

83. Thread the Needle

STARTING POINT

- Form a single-file line 1 at **A** facing **F**, in open formation.
- Form a single-file line 2 at **A** facing **K**, in open formation.

HOW DO I RIDE THIS?

- 1 Move forward past **K** and **F**.
- 2 Turn and travel across the diagonal.
- 3 Take turns with riders from the other line while crossing **X**.
- 4 Continue riding to the rail, then turn toward **C**.
- 5 Pass riders from the other line left hand to left hand at **C**.

KEEP IN MIND

- ◆ The team decides before riding the exercise which rider will cross **X** first.
- ◆ Lines stay straight.
- ◆ Riders turn onto the diagonal after their body passes the letter.
- ◆ Riders return to the fence before the letter so that they are parallel to the fence at the letter.
- ◆ Riders watch the other riders in the lines and rate their horses accordingly.

INCREASING DIFFICULTY

- ◆ Increase the speed.
- ◆ Ride in pairs.

VARIATIONS

- ◆ Line 1 starts at **A**. Line 2 starts at **C** (see small diagram).
- ◆ Two horses from line 1 pass over **X**, then two horses from line 2 pass over **X**. Repeat this pattern through the line.

pro tip

When threading the needle, try placing markers at each corner 6 to 10 meters (33 feet) from the end of the ring to use as reference points to which the leaders may ride. Everyone must follow that single-file line to the markers and not cut the corner.

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