



## EADJC DIRECTIVE RE TRAVERS AND RENVERS MOVEMENTS



If we look at the diagrams for the above movements in both the FEI Handbook and the Dressage Rule book 2.12.2 & 3 (and they are the basis for understanding the mechanic of the movements) they exactly show the ideal tracks i.e. four tracks, but that they are NOT equally spaced. If we looked at the tracks of a half pass it would be vastly different! However it is correct to say in a very general way that the outside legs move in front of the inside legs as opposed to the leg yield where it is the inside hind leg which moves (crosses) in front of the outside legs.

In travers the horse's quarters are brought into the arena so that the outside hind leg moves a little inside the track of the inside foreleg in line behind the inside shoulder. Hence the diagram which shows 4 tracks but note that it is not 4 equally apart tracks. The inner tracks are closer together. And they become even closer together the more collected and submissive to bend in body the horse is. The outside legs move in front of the inside ones, with hind legs moving close together and sweeping towards the centre of gravity – i.e. under the rider in collected trot. The inside hind leg carries more weight and is more bent in all joints because the horse's mass/body is moved sideways across it.

The biggest mistake is if the quarters are brought too far into arena then the outside legs have to move too far over the inside legs to maintain balance. The inside hind leg escapes sideways rather than increasing the bend and carrying and collecting. Often far too much emphasis is put on the word "crossing" - for definition of renvers and travers, "moving/stepping" better describes the action of the horse.

With the renvers, again the outside hindleg moves and steps in front of the inside hindleg. Too much angle (usually too much bend in the neck only) will sacrifice the collecting process as the inside hind leg escapes. As in all three lateral movements (shoulder-in, travers and renvers), the key to collecting ability is the position of the inside hind leg- taking more weight and supporting and consequently bending more through the hind leg joints.