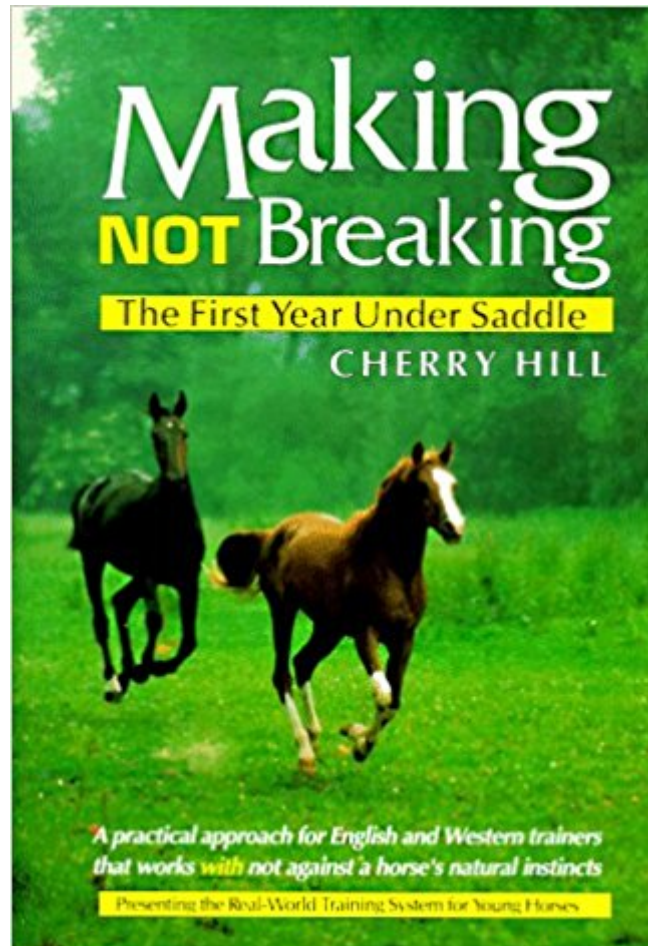


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Making, Not Breaking: The First Year Under Saddle



Synopsis

Cherry Hill -- horse trainer, judge and college professor -- picks up where she left off with "The Formative Years." This book will take you through a training schedule for your green-broke horse. On a month-by-month program, you'll go from planning a training program and fitting the saddle through groundwork review and up to lateral work and collection. This is good solid training for any horse -- whether you want to end up with a great trail horse or a show horse -- the basics are all the same. This organized approach will help you to set realistic goals, and to recognize when your horse is making the right kind of progress. It will also help prevent the sporadic and erratic training that produces inconsistent performers. This book takes you through the entire first year of a horse's training -- so by the end of the year, he's not only become responsive, balanced and obedient in the ring, but a confident companion for the trail. 244pgs, Hardcover

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Customer Reviews

The title says it all, Making Not Breaking. I had been looking through countless books and magazine articles, and watching a fair share of movies until I read this book. It's informative, and its methods really work with sound results. For the horse people out there it's a must have! Cherry Hill's methods are kind yet full of leadership and best of all logical. Not only are you informed on how to start a horse under saddle but what to do after your horse has gotten used to the saddle. Hill explains that you need to develop a plan and stick to it. I recommend this book to every horse person whether you own a horse or not!

I was very disappointed with this book, particularly since I have found "101 Longeing and Long Lining Exercises" and "101 Arena Exercises" (both by Cherry Hill) valuable additions to my equestrian library. I don't have issue with Cherry Hill's methods, but rather I question who this book is aimed at. Although described as "a practical approach for English and Western trainers", I think Western riders would appreciate this book more than I. If you are an English rider, I think you'll find other books more helpful. This book has a lengthy review of basic principles; in my opinion if you don't know the aids or how to fit a bridle you have no business starting a young horse - seek professional help. Novice riders may find the review helpful and yet other aspects of the book too technical. Experienced riders may find the review of the basics unnecessary and yet enjoy the technical aspects. Either way I think both will leave with unanswered questions and a sense that the book wasn't completely satisfying. In some respects the book is simplistic and can give the impression that starting a young horse is easy and straight forward. Young horses are unpredictable and even well prepared youngsters have their moments; this book gives no insight on how to deal with problems which may arise during your young horse's training.

This book is a classic. I found that it explained principles of training and horse behavior that modern "whisperers" and "round penners" have just begun to make popular. The two previous reviews of this book contradicted each other - one says it is for Western rider, the other says it is geared toward English riders. I found it refreshing to see photos of English AND Western tack being used in the same book. Really, horses don't know the difference anyway. And that's one thing I like about Hill's training - she treats horses as horses, not favoring Western horses or English horses. Her training procedure is based on sensitivity and respect and is a combination of the best aspects of Western and Dressage techniques. I have found that if followed intelligently, her method will yield outstanding results whether starting a young horse or retraining an older horse, and no matter which style of riding the horse will be used for. I ride with Western tack myself but like to use a lot of dressage principles. Hill is well known for writing that is easy to understand and accessible to beginners yet not condescending to experienced horsemen, and this book follows that tradition. Everyone will form their own training style by trial and error, by watching and reading other trainers and assimilating or modifying portions of those trainers' methods. I have found that Making, Not Breaking can make the trials of training more productive and the errors less traumatic and easier to understand. I recommend this book to every person who rides or wants to ride a horse.

I would really like to meet the author and shake her by the hand and congratulate her on this excellent work. For many years there has been a great gap in equestrian literature for this type of work. Most books deal with the early backing of a young horse and once the rider is in the saddle and moving - that's where they finish. During my lengthy horse career I have started many youngsters, both for myself and other people - also I have found this the easy part (the breaking). The next part - early education is another story, and in my opinion can be more difficult than the actual breaking, or accustoming to saddle, bridle and rider. When I purchased this book I was curious to see how others schooled their youngsters once they were happy with the rider. I have always felt that the most difficult part of educating a youngster comes after they have accepted the rider, e.g. the first canter lessons (can be quite hair raising in some instances) and some horses are best not cantered for some time. Riding out - in traffic - in our point in time is another experience where one knows one is alive (and wishes to remain so); taking your young horse to shows, etc. Ms Hill certainly states that all youngsters are different (which they are) and that her programme is designed to "add or subtract" to or from according to the youngster's spirit. All in all this is an excellent training book and a valuable addition to any horseman's library and is suitable for either English or Western riders as this early training can be built on, towards whichever discipline you follow. EXCELLENT! Purchase and keep. Making, Not Breaking: The First Year Under Saddle

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