

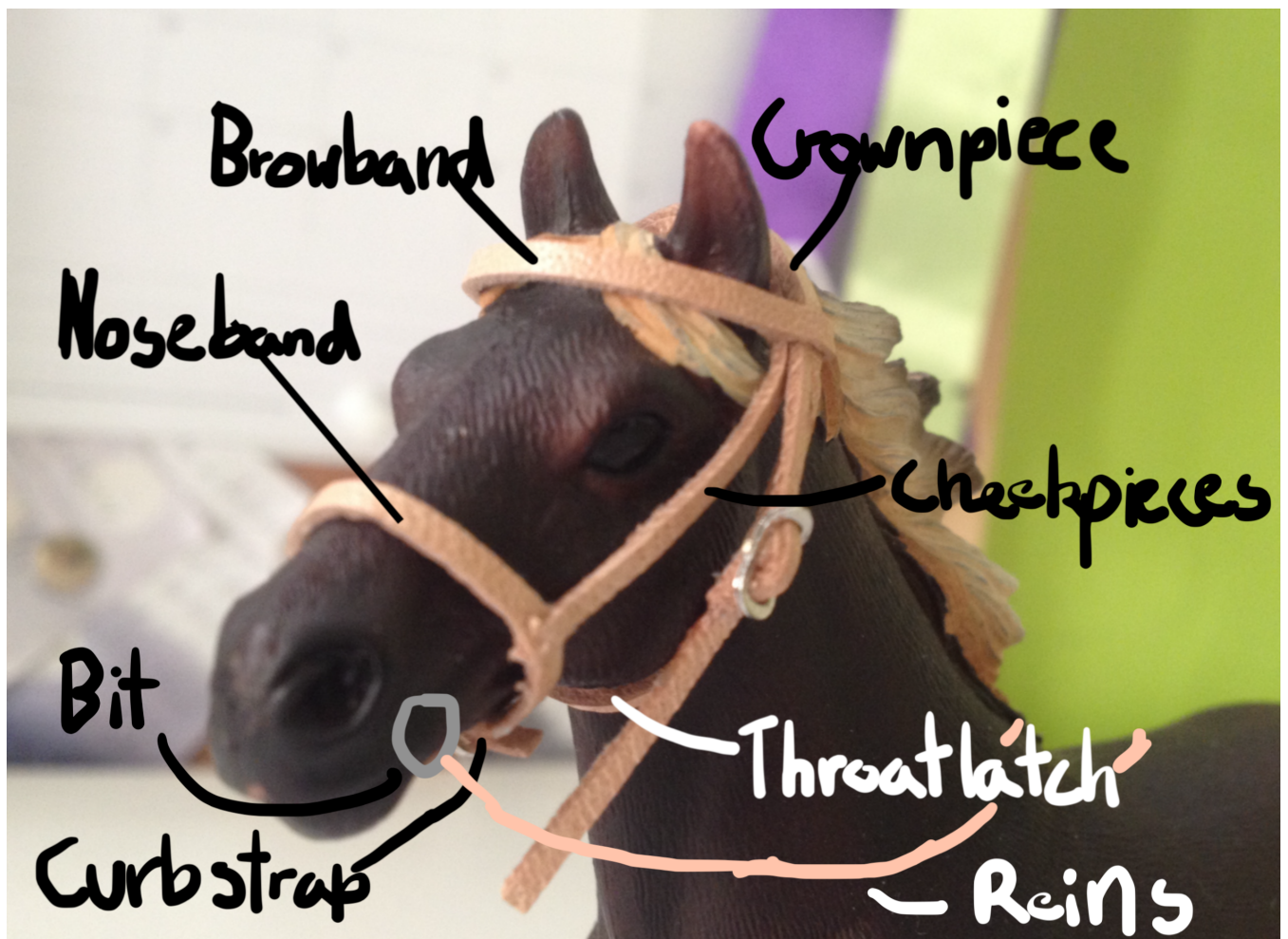


Tack Explained: English Bridles

The English bridle is much simpler than you think. At the moment, some of you might be daunted by the bridle, I must say I was very confused when I first had to put one on, I ended up taking it apart! As tack makers, our job is made much easier when we understand how the tack works, so let's get straight into it.

The main part of the bridle is the bit. The bit is a basically a piece of metal that sits on the horse's mouth. When you pull one side (using the reins) this signals to the horse to turn the way you are pulling. Every other strap on the bridle is basically there to hold the bit in place. The cheekpieces are the parts that essentially attach the bit to the rest of the bridle. The cheekpieces come up the sides of the horse's face, and attach it to the crownpiece. The crownpiece goes behind the horse's ears, putting a small amount of pressure on the bit so it stays inside the horse's mouth. From this, most English bridles have a browband, that runs across the horse's forehead. This isn't actually necessary, but lots of people have one and decorate it with rhinestone etc. Next, the crownpiece splits into two, one part being the throatlatch. The throatlatch holds the browband and crownpiece on the horse on the horse is the throatlatch. This buckles around the horse's throat. The other part of the split leather is the second cheekpiece. The other one that doesn't hold the bit holds the browband. The browband goes across the horse's nose. Now, this piece again isn't essential, but can make the bridle more secure. On the bottom of the noseband is the curb strap. This buckles round the horse's jaw, keeping the browband in place, and stopping the bit from slipping too back.

Now, we as tack makers need to make a few adjustments, as our plastic ponies aren't quite the same as their living counterparts. First off, we don't use bits. Most of the models you come across have their mouths closed, so the bit wouldn't be visible. So, instead we use a jump ring (haven't quite done that yet..) We also are dealing with teeny tiny little pieces of leather, so we might leave off all the keepers. We also might (as not too advanced crafters) leave off some of the decoration. Also, ours might have a few less buckles. Yes, this is my bridle I have made below, and I think it's a pretty good example of keeping things simple. If you want to make a bridle, I would start off with the basics, like this one. On the next page, I will put some beautiful examples of more advanced tack maker's bridles 😊





Decorative browband, double bit and figure 8 noseband///Decorative brow/noseband, double bit, padded noseband



A simple bridle. A good example to start with /////Another nice simple bridle, but with stitchmarks



A real bridle. Simple, with a D ring snaffle//Another good example of a real bridle. Here you can see all the parts.

PICTURES:

Diagram: Alice Jordan

Reference:1&2.CK Tiny Tack, 3.Unicorn Woman, 4.Nichelle Jones Desktop Stables, 5.Pinterest, 6.AA Horseplay

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