

# Checklist for Steve Houston Clinics

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## Groundwork

	Needs work	Pass	Good
1. Halter horse with horse head relaxed and down using correct knot and fitting halter.			
2. Rub horse down over his whole body with hand, then flag and make sure lead rope can be thrown over his body and legs gently while he stands still and accepts it.			
3. Roll hind quarter to left and right making sure this is a forward step from the inside hind.			
4. Step front end over one step, make sure this also is a forward step from the outside front. Inside front steps back to make room for the outside to step across.			
5. Obtain lateral flexion at the halt. Bending horse head and neck L and R using halter. Set it up and let horse find it.			
6. Send horse out and get him to follow a feel making sure horse is straight on the circle. Roll HQ then send front end over heading back in opposite direction. Give your horse release between the HQ and front end. Be smooth and always stepping forward. This is to be done at a walk and then a trot.			
7. Changing eyes. Put rope over horses head and down other side and around back legs and wait for him to turn around back to you and face up. Make sure your horse is good with lesson 2. (if you aren't confident, wait till next clinic)			
8. Back your horse 3 ways. Your hand upside down on halter knot;			

Send a wave down your lead rope and standing in front of him if you walk backwards so does he.			
9. Pick up all 4 feet with rope and lead him forward.			
10. Kneel on ground while you ask your horse to bring his head down so you can rub his head all over.			

**REASONS FOR GROUNDWORK**

1. Better on the ground means better under saddle
2. Establish mutual trust and respect
3. You have a better chance to learn from your horse on the ground.

# Ridden Exercises

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	Needs work	Pass	Good
1. Saddle horse in open while he stands still.			
2. Bridle horse with his head down and show consideration for his ears.			
3. Horse must stand still while mounting.			
4. Obtain lateral flexion L and R. See if he can do this softly while standing still.			
5. Walk horse out and practice one rein stops on L and R a few times.			
6. Walk HQ around front end one step at a time. Don't try too hard. Set it up, let your horse find the release.			
7. Walk front end around HQ one step at a time. Be patient. Inside front out and slightly back. Outside front across and forward.			
8. Soft feel at halt.			
9. Backing up with soft rein, one step at a time. Slight release for each step.			
10. Make sure your horse moves off your leg when you ask for a walk and trot. When you close your leg, he must respond.			