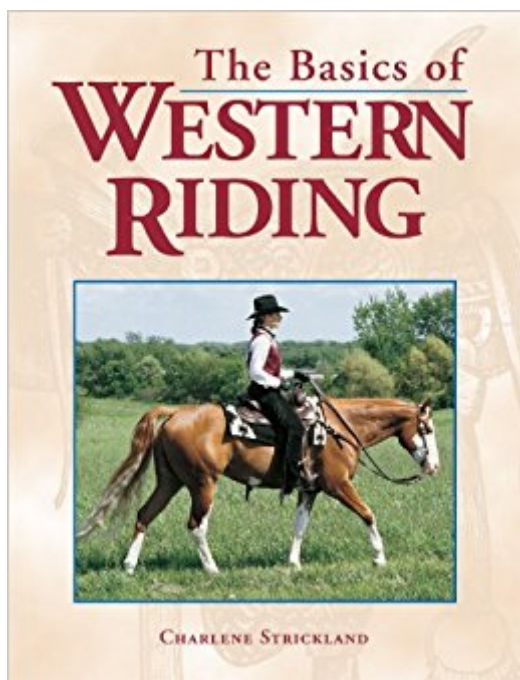


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# The Basics Of Western Riding



## Synopsis

Get in the saddle and experience the thrills, challenges, and fun of Western riding! In this comprehensive introductory guide, veteran trainer Charlene Strickland covers everything from safe horse handling procedures and basic Western riding techniques to stylish competition outfits. With plenty of encouragement and a contagious passion, Strickland provides easy-to-follow riding instructions along with expert advice on evaluating horses and appropriate tack. Youâ™ll soon be enjoying pleasurable rides both in the training ring and out on the trail.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 starsÂ Â  See all reviewsÂ (10 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I loved this book! I have just bought my own quarter horse and read many interesting things in this book that helped gaining more knowledge about western riding, horses, tack and training. I think it is a very good book for people who are starting out with western riding and/or are thinking about buying their own horse.

For a book that is titled 'The Basics', there was way too much jargon with no explanation. For example, there is a paragraph that tell the reader to 'learn the difference between the two types of hands, the fixed and the following', but then there is no explanation of the differences or even what either means. It also references different parts of the horse without explanation, such as the 'withers'. I did finally find an appendix that explains some of the terms, but it is never referenced in the book, and it does not explain all of the terms.

. I have read this book with confounded astonishment! The pictures are not descriptive of the material, even the breeds are not accurately drawn. Pictures of horses being jerked around! Pictures of poor horsemanship! Pictures that are poor examples to new horse lovers. Probably the worst horse book I have read. And I have over 1000 horse books. I bought the book at a second hand store, and I am glad I did because it keeps it out of the hands of an unsuspecting public. I have never seen such misinformation, not even the lope leads are described in a comprehensible or correct manner. They have a picture of a girl adjusting her stirrups without even holding the horse, an accident looking for a place to happen. You never do ANYTHING to a horse without having control of the animal. If a new horse person went by the instructions in this book, they would be riding for a fall, which the author points out will probably happen. They even point this out more than once! I was very disappointed. It has a whole list of confirmation points and how they are supposed to be (and many are incorrect), but they do not have any place showing where these points are, and where the horse has some parts listed they are not all in the right place! When a whole chapter is listed for trail riding competitions, these are advanced and for people with lots of experience, not a novice. While mentioning risk as a common factor, this book adds to that risk by not showing safe ways to handle the horse.

Of course you always learn something from a new book, but in general, I didn't find this book very useful as a beginner. It seems to be written in the space where the material is not well enough explained for a true beginner and yet already known by anyone beyond beginner. I found myself going to the dictionary quite often to look up words that I think should have been explained here. Words like cantle, withers, cinch and gullet that I now understand but that I didn't learn in this book. Fortunately, there is a glossary at the back of the book. Unfortunately, none of these words are in it. At other times, an opportunity to explain something is missed. For example, In the section on tacking the author states that the cinch should not be too tight or too loose but doesn't go on to explain what constitutes either one. Without it the sentence is not very useful. The section on selecting a horse seemed so generic to me that you could substitute the word "dog" for horse and been just as useful. I think you could have substituted the word "refrigerator". The author clearly knows the subject material but I didn't find that the presentation worked for me. She's a better rider than writer. (sorry about that).

I bought this book when I made the change to western riding and it gives a great over view of

Western Riding from the tack to riding and horses. A great book for the beginner.

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