



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS Merlin Equine Hoof Trimming Set

Q. What's the general information on the Merlin Hoof Trimming Tool Set?

A. The Merlin Equine Hoof Trimming Tool Set was specifically designed for hoof trimming and is like nothing else in the industry. Its one tool set that will definitely save you time and effort. It's tough enough out there without it having to be physically challenging.

This powerful but light weight tool set comes with an electric, precision built; miniature angle grinder that's fitted with the 2" (50mm) x four (4) tungsten carbide tooth saw chain and four (4) additional unique accessories available exclusively from King Arthur's Tools and our authorized dealers.

Some of the tasks that the *Merlin-Electric Hoof Knife* can handle are quickly removing excess hoof wall material or over-growth, cleaning pith from the sole area and dress the flare from the hoof wall. The Merlin can be used for both corrective and routine or maintenance trimming.



Q: How would I know "I can trim with the Merlin?"

A: If you're currently trimming with or know how to trim with nippers, a rasp and a hoof knife then you shouldn't have any problem using the Merlin Hoof Trimming Tool. Its light weight, weighs 1.5 lbs, becomes balanced in your hand and the motor is powerful enough to cut the hoof material easily and precisely without worrying about the tool bouncing back. You can easily handle the Merlin in one hand while you use your other hand to stabilize the hoof.

Q: Who was the Merlin designed for?

A: The Merlin Equine Hoof Trimming Set was designed for Farriers, Veterinarians, and Horse Owners that do their own trimming. Depending on your application and the type of trimming needs you have, you may find that additional accessories are available.

Q: Is the Merlin noisy?

A: The sound generated by the Merlin is about the same as you would expect from a pair of electric clippers that one would use to trim the bridal path. About 100 decibels.

Q: Any tips from the trimmers who are using Merlin?

A: The Farriers who have used our tools report that by utilizing a hoof stand during the trimming process, it allowed them to use both hands and have greater concentration when trimming. They reported that this allowed them to trim a little faster than their traditional method.



Q. What are the 5 different accessories included in the kit used for?

A:

| Part # | Photo | Description | How it can be used |
|--------|---|---|---|
| 21004 |  | 4-Tooth Tungsten Carbide Chain | The 4-Tooth Tungsten Carbide Chain features chain saw teeth coated with tungsten carbide that allows the teeth to be easily sharpened and stay sharper longer. The tungsten carbide teeth do require the use of a diamond tipped file. |
| 10012 |  | Flat Carbide Abrasive "V" Edge Disc | A patented slim faced disc with tungsten carbide needles brazed to the outer disc edges in the shape of a "V" and used to debride white line cracks. |
| 10003 |  | 2"- Flap Disc Sander - 100 Grit | Finishing and/or sanding the hooves. |
| 10008 |  | 2"- Aluminum Oxide Cutting Disc | The aluminum cutting disc is used for thin white line cracks. The disc can also be used to cut off exposed nails. |
| 10007 |  | 2"- Silicon Carbide Grinding Disc 60 Grit | Handy accessory that can be used to keep a nice edge on your other cutting tools. |

Q: What's the best way to learn how to use the Merlin?

A: It's easy to master the simple, smooth pulling action and incredible control the Merlin offers. We recommend that you practice with a piece of 4" x 4" Cedar. We've found that Cedar has a density that is close to that of a hoof. Position yourself to the wood as you would a hoof. Most of your cutting action will be a pulling motion that moves toward your body. Don't chop at the wood. Use a smooth pulling motion. The tool is doing all the cutting; you want to learn how to control the pressure of the tool against the hoof. You can remove hoof material in very thin layers. With use and practice you'll soon find that you can make the Merlin cut in any direction, forward, backwards and from side to side.

Q: How do you desensitize the horse to the Merlin?

A: Farriers and Horse owners that have tested the Merlin suggest that you start by letting the horse see and smell the Merlin first. Then you can move to turning the tool on while in close proximity of the horse. The Merlin isn't overly loud and most horses become comfortable with the noise in a few minutes. Next you'll want to turn the tool on and let the horse feel the vibration of the Merlin. You can do this by holding the Merlin in one hand and rubbing the horse with the other hand. The vibration will move through your body and will be felt by the horse. The last step is to actually touch the horses' hoof with the tool. We've been told that the Merlin produces less vibration on the hoof than a rasp does.

Q: What precautions should be taken with the electric extension cord?

A: You should always ensure that the extension cord you're using is laid outside your work area as much as possible. Because there is a risk that the horse could step on the extension cord and receive a shock, we strongly suggest that the cord be connected to some type of ground-fault receptacle. There are several different types of GFI cords that you can choose from.

Q: Does the blade get hot on the hoof during the trimming?

A: All of our accessories have been tested for heat generation when applied to the hoof under normal operating conditions. We've found that the accessories generate little to no heat and nothing that would be detrimental to the hoof.

Q: Is Merlin available for worldwide use.

A: Yes. The variable speed model is available in 110 volt 60HZ for the North American and Japanese markets. For the European, United Kingdom and Australasian markets, a fixed speed model is available in 220-240 Volt 50/60HZ.

Q: Are the chain saw blades easy to sharpen?

A: Yes. You can easily touch up and sharpen the chain saw teeth with sharpeners available from King Arthur's Tools. The ability to do your own self sharpening will save you money and reduce hassle. It puts you in control of the sharpening process. And your productivity will greatly improve because you'll always have sharp teeth.

Q: Are the tools safe?

A: Yes. We have never had a chain break, discs crack or blades fly off the grinder. Not one has ever been returned through customer dissatisfaction or manufacturing defect. The simple truth is that the chain can't break because it doesn't move independently like a chainsaw, which rotates on a bar. The chain on every one of our products rotates as one unit locked between the top and bottom discs, the total assembly being secured by the lock nut which is further secured by its clockwise tightening when the motor turns anti clockwise. The chain can't go anywhere as it spins in conjunction with the discs. Another design feature ensures the blades never heat up due to the cooling effect provided by the slots in each disc, maintaining their long life. Please keep in mind that you must always use caution with a power tool. The biggest danger is complacency and lack of attention to the work. We have been told many times by users that they have been lulled into a false sense of security to the danger because the tools do such a fantastic job. You must always be alert and be aware that the blades are traveling at 13,000rpm. Used correctly, there's nothing better or faster on the planet.

Q: How safe is the Merlin?

A: Merlin is a safe tool when you follow the instructions and how-to tips. We add a major word of caution. If you remove the safety guard and run either the saw chain blade or green disc, it's NOT safe! The blades were designed to cut with the teeth on the bottom and exposed left side of the blade. Removing the safety guard exposes the top half of the blade to the fingers when held in the preferred position. Cutting with the top section of the teeth could cause binding and kickback. Just remember, it's a miniature chainsaw. Used correctly, it's an incredible tool. Don't let Merlin's small size lull you into a false sense of security. Merlin is a serious power tool—perfect for the equine industry.

Q. What safety equipment do I need when using the Merlin?

A. When using the Merlin you should always wear gloves and eye protection. As an additional safety measure, we recommend that you purchase a pair of Kylar gloves that are made for use around chain saws.

Q: Do the chains require oil?

A: No, the only maintenance required is to sharpen the teeth. The chain saw circlet is securely locked in place between two discs and does not move independently like a chainsaw over a bar. The only parts that wear are the teeth. This is fully explained under "Safety – Are the Tools Safe?" It is recommended that chains be stored in a small

