



Measuring the Hoof

To trim the hoof in a balanced way, we have established certain parameters. In a medium sized horse (15.2–16.2 hds. or 155–165 cm) the heel height measured at the lowest part of the coronet band should be 3 cm. The hair-line should rise at 30° to the highest part of the coronet. This would give you sufficient overall toe height.

U
N
O

A
L
L
A

V
O
L
T
A
—

O
N
E

A
T

A

T
I
M
E



Here we have an over-grown hoof with a bit to much heel height, it appears here to have a shallow hairline (not 30°)



If we hold the plexi at the hoof, you can see how the heel is too high and the hairline is not at 30°.



Here we are holding the 30° line of the plexi onto the hairline and you see that way as well that we do have too much heel height.



U
N
O

A
L
L
A

V
O
L
T
A
—

O
N
E

A
T

A

T
I
M
E



Here the heel is trimmed a little bit down, the hair-line is a little closer to 30°



Getting closer, but not quite there.



Almost



Perfect. So the hoof did not have a shallow hairline, but a high heel. Always look at the heel height first before you measure the hairline.

If you trim a hoof with a high heel for the first time, you may want to leave the heel a little above 3 cm. Once the horse weighs the heel again, the heel will usually also decontract and come a little lower through the changed weight distribution on the hoof.



Trim ponies with a little less heel height (2.5 cm) and large horses with more heel height (3.5–4 cm).

U
N
O

A
L
L
A

V
O
L
T
A
—

O
N
E

A
T

A

T
I
M
E