



Pattern Training Without Losing Your Horse

Using Patterns to Improve Training—Not Replace It

Why This Matters

Patterns are often where good training begins to come apart. Not because patterns are inherently bad, but because they expose weaknesses in the foundation that were already there.

If the horse is truly broke, patterns improve performance. If the foundation is weak, patterns create anticipation, tension, and loss of control. That is why patterns should be used to evaluate training—not replace it.

Core Concept

Patterns are simply a tool that reveal where communication is lacking—or where your horse's confidence in your leadership breaks down.

Before You Run Patterns

Make sure cadence, confidence, collection, and control are already present. If any one of those breaks down under simple work, full patterns will only make the problem louder.

Do not use patterns to “teach” what the horse still does not understand in the basics.

How To Train Patterns Correctly

Good pattern training is built slowly and intentionally.

- Break the pattern into smaller pieces
- Train each piece separately before combining it
- Slow everything down before adding speed

What To Watch For

Patterns should tell you what still needs work.

- Speed replacing rhythm
- Tension increasing instead of confidence growing
- Loss of control or communication in familiar places

If It Falls Apart

Do not keep running the full pattern and hope it improves.

- Stop
- Break the pattern into pieces
- Fix the part that is breaking down
- Rebuild before putting it all back together

Core Principles

Patterns don't create problems. They expose them.

Train the horse—not the pattern.