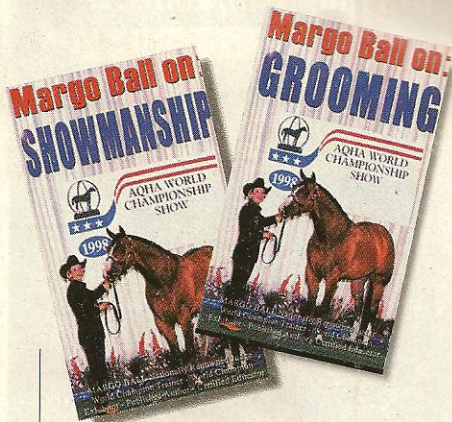


H&R's editor-reviewed books, videos, and software.



MARGO BALL ON: SHOWMANSHIP;
MARGO BALL ON: GROOMING
 Margo Ball and Parker Valley Productions
 (888) 77-HORSE; 5137 NCR 11, Fort Collins,
 CO 80524

\$39.95, plus \$5.95 s/h (showmanship video)

\$29.95, plus \$5.95 s/h (grooming video)

\$49.95, plus \$6.95 s/h (both videos)

When top trainer and judge Margo Ball told me she'd made a new video series for showmanship competitors, I wanted the first shot at reviewing it for *H&R*. After all, it's one of your favorite events to compete in. And, from working with Margo in the past and watching her students top regional show standings, I was sure the videos would be packed with authoritative, high-quality information.

I was right! In her 60-minute showmanship video—appropriate for serious showmanship competitors—Margo presents her pointers through interactive discussions with three exhibitors with different levels of coaching and simulated show footage shot at her Fort Collins, Colorado, training facility. The exhibitors contribute tips for keeping show records, memorizing patterns, and preparing seasoned and green horses for the show ring.

The video also shows the correct way to use the quarter system to change sides while standing in side-to-side and head-to-tail lineups, and how to correctly present your horse's teeth to the judge.

What makes this presentation an outstanding addition to your training-video collection are Margo's critiques and tune-up techniques. As exhibitors work through two challenging showmanship patterns, she assesses their gos, enlightening you on what judges really look for.

After each critique, the trainer offers personal instruction for tuning up your horse's jog, back-up, turnaround, and set-up. Plus, she shares strategies for fine-tuning your presentation, including se-

lecting an appropriate outfit, maintaining proper arm position, and securing your number correctly.

Margo's easy-to-understand delivery continues in her 30-minute grooming video. Less intensive than the first video yet full of need-to-know advice, it details how to put the finishing touches on your horse. In a step-by-step format, Margo takes you through her preshow grooming ritual, and explains how to adjust your halter and lead shank to enhance your horse's appearance.

Considering most of the presentations were filmed inside an indoor arena, the videos' production value is excellent, with clear sound and images. According to Margo, for showmanship competitors, there's nothing else like these videos on the market. I have to agree.

—Jennifer J. Denison

DON DODGE—THE WAY IT WAS

LMH Publishing Company
 (800) 729-2234; FAX (409) 348-5839

\$34.95, plus \$5 s/h

The thing about Don Dodge is that there are lots of things about Don Dodge. He has to be one of the most accomplished horsemen of our times, and certainly one of the most complex. His book was one of the more fascinating reads I've had in a long time.

From Iowa farm boy to inductee in three equestrian halls of fame is no small leap. The life packed in between the pages of his book is enough to fill the days of several men. Husband to six wives; outstanding stepfather and mentor to dozens of kids; cattle buyer; fashionable dresser; ladies' man; ex-gambler and drunk; party animal; speaker of indescribably vulgar language;

trainer of hunter/jumpers, polo ponies, racehorses, and stock horses; respected and sought-after horse-show judge; winner of innumerable trophies and titles; rider of too many horses to mention; cultured gentleman; and poet. And these terms only begin to characterize the multifaceted, multititled Silver Fox, as he's called.

Defining the legendary Dodge is no small task, but noted author and biographer Gala Nettles does the man justice. She starts at the beginning, and weaves a surprising (and still ongoing) tale, using her impressions and Dodge's quotes, as well as the memories of Dodge's friends, former wives, and stepchildren. She fleshes out his life in the context of what was happening in the country at the time, which gives a historical reference point for each time frame in Dodge's world.

But in addition to Nettles' engaging text, we learn even more about the colorful man through his poems, which begin each of the 31 chapters. The deep well that is Dodge's soul is open for all to see. You can't help but understand the man a little better when you read his stirring words. He claims never to have been in love, although he has been in "respect" for the women in each of his marriages. But who's the woman he's talking to in "Too Late," "Birds," and the two titled "Where?"

Dodge's contribution to the Western performance horse world is far-reaching. He gave us such equine greats as Skipper W, Poco Lena, Poco Tivio, Fizzabar, Peppy San, and Peponita. He shaped much of the cutting and reined cow horse industries as we know them. He designed the popular Don Dodge snaffle and the Mona Lisa bit. Today,

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