

Dressage

for mere mortals

The relentless pursuit of dressage by an average equestrian

DRESSAGE ILLUSTRATED

COMPETITION TIPS, DRESSAGE, DRESSAGE COMPETITION, DRESSAGE ILLUSTRATED

Becoming Show Ready with Dressage Illustrated

April 8, 2017 by laurendavisbaker [Leave a comment](#)

With my first show of the season just around the corner, it's high time to get serious about *really* learning my Second Level tests.

This will be my first time showing at this level and to say I'm excited is an understatement. Last year at this time Micah and I were studying these same tests when the poor boy got caste in his stall, sending our show season out the window.

Instead of showing, my goal was to bring my horse back to rideable condition. It was pretty scary but, happily, Micah recovered and this year he is going better than ever. So, this is our second chance at Second Level.

To help me along, I pulled out the *Dressage Illustrated* Second Level booklet and began to study in earnest. I have to say I am impressed. Being a visual person, the illustrations made it easier for me to picture how the movements relate to one another. I feel like I have a better big



picture idea of what's going on. As a result, the tests are easier to memorize and the areas where we need to brush up are popping out at me.

It's one thing to practice transitions within gaits and from one gait to another, but to practice them in the order they're required by the test feels very different. As someone who likes to be over-prepared, I'm excited to get back in the saddle with my fix-it list.



If you find dressage tests difficult to visualize, learn, or memorize, give *Dressage Illustrated* a try. I think you'll find them to be very useful.

Check out their [website](#) and Facebook page for more information about their diagram books and other products.