

# A TO ZILCO GUIDE

## J = Jaunting cart

A two wheeled vehicle widely used in Ireland in the 19th century. Seats were commonly facing outwards along each side, with the passengers' legs resting on a running board over the wheels. Said to be highly uncomfortable due to the difficulty in achieving a balanced ride, the benefit was its "fuel efficiency" by being able to carry four passengers over one axle, therefore maximizing the power of one horse over rough roads. As such, it was a popular means of travelling in the days of horse drawn transport.

## K = Kay Collar

A Kay Collar is an elegantly shaped full collar, also referred to as a collar with a Prince's forewale. The lining on the inside of the collar is smooth and continuous all the way to the forewale, giving a smooth and flat surface on the inside of the collar against the sides of the horse's neck. This type of collar is desirable for traditional show turnouts, particularly on elegant and fine horses. The advantage of a full collar is that it is an efficient way for a horse to pull a vehicle. However, the disadvantage is the difficulty in achieving a perfect fit, and they are considerably more expensive than a breast collar. For these reasons, most drivers choose a breast collar or Empathy collar, which is more versatile for wide adjustability and also more affordable.



## L = Bit Lifter

The lifter supports the bit via a hanger attached to the noseband. It helps to reduce bit pressure on the tongue and bars by supporting the bit in the required position. This has two benefits. It helps to prevent the horse from getting its tongue over the bit because it is suspended rather than resting on the tongue. It also has the effect of encouraging a light mouthed horse to work into a contact. This can be useful for any horse, but also gives confidence to light mouthed team or tandem leaders who need to keep up into the bit contact. Zilco's bit lifter comes in pony and cob/full size, and attaches to a standard noseband in the same way as a flash strap.



## M = Military Elbow bit

Also known as the Army Reversible bit. It has the same action as a Liverpool bit, but the branches of the cheeks are set back so the horse cannot catch hold of them. The three possible rein positions offer variable degrees of curb action. It was, and still is widely used on Army horses, for both riding and driving. It is therefore a very practical bit which is suitable for driving singles or multiples.



## N = Nosebands

All driving bridles have a noseband. It is essential to keep the cheeks and blinkers against the sides of the horse's face so that they don't gape open when there is pressure on the bit. Nosebands which are adjustable both sides are particularly beneficial in multiples because they can be adjusted from either side, as can be seen on Classic, Elite and ZGB harness. Single buckle adjustment is lighter and less bulky, and this style is found on Zilco SL harness for small ponies and Shetlands. There are noseband accessories to achieve different objectives if required. For example, a flash strap can be suspended from the noseband to limit the amount the horse can open its mouth (but should never be too tight to prevent the horse from moving its jaws in a relaxed way). A bit lifter can be suspended from the noseband to lighten the bit pressure on the tongue and bars, without restricting freedom of jaw movement.



## O = Overcheck

Commonly seen on hackneys in the show ring, an overcheck is a fine cord which runs from the bit to rings on the headpiece, and back to the centre pedestal of the saddle. As such, it is a bearing rein which helps to balance the head position when the horse or pony is required to show off its most extravagant action. To do this to best effect, the horse needs to adjust his centre of balance so that the hocks are right under him and the action can be high and powerful. Hackneys already have the physical attributes to do this, and the overcheck helps to maintain this for the short bursts of extravagance that is required of them in the show ring. The overcheck is usually only connected for short periods of time such as during the go around or individual show of each horse.

IF IT'S BRANDED ZILCO, IT'S BRANDED QUALITY.



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