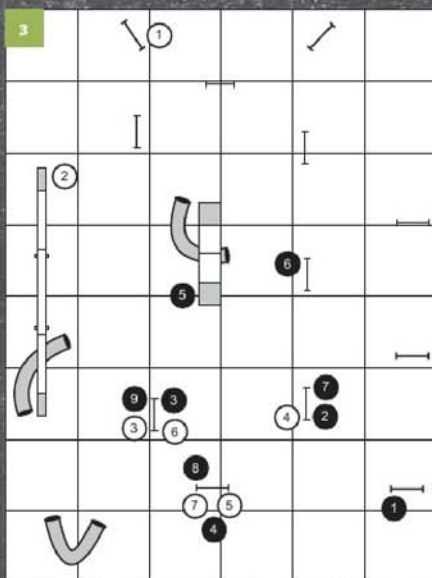
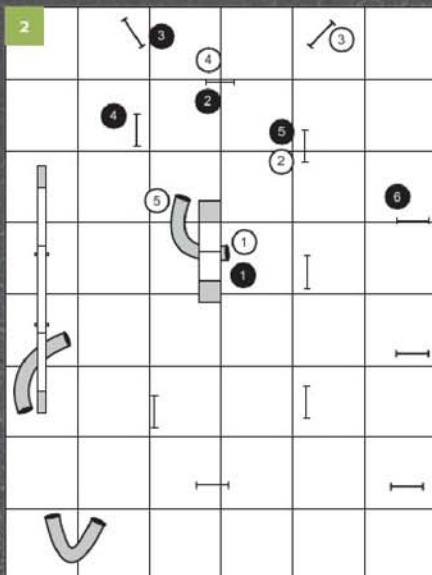
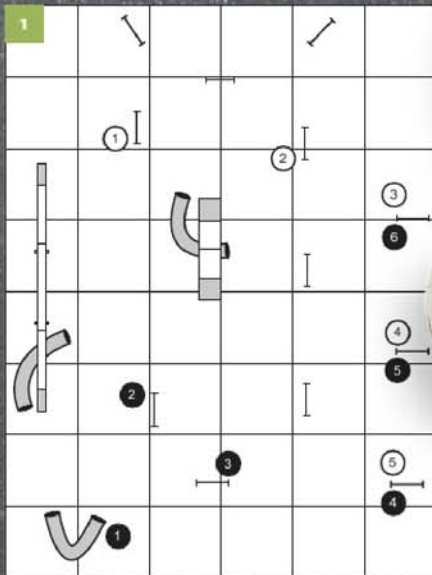


SKILL OF THE MONTH

BY KAREN HOLIK

This month's exercises focus on common sequences seen at trials. While at a trial recently, I asked several people what common sequences gave them the most trouble and I have used their answers to construct the exercises below. Some exercises might seem simple to you, but they are not so simple to others. I hope that after doing the exercises, you and your dog are better prepared for your next trial. Most sequences are very short. Try rewarding the particular sequence shown and then try adding obstacles before and after it. Have fun training!



STARTERS/NOVICE EXERCISES

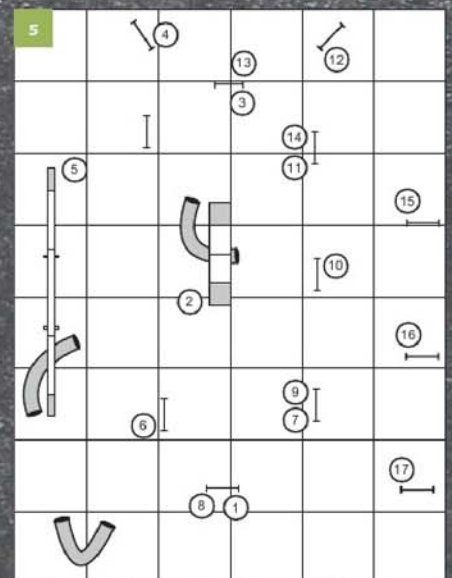
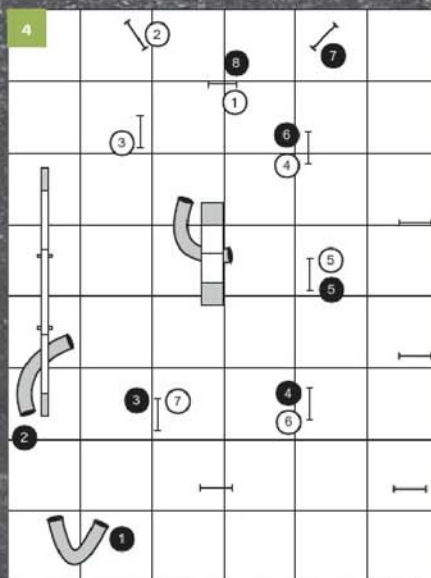
Figure 1: Here we see a straight line of jumps. These can always be found on a Novice course and should never be taken for granted as being easy. Remember, your dog should always drive down a straight line of jumps with the same speed away from you that he does when coming toward you.

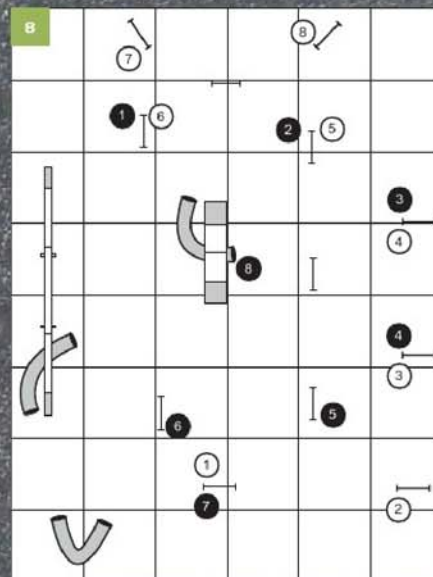
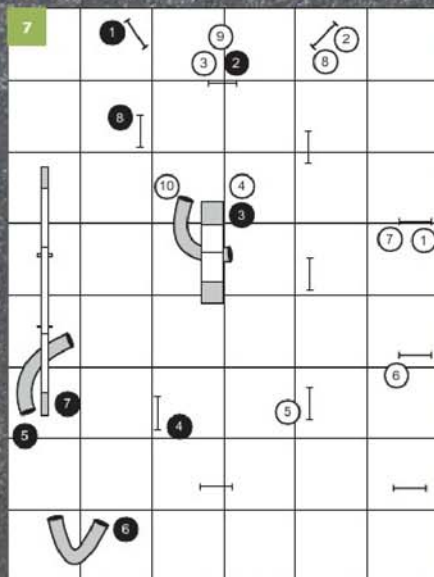
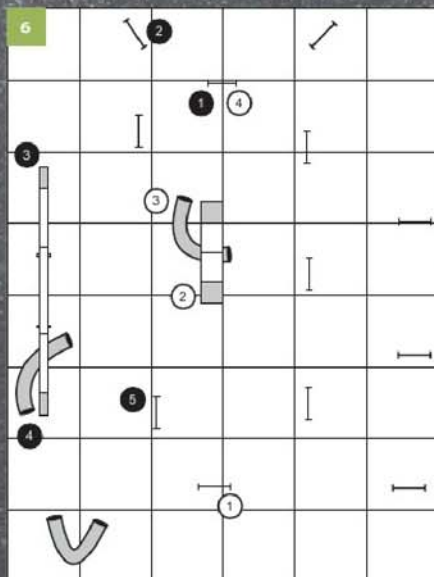
Figure 2: Pinwheels are troublesome for many teams. Try keeping your dog on the same side for the entire pinwheel and also try starting the pinwheel with front and rear crosses. You can also try ending the pinwheel with a front cross.

Figure 3: For the 270 turn, try putting in front and rear crosses to be in a position to handle the 270 on both your left and your right.

Figure 4: Serpentines can be difficult. A serpentine can be found from obstacles #4 through #6.

Figure 5: Here we have a course containing all the challenges above.





OPEN/ADVANCED EXERCISES

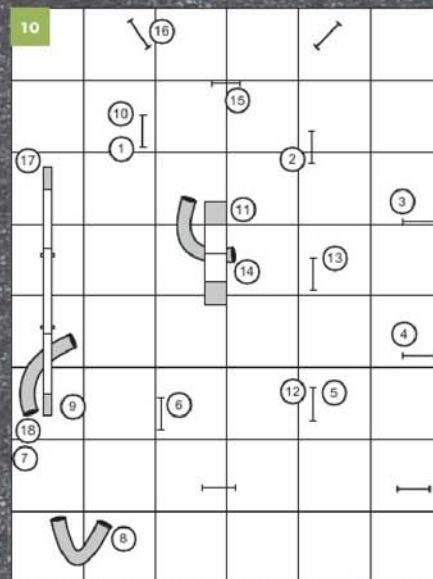
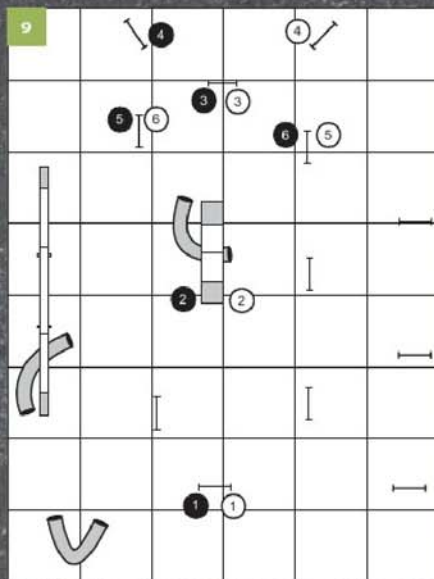
Figure 6: For a turn to a tunnel try handling this A-frame sequence on the left and right. If you have space, try handling the dogwalk on the right and left also.

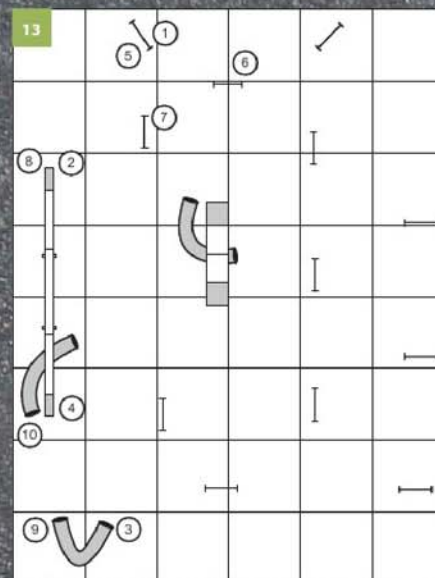
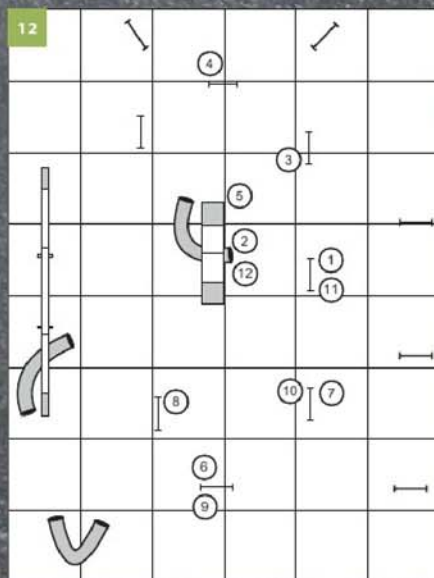
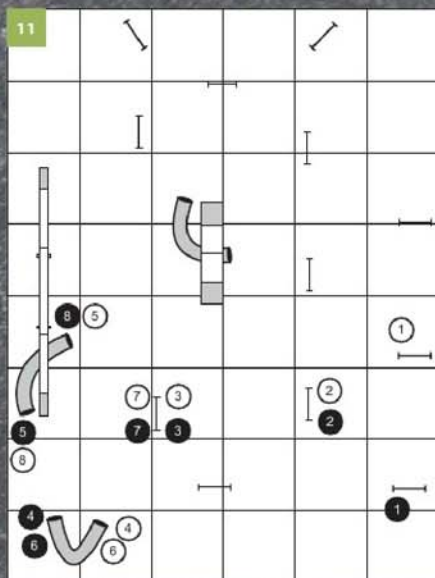
Figure 7: Enjoy these A-frame/tunnel and dogwalk/tunnel discriminations. Try making your own variations.

Figure 8: These sequences test your team's skills when going through a box of obstacles with speed. Can you do a front cross and also a rear cross between #5 and #6?

Figure 9: Try performing a rear cross both before and after the A-frame. You can also try a rear cross at any of the three jumps after the A-frame.

Figure 10: Here we have a course containing all of the above.





MASTERS/EXCELLENT EXERCISES

Figure 11: Try all these difficult tunnel entries. Have fun and remember to reward often on these exercises.

Figure 12: Here are some difficult 270s/180s with off-course options. We often see these at trials.

Figure 13: Try these tunnel discriminations after the dogwalk contact.

Figure 14: These sequences contain some difficult threadles. Don't forget to reward often!

Figure 15: Here we have a course containing all of the above. 🐾

