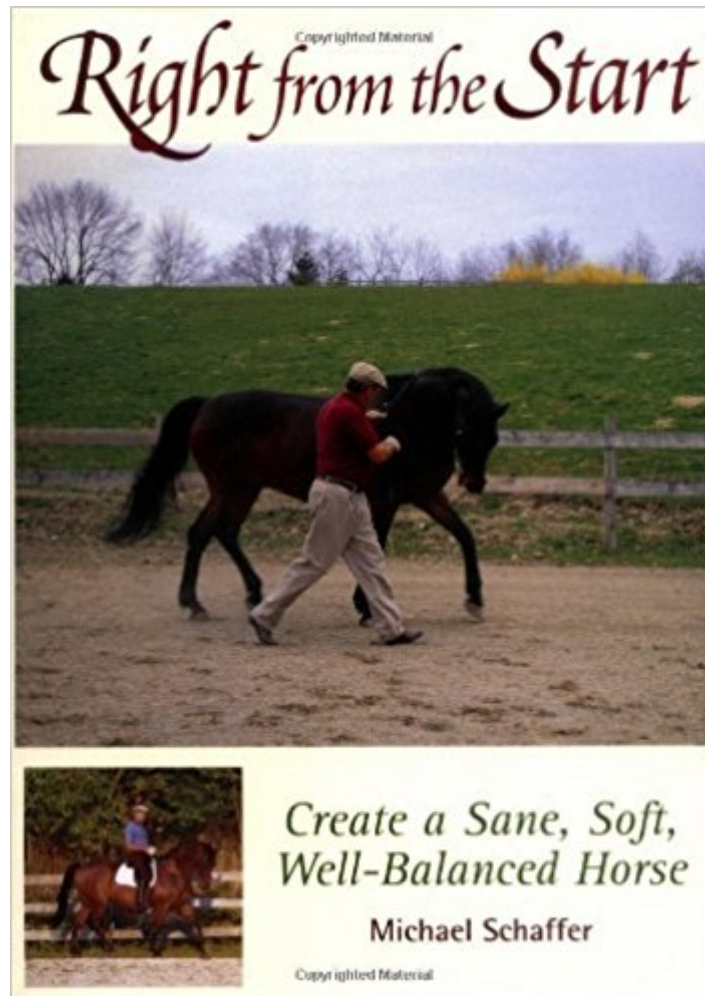




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Right From The Start: Create A Sane, Soft, Well-Balanced Horse



Synopsis

A groundbreaking training book that will improve horse-and-rider partnerships everywhere.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When you see a horse under saddle that looks light, elegant, and graceful – as though he’s having the best time of his life – that horse is moving in a “true balance.” Right from the Start introduces trainers and riders to the fundamentals of training a horse to perform with these desirable qualities. Author Michael Schaffer offers clear instruction on his unique methods of starting young horses as well as re-schooling those that lack a good training foundation. Using techniques both on the ground and under saddle, Schaffer reveals the key to success – teaching the horse to soften and move into the rider’s hand. Right from the Start offers training principles that produce happy, well-trained horses, enabling riders to succeed in any area of the sport they choose – dressage, jumping, reining, trail, or just riding for fun. Michael Schaffer has trained horses professionally for more than 25 years; he works out of New Start Farm in central New Jersey.

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Outstanding book! Best in my large equestrian related library. Straight forward explanations without

cryptic terminology. Excellent video support on Mr. Schaffer's YouTube site. The icing on the cake is it really works! The young mare I am working with is excelling and is very happy under saddle. I was so impressed with my book, I bought three more to give to my friends who are training horses. They agree fully with my opinion of this book. Authors second book *Riding in the Moment* is equally informative and easy to read. Highly recommend!

I rode and showed in the hunter jumper world for 10 years, and am getting back in the horse world again after a 10 year hiatus. My focus now is just to have a good relationship with my horse and to communicate and work with him so he wants to perform. I've gotten my hands on a lot of books written by people from different disciplines. I fell in love with Mark Rashid's books because of the way he relates to his horses, and then I felt like this book by Mike Schaffer complemented the Rashid's philosophy but from a completely different angle. This is the best training book I have read as it thoroughly and concisely explains aids done correctly and what makes that correct. This book is not mechanical at all in that it isn't a step-by-step manual per say. He gives the correct aid and the possible responses by your horse and encourages you to listen to and work with your horse to learn how to communicate with him--not to force responses. This is also going to be helpful in training my little 10hh pony that I am too big to ride but want to be a good mount for my kids. Thanks Mike for sharing your wisdom!

This book is fantastic! It teaches the human partner the correct mindset to communicate with the horse and help them understand what we would like from them, keeping their mental wellbeing paramount to being able to reach your goals. A horse is not a beast of burden put here to serve us. They, like us, are citizens of the earth. Unfortunately for them they have lost their homeland and are stuck in a foreign country without knowing the language. It is our job to help them understand not **MAKE** them understand. This book will show you how to create a partner, not a slave. Nothing is more rewarding than achieving goals together and doing it correctly.

The techniques in this book just make sense to me. I have recently realized that when dealing with young, spoiled or nervous horses I just have to be quicker than them. What I mean is a poke or a block or bringing them sharply around if they bolt often gets across that I am smarter and stronger (even though I'm not) better than if I had responded with a strong punishment. Horses have to believe they can rely on you. They need a leader or they will try be the leader. You have to be reliable. That may seem silly but horses absolutely have a sense of 'fair play'. And they never forget

anything. The trick is to figure out how to break things down into small logical pieces. I think the Author gets all this across. No matter what your experience any time you're around a horse you are training that horse. For better or for worse.

I wish I found this book years ago, in the early stages of discovering dressage! It would have made things much easier to understand. I compete and have been confused in the whole aiding and balancing g thing. This.... The French style is, as Michael puts it, a bottom up process not the typical top down system where you taught and expect the horse to respond to those refined aids! Hello... Everyone need explanations on what's expected! And this put is the way it should be. Sure it sounds really slow by asking for in hand stuff, but that builds onto the ridden stuff and it soon snowballs in speed of the process because you as a rider know what your trying to achieve and feel and is well explained to the horse you both soon 'get it' Michael puts the Basics that all horses should know on paper to study AND practice in Softening Move in Move out And in its many combinations you can and will be able to do those fancy tricks you didn't think we're possible... Like all the lateral moves and lovely soft transitions. The higher levels are just a refinement of these basics.!!! The philosophy of classical riding is here and I hope more people discover it and practice it too. You will enjoy your horse more. And it's worth having his other one too. It's puts the same things in another way. I often flick between the two. And on a companion note.... It will help you get out of Preliminary /training level dressage. Read, learn and practice.

This is the first book I have seen that teaches Walk/Stop and Stay. Methods I have used for years and found the exercise is easy and effective. Horses do latch on using this technique!! I found his training techniques to be in hand soft and sane with great detail and rational. His explanation of using reward vs fear in all aspects of training is a lesson horses would appreciate us ALL knowing. I LOVE this book and think it should be read by horse people in all disciplines of riding not just dressage. Great great tool for those that wasn't too know.

Excellent explanation of communicating with the horse to get the responses everyone wants but seems unable to get. Plenty of common sense exercises to develop seat and feel. I found it especially helpful for retraining an older horse and helping him want to participate in the training process, become straight, and increasing his responsiveness to ever lighter aids. Even advanced riders would benefit from reviewing this author's basics.

Not a book for a rank amateur, which the author frankly acknowledges at the beginning of this book. For those who have some experience working with a trainer, especially in English disciplines, the book would be extremely helpful. It is detailed and comprehensive, and provides numerous lessons for developing softness and balance in your horse(s) as well as developing the rider's balance and soft hands.

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