

Table Top Show Jumping

The jumps on the table are NOT to scale - if they were they would need to be the same height but 36cm wide. Nor is the table to scale - it would need to be approximately 8m by 6m to represent a Show Jumping Arena. Also note these are models, not toys so they will not stand up to SJ games by junior members.

The concept of creating the jumps was to produce a low tech, easy to make (relatively), inexpensive set of show jumps that can be used as a teaching tool for:

- principles of course design
- appreciation of different jumps
- introduction to show jumping rules
- introduction to the different types of classes
- how to ride certain fences
- what might be a challenge for riders but not horses and vice versa
- how to ride a course
- how to ride a jump off course.

In making these fences I used the following materials:

- Arbee Jumbo sticks (188mm x15mm) and dowels (5mm) plain and coloured - Spotlight
- Lollipop sticks - any supermarket
- Buttons
- Sticker dots - Office works
- Heat shrink tubing -Dick Smith's or you could use electrical tape
- White and Black spray paint - Mitre 10
- Super Glue - KMart
- Empty mini Brie pots - any supermarket
- Jute string - Bunnings

My husband helped by providing a bench hook to line up gluing the "wings" and an electric drill as not all the holes and dowels were quite the right size plus the use of a gents saw. Clothes pegs made useful mini clamps and a old cardboard box became my spray booth. The jump numbers are on the right hand side of the "wings" as per showjumping convention.

I have set out a course based on a course from the book '*A Young Person's Guide to Show Jumping*' by Tim Stockdale. To add a sense of realism I have also set out the normal information in association with the course plan such as time allowed, jump off fences etc. My husband also did up the Show Jumping diagram using his drawing package (thanks William).

The Fences

Fence 1 - An inviting brush fence

Fence 2 - Upright with an unusual filler - hope you don't "duck" out

Fence 3 - Black and White square oxer

Fence 4 - Stile/gate - comes after a turn so you will need to be accurate

Fence 5 - Red and White square oxer

Fence 6 - Purple and Yellow square oxer with filler

Fence 7 - Upright with water trays underneath - might cause the horse to back off

Fence 8a - Orange and black Square oxer - note 2 NJS to allow the horse and rider to "regroup" if they made a mess of the first element

Fence 8b - Orange Black upright

Fence 9 - Yellow and white Spread with x-poles to help the rider focus on the middle of the fence

Fence 10 - Red and White upright with a filler

Fence 11 - Black and White square oxer with "bowtie" filler - as you are heading for home don't allow the horse to flatten and clip the back rail.

I hope this little display gives you some food for thought as to different ways of teaching Showjumping topics.

Denise Legge PCA NCAS L1

