## Bits

## Mouthpieces

## **Types of Mouth Pieces:**

1: Jointed - mouth pieces with 1 or 2 joints and loose shanks. This should probably be your first choice. This is a very common mouthpiece because the horse is used to jointed mouth pieces and the loose shanks allow the rider to signal the horse without applying pressure in the mouth. The rider can still ride with 2 hands on the reins and when using one hand to supple or do training exercises, the other side of the mouth is not affected.

The double jointed mouthpiece puts more pressure on the tongue and less on the bars as it allows the mouthpiece to wrap around the top of the tongue.

The ball and joint type jointed mouthpiece allows the rider to work one side of the horse's face very independently from the other and also allows the rider to lift the shoulders more easily.

- 2:Ported may be high, medium or low in height. Remember to try and avoid use of high ports that create palate pressure. Some parts are covered and have a roller under the port to encourage salivation (half-breed).
- 3: Mullen Bit soft upward curve in the solid mouthpiece.
- 4: Spade Bit most severe with a 3 1/2 inch port, roller and springs. Not recommended for most riders and can be very cruel when used with harsh hands.

