

RALLY O - HINTS & TIPS

The Side Steps



- 20. Moving Side Step
- 40. HALT - Side Step Right - Halt



The two Side Step exercises are still causing some confusion for competitors.

20. Moving Sidestep Right - While heeling, the handler takes one step diagonally to the right, leading with the right foot, and continues moving forward along the newly established line. The dog moves with the handler. The exercise shall be performed just after the exercise sign.

Hint: Rules also say to take a diagonal step – this isn't a stationary exercise. The diagonal step shouldn't impede your forward motion. It's just like stepping around something on the footpath.

Hint: It doesn't need to be a BIG step that will upset your balance but the Judge must be able to see a distinct step to the side.

Hint: Don't forget the dog must come with you so get the command in early so the dog is prepared.

40. Halt - Side-step Right – Halt - The handler halts and dog sits. With the dog sitting in heel position, the handler moves one step directly to the right and halts. The dog moves with the handler and sits in heel position when the handler halts. The exercise shall be performed just past the exercise sign. (Stationary exercise)

Hint: The rules say "shall be performed past the sign". This means MUST be performed ...

Hint: Again, the dog must come with you so get the command in early so the dog is prepared.

Hint: This time the rules say "one step directly to the right." Again it doesn't have to be a big step as long as the Judge can see it clearly. And if your balance is iffy, take the step and then steady yourself before you set off. The dog has to sit after the step so there is nothing to say you can't stand for an extra moment or two to regain your equilibrium. (It's also a good time to check where the next station is).

Hint: The dog must be able to clear the station sign when you move sideways. If your dog bumps the sign because you have crowded them there will be a deduction. Remember your dog has its whole rear end plus tail behind you so take an extra step or so past the sign to all of his body to clear the cone and sign as they sidestep. It's the "team" who must work in the 600mm zone so even if you are beyond it, part of the dog will still be in that area as you complete the exercise.