

# SKILL OF THE MONTH

BY KAREN HOLIK

This month's exercises focus on boxes. Negotiating a box of jumps in a drill is usually fairly simple, until you start adding speed, distance, and different handling maneuvers. You will quickly find that the four-jump box at the top of the setup is easier than the six-jump box at the bottom. These exercises try to cover every possible way to handle your dog into, through, and out of the box. Have fun and remember (as always), reward often!

## STARTERS/NOVICE EXERCISES

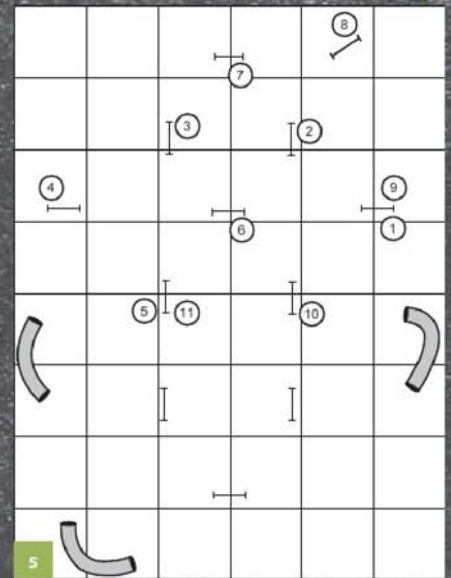
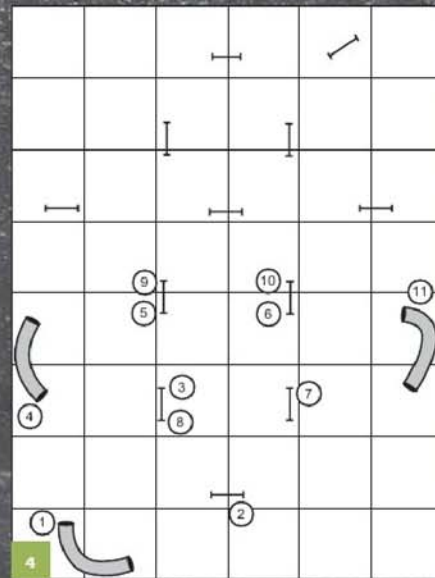
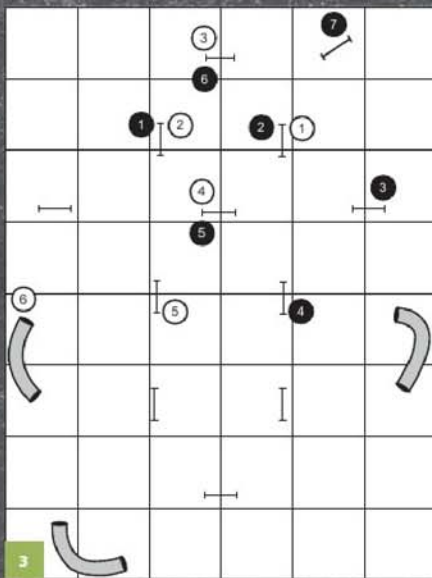
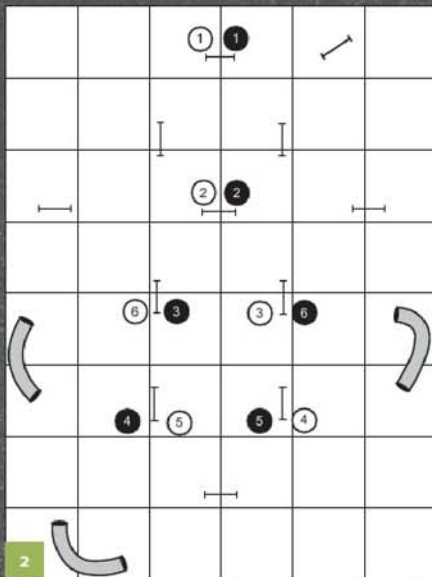
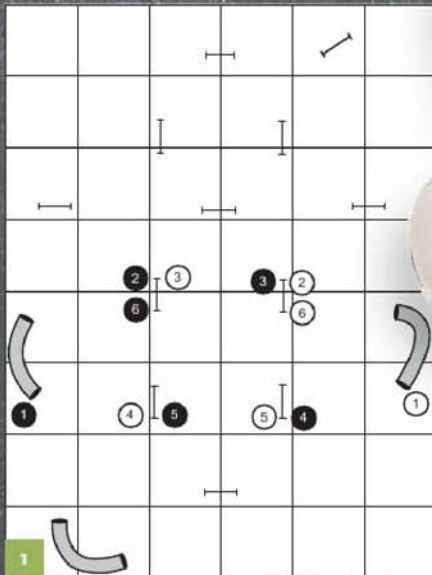
**Figure 1:** Start with the dog on the right for the white numbers and the dog on the left for the black numbers. Also try the exercises in reverse.

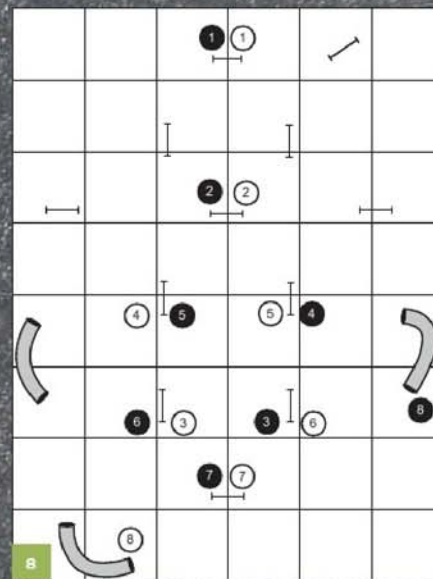
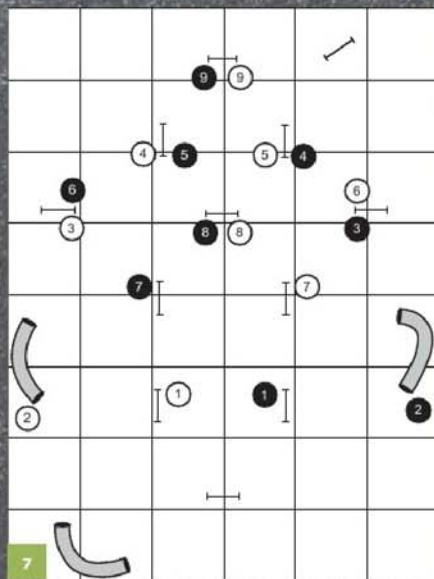
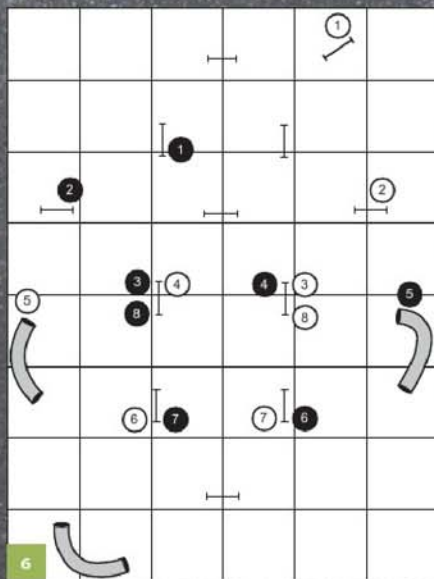
**Figure 2:** Try both exercises with a lead-out past #2. Also try each without a lead-out and do a rear cross before #3.

**Figure 3:** Try both exercises with the dog on the left to start and also with the dog on the right. You will need to do a rear cross at #2 one time in each sequence if you handle this way.

**Figures 4 and 5:** Be inventive and try to handle both these sequences in many different ways.

These exercises try to cover every possible way to handle your dog into, through, and out of the box. Have fun and remember (as always), reward often!





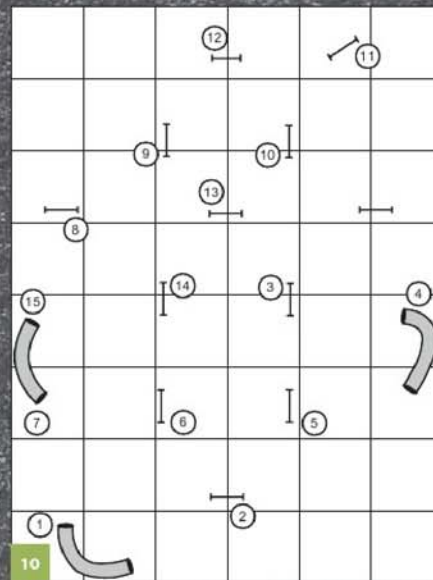
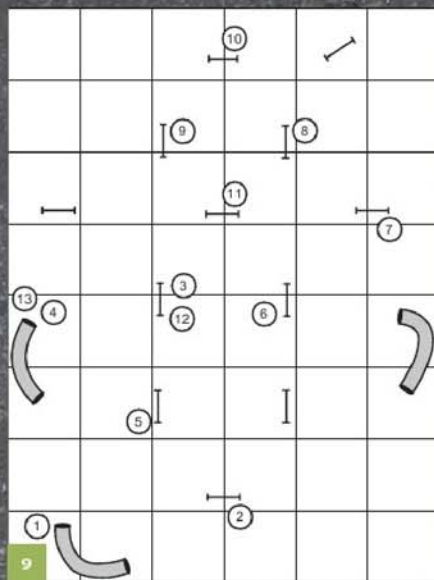
## OPEN/ADVANCED EXERCISES

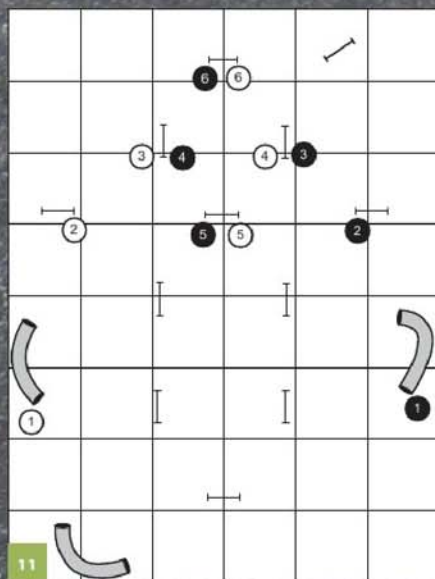
**Figure 6:** Start your dog on your left for the white numbers and your right for the black numbers. You will need to do a rear cross at the tunnel.

**Figure 7:** Here are more sequences to see if you can keep your dog's focus through the box.

**Figure 8:** After leading out, try each sequence with your dog on your left and your right. You will need to do a rear cross at #3 one time in each sequence if you handle this way.

**Figures 9 and 10:** Here are more box examples to test your skills!





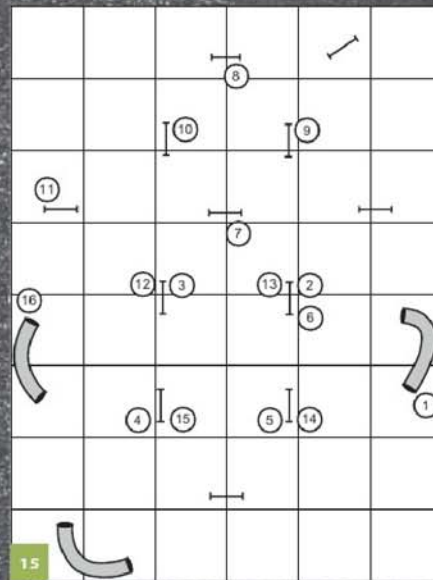
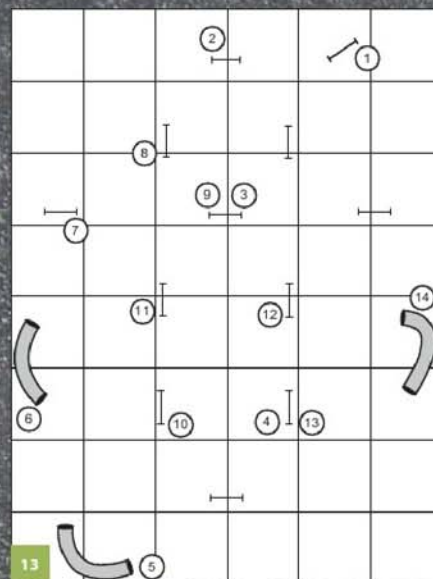
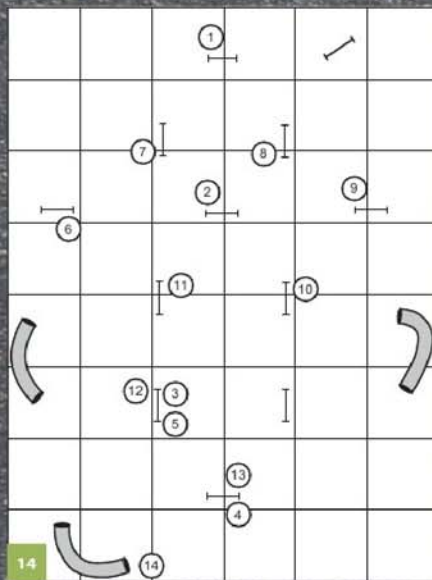
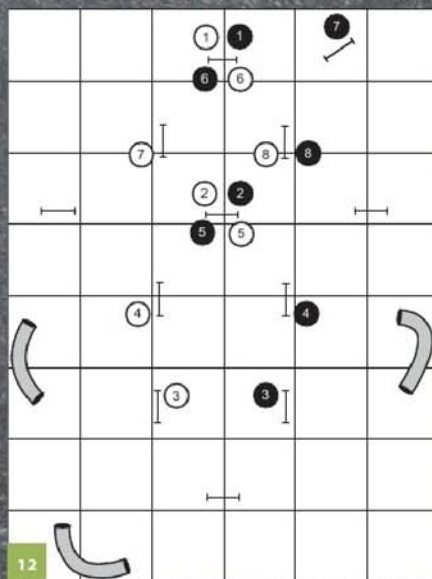
### MASTERS/EXCELLENT EXERCISES

**Figure 11:** Handle the white numbers with your dog on your left and the black numbers with your dog on the right.

**Figure 12:** Handle with your dog on the left for the white numbers until you do a front cross between #4 and #5. Handle on the right for the black numbers until the same front cross.

**Figure 13:** Start this exercise with your dog on your right. Try a rear cross at #4 as well as a front cross. Handle the rest on your left until putting your dog back on your right for the #14 tunnel.

**Figures 14 and 15:** Here's more box work. Reward often. Have fun! 🐾



Karen Holik, involved in agility for over 15 years as a competitor and a USDAA and AKC judge, has competed in the finals of the USDAA World Championships many times with all her dogs, two Shelties, a Border Collie, and an All-American. Her most recent accomplishments have been with ADCHMACH4 Triune's Feelin Hot Hot Hot, a.k.a. Sizzle, a four-time champion at the USDAA World Championships and a six-time member of the AKC/USA World Team. Karen offers private lessons and seminars; contact her by email at [oncourseagility@comcast.net](mailto:oncourseagility@comcast.net).