



# THE BAROQUE EQUESTRIAN GAMES & INSTITUTE™

*Rewarding, Teaching & Celebrating  
The Elegance & Artistry of Classical Horsemanship*

## **Glossary of Paces, Figures and Terms for Rassembler Phase**

### **Goals to achieve in the Rassembler Phase:**

To conform the ability from the horse to sustain collection in all three gaits without support from the rider. The horse should show confidence finding collection and lightness at this phase. The Travers, Renvers, and Half-Passes will increase flexibility and render the gaits of the horse free and expressive. In the canter pirouettes the ability to collect the canter must be visible. By releasing the reins at the halt, the rider demonstrates correct communication between horse as rider along with the proof of collection without tension. Gracefulness becomes effortless as horse and rider reach unity in the work.

### **Paces and Figures in the Rassembler Phase:**

- **Collected Walk.**

The horse maintains the same attributes as the school walk, but with added activity of the hind legs, slower tempo, and increased collection producing lightness in the rider's hands.

- **Collected Trot.**

The horse maintains the same attributes as the school trot, but with added activity of the hind legs, slower tempo, and increased collection producing lightness in the rider's hands.

- **Collected Canter.**

The horse maintains the same attributes as the school canter, but with added activity of the hind legs, slower tempo, and increased collection producing lightness in the rider's hands.

- **Halt.**

In response to the rider's lifting the horse's neck the horse arrives at a standstill by shifting its balance from the rider's hands to the hindquarters.

- **Rein Back.**

The horse steps backwards in response to the combination of the rider's seat and hands.

The horse should also change its balance by lifting the shoulder and shifting its weight to the hindquarters.

- **Release of the Reins.**

The horse remains at the halt as the rider gradually releases the reins to the point of holding the buckle. Once the horse shows that he can sustain the halt (the horse should relax its neck without losing a collected position), the rider proceeds to gently pick up the reins to the original position.

- **Circles (15M, 10M).**

The rider should create bending in the horse's body to duplicate the circumference of the circle. At the same time the rider's leg aids encourage the horse's hind legs to find and track on the circumference of the circle and maintain the bend.

- **Square Turn.**

The rider lifts and directs the shoulders of the horse in the direction of the turn; the rider teaches the horse to balance on the inside hind leg as the forward movement is preserved.

- **Turn around the Forehand.**

The horse steps sideways around the shoulders in a circular motion; the hind legs subscribe a circle with a radius no larger than the length of the horse, while the front legs continue in the

- **Half Pass.**

This lateral movement is comprised of the same attribute as Travers (the horse is bent towards the direction of movement), but the forelegs track on the diagonal line.

rhythm of the walk in a circle no wider than the horse's shoulders.

- **Demi-Volte.**

The horse steps sideways around the hindquarters, following the circumference of a half circle as it bends its body in the direction of the movement. A change of direction is the result of this figure.

- **Shoulder In.**

The rider lifts and positions the horse's shoulders to the inside, while using the leg and seat aids to engage the horse's inside hind leg and encourage the hindquarters forward on the track. This creates bend (away from the direction of movement / towards the inside of the arena) and causes the horse to step under the rider's center of balance.

- **Travers (haunches-in)**

The rider lifts the horse's shoulders and maintains them on the track, while using the leg and seat aids to engage the outside hind leg. As a result, the horse moves the hindquarters onto the inside track. This creates bend (towards the direction of movement / towards the inside of the arena) and causes the horse to step under the rider's center of balance.

- **Renvers (haunches-out).**

The rider lifts and positions the horse's shoulders to the inside, while using the leg and seat aids to engage the inside (closest to center of arena) hind leg and to encourage the horse's hindquarters forward on the track. This creates bend (towards the direction of movement towards the outside of the arena) and causes the horse to step under the rider's center of balance. This movement is similar to the Shoulder In, but with the horse bent in the opposite direction.

- **Pirouette.**

The horse steps sideways in a circle. The croup stays on the center or base of the circle while the inside hind leg acts as a pivot around which the horse turns while the shoulders stay on the outside circumference of the circle. This circle should not exceed the length of the horse's body. The horse is collected through the use of the rider's seat and directed in a lateral movement by the hands and legs.

## **Terms of Classical Horsemanship:**

- **Balance.**  
The degree of collection required for the specific situation to encourage the horse to sustain its energy and position without the support of the rider.
- **Brilliance.**  
Conspicuous presence, talent and expressiveness.
- **Collection.**  
The process use to bring the horse in to balance. The horse elevates the shoulders and shifts the weight of its body to the hindquarters.
- **Quality of Bend.**  
The horse is able to bend its entire body in order to follow the circumference of the circle or curved line without losing lateral balance.
- **Flexibility.**  
The ability to bend laterally and longitudinally throughout the body without the loss of movement.
- **Lightness.**  
The rider uses and the horse responds to very light, almost imperceptible aids.
- **Pliability.**  
The horse's body becomes soft from the pressure of the leg and hand of the rider.
- **Relaxation.**  
The rider and the horse are free from tension. The horse shows confidence and suppleness in its way of moving.
- **Roundness.**  
The rider gathers the horse's energy between the leg and hand and as a result the horse brings its hind legs further under the body and softens its neck.
- **Self-carriage.**  
The horse sustains movement and balance without the support from the rider.
- **Softness of Aids.**  
The rider's ability to coordinate the aids (Seat, Legs, Hands and Voice) with subtlety and competence so that the horse can respond with minimal effort from the rider.
- **Straightness.**  
The horse shows the ability to bend equally on both sides of the body.
- **Suppleness.**  
The horse is relaxed and pliable throughout the body, molding to the rider's aids.
- **Use of the Seat.**  
The ability of the rider to follow the movement of the horse, as well as engage the hindquarters. The balance of the horse is influenced by the weight of the rider's upper body.
- **Lateral balance on the track.**  
The horse maintains the haunches in line with the shoulders on the track without leaning or drifting left or right.
- **Alignment of horse's shoulders.**  
The ability of the rider to laterally influence the horse's shoulders in order to turn or direct the horse onto a new the track.