

# Headstall Design & Ordering Information

To order your headstall you will have to pick a **design**, **color**, **size**, and an **ornamentation** pattern.

## Design:

- **1 buckle** or **2 buckle** – The 2 buckle allows for a more precise adjustment and dresses up the horses face, but the 1 buckle will keep the horse from rubbing the rope under the buckle.
- **Regular split-ear** or **sliding-ear** – They are both attractive but the *sliding ear offers a wider range of adjustment*, especially with a 1 buckle headstall. It will also move the buckle higher on the cheek, giving more length to space the ornaments. The **double sliding-ear** is available for a sharp dressed up look.
- The **brow band** is not so popular today with a bridle bit but *is a must for a snaffle bit outfit*. The **tapered brow band** will accommodate *graduating conchos* or a *brow plate*.
- The headstalls are made of **Sedgwick English leather**. The **dark brown** is the most popular as the silver trim really stands out for an old time look. **Dark Chestnut** is also available.

## Size:

- The **size of the headstall is critical** to achieve a balanced look and the proper display of the silver ornament pattern.
- To decide the **average headstall length**, take the bit off the headstall you are now using on your horse, tie the bit ends back and stretch it on a flat surface. From end to end this will give you an average headstall length. Your custom headstall will have the mid hole adjusted to that length. A **precise measurement down to the ½"** will allow for the best use of the silver ornaments.
- For reference – 37" is xsm, 38" sm, 39" med, 40" reg, 41" l, 42" xl, 43" xxl. (a good looking rope horse will size 40" to 41")

## Buckle selection:

- Buckles are available in different styles according to esthetics preference and budget. A **3 piece buckle set** will include keeper and tip. A **center bar buckle set** does not require a keeper but includes a tip. The **concho buckle** comes with keeper and tip.

## Bit ends attachment:

- **Usually a concho** with chicago screw back, sized to fit the headstall cheek width.
- The next step up is the **bridle bit hangers**; they really dress up the horses head and give a quicker signal to the horse. There are 3 different sizes available (5/8" x 1 3/4"), (5/8" x 2") and (3/4" x 2"), to fit different cheek styles.
- As the buckaroos are concerned, the **traditional snake head bit hangers** paired up with an old time card suit headstall is the real deal, but it can be to much for some people.

### Cheek style:

- The width and shape of the cheek will allow for different ornament patterns.
- Choose from a **straight 5/8"** cheek (the narrowest), **3/4"**, or a wider **7/8"** to give more body to the headstall and allow larger size ornaments for a bolder look. The cheek can also be **oval** or **scalloped** to create different looks.
- Note: except the traditional card suit type headstall that comes with a 2" concho set and takes a 3/4" buckle, all other headstalls will take a 5/8" buckle. *Their cheek may taper out to 3/4", 7/8", or even up to 1 1/4"* for the scalloped cheek, but they will narrow down to 5/8" or 1/2" at the bit turn back ends. The **tear drop** cheek will allow a concho larger than the rest of the cheek.

### Cheek ornament pattern:

- About silver ornaments: Some come with the traditional Visalia style of engraving and the others have a more intricate western bright cut engraving and are priced accordingly. We can also source or take order for special request. Ask for a quote.
- If desired, choose from the silver ornament detail listing to design your cheek.  
**Alternating size and motif often looks best.** Usually a 2 buckle cheek looks good with **3 items of alternate size**. Four of the same kind can also be used if of a smaller size. A *decreasing sequence* can also be appealing.
- Note: On a 1 buckle headstall the sequence needs to be repeated on the right cheek and can also be extended to cover the longer cheek length. *The left cheek usually takes 3 items and the right from 5 to 9* depending on the spacing used on the left side.

### Crown and earpiece:

- Sometimes it is desired to *ornament the headstall above the cheek buckles*. The same pattern or a different pattern can be used there. We'll be glad to help you finalize that part of the design.
- Note: An *alternate sequence of 1/4" spots* can be used on the cheeks and ear piece to *enhance the design*.