FARRIER TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

What they are called & what they do
Aprons/Chaps

You need chaps to protect your legs from the horse's hoof and legs. Chaps also help you hold the hoof firmly between your knees. Farriers need thick leather pads on their chaps to protect against nails should the horse pull while nailing and to protect against heat when hot shoeing.
Hoof Pick

A hoof pick is used to clean debris from the bottom of the hoof, along the grooves on the sides of the frog, and from the sole area. This debris, if not removed, prevent a clear view of the hoof structures, will dull your hand tools and may hide injuries to the hoof.
Knives

A hoof knife is for trimming away loose dried-out sole. The hoof knife is also used to trim off loose and ragged frog.
Rasp

A rasp used correctly can be your best tool, but used incorrectly can be your worst tool. Rasps have been known to take out hands, knuckles, fingers, lots of skin, and sometimes too much hoof; that could be your blood dripping on your boot.

Many farriers don’t bother with handles, but they help with handling and safely cover the tang.

Rasp Handles
Hoof Gauge

The hoof gauge is used to match pairs of feet in their angle to the ground. Barriers are taught that the angles of the horse's shoulder, pastern, and hoof wall at the toe should be relative to each other. In most cases the rear hoof angle is about 2 degrees higher or steeper than the front hoof angle. As a rule the front pair should match and the rear pair should match.
Nippers

Half Round Nipper

Nipper Spring
Disc Base Hoof Stands

A hoof stand will support the horse's foot while it's being trimmed and shod. They allow the farriers to be more precise and more accurate, and enable them to work without putting extra strain on their knees and backs. It also makes it possible for the farrier to have both hands on his tools instead of one holding the hoof. Stand with a solid round base is very stable and allows more surface to stand on to stabilize it.
Tripod Type Hoof Stand

Tripod stands are much less secure than the disc type. There are only three places for the farrier to stand on to stabilize it and it is more prone to tipping over with the slightest pull from the horse. Once over, a leg sticking up presents a hazard to the horse and the human!
Shoeing Box
The hoof tester is a very practical gadget that allows us to examine the hoof for sensitivity and pain. It is used to help to diagnose various forms of lameness associated with the hoof.
Clinch cutters

Clinch cutters are designed to have a sharp and very hard heat treated cutting edge for quick and easy shearing of nail clinches. The striking surface is not as hard to save the life of your driving hammer. The handy pointed end is used as hoof pick or nail hole cleaner.
Crease Nail Puller

Designed for easy pulling of nails one at a time from the shoe crease. The design of the jaws gives a solid grip of all nail heads.
Shoe Puller aka Pulloffs

Shoe Puller
Shoe Puller/Spreader
Hammers

Rounding Hammer

A 2lb hammer with a flat and convex face on one side and a concave face on the other - used to shape a hot shoe when hammering on the anvil.

Flatter

Used to flatten hot metal

Driving Hammer

A 10 oz to 12 oz hammer used to drive horseshoe nails into the hoof. The “claw” side is used with a quick twist to remove the nail ends protruding from the hoof.
Clinchers

The clincher is used to press or bend the end of the nail over so the horse shoe nail will not fall out.
Clinching a Nail
Restraints

Twitches are used by farriers to control a difficult horse instead of using sedation.
Forge

The forge is a heat source designed to heat metal to a degree in which it can be shaped or bent easily. The forge can also be used to weld two pieces of metal which is called forge welding. In the past most forges used burning coal which to have a bellow or an electric blower to force air through the fire to intensify degree of heat. Today most Farriers use a gas forge which is more compact easier to maintain.
Tongs

Top part holds shoe as it is placed and removed from the forge. Bottom part holds hot shoe to be pressed to horse’s foot.
Pritchel

The Pritchel is used to punch holes in pads, through bar stock or shoes, to help remove nails from pulled shoes, and to sometimes widen the nail hole spots in the shoe.
Anvil

The heart of the blacksmith or farrier trade.
Anvil Hardie

The hardy or hardie, a small steel cutting tool (used to cut steel, hot and cold, on the anvil) With the edge facing upward, it fits into the small square hole made for it in the top of an anvil. Thus the square hole is called a "hardie hole. It is a common mistake to call all tools made to fit this hole "hardie tools". Their correct names are "bottom sets" or "anvil sets", anvil swages and shanked tools.
Horseshoe Nails

Horseshoe nails come in a variety of sizes and types. It takes a skilled eye to tell the difference between them and to know when to use a specific type.

They have a beveled tip that helps the nail to bend as it is driven into the hoof so that it will not exit through the side of the hoof wall. The more carefully the nail is driven, the more carefully it will bend and stay in place. Skill is needed to drive the nail with just the right amount of force to make it exit exactly where desired.
Nail Cutter

Designed for cutting nails sticking out of the hoof wall to correct length after shoe is attached and before clinching.
Farrier’s Truck Body
Horseshoes
Basic “Keg” Shoe

This commercially made basic flat shoe is the most commonly used shoe. “Keg” simply means a conventional, factory made horse shoe as opposed to a specialty or handmade shoe. The term “keg” comes from the days when horseshoes were sold in small wooden kegs that contained 100 pounds of shoes.

The “fuller”, or “crease”, is a groove into which the nail holes are punched.
Clips

A clip is as good as two extra nails for keeping a shoe attached to a foot.”
Heart Bar Shoe

Heart Bar Shoe has been used mainly to support the coffin bone by putting sure at the apex of the frog. The idea was to keep the coffin bone from ting after founder or laminitis has occurred. Besides being a bad idea it is very nful if too much pressure is applied to the frog when the shoe is fitted. The bar of the shoe is suppose to give more support to the heels. These also can be ght in a wedge shoe normally a 3 degree wedge. It is believed among most ers that by raising the hoof angle on foundered / laminitis horses you can keep deep flexor tendon from pulling P3/coffin bone from the laminar attachment.

• Navicular or chronic heel pain
• Bruised frog
• Weak, shelly or brittle heels
• Quarter cracks
• Sheared heels & sheared quarters
• Corns

Heart Bar Shoe was popularized in the 80's for use on foundered horses but it is used for other problems as well.
Egg Bar & Egg Heart Bar Shoe

Egg Bar and Egg Heart Bar can be bought or hand made, but the aluminum become the most popular. These are similar to the above but have a oblong shoe and are used in cases such as underrun heels, sheared heels, suspensory problems and even navicular. As with the heartbar shoe, these also come wedged with in most cases of navicular the farriers will normally roll of rocker the toe. It believed that by raising the heel it will relieve pressure on the navicular bone shorten the break over time.
Straight Bar Shoe

This is a modification that can be used on base narrow horses that are having interference problems such as cross firing or scalping.
Wedge Shoes

Wedge shoes come in various degrees of elevation, most commonly used is the 3-degree wedge.

Wedge shoes are used for Navicular syndrome, Caudal heel syndrome, Under heel and broken axis.

The Navicular shoe’s purpose is self explanatory, it was designed to help make a horse that has been diagnosed navicular. The shoe as with the wedged shoes is designed to lift the heel and to a certain extent, as a stabilizer.

Navicular Egg Bar
Shoes with Grabs

**Heeled**
angled heel calks give added traction on rough ground.

**Toed and Heeled**
Maximum-traction shoe with rounded toe grab in addition to heel grabs.

**Racing Plates**
Lightweight aluminum shoe that generally have various types of grabs to aid with traction on the track.
The toe weight shoe is one most of us don’t see very often, it is used primarily to give a gaited horse’s more knee action and hoof action. Some Saddlebred, or Walking Horse shoers even attach a weight with screws on the front of the hoof horn to get a higher lift in their hoof action.
There is a bit of confusion over what a "scotch" shoe is. Literally, it means a shoe beveled so that it follows the angle of the hoof to the ground. The term has bastardized to mean huge square shoes (for the fronts) that make the foot wider than it was ever meant to be, and totally squared in the front to make horse break over earlier. The combined excess weight and a fast break over make any horse have more action. This action is unnatural, and harmful to the horse over time, especially on young, growing legs. In the hind, the "scotch bottom" shoes have a "trailer" on the outside, so that the hocks are unnaturally thrown further to achieve that so-desired draft horse "set", i.e. hind legs that are "set" at a certain angle believed necessary for leverage in pulling. – example: the leg should be straight, but at an angle so that the hocks are nearly touching when the horse is square. Many feel that if you can't get that with good breeding that it's just
Natural Balance Shoe

It is supposed to provide a natural break over with added sole support.
Shoes - Race Plates

Types of race plates: Low toe, regular toe, wedge, QH, Turf, regular,
Shoes

Draft – front & hind

Draft

Mule
Sliding Plates

on Reiners to do what the name implies, help with the slide part of the reining pattern. The angle and length of a shoe can be played with in order to fine tune the slippage. A sliding plate needs to provide enough traction to let the horse do circles and enough support to slide well.
Composite Shoes

Designed to absorb high-frequency vibrations which can cause bone, joint and tendon injuries, the Öllöv Original uses a specially formulated rubber that is bonded to a thin steel horseshoe. Applied just like a regular horseshoe, the Öllöv Original can reduce and/or prevent many concussion-related injuries such as splints and swollen legs/joints.
Synthetic Shoes

Decrease concussion and increase the ability of the hoof to flex over metal shoes.

Epona Shoe

Easy Walker
Glue on Shoes

Glu-Strider

Dalric Cuff

Sigafoos - used on Barbaro

Most often used as a corrective shoe if the hoof cannot hold a nail on shoe.

Redden Modified Ultimates
Glue On versus Nail On Shoes

Sigafoos glue on system
Foal Extensions - Glue On

Before

After
Some are for protection only, some are designed for concussion, some are for elevating the rear of the hoof, some are for corrective and or therapeutic purposes, and some are designed for treating sole injuries.
Assorted Hoof Pads

Heel Pad

Frog Pad

Rim Pads

Bar Wedge

Anti-Snowball Pad
Equithane

Hoof bonding agent with many uses - from rebuilding the wall of a hoof to gluing on horseshoes, to building up the heels or creating foal extensions.