/thumb/3410618)  **Step 9** Measure back from the apex of the frog towards the heel 1 1/2". Make a mark and then draw another line across the foot from side to side. [valor 081.JPG](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410619)    [[valor 082.JPG](https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.websitetoolbox.com/162030/thumb/3410620)](https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.websitetoolbox.com/162030/thumb/3410620)  You now have your center toe, the toe quarters or pillars, the quarters and the heel locations all marked. If during the trim you removed them, then replace them before you do your finish work on the wall (beveling).   **STEP 10** Map the bars. Take the sharpie and put two good size dots on each side of the apex of the frog. Align the straight edge of the protractor to the dot at the apex and the inside of the heel and draw a line. This is where you will bring your bar over to.  [valor 088.JPG](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410626) [valor 090.JPG](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410628)   **Step 11** Map the heels 2 ways.  [valor 083.JPG](https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.websitetoolbox.com/162030/thumb/3410621)  Draw a line from the end of the heel buttress wall down across the bulb and periople skin to the hairline where the hairs are growing out. This will be slightly under the actual end of the hairs. Measure from the hairline down to the end of the heel to see how long your heels are. You want to aim at 2 inches. If the heels are longer make a mark at 2" and bring the heels down to 2". If the heels are not 2" leave the heel and let it grow.  [valor 084.JPG](https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.websitetoolbox.com/162030/thumb/3410622)   You should also measure the heel from the bottom of the collateral groove to see how long it is. Sometimes when the heel is trimmed out, you can have almost 2" of stretched periople skin and no real heal.   This is why the first method will not work on some horses. You have to be able to tell if the skin you are seeing is periople skin covering a trimmed out heel, or if it's frog skin covering the actual heel buttress wall.  One looks very much like the other and there are several things you have to be able to look at to determine how much heel you really have. You MUST be able to tell the difference between frog skin and periople bulb skin. And between a false heel and a true heel buttress.  The heel from the exit of the collateral groove should be about 3/4 to 1"...IF you are at the end of periople skin and not frog skin. (this will be explained in greater detail in the class.)   **Step 12**  Map the Dorsal wall and Toe Quarters (Pillars)  With the foot on the ground look and find the line you drew when you mapped the center of the foot in step 5. Follow the horn tubule up to the hairline with the marker. Now get back a bit and look to see if it looks centered to the leg. Sometimes, even with a protractor to try and get everything squared and centered we can draw the line off to the side of center.   Get as centered as you can and draw a line down the center of the dorsal wall. Also the capsule can be crooked or tweeked this will affect how it looks. The main thing is you follow the horn tubule from the ground to the hairline.  [valor 062.JPG](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410642)     Now hold your gauge up and measure it. Note that a really flared foot will not give a truly correct reading since the flare is more horizontal than vertical. This hoof is vertical with no  curve in the wall or flare.. On a flare dorsal wall you have to work at getting the flare out first.    [valor 056.JPG](https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.websitetoolbox.com/162030/thumb/3410635)  Write down your   measurement so you remember it.  [valor 057.JPG](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410636)[valor 058.JPG](https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.websitetoolbox.com/162030/thumb/3410637) Now measure from the center at the hairline over 2" and make a mark on both the lateral and the medial sides. Then follow the horn tubules down with the marker from the hairline to the ground on both sides.  Measure the center of the toe how long it is and make a note. Then measure each side and write this down. At this time you will not make any more marks until after you are done with your initial trim. 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You can do the right thing at the wrong time in these trims if you are not reading the foot correctly that is why this trim is based on your understanding what you are seeing, by first knowing what the correct structure and anatomy is to begin with.   **TOOLS YOU WILL NEED FOR MAPPING**  You will need a 6 inch protractor and a few sharpies. WARNING: DO NOT USE A RED SHARPIE. The reason is becasue you will be taking pictures and red looks like blood. Then you have to answer a million comments asking if that's blood. I also have a sewing gauge for measurements.  **DO NOT** use a fat marker, use a thin line, not a fat line, this is anatomy and is precision work. Measure this twice to make sure you are doing it correctly. We must be at least as competent as a carpenter who's rule is "measure twice cut once". You must be careful that you do not measure on the wrong side of the line and cut your horses toe to short. AND **USE YOUR INTUITION,** If you have a very big horse with very big feet you can add 1/4" to start out to this line. As you learn the anatomy and do this trim you will learn to read where the toe is specifically. These measurements are just general anatomical measurements to get you in the general vicinity of the size of the capsule in relation to the inner foot.   Make it a habit of trimming to the "outside" of your lines, in order to give yourself some room. It is good to map the feet again after you trim. Also "measure twice at least and cut once).   **Step 1** Wash and scrub the feet. Use a scrub brush not a wire brush.   **Step 2** Take a minimum of 5 profile shots of the foot.   Outside, Inside, Front, picked up sighting down at the heels and looking down flat at the sole. There are six pictures all together but you do not have to take the one with the horse standing of the heels all the time. You should on occasion through.  **Step 3** Find the true apex of the frog.  [valor 070.JPG](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410608) [valor 071.JPG](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410609)   Trim down the apex until you find where the frog and sole merge together. At this time you can also trim your whole frog. Make sure to trim the sides and the central sulcus and trim away any super hard petrified frog. This is so your frog will grow and renew itself.   **Step 4** Take your sharpie and put a dot at the center of the apex of the frog on the sole directly in front of it, and put another mark in the center at the very base of the frog. [valor 072.JPG](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410610)   **Step 5.** Take your protractor and line it up with those dots in the center of the frog and draw a line from the toe to the end of the frog down the center of the foot. MAKE SURE TO continue your line around and up over the hoof wall of the toe, to the outer wall. This is the line you will use later to map your dorsal wall, so you can center your mid line. [valor 073.JPG](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410611) [valor 074.JPG](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410612)  You will use this line to line the protractor up so that you get correct and balanced (what they call Square in building) lines across the toe, so that your toe is centered and not off to one side.   **Step 6.** Measure 1 1/2" from the apex of the frog towards the toe and make a mark.  [valor 075.JPG](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410613) [valor 076.JPG](https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.websitetoolbox.com/162030/thumb/3410614)  **Step 7.** Line up the protractor across the toe at the 1 1/2" mark and draw a line straight across the toe from side to side.  [valor 077.JPG](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410615)   **Step 8** Draw a line across the foot at the location of the apex of the frog from the lateral to the medial side.    [valor 079.JPG](https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.websitetoolbox.com/162030/thumb/3410617)[valor 080.JPG](https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.websitetoolbox.com/162030/thumb/3410618)  **Step 9** Measure back from the apex of the frog towards the heel 1 1/2". Make a mark and then draw another line across the foot from side to side. [valor 081.JPG](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410619)    [[valor 082.JPG](https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.websitetoolbox.com/162030/thumb/3410620)](https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.websitetoolbox.com/162030/thumb/3410620)  You now have your center toe, the toe quarters or pillars, the quarters and the heel locations all marked. If during the trim you removed them, then replace them before you do your finish work on the wall (beveling).   **STEP 10** Map the bars. Take the sharpie and put two good size dots on each side of the apex of the frog. Align the straight edge of the protractor to the dot at the apex and the inside of the heel and draw a line. This is where you will bring your bar over to.  [valor 088.JPG](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410626) [valor 090.JPG](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410628)   **Step 11** Map the heels 2 ways.  [valor 083.JPG](https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.websitetoolbox.com/162030/thumb/3410621)  Draw a line from the end of the heel buttress wall down across the bulb and periople skin to the hairline where the hairs are growing out. This will be slightly under the actual end of the hairs. Measure from the hairline down to the end of the heel to see how long your heels are. You want to aim at 2 inches. If the heels are longer make a mark at 2" and bring the heels down to 2". If the heels are not 2" leave the heel and let it grow.  [valor 084.JPG](https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.websitetoolbox.com/162030/thumb/3410622)   You should also measure the heel from the bottom of the collateral groove to see how long it is. Sometimes when the heel is trimmed out, you can have almost 2" of stretched periople skin and no real heal.   This is why the first method will not work on some horses. You have to be able to tell if the skin you are seeing is periople skin covering a trimmed out heel, or if it's frog skin covering the actual heel buttress wall.  One looks very much like the other and there are several things you have to be able to look at to determine how much heel you really have. You MUST be able to tell the difference between frog skin and periople bulb skin. And between a false heel and a true heel buttress.  The heel from the exit of the collateral groove should be about 3/4 to 1"...IF you are at the end of periople skin and not frog skin. (this will be explained in greater detail in the class.)  **Step 12**  Map the Dorsal wall and Toe Quarters (Pillars)  With the foot on the ground look and find the line you drew when you mapped the center of the foot in step 5. Follow the horn tubule up to the hairline with the marker. Now get back a bit and look to see if it looks centered to the leg. Sometimes, even with a protractor to try and get everything squared and centered we can draw the line off to the side of center.   Get as centered as you can and draw a line down the center of the dorsal wall. Also the capsule can be crooked or tweeked this will affect how it looks. The main thing is you follow the horn tubule from the ground to the hairline.  [valor 062.JPG](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410642)     Now hold your gauge up and measure it. Note that a really flared foot will not give a truly correct reading since the flare is more horizontal than vertical. This hoof is vertical with no  curve in the wall or flare.. On a flare dorsal wall you have to work at getting the flare out first.    [valor 056.JPG](https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.websitetoolbox.com/162030/thumb/3410635)  Write down your   measurement so you remember it.  [valor 057.JPG](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410636)[valor 058.JPG](https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.websitetoolbox.com/162030/thumb/3410637) Now measure from the center at the hairline over 2" and make a mark on both the lateral and the medial sides. Then follow the horn tubules down with the marker from the hairline to the ground on both sides.  Measure the center of the toe how long it is and make a note. Then measure each side and write this down. At this time you will not make any more marks until after you are done with your initial trim. Then these lines along with reading and looking at the growth rings will be used to determine if you need to correct the toe quarters (pillars).   The inner foot is shorter on the sides of the toe than in the center. Many times we let the sides of the toe wall get longer than the center. The dorsal wall and Pillar mapping is used to help us better fit the capsule to the foot and correct these over growths.  Ideally according to the form of the anatomy of the inner foot the sides of the toe should be up to 1/4" shorter than the center of the toe. After we trim we will check these measurements again to see where we came out and then if the sides of the toe are the same length or longer we then make the determination on how the toe pillars may need correction so they form fit the inner foot.  **Attached Images** [Click image for larger version - Name: valor 078.JPG, Views: 5, Size: 309.45 KB](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410616)  [Click image for larger version - Name: valor 085.JPG, Views: 3, Size: 260.82 KB](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410623)  [Click image for larger version - Name: valor 086.JPG, Views: 2, Size: 293.94 KB](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410624)  [Click image for larger version - Name: valor 087.JPG, Views: 2, Size: 258.14 KB](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410625) [Click image for larger version - Name: valor 089.JPG, Views: 4, Size: 329.57 KB](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410627)  [Click image for larger version - Name: valor 092.JPG, Views: 4, Size: 376.23 KB](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410629)  [Click image for larger version - Name: valor 059.JPG, Views: 3, Size: 254.21 KB](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410638)  [Click image for larger version - Name: valor 060.JPG, Views: 1, Size: 266.49 KB](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410639) [Click image for larger version - Name: valor 061.JPG, Views: 1, Size: 313.40 KB](http://thehoofschool.tactteamtraining.com/file?id=3410640)    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **"Motive is everything and Lies are perpetrated not by as much as what people say, as by what they do not say and allude to." -*Linda Harris*** "***If you can't explain it simply***, **you don't understand it well enough."** - ***Albert Einstein*** | | |  | | |

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