

## HorseChannel's Online Bit Guide: Pelham

Pelham: There are rings for two reins on a Pelham bit. One is near the mouthpiece and is meant to function somewhat like a snaffle, using direct rein aids. The other is at the end of the shank, which employs the leverage action of a curb. Always use a curb chain with a Pelham, and make sure it lies flat against the horse's lower jaw, in the groove just above the chin. A Pelham with a very short shank is often referred to as a Tom Thumb. Though not many hunters are shown in a Pelham, it is a popular bit in hunt seat equitation and medal classes because it gives the rider more precise control than a snaffle. Short leather straps called bit converters can be buckled to both bit rings on each side of the mouthpiece, so that the rider can use only one rein, however, this eliminates the snaffle effect entirely.

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