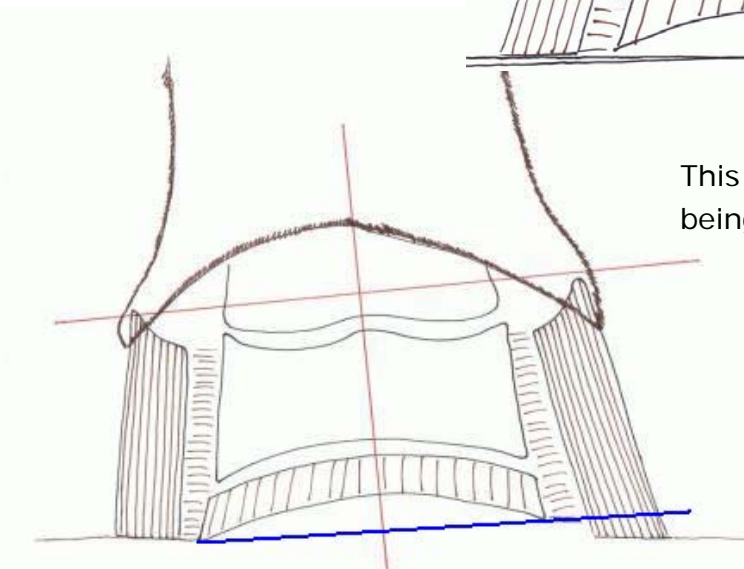
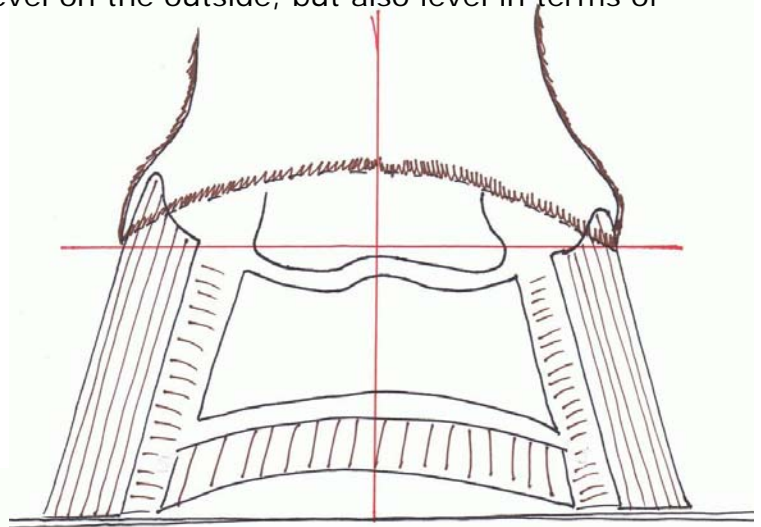




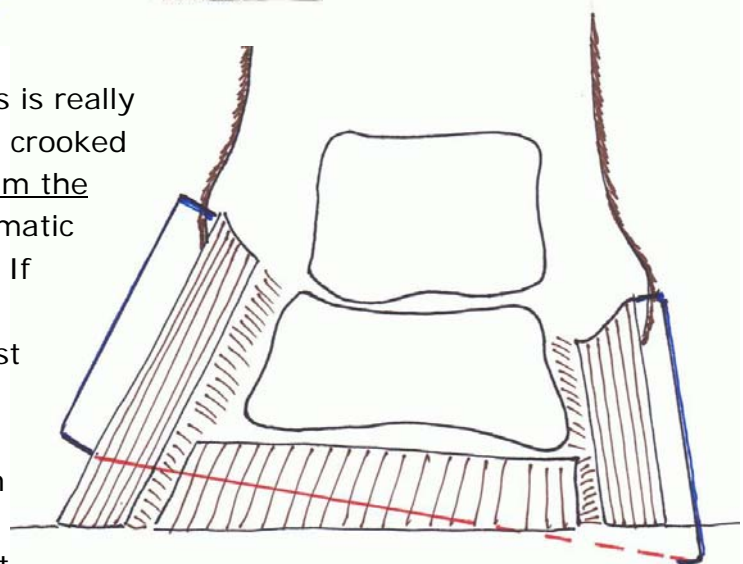
How can stance problems be alleviated?

This is a level hoof. Not only level on the outside, but also level in terms of bone alignment P3 - P2



This is a crooked hoof, one side being higher than the other. In order to level this hoof, you would have to **lower the higher side**

But let's check again and this is really important: When trimming a crooked hoof you **ALWAYS** have to trim the higher side first. In the schematic on the left you can see why: If you trim the short side first, you may not be able to adjust the higher side, as you may then run on the higher side into corium. Also, as you can see in the drawing, once the longer side is shortened, that wall will be more upright and the laminar attachment will change to match that on the short side. This may not happen without pain.



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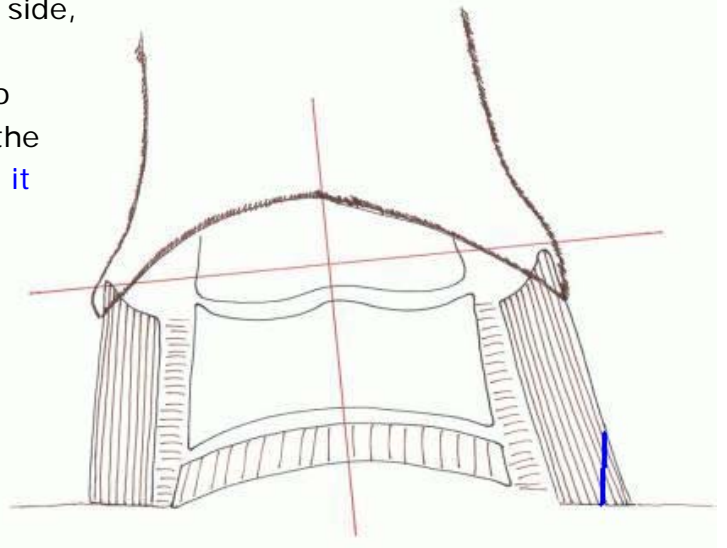
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Once you have shortened the higher side, you may not be able to shorten it to level the hoof completely. In order to make the longer wall wear faster in the future, you can weaken it by **rasping it thinner** as shown on the left. The thinner wall will wear faster than the thicker wall on the shorter side, therefore providing some natural leveling.



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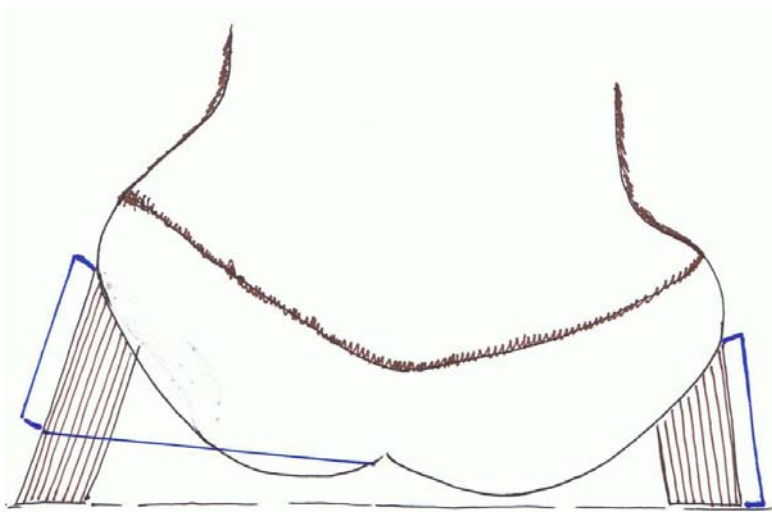
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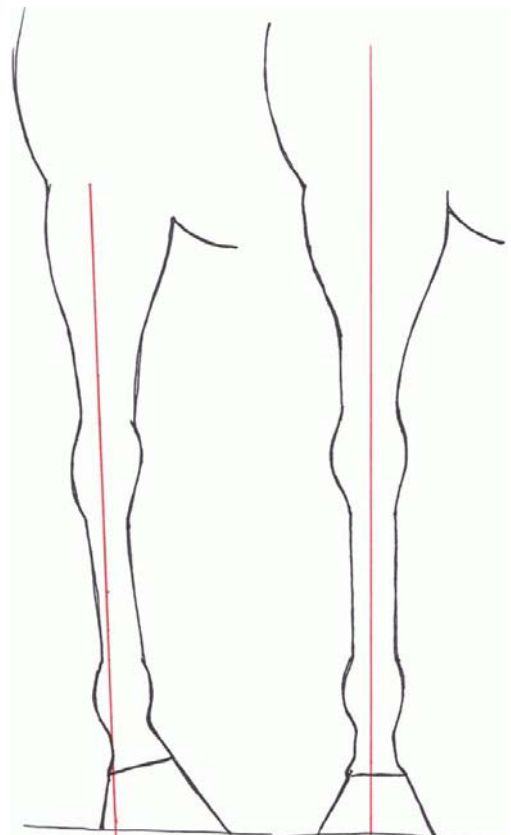
Here is the same scenario from behind.

Shorten the longer side to make it even with the shorter side.

When you change the base (leveling the hoof) you may end up in one trim with a much straighter limb. But there may be joint adaptation present in the joints above P3. These joint adaptations need special considerations.

A.) Frequent trimming so the adapted joint will not pull the hoof back out of its new level state again.

B.) Lots of movement on hard, level, non-concussive ground. In order to facilitate a change, a horse with joint adaptation really needs to move a lot. That is above and beyond the 10 - 15 miles/day he would be usually moving. Without intense movement, which you may be able to do only at a walk and un-mounted, you will not get the cartilages, ligaments and joints to remodel to a correct alignment again.





14 year old Trakehner mare, toed in from a young age. Progress over about 16 months. Joint adaptation is a problem that can be to a certain degree resolved with frequent, judicious trimming, lots of movement and bodywork.

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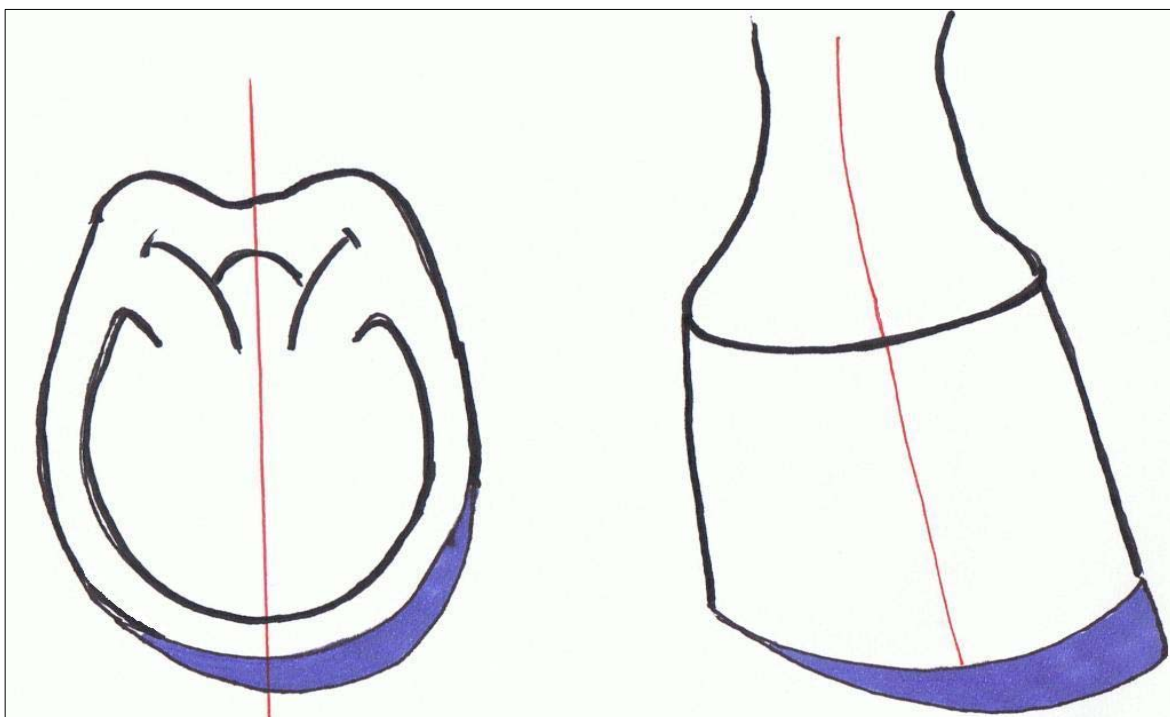
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In general = where the hoof points to it needs to be trimmed away. This drawing shows clearly how that will affect the levelness of the hoof capsule. The same counts for the sole view. Rasp the wall back vertically where it is too thick so after rasping it will be the same thickness all around.





German Warmblood before (left) and after (right) leveling of the front hooves



Same horse before (left) and after (right) leveling of the hind hooves



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