



# Rick Walters

from Okeana, OH



## The Judge's Card

### PATTERN CLASSES

When you hear the old saying "practice makes perfect, this could not be any truer than for the pattern classes. It will be obvious which exhibitors practice patterns and they will be the same ones who will easily find their way to the top of the horsemanship and showmanship classes. The only way you are going to make that "stellar" performance in the show pen is to practice, practice, practice.

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When you get to the horse show, take time to look at the patterns and dissect each maneuver. For instance, know what side to start the pattern and where to position your horse at the marker. Make sure to precisely hit your markers. This will definitely upgrade the degree of difficulty which will ultimately get you a higher score.

If you are first to go, the judge will give

you ample amount of time to get set at the marker. When the first exhibitor gets half way through the pattern, take this opportunity to get set and ready for your go. If you are not ready at the marker when it is your turn you might as well mark it up to experience because you are not likely to place. Just remember that we judges have very long days when judging, so please be respectful and be prepared. Don't keep the judge waiting. If it is showmanship or horsemanship pattern, make sure your lines are straight and your turns are precise. If you are executing a 90 degree turn, make sure that the turn is 90 degrees. Over or under shooting a turn will definitely

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cost you points. If your pattern is calling for circles, make sure they are round and supple and close your circle from the starting point. Smooth transitions will also be a key factor for the pattern class, which will help make your pattern flow. The exhibitor should be poised, confident, balanced and in complete unison with their horse.

Perform the pattern as if you made up the pattern yourself. These exhibitors will easily make their way to the top of the class.

Last but not least, is to make it fun. I certainly prefer the showman with a great attitude and a smile, that thoroughly enjoys showing their horse. A happy showman or horseman has a certain "air" about them and certainly makes a prettier picture. After all, we are trying to catch the judge's attention in a positive manner.

Happy showing to you, Hope to see you at the shows.

*Rick Walters*

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**Carded with AQHA, NSBA, IBHA,  
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