A stud hook Comparison

Actual sizes shown

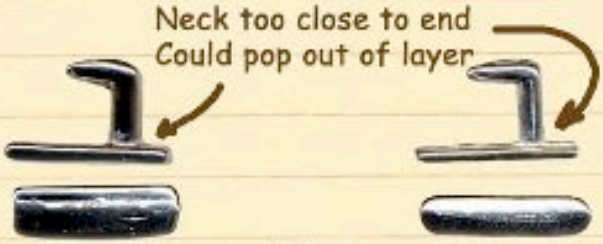
Hooks shown from side and bottom to better illustrate substance

1. Across: Verlane® designed stud hooks, stainless steel
2. Across: Older made English stud hooks, solid nickle
3. Across: Newer made English stud hooks, die cast zinc, nickle plated
4. Cotterell (England) medium size stud hook, stainless steel
5. Herm Sprenger (German) one size stud hook, nickle plated solid nickle

Notes on stud hooks

Enlarged to show detail

Nicely done set, all sizes.



Neck too close to end
Could pop out of layer

Zinc always has a dull sound when dropped on a marble slab. Quality metal such as stainless has a ring to it.

Too thin...no strength

Both of these will roll side to side because they are too narrow on base.

Anything made from die cast zinc does not have the durable properties needed for equestrian use. Neck should be taller for use of heavier layer straps. Caps too short on entire set of three.

Zinc

Zinc

Too thin

Neck way too short. Overall hook is a bit small even though it was sold as a medium size. Even on narrow straps, this hook is underized.

Neck too close to back of base. Can pop out of layer strap. Base too short. Correctly shaped cap.

Choose stud hooks like those circled in red. Always insist on stainless steel for the most strength and durability.

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.