

HORSE SENSE

This weekly feature is edited by Leanne O'Sullivan. Leanne graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Equine Management from the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) - Enniskillen Campus.



STEP 1

Divide the mane evenly into as many sections as are required and loosely secure with a plaiting band. Make sure there is a sharp parting between each section.



STEP 2

Remove the loose plaiting band from the first section, comb out the mane and dampen it down. I prefer to use a wet cloth because it's easier to wrap around the section and dampen the mane on all sides as opposed to a bulky brush or sponge.



A tight plait will make the resultant rolled plait look neater and more secure

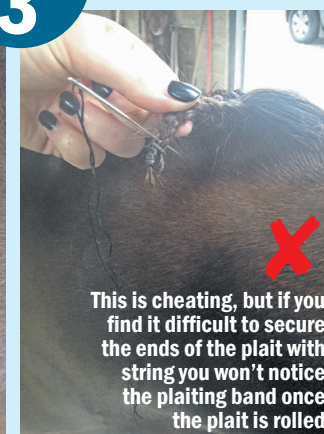


A loose plait will be less secure and will look messy when rolled

STEP 3



A plait correctly rolled at the end and secured with thread, ready to be rolled and stitched



This is cheating, but if you find it difficult to secure the ends of the plait with string you won't notice the plaiting band once the plait is rolled



STEP 4

Take the end of the plait and fold it under to the crest. If you are using thread pull the needle straight up through the mane, otherwise hold the fold in place with your fingers.



A



B



C



D

STEP 5

Fold the plait in half again so that the plait is neatly and tightly rolled (A). At this stage secure the tightly rolled plait with a plaiting band (B). If you are using thread stitch it backwards and forwards through the plait three or four times (C). Cut the thread on the underside. The resultant plait should be button-like (D). Sometimes people stitch around the sides of the rolled plait (E), I would only do this if there were some unruly pieces of mane bulging or sticking out at the sides. Following the steps above, proceed down the neck.



E



STEP 6

The forelock is done last and should be braided in the same way as the tail. Once it has been secured at the end follow the same steps as per securing plaits in the mane.



weeklytip

DEALING WITH A RUBBED MANE



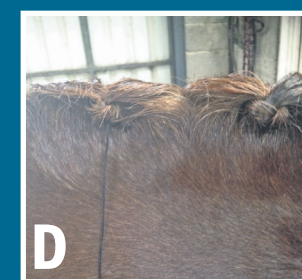
A



B



C



D

These little pieces of hair can be very awkward (A). A neck-rug used during winter has rubbed this horse's mane making it quite short and difficult to plait. For show horses this really needs to be prevented at a much earlier stage either by removing the neck part of the rug or leaving the rug off at certain periods throughout the day to avoid rubbing. Where you have a section of

mane like this, do your best to dampen it down and lengthen the hair as much as possible (B). Plait it very tightly and secure the end (C). Stitching these plaits makes them far more secure than they would be with plaiting bands, although they may require a few extra stitches to help keep them secure from the friction of a martingale (D). Again cut the string on the underside.