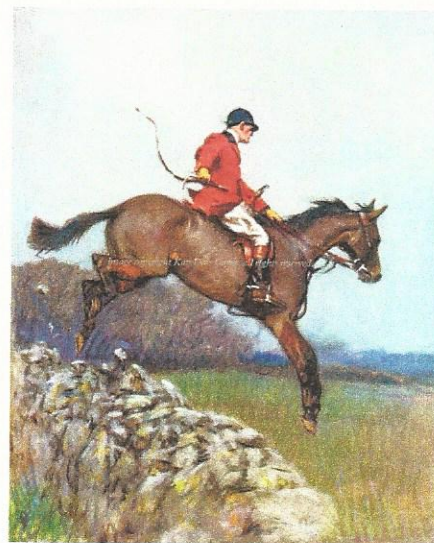


## The History of Jumping and Jump IDs part I

Many years ago (as early as the B.C.s) when humans domesticated horses, it's likely they hopped over a log or two while they galloped around bareback hunting for food. Fast forward a thousand years (approximately) hunting became a sport for English gentlemen. Wealthy landowners galloped around the countryside chasing foxes and deer.

In the mid 1700s, a law was passed in England that allowed people to fence off their properties. These fields were enclosed by stonewalls, gates, and hedges. When the hunters approached a fence or a hedge they had two choices: find a gate to go through or jump the obstacle! Most chose to jump. Jumping or "horse leaping" made hunting even more exciting and gained popularity.



In the 1800s and early 1900s, horses had to learn how to jump because soldiers rode them during wartime. Cavalry steeds were expected to jump tall walls and big hedges during battles as their riders chased their enemies.

Until the late 1800s, riders kept their bottoms in the saddle, lifted up their hands, and leaned back over jumps. It's amazing that the horses were able to jump at all in this riding method! This style wasn't very comfortable for the rider and it made jumping more difficult for the horse!

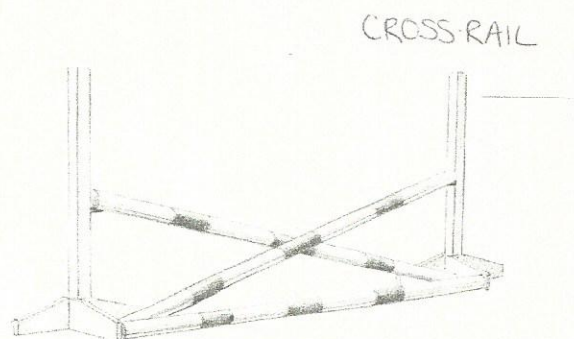
Then along came Frederico Caprilli, a captain in the Italian cavalry and the chief riding instructor at the Italian Cavalry School at Pinerolo. He made some big changes, both in the horse's equipment and rider's position. He replaced the double bridles that cavalry horses were used to wearing with snaffle bridles. He told his soldiers to shorten their stirrups. He wanted the soldiers to put their heels down and lean forward (*half seat or two point*) over their horses' center of balance, when they jumped. He encouraged his men to move their hands forward and follow their horses' movement (*release*) with the reins instead of jerking their

horses' mouths. This new position became known as the "forward seat" and that's how people jump today. (Caprilli pictured below)

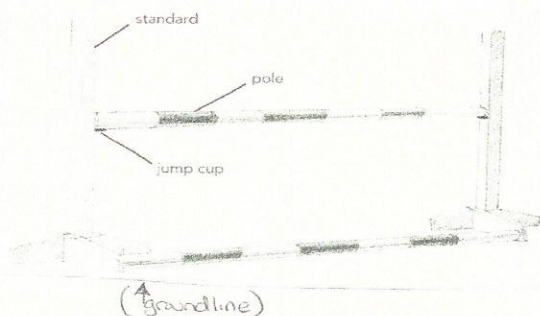


### The 3 Basic Types of Jumps: Cross Rails, Verticals, and Oxers

A **Cross Rail** is made up of two poles that cross in the middle. This jump looks like the letter "X".



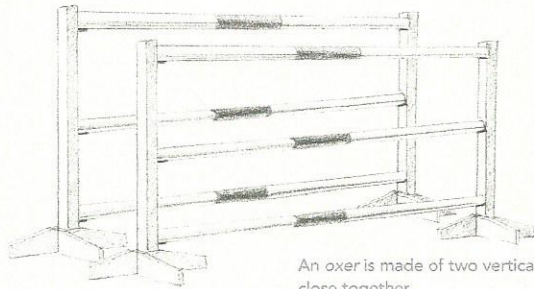
### VERTICAL



A **Vertical** has one pole. It can test a horse's ability to jump high. It can also be difficult for a horse to judge the depth of the jump. That is why most verticals have a groundpole or groundline.



An **oxer** is two verticals placed together. It is jumped as a single jump. It is a type of “spread” jump. A “spread” tests the horse’s ability to jump height and width.



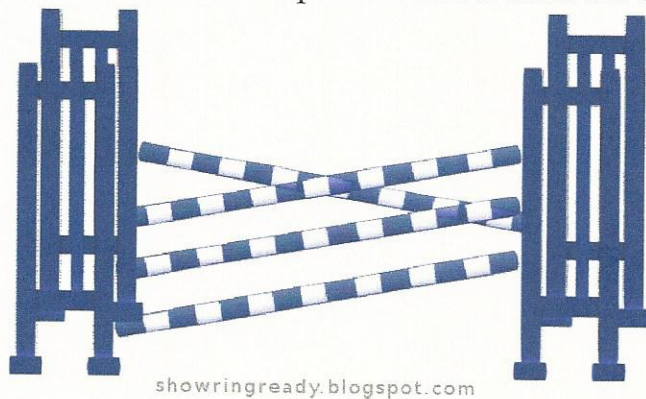
An oxer is made of two verticals placed close together.

Spreads with 2 elements:

- 1) **Ramp Oxer:** the front rail is lower than the back rail (see above)
- 2) **Square Oxer:** the front rail and back rail are the same height



- 3) **Swedish Oxer:** the jump cups on the front left and back right standards are the same height. The jump cups on the front right and back left standards are the same height. Similar to a cross rail, a Swedish oxer makes an X and helps the rider to find the center of the jump.



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