

Application Guide



Step 1 – Find a clean soft surface such as your lawn, a large rubber mat, or a piece of carpet to boot up on, so if you select the wrong size you can exchange them unmarked. Old Macs should be fitted as the boots are marked, “left” and “right,” with the securing buckle placed on the outside of the hoof.



Step 2 – Fully open the cover ensuring that no hook and loop areas are touching and that the cover is pulled well forward.



Step 3 – Facing the rear of your horse, pick up the hoof and place it toe first into the boot. Pull the soft leather rear of the boot up over the bulbs of the hoof. Then, using the palm of your hand, “slap” the heel of the boot on the sole. You should feel the heels of the hoof “pop” into the boot. It should have the same feel as when you slip your own heels down into your own riding boots. If the new boot just falls onto the hoof, it is likely you have a size too big. If the heel of the hoof struggles to slip into the boot, then it is likely you have a size too small, and the heels of the hoof are sitting on the wall of the boot and not “in” the boot. Now place the hoof onto the ground and continue booting up.



Step 4 – Wrap the main webbing strap around the pastern bone from the back of the hoof around the front and then to the back again. Feed the strap through the metal loop and then apply minimum pressure to tighten the hook and loop strap back over on itself. To confirm correct tightness of this strap, you should be able to run your finger between the strap and the pastern at the side of the pastern. It is very important that this strap is no tighter than your watch band around your wrist; otherwise it will chafe the pastern. It is also important to note here that it is the position of the cross-over on the top of the bulbs which secures the boot, not the “tightness” of it.



Once you have secured this strap, you should have a minimum of 3 inches (80mm) passed through the metal loop and folded over on itself. Any less and your boots are too small.

Step 5 – Ensuring both side flaps are pushed firmly against the hoof wall, force the cover towards the rear of the hoof in a downward direction before crossing the ends of the cover at the rear and securing. At this point you should ensure that the foam-filled leather collar of the cover is molded firmly around the pastern bone. Also check to ensure none of the hook and loop strap is exposed at the sides. If it can be seen, the cover has been secured too high and will increase the chances of chafing at the rear of the pastern.

Step 6 – Now secure the outside buckle strap firmly – not girth tight. Your Old Macs are now securely in place.

After you have placed your horse's hoof into the boot, you need to ensure that the entire horny hoof is sitting completely down into the boot and not “standing” on the rear of the boot. If the hoof is not sitting down comfortably onto the sole of the boot, then you have selected a size too small and need to go up a size.

To ensure your boots are not too small:

The pastern strap, when secured, should not be too short. As previously mentioned, you should have a minimum of 3” (80mm) of the hook and loop strap folded over on itself. If you have 2” (60mm) passed back through the metal loop, you are likely to be one size too small. If you have less than 1 ½” (40mm), you are probably two sizes too small.

To ensure your boots are not too big:

Do the “Wiggle Test.” Facing the rear of your horse, pick up the booted hoof. With the sole facing up, place a hand each side of the sole of the boot. Without using force, gently wiggle the boot clockwise and counter-clockwise. You should feel the hoof wanting to turn with the boot. If you feel the boot turning without the hoof, you have selected a size too big. You need a snug fit.

After securing the pastern strap, you should be able to place a finger between the pastern and strap at the side of the pastern bone. If it is too tight, it will chafe. Remember, it is the position of the strap which prevents the boot coming off, not the tightness.

After the cover has been secured, ensure that the hook and loop strap is not visible at the sides, and the rear ends of the cover are not secured too high. The entire cover should have no creases or folds, and should be of even height on both sides with the foam-filled leather collar snug around the pastern.

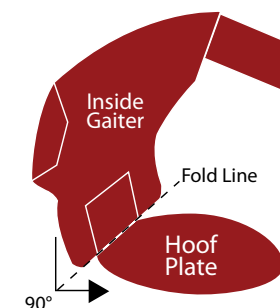
IMPORTANT-- It is recommended that you break your horse's new boots in slowly to reduce the chances of chafing. Old Mac's™ are no different from human leather boots or shoes which need time to soften and mold to the shape of our feet. We recommend your first few rides should be no longer than an hour, or you can turn your horse out into its paddock with the boots on for a few hours at a time and let your horse run around at its own leisure. This will allow the boots time to soften. If you know your horse has very sensitive skin and/or you are planning on riding long distances, then we recommend you use Old Mac's Gaiters.

Gaiter Fitting Guide

Gaiters are recommended during the break in period to avoid chafing. They can be used as extra protection for sensitive horses and when riding through terrain where debris might get inside the boot.

Step 1 – Fold the hoof plate to a 90° angle at the fold-line (see diagram), towards the inside of the Gaiter (the side without the logo).

Steps 2-3 – Insert the Gaiter into the Old Mac's Horse Boot prior to booting the horse. Press the hoof plate down snugly onto the sole of the boot.



Steps 4-5 – Fold the neoprene “upper” cuff down over the outside back of the boot and slip the Old Mac's Boot onto the hoof, holding the Gaiter in place with one hand. Let the horse stand down, resting the hoof flat on the ground.

Step 6 – Unfold the Gaiter so the cuff is standing loosely upright, around the pastern.

Step 7 – Fasten the Gaiter snugly around the pastern.

