

The end result of using proper vs. undersized stud hooks



Hook on right has a short neck thus limiting the thickness of the layer strap and bridle straps. Cap is also short and does not slope downward to reduce bulk next to horse's face. Both studs are made from stainless steel but finish on left stud is polished to nearly a "jewelry grade" finish, the perfect compliment to a well crafted bridle.



Two identical sized straps, one with an undersized hook and the other with a correctly sized hook. Notice the bottom strap has a longer layer strap with a longer bearing surface to seat the hook in solidly. The longer layer strap also allows an easier doing and undoing of the billet. It is less likely that the hook or loops will tear out with the longer layer strap. With a taller hook (top photo on left), the layer strap can be about 2 oz heavier, which adds tremendously to the durability of the whole unit. Since repairing these is labor intensive, it's best to make them as strong as possible in the first place. After all, these are the only thing that holds the bridle together.