

Applying Barefoot Tips

Preparing a hoof for a tip

Correct hoof preparation is important because Barefoot Tips are 3mm thick and this allowance needs to be built into the anterior/posterior balance.

A hoof should be trimmed to 'natural' parameters, taking the toe and quarters down to the functional sole plane, but conserving the heel height by an extra 3mm if possible.

Err on the side of leaving extra height on the heels. If the 3mm differential can't be balanced with extra heel height, consider shortening the toe height into the sole plane by 1-3mm. Only do this when there is enough scope. Be careful.

The toe and quarters should be trimmed to the same plane. Once the tip is applied, then the toe and heel will be in the same plane and the quarters will be relieved.

Remove the outer wall at 45deg (the tip is designed to only bear weight on the inner wall). Shorten the breakover balance (10 o'clock to 2 o'clock) if necessary.

What size tip?

Selection of the correct size is dependent upon where you choose to place the leading edge of the tip (which will form the breakover balance).

A physiologically correct foot has a short breakover. A good landmark to follow is no more than 1/3 of the weight bearing surface of the foot in front of the point of the frog and 2/3 behind.

Whenever using tips, err on the side of having a breakover that is shorter rather than longer.

Mark your chosen breakover with a texta. Once the leading edge is determined, **measure back 43mm** and calculate the width of the hoof at this point, **measuring from the line dividing the outer and inner walls.**

Tip sizing as follows:

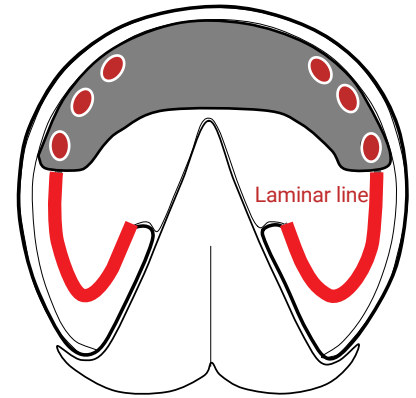
Width	Size
88 mm	..... 000
91 mm	..... 00
94 mm	..... 0
97 mm	..... 1
100 mm	... 2
103 mm	... 3
106 mm	... 4
109 mm	... 5
112 mm	.....6
115 mm	.....7
120 mm	.....8
125 mm	.....9
130 mm	.....10
135 mm	.....11
140	.....12
145	.....13

It is vital that the nail holes align with the laminar line.

Notice that the tip does not cover the outer wall. The outer wall is not weight bearing.

Horses will often have different sized feet so be sure to measure each foot individually.

The leading edge of the tip will most likely sit at the junction of the laminar line and the inner wall, especially for those horses that have a weakened laminar attachment.



Applying the tip

Use small, slim nails. Only 2 nails are required each side of the tip.

The tip is designed to bear weight on both the inner wall and laminar line. Don't routinely seat out the sole, but be sure to check that there is no localized contact between sole and tip, especially around the inner margin of the tip.

Place the tip square to the frog (a hammer handle makes a good guide).

Select either the front or middle hole on each side of the tip and drive these nails first, aiming them slightly forward so the tip does not shift backwards when it is nailed. Try and use the hind most nail hole for the second nail either side.

The nails should enter the laminar line and should come out of the wall fairly low (about 3/4"). High nails are unnecessary and are to be avoided.

Drive home the nails fully before clenching them.

Barefoot Tips stay on very well so the clenches do not need to be squeezed tight. The strength of a clench lies in the tight angle at which the nail is turned over.

Any protruding nail head may be rasped off to just above the tip surface (in hard terrain) or it can be left proud for grip (in soft terrain).

Re-fitting tips

Tips need to be refitted regularly (4-6 weeks) depending on the change to the anterior/posterior balance or tip loss due to wear.

When inspecting a hoof after removing a tip for re-fitting, any discoloration in the laminar line indicates that the tip was fitted too far forward at the toe. Any solar bruising indicates unrecognized localized pressure or laminitic pressure.

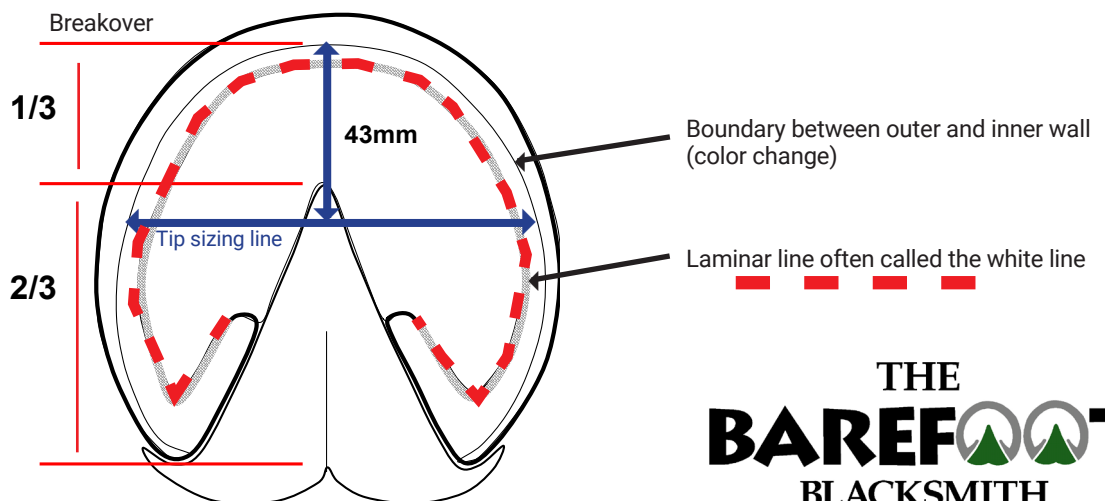
Hoof boots

Hoof boots can be worn over the top of tips for situations of heavy duty riding that require full protection (although we have done this and never damaged the boots, it may void the manufacturer's warranty).

Screw on tips

Tips can also be modified to be applied with screws for horses sensitive to nailing, and for owners who would prefer not to use nails.

The tips are counter sunk and special self tapping screws are supplied.



THE
BAREFOOT
BLACKSMITH