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# FEEL, TIMING AND BALANCE

## Part 2: TIMING

Without feel you are not going to have very good timing. Feel and timing are very important to each other. Timing can be as varied from the timing of when you get on a horse for the first ride to the timing of the rider with the horse's feet. Timing as with Feel is going to be relevant to the riders experience and level of understanding.





For now lets look at being able to feel down and get in time with the horse's feet and the timing required to direct the feet. Firstly the rider's timing will not be very good if the horse is not responsive. When moving or directing a horse's foot the timing is really important. You are not going to be able to direct the horse's foot if it is on the ground, if the foot is already in the air, then the foot is again committed. If the rider can time the direction of the foot to when it is leaving the ground then you will be best be able to direct it.

It is also important that you know the foot falls of the gait that you riding. If you wanted to stop your horse with a particular foot, get the horse ready to stop by slowing the foot preceding the foot that you wanted to stop. If you were wanting your horse to change leads then knowing the foot falls of the canter would help in the timing of your cues.

If you have a good rhythm to the movement of the exercise or gait that you are riding again your timing will be better. When your timing is right you will feel this in the way that your horse rides. As Ray Hunt would often say, " If your horse is right in the feet then he will be right in his head "