



Order of Harnessing

- Breast Collar or Full Collar first – it is said to be unlucky to drive a horse who has not had their collar put on first. This originates from trade vehicles harnessing up on cold mornings and wanting to warm the collar first. Alternatively, the collar also often has attached a false martingale which, if the saddle was put on first, would require the girth to be undone
- Saddle with Crupper and Breeching attached – saddle is placed on horses back and can be girthed up loosely before doing up the crupper. If the crupper does not have a buckle then it is sometimes easier to put the crupper on before girthing up. This depends on the style of harness and the stage of training of the horse. The belly band should be done up loosely.
- Next the reins should be put on. These are threaded through the saddle terrets and neck terrets and then the end buckled to the neck terret awaiting the bridle
- The bridle is put on last and then the reins attached

Points to Note

- Saddle should not sit too far forward and disturb the withers.
- Breastplate must not be too low as to rub the point of shoulder nor too high and restrict the windpipe.
- Breeching should sit halfway between the widest and narrowest part of the hindquarters

Putting To and Taking Out



Putting To

- Traces are attached first on both sides
- Breeching is fitted next on both sides
- Bellyband is tightened last

Taking Out

- Bellyband loosened
- Breeching undone
- Traces undone

Dos and Don'ts

- Do take the vehicle to and from the horse not the horse to and from the vehicle
 - Never Ever remove the bridle until the horse is well away from the vehicle
 - Don't mount or dismount the vehicle until a groom is in place
 - Never attach breeching before traces or undo traces before breeching
- 