

## *Application of Your Newly Found Dressage Knowledge to Your Model Horse Live or Photo Display*

The best presentation is one that will make me believe as a judge that what I am looking at could be real without too much stretch of my imagination. That means that you will need to take what has been presented here for knowledge of the requirements of each level and what each level's movement looks like. You will also need to apply the knowledge of the tack and attire requirements for each level. I will go over some examples with comments on each to give you the general idea. Later in this section we will go over the application of commonly known plastic model molds and their application to a dressage performance.



*Picture One*



*Picture Two*



*Picture Three*



*Picture Four*

In **picture one**, we can see only a portion of this model so we will discuss only what we can see. The saddle shows correct positioning, however the girth could be a bit further forward and tighter, it appears loose to me. The reins have not yet been set into place (as if a rider were holding them) that will need correction before show day. The noseband (caveson) end piece is flapping and needs to be sticky waxed into place. The bits appear to be appropriate for 3<sup>rd</sup> level or above, the angle of the curb is correct from what I can tell from this small photo. This appears to be a breakable model and is not one of the common plastic molds.

In **picture two**, we see a lovely dressage saddle, pad and double bridle appropriately adjusted onto this Strapless Breyer model. Again we cannot see the entire model, but this is a lovely, quality 3<sup>rd</sup> level and above tack set. Of course the saddle could be applied to all levels of dressage. The only correction I would make is more angle of the curb bit, shallow.

In **picture three** we see another lovely breakable model, the picture is small, but from what I can see the horse is doing a collected trot, called for in Second and Third Levels. In looking at the model there is just not enough collection, (up hill feeling) to the gait to label this one as any higher level than that of third. This display should use one of the Third Level tests to find a place in the arena where collected trot is shown and minimal dressage arena wall and letters need to be shown. This reduces the common error of scale between the letters.

**Picture four** shows us a Breyer Keltec Salinero mold, customized to a lovely dark dapple gray. However this Breyer mold of Salinero is performing the Passage, as indicated by the position of the left hind leg (being out to far to indicate the "piaffe" or trot in place). It rather indicates that there is forward motion which is the activity of the passage. So, for the sake of argument we will say this model is doing the passage. I believe there is photo of Salinero performing his piaffe on page two of this article, you will see the position of the down hind leg is very much under his body indicating immobility not forward motion. That said, all tack placement is correct on this model, the problem is that passage is only performed at levels that require a double bridle. This model would need to be showing in a double bridle and the quality of the passage indicates that he would be best placed in a Grand Prix test though Intermediate I & II also call for this movement. The action or cadence of the gait and position of the head, neck and back indicate to me that of a Grand Prix horse. My suggestion would be to use a double bridle with this model to make the display accurate and not loose points or risk being eliminated due to incorrect tack used by showing this model at Prix St. Georges or above where this movement is performed.

Below and on the following page you will find some of my models in their dressage tack. They are all marked by movement and level.



*Examples of the "Medium Trot" of Third or Fourth Level*



*Correct Extended Trot 4<sup>th</sup> Level and Above*



*Medium Trot, Third or Fourth Level, Pas de Deux (ride of two)  
Left Photo Show, Right Live Show*



*Half Pass Right, Intermediate I, II or Grand Prix (the latter being my preference)  
Proper Bit Angle and Placement Shown, Proper Placement of Saddle, Saddle Pad etc.*



*Proper Bridle Fit and Adjustment  
(Brow band is a bit big), Proper Bit  
Angle, showing Alternate Rein  
Configuration, Reins are not Twisted,  
Loose Ends of Reins Hang Correctly.*



*The Full Bridle with an Appropriate Curb  
Chain and Leather Lip Strap (prevents curb  
bit from Flipping Upside Down During  
Training/Dangerous!). Height of where  
Riders Hands Would Hold these Reins is Correct.  
Angle of the Curb Bit is not Excessive.*



*Correct Fit of the Snaffle Bridle using  
a Flash Noseband Configuration. Used  
in Fourth Level or Below.*