

Student Name:	Date:			
Address:				
City:	Stat	e:	Zip:	
Phone:	E-m	ail:		
Horse:	Bree	ed:		
Instructor:	Sign	ned:		
Results:	On Line	Pass	Some Resubmits	
	Liberty	Pass	Some Resubmits	
	☐ Freestyle	Pass	Some Resubmits	
	☐ Finesse	Pass	Some Resubmits	

Note: Please clearly mark tasks being demonstrated unless submitting a complete test or savvy.



Assessment Definitions

In Level 2, it's not just about getting the task done, it's also about the quality of how you communicate that shows your savvy.

The goal of Parell Natural Horsemanship is to put the relationship first. If your horse is not confident and happy then it doesn't matter how much you can get him to do... anyone can "make" a horse do things, but can you get a horse to "want" to do it?

Please refer to "Assessing the qualities of Level 2" in DVD#8 of the Level 2 Program.

This page outlines some definitions to help you be clear about reading the horse.

What does "confident" and "attentive" look like?

- Horse's ears are forward or focused on task
- Horse is calm, responsive to direction/communication
- Horse can look at student with two eyes

What does "unconfident" look like?

- Horse feels need to escape
- Horse cannot give two eyes, will not look at student
- Horse appears tight and tense, evasive
- Horse's ears are back and tight or pinned back

What does "dull" look like?

- Horse looks bored
- Horse is slow to respond
- Horse is distracted, disinterested vs. escapist/pressured
- Student works harder than the horse!
- Higher phases produce little to no result
- Actions/responses of horse are slow
 vs. quick for an unconfident/right brain horse

Define "Displaced behavior: ears back or tail swishing:"

- Pinned ears: Aggressive appearance (which may be dominant or defensive/scared). Horse has an unpleasant or distinctly unhappy expression. The ears are obviously exerted backwards as opposed to slightly/softly back or to the side which may indicate focus on direction
- Tail swishing: Repetitive, fast or single "hard" swishes (this is different from when a horse is swatting flies) and indicates obvious displeasure and can be linked to unjust use of higher phases or lack of feel (student was too quick with stick or legs)





Halter and 22-foot Line, Carrot Stick and String.

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OL1. Play the Seven Games with an obstacle. LEVEL 2:

- All Seven Games are shown
- Communication is clear, even to the assessor
- Horse is confident and attentive

PRE-LEVEL 2:

- Horse is unconfident
- Horse's expression appears dull
- Displaced behavior: ears back or swishing tail
- Not all Seven Games could be demonstrated

OL2. Play the Yo-Yo Game to back your horse over a pole and return.

LEVEL 2:

- Horse backs up with Phase 1 or 2
- Back up is straight
- Horse crosses pole with little or no hesitation
- Student allows horse to stop before asking him back in
- Student keeps feet still
- Student shows good use of phases

- Phase 3 and 4 required more than once
- Crooked backup
- Horse gets stuck at pole, resists going over it
- Student moves feet
- Poor use of phases, not distinct, not quick enough, Phase 1 not long enough
- Horse is unconfident
- Displaced behavior: ears back or swishing tail
- Horse's expression appears dull

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Halter and 22-foot Line, Carrot Stick and String.

OL3. Send your horse over a 18"-24" jump, Squeeze Game style.

LEVEL 2:

- Student sends horse clearly
- Allows horse to jump without using stick
- Student stands relaxed
- Turn, face and wait is completed
- Best if slack in the Line

PRE-LEVEL 2:

- Student uses stick during the allow and pushes horse over jump
- Student drags horse over during the allow
- Student goes beyond Phase 2 for the Send or Bring Back
- Displaced behavior: ears back or swishing tail
- Horse is unconfident
- Horse's expression appears dull

OL4. Play the Circling Game in both directions showing transitions from canter to trot to walk and back to the trot to canter.

LEVEL 2:

- Correct Send: Zone 1 or 2
- Horse maintains gait as asked
- Downward transition is made with rope wiggling in Zone 1, using phases, student is pivoting to face horse
- Upward transition is made by leading Zone 1 and supporting Zone 5 if necessary
- Transitions occur within half a circle
- Phase 4 is used only once if necessary

- Incorrect Send: Zone 3 or 4
- Horse cannot maintain gait
- Incorrect technique for downward transition, example: pulling Zone 1 inward (use of Carrot Stick is okay in Zone 1 area)
- Incorrect technique for upward transition: not leading Zone 1 first, supports Zone 4 not Zone 5
- Phase 4 used more than once
- Displaced behavior: ears back or swishing tail
- Horse is unconfident
- Horse's expression appears dull



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Halter and 22-foot Line, Carrot Stick and String.

OL5. Change direction at the trot, maintaining gait. LEVEL 2:

- Horse comes in willingly and goes out smoothly, maintains trot
- Student runs backwards as necessary but returns to original spot

PRE-LEVEL 2:

- Horse resists coming in
- Horse changes gait to walk or stop
- Student loses awareness of center position and does not return there
- Student gets tangled or clumsy with equipment
- Horse is unconfident
- Displaced behavior: ears back or swishing tail
- Horse's expression appears dull

OL6. Go sideways without a fence for at least 20 feet, both ways.

LEVEL 2:

- Horse goes sideways willingly
- If horse tries to go forward, appropriate correction is made with rope, but no more than twice
- At least 3/4 length of the 22-foot Line is used
- Belly of the rope should be touching the ground showing horse is not trying to escape
- Student shows awareness of correct zones to use (1 and 4, 3)

- Horse keeps trying to go forward, has to be corrected more than twice
- Rope is stretched taut, horse trying to get away
- Only 12-feet of rope is given to the horse
- Displaced behavior: ears back or swishing tail
- Horse is unconfident
- Horse's expression appears dull



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Halter and 22-foot Line, Carrot Stick and String.

OL7. Send your horse under a hanging tarp (level with horse's withers) or into a trailer.

LEVEL 2:

- Horse approaches confidently and with interest
- Student uses no more than Phase 2, does not force the horse

PRE-LEVEL 2:

- Horse will not go under/load by third attempt
- Student forces horse
- Student pushes horse when feet are stopped or going backwards (vs. when going forwards)
- Horse rushes through tarp or out of trailer
- Horse is not left brain
- Horse is unconfident
- Displaced behavior: ears back or swishing tail
- Horse's expression appears dull
- OL8. Place the 22-foot Line around a front leg, behind the knee or fetlock, and lead your horse by the front leg. Lift leg up and forward, ask horse to follow the feel forward one step at a time for three steps.

LEVEL 2:

- Horse lifts leg in response to light-medium pressure
- Student can "lead" leg forward and at an angle, horse follows feel and takes a step at a time
- Both right and left front legs are shown

- Horse resists strongly or panics and student does not resolve the problem within three tries showing appropriate savvy
- Student is rude/clumsy in aproach and execution
- Horse is forced and does not show understanding and compliance
- Displaced behavior: ears back or swishing tail
- Horse is unconfident
- Horse's expression appears dull

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Round Corral, Carrot Stick and Savvy String.

Tasks

L1. Show proof of desensitization in the "extreme" Friendly Game with Carrot Stick and String.

LEVEL 2:

• Horse stands calm and confident while student "flogs" the ground vigorously

PRE-LEVEL 2:

- Horse is unconfident (head up, "frozen")
- Displaced behavior: ears back or swishing tail
- Horse runs away, can't keep feet still
- Student is sneaky

Note: Dull/bored expression is okay because this is about safety.

L2. Play the Seven Games at Liberty in seven minutes. LEVEL 2:

• All games accomplished within 1 to 3 tries

- One or more games not accomplished
- Excessive/unnecessary use of Carrot Stick and String
- Displaced behavior: ears back or swishing tail
- Horse is unconfident
- Horse's expression appears dull

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Round Corral, Carrot Stick and Savvy String.

L3. Cause your horse to "smell his tail" for 10 seconds each side.

LEVEL 2:

- Task is achieved without opposition reflex
- Horse yields head willingly and stands still

PRE-LEVEL 2:

- Horse is resistant, unconfident, cannot stand still, keeps moving feet
- Student is forcing horse
- Both sides are not equally good
- Displaced behavior: ears back or swishing tail
- Horse's expression appears dull

L4. Hold your horse's tongue.

LEVEL 2:

- Student can reach in and grasp tongue without any problems
- Horse is calm and responsive

PRE-LEVEL 2:

- Student has trouble getting tongue
- Student forces horse to keep his head still
- Horse is resistant and fights it, trying to get tongue back
- Student shows lack of "feel"
- Displaced behavior: ears back or swishing tail
- Horse is unconfident
- L5. Pinch your horse's neck and show that he relaxes and yields to it (needle prep. as in new L2 Program).

LEVEL 2:

• Horse turns head toward student, relaxes—a positive reflex to a potentially negative stimulus

- Horse braces
- Horse is unconfident, panics or leaves
- Student is rude and abrupt (no Friendly Games before or after)
- Student shows lack of "feel"
- Displaced behavior: ears back or swishing tail

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la Halter, 12-foot Line, Saddle, Hackamore or Bridle.

Student Name:

FS1. Send your horse to the saddle and pad (using halter and 12-foot Line) and allow him to sniff them.

LEVEL 2:

- Student sends the horse out and around and allows the horse to find the saddle with a minimal amount of direction
- Horse finds the saddle and pad easily and relaxes next to them
- Horse puts head down and sniffs the saddle and pad, even paws at or plays with them

PRE-LEVEL 2:

- Horse goes past the saddle and pad more than three times before finding it
- Student wiggles the rope or causes the horse to stop at the saddle or pad instead of letting the horse find it
- Horse doesn't relax at the saddle, has a high head and won't look at or sniff the saddle and pad

FS2. Saddle your horse without touching the line. LEVEL 2:

- Horse is loose or rope is lying on the ground
- Saddling procedure is correct: allow horse to smell the saddle, swing onto horse's back like a hug, change sides with permission, cinch in three stages, moving horse in between. Cinches should be hung up so as not to drag or get tangled during saddling process
- Horse stands still, respectfully

- Horse cannot stand still, needs to be held
- Saddling procedure is incorrect: doesn't offer saddle to smell, lifts saddle up high and plonks down on horse's back, doesn't ask permission to change sides, cinches too hard too fast, doesn't move horse in between. Cinches tangled and hanging down (does not warrant a resubmit in itself but does warrant education/advice from instructor)
- Saddle is not shimmed or positioned for shoulder relief or balance point access for student
- Horse acts "cinchy" and student does not resolve it
- Displaced behavior: ears back or swishing tail

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Saddle, Hackamore or Bridle.

FS3. Bridle your horse (using Hackamore or Snaffle Bridle) from your knees or while sitting in a chair.

LEVEL 2:

- Student maintains kneeling/sitting position
- Student brings head down to them, horse keeps head there (as opposed to student physically holding head down)
- Horse accepts process willingly
- For bridle: Student lifts headpiece and pushes ears through politely and is considerate of the horse's experience

PRE-LEVEL 2:

- Student does not stay on knees/in chair or manages mistakes badly
- Holds horse's head down physically
- Horse resists, turns head, lifts head
- For bit: Horse won't open mouth
- For bridle: Student pulls ears through roughly, is inconsiderate of the horse's comfort
- Displaced behavior: ears back or swishing tail
- Horse is unconfident

FS4. Mount your horse from the ground or from a fence/platform.

LEVEL 2:

- Student mounts athletically and safely (belly button forward as in Level 1)
- Student starts the fence/platform mounting by bringing horse toward them and positions horse sideways ready for mounting
- Horse stands still allowing rider to get on

- Student mounts incorrectly with hands in the wrong position holding only saddle vs. saddle and mane, or has to try several times to get on
- Horse won't stand still for mounting and student gets on anyway
- Horse resists coming to the fence, and won't stand still by the fence for mounting
- Rider has trouble getting on, uncoordinated or clumsy and rough and/or tolerates dangerous situation (ex. Right Brain horse)
- Displaced behavior: ears back or swishing tail
- Horse is unconfident

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Saddle, Hackamore or Bridle.

FS5. Trot a figure-8 on a Casual Rein around two markers (barrels/cones/buckets) set 50 feet apart.

LEVEL 2:

- Student can complete on a Casual Rein (one hand with loose reins vs. two hands with tight reins or one hand with tight reins)
- Student shows minimum two circles and maximum four circles around each barrel before changing to the other barrel
- Student shows four changes of direction (from one barrel to the other)

- Student cannot maintain Causal Rein
- Student continues despite impulsiveness
- Student continues while constantly reassuring horse to keep moving (kicking/squeezing)
- Four changes of direction are not shown
- Minimum two or maximum four is not met
- Kicking, constant urging or squeezing horse, holding back with reins or legs
- Horse is unconfident
- Displaced behavior: ears back or swishing tail

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Saddle, Hackamore or Bridle.

FS6. Using a Casual Rein at the canter, show three simple (drop to trot) lead changes between barrels (figure-8) or randomly in an arena.

LEVEL 2:

- Casual Rein position is maintained (one hand on center of reins)
- Student reaches down rein gracefully to "take away" the lead they are on
- Student holds bend until horse is soft and has made the transition, then releases.
- Student shows good timing and feel, does not release on a brace
- Correct lead is taken up and if not, student knows and repeats
- Horse has impulsion, is not resistant to disengage or to re-engage

- Casual Rein is not maintained, two hands on reins when not required
- Student grabs rein quickly to disengage, no feel
- Student is unaware of lead they are on, reaches down "wrong" rein
- Student releases to the canter before trot is achieved in the transition
- Student releases while horse is bracing and impulsive
- Lead change is not effected
- Horse is impulsive (open mouth/high head/quick-jerky)
- Horse is unconfident
- Displaced behavior: ears back or swishing tail

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Saddle, Hackamore or Bridle.

F1. Starting on a Casual Rein, show three Yo-Yo's from walk to backup using the 9-Step Backup.

LEVEL 2:

• Casual to Concentrated Reins are used each time

Student Name:

- Graceful use of reins, smooth to watch and for the horse to feel
- Horse backs up willingly, goes forward willingly
- Student focuses straight ahead
- Straight lines
- Student is on balance point, is fluid vs. stiff

PRE-LEVEL 2:

- Rough or jerky use of reins in transition
- Horse unwilling to back up, resistant, opens mouth, raises head, etc.
- Student looking down
- Crooked lines
- Student is pulling, rigid or not on balance point
- Horse is unconfident
- Displaced behavior: Ears back, swishing tail
- F2. Ride sideways in both directions for at least 20 feet without using a fence.

LEVEL 2:

- Reins are short enough to be Concentrated
- Rider's focus is on destination
- Horse is moving fairly straight sideways without the hind end or front end leading
- Both sides are equal
- Horse's legs are crossing over each other
- Student is on balance point, is fluid vs. stiff

- Incorrect rein position, Direct Rein is lower than Supporting Rein
- Horse is resistant or moving more forward than sideways
- Horse turns front end and goes forward so the legs don't cross
- Both sides are not equal
- Student loses the Concentrated position or has to go beyond Phase 3
- Student is stiff and not on balance point
- Horse is unconfident
- Displaced behavior: Ears back, swishing tail

Horse:
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Result for This Savvy:
☐ Level 2 Pass ☐ Please Resubmit the Tasks marked Pre-Level 2
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