

SAFT- TRAC HORSESHOES

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The application of various carbide products is used to either enhance wearability or increase traction on horseshoes, and sometimes both. Historically, Borium, which is a metal tube filled with tiny irregular shaped tungsten carbide particles, is welded on to a horseshoe with an oxyacetylene torch. Composite rod (drill tech) is similar to Borium, however that product comes in a brazing rod and can be applied with either a welding torch or in a gas forge. Various configurations of the placement and height of these products are determined by the needs and use of the horse.

Typically, when shoeing a horse that requires one of the above products, the shoes should be shaped properly, first to fit the horse's hooves, before the carbide product is applied. This is time consuming while the horse is waiting. Some farrier suppliers have offered "pre-dressed" shoes for the convenience and efficiency of shoeing a horse in a timely matter. The problem here is that "pre-dressed" horseshoes are difficult to shape and flatten properly without damaging the carbide, the anvil, or the hammer. Overheating shoes with "pre-dressed" composite rod will likely melt off the brazed-on carbide. More importantly, the specific needs of the horse are not considered when configuring the product.

Saft-Trac horseshoes are any standard horseshoes that are treated with a unique welding process that applies the tungsten carbide evenly across the toe area and each heel area. On the toe area, the product is set back slightly to not interfere with breakover. The carbide particles are rough enough to provide traction but still allow the necessary slight slippage to not jam the horse's joints. There is not an excessive build up that interferes with the horse's movement. The carbide particles will extend the wearability of the shoes as a bonus.

Now here is the unique part, Saft-Trac horseshoes can be shaped and modified in a forge without damaging the product or the hammer and anvil if the following steps are followed.

Heat the shoe up as much as necessary to shape and modify it. You can draw a clip or even forge an extended heel. You will not damage the carbide. The carbide will damage your anvil face when leveling, so it is recommended to fabricate a top plate to protect the anvil. It should be a minimum 3/8" thick. (pictured) When striking the ground side of the shoe for flattening, use a minimum 2lb. brass hammer to not damage the product or ruin the face of a good hammer. For horses used at speed, it is recommended that toe or quarter clipped shoes be used due to the extra traction.

Saft-Trac Horseshoes will save time and provide safety to horses and allow horseshoes to last longer.