An "Aide-Memoire" for Dressage Judges, Riders and Trainers

1st February 2010

Many of you may already be familiar with the following web site:

www.dressagediagrams.com

This website provides dressage tests in the form of online diagrams which are equally useful to **Dressage Judges, Riders and Trainers.**
Recently they have made an agreement with the FEI, to add all of the **FEI Eventing and Pure Dressage** tests, to their extensive catalogue, which already contains dressage tests from the following associations:
RDA; British Dressage; British Eventing; UK Pony Club; British Riding Clubs: Inter Dressage and the USDF
As a dressage judge, I have found this site to be extremely useful, so I'm pleased to be able to pass on this information.

Everyone has their own way of learning dressage tests. Some are quite happy to memorise the test from the text format of conventional test sheets; some have to "walk" the test in their minds, some even physically; and some need something more visual, a kind of route map. It is for this last group that **dressagediagrams.com** has been created.

We know that judges have the added problem of watching what the rider **IS** doing whilst at the same time keeping track of what the rider **SHOULD BE** doing, so having accurate diagrams laid in front of you, are an invaluable help - and of course can be especially useful when judging [or riding] more than one test in the day!

Printed diagrams show each step of a dressage test as an arena, with the movements marked on the arena like the example shown below, and so clearly indicate where each movement starts and finishes – and therefore where the judge must give the mark!
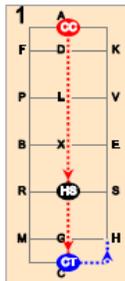
This is also helpful for riders, so that they know where each movement starts and finishes and they can avoid losing marks [if they have a 'hiccup'] in more than one movement.
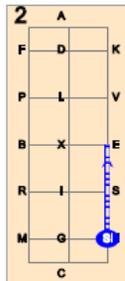
FEI EVENTING 3* STAR DRESSAGE TEST B 2009
[20x60, viewed from C end (judges view)]

* All steps score the same
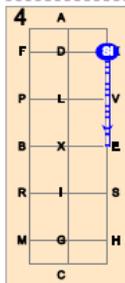* Working medium and extended trots must be sitting unless the term rising is used in the test

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1 A: Enter at collected canter
I: Halt salute
Proceed at collected trot
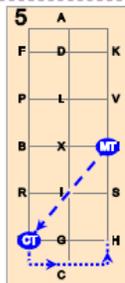C: Track left

2 HE: Shoulder-in left

3 EF: Change the rein in medium trot
FAK: Collected trot

4 KE: Shoulder-in right

5 EM: Change the rein in medium trot
MCH: Collected trot

6 HXF: Change the rein in extended trot

This example is drawn from the "C" end of the arena; diagrams can also be drawn from the "A" end for riders and trainers, and also (for subscribers only) from either side of the arena at "E" and "B".
The example presents the arenas in rows – from left to right across the paper. You can also choose to have them drawn in columns, to be read from top to bottom, like a newspaper.

You can choose your own colour scheme for gaits, arena background etc (here we have canter in red and trot in blue) or black and white if you want and opt to include a 2-metre grid for added accuracy.

The point of all this choice is to enable you to have diagrams that suit your requirement.

Using the site is easy. You just register (which is free and involves giving your name and e-mail address) and then you can log in any time and buy tests. Your tests are then available to you *immediately* on the website for you to print off, at your convenience.

Payment is made via an online clearing service called **Paypal** where you can pay either by credit card, or you can set up a Paypal account which then saves you the trouble of typing in credit card details every time. Tests cost UK£1.50 each, with a minimum charge of UK£2.00 for each transaction.

Finally, I mentioned subscribing above. Subscribing costs from **UK£5.00 per month** to **UK£35.00 per year**. Whilst many users are satisfied with the basic facilities provided free, subscribing brings some extra benefits:

- **Design your own freestyle tests.** You can create as many tests as you want and they will be stored securely for as long as you are a subscriber.

- **Access purchased diagrams indefinitely**. (Non-subscribers have a 3 month limit)

- **Printing diagrams from "E" side and "B" side.** Non-subscribers can only print from "A" and "C" ends.

- **Print an entire test on one page**. You can print an entire test on a single sheet.

- **Send your self-designed tests and diagrams by email.**

- **Your diagram printing preferences are retained**. The website remembers your preferences - arena colour, grid options etc – so long as you remain a subscriber.

I do hope that you will have a good look at this web site, and I would like to say a very sincere "Thank You" to David Holmes who initiated this arrangement between the FEI and Dressage Diagrams!

Jean S Mitchell

{Secretary General of the International Eventing Officials Club}