

● Battery operated clippers which are very quiet (and hence good for nervous horses) and useful for awkward places. Full-size battery-operated clippers like the Lister Showman have similar power as mains-operated clippers. The Lister Showman has two power options:

1. A rechargeable power battery which lasts about three hours of clipping. The battery is attached to the waist so there are no trailing cables to keep out of the way of your horse. Another advantage is that the hand you'd usually use to hold the cable is left free to pat the horse or push him over.

2. A vehicle battery or cigar socket cable. Bring a car up close to the horse, clip the cables to the car battery and turn on the clippers. You don't need to leave the car running—you can keep clipping for up to 20 hours, depending of course on battery size and condition, before the battery goes flat!

You can also buy small 'barber' clippers which are battery-operated and used to clip small areas, such as around the head. When deciding on the type of clipper you need, bear in mind who will be using them. A smaller person will find it much easier to use clippers that are not too big and bulky.

NOTE: Don't be misled into thinking that a higher wattage necessarily means more power to clip. The wattage on the clipper purely refers to the amount of electricity used. Some clippers, including the Lister range, are more efficient in their usage of electricity than others and are just as powerful as others with higher wattage values.

CLIPPER BLADES

CHOOSING THE RIGHT BLADES

Clipper blades vary from the more coarse blades (mainly used on cattle and perhaps on horses' legs) to medium and, for a closer clip, fine blades. The teeth on medium and fine blades are quite fragile.

New blades last up to 10 horses, though a lot depends on the horse, its coat, the type of clip and how the machine is used. Always get a clipper specialist to re-grind the blades.

FITTING THE BLADES

Always follow the supplier's instructions. With Lister clippers, fit the blades and tension the bolt spring and nut. To get the right tension, turn the nut down firmly until it will not go any further. Then turn it back by one-and-a-half turns, using the marker.

Oil the blades well with oil supplied by the manufacturer. N.B. Some aerosols don't work properly because the oil evaporates before it gets in to the blades, and leaves them dry.

Oil liberally between the teeth, the blades at the back and guide blocks at the back. Oil all the other little holes and wipe off any excess from the bottom blade.

