



UNITED STATES DRESSAGE FEDERATION™

L Education Program Recommended Reading List

USDF members receive a 10% discount on books purchased through the [USDF Store](#). Please note, many of these recommendations are no longer available through USDF.

* Recommended for those participating in the L Education program

^ Recently available, try searching by title for purchase options.

JUDGING:

* **FEI DRESSAGE HANDBOOK: GUIDELINES FOR JUDGING - Federation Equestre Internationale**

<https://inside.fei.org/fei/disc/dressage/useful-docs>

The DVDs listed below were filmed before the 1/2 points were used:

^* **Through the Eye of the Judge – Vol. 1 – Novice-British FEI 5* judge**, Stephen Clarke gives a judging evaluation of British tests which include Training level and some First level movements and an additional “cribsheet” for every movement with a comment.

^* **Through the Eye of the Judge – Vol. 2 - Elementary - British FEI 5* judge**, Stephen Clarke gives a judging evaluation of British tests which include some First and Second Level Movements and an additional “cribsheet” for every movement with a comment.

^* **Through the Eye of the Judge – Vol 3 – Medium/Advanced- British FEI 5* judge**, Stephen Clarke gives a judging evaluation of British tests including Second level movements of travers; Shoulder in; Medium paces. This disk also includes many Third Level Movements and an additional “cribsheet” for every movement with a comment.

* [CURRENT VERSION OF USDF “ON THE LEVELS-JUDGE COMMENTARIES”](#) -with scores and comments from the US judges.

^ **DRESSAGE: A GUIDELINE FOR RIDERS AND JUDGES - Wolfgang M. Niggli**

^ **THE VIEW FROM C (available through The Dressage Foundation) -Dr. Dietmar Specht** - Score definitions and collective marks have been revised since the publication of this book, but methodology of judging described in detail.

BIOMECHANICS OF THE HORSE

^* **DRESSAGE HORSE OPTIMIZED -Jim Masterson & Coralie Hughes-** A horse painted with skeleton performs upper level dressage movements that exhibit extension, collection, bending, and lateral movements. DVD also available.

^* **THE DYNAMIC HORSE: A Biomechanical Guide to Equine Movement and Performance - Hilary M. Clayton** Through knowledge of biomechanics, the reader will develop a better understanding of how horses move and perform.

^ **STRAIGHTENING THE CROOKED HORSE – Gabriele Rachen-Schoeneich & Klaus Schoeneich**

^ **EQUINE LOCOMOTION – Willem Back & Hilary Clayton**

^ **COLLECTION OR CONTORTION - Gerd Heuschmann – Misconceptions and exploring the truths of Horse Positioning and Bending**

^ **TUG OF WAR: CLASSICAL VERSUS “MODERN” DRESSAGE - Gerd Heuschmann**

BIOMECHANICS OF THE RIDER, RIDER DEVELOPMENT

- ^* **BALANCE IN MOVEMENT** - Susanne von Dietze (DVD also available)
- ^ **WHEN TWO SPINES ALIGN** - Beth Baumert
- ^ **A GYMNASTIC RIDING SYSTEM USING MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT** – Betsy Steiner
- ^ **BIOMECHANICAL RIDING AND DRESSAGE: A RIDER'S ATLAS** - Dr. Nancy Nicholson
- ^ **RIDE BETTER WITH CHRISTOPH HESS**- Christoph Hess
- ^ **THE CLASSICAL SEAT** - Sylvia Loch
- ^ **THE RIDER'S BALANCE: Understanding Weight Aids in Pictures** – Sylvia Loch
- ^ **THE PRINCIPLES OF RIDING** - The Official Instruction Handbook of the German National Federation

PROGRESSIVE TRAINING OF THE DRESSAGE HORSE

- ^ **BASIC TRAINING OF THE YOUNG HORSE** - Ingrid and Reiner Klimke DVDs also Available
- ^ **DRESSAGE IN HARMONY** - Walter Zettl
- ^ **PRACTICAL DRESSAGE MANUAL** - Colonel Bengt Ljungquist
- ^ **REAL LIFE DRESSAGE** -Carl Hester and Polly Ellisons
- ^ **SIMPLICITY OF DRESSAGE** - Johann Hinnemann and Coby van Baalen
- ^ **THE COMPLETE TRAINING OF HORSE AND RIDER** - Colonel Alois Podhajsky
- ^ **ADVANCED TECHNIQUES OF RIDING** -The Official Instruction Handbook of the German National Federation
- ^ **THE ART OF TRAINING: Lessons from a Lifetime with Horses (The Masters of Horsemanship Series, Book 2)**
- Hans von Blixen-Finecke

CLASSICS- *Some of these books are out of print but may be found on amazon or other sites.*

- ^ **MASTER OF EQUITATION -Trot and Canter-** Martin Diggle (collected quotes from old masters)
- ^ **A GENERAL SYSTEM OF HORSEMANSHIP** - William Cavendish, Duke of Newcastle 1658
- ^ **THE GYMNASIUM OF THE HORSE-** Gustav Steinbrecht late 19th c. Available as Audio Book
- ^ **RIDING LOGIC** - Wilhelm Museler 1933
- ^ **ACADEMIC EQUITATION** - General Decarpentry 1949
- ^ **THE WAY TO PERFECT HORSEMANSHIP** - Udo Burger 1959